

WESTENDER

IN OUR 22nd YEAR OF PUBLICATION

MARCH - APRIL 2021

VOLUME 12 NUMBER 10

FROM OUR ARCHIVE



Originally this building was a Dame school, built, run and paid for in 1871 by local benefactress Harriett Haselfoot, later becoming the Infants annex to St. James' School. Long since demolished after finally serving as a private home, the land became a small housing development that is today Old School Gardens off Moorgreen Road. The original foundation stone has survived and can be seen at the Parish Centre, set into the corridor wall.

******STOP PRESS******

We are expecting to re-open our Museum at the Old Fire Station to the public on 22nd May 2021 subject of course to any changes that may be announced by government. Our next society meeting will take place at the Parish Centre on 7th July 2021, starting at 7.30pm as usual and will be "People on Plinths" a talk by Tony Cross.

CHAIRMAN

Neville Dickinson

VICE-CHAIR & TREASURER

Kevin Alford

SECRETARY

Lin Dowdell

MINUTES SECRETARY

Vera Dickinson

WEBMASTER

Peter Wallace

MUSEUM CURATOR

Nigel Wood

PRESS & PUBLICITY

Vacant

MEMBERSHIP

SECRETARY

Delphine Kinley

RESEARCHERS

Pauline Berry

Paula Downer

*WELHS....preserving our
past for your future....*

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Website:

www.westendlhs.co.uk

E-mail address:

westendlhs@aol.com

EDITOR

Nigel.G.Wood

EDITORIAL AND PRODUCTION
ADDRESS

40 Hatch Mead

West End

Southampton

SO30 3NE

Hants

West End Local History Society & Westender is sponsored by



**WEST END
PARISH
COUNCIL**



The Influenza Pandemic of 1918-1920

Sue Ballard, PhD

At the time of writing, we have been living with the threat of the Covid pandemic for over a year and the United Kingdom is still in its third lockdown in an attempt to bring it under control. The rapid research, development and production of vaccines throughout the world has offered hope. Parallels have been drawn between the current pandemic and the last major pandemic just over a century ago. But what was it like to live through the influenza pandemic of 1918-1920 and how did it affect our local community?

The 1918 Influenza Pandemic, known as “Spanish Flu”, came in four waves between February 1918 and April 1920, hitting different parts of the world with varying intensity at different times. It was hastened by troop movements in the final year of the First World War and the subsequent demobilization of troops. Flu has been with us for thousands of years and pandemics have occurred throughout history, often cutting swathes through populations. It is believed that an estimated 500 million people (about a third of the world’s population at that time) were infected during the 1918-1920 pandemic, with an estimated death toll of around 21 million – more than the Great War. Exact numbers are impossible to determine as record keeping differed across the world. Here in Britain, because influenza was not a notifiable disease prior to 1st March 1919, cases tended to be recorded only where medical help had been sought. The majority of the working population could not afford doctors, so many infections went untreated and unrecorded, although workhouse infirmaries would have kept records. The final number of dead in Britain was estimated to be around 228,000.

In their article “History and Evolution of Influenza Control Through Vaccination: From the First Monovalent Vaccine to Universal Vaccines”, Barberis, Myles, Bragazzi & Martini point out that at the time of the Spanish Flu pandemic, it was believed that influenza was caused by a bacterial infection. Lacking knowledge of the virus, there was little to be done to contain or treat the Spanish Flu, which ran unchecked for 26 months. There is no sense that the procedures followed today – lockdowns, masks and social distancing – were widely carried out for the 1918-1920 pandemic. In the USA, orders were issued requiring masks to be worn, but there was a surprising amount of resistance, with disparaging references to “germ traps” and “muzzles”. In Japan, local authorities published leaflets and posters instructing citizens to gargle regularly and to wear masks; the practice continues to this day. Here in Britain, Captain Thomas Carnwath, D.S.O., M.B., of the Royal Institute of Public Health, suggested that face masks should be adopted for general use by the public but there is little evidence that his suggestion was taken up. The Hampshire Advertiser of 15th February 1919 remarked on Carnwath’s recommendation: “Masks might do much to prevent the spread of influenza, but unfortunately, they are not things of aesthetic joy. ... As masks would hide pretty faces, it is to be feared that people would prefer to risk the deadly darts of the influenza microbe.” On 29th March, the Bournemouth Guardian announced “Masks and goggles have come to stay in hospitals receiving influenza patients. A beginning has at any rate been made with regard to the protection of nurses.” A little late, considering the pandemic had been extant for more than twelve months. On 1st March 1919, the County Medical Officer had sent a circular to the Headteachers of all schools in Hampshire advising that a gargle could be easily produced by mixing 14 grains of Potassium Permanganate and 10.5 drachms (600 grains or 1.3 ounces) of common salt per gallon of water. Children should gargle with it and sniff it up each nostril with enough force to reach the throat.

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

Overall, official advice had been sketchy and contradictory from the outset. On 25th October 1918 the Hampshire Telegraph quoted Official Instructions from a Local Government Board pamphlet with six precautions to be adopted in the event of a raised temperature or catarrh (“winter catarrh” was the common name for influenza): constantly flush bedrooms and living rooms with fresh air, avoid overcrowded rooms and places of amusement, infected persons should sleep in a separate room, no spitting, and avoid prolonged mental strain or alcoholism. However, on the following day The Hampshire Independent published the Official Instructions of the Medical Officer of Health to Southampton, who, after stating that the number of medical men in the area was limited, simply declared: “The only safe course is to resort to bed and blankets, and the adoption of a milk diet, until medical assistance can be obtained.” In fact, the opposite is true. Lying down results in fluid building up in the lungs and the onset of pneumonia. Most of those dying after contracting influenza actually died of the secondary infection, pneumonia.

Despite the Official Instructions to avoid overcrowded rooms, there was no attempt at a lockdown or social distancing and theatres were still open. The Bournemouth Graphic of 1st November 1918 reported that the comedy “Charlie’s Aunt” was to run at the Theatre Royal for six weeks after a successful run at the St. James’ Theatre, London. The report claimed: “Medical Advisers tell us that one of the best means of avoiding influenza is to keep cheerful.” In December 1918 the Local Government Board made an order entitled The Public Health (Influenza) Regulations, which required a half-hour interval between each cinematographic exhibition. However, no mention was made of using the interval to carry out cleaning at the venue and J.P. Walker, County Medical Officer of the Isle of Wight at that time, pointed out that the requirement to close cinematographic exhibitions between shows failed to include “theatres, music halls, places for public singing, dancing or music”.

There is little evidence of the influenza pandemic having a great effect on life here in West End. The few surviving copies that we have of the parish magazine covering that period (February, March & October 1918 and June, July, August & December 1919) make no reference to the pandemic, either directly or indirectly. The numbers of burials listed do not appear to have increased and both church services and social gatherings continued throughout, including sales of work, concerts, billiards competitions at the Men’s Club, a fancy dress dance in October 1918, the Patronal Festival for St. James’s Day on 25th July 1919, Peace Services, the foundation of a football club, as well as a dinner for ex-servicemen in December 1919 and a dance at the parish hall in January 1920.

At the time of writing, the museum is still closed due to covid lockdown regulations, making reference to the school log books held in the archive impossible, but no doubt the January 1916 – October 1931 log contains references to absences from school due to influenza or to the use of gargle. The only other direct evidence that we currently have of the effect of the 1918-20 pandemic on West End is a report of the meeting of the South Stoneham Guardians published in the Hampshire Advertiser on 9th November 1918. This recorded that the Southampton Poor Law Institute, being stretched due to the influenza pandemic, had enquired as to what accommodation the South Stoneham Union could offer in case of emergency. However, the South Stoneham Guardians pointed out that the workhouse was already being used as an overflow hospital for influenza cases. At that meeting, it was agreed to pay gratuities of £5 each to the Matron and the Superintendent Nurse and £4 each to the other nurses in view of their increased work in attending influenza patients. It was noted that the total of £30 (suggesting that there were five nurses) represented a saving on the £45 it would have cost to obtain additional nurses.

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

In November 1918, The Hampshire Telegraph declared that although there was no direct evidence of the numbers of cases dropping significantly, it believed that the climax had been reached and the epidemic was abating. Belying this confident premature assertion, they quoted the medical correspondent of The Times as saying that the epidemic had reached the climax of the second stage, with cases of septic pneumonia and went on to report that the calling up of doctors for National Service had been cancelled, while many doctors had been released from military service. This statement was followed by yet another set of six official instructions including washing the inside of your nose with soap and water night and morning and gargling with clean water as well as making yourself sneeze night and morning followed by deep inhalations and exhalations through the nose.

Unlike today, when the pandemic dominates the news with daily infection rates and death tolls, in 1918-1920 reports were restricted to a paragraph or two hidden in the middle of the newspapers. Some researchers have suggested that it was politically expedient to minimise the situation in the press in order to avoid panic. Manufacturers and retailers had no such qualms and utilised fear of infection as a selling point. Panic would only increase sales. Tyrell & Green offered woollen underwear (presumably to protect against chills), while Lifebuoy Soap and Jeyes Fluid disinfectant offered practical attempts at protection through cleanliness. Petal Dust Perfume was sold as "a delightfully fragrant antiseptic", the strong odour of which "greatly minimises the danger of infection".

OXO fortifies the system against INFLUENZA INFECTION

Extract from a communication received from a Doctor:
 "A cupful of OXO two or three times a day will prove an immense service as a protective measure. Its invigorating and nourishing properties are most rapidly absorbed into the blood, and thus the system is reinforced to resist the attacks of the malady."

The recognized power of OXO to increase nutrition and maintain vitality renders it particularly beneficial as a preventive. It promotes a high standard of health, and thus an effective resistance is established against the attacks of the influenza organism.

OXO

Sole Proprietors & Manufacturers: OXO Ltd., Thame House, London, E.C. 4

By Royal Warrant of Appointment during Three Successive Reigns

JEYES' FLUID

THE BEST DISINFECTANT

GUARD AGAINST INFLUENZA!
 by the daily use of **JEYES' FLUID**

USE it in your Bath.
SPRAY the atmosphere of the Office, Factory, Home, Cinema, etc.
DISINFECT all Lavatories, Sinks, Drains.

Invaluable for use in Schools.
JEYES' SANITARY COMPOUND Co., Ltd.,
 64, Cannon Street, LONDON, E.C. 4.

TYRRELL and GREEN.
To Fight the Influenza Scourge,
WEAR
ALL WOOL FLANNEL AND ALL WOOL UNDERWEAR.

We are holding a large stock of all-wool cream and blue Flannels at 3s. 11d., 4s. 11d. and 5s. 11d.
 All-wool Welsh Flannels, 2s. 11d.
 All-wool cream Flannel for children's wear, 2s. 11d., 3s. 11d. and 4s. 6d.

These goods are not only 50 per cent. under to-day's prices, but absolutely unprocurable.

LADIES' AND CHILDREN'S PURE WOOLLEN UNDERWEAR.

PURE WOOL COMBINATIONS (Ladies' White only).
 Small women's and Women's, 17s. 9d., 21s. 9d., 22s. 9d., 24s. 9d., 27s. 11d.
 Out sizes, 18s. 9d., 22s. 9d., 25s. 9d., 26s. 9d., 29s. 11d.
 Children's Pure Wool, White and Natural, long and short sleeves, first size 2, 6s. 11d. and 7s. 11d. Other sizes in proportion.
 Pure Wool, Scotch Make, size 7, 12s. 6d.

SPECIAL LINE—SCOTCH MADE, "PESCO."
 Silk and Wool, winter weight, slender and women's out size, 25s. 6d., 26s. 6d. and 27s. 6d.

TYRRELL and GREEN,
136-150, ABOVE BAR, Southampton.

Link up with LIFEBOUOY for Health's Sake.



The Influenza Scourge

Remember LIFEBOUOY SOAP is more than soap, it is a reputable germicide and a sure disinfectant.

has no greater enemy than real antiseptic cleanliness—cleanliness of house, cleanliness of clothes, cleanliness of person. Ordinary soap, however plentifully used, will not give this antiseptic cleanliness, therefore link up with Lifebuoy. Lifebuoy Soap cleans and disinfects at the same time. Disease germs can find no lurking place where Lifebuoy Soap has been used.

LIFEBOUOY SOAP will safeguard the children—keep them healthy as well as clean—protect them from contagious diseases.

USE LIFEBOUOY SOAP FOR CLEANING THE HOME—WASH YOUR HANDS AND FACE WITH IT—BATHE WITH IT—SHAMPOO WITH IT.

LIFEBOUOY SOAP
 MORE THAN SOAP—YET COSTS NO MORE.
LEVER BROTHERS LIMITED, PORT SUNLIGHT.

ADVERTS FOR FAMILIAR EVERYDAY PRODUCTS TARGETING FEAR OF THE EPIDEMIC.
 © THE BRITISH LIBRARY BOARD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

Adverts show a range of products claiming to protect against influenza, cure influenza and to “build up” and reinvigorate those left weak after influenza. Bovril was advertised as a preventive (cannily claiming a shortage due to the epidemic, which would of course prompt people into panic buying) and Oxo as both a preventive and a restorative. To an extent, both had a nutritional claim in that they are the equivalent of the beef tea traditionally given to invalids, now in a more concentrated and convenient form. Similarly, Newman’s Fort-Reviver, a tonic based on concentrated fruit essences, was advertised with the words “Fight the Deadly Influenza”; it would at least have boosted the immune system to a certain degree with essential vitamins and minerals.

However, Buccaline Brand Tablets were advertised as “vaccine by mouth” for “security from colds and influenza”. Pinalant, made by Bray’s Manufacturing Chemist in Portsmouth, offered relief from catarrh and colds and claimed that a few drops on a handkerchief “Prevents Influenza”. Oil of Espra claimed to cure whooping cough and prevent influenza. Several products were claimed to be proof against a wide range of completely unrelated medical conditions in the tradition of the ubiquitous “cure-all” or “quack” remedy. The tonic Ker-nak claimed to relieve a range of conditions from anaemia, bad breath and constipation to dizziness, headache, “liver chill” and the after effects of influenza. Similarly, [Phosferine](#), a “tonic medicine” was sold as a “proven remedy” for influenza as well as numerous other conditions, including indigestion, rheumatism, hysteria and “maternity weakness”, despite some of Phosferine’s adverts specifically targeting men on active service! Dr. William’s Pink Pills had previously been sold for a range of digestive problems. Now its adverts often filled a column, designed to appear as a report on the epidemic offering genuine medical advice; only upon reaching the testimonials at the end, with mention of the product, did realisation dawn that it was an advert. On 1st March 1919 the Bournemouth Guardian published the latest local government advice, which now included the wearing of masks when attending the sick and the words “don’t waste money on drugs in the false hope of prevention”. The trade continued unabated.

<p>How PEPS reach the LUNGS.</p> <p>KILL the Germs that set up BRONCHITIS, WHOOPING-COUGH, & THAT HORRIBLE COUGH.</p> <p>FOR the numerous throat and chest troubles so prevalent at this time of the year the only safe and effective method of treatment is to take a medicine straight into the lungs, and the only way to get a medicine into the lungs is to breathe it in. This is the Peps way. With the discovery of Peps Science has solved a problem which has puzzled the medical profession for generations—how to convey to the lungs direct a medical agent which will thoroughly disinfect, destroy disease germs, stop the chest-racking cough, and give you the relief from BRONCHITIS, WHOOPING-COUGH, and other chest troubles.</p> <p>TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THE Peps you should take one or two tablets once or twice a day for the medicinal purposes of these wonderful medicine pills. In the treatment of acute or chronic cases of throat and chest troubles, take one or two tablets three or four times a day. In the treatment of chronic cases, take one or two tablets three or four times a day. In the treatment of acute cases, take one or two tablets three or four times a day. In the treatment of chronic cases, take one or two tablets three or four times a day.</p> <p>PEPS</p> <p>The Medicine that is Breathed into the Lungs</p>	<p>AN ADVERT FOR PEPS “BREATHABLE TABLETS” CONSISTING OF A PSEUDO-SCIENTIFIC TREATISE AND A DIAGRAM SHOWING THE FUMES FROM THE TABLET BEING INHALED.</p> <p>© THE BRITISH LIBRARY BOARD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED</p>
---	--

Other claims to prevent or cure influenza were related to drinking alcohol, perhaps on the basis that during the Victorian period brandy was listed in the official pharmacopeia and could be prescribed as a stimulant. Adverts appeared for Baggs Brothers’ Tonic Champagne, Winox Wine Food and a rather bizarre mixture named Vinesco, which claimed to combine the stimulant effect of a tonic wine with the nutritional properties of “pre-digested beef extract”. Belief in the efficacy of alcohol was supported by the medical profession. In December 1918, The Ministry of Food arranged for a special supply of spirits with

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5

distinctive labels to be supplied to districts for influenza patients with a certificate from the attending doctor. On 8th February 1919, the Hampshire Advertiser noted that Dr Watson from Woolston had been having difficulties obtaining supplies of alcohol to fight influenza and quoted a Dr Usher-Somers, who stated: "The present epidemic is a more virulent type than I witnessed both in Paris and London in 1889 and 1890. It is occurring at a time when alcohol in any form is practically unprocurable. More than ninety per cent of my patients are under thirty years of age and teetotallers. Publicans and moderate drinkers appear not to be liable to the disease."

AVOID INFLUENZA


DRINK

BAGGS BROS.'

TONIC CHAMPAGNE

The **ORIGINATORS** of the Celebrated **DRY LEMON.**

Telephone 4737.



Ask for

WINOX WINE FOOD

A Glassful taken three times a day

WILL PREVENT INFLUENZA

It is invaluable for Anæmia, Neurasthenia, Bronchitis, Nervous Breakdowns, and other Bodily and Nervous Weaknesses.

LARGE 6/- SIZE

Obtainable from any Licensed Grocer, Chemist or Wine Merchant. Your money returned in full should it fail to give complete satisfaction.

ALCOHOL BASED "PREVENTIVES".
© THE BRITISH LIBRARY BOARD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

The pandemic referred to by Dr Usher-Somers, above, was known as "The Great Russian Flu" or "Asiatic Flu" of 1889-1891, which appeared to have originated in Central Asia and broken out in St Petersburg in November 1889. It took just six weeks to hit Britain. Russian Flu recurred on a smaller scale in waves until 1895 and killed about 1 million people worldwide at a time when the global population is estimated to have been around 1.5 billion – an average of about 1 in 1500 people. In 1918, older people would have remembered the ferocity of the Russian Flu pandemic and been susceptible to the fears of which advertisers took advantage.

There are three main influenza viruses, A, B & C, with a fourth, D, recently found in cattle and pigs. Jeffery K. Taubenberger & David M. Morens, in their article "1918 Influenza: Mother of All Pandemics" published in "Emerging Infectious Diseases Vol.12, No.1. (Jan 2006) states that the 1918-1920 Spanish Flu has been identified from archived autopsy tissues as a subtype of the Influenza A virus. From the 1950s until recently it was believed that the 1889-1891 Russian Flu was caused by another subtype of the Influenza A virus. However, recently two separate studies – by a team led by Belgian biologist Leen Vijgen (The Lancet, 2004) and by Danish researchers Lone Simonsen & Anders Gorm Pedersen (2020 not yet published) – suggest that it may in fact have been bovine coronavirus – Covid 19 – which had jumped from cattle to humans.

“Small Game Hunting in Old West End” (or “Run, Rabbit, Run”) By Pauline Berry

During the early years of the 19th century, West End village (comprising of the tithings of Shamblehurst and Allington) had a population of less than 2,000 inhabitants. At that time the area was close to 3,000 acres and most of the lowland was farmland, including many thriving farms such as Townhill, Hatch, Quob, Hickley, Moorgreen, Berrywood and Chalcroft farms. Mostly occupied by tenant farmers, the actual owner of this vast area was Nathaniel Middleton Esquire.

Following his death in 1807, Middleton’s huge estate of more than 4,000 acres was put up for sale and in the Sales Particulars it stated ‘the extensive manors (including West End) are abounding with game’, being the general term for wildlife such as grouse, pheasant, partridge, rabbits, hares and foxes. Hunting such creatures was purely and legally a pastime of the wealthy landowners and friends.

West End had more than one gamekeeper employed by these landowners to rear game etc., keeping out trespassers and poachers at the same time. ‘Keepers Cottage’, still to be found in Allington Lane, was the home of one such person, paid by Lord Swaythling at the turn of the 20th Century.

Dog Kennel Lane (now Telegraph Road) and nearby Dog Kennel Farm (the early home of Miss W. Moody) shown on old 19th century map are evidence of the abundance of game and hunting activities of that time. Elsewhere, correspondence circa 1818 between the Rev. Richard Baker of Botley (great-grandfather of the ‘Man of the Trees’) and the Admiralty in London, reveal that he had purchased an area of land off Beacon Road from William Hallett, the new landowner (after N. Middleton). He stated that he had created 40 acres of woodland ‘purely for the purpose of game’. This site included not only the old Telegraph Station, but also a ‘pleasure house’ or lodge, possibly for the use of shooting parties?

The ‘Ground Game Act’ of 1881 eased any local problems, by allowing tenants to shoot rabbits and hares on their own holdings. This replaced several previous severe laws concerning poaching, for in 1817 armed poachers caught at night were transported for seven years!

Pheasant shooting had been a minority sport of the rich, but now became organized in a big way during the reign of Victoria.

Sparrow shoots would appear a particularly unusual form of hunting today. In Charles Sillence’s book ‘Tales of Old West End’, past residents of West End recalled local men going out at night to net the bushes where sparrows roosted. These unfortunate birds were trapped, placed in special traps and later released singly, to be shot in a competition. Occurring in the 1800’s, this was probably the forerunner of Clay Pigeon shooting today.

The diary of Albert Fray, tenant farmer who took over Hatch Farm in 1892, frequently mentions the shooting or hunting with dogs on his farm. Wildlife was regarded as a pest for farmers, decimating some of their crops, and considered only fit for the cooking pot (with exceptions). The following are some of Albert Fray’s entries for 1896 only:

- | | |
|----------|--|
| Jan 22nd | The fox hunters have been here again today! (On an earlier occasion ‘they trampled the wheat a good bit’.) |
| Jan 29th | I have been out with the gamekeeper (not named) and caught 12 rabbits. |
| Feb 12th | Had the fox hunters here again today. |

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7

- Mar 8th Old Jim (The farm dog) caught a leveret (young hare).
- Apr 21st Mr Gillett (from Fair Oak) has been here ratting today.
- June 9th I went out this evening and shot 2 rabbits.
- July 7th I shot 3 hares and 2 rabbits. Ned Hogg (friend) came out and shot a hare.
- July 20th Read came over this evening, shot 2 rabbits and a pigeon.
- July 31st Ned shot 3 rabbits.
- Aug 3rd We had a fine sport with hares, rabbits and rats—till 9 o'clock.
- Sept 2nd Mr Gillett has been here shooting today and has sent us 2 braces of partridges. (Repeated on the 9th.)
- Oct 3rd I have been out with Mr Gillett's shooting party.
- Oct 27th Read and Kyte came out ferreting and caught 4 rabbits.
- Nov 2nd I have shot a hare in the swedes (and 3 more on following days).
- Nov 13th I have shot 2 hares and 2 rabbits. Mr Gillett's party have shot in Dummers (copse near Barnsland), had a good day. He sent me one hare, 2 rabbits and a brace of birds.
- Nov 14th I have been out with Mr Gillett's shooting party, they shot over 300 head (274 rabbits), got wet coming home.
- Dec 2nd I have shot a rabbit and a hare.
- Dec 26th Ned came over this morning, we went out ferreting for a little while and caught 8 rabbits.

(End of 1896)

These selected diary entries are for one year only, and approximately 400 rabbits and hares were shot on the 200 acre Hatch Farm. The following year, 1897, this activity continued in the same vein and Albert Fray bought himself a new shotgun in part exchange for his old one. It was purchased from 'Toomers' in Southampton, for £4.10 shillings.

Today, most of West End farms and farmland have long since vanished (except Chalcroft Farm) and been replaced by the modern demands for housing, small businesses and, of course, the Ageas Bowl Hampshire County Cricket ground etc..

Such is progress!

NB. Thanks, as usual, go to Adrian Fray for the loan of his grandfathers diary.

WILLIAM JEFFERIES COLLINS - the West End connection

By Nigel Wood

(previously published in *The Partnership* newspaper Summer 2013)**THE COLLINS FAMILY IN EARLY YEARS**

William Jefferies Collins was born in London in 1856, the son of a successful businessman Benjamin Collins, who ran the bookbinding business of Benjamin Collins & Sons of London. He married a music teacher, Mary Martin, and they had a total of six children; Ada, William, Herbert, Ethel, Martyn and Ralph. The Collins building firm seems to be traced back to 1900 when W.J.Collins demolished their original family home at Fortis Green in North London and prepared the grounds for building development. Of his sons, Herbert became the well known architect (who was also responsible for our museum building, once the village Fire Station as well as the surrounding Orchards Way development), William also became an architect, whilst Ralph became a builder and tragically Martyn was killed in Flanders during the Great War.

William Jefferies Collins became a speculative builder, with a very shrewd business sense, making a fortune out of buying up land adjacent to recently opened railway lines, on which he built houses for the growing middle classes in the suburbs of North London. In 1911, W.J.Collins moved to Southampton, later occupying "The Wilderness" house and estate on the corner of Church Hill and West End Road until 1939. Around 1922, Herbert and his wife Anne also moved to West End and for a few months occupied the gate lodge to "The Wilderness".

An interesting partnership developed over the years in the Collins family; "W.J." frequently provided the funding, whilst Herbert designed the houses and the building work was carried out by Ralph – an early version of 'keep it in the family'. Throughout his time in West End he generously contributed to many local charities and deserving cases, making the extensive grounds of "The Wilderness" available to many local events including the forerunner of the local Carnival or Cottagers Show as it was known and taking a particular interest in the development of The Boys' Brigade and the Girls' Life Brigade. In 1922 for instance he donated £10,000 for the new Brigade headquarters in Cranbury Terrace, Southampton. He was a generous supporter of the Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital and was made a vice-president

Continued on page 10

Continued from page 9

of the institution and a member of the Management Committee from 1927 until 1937. He also gave generously to the Children's Hospital of which he was vice-president as he also did for the YMCA among countless other good works.

He served as a Parish Councillor for Westend, was a valued member of the Rotary Club of Southampton and one of the oldest members of the Southampton Chamber of Commerce. He served for a time on the Southampton Town Council and was a member of the Court of Governors of Southampton University College (as it was then known). In 1929 Mr and Mrs Collins celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. William Jefferies Collins died in May 1939 aged 84 years old. It was said of him, *"acts of generosity and kindly thought for those less fortunate than himself in whose welfare he always took a practical interest"*. A fitting epitaph for a very kind, generous man.



WILLIAM COLLINS PHOTO FROM HIS OBITUARY



WILLIAM COLLINS (centre back) WITH W.I. GROUP AT HIS HOME 'THE WILDERNESS'

THE OWTON FAMILY

By Alec Samuels

The Owton family is a long-established local and much respected family in the Southampton and South Hampshire area. The family has farmed Chalcroft Farm in Burnett's Lane, some 225 acres, for many years, at least 400, some say even 750. Many members of the family still live in this area.

Lots of Owton names are to be found in the local records, registers of births, marriages and deaths. Caleb 1788-1870. Richard 1800-1850? Fanny 1791-1874. William 1830-1896. Caleb (Owton) Houghton. Could it be that the family name is or was originally Houghton, the family with their Hampshire burr pronounced the word to sound like Owton, and this pronunciation and spelling prevailed and remained? Annie 1852-1907. Angelina Mary 1860-1928. Caleb James 1863-1933. Frederick (Owton) Houghton 1865-1962. Charles (Owton) Houghton 1869-1962. William 1869-1942. Gertrude Emma 1888-1973. Reginald Charles 1901-1977. Hilda Emily May 1968-1990. Alice. Natalie Owton-Hughes.

From 1976 Rob and Gill Owton, and in recent years Gill alone, ran a highly successful farm shop, a traditional family butchers, supplying local hotels, restaurants, hospitality venues, and the general public, winning many awards. The business is now run by two of their sons, namely Billy and Simon Owton. Gill, educated in Didcot Girls Grammar School, has distinguished herself not only in business but also in public charitable care and support work, trustee on the Isle of Wight and at the Countess Mountbatten Hospice at Botley Road in West End.

Andy Owton grew up and worked as a farmer on Chalcroft Farm for many years, and later ran a horse and pet feed business in Botley.

Avril and her husband acquired and lived in The Cloud Hotel at Meerut Road in Brockenhurst in the heart of the New Forest in 1976. He died in 1991 and she took over. In her young days Avril had been a professional dancer, a "Tiller Girl" at the London Palladium. One of her colleagues in the chorus was the celebrated Betty Boothroyd, subsequently MP, Speaker of the House of Commons, Baroness in the House of Lords. Judging from the contemporary photographs both ladies have subsequently put on a tiny bit of weight. Avril said that she moved from chorus line to bottom line. She made The Cloud into a delightful venue for visitors, old-world comfort and charm, excellent service; and displayed photographs of the dancing world. She was awarded the title of the businesswoman of the year 1995, and the MBE in 2008 for her charity and hospitality work. She founded the Wessex Women's Network. She published "Delighting Your Customers" 2007. She said: "Never give up. If you are standing and breathing, you're on". Sadly, for the public, she sold up in 2020, reputedly for £1.7m.

The Owtons have certainly made their mark in these parts.

IMAGES FROM OUR ARCHIVE

As many of you are probably aware, Richard St. Barbe Baker who was born and lived in West End was not just known for helping to start the environmental group “Men of the Trees”, but after the Great War of 1914-18 became an early pioneer of towed caravan construction. Buying up war surplus aircraft and using the materials he salvaged, he produced one of the earliest motor towed caravans, which he called the ‘Navarac’ (which happens to be the word caravan in reverse).

Until recently we had not seen any images of these vehicles but thanks to Angela Willis who is the Cura-



tor of the Caravan and Motorhome Club Collection at The National Motor Museum Trust, Beaulieu, we now have a copy of the image you see here. The ‘Navarac’ is being towed by a car on the left whilst a traditional horse drawn caravan is on the right. Incidentally, the gentleman in the hat standing in the doorway of the ‘Navarac’ looks a lot like Richard St. Barbe Baker!

SOCIETY STOP PRESS

We are expecting to re-open our Museum at the Old Fire Station to the public on 22nd May 2021 subject of course to any changes that may be announced by government. Our next society meeting will take place at the Parish Centre on 7th July 2021, starting at 7.30pm as usual and will be “People on Plinths” a talk by Tony Cross.

RECIPE CORNER - Sue Ballard

“ENGLISH TREACLE TART”

(WEST END COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION RECIPE BOOK)

The “treacle” in treacle tart as we know it today is actually golden syrup, developed by brothers Charles & John Joseph Eastick, chemists at the Lyle & Sons refinery in London in 1885. The earliest known recipe for treacle tart is said to be Mary Jewry’s in the 1879 “Warne's Model Cookery: With Complete Instructions in Household Management and Receipts”. Mary Jewry’s recipe used black treacle simply interspersed with layers of pastry. By 1891, Mary Harrison, in her “Guide to Modern Cookery”, had adapted Jewry’s recipe to a single layer of pastry topped with a layer of golden syrup, dredged with breadcrumbs.

The recipe below appeared in the West End Community Association Recipe Book edited by Gillian Owton, dating to the late 1960s or early 1970s, a copy of which is held in the museum. The contributor of this recipe was not named. The proportion of syrup here is tiny compared to most modern recipes, which use between 400g & 725g of syrup and between 85g & 175g breadcrumbs. This is the only recipe I have come across using apple and it put me in mind of wartime recipes which substituted many ingredients to eke things out. Further research found a news clipping from the Hampshire Telegraph 04 January 1946, which stated: “A little lemon juice gives treacle tart piquancy. Lemons are in short supply, so try this addition next time you make a tart. Fill the flour with mixed treacle and breadcrumbs, then on the top grate an apple. Add no sugar.” Could our anonymous contributor have adapted this advice to create her own recipe?

ENGLISH TREACLE TART

S.C. pastry	1 tbsps sugar
1 cooking apple	2 tbsps milk
1 cup fresh breadcrumbs	2 tbsps warmed golden syrup
Juice & grated rind of 1	Milk
lemon	Caster sugar
1 salt spoon salt	1 salt spoon ginger

Butter pie tin and line with pastry. Grate peeled and cored apple and mix with breadcrumbs, juice and grated rind of lemon, salt, ginger, sugar, milk and syrup. Blend well and spread evenly over pastry. Decorate with thin strips of pastry, lattice fashion. Brush with milk and sprinkle with caster sugar.

Bake 375° for 40 minutes.

NOTES:

I made this with shortcrust pastry using 250g plain flour & 125g butter in my mum’s wartime enamel pie dish with a broad rim (right). It will easily fit a modern 8 inch (20 cm) pie dish or flan tin.

1 cup of fresh breadcrumbs = approx. 2 slices.

A salt spoon is about ¼ teaspoon.

375F = Gas mark 5 / 190C / 170 fan – needless to say, the oven should be preheated.



CLERGYMEN, PAPERMAKERS AND SCHOOLMASTERS

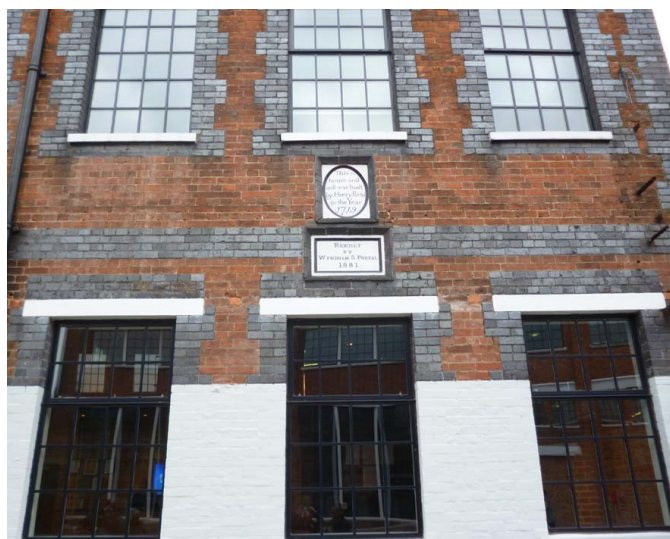
By Paula Downer

Robert White and Agnes Dusautoy were married in Steventon in 1840. Why Steventon ? I wondered (thinking of Jane Austen), I had to investigate further, I found a tale of clergymen, papermakers and schoolmasters.

To start at the beginning with the Portal family, there appears to be conflicting stories of how Henri de Portal actually got to Southampton, this seems to be a favourite version :-

Henri de Portal was born in Poitiers in France in 1689, the son of a Huguenot family. His father Jean Francois de Portal was Conseiller du Roi (on the King's Council) when the Edict of Nantes was revoked by Louis XIV in 1685, declaring intolerance towards the Protestants. The family fled to their chateau, their younger sons, Henri and Guillaume were hidden in the oven. When the Dragoons descended on the chateau, some of the family managed to escape but some did not and were horribly butchered to death. The two boys, with help from their servants, managed to get away disguised as peasants. At Bordeaux, they climbed into barrels which were being loaded on board an English ship bound for Southampton. They had taken an enormous risk, if the boys had been caught they would have been sent to a convent to be converted to Catholicism. Men, if they were caught, were either tortured and/or sent to the French Fleet as galley slaves, women were put in prison. The French King did not want to lose his skilled tradesmen, they had valuable knowledge. The French were highly skilled in various industries such as silk weaving, textiles, silver smithing and paper making. The King wanted them to stay put but if they had, they would have had to convert to the Roman Catholic faith.

In Southampton the two brothers sought out their fellow refugees. There had been a French speaking community here since the Norman Conquest. In 1567 Queen Elizabeth I had granted them the use of the Chapel of St.Julian for worship. Some of the settlers were engaged in the paper making trade, a mill complex called 'Up Mill' was situated about 4.5 miles further up the River Itchen at South Stoneham. A man of influence at the paper mill was a Frenchman Gerard de Vaux of Ville de Castres en Haut Languedoc whom appears to have been a friend of the Portal family. It seems that he took the young Henri, now 15 years old under his wing and gave him employment. In 1711, at the age of 21, Henri took advantage of Queen Anne's 'Act for Naturalizing Foreign Protestants', he was naturalized at the Court of Quarter Sessions in Winchester, Hampshire and given a certificate to declare that he was now 'Henry Portall of South Stoneham in this County, Gentleman'. Henry must have been an energetic, ambitious young man with grand ideas, he was given a wonderful opportunity, along with Gerard de Vaux's son John de Vaux, to lease Bere Mill in Whitchurch, Hampshire and by 1718 also had the lease of nearby Laverstoke Mill.



**Part of the conditions of the lease was to rebuild the existing Laverstoke Mill
The plaque above reads - This House and Mill was built by Henry Portal in the year 1719**

The steady supply of water from the clear, chalky water of the River Test was ideal for paper making. Henry invented a unique method of making a watermark on paper hence in 1724 was awarded the contract to make banknotes for the Bank of England. When Henry died in 1747, his son Joseph Portal took over the paper mill at Laverstoke, by 1759, the success of the business meant that he was able to purchase the Laverstoke estate. In April 1764 Joseph and Sarah's youngest son John was born, John was destined to take over the paper making business which he did in 1793 when his father died (his brother Henry inherited

Continued on page15

Continued from page 14

the landed estate which included Bere Mill). John Portal took a keen interest in his workers' welfare, low rent cottages were built to encourage the workers to live near their workplace. A plaque embedded in the wall of a nearby two-storey terrace accommodating five cottages (now Grade II listed) reads 'Built by John Portal Esq. 1842'. In 1846, John Portal inherited the whole of Laverstoke estate. John married twice, firstly to Mary Corrie (d.1837) and secondly to Elizabeth Drummond, he had three daughters with Mary and five children with Elizabeth. John and his family lived nearby at Freefolk Priors, John held the offices of Justice of the Peace and Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Southampton.

Pierre François du Sautoy, from a French Protestant family, was born in 1731 in Leige, France, Ward of Comte de Clermont. Pierre obtained a commission in the French Army, joined Bonnie Prince Charlie's (Charles James Edward Stuart) Army in Scotland in his bid to restore the Stuarts to the throne of England and Scotland. They were defeated, in 1746, at the Battle of Culloden, Pierre was captured and taken to Basingstoke as prisoner. After his release and now known as Peter Francis Dusautoy, in 1758, he married Mary Abbott. After the revocation of the Edict of Nantes a number of French Protestants had settled in Winchester. Peter is known to have taught at Winchester, presumably at Winchester College, there has been a College here since 1382. Peter and Mary had four sons, the youngest, John Abbott, was born in 1764 near the South Downs (possibly Buriton where Dusautoy family graves can be found).

On 17th December 1795, John Abbott Dusautoy married Elizabeth Shenton at St.Mary's Church in Southampton. The Universal British Directory of Trade, Commerce, and Manufacture show John Dusautoy employed as a Papermaker in Romsey (thought to be Abbey Mill on the River Test). During their years in Romsey a son Shenton (c.1797) was born followed by a daughter Ann (1798) and a son Henry in 1803. In 1804, the Dusautoy family were living in Norfolk, John had taken over the paper mill on the River Wensum in Lyng, he appeared to be in a partnership with James Rump. Four more children followed, Susan (1805), John (1806), Ellen (1808) and Agnes (1809).

Ever the entrepreneur, John produced a 34 page Ready-Reckoner, charging five guineas which was a lot of money. The guide contained calculations for wastage, including costs of rent, equipment, insurance, repairs, fuel, candles, duty, stabling expenses, travelling, packing paper. John had been at Lyng for about fifteen years, when he was given the chance to be Manager of Portal's paper mill at Laverstoke. John Portal must have had a copy of John Dusautoy's Ready-Reckoner and thereby considered to be the ideal man for the task and being of French descent like himself would have been welcomed with open arms.

The 1841 Census for England show John Abbott Dusautoy at Laverstoke Mill with his son Shenton and three of his daughters, Ann, Susan and Ellen. Thirteen others are listed, presumably working at the Mill, the youngest, a boy, aged 8. (John's wife Elizabeth had sadly died some years ago (c.1834)). John and Elizabeth's youngest daughter Agnes had married Robert White eight months previously on the 3rd September 1840, at the Parish Church of Steventon, by license, the ceremony conducted by Jane Austen's nephew the Reverend William Knight.



**The Reverend William Knight was rector of St.Nicholas Church, Steventon for fifty years
Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons**

Continued on page 16

Continued from page 15

The 1841 Census for England show Robert and Agnes White at Park Cottage in the parish of Elvetham in Hartley Wintney, Hampshire. Robert is presumably the Headmaster of a private preparatory school (as described in the 1851 Census), Park Cottage appears to be part of Lord Calthorpe's Estate. Among Robert's scholars are young sons of the clergy and landed gentry. Catherine Harriet Portal, eldest daughter of John Portal and Mary Corrie, was married, in 1825, to the Reverend William Knight. Three of their sons are listed as pupils at Robert White's school - Frederick William aged 12, Edward Bridges aged 11 and Arthur Charles aged 7 (*where was Richard that day?*). Also in the class were three sons of the Knatchbull-Hugessen family - Edward Hugessen aged 12, Reginald Bridges aged 10 and Richard Astley aged 8. Their father was Sir Edward Knatchbull 9th Baronet of Mersham Hatch, Kent, their mother was Jane Austen's niece Fanny Catherine Knight. Fanny's father was Edward Austen Knight, Jane Austen's brother. All these boys were Jane Austen's great-nephews !

Another one of Jane Austen's nephews, landowner Edward Knight of Godmersham Park, Kent and Chawton House Estate, Hampshire (and eldest brother of the Reverend William Knight) married into the Knatchbull and Portal families. He was first married in 1826 to Mary Dorothea Knatchbull, daughter of Sir Edward Knatchbull 9th Baronet of Mersham Hatch and his first wife Annabella Honywood. They had five sons and two daughters. Mary Knatchbull died in 1838, Edward Knight's second marriage in 1840 was to Adela Portal, eldest daughter of John Portal and Elizabeth Drummond. They had nine children.

From Robert White's School, the eldest son Edward Hugessen Knatchbull-Hugessen progressed to Eton College then Magdalen College, Oxford. Edward was elected Member of Parliament for Sandwich, served as a Lord of the Treasury, Under-Secretary of State for Home Affairs then Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, he was appointed to the Privy Council in 1873. In 1880 in recognition of his service, Edward Hugessen Knatchbull-Hugessen was raised to the peerage as the 1st Lord Brabourne of Brabourne, Kent. The second son Reginald Bridges Knatchbull-Hugessen took Holy Orders, became the Rector of West Grinstead in Sussex. The third son Richard gained rank of Captain in the British Army 57th Regiment of Foot, he unfortunately died of typhoid fever in San Francisco, California on 29th August 1875. Richard Astley Knatchbull-Hugessen was buried in London, the Woodland Cemetery carried out a restoration project in 2019 which uncovered Richard's marble gravestone.
Ref. www.woodlandcemeteryhistory.wordpress.com/2019/06/12/the-hugessen-monument-uncovering-restoration

The eldest son of Reverend William and Catherine, Frederick William Knight commissioned with the 1st Bombay European Fusiliers as Ensign in 1847, became Captain Staff Corps in 1864, retired with rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in 1871. Edward Bridges Knight took Holy Orders, became Rector of Chawton from 1868 until he resigned in 1876. Arthur Charles Knight emigrated to New Zealand, South Island with his brother Richard. They bought a 9,700 acre property which they named 'Steventon'. Arthur and Caroline (née Hankinson) had several children, thought to be as many as twenty-one ! so there are many Knight descendants in New Zealand today. Caroline lived until the grand age of 90.

It must have been such a thrill for Robert White and Agnes Dusautoy to get married where Jane Austen was baptized and by her nephew William Knight. Both Robert and Agnes came from a scholarly background. In the late 18th, early 19th century a number of Dusautoys were in Hampshire, as teachers. A local newspaper dated 1768 show a Mr and Mrs Dusautoy in Alton running a Boarding School for Young Ladies, by 1775 they had moved to No.78 High Street in Southampton. Ladies could be taught Needlework, Drawing, Writing, Music or Dancing by Mrs Dusautoy, Mr Dusautoy taught French (all these subjects available on reasonable terms). In Petersfield, a George and Mary Dusautoy are listed among the names of parents in a Register of Christenings, George described as Schoolmaster at Churcher's College. (Churcher's College was founded in 1722 by Richard Churcher to prepare local boys for maritime service in the East Indies).

In 1850, Agnes White's three elder unmarried sisters Ann, Susan and Elizabeth set up a Young Ladies College at Winton House in Basingstoke. The opening ceremony was attended by the Bishop of Winchester Charles Sumner. The 1851 Census for England lists twenty-two scholars, including two nieces Camilla Anne Dusautoy aged 14 and Agnes Caroline Dusautoy aged 6. The 1851 Census also shows that Robert White had re-located his school to West Green House in Hartley Wintney, Robert is with his second wife Frances, Agnes had sadly died in 1845. It seems that Lord Calthorpe had sold Park Cottage in 1844, the property described as a freehold residence with a house, offices and garden.

Robert and Agnes White had been blessed with two children, a daughter Caroline Gertrude (1841, Elvetham) and a son Robert Dusautoy White (1843, Hartley Wintney). They were both at West Green House in 1851. Caroline Gertrude White married the Reverend Arthur Watson in 1864, they had one son, Arthur Lacon Watson born 1866, in the parish of Northwood, Isle of Wight. He became a first class cricketer. Robert Dusautoy White took Holy Orders, he was a rector in Quebec, Canada for a few years then returned to England in 1875 to take up the role as vicar of Moreton Pinkney in Northamptonshire. Robert married Mary Charlotte Bradshaw in 1878.

Continued on page 17

Continued from page 16

It is known that Jane Austen often visited Godmersham Park when it became her brother Edward's house (born Edward Austen; inherited Godmersham Park from his cousin Thomas Knight). It is thought that Jane's novel 'Mansfield Park' was based on Godmersham Park. Edward Hugessen Knatchbull-Hugessen, 1st Lord Brabourne wrote bedtime fantasy and fairy stories for his four children which he had published for other children to enjoy.



**Edward Hugessen Knatchbull-Hugessen, 1st Lord Brabourne
Was one of Robert White's pupils at Park Cottage**

Image courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Edward_Knatchbull-Hugessen_Vanity_Fair_11_June_1870

Jane Austen was a prolific letter writer, it has been estimated that she may have written as many as 3,000 letters but sadly most of them have been destroyed. Fanny (Edward's mother) was close to her aunt Jane Austen, described by Jane to Cassandra as *'almost another sister and could not have supposed that a niece would ever have been so much to me'*. Jane enjoyed their intimate relationship, when Fanny was single, she often sought her aunt's advice on affairs of the heart.

'It is very, very gratifying to me to know you so intimately. You can hardly think what a pleasure it is to me to have such thorough pictures of your heart. Oh, what a loss it will be when you are married ! You are too agreeable in your single state - too agreeable as a niece. I shall hate you when your delicious play of mind is all settled down in conjugal and maternal affections.'

'I only do not like you should marry anybody. And yet I do wish you to marry very much, because I know you will never be happy till you are; but the loss of a Fanny Knight will be never made up to me.'

Sadly, Jane did not live to see her niece marry, in October 1820 Fanny Knight married Sir Edward Knatchbull 9th Baronet of Mersham Hatch. Jane Austen died on 18th July 1817 at the age of 41, from then on her name was much revered in the Knatchbull-Hugessen household, Edward was grieved that he was born twelve years too late and never had the pleasure of knowing his great-aunt Jane Austen personally. Edward inherited the letters after his mother Fanny died in December 1882, the box also contained letters from Jane to her sister Cassandra. Edward, aware of the increasing popularity of Jane Austen's life and work, published a selection of the letters dedicating the first edition of 'Letters of Jane Austen' to Queen Victoria. He also inherited the original copy, in Jane Austen's handwriting, of 'Lady Susan'.

Lastly but not least, where is Robert White buried ?

For more information on Robert and Frances White's story see 'Westender' January-February 2021