



WESTENDER

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SPOTLIGHT ON BUILDINGS (1) THE OLD NATIONAL SCHOOL



THE OLD NATIONAL SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHED IN 1915 WHEN IN USE AS THE PARISH HALL

It was situated on the corner of High Street and Chapel Road, where today stands In-Excess and Netto's. Built in 1838 as Westend's first National School it became the village Parish Hall when vacated by St. James' School in 1903-4. The photograph of the building when seen above in 1915 still had the original fence enclosing the childrens playground. Seen on the right hand side is the two story original schoolmasters house with separate porch. On the left of the picture to left of the porch is the later added additional classroom. It was eventually deemed too small, old and costly to continue serving as the Parish Hall and was demolished around 1977-78 to make way for the present commercial buildings. More details and photographs of this nice old building can be viewed in our archives held at the Museum.

West End Local History Society &
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**WEST END
PARISH
COUNCIL**



St. MARYS INDUSTRIAL HOME FOR GIRLS MUSEUM DISPLAY LAUNCH



Saturday 5th May 2007, saw the launch by staff from Eastleigh Library based at the Swan Centre of the exhibit relating to St. Mary's Industrial Home for Girls. The launch was held in the West End museum between 2pm and 4pm and was by invitation. It was very well attended including descendants of one of the girls (*see bottom right picture*). Amongst the invited guests and visitors were our Parish Council Chairman Neville Dickinson and noted Eastleigh local historian Mr Gordon Cox.

The exhibit is the work of Linda Glasspool and Cath Sergeant at Eastleigh Library and has been based on a copy of the Day Book for the Home which came into the possession of the Library Local Studies department.

The period covered by the exhibit is from 1884 to 1924 and provides a fascinating insight into social history of the time. Although the building that housed the Home is no longer in existence as it was demolished in the 1960's, many of the girls' movements have been traced and details of their later life are shown in the display.

The exhibit has been produced to coincide with Local History Month which happens to be May this year, and will be on show at both Eastleigh Library and West End Museum for all of May and possibly also the following month at West End.

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HAS ENDED?

A review by Stan Waight

The simple answer is to get Vice-Chairman Bill White to fill in.

Isn't it strange how attendance falls quite dramatically on the evening of the Annual General Meeting? In the absence of members who are keen (or even willing!) to take on any of the jobs in the Society, our AGMs don't last long, so we could be on our way home by eight o'clock. This was certainly the case at our April meeting, when only 30 out of a 63 membership turned up and the Committee was returned *en bloc* with the exception of the outgoing Secretary Pauline, who was standing down after ten years of sterling service.

This is where Bill stepped in. His range of passions include the entertainment industry, and we received not so much a talk as a series of reminiscences accompanied by some nostalgic slides; one or two of his photos were taken elsewhere but he concentrated on his home-town, Southampton. After a brief introduction in which we were reminded how little time our ancestors had for amusement, Bill went through the various forms of entertainment that we ourselves have enjoyed, and demonstrated them with some unique slides. Ad-libbing, and spicing his ad-libs with humour, he mentioned the theatre, the cinema, pubs, cycling and speedway, camping, ice-skating, the seaside (where else but the Weston Shore?) and even trips on the Floating Bridge. Music also featured, and I rather got the impression that Bill had been a devotee of jazz in his time from the pictures of bands that had performed in the area. The presentation itself was so entertaining that I found it difficult to keep up, but, in any case, it would be impossible to do it justice in this short report.

Bill is very good at filling in.

CAPTAIN ROSTRON REMEMBERED



As has been the custom in the Society for quite a number of years, since the unveiling of the memorial plaque in the museum in 1999 in fact, we placed flowers on the grave of Captain Sir Arthur Henry Rostron and his wife Minnie at the Old Burial Ground here in West End.

They were to coincide with the anniversary of his rescue of over 700 passengers from the ill-fated White Star liner "Titanic" in 1912, when he was master of the Cunard ship "Carpathia".

Unfortunately, his daughter, Mrs Margaret Howman passed away several years ago but prior to that she had asked us to place flowers on her fathers grave which we have done now for a number of years.

We intend to carry on this tradition in the future and from time to time hope to tidy up his grave.

The picture at the left shows the grave this year on 14th April with the yellow roses in place.

LOOKING BACK....

Continuation of our occasional delve into back copies of West End News.

The Primitive Methodist Church, Swaythling Road

“Many of us village lads have very happy memories of the Methodists’ Chapel in Swaythling Road. I joined the local Boys Life Brigade here in 1925, later known as The Boys Brigade. Mr Tim Smith was our Captain and I well remember Mr Dickson coming to lecture us on First Aid, also Mr George Payne taking us for P.T. (*Physical Training*). Mr Payne, a local Councillor and member of the Fire Brigade, was a drill Sergeant and badly wounded during the 1914-18 war.

Mr Emmans, whose bakery was opposite on the corner of Ivy Lane, kindly allowed us the use of his cellar for woodwork classes.

During this, the Centenary Year of the Boys Brigade, many of the old lads are hoping for a Reunion at the Chapel, the date suggested is Wednesday Evening, 21st. September. I do hope those old boys who read this will keep the date open and pass on the information.

The Methodists first used the old Salvation Army Hall which was situated in a lane leading to the Brickworks off Chalk Hill. As soon as they were able to finance the project, under the leadership of Mr George Coster, the very pleasant Church which now stands, (*now the site of Lincoln Court flats*) was built. I am told that when the Chapel was opened the crowd that gathered stretched nearly up to the New Inn (*now the site of Rosemount Court*).

The brass plaque on the wall inside is thus inscribed: **“In loving memory of George Coster, Preacher, Steward, Trustee and School worker. The leader in the erection of this Chapel in 1900 and its clearance from debt 1920. A man of rare zeal and integrity. Born 1853, died 1920”**. (*This plaque is now on display in our museum*)

Mr Coster was a gardener and worked for Mr Gater. Regularly every Sunday he would walk from his home in Allington Lane to the 11am morning service, then return for childrens Sunday School in the afternoon and again for evening service, a true man of God.”

Article written by C.M. Sillence

Continued on page 5

OUR WEBSITE ADDRESS TO CHANGE SOON....

Hampshire County Council is improving its community free website hosting service. To continue using the free service our site will need to be migrated to a new hosting service. Please note that our website address will be changing slightly from:

www.hants.org.uk/westendlhs

to

www.westendlhs.hampshire.org.uk

The migration process is scheduled to start on the 21st of May, 2007 and is expected to last for approximately 5-6 weeks. For a limited period of time, visitors to the old address will be redirected to the new address.

Continued from page 4

Early Days (from the September 1985 issue)

“June 1903 South Stoneham Highways Committee - The Guardians or Counsellors were told that Bitterne and Netley urgently need water carts to keep down the dust and there was a proposition that every village should supply their own. They were quite a common sight before the roads were tarred, local contractors with horses were hired to draw the two wheeled oval tanks around the main roads in the villages. The carter usually managed to finish around 12 noon outside one of the village pubs - it must have been quite thirsty work.

Since early days, fire precautions at the Workhouse were always being discussed either by the Guardians or the local Fire Brigade and representations were often made to the Village Council. As early as 1900, Firemen demanded a pump to enable the hose pressure to reach the high roof and third floor adequately, but always it was denied on economic grounds.

It is interesting to know that at that time there were 8 men in the Brigade, 6 hydrants in the district, a stand pipe and 200 feet of leather hose. The South Hants Water Company stated the water pressure was maintained evenly day and night.

It was recommended that several more lengths of canvas hose be purchased in place of leather ones and two iron staircases should be erected at each end of the building to allow children and old people to escape. These stairs are, I believe, still in existence.

Later another 15 hydrants were ordered to be fixed in various parts of the village, 150 feet of canvas hose purchased, together with an extra branch pipe and hose reel. The first trailer pump did not appear in the village until the beginning of the 1939-45 war.

Parish Hall (from the October 1988 issue)

In 1899 the Council was reconsidering the advisability and practicability, (I presume the clerk meant practicality) of providing a Hall for the use of Parishioners. A Parish meeting was called to consider building a Hall in 1900, many different views were expressed. One speaker, Dr. Acton, considered an efficient water supply and remodelling of the National Schools was more important. Another anticipated an increase in direct and indirect taxes to pay for the South African War, which would mean the Parish couldn't afford it.

Mr Haines reported that he had obtained the offer of a piece of land adjoining the school, with 70 ft. frontage and depth of 150 ft. for £70 and the cost of the building would be £800. This meeting decided against any further action.

A Parish meeting held in February 1904 was called to consider the offer to purchase the school as a new one had been built (*now Hilldene Community Centre*). An offer of £300 had been accepted and the Council required authority from the meeting to proceed. On a vote, by a show of hands, being taken, the result was 44 for and 44 against. Chairman refusing to use his casting vote. As there were some present who were not entitled to vote, the vote was taken again, this time checking everyone against the official register. The result being 43 for and 38 against. The names of all those voting are recorded in the minutes of the meeting. The following annual meeting was asked to authorise the Council to borrow £450 for the purchase and modification of the schools.

During the election, the Parish Council candidates were subjected to many questions re:- the purchase of the school and as there were about 200 parishioners present it seems apparent that the proposal had aroused some opposition. This became very clear as the result of the election resulted in every member of the Council being defeated with the exception of the vicar. What is more significant is that all except one, had voted against purchasing the hall at the previous meeting. Naturally a poll was demanded and although the names recorded at subsequent meetings makes it clear that the old members were returned no details of the result of the poll is recorded. A Poll of the Parish was held to settle the question of borrowing the £450 and the result was in favour by 135 to 125.

By 1906 the School had been modified to serve as the Parish Hall and between October and March had been let 38 times for an income of £14. In 1911 a much needed lavatory accommodation and a gents cloakroom was provided. A wider gate in the Parish Hall fence to give access for motor vehicles, was provided in 1917. The following year a Cab Rank was established in the Parish Hall yard. In 1924 Mr Collins paid for a hot water heating system to be installed costing £50.”

VOLUNTEERS FOR MUSEUM ATTENDANT DUTY REQUIRED
Please contact Peter Wallace on 01489 786521 to volunteer for duty

RECENT CORRESPONDANCE....

Recounted by Pauline Berry

An extract from a recent letter from Stanley Fray in Worcestershire, who used to live at "Rosemount" (Frays Stores & Butchers)

...."I found the names of two Westenders who might interest you....In the list of artists who have exhibited at the Royal Academy....also well known London galleries. One was Miss Jacqueline Denniss from 'Kirkstyle', Church Hill, West End who exhibited a painting of 'Christmas Roses' in 1933. It is indicated that she was a professional painter. This I did not know before. She used to live with her sister in this house next to St. James Church, on Church Hill. They were both French and used to help me with my School Certificate French at which I was rubbish.

It seems to me that these two elderly ladies probably hide an interesting history of a exciting and independent youth. Similarly the Misses Acton who lived at "The Jungle" next door to the Old Burial Ground, both highly intelligent and learned, who looked after the church linen, taught the women and girls embroidery etc.. What did they do in their youth? Were they provided for or were they truly independent? (NB. We know that Miss M. Acton was the first woman to be voted onto West End Parish Council in 1932).

Gerald F. Metcalf from 'Woodlands' (now Woodland Mews), exhibited eleven portraits in the Royal Academy between 1908 and 1923....If further research shows that he was a famous painter then a print of one of his pictures, if you can find one, could be put in the museum, showing what a Westender can do on the world 'stage'.

Keep up the good work of putting the original, quite posh West End in the history books...

Best wishes,
Stanley Fray.

200th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADMIRALTY SHUTTER TELEGRAPH STATION AT WEST END

200 years ago England was at war with Napoleonic France. England relied for its security on the Royal Navy, which had won a massive victory under Nelson at Cape Trafalgar in 1805. The Admiralty already had a telegraph line connecting Admiralty Headquarters in London with Portsmouth, and it was decided to extend this line of signal stations all the way down to Plymouth, so as to provide contact with the fleet and to give early warning of enemy action. Ironically the system chosen was based on an invention by Frenchman Claude Chappe, called a shutter telegraph. One of the stations was built here in West End, roughly in the vicinity of Southern Road, and called "Townhill Telegraph", the next station eastwards was at Wickham and to the west Toot Hill at Rownhams. By the signing of Peace in 1815 after the final defeat of Napoleon, all these telegraph stations were closed down, being replaced some years later with a semaphor telegraph line built further to the north. Unfortunately, the building here was of a temporary nature and constructed of timber, so today there is nothing of it to be seen, except clues in the form of names like Telegraph Woods and Telegraph Road.

(For more information visit the West End Museum & Heritage Centre on the corner of Orchards Way and High Street – open Saturdays 10am-4pm)

REACH FOR THE SKY

A review by Stan Waight

The speaker at our May meeting was retired school-teacher Jill Daniels, and, as the title of her talk suggests, her subject was aviation - local aviation that is. Jill had also trained as a Blue Badge Guide in Southampton, and subsequently specialised as a guide in the Hamble Valley for Eastleigh Borough Council.

It appears that it was the first time she had given the talk, and I felt that it might have been of limited interest to the ladies in the audience. However, there were former employees of aircraft builders among the men, and the questions and comments that followed the talk showed that there was no lack of interest there (in fact, Jill apparently learned a few facts that she had not known at the beginning). The talk was in two parts - firstly the development of the industry in Eastleigh and Hamble, and secondly some of the notable characters who were involved - and was illustrated by a PowerPoint presentation of good pictures.

She covered the rise of Eastleigh airport from the donation of its site by a local farmer to the present day. We heard how American aircraft were assembled there in WW1, followed by its appointment as one of only four recognised airports in the 1920s and purchase by the Southampton Corporation in 1929. Alan Cobham's flying circus came in 1932 and Edward VIII visited to see the first Spitfire in 1936. During WW2 more American aircraft, Lockheed fighters, were assembled at Eastleigh and for a time it was officially known as HMS 'Raven'. After the war, several flying schools took up residence and it is now a fully-fledged international airport.

Its proximity to the sea, with the facility of testing float planes attracted several aviation companies to Hamble, notably Avro and Armstrong Whitworth. The site grew and, as Jill said, 'it all happened at Hamble'. Although airline pilots are still trained there, other connections with the industry have disappeared, leaving only street names and sculptures to remind us of its past.

Of the notable personalities that were mentioned, and they were quite individual characters, most seemed to have died dramatically in air crashes. Edward Moon, a naval officer, was involved with Eastleigh from the start and developed a number of aircraft named 'Moonbeam'.

Alliott Verdon Roe was born in Hamble and was another naval man. He observed birds in flight for his inspiration, developed a control column for aircraft and was the first Englishman to fly (although the latter feat was not officially observed and recorded).

Stoke-on-Trent man R.J. Mitchell joined the Supermarine company at Woolston in 1917. Although he designed many flying-boats he is most associated with the design of high-speed aircraft for the Schneider Trophy races and, above all, for the 'Spitfire' fighter that he never saw in flight. Jill told us a little about the history of the Schneider Trophy - how it started in 1912 and resumed after WW1 in 1919; Mitchell's aircraft the S5, S6 and S6B all won the race between 1927 and 1931, the latter at the unprecedented speed of 326 mph. He was also responsible for the design of the single-engined workhorse, the 'Walrus'.

Other pilots who were mentioned included Bert Hinkler, who made the first flight from England to Australia, Neville Shute the novelist who designed retractable undercarriages, Alan Cobham and his Flying Circus, Amy Johnson and Arthur Wellesley Bigsby who was the model for the 'Biggles' stories.

WEST END CARNIVAL

The Museum will be open all day on June 23rd this year, which is West End Carnival Day. We will also be serving Tea, Coffee, soft drinks and cakes on the lawn in front of the Museum, the proceeds of which will go to the Society funds.

It's also a good place to view the procession from as the Carnival Parade goes right past the museum, so why not have a cuppa, look round the museum and view the parade!

Ed.

MEMORIES OF MY SCHOOL DAYS.....

by Roy Andrews

I was born in 1946 and lived with my parents in Tennyson Road (now Farringford Road) Thornhill, then part of the parish of West End. By 1951 having attained school age I started at St. James School (now the Hilldene Community Centre) West End on the 10th September of that year.

Within a couple of years Thornhill had been taken within the expanding boundary of Southampton Borough along with Harefield. Work then quickly started on building the council estates in those areas.

Work on schools to service these two Southampton areas began somewhat later and so the children from these areas as in my case, continued at St. James School. By 1956 the School Log book of St. James, now held at the West End Museum, shows that Mr Hodgkins, the Headmaster, was becoming frustrated with the lack of information on the eventual transfer of his Southampton pupils. On the 17th July 1956 he wrote:

“Owing to the confused position with reference to the children who are to transfer to the two new Southampton schools (Yeovil Chase and Thornhill) I arranged for a meeting to take place in my office. Mrs Ferguson (Hants Education) and Mrs Alexander (Southampton Education) met with me to clear up the position and make plans for the change whenever it should take place.”

It was agreed that Southampton teachers would be seconded to St. James School and take on the classes of Harefield and Thornhill pupils. The teachers would be paid by the County and would be part of the staff of St. James School.

The School Log for this meeting goes on:

“It was voluntarily agreed by Southampton that they would approve of children from their catchment area staying on at this school and also being admitted in the future. Mrs Ferguson asked for verification of this view and asked... ‘Are Southampton prepared to pay under Section VI for these children even though Southampton has vacant accommodation in its area?’. Mrs Alexander said, ‘Yes, when there are family ties with the school and other similar contacts’.”

Three days after this meeting the School Log for 20th July 1956 states:

“Parents of Southampton children were invited to a meeting in the dining hall when I explained the position as agreed at the conference on the 17th. I stressed the need that parents should make up their minds about transfer and stick with it as I could not make satisfactory arrangements for children if parents changed their minds after final arrangements had been made. I had special reasons for stressing this as in the past there had been complete confusion and plan after plan was wrecked by the uncertainty caused by parents changing their minds again and again.”

On the 10th September 1956 when St. James re-opened after the Summer Holidays, two teachers arrived, one for Harefield pupils and for those of us from Thornhill, Mr H. Bampton.

The 29th October 1956 saw the children for Yeovil Chase School finish at St. James and later on 4th July 1957 Mr Hodgkins was invited to the Official School Opening.

Of Thornhill the log makes no further mention but I along with the other Thornhill pupils left on 12th April 1957 ready to start at Thornhill after the Easter holiday. The departure of these pupils increased the decline in pupil numbers at St. James which had peaked in 1954 with 750 pupils in 19 classes. By 1960 there were only 420 pupils.

— SECRETARY WANTED —

Don't forget the Society still needs a Secretary to replace Pauline who stood down at the last AGM. Anyone interested can find out what's involved from a Committee member. Then volunteer!

"THE ORIGINS OF MODERN WARSASH" EXHIBITION



Warsash Local History Society held their "Origins of Modern Warsash" Exhibition, featuring photographs, maps and artefacts over a three day period from 5th to 7th May 2007. The exhibition was held in the Victory Hall at Warsash and as can be seen from the pictures above was very well attended. The exhibition was organised by the Society in conjunction with Mr Roy Knight their Archivist. There was lots to see and although not local to Warsash I found it all very fascinating. There was also a display (*see bottom right picture*) produced by the Dunkirk Little Ships Restoration Trust. Ed.

WHATS HAPPENING.....

Not a Society event but well worth going on a Hamble Valley Heritage walk, organised by Hamble Valley & Eastleigh Heritage Guides, check out their website at www.hamblevalleyheritage.co.uk/ for full information. Listed below are the next few walks:

13th May, Sunday 2pm.

Bursledon - Boatyards, beerhouses and brickyards - a stroll around the village with a chance to hear about some of its history.

Walking time: 1½ hours Meeting place: Bursledon Station car park, SO31 8AA Price: £2

20th May, Sunday 2pm.

Otterbourne - Otterbourne has a unique history - has moved three times, famous for its connections with John Keble and Charlotte Yonge.

Walking time: 1½ hours Meeting place: Otterbourne Common opposite Otter Pub, SO21 2HW Price: £2

27th May, Sunday 2pm.

Hamble Smuggling - With smuggling traditions going back to 1235, Hamble is the place to find out about the "Gentlemen of the Night".

Walking time: 1½ hours Meeting place: Square Car Park at the top of High Street, SO31 4LS Price: £2

3rd June, Sunday 2pm.

West End - Learn about Captain Rostron of the Carpathia and the inspiration for the Biggles books.

Walking time: 1½ hours Meeting place: Parish Centre, Chapel Road, West End, SO30 3FE Price: £2

6th June, Wednesday 7pm.

HMS Cricket - In the run-up to D-Day the woods of the Manor Farm Country Park were the home to HMS Cricket, a Combined Operations base which was a vital part of Britain's D-Day preparation.

Walking time: 1½ hours Meeting place: Barnfield Kiosk, Manor Farm Country Park, Bursledon, SO31 1BH Price: £2

10th June, Sunday 2pm.

Netley - Literary connections - Abbey ruins. The 18th century was a time of Gothic Revival. Come and hear how the magnificent ruins of the Abbey was inspiration to many famous writers, including Jane Austen, Thomas Gray and others.

Walking time: 1½ hours Meeting place: Netley Abbey car park, SO31 5FB Price: £2

Plus many other interesting walks - check out the website at www.hamblevalleyheritage.co.uk/ for full details.

BITTERNE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

June 9th Roman Town to City Suburb Keith Marsh

July 14th The Historic Knit Joyce Meader

August No Meeting

September 8th Annual General Meeting (with slides)

October 13th The Story of the Crown Jewels Norman Jackson M.V.O.

Meetings held at Bitterne United Reformed Church at 7pm (second Saturday of each month except August)

FRIENDS OF SOUTHAMPTON OLD CEMETERY (FoSOC)

Sunday 19th June Springwatch event on Southampton Common

Sunday 24th June John Vetterlein's Wildlife Walk at 2pm

Wednesday 4th July General History walk starting at 10.30am

Wednesday 4th July The Hawthorns FoSOC Annual General Meeting at 7pm

Saturday 7th July 10am Monthly Volunteer Task Force

Sunday 29th July John Vetterlein's Wildlife Walk at 2pm

For any further details on any of our walks contact Gillie Blake 023 80671083.

HAS ANYONE GOT ANY PICTURES.....



In our archive collection we have a couple of postcard images dating from the early 1900's showing the interior of the old South Stoneham Union Workhouse.

Published by the well known Woolston photographer Eltringham, they show the Washhouse and the Laundry and bear reference numbers 1136 and 1139.

These numbers indicate to us that a series of interior/ exterior pictures of the workhouse were made around the same time by Mr Eltringham - unfortunately, we have never seen any others in this series apart from an exterior view which is numbered 1137.

If any of our readers have copies of these postcards or for that matter any interiors of the old workhouse at Moorgreen please let us know, we would like to borrow them and scan them for our archive. We would take great care of them and return them immediately.

Remember...it is only with your help that we can build up our archive for future generations. Ed.

On this day (6th. June) in.....

1683 The first museum in Britain, the Ashmolean Museum in Broad Street, Oxford, founded by Elias Ashmole, was opened to the public.

1868 Robert Falcon Scott, British Antarctic explorer, born near Devonport in Devon.

1882 The three-mile coastal limit for territorial waters was established by the Hague Convention.

1900 Arthur Askey, English comedian, born at Liverpool.

1944 The allied landings on the coast of Normandy, called 'Operation Overlord', took place - the start of the biggest sea-borne invasion in history.

1954 The Eurovision television link-up was inaugurated.

1976 Paul Getty, American oil businessman and reputed to be the richest man in the world, died aged 83.

THE NEXT MEETINGS ARE

July 4

TOWNHILL PARK AND GARDENS

Rosaleen Wilkinson

August 1

A WALK AROUND WEST END'S HERITAGE (Part 2)

Details to be advised nearer the time

September 5

THE COCKLESHELL HEROES IN SOUTHSEA

Madeleine Selby

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