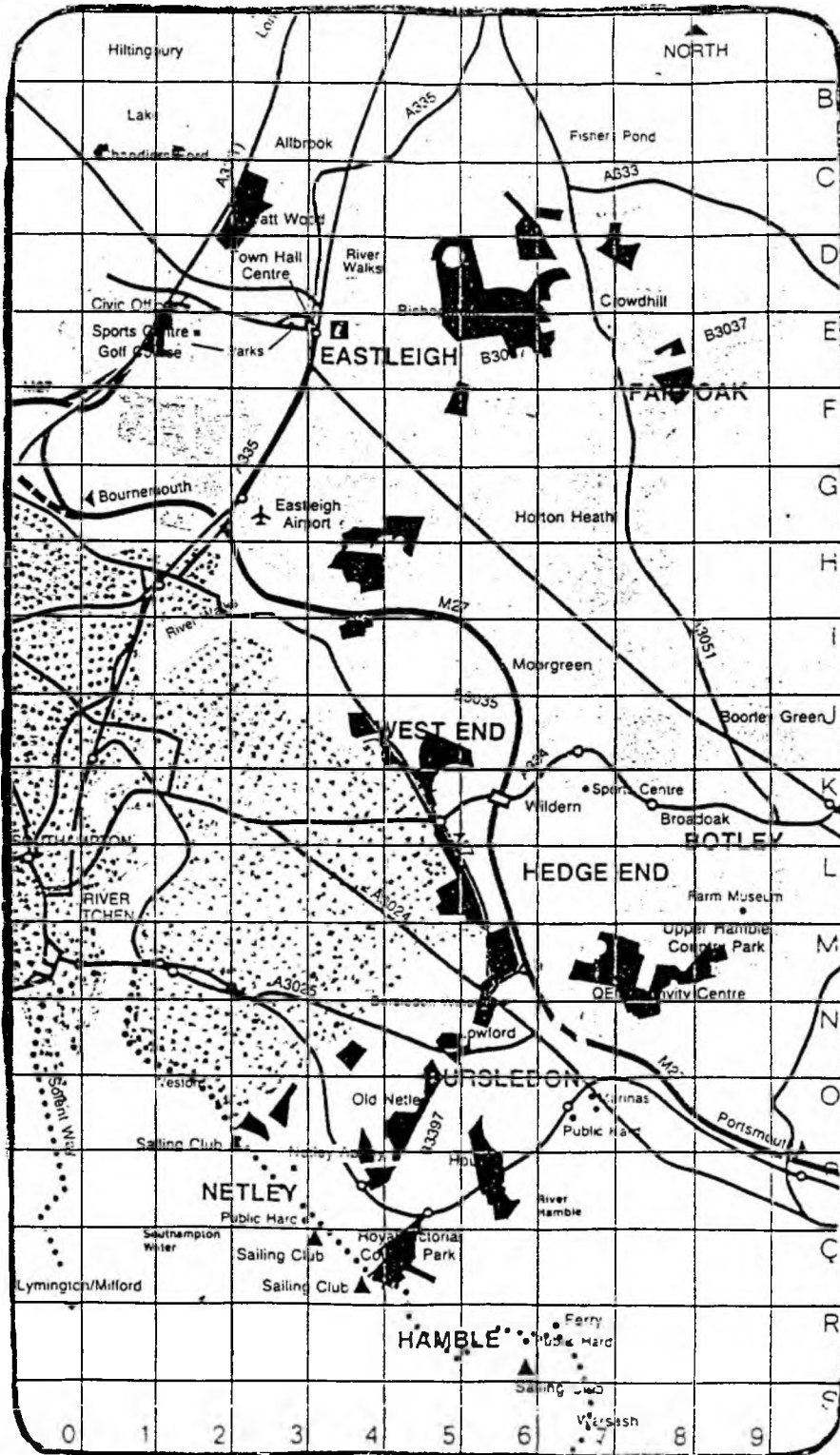


A POTTED HISTORY OF DISTRICT No. 9.

The Borough of Eastleigh.



Eastleigh & District Local History Society



The wide horizontal strip shows the black and white chequered motif recalling that Eastleigh was a manor held by the Chamberlain of the Royal Exchequer.

At the top of the Shield is a gold Bishop's mitre between two gold sheaves of corn. The mitre refers to the connection of the Bishops of Winchester with Bishopstoke and the corn to the rural interests. At the base of the Shield is a gold ship representing yachting and shipbuilding connections.

The two narrow black bands on either side of the chequered strip represent the Railway Works and the Pirelli General Cable Works and the winged wheel represents the general transport theme.

The Crest contains a naval crown and a lion which holds two roses and two lilies conjoined in one stem, indicating the coming together of the two basic areas.

Salus Populi Suprema Lex

The Arms contain the motto "*Salus populi Suprema Lex*" of which the accepted translation is "The welfare of the people is the highest law" and expresses the fundamental aims of the authority.



River Itchen

PREFACE

EASTLEIGH is a town put together over the last 150 years by assembling during that period a number of small centres of population which had grown into villages and small townships scattered over a rural district situated roughly between Southampton and the River Hamble. Some of these centres have their own interesting history, much of which is still being researched. It should be remembered that it is only in comparatively recent years that local administration has become so rigidly divided into towns, urban and rural districts and, since 1974, into Districts with clearly defined boundaries and consequent bureautic barriers affecting the lives of inhabitants living within those boundaries. This is not to suggest that no local control existed in earlier years. In fact, there seems to have been a fairly well ordered system of rural management with courts convened to settle arguments. The land was usually in the hands of the occupiers of large estates or manors and the lives of the ordinary country people depended upon the benevolence or astringency of the overlord who in many cases was appointed under religious authority.

In our part of the country life has been comparatively peaceful over the centuries with the inhabitants being for the most part able to control their own lives. The Borough of Eastleigh has developed into a town of over 100,000 citizens. Not so long ago it was just Eastley Farm having a few dozen people.

Gordon Cox

July, 1990

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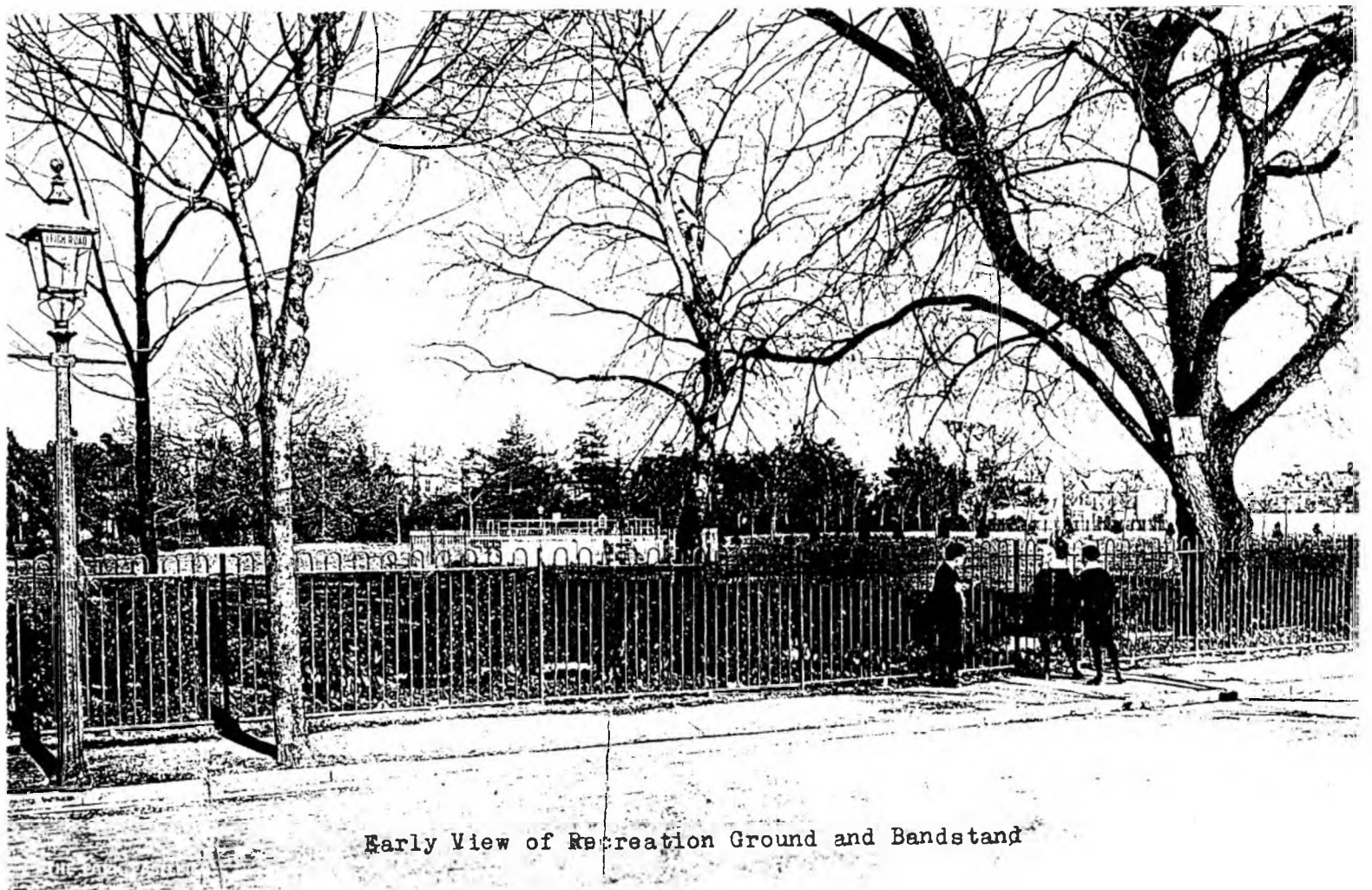
Great Eastley Farmhouse. Rebuilt 1773



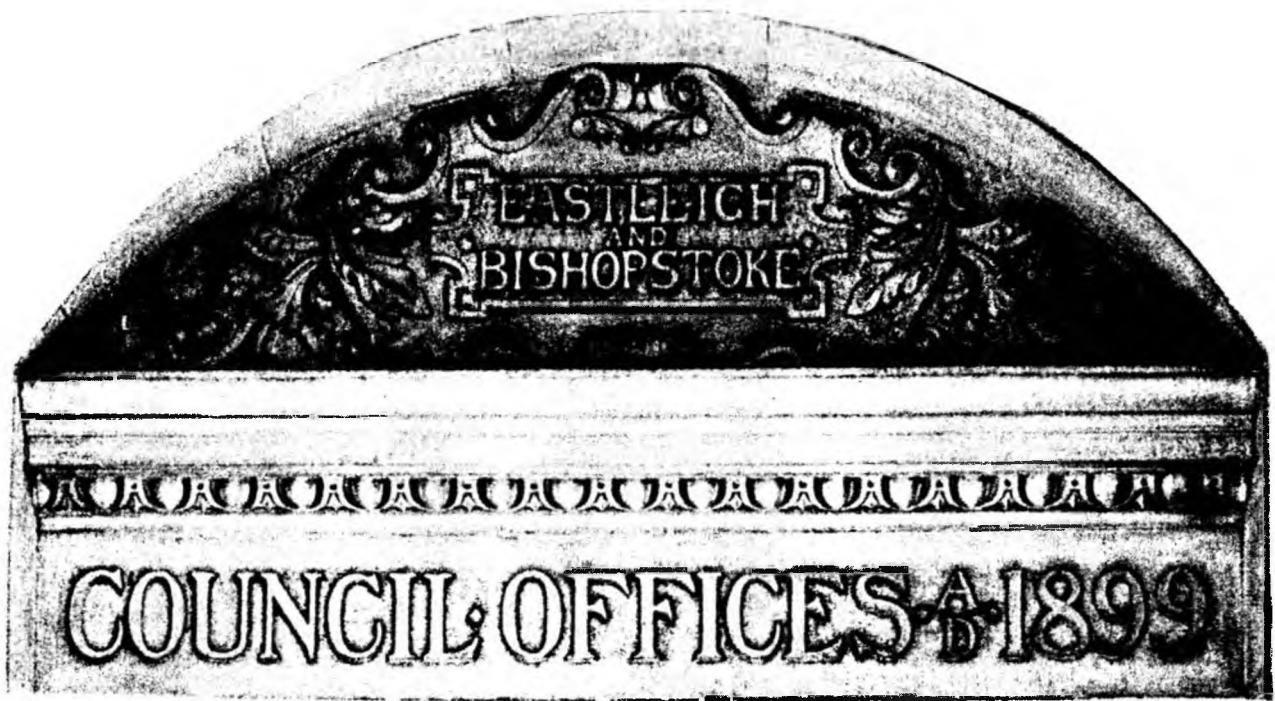
Avenue of Lime Trees and House at Brambridge
Family Seat of the Lords of the Manor of Eastley



The Entrance to Barton Peveril Farmhouse
1888



Early View of Recreation Ground and Bandstand



EASTLEIGH

Like most places in this country, Eastleigh can claim to have relics from pre-history. Stones and fossils from the Ice Age may be turned up in gardens; barrows on commons have yielded burial urns, axeheads and arrow-heads; Stone Age tools have been unearthed, particularly in the Bishopstoke area; in the grounds of Hursley Park, there is a ring of earthworks credited as dating from the Iron Age about 100 B.C. Remains from the Roman occupation of Britain include gold coins and two coffins, one of lead and the other of stone. Some of these relics are to be seen in God's House Tower, now Southampton's Museum of Archaeology.

The discovery of Roman remains is not surprising since the Romans had built a road between Venta Belgarum (Winchester) and Clausentum (Southampton) via land now known as Eastleigh. Traces of the road can still be seen but, so far, only one site of a Roman villa has been found, near Chickenhall. In the days of the Roman occupation, the land was densely wooded, providing shelter for animals and hunting for any inhabitants who lived in small clearings.

Moving on to the time when the name Eastley was being used, we find that clearings had been developed and small farms established. Eastleigh in its various spellings (Eastlea in a document of 932, Estleie in a Domesday entry and in 1282 there is a reference to a chapel of Esteley, the site of which has not been located) is one of these clearings, but why East? Possibly to the East of the Roman Road, there being little else of importance in the area in Saxon times. Connections between the farms were dirt tracks ~~as can be seen at~~ Doncaster Drove in North Stoneham.

Eastley Farm did not develop into a village; its inhabitants were in the Parish of South Stoneham, as were those at Barton and Bishopstoke; farms in Chandlers Ford were in North Stoneham or Hursley. For centuries, life was relatively peaceful, the Cromwellian Civil War, the Agricultural Riots and the building of the Itchen Navigation being minor disturbances, but the arrival of the railroad was a major upheaval. The first steam train came to Barton on



St. Nicolas Church, North Stoneham



Old Bishopstoke Church, built 1808

10th June, 1839, an event which may be regarded as the beginning of modern Eastleigh. Houses had to be built for the workers at the station called Bishopstoke Junction and the population of less than 80 recorded in the 1841 census began to grow.

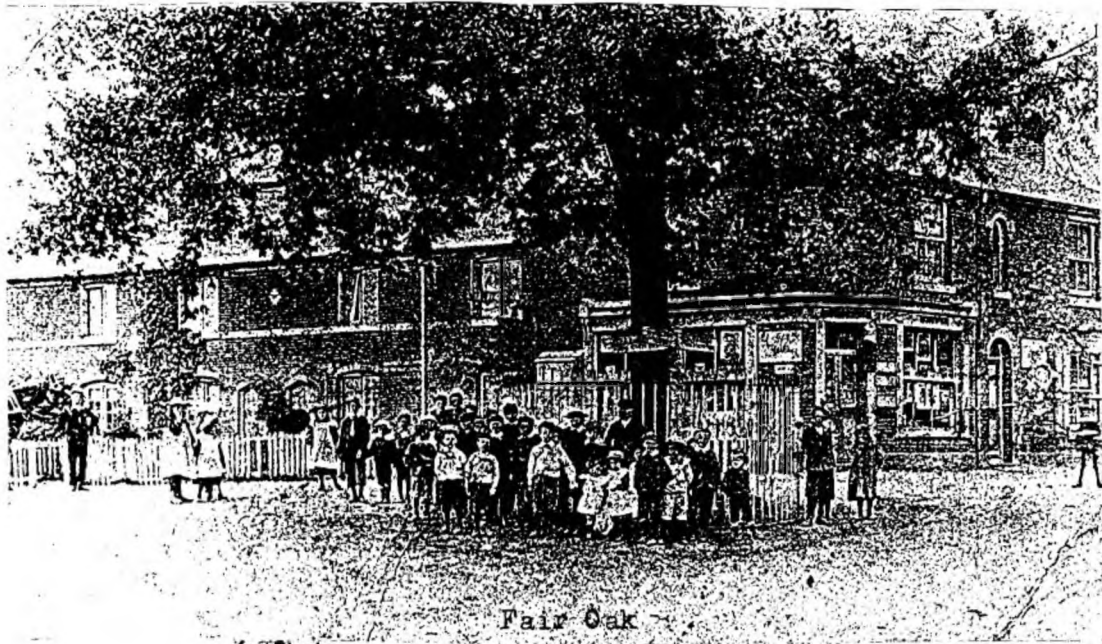
By now, the whole area was in the possession of various land-owners, notably the descendants of the Wells family at Brambridge (since at least the early 16th century), the Chamberlaynes at Cranbury Park, the Flemings at North Stoneham and the Heathcotes at Hursley. In 1860, William Craven sold his Brambridge estate to Thomas Chamberlayne who quickly started leasing land for building purposes, the first terrace on 300 feet of land near the station being built by William Tate and being known as Tate's Terrace until demolished fairly recently.

Not far away in Otterbourne lived a lady named Charlotte Yonge, a Christian lady who wrote novels and used her earnings for charitable purposes. She gave £500 and other gifts towards the building of a church and the establishment of an ecclesiastical parish detached from South Stoneham, for which she was asked to select a name. She chose Eastleigh, with its altered spelling, as the church was built on land which had belonged to Little Eastley farm. The date was 1868.

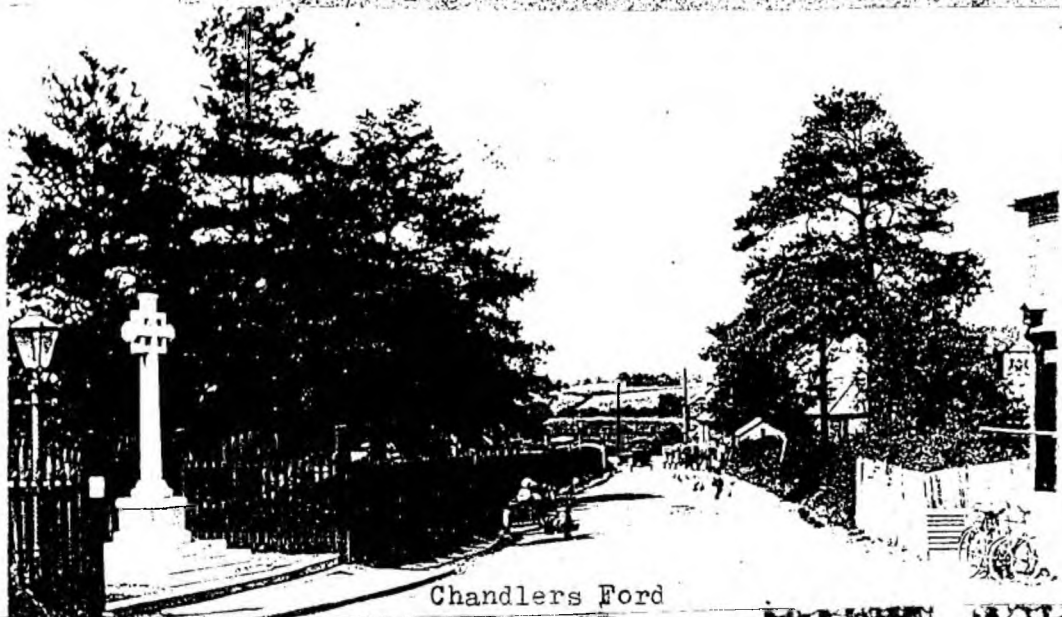
In 1895, after the L.S.W.R. had decided to bring its Locomotive and Carriage workshops from Nine Elms to Eastleigh, an Urban District Council was set up. In 1932 the new town took in Chandlers Ford and North Stoneham and became a Borough in 1936. In 1974, what were known as the Southern Parishes were added, since when the population of the Borough has trebled and reliance on the Railway Industry has diminished considerably.

North Stoneham Reference is made to a church at Stoneham in the year 867 and St. Nicolas must be one of the oldest ecclesiastical foundations. Although isolated now, it has been the centre of a wide parish with farms and cottages, some of which are still to be seen in their thatched glory at the junction of Stoneham Lane and Chestnut Avenue. North Stoneham House was the home of the Fleming family until being demolished earlier this century.

Bishopstoke was a large parish and already a village before Eastleigh. There is a reference to Bishopstoke in 948. It later became a popular place for retired gentry and a number of large houses were built near the River Itchen, such as Manor House (now flats) and the Mount (now a hospital for the elderly). The Manor of Bishopstoke belonged to the Bishops of Winchester from 1281 until



Fair Oak



Chandlers Ford



Shamblehurst Manor, Hedge End, an architectural gem.

1869. After the establishment of the railway workshops at Barton, estates were sold and houses built for the workmen. One such estate is recalled in the name Longmead. Four churches have existed in Bishopstoke, the first in Saxon times and the last built further up the hill in 1891. Bishopstoke became a partner in the new Urban District of Eastleigh and Bishopstoke in 1899.

Fair Oak was originally part of Bishopstoke, from which it separated in 1871, the church of St. Thomas having been consecrated in 1863. The name is derived from the fair held near the oak tree in the Square on 9th June; it ceased shortly after the end of the first World War. The present oak tree was planted in 1842, replacing an earlier one which had rotted. Crowd Hill was a previous centre of population, but most of the old buildings, Fair Oak Hall, the Methodist Chapel and farmhouses have now been demolished. Horton Heath is included in the civil parish of Fair Oak, which, although no longer a village, maintains a number of the clubs and institutions dating from the past.

Chandlers Ford got its name from a place where it was possible to cross a stream traversing a rather boggy area; in the mid 19th century, large brick-fields were established and bricks were sent all over England, including 30,000,000 to be used in the building of the London Law Courts. From 1883-1885, horse racing took place on a course at Titlark Farm to the west of the railway station. During its short existence it was very popular, even being frequented by royalty. At the start of this century, a man named Wallace had the idea of creating a kind of inland Bournemouth and many large houses were built between Winchester and Hursley Roads. Some still exist, but are no longer used as dwellings. Foreigners are impressed by the wooded nature of the district which is separated from the rest of Eastleigh by the M3 motor road.

Hedge End is first mentioned in the early 18th century, but there is a record of land being cultivated in the 13th century and also of Adam de la Wildern. Hedge End seems to have got its name from a farm which was literally at the end of a hedge on a road from Botley. Shamblehurst implies woodland and Wildern indicates rough common land. These were the features of an area which was sparsely inhabited until the end of the 19th century when the church of St. John was built and a village established, known as "Strawberry Village" since there was an emphasis on market gardening and specially strawberry growing; the fruit was despatched from Botley Station to all parts of the country. Until the coming of a bus service between the wars, all activity and entertainment was centred on the village, changing little until after 1974 when the Southern Parishes were added to the Borough of Eastleigh. Since then, thousands of houses have been built and the population has increased to well over 12,000.



St. James Church, West End

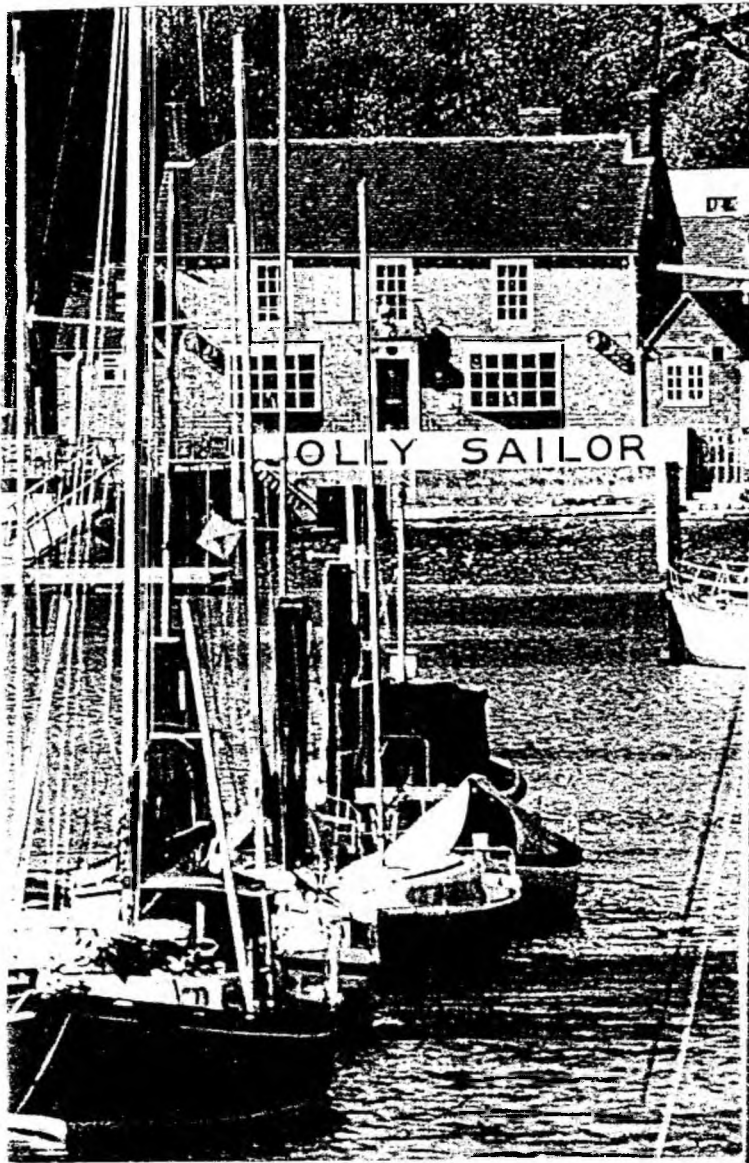


Botley

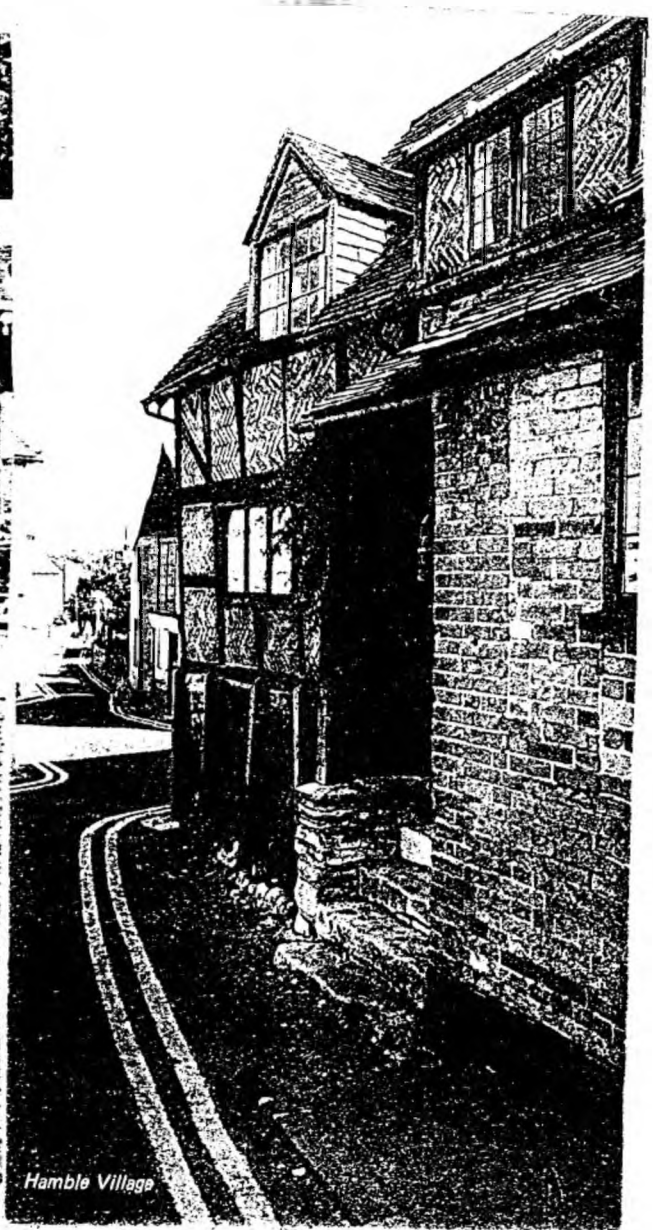
West End is so called because it was at the west end of the tithing of Shamblehurst. It became an ecclesiastical parish in 1840 after the building of St. James church, but there is an earlier mention in 1552 of an oratory or chapel being built for the Lord of the Manor of Allington. At the end of Allington Lane is Gater's Mill which dealt in corn and paper. It was there that Henry Portal (of banknote fame) was an apprentice. Another man of note, Richard St. Barbe Baker, Founder of the Men of the Trees, lived in Beacon Road, at the top of which was an old Naval Telegraph Station. Wooded hills have made West End an attractive place to inhabit for both rich and poor. The open space named Hatch Grange commemorates a former large house. There is reference to a poor-house in 1806 and the South Stoneham Institution, built in 1848, has become the Moorgreen Hospital.

Botley Mentioned in Domesday, a small church was built here at the lowest crossing point of the Hamble River, used by the Romans in their road between Clausentum and Portchester. John de Botley was granted a charter by Henry III in 1267 to hold an annual fair in the Square. The village grew in size and in 1936 a larger church was built nearer the Square. William Cobbett, who lived nearby, claimed that Botley was "the prettiest village in the world". The first bridge was built in 1797 and from then fewer people used Botley as a staging post and the fair became less popular, the number of inns being reduced from 14 to 2. Flour mills have existed in the village for over 1000 years. There is a small parish quay and many interesting old houses. The Market Hall with its distinctive portico and clock tower was built in 1848. The old church is now part of the Hampshire Farm Museum complex.

Bursledon A pretty village sprawling along the west bank of the Hamble river with a history of wooden ship building going back more than 600 years. The oldest houses are away from the church at the top of Saltern Lane, no doubt a result of attacks of the Plague in the 14th century. A house now called The Dolphin dates from the 15th century. Nearby forests provided oak for ship building and large gun-ships were provided for the Navy, including the Elephant which became Nelson's flagship at the Battle of Copenhagen, and, in earlier times, King Henry VI's ship "Grace-Dieu", which caught fire in the Hamble River in 1439; its charred remains can be seen in a creek up-river at very low tides. Merchant shipping was also important with import and export trade, much of which was in building materials. Bursledon Bricks - the works still stand - were of good quality and in demand, some being sent as far as Ontario in Canada. Of more recent years, Bursledon has become a great yachting centre and has acquired the doubtful honour of being the base for the B.B.C's Howards Way with the resulting influx of tourists.



"The Jolly Sailor", Bursledon.



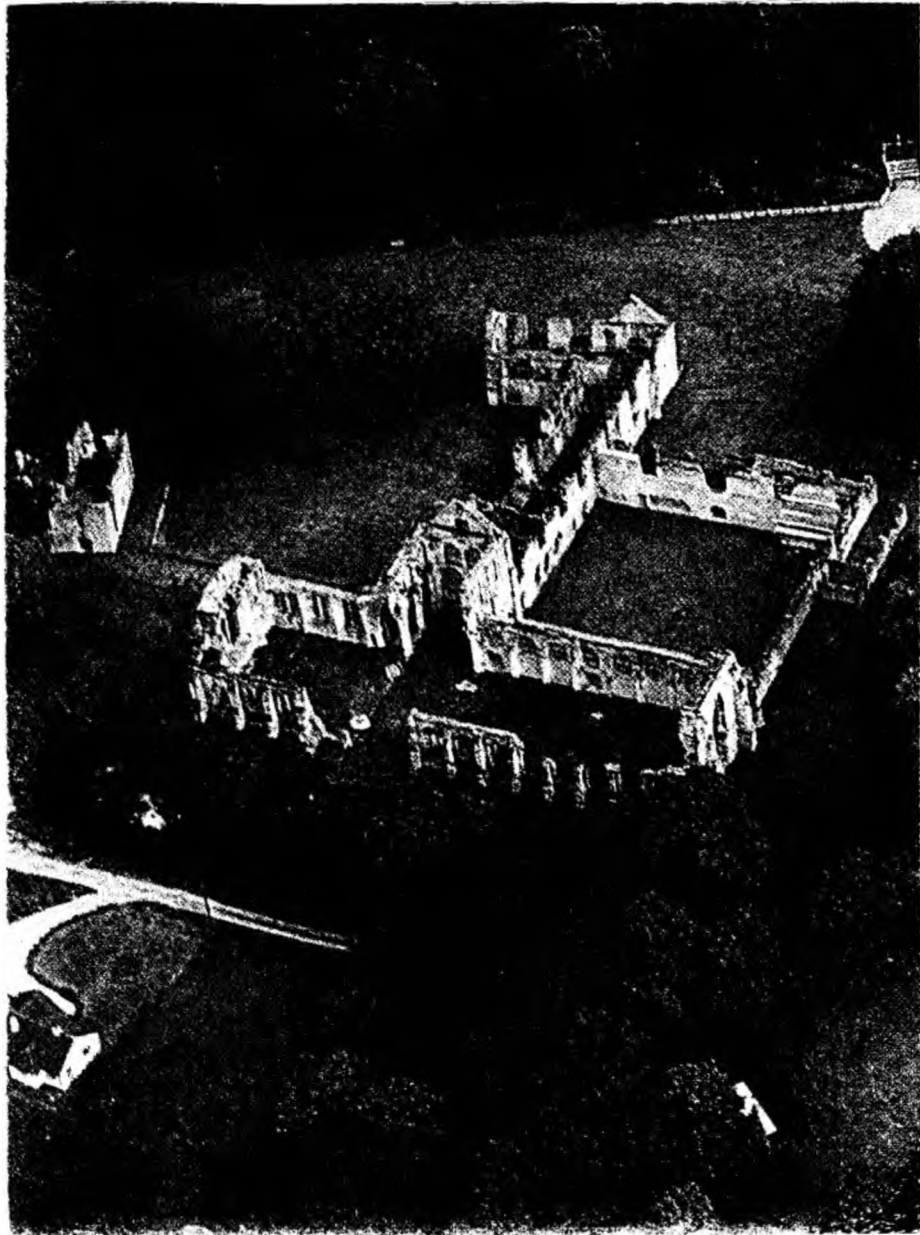
Hamble Village



St. Mary's Church, Hound.

Hamble is mentioned in a manuscript of the 8th century and a priory was established here about 1109. The village had already acquired maritime importance by the 15th century and a fort or castle was built on the common as part of Henry VIII's maritime defences; its foundations can still be seen at low tide. A ferry crossing of the river still exists. There are many important buildings, particularly near the Square. Up to the 20th century, the population averaged between 200 and 300. A Navigation School was started on the T.S. Mercury in 1885. There are three old-established yacht clubs, a wealth of moorings in the river and more recently a number of large marinas. Hamble has also been a place for pioneers in aviation with a long history of seaplane development dating from 1912 and an airfield for training aircrews from the 1920s until recent years. A.V. Roe, Bert Hinkler, Alan Cobham and many other well-known aviators have been associated with Hamble. Nowadays it is best known as an international yachting centre and a base for Aerospace.

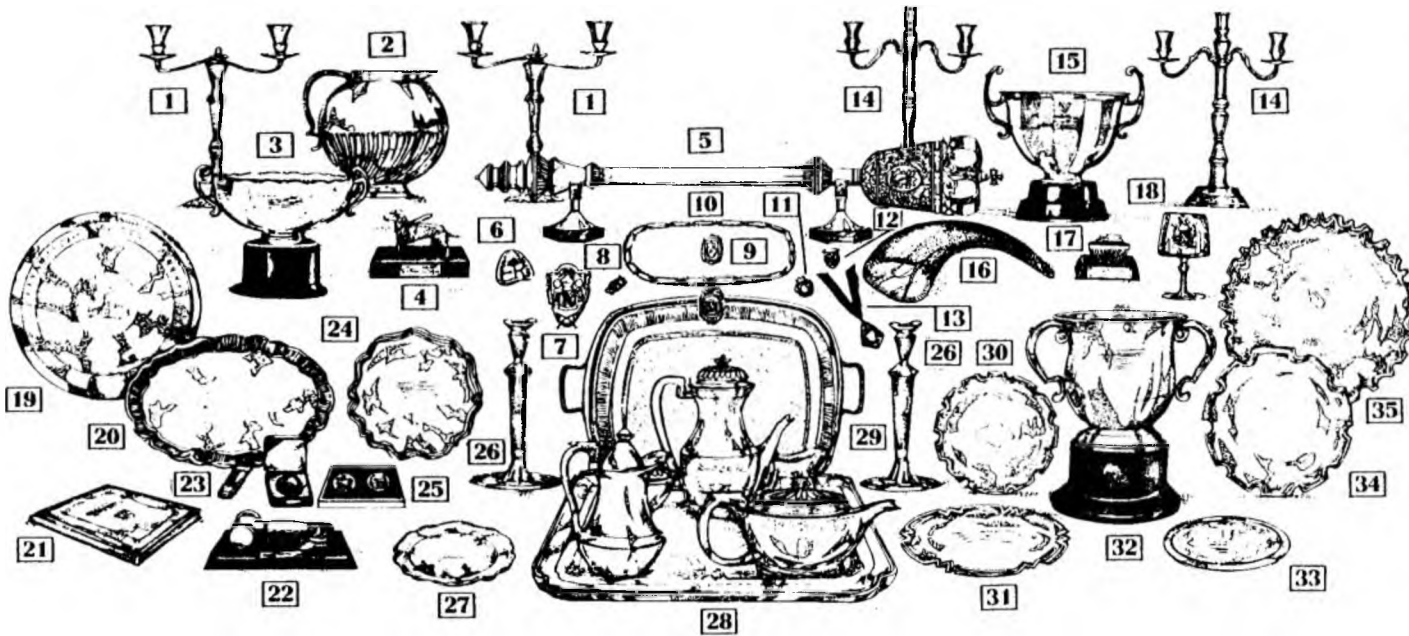
Hound is the name of the parish which includes Netley and Netley Abbey. It has a wealth of history to which it is impossible to do justice in a few lines. The parish once extended from the Hamble River to the Itchen Ferry. The word is thought to come from Hoarhound, the name of a fairly common plant. Relics of many civilisations have been found and there are numerous historical references from Bede onwards. The Abbey, founded by monks in 1239, has had a chequered existence, being converted into a dwelling-house for a long period. Stones have been used for building elsewhere and a section has been moved and rebuilt in Cranbury Park, Otterbourne. The Ingoldsby Legends include stories of Netley Abbey. Queen Elizabeth I stayed there in 1560. The Castle, built about 1543 as a fort in Henry VIII's defence system, was also used as a house and is now a hospital centre. The area has always been a noted beauty spot, being visited by royalty, politicians, poets and artists. There has even been an opera at Covent Garden based on Netley. In 1850, it was agreed to build a massive military hospital which graced the shoreline until it recently became surplus to requirements and was demolished except for the chapel, now the centrepiece of the Royal Victoria Park.



Netley Abbey



Royal Victoria Country Park



A guide to Civic Regalia on display

1 Pair of Georgian style, late Victorian candelabra "Presented by J. S. Sherwood, Esq. Bishopstoke 1936".

2 An early Georgian style, Edwardian beer jug (origin uncertain).

3 A small circular rose bowl inscribed "The Gift of Eastleigh Church People . . . 1936".

4 A metal figure of a guide dog "Presented to the Borough of Eastleigh 1981 in Gratitude from the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association".

5 The Mace was the Gift of Messrs. Pirelli-General Cable Works Ltd in 1936 who also paid for the alterations to incorporate the new Crest. It incorporates the insignia of both Edward VIII, who granted the Borough Charter and Elizabeth II who granted the latest Charter to the Borough.

6 "E.R." Badge. This is a gilt badge removed from the Mace to fit the Crest of the new Borough.

7 The old Badge for Mayors — shield inlaid with the Crest of the old Borough granted in 1936. Presented by the County Borough Council of Southampton. Now replaced (since 1974) with a badge showing the new Crest (in use — not displayed).

8 Old Badge for Mayoress also pre-dating 1974 — now replaced with a badge showing the new Crest (in use — not on display).

9 The old Deputy Mayors Badge.

10 The original Chain of Office of the Chairman of the Urban District Council and presented in 1934 by the Eastleigh Branch of NALGO. The chain was presented in 1934 by the Eastleigh & District Chamber of Trade.

11 The old Mayor's Dress Badge

inlaid silver and enamel Coat of Arms of Eastleigh "The Gift of Gerald E. H. Palmer, M.P for the Winchester Division . . . 1936".

12 The Mayor's Escort Brooch. A pendant brooch with enamel Coat of Arms of the Borough of Eastleigh. Presented by Councillor & Mrs. P.W. Hallifax, March, 1979.

13 Deputy Mayor's Badge of Office.

14 A pair of modern pillar candelabra Presented to Eastleigh Borough Council by Councillors June & Joe Sanders during the Queen's Silver Jubilee Year.

15 A circular rose bowl, inscribed with Coat of Arms of Eastleigh — "The Gift of the Directors of the National Provincial Bank Limited . . . 1936".

16 A rare Irish horn snuff mull, the hinged lid and mounts embossed with traditional Gaelic decoration (origin uncertain).

17 A Ronson "Queen Anne" plated table lighter "Presented by Eastleigh Typographical Society to Commemorate the Term of Office of their Branch Secretary Councillor H. G. Goodsell as Mayor 1953-54".

18 A Rivington crystal wine goblet, the bowl etched with the Borough Coat of Arms of Eastleigh. Limited Edition No. 2/500. No. 1 of this edition was presented to H.M. The Queen Mother to mark her 80th Birthday.

19 A German pewter dish showing the Civic building at Kornwestheim and inscribed on border "Zur Erinnerung An Den Besugh Des Gemeindrats Der Stadt Kornwestheim Oktober 1979".

20 Silver salver presented to Eastleigh by Villeneuve-St.-Georges to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of Twinning.

21 The Official Visitors Book.

22 A heavy gavel, the head inset with silver and enamel Coat of Arms of Eastleigh inscribed "The Gift of Messrs. C. R. Berrett and Co. . . . 1936".

23 Two Kornwestheim Medallions from our W. German twin town.

24 A silver plated tray presented to the Borough of Eastleigh from Stadt Kornwestheim, 2nd to 5th October, 1981.

25 Two silver medallion's, specially minted by Eastleigh Borough Council to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Twinning (an identical duplicate was presented to Villeneuve-St.-Georges).

26 A pair of plain candle sticks inscribed "The Gift of the Directors of The Midland Bank Ltd . . . 1936".

27 A pewter plate inscribed "Offert par la Municipalite de Ville Neuve St. Georges, Mars 1980".

28 A 5-piece silver tea/coffee service and tray inscribed with the Coat of Arms of Eastleigh. "Presented by the Southampton Gaslight and Coke Company in 1936"

29 A silver-plated tea tray presented

by Gordon Bungey on the occasion of his retirement from the post of Director of Finance in 1981.

30 A salver inscribed "The Gift of C. A. Jackson, Esq. . . . 1936".

31 A salver inscribed "Presented to the Mayor of Eastleigh, Councillor Mrs. D. Wellfare to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Warner Lambert Company commencing manufacturing operations at Chestnut Avenue, Eastleigh 1956-1981.

32 A loving cup inscribed "Presented by Messrs. Fair Oak Dairy Produce Ltd. . . . 1936".

33 A modern circular silver tray inscribed "The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and The Times Conservation Awards 1977 Group 1 . . . First Prize Awarded to the Borough of Eastleigh and The Architects Michell & Partners . . ."

34 A salver, the gift of the Eastleigh Divisional Police . . . 1936.

35 A silver salver, the gift of Lloyds Bank in 1936.

History
& Civic
Regalia

THE BOROUGH OF EASTLEIGH

