



WESTENDER

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LOCAL LEGENDS (9) SISTER KATE ORAM



NURSE KATE ORAM WHILST TRAINING AT THE WEST SUFFOLK HOSPITAL c.1905

Kate Oram, born in 1879, was the daughter of a Hampshire gardener who eventually moved to Chapel Road, West End, to work at Hatch Grange. From an early age she showed an aptitude for caring for others and she trained at the West Suffolk Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds, to become a nurse (1902-05). When she qualified her conduct and work were described as 'excellent' and her personal and professional references were such that she was later appointed as a private 'sick' nurse to none other than a very elderly Florence Nightingale. Kate described her patient as having 'great character and delightful personality' and

after the Lady with the Lamp died in 1910, she was presented with a signed prayer book and a biography of the famous lady.

Her story not over, Sister Kate Oram then found herself in another prestigious post in 1912, nursing a former militant Suffragette, Lady Constance Lytton. Lady Constance had suffered a major stroke as a result of the brutal treatment in prison, including hunger strikes and forced feeding.

In 'Letters of Constance Lytton', the partly paralysed patient described her new nurse, Kate, as 'tall, erect, slight in figure, with fine brows and lovely features

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West End Local History Society &
Westender is sponsored by



**WEST END
PARISH
COUNCIL**



THE HISTORY OF RMS QUEEN MARY

A Review by Stan Waight



A record number of members and visitors (seventy) attended our February meeting, despite the cold and the threat of worse to come. Our speaker, David Main, was a former engineer on the Mary, and was well placed to give us a resumé of the old lady's history. He had crossed the Atlantic fifty times in her on duty and still visits her every year in his role as historian.

A few difficulties delayed the start of David's PowerPoint presentation, but it and its accompanying photographs were well worth waiting for. There was a lot of technical detail about the design and construction of the ship, but he couched it in layman's terms that all could understand.

In 1926 the Cunard line decided to replace some of its ageing fleet with two new ships, to be known as the Queen Mary and the Queen Elizabeth. The commission was given to the John Brown shipyard at Clydebank, who appointed John Brown (no relation) as their designer. The keel was laid down in 1930, but the world-wide slump resulted in Cunard not being able to finance the project and work stopped. The Cunard and White Star merger in 1934 enabled the construction to be resumed and the ship, known until then as 'No. 5341', was launched by Queen Mary herself in the same year. Fitting out followed, and her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York via Cherbourg began on 27 May 1936. Capable of more than 30 knots, the Mary soon captured the Blue Riband for the fastest crossing of the Atlantic from the French liner Normandie; she held it for fourteen years, until it was taken by the American ship United States.

Luxury was the keynote of the Atlantic liners and David's photographs included some of the celebrities who sailed in the Mary, but austerity came with the outbreak of WW2, when she lost her Cunard colours and became the 'grey ghost'. She relied on speed and manoeuvres to beat the U-boats, and in a zig-zagging accident in 1942 she rammed her escort HMS Curacao and cut her in two, with the loss of many lives. During a voyage in 1943 she carried 15,740 American troops to Europe, and other on-board events included Bob Hope's first wartime concert, and Churchill's signing of the Operation Overlord documents, also in 1943.

At the close of the war the Mary began to transport more than 22,000 war brides and their children to the United States and Canada, and she made 13 voyages for this purpose in 1946. After a post-war refit the Mary resumed commercial sailings in 1947, maintaining weekly service between Southampton, Cherbourg, and New York.

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But the coming of the jet-powered airliners was the beginning of the end for the luxury Atlantic liners, and air travel had taken over the Atlantic crossing by the early 1960s. Finally withdrawn from service in 1967, the Mary made her last, long voyage to Long Beach, California, where she is still berthed as a maritime museum and hotel. According to David, it would be too impractical and far too expensive to bring her back to Southampton or to Clydebank.

The talk was spiced with humour, particularly the naivety of some of the questions that have been put to him during his American visits. I particularly liked the story of the 'soot blow', a periodic operation to clear the tubes, which on one occasion took place when the ship was sailing at 28 knots with a 28-knot following wind - the air above the ship was virtually still and the results were rather unpleasant for the passengers on deck!

SOCIETY DISPLAY IN EASTLEIGH



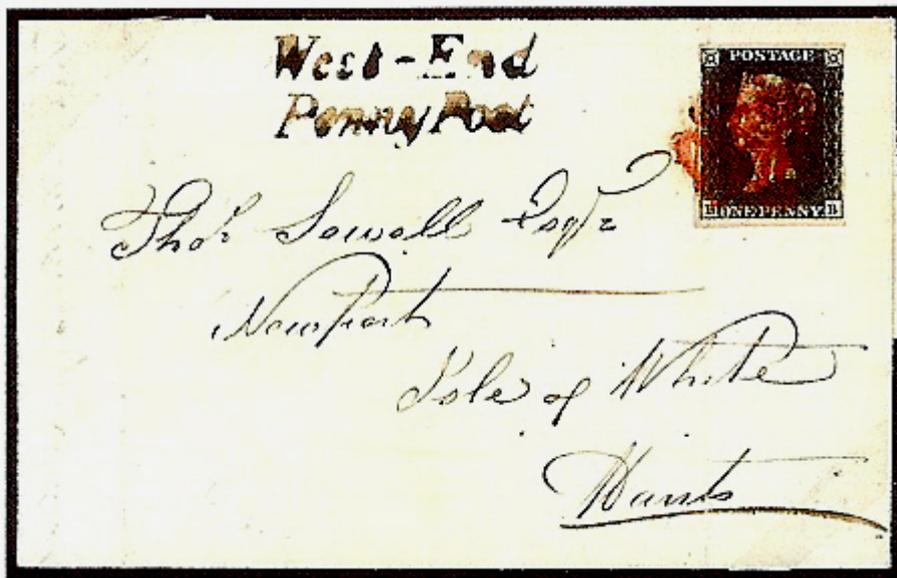
Thanks to John Avery, who acted as liaison, we have a window display at Funeral Directors & Monumental Masons A.H. Rogers & Sons in Market Street, Eastleigh. The display was set up on Friday 23rd February and will be on show until 30th March, advertising our Society and West Ends history. Incidentally, Tim Matthews, the Manager at A.H. Rogers & Sons, mentioned that his grandparents Helen and Sidney Knight used to live next to our museum in Orchards Ways - what a coincidence! Our sincere thanks are extended to A.H. Rogers & Sons for allowing us this facility, its good to see firms supporting heritage!

THE MUSEUM TYRING PLATE GETS A CART WHEEL



Some time ago the brick plinth was constructed in the museum garden to take the heavy iron tiring plate which came originally from the Old Forge that was situated opposite the entrance to Hatch Grange. The tiring plate was lifted onto the plinth by crane and treated against corrosion. It has now had a support made and fitted by Geoff Shaw and the large cartwheel which has been residing in the museum storage area has now been bolted into place. As you will see at left it looks a treat. We are now working on an explanation board for it and another one for the mile stone. Our thanks and appreciation go to the Parish Council for all their help and assistance in this project. Ed.

RARE LOCAL POSTAL HISTORY COVER COMES UP FOR SALE AT AUCTION



A very rare cover has come up for auction in the Cavendish Philatelic Auctions Ltd sale that took place on Friday 9th March 2007. Dated 29th September 1840 and sent to Newport on the Isle of Wight, it bears the very rare two line *West-End Penny Post* cachet. Estimated at £150, I am sure if the right collectors were bidding it will have sold for much more. It formed part of the vast collection of local postal history that was once the property of eminent local postal historian Bryan Hunt, who sadly passed away recently.

NEW BOOK FOR SALE - HISTORY OF THE WEST END LITTLE THEATRE CLUB -

Sixty Years of WEST END THEATRE



A History of West End Little Theatre Club
1945 - 2005

by
Ray Upson

PUBLISHED BY WEST END LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

A new book is now available for sale at the Museum Book Shop. It has been written by our very own member Ray Upson, entitled "*Sixty Years of West End Theatre - the story of West End Little Theatre Club 1945-2005*"

Ray who was known to most people as a leading light in the West End Little Theatre Club, has written the definitive work of this Club which for 50 years provided West Enders with a great deal of excellent entertainment. The Club will be much missed by locals, and therefore it is entirely appropriate that this book has been produced as a reminder of such an important part of local life.

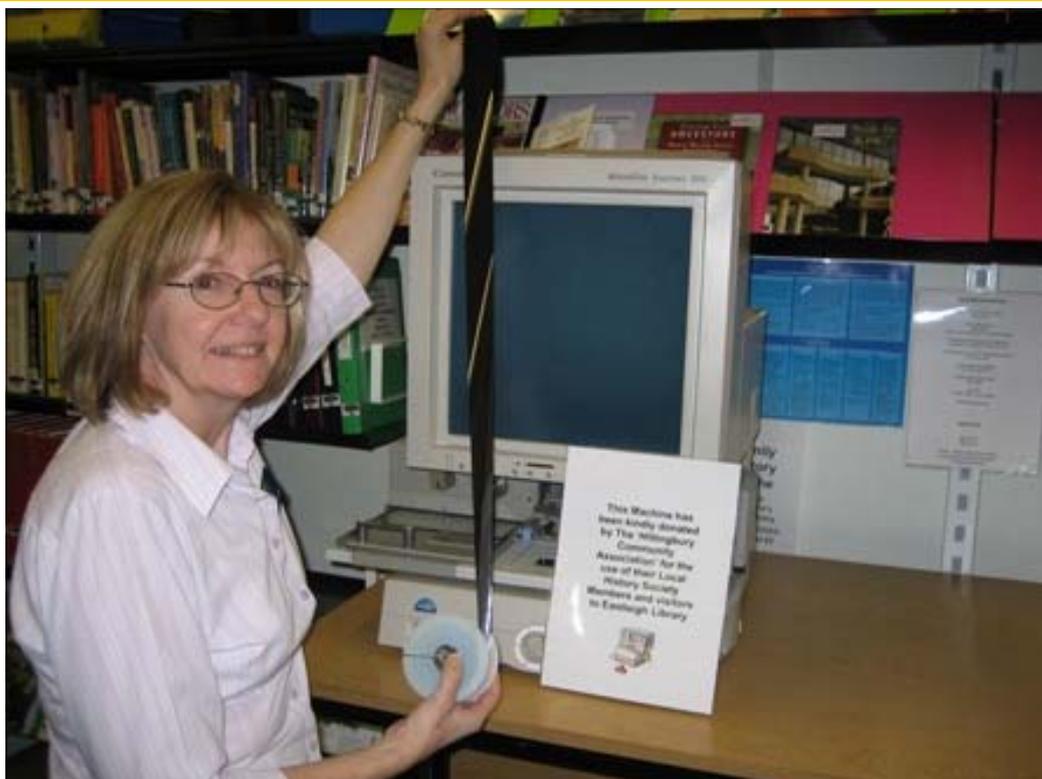
The book is well illustrated with unique photographs and appendixes listing all members of the club, Producers/Directors, Chairmen and a complete list of all productions with dates and locations. A really splendid publication and well worth the modest price of **£2.50 per copy**.

Available at the Museum Book Shop - open on Saturdays 10am-4pm.

PRICE: £2.50

Make sure you snap up a copy now!

EASY ACCESS TO A WEALTH OF LOCAL HISTORY RESOURCES



Viewing microfiche of parish registers and microfilm of old newspapers at Eastleigh Library is now much easier, thanks to the new microfilm reader donated by Hiltisbury Community Association for the use of their members and visitors to the library.

Newspapers that are held at the library include:- runs of the Eastleigh Weekly News from 1892, the Southern Echo from 1888 to 1908 and the Hampshire Advertiser from 1823 to 1854.

Eastleigh Parish Registers are available on microfiche from the 1860s to the 1970s and the library also has records of internments at Eastleigh Cemetery from 1933 to 1969. For details of exact holdings or to book a session on the microfilm reader, contact Eastleigh Library on 02380 612513.

Cathy Noble

Information & Lifelong Learning Team Member, Eastleigh & Chandler's Ford Area Libraries, February 2007

LOOKING BACK.....

Extracts taken from West End News community magazine dated May 1985...

Looking Back 1948-49

Housing, or rather the lack of it, was considered at almost every meeting during this period. One entry I found interesting. A long debate took place concerning a petition, protesting about the bad state of some of the huts at Winslowe, it reads - "*The Council also considered it unwise of the Vicar dealing with the matter as he did in Church*". So similar statements appearing in the press recently are not original. The fact that one applicant was informed that he was 78th on the list highlights the seriousness of the problem. A glimmer of hope appeared in 1949 when six houses and two bungalows were built in Chapel Road. At the same time Midlands Estate and Barnsland were considered unsuitable for housing sites. Barnsland as it was outside the development area and Midlands as it would be too expensive to develop...

In 1948 the Westend and Bitterne Brass Band was formed and given free use of the Parish Hall on a Sunday morning for six months to practice....

The War Memorial slab containing the names of those who lost their lives in the 1939-45 War was unveiled on 22nd May 1949. It was later found that one name had been omitted and one given the wrong christian name. This was corrected at a later date....

Wilf Phillips

JOHN CLARENCE IVES

4th. January 1919 - 26th. February 2007

by Joyce Mason (nee Ives)

John (known also as Jack) was the second child to be born to Harry and Ella Irene Ives (nee' Martlew), in Edmonton, Canada. Tragically, John's Father Harry died of the Spanish Flu Epidemic that was so prevalent at the end of the First World War in February 1919.

Our Grandfather (Frederick Ives) had originally emigrated to Canada sailing on the S.S. Manitoba, with over 2,000 passengers, from Liverpool in 1903. His two sons (Harry (18) and George (22)) went with him to join the Barr Colonists. They landed in St John's in April of that year and from there travelled several days by train to Saskatchewan heading for the prairies. It was hard travelling another 150 miles to their new homestead as there were no trails and by horse and cart. In 1905 Frederick returned to England to sell his business and took his wife Emily and daughter Minnie back out to Canada. By then, they were able to go directly on the new train line to Lloydminster. They farmed in Alberta for 25 years after settling there and building their wooden homes.

On one of his visits to England our father Harry met and later married my mother in Hove, Sussex. Eventually when I was only 2 years old, we all went to Canada and my brother Jack was born there in 1919. We lived in Streamstown near Lloydminster, British Columbia on the Prairies at a time when the living was tough and the opportunities were there if you were prepared to work for them!. Life was hard, very long cold winters and wonderful summers. We lived on a farm nearby cousins who became like our brothers and sisters, Our school days were taken in a wooden new school house and we rode a horse to school. Our mare called May produced a foal and this in turn use to trot along to the schoolhouse with us. In winter we took oats in a bag for the horse and in summer turned them out into the field. Water had to be fetched from the well and in winter time, the stores often had to last for some months in case we were 'snowed in'. Round trips to get provisions could take anything up to 3 weeks. We attended the church at Streamstown usually going by buggy or horse and cart, as did most of the congregation. Several of our relations are buried there.

We visited England in 1924 when we stayed at our other Grandparents who lived in Hove Sussex. Grandpa Martlew was a retired railway worker and lived by the Hove seafront. That visit seemed like coming to fairyland after the hardship of open prairies. We sailed back to England in 1928, permanently settled in West End when our 'Gramp' Frederick Ives had to take on the business of the development of Telegraph Woods Estate when Uncle Alfred (from Bournemouth) died suddenly on a world trip. (See Westender volume 5 Number 3)

We moved into 'The Bungalow' on the corner of Telegraph Road and Western Road, which up till then, had been used as the real estate office for the development of the area. You can still see the marks where the side door was, where the trades people called, on the wall of Telegraph road end. It had been necessary to set up an office for the agents to call. We all lived there till John helped build our first house in 1939, in Western Road.

We went to school at the Old St James School, which is now the Hilldene Community Centre when we first arrived at West End. John did not settle well. He pined for the open country, the farm life and the slower
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steady pace of life in Canada. We became very friendly with the Headmaster, of St James's School, Mr Harris and his only son Phil was constantly in our gang of friends. (Sadly he was killed in action in 1942) The Telegraph Woods were fun for us youngsters then and plots of land were the business for the Ives family. Roads were still gravel paths and hardly any of the land developed. The top half of Southern and Eastern road had been developed first by our Uncle Alf and plots of land were still available. We remember the tramps and other people walking up Telegraph Road from the Moorgreen workhouse. We knew lots of the neighbours then, Miss Moody with her big house down on the opposite side (which has just been pulled down for Foreman Builders) on Telegraph Road, the Jenkins family, Maynards, the Arnolds and Polanski's.etc I was at school with the Sheridan family.

We both went on to Itchen Grammar School and got our GCE's. Mr Coleman was the Headmaster of the



Left: JOHN CLARENCE IVES IN 1950.



Top right: Joyce, Jack, Grandpa Ives and Aunt Rene at 'ALTA' in 1939.



Bottom right: 'ALTA' in 2007.

Grammar school then. We use to cycle everywhere and cycled through the woods, up and down the Deacon Roads, across the dangerous crossroads of Bursledon Road to Middle Road to the school daily. We thought nothing of cycling to Hamble to have a swim. John loved to go down to the river at Gaters Hill and catch minnows in a jar. He was often scolded by our mother as he was often gone for hours. We loved the summer holidays and cycling around locally. I can remember when we cycled to Brighton one summer to visit relations, unthinkable now!

John and I went to Barbe Bakers Mission Hall (now the Baptist Free Church) in Beacon Road and attended the Sunday School there. John became a Christian at the age of 10 and all his life devoted himself to Jesus. His strong faith was tested later with all he endured. The lane at the side of the Baptist church on Beacon Road was just a track when the Taylors used it for their horse and trap. The Barbe Baker family had a huge plot of land that was developed backing on to Eastern Road as I remember it. This was all in the very early stages of development.

When John was a young man he took a job at Armstrong Whitworths factory in Hamble but decided to go into the building line. He was helped by friends and family to build his first house ALTA (short for Alberta) where he had once lived in Canada. It was a huge task but the house still looks as good today as it did when completed in 1939, just before the war broke out.

John was only 20 when war was declared and had joined The Royal Artillery serving in France. He

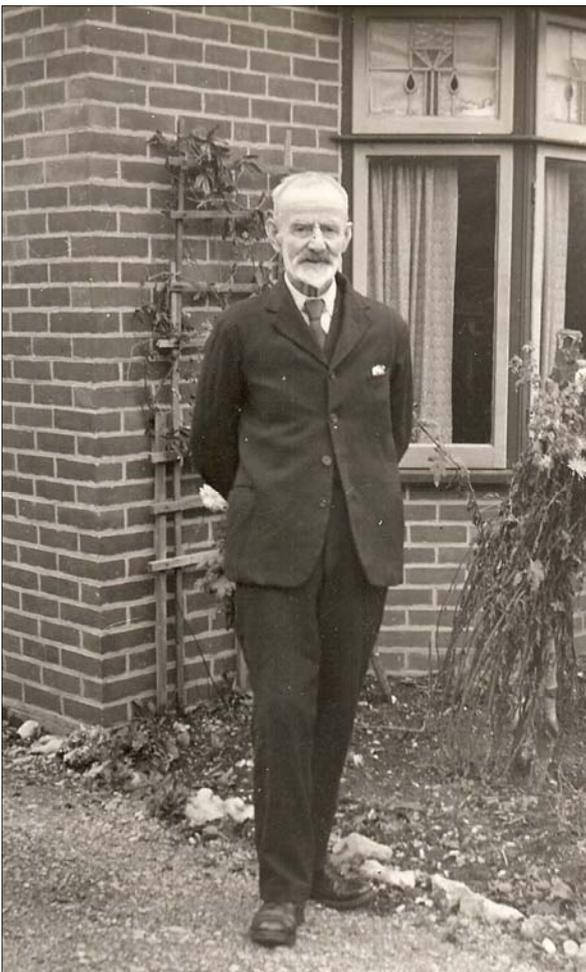
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survived Dunkirk from the beaches. He was sent to Singapore where he was captured and taken to the Burma railway as a Prisoner of War. I know my mother received a telegram reporting 'missing in action' which every home dreaded in those war days. I was married and living in Essex when we heard he was still alive!! and he was so ill when he finally came home. He was so thin, so yellow and his soul nearly destroyed by the Japs. His strong faith kept him going with his bowl of rice a day and able to swim in the river kept him alive. So many never came home. My mother nursed him back from the brink of death and began to pick up the treads of West End life. He kept pigs in the woods next to Alta and always enjoyed farming.

He met and married Dorothy Needle in September 1950 and built his first house on his own called 'Saskatchewan' opposite Alta in Western Road. They moved into the house when completed in 1951 and lived there till 1962. The present owners have been there ever since and have not needed to touch a thing! He built the house next door to Sask and then went on to build and live in two properties in Reservoir Lane, Hedge End for about 20 years as well as farming animals at Romsey. They went over to the Isle of Wight for several years living on two farms there, both at Brighstone and outside of Newport. They had several homes but latterly they lived back in West End where Dorothy is still living at present.

His love of farming never left him and he always cared deeply for his animals. This stemmed from his young childhood and his environment as a young boy. His true memorial is the wonderful strong buildings he left us in the Telegraph Woods Area, as he built over 50 properties, houses and bungalows in West End. His memory will live on as he enjoyed building and was a good all round tradesperson. The boy from Canada has truly gone home to his Saviour.



"GRANDPA" FREDERICK IVES - A FAMILIAR FIGURE IN WEST END BETWEEN 1920 AND 1950 - DIED IN 1956 AGED 99



HOUSES & BUNGALOWS BUILT BY JOHN IVES IN WESTERN ROAD



HARRY & ELLA IRENE IVES PHOTOGRAPHED IN 1918

Continued from front page...

(which) *were crowned with light, auburn hair and a smile which lit up her whole countenance*'. They soon became good friends, sharing many interests, nature, animals, children and of course, the work of The Suffragette Movement (W.S.P.U.). *'There was no interest of mine in which she (Kate) did not take part'*, wrote Lady Constance. Kate met many of the influential members of the W.S.P.U., including Christabel Pankhurst, Annie Kenney and Mrs Emeline Pethick Lawrence who visited their sick friend's home at Knebworth in Hertfordshire.

Unfortunately the story took a sad turn when the nurse, Sister Kate Oram, not her patient, died suddenly in 1918. She died in the Royal South Hants Hospital in Southampton, from an acute infection which would probably have been cured by modern antibiotics.

Thus Sister Kate Oram was buried in the Old Burial Ground, West End, aged 39 years. Her simple grave is marked by a horizontal cross, near the centre of the lower area of the cemetery. *'Oh, she was good if e'er a good soul lived'*, was just one of the many tributes written about this exceptional young woman whose life was cut short in its prime.

NOTE:

Sister Kate was the aunt of former West End residents Joe and Marian Molloy. Just a few copies are left of her biography, written by Pauline Berry, available at the museum, priced at £5.00 per copy.

EXHIBITION LAUNCH AT MUSEUM



West End Museum has been chosen by Eastleigh Library to stage the official launch of an exhibition put together by members of staff at the library concerning the history of St. Mary's Industrial Home for Girls at Eastleigh between 1884 and 1924. Eastleigh Library holds a Day Book from the school and they have been trying to trace what happened to those mentioned in the book. Girls from the Home left either to go into other institutions, into service or back to their families. Information received both from the Libraries enquiries and in response to our request on our website, has enabled Cath Sergeant and Linda Glasspool at Eastleigh Library to form this fascinating exhibition. Launch is by invitation on 5th May 2007 and will be available to view when the museum is open on Saturdays between 10am and 4pm thereafter.

MUSEUM GETS A COLOUR COPIER

Yet again we have been very fortunate to have been given an inkjet colour copier/scanner/printer for the museum. The Hewlett Packard HP Officejet 1150C machine has very kindly been given to us by Mr & Mrs S. Bushnell of Calne in Wiltshire, to whom we would like to express our sincere thanks. Linked to our new computer (partly paid for by a grant from HEWEB-Eastleigh Borough Council) along with our new photocopier, we are now able to print everything from newsletters and occasional papers to copies of colour photographs "in house".

We hope to start construction of a new display later on this summer, featuring artefacts, photographs and maps showing the history of "Kenilworth House" which once stood in Telegraph Road and was the home of Miss Moody. The colour machine will come in very useful for printing the photographs for the display.

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW SOUTHAMPTON?

A review by Stan Waight

Geoff Watts is a hardy perennial speaker with us, but his visit for the March meeting had an unusual format - a sort of talk cum quiz. Whether it was the evening's subject, or whether our Society is really beginning to take off, we were delighted to see such a bumper turnout to listen to it.

Geoff's talk involved audience participation and surprised me (and many others, I suspect) with how little I know about the City's sights. His technique was to put up slides showing details of buildings and monuments, invite us to identify them and then put up slides showing the wider picture. He then put the items into some sort of historical context.

The first slide, for instance, was of a huge molar hanging from the front of a building. This turned out to be the sign of a dental practice in Bedford Place, and a discussion on the use of signs to indicate trades and professions followed.

It would not be possible in this short commentary to cover the whole talk, but members may like to be reminded of the 21 other sites that Geoff mentioned during the course of it:

An Export Grocer's building in French Street

Part of the Floating Bridge mechanism near Cross House

The Sikh Temple in Bevois Valley

The old Cricket Pavilion in Hoglands Park

The 1644 stone inserted in the city wall in Blue Anchor Lane

The Bank of England building next to Holyrood

The Gordon Memorial in Queens Park

The Titanic Memorial in East Park

The plaque to Daniel Day's Cricket Club in Woolston

The Nicholls Fountain near the Kingsland Market

The South Western Hotel

St Julians Chapel in Winkle Street

The Woolwich building near Holyrood

The 'Child of Family' sculpture by the Civic Centre

The Langton memorial plaque in St Michaels Church

The Cenotaph

The John le Fleming statue on the city wall near West Quay

The old Bowling Green

The Northam area sign

The tiles telling the story of the Friary in Back of the Walls

The High Street Caryatids now sited outside the Hartley Library

It was a really intriguing talk cum quiz, and has apparently set certain minds thinking about something similar for the sights of West End!

Our thanks once again to Stan Waight who writes these reviews of our meetings Ed.

WHATS HAPPENING AT OTHER SOCIETIES

FRIENDS OF SOUTHAMPTON OLD CEMETERY

FoSOC will be holding the following event - all walks start at the main gates, next to the Lodge:

Sunday 29th April - Wildflower Walk - starts at 2.00pm

FoSOC are always looking for willing volunteers to help them in their work, protective gloves and equipment are provided. It's a worthwhile job so if you have a little time to spare contact **Gillian** on **023 8067 1083**

BITTERNE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

April 14th. "The Story of The Calshot - tug tender" Colin Blakeby

May 12th. "The Great Hall at Winchester" Dawn Woodsford & Mary Abraham

June 9th. "Roman Town to City Suburb" Keith Marsh

BLHS meetings start at 7.00pm and are held in the Bitterne United Reformed Church, Bitterne Precinct.

For further information contact **Mary Abraham** (Hon. Secretary) on **023 8039 4930**

WARSASH LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Warsash Local History Society are holding an Exhibition entitled "The Origins of Modern Warsash" featuring photographs, maps and artefacts at the Victory Hall, Warsash on the 5th./6th. and 7th. May 2007 from 10.00am - 5.00pm. The exhibition is organised by the Society in conjunction with their Archivist Mr Roy Knight. Admission is £2.00 for adults. For more information phone: **01489 584099** or **01489 573755**.

On this day (4th April) in.....

- 1581** Francis Drake was knighted on board the 'Golden Hind' at Deptford on the River Thames.
- 1929** Karl Benz, German engineer and pioneer of early motor cars with internal combustion engines, died aged 84.
- 1933** America's helium-filled airship 'Akron' crashed into the sea off the coast of New Jersey during a violent storm.
- 1941** Andre Michelin, French industrialist who built the first factories for the mass-production of rubber motor tyres, died in Paris.
- 1949** The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation was created in a treaty signed at Washington.
- 1968** Martin Luther King, American Negro civil rights leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner in 1964, was assassinated at Memphis in Tennessee—the alleged assassin was James Earl Ray.

THE NEXT MEETINGS ARE

May 2

REACH FOR THE SKY

(Development of the aeronautical industry in the Hamble Valley)

Jill Daniels

June 6

THE FLYING ENTERPRISE AND THE TURMOIL (1952 Disaster)

John Avery

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