

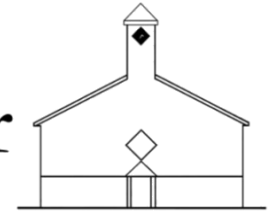
## Rochester's Huguenot Museum Opens!



On 13 July 2015 Rochester's Huguenot Museum was officially opened by HRH Princess Alexandra. See Learning and Community Engagement Officer Amy Adam's article on page 41. *Photograph ©Paul Herron*

***If undelivered, please return to:  
Medway Archives office, Civic Centre, Strood,  
Rochester, Kent,  
ME2 4AU.***

## The Clock Tower



Issue Number 39: August 2015  
£2.00; free to members

The Friends of Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre  
Excepted Charity registration number XR92894

## Medway Commemorates



21 May 2015 marked the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Little Ships evacuation of WWII allied troops from Dunkirk. FOMA's Sue Haydock was there and photographed some of the key moments. Pictured is the *Medway Queen* which undertook seven round trips and rescued around 7,000 men. See page 19.

**Also inside: Magna Carta and the Siege of Rochester Castle - FOMA's forthcoming lecture season in conjunction with the Friends of Guildhall Museums and the City of Rochester Society.**

Plus the final part of Odette Buchanan's *The Napoleonic Wars* to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. See page 34.

**The Friends of the Medway Archives and  
The Friends of the Guildhall Museums  
present a series of insightful talks at the Guildhall Museum**



**After Magna Carta: Barons and Battlefields of Kent**  
**Thursday, 8 October**  
Lecture given by Sir Robert Worcester KBE DL,  
Trustee of the Magna Carta Trust and Chairman of the  
Magna Carta 2015 800th Anniversary Commemoration Committee.



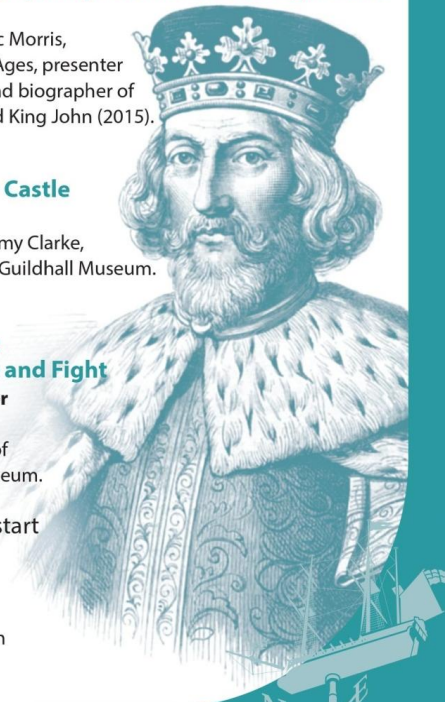
**King John: Treachery, Tyranny and the road to Magna Carta**  
**Thursday, 15 October**  
Lecture given by Dr Marc Morris,  
Historian of the Middle Ages, presenter  
of the TV series Castle and biographer of  
King Edward I (2008) and King John (2015).



**Building Rochester Castle**  
**Thursday, 22 October**  
Lecture given by Dr Jeremy Clarke,  
Education Officer at the Guildhall Museum.



**Warfare by Design;  
Fortify, Hold, Siege and Fight**  
**Thursday, 12 November**  
Lecture given by  
Richard Dunn, Director of  
the Royal Engineers Museum.



Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start  
Tickets - £5 including refreshments  
CoRS, FOMA and FOGM members - £3.  
There will be a raffle at each event.  
Tickets available from The Guildhall Museum

High Street, Rochester, Kent ME1 1PY  
Phone: 01634 332680

[www.guildhallmuseumrochester.co.uk](http://www.guildhallmuseumrochester.co.uk)



**Remembering the men of  
the Medway Towns in WW1  
The ultimate sacrifice - 1915**



An exhibition by the Friends of Medway  
Archives and Local Studies Centre

**Medway Archives and  
Local Studies Centre**

**3 September to 31 October**  
during normal opening hours



01634 332714  
[malsc@medway.gov.uk](mailto:malsc@medway.gov.uk)

When ordering tickets in person, please take your FOMA membership card with you to obtain the discounted price.

## *The Committee*

### President

Russell John Race, JP, DL (pictured)



### Vice Presidents

Sue Haydock, Pat Salter, Brian Kingsley Smith, Bruce Aubry, Professor Sir Robert Worcester KBE DL

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## *From the Chairman*

Tessa Towner, Chairman.



Setting up a Friends of Medway Archives (FOMA) was first discussed between former Borough Archivist Stephen Dixon, me and others in 2005. There was an opportunity to purchase a letter written by Rochester-born Robert Sands about his experiences at the Battle of Trafalgar, and the need to raise the funds necessary to purchase the letter. This was met by several local people who put up the money for MALSC to bid for the letter and acquire it. The letter is available to view on CityArk at <http://cityark.medway.gov.uk/gallery/>

That was all 10 years ago - how time flies! It was from those discussions that the decision was made to set up the Friends of Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre (FOMA). The late Roy Murrant was made the first Chairman and I took over from him when he decided to stand down. The inaugural meeting of FOMA took place in 2006 and since then we have enhanced and raised the profile of MALSC and have helped raise funds to purchase other such documents. These are included in MALSC's FOMA Collection and are listed on our website at <http://foma-lsc.org/collection.html>

We applied for and were successful in acquiring a grant in 2009 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to catalogue, preserve and conserve the City of Rochester Collection, now known as the Archives of Great Expectations. Residue funds left after from this project have now been used to conserve two documents from the Sessions. The documents have now been returned to MALSC and although I have not seen them yet, Archivist Alison Cable says they have been conserved to the highest standard and she is highly delighted with them.\*

Finally, I am delighted to announce that our search for a new Treasurer has come to a successful end and I welcome Josie Iles to the FOMA Committee. Josie is a former Medway Councillor and was also elected Mayor of Medway for the year 2013/14. She raised some £8,000 for her chosen charities which were Age UK, Demelza, Caring Hands and Help for Heroes. Josie has already attended a couple of committee meetings and has begun working with us. It will, I am sure, be a long and fruitful relationship!

*\*In the next issue MALSC's Archivist, Alison Cable will explain how the conservation work was undertaken on the Rochester Session Rolls.*



## Secretary's Report

Odette Buchanan



Greetings all! Hope all your holidays are going well and you enjoyed the glorious weather in July. Talking of July, as an inveterate collector of useless information, I thought all you historians out there might be interested in some things that occurred in July through the ages.

It was in July 1837 that it became mandatory to register births, deaths and marriages. This was introduced on the back of the Factory Acts aimed at stopping the practice of sending young children down the mines, up chimneys, into factories, etc. Because of so much poverty among the working classes and no sick pay, etc., parents continued to flout the law prohibiting youngsters working by lying about their age.\*

In July 1937 – a hundred years later – the numbers 999 were introduced for telephone emergency calls. Here's a good one that not a lot of people know: On 28 July, 1883 a water tricycle with paddle wheels was pedalled across the English Channel in less than eight hours. That's a helpful hint for cars stuck there this summer!

On a more serious note, July 1588 saw Sir Francis Drake put to sea with the English fleet to intercept the Spanish Armada which was also being scattered by English fire ships. In July 1948 the Empire Stadium at Wembley hosted the first Olympic Games following the Second World War, and finally on 29 July 1981 millions around the world watched the televised wedding of Charles, Prince of Wales to Lady Diana Spencer at St. Paul's Cathedral in London.

Back to the here and now, the FOMA committee continues to work hard to achieve our aims and we're all delighted to welcome Josie Iles as our new Treasurer. We are anxious to do the best we can to support the Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre (MALSC) and it has been agreed that we should appoint a Grants Officer to the FOMA committee. This person would be responsible for identifying with MALSC future project requirements and then sourcing companies or organisations to donate grants. The job would only require giving up a few hours a month and even if you have no experience of this sort of thing, Medway Council is willing to offer their support and also runs courses. If you think you would like to help, then please contact me (details on page 18).

Finally we are delighted to be hosting a series of lectures in October and November on the Magna Carta and Siege of Rochester Castle. These are being co-hosted with the Friends of Guildhall Museums and the City of Rochester Society and further details are on page 2.

## Archives Update

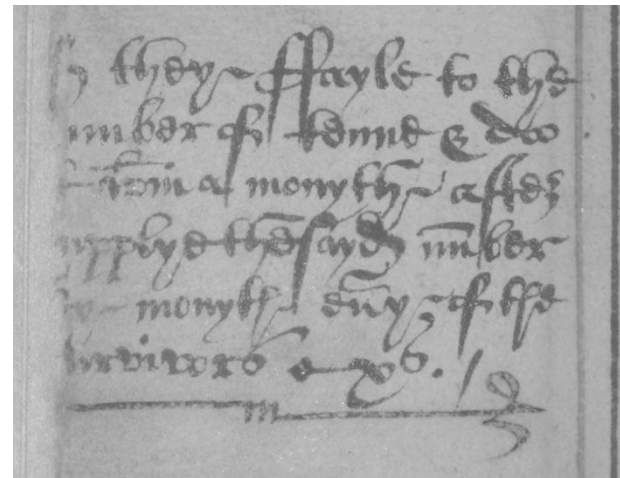
Alison Cable, Archivist



*The latest news from the Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre*

I am delighted to announce that on Saturday 12 September 2015 (10 am to 1 pm), the Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre will be hosting a special free event as part of National Heritage Open Days. Entitled *Gone but not Forgotten* the session is aimed at people interested in finding out more about the local history of Gillingham and Rainham. We will have on display facsimile documents for people to peruse and members of Gillingham and Rainham Local History Society will be available to help with enquiries. Further information on the event is available from MALSC on 01634 332714 and at [malsc@medway.gov.uk](mailto:malsc@medway.gov.uk)

On 28 October we will be hosting a palaeography workshop run by Dr David Wright looking primarily at 16th and 17th Century documents. In the spirit of all things Magna Carta, Dr Wright might squeeze in a more challenging- but fun- 13th Century document! The workshop is limited to 10 people and will run from 10.30 am to 4pm and costs £30 per person. Further information is available from MALSC on 01634 332714 and at [malsc@medway.gov.uk](mailto:malsc@medway.gov.uk)



*Whilst not included in the palaeography course, an image from the margin of a page in the Rochester City Customal gives a taste of some early writing held at the Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre.*

*In the next issue Alison Cable will explain how the conservation work was undertaken on the Rochester Session Rolls.*

This book will serve as a sort of almanac to give you a very brief insight to the answers to some of these questions about the grounds in Kent.

Most books about football usually concentrate on the performance of the teams at individual matches, or how much individual players have been bought or sold for, or how these players have performed. Well, this book is different in that it covers the logistics of the game rather than the performance of teams or individual players. From the enthusiast's point of view it shows the development of football grounds throughout Kent and details the efforts made by some of the smaller lesser known local clubs to bring their home ground up to the best standards it possibly can, thus giving a good impression to visitors, players and their families.

For the historian Mike has also produced another book, *The Football Grounds of the Early 1900s*, which provides more historical information about the formative years of many other football clubs throughout the country, and the earlier attempts at improving the image of their grounds to the public. Both books contain many photographs of the grounds, and the historical book even contains maps of their locations. Sadly some of these grounds are lost today and Mike Floate's books allow readers to remember them as they were in the past.

A new book which covers football grounds around the whole country will be available later this year:-

*Football Grounds Frenzy: Kent*, Mike Floate, Newlands Photographic. 2012; ISBN Number: 978-1-900257-21-3. Available from [FootballGroundsrenzy2.com](http://FootballGroundsrenzy2.com)

*The Football Grounds of the Early 1900s*, Mike Floate, Newlands Photographic. 2014; ISBN Number: 978-1-900257-24-4. Available from [FootballGroundsrenzy2.com](http://FootballGroundsrenzy2.com)



#### \*Editor's Note

In her forthcoming book, *Cholera: The Victorian Plague*, (in Chapter 5: *Births, Marriages and Deaths*; pp. 99 – 101) *Clock Tower* Editor, Amanda Thomas sheds additional light on the introduction of civil registration on 1 July 1837:

‘... between 1750 and 1850, as birth rates outstripped death rates, the population of England and Wales trebled to over 18 million.<sup>1</sup> In England and Wales, from 1841 to 1900 the birth rate per 1,000 of the population averaged at just over 34, whereas deaths were just under 21.<sup>2</sup> ...

Migration from the countryside to the towns during the Industrial Revolution caused a profound demographic shift in British society, providing the working population with steady employment, the prospect of apprenticeships for the next generation, and the possibility of improving their financial and social position ... the rise in population caused by the move from an agrarian to an industrial economy was of grave concern to contemporary commentators. In his 1798 work, *An Essay on the Principle of Population*, Thomas Malthus debated whether a growing population would be able to feed itself. In the early years of the nineteenth century population growth, together with economic and political forces, put increased pressure on the ability of the diminished numbers of agricultural labourers to produce food, despite mechanisation and new farming methods.

Malthus's conclusion was that when the rate of population growth outstrips the ability to produce enough food, the population would be kept in check by 'misery and vice.'<sup>3</sup> Diseases such as epidemic cholera would, of course, have this effect. The British population was also kept in check by the considerable numbers of families and individuals who emigrated to America, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand in the first half of the nineteenth century...

The fluidity of Britain's migrant workforce and the economic impact of migration made it ever more important for the authorities to keep track of the population, while Enlightenment thinking and a new fascination with science also played a part. Statistics were vital in this process, which was described by philosopher Jeremy Bentham in his *Constitutional Code* as a 'Health-regarding-evidence-elicitative and recordative function.'<sup>4</sup>

The Industrial Revolution created fresh opportunities as well as problems, and a new urban British middle class emerged. Although wealthy, this group was unrepresented in parliament and to address this problem the 1832 Great Reform Act created 135 new parliamentary seats ... The early nineteenth century also saw a shift in mood, with the emergence of young intellectuals, businessmen and pressure groups, such as the Philosophical Radicals, who were eager for reform and with whom successive Whig administrations had some sympathy, or perhaps tolerated to a greater extent than the Tories.<sup>5</sup>

Government and its institutions still needed to become more representative of society as a whole. Further pressure came from Non-conformists, who felt they were disadvantaged in a society where the Church of England carried considerable economic sway as a landowner and collector of tithes. Non-conformists also had limited access to education, as in most towns in villages the only schools were off-shoots of the local Anglican church ... the Church of England still retained considerable influence in British society and perhaps most significantly when it came to births marriages and deaths, which were only recognised by the law if they were recorded in Anglican parish registers. Non-conformists needed 'a legally recognized means to prove family relationships and establish inheritances.'<sup>6</sup> This was fulfilled with the passage of the 1836 Civil Registration Acts.

The new system for civil registration began on 1 July 1837, coordinated by the General Register Office (GRO) at Somerset House in London and the Registrar, Thomas Henry Lister. The Registrations Acts established the new system in 619 districts, which were based on the Poor Law Unions.<sup>7</sup>

Notes

1. Chris Cook, *The Routledge Companion to Britain in the Nineteenth Century, 1815-1914*, (London: Routledge, 2005), p.103.
2. Ibid, p.104.
3. T. R. Malthus, *An Essay on the Principle of Population*, (Oxford University Press, 2008), p.61.
4. Margaret Pelling, *Cholera, Fever and English Medicine, 1825-1865*, (Oxford University Press, 1978), p.82; Bentham, *Works*, ix. 443-7.
5. Duncan Watts, *Whigs, Radicals and Liberals 1815-1914*, (London: Hodder Murray, 2002), p.19.
6. Daniel J. Friedman, Edward L. Hunter, R. Gibson Parrish, *Health Statistics: Shaping Policy and Practice to Improve the Population's Health*, (Oxford University Press, 2005), p.30.
7. Ibid.

*Cholera: The Victorian Plague*, by Amanda J. Thomas (Pen & Sword, Sept. 2015, ISBN 978-1783463503) is available to pre-order online and at all good bookshops. Visit the Amazon website to read Amanda's Author's Page at [http://www.amazon.co.uk/Amanda-J.-Thomas/e/B002S9FA3I/ref=ntt\\_dp\\_epwbk\\_0](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Amanda-J.-Thomas/e/B002S9FA3I/ref=ntt_dp_epwbk_0)

*Editor's Footnotes will return in the next issue of The Clock Tower.*

## Magnum Opus

Steve Cross

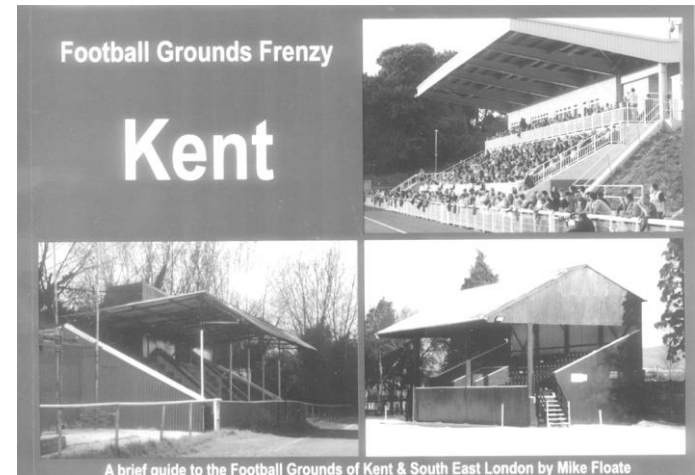


*Steve moved from Yorkshire to Chatham with the Royal Navy in 1977, and has lived there ever since. He was an engineer at BAe. Systems at Rochester Airport Works for 29 years, retiring in December 2008. He is now a volunteer at MALSC also a member of FOMA and the KFHS. He has been researching his own family history since the birth of his son in 1985 and now enjoys helping others research their own families with the aid of Ancestry. He also dabbles in the repair and improvement of digital or scanned photographs.*

## Football Grounds Frenzy: Kent

A brief guide to the Football Grounds of Kent and South East London

By Mike Floate



Mike Floate is an academician, railway enthusiast and football fan, the latter shows up quite markedly in this publication! This is one of a series of books he has written, some co-authored by fellow football enthusiasts, covering aspects of football grounds in many parts of the country.

Do you watch football matches at the weekends with your children (young or old), supporting your local village team to its home and away matches alike and have you ever wondered what the ground will be like at the places they will be playing at, what does the ground look like, what state is it in, how is it laid out, what facilities has it got?



*HRH Princess Alexandra opens Rochester's new Huguenot Museum.  
©Paul Herron*

In addition to all of this, the museum has hosted our first few events which have gone very well and I have been out and about running workshops and talks throughout Kent. More information on events and activities can be found in *News and Events* on page 10.

## *News and Events*

### Calendar of Forthcoming Events and Exhibitions

#### **Friends of Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre**

##### Talks

8 September, 7.30 pm,  
*Aspects of Huguenot Society.*  
A talk by Amy Adams, Huguenot Museum, Rochester.

Saturday, 10 October, 7.30 pm,  
Quiz Night.  
£5 for members and non-members, including interval ploughman's; tables of 6.  
**BOOKING REQUIRED** (see below).

10 November 2015, 7.30 pm,  
*Army Chaplains in WWI.*  
A talk by Linda Parker.

8 March 2016, 7.30 pm,  
*Strood's Industrial Heritage,*  
A talk by Odette Buchanan.

##### Exhibitions

3 September 2015 – 31 October,  
World War One 1915 (see page 47 for details).

**Booking for FOMA talks is no longer necessary! Until further notice all events are at Frindsbury Parish Hall, Church Green, ME2 4HY. Talks are £3 for members, £5 non-members. Booking for Quiz Nights and enquiries through the FOMA Secretary: Odette Buchanan, 72 Jersey Rd, Strood, ME2 3PE; odette\_buchanan@yahoo.co.uk; 01634 718231.**

#### **Magna Carta/Rochester Castle Siege Commemorative Autumn Lecture Series**

To celebrate 800 Years since Magna Carta and the Siege of Rochester Castle. Hosted by FOMA, the Friends of Guildhall Museums and the City of Rochester Society at the Guildhall Museum, Rochester. Doors open 7 pm for 7.30 pm start. Tickets £5 (including refreshments), £3 for FOMA, CoRS and FOGM members, available from The Guildhall Museum, in person (please take membership card(s)) and by writing to: The Friends of Guildhall Museums, The Guildhall Museum, High Street, Rochester, Kent, ME1 1PY; telephone 01634 332680.

8 October 2015: *After Magna Carta: Barons and Battlefields of Kent*,  
Sir Robert Worcester, FOMA Vice President and Chairman of the International Magna Carta Society.

15 October: *King John: Treachery, Tyranny and the road to Magna Carta*,  
Dr Marc Morris, historian of the Middle Ages, television presenter and biographer.

22 October: *Building Rochester Castle*,  
Dr Jeremy Clarke, Guildhall Museum Education Officer.

12 November: *Medieval Siege Warfare*,  
Richard Dunn, Director, Royal Engineers Museum.

*For further details see p.2.*

## Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre

### Exhibitions

2 July 2015 – 1 September,  
Strood: a place of industry,  
By Jean Lear.

3 September 2015 – 31 October,  
FOMA World War One 1915.

19 November 2015 – 19 January 2016,  
Railway exhibition,  
By Bob Ratcliffe.

**Unless otherwise indicated, all the above are held at the Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre, (MALSC) Civic Centre, Strood, Rochester, Kent ME2 4AU, and all talks and events are now free of charge. Further information is available from MALSC; please telephone 01634 332714 to book. TICKETS MUST BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE. Please note: You may be aware that Medway Council has been relocated to Gun Wharf. This move does not include MALSC and until further notice, we are still to be found in the Clock Tower building, Civic Centre, Strood, Rochester, Kent ME2 4AU.**

**MALSC OPENING HOURS: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9.00 am to 5.00 pm; Saturday 9.00 am to 4.00 pm. Wednesday and Sunday closed. For Satnav please use ME2 2AD.**

## Eastgate House

Eastgate House is one of Rochester's landmarks. Built in the 1590s by Sir Peter Buck, the most senior member of staff at Chatham Dockyard, its structure has been adapted considerably over the years, but research has indicated that the original building may be Medieval or earlier. A Heritage Lottery Grant awarded in January 2011 has enabled Medway Council to begin planning conservation work on the house and to start opening its doors once more to visitors.

## Huguenot Museum Update

Amy Adams



*Amy Adams is the Learning and Community Engagement Officer at the Huguenot Museum, Rochester. Amy was born and grew up in Gillingham and is passionate about the history of the Medway Towns. She is a founder-member of the Brompton History Research Group and has worked on a number of local history exhibitions in the area. Amy studied Classics at the University of Reading before completing an MA in Cultural Heritage at the University of East Anglia. She then returned to Kent to take up a career in museums. Amy has previously worked as Deputy Curator at the Royal Engineers Museum and Interpretation Manager at Maidstone Museum.*

July has been a busy and exciting month at the Huguenot Museum and we are looking forward to our first summer season here in Rochester.

On 13 July we welcomed HRH Princess Alexandra (pictured overleaf) through our doors to officially open the museum.

It was a lovely day and a chance to thank many of those who gave their time and donations to help create the new museum. With the party over it was back to business to get everything ready for the summer holidays, but not before another visit from the BBC. This time the film crew turned up from BBC's Antiques Road Trip to film a feature for a forthcoming episode. Keep an eye out for the new series and you might get to see our Director, Hannah Kay, talking to the celebrities!

Vikki Hoggins, our Visitor Services Assistant, has also been busy over the last month developing our museum shop. We now have lots of new books, genealogy resources and Huguenot pendants to buy as well as a replenished stock of Huguenot honey.

This month we have also been adding the final touches to our online collections. Whilst we are still in the early stages and have lots more cataloguing to do, our BETA version of our online catalogue is now up and running at [www.huguenotmuseum.org/collections/](http://www.huguenotmuseum.org/collections/). Do have a look and please provide us with any feedback you so we can ensure the website works smoothly. Comments can be sent to [learning@huguenotmuseum.org](mailto:learning@huguenotmuseum.org).



The king, as reported by William of Malmesbury, set up two siege castles to block any exit or entrance. As the expected French forces, promised by Robert, failed to arrive, Odo was unable to hold the castle and so retreated and returned to France.

Five years later William II was back in Rochester for a meeting with Anselm, Abbott of Bec, to resolve their conflict over Anselm's refusal to accept the position of Archbishop of Canterbury<sup>2</sup>. With the mediation of Gundulf, Bishop of Rochester, Anselm, with only two of his three conditions met, accepted and was consecrated Archbishop.

Celebrations brought Henry I, the fourth son of William I and the third one to be King of England, to Rochester in 1130. The rebuilt cathedral church and newly built priory of St Andrew were consecrated by the Archbishop of Canterbury (William of Corbeil), who had the Castle Keep built in 1127, in the presence of the King on 8 May, though the celebrations must have been overshadowed by a fire that had destroyed much of the city the previous day. The king's contribution to the festivities was a grant of the royal church at Boxley.<sup>3</sup>

#### Notes

1. Savage, Anna: *Anglo Saxon Chronicles*

2. Barlow, Frank: *William Rufus*

3. Poole, A.L: *Domesday to Magna Carta, Oxford History of England*

In the next issue: *The Plantagenets*

The contract was awarded to Fairhurst Ward Abbots at the end of February 2015, a company experienced in working with restoration projects such as this. Work began in March and is due for completion in spring 2016.

On 3 July 2015, [www.kentonline.co.uk](http://www.kentonline.co.uk) published the following news:

'[Fairhurst Ward Abbots] ... has gone out of business with the loss of more than 250 jobs ... based in Dartford, [FWA], called in administrators on Tuesday after suffering "severe cash flow difficulties" made worse after creditors filed a winding up petition. The company, which was granted the Queen's Royal Warrant of Appointment in 2000, had suffered losses of nearly £1.6 million last year according to its latest accounts.'

At the time of going to press it is believed that the administrator may have found a purchaser for FWA.

Further information can be obtained at: [www.friendsof-eastgatehouse.org](http://www.friendsof-eastgatehouse.org) on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/eastgatehouse](https://www.facebook.com/eastgatehouse) and on Twitter <https://twitter.com/EastgateHouse>. To join the Friends of Eastgate House, please contact Terri Zbyszewska, The Membership Secretary, FoEH, 31 The Esplanade, Rochester, ME1 1QW or at [tzbyszewska@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tzbyszewska@yahoo.co.uk); a copy of the membership form is also available on the website.

## **The City of Rochester Society**

"The City of Rochester Society was founded in 1967 to help conserve the historic City as a pleasant place to visit. The Society is still active today, helping to improve the environment and quality of life in Rochester for residents and visitors alike." Taken from the City of Rochester Society website, [www.city-of-rochester.org.uk](http://www.city-of-rochester.org.uk), where further information on the society and how to join is available.

All talks are at The Moat House, 8 Crow Lane, Rochester, ME1 1RF. See the website for further details. There is a small charge for events to defray expenses; please contact the CoRS Secretary, Christine Furminger on 01634 320598 or at [cafurminger@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:cafurminger@blueyonder.co.uk) for further information and how to join.

See Rochester's wealth of historic buildings and hear about the City's long and fascinating history from an enthusiastic and knowledgeable guide of the City of Rochester Society! Every Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday and Public Holiday from Good Friday until the end of October. Starting at 2.15 p.m. from The Visitors Centre, High Street, Rochester. The tours are free of charge, but donations to Society funds are always gratefully received.

The City of Rochester Society is co-hosting the Magna Carta/Rochester Castle Siege Commemorative Autumn Lecture Series with FOMA and the Friends of Guildhall Museums; see p.2 and pp.7-8 for details.

# HUGUENOT MUSEUM

discover your story

## Huguenot Museum Main Events

### Heritage Open Day

12 September 10.00am – 5.00pm  
FREE entry. Donations Welcome!

Visit the museum for free on Heritage Open Day. Meet Rochester's newest museum and discover the history of our new home, 95 High Street.

### A history of lace and lacemaking

29 September 2.30pm - 4.30pm, £10.

Do you love lace? Join textile historian Lee Ault for a talk on the history of lace and lacemaking. Lee will be demonstrating tools of the trade, showing amazing items of lace and costume. There will even be a chance to have a go yourself!

### Craft bench workshop: Extreme Stitching

10 October 10.00am – 4.00pm, £45.

Work with textile artist Cas Homes to create a distressed and reconstructed collaged surface inspired by historic Huguenot Silk fabrics.

### Family events: Big Huguenot Draw

Join us this half term and take part in the world's biggest drawing festival. From giant canvases to printing it's all about getting messy at the museum this week. 6+ years

28 – 30 October

One hour sessions at 10.30am, 12.30pm and 2.30pm, £4 per child.

### Discover your story: Family History Course

4 November 2.00pm – 5.00pm, £20.

Ever wanted to discover if you have Huguenot ancestors? Professional genealogist Celia Heritage will show you how to start researching your family history on this half day beginner's course.

### Make a silver ring with 'Made by Ore'

21 November 1.00pm – 4.00pm, £60.

Ever fancied trying your hand at jewellery making? This class will guide you through the traditional silversmithing techniques needed to cut, shape and file your very own beautiful silver ring.

### Family events: Christmas crafts

Feeling festive? Have a go at making traditional Christmas decorations, from pomanders to wreaths and tree decorations. There may even be carols and the odd mince pie at the museum. 6+years

23 December

One hour sessions at 10.30am, 12.30pm and 2.30pm, £4 per child

## Roll out the Red Carpet

P.J. Salter



*Pat Salter worked at the Guildhall Museum Rochester and at MALSC for over 20 years. She is a well known author and works include A Man of Many Parts - Edwin Harris 1859 – 1938; Pat is also a FOMA Vice President.*

*We are delighted that Pat Salter has given us permission to serialise her book, Roll out the Red Carpet, which will later be published in its entirety on the FOMA website. The book is a compilation of work originally undertaken by Pat for an exhibition at MALSC and gives a fascinating insight into royal visits to the Medway Towns over the centuries, from Anglo Saxon times right up to the present day. Thanks to Rob Flood and Philip Dodd for helping to make publication possible.*

## Introduction

The red carpet has been rolled out, literally or metaphorically, for royal visitors to the Medway area for centuries. However, the red carpet has not always been a celebratory one. Wars, sieges, rebellions and invasions have been occasioned by, or resulted in, carpets of blood. The Medway area has been inhabited since ancient times but the first royal visitor that we know of, with any certainty, was Aethelbert, King of Kent, in 604 and the latest, at the time of writing, that of the Princess Royal in March 2011.

## Part II

### Normans

It is possible that William I passed through the area on his way to and from London. However, there does not appear to be a record of any such visit. Members of his family were certainly here. After William's death a dispute arose as to the succession between William's eldest son, Robert (Curthose) and his second surviving son, William (Rufus).

Robert was aided by William's half brother, Odo, Bishop of Bayeux and Earl of Kent who in 1088, according to the Anglo Saxon Chronicles, *fared into Kent to his earldom and destroyed it quickly, and the king's land and the Archbishop's, and brought all the goods to his castle at Rochester*. King William II besieged Rochester in June of that year, with a force he had gathered from *all over England*, by forbidding all unjust taxes and promised them better laws.

The allies had learnt their lesson – this time no short sea trip to a convenient European island but off to St. Helena in the southern Atlantic on board HMS *Northumberland* to live out his days in exile.

And so after recovering from the astonishing disbelief that at long last there was peace, England started on the long, hard road to reluctantly reform the ills that were daily becoming more obvious with the progress of the industrial revolution.

HMS *Bellerophon* was one of the war ships built by the Strood and Frindsbury yards to ease the pressure on the Dockyard during the Napoleonic Wars. She was a 74-gun fifth rate frigate designed by Sir Thomas Slade, who also designed HMS *Victory* and built at Edward Greaves and Nicholson's Quarry House Yard. *Bellerophon* was called the *Billy Ruffian* by her crew. It took 3,000 tons of oak from the Weald and three years to build and was launched on 6 October, 1786, commissioned on 19 July, 1790. She distinguished herself at both the Battle of the Nile and the Battle of Trafalgar during the 25 years before she had the honour of accepting Napoleon's surrender. After the war, she was de-commissioned and finished her life as a prison hulk off Sheerness. Due to a shortage of prison accommodation after the war the hulks which had housed the prisoners of war were used to house ordinary felons. HMS *Bellerophon* was eventually sold to breakers at Plymouth for £4,030 and broken up in 1834.

#### Notes

1. Odette Buchanan has written about Caleb Parfect in her book, *Two Gentlemen of Strood*. Published by the City of Rochester Society, it contains biographies of two Strood men separated by a century: Caleb Parfect and Henry Smetham. In Odette's words both men were 'dedicated to improving Strood's citizens.' Henry Smetham, an unassuming local historian, wrote the *History of Strood*. He also had a hand in many local affairs and societies. Caleb Parfect, an eccentric minister, tried to put the world to rights as well as helping the poor. Odette's book is amusingly written, well sourced and illustrated. Anyone with an interest in local history or Strood will find some fascinating facts about these two well-known Strood gentlemen in this publication. A bargain at a mere £5.00. Available to purchase from the Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre or the City of Rochester Society (please contact Alan Moss on 01634 721886 or at Alan.Moss1@btinternet.com).

2. – 6. Henry Smetham, *History of Strood*.

7. – 8. Jenny Unglow, *In These Times*.

#### Bibliography & Acknowledgements

*Broomhill – Strood's Hidden Gem*, Odette Buchanan.

*History of Strood*, Henry Smetham.

*Illustrated English Social History, Vol. 4*, G. M Trevelyan.

*In These Times*, Jenny Unglow.

*Maritime Medway*, Dr. Clarke & Guildhall Museum Staff.

*Medway Prison Hulks*, K. R. Gulvin.

*The Medway Towns: River, Docks and Urban Life (England's Past for Everyone)*, Dr. Sandra Dunster.

*Medway Towns 1790 – 1850*, Tony Denholm

*Two Gentlemen of Strood*, Odette Buchanan

Thanks and gratitude to Borough Archivist, Alison Cable, and the ever-helpful staff of the Medway Archives and Local Studies.

Unless otherwise indicated, for all booking call 01634 789347, email [learning@huguenotmuseum.org](mailto:learning@huguenotmuseum.org) or visit [www.huguenotmuseum.org](http://www.huguenotmuseum.org); Huguenot Museum, 95 High Street, Rochester, Kent, ME1 1LX.

#### Huguenot Museum: Children's Clubs

##### The Saturday Club

10.00am – 12.00pm; £4 per child or £30 per year.

Are you super crafty? Join the Saturday Club and have a go at amazing arts and crafts on the first Saturday of each month. 8+ years. Booking as above.

5 September	Batik
3 October	Simple samplers
7 November	Papier-mâché crests
5 December	Decoupage decorations

##### Children's Cinema: French Film Club

Join us for morning screenings (10.00am – 12.00pm) of classic children's films with a French twist. Bring your own food and drink and don't worry about the noise! £3 per person. To book visit [www.rochesterfilmsociety.co.uk](http://www.rochesterfilmsociety.co.uk)

19 September	Hugo
17 October	Hunchback of Notre Dame
14 November	Ratatouille
19 December	Beauty & the Beast

##### Huguenot Museum: Storytime

Bring your under 5's along every Thursday morning (10.00am – 11.00am) to have fun with props and games as we bring a different story to life each week. From Maisy to Elmer, little mouse and the hungry caterpillar. Toys and play mats available – and even tea for the grown-ups. 0-5 years. See our website ([www.huguenotmuseum.org](http://www.huguenotmuseum.org)) for a full story list. £3.50 per child, adults free. No need to book, just turn up!

10, 17 & 24 September  
1, 8, 15 & 22 October  
5, 12, 19 & 26 November  
3, 10, & 17 December

**The Huguenot Museum is open Wednesday – Saturday 10am – 5pm on the top two floors of 95 High Street, Rochester, Kent. Entrance is £4 for adults and £3 concessions and can be validated for 12 months with gift-aid. For more information or to get in touch visit [www.huguenotmuseum.org](http://www.huguenotmuseum.org), call 01634 789347 or email [learning@huguenotmuseum.org](mailto:learning@huguenotmuseum.org)**

#### Friends of Broomhill

Broomhill Park has been awarded a Green Flag for the fifth year running; the Award recognises the best green spaces in the country. Please also lend a hand to help improve our outstanding high score in the RHS South East in Bloom competition.

## Healthy Walks

Every Tuesday, meet at Strood Library at 9.45 am. A guided and pleasant walk with wonderful views overlooking the Medway and Thames, and woodland paths. Duration about 60 minutes. Complimentary tea and coffee served in the library after the walk. Sorry - dogs not allowed in the library. Contact: 01634 333720.

## Task Days

First Sunday of September, October, November, December, 2015, February, March, April, 2016.

6<sup>th</sup> September - litter pick

4<sup>th</sup> October – scrub clear

1<sup>st</sup> November – bulb plant

6<sup>th</sup> December – shrub plant

7<sup>th</sup> February – Bob Wade commemoration scrub clear

6<sup>th</sup> March Wild flower plant, 3<sup>rd</sup> April – litter pick & scrub clear.

Meet at King Arthur's Drive Car Park 11.00 am. Bring your own tools or tools provided. Two hours of free, healthy fun!

## Other Events

Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2.00 – 4.00 PM – Forage Day

Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> September Annual Talk, 7.45 for 8.00 pm at old library building hall, Bryant Road, Strood: *Strood's Leisure & Pleasure through the Ages*, by Odette Buchanan.

For further details see park notice boards, [www.friendsofbrommhill.org.uk](http://www.friendsofbrommhill.org.uk), find us on Facebook or contact Odette Buchanan, Secretary, 01634 718231, or email [odette\\_buchanan@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:odette_buchanan@yahoo.co.uk)

## The Friends of the Guildhall Museums

[www.friendsoftheguildhall.com](http://www.friendsoftheguildhall.com)

The Friends of the Guildhall Museums is a group which supports the work of two important but very different elements of Medway's heritage - the Guildhall Museum in Rochester and the Old Brook Pumping Station in Chatham. Supporting the Guildhall Museums will help conserve our local history for generations to come through specialist events and opportunities designed to educate and inspire, telling the stories of the Medway Towns. **For all events please contact: Events Organiser: Chris Furminger (01634 320598) or [cafurminger@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:cafurminger@blueyonder.co.uk)**

The Friends of Guildhall Museums is co-hosting the Magna Carta/Rochester Castle Siege Commemorative Autumn Lecture Series with FOMA and the City of Rochester Society; see p.2 and pp.7-8 for details.

See opposite for details of the Siege 1215 Exhibition.

On 9 April there was an announcement from the Foreign Office that Napoleon had abdicated the crowns of France and Italy. The Treaty of Fontainebleau was signed, exiling Napoleon to Elba and restoring Louis XVIII to the throne. Celebrations were widespread and magnificent. Throughout Britain there were street parties, sporting events and 'people paraded the streets with musick and flags ... ale etc. flowed in the greatest profusion'<sup>7</sup> wrote one observer. The toll gate at Angel Corner, Strood, was beautifully decorated with masses of flowers and there was a grand jubilee in London on 1 August to coincide with the centenary of Hanoverian rule. As an aside, this was overshadowed by a Chinese pagoda in St. James's Park catching fire. It fell in the lake, killing two men and some swans. The incident drew huge crowds who thought it was part of the entertainment.

Sadly by the time winter arrived so had the discharged soldiers and sailors, many maimed and all unemployed. Hardship set in for the merchants and farmers too, as the price of corn fell. In March 1815 there were riots and demonstrations against a bill progressing through parliament to ban foreign corn imports when the price of wheat fell below 80 shillings a quarter. 'Bread or Blood!' screamed slogans.

On 10 March news arrived that Napoleon had escaped from Elba and landed in France. But the news got worse. A few days later there arrived reports of his safe arrival in Paris! Not only had there been no resistance to his progress, but on Napoleon's march from the south more and more soldiers and sailors had defected to his cause. In England there was a hasty re-mustering of soldiers and sailors; 30,000 troops converged on Canterbury and marched to Deal to board ships for Flanders. The population waited anxiously with an ever growing fear of invasion. Rumours emerged of fighting around a place called Waterloo, south of Brussels, and then a great sigh of relief when on 21 June, Wellington's exhausted aide, Henry Percy, arrived in London with the news that Napoleon Bonaparte had been defeated! The *Morning Chronicle* announced:

'We stop the press to announce the most brilliant and complete victory ever obtained by the Duke of Wellington and which will forever exalt the glory of the British name.'<sup>8</sup>

It was conveniently forgotten that six other nations had formed the alliance to defeat him. The carnage of the battle was overwhelming, many soldiers involved were amazed they and a few others had come out alive. British tourists visited the battle field for several months with a ghoulish aim to bring back macabre souvenirs.

Meanwhile, Bonaparte admitted defeat and on 15 July 1815 he surrendered to Captain Maitland of HMS *Bellerophon*. When it arrived at Torbay and then Plymouth crowds lined the shore to catch a glimpse of the Bogey man that had haunted their lives for the past 20 years – many who fell at Waterloo were not yet born when the wars started. They noted his white pantaloons, his thinning hair and fixed steady look.



also records of members' comments on their reasons for leaving: 'Gone into the Dockyard,' 'resigned from ill health,' 'discharged having fits,' resigned from age,' resigned from lameness.' One was 'dismissed for improper conduct.'<sup>2</sup> I wonder what that was?

Volunteers appear to have usually met in the *Crispin and Crispianus* pub in Strood. One such meeting was a court of enquiry laid against Mr. Gibbs who was charged with neglect of duty. He had not risen for a 3am muster to march to Mote Park for the Review, but had rather travelled there later in his own coach; he had then stood in the wrong place. Gibbs had also apparently refused to join in the victory *feu de joie* when the Dutch fleet was defeated, saying he would 'have nothing to do with the corps while that fool Howes had the command.'<sup>3</sup> He refused to have his box searched when a musket ball went missing and to crown it all, 'he was so disliked that on the re-establishment many refused to serve if he had a commission.'<sup>4</sup> The charges were upheld and Gibbs dismissed. An ensign named Thomas Edward Hulkes replaced him.

Thanks to Napoleon's strategic errors and the strength of the Royal Navy, the French never did invade England. The Volunteers proved useful locally in keeping the peace and at a time when there was no police force as such. On one occasion the Volunteers managed to control a riot in Chatham caused by the high price of provisions. The records show the recalcitrant Gibbs was in trouble yet again on this occasion – apparently he fell out without permission and went home down Gun Lane.

As with the Home Guard in the Second World War, the Volunteers came in for a lot of ridicule from the regular army as well as the rest of the population. Lieutenant Howes even fought a duel with a regular officer for which the officer was dismissed. The local garrison commander subsequently warned officers not to ridicule the Volunteers 'who have come forward with a degree of loyalty and spirit which do them the greatest credit.'<sup>5</sup> Smetham himself quoted a conundrum: 'Why are the Volunteers like Lord Nelson? Answer: Because the last thing Nelson did was to die for his country and that is the last thing the Volunteers will do.' There was a verse in a song doing the rounds at that time which went: 'But should a Frenchman on our coast appear, The Lord have mercy on each Volunteer.'<sup>6</sup>

In 1793 the government had given assurance that the war would be finished in months (sounds familiar?). Yet it continued until 1802 with the first Treaty of Amiens, which gave a pause for breath, and on to 1813. By this time some 300,000 men had been killed and many more wounded and maimed. A side effect of the bad winter of 1813-14 was a lack of news with mail coaches due to impassable roads; rivers were also frozen. News eventually started to filter through in April 1814 and it appeared to be optimistic. Wellington had defeated the Spanish in the Peninsula Wars and crossed the Pyrenees into France. Then there was yet another mad panic as a rumour started of French victories in the north and the stock market crashed as investors rushed to convert shares into cash.

**THE GUILDHALL MUSEUM**  
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**Exhibition**

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## The Chatham Historical Society

<http://chathamhistoricalsoc.btck.co.uk/>

Meetings are held at The Lampard Centre, Sally Port, Brompton, ME7 5BU, **excepting January and August**. The Lampard Centre has easy disabled/wheelchair access and a small car park. There is plenty of unrestricted roadside parking space in Maxwell Road, about 50 metres away. Sally Port has some unrestricted roadside parking space, but please avoid the sections with the double yellow lines or the *No Parking* notices.

10th September 2015

*Experiences of a Film Extra*,

A talk by Vic Chidley.

Doors open at 7:15 pm, meetings finish at 9:00 pm. Refreshments are available and visitors are very welcome. Admission: £1 for members, £3 for visitors. Further information is available at [www.chathamhistoricalsoc.btck.co.uk](http://www.chathamhistoricalsoc.btck.co.uk)

## The Royal Engineers Museum, Library and Archive

Prince Arthur Road, Gillingham, Kent,  
ME4 4UG

[www.re-museum.co.uk](http://www.re-museum.co.uk) for more details



The Royal Engineers Museum is Kent's largest military museum, with a designated collection of historical and international importance. The many galleries tell the story of Britain's military engineers from the Roman period to the modern Corps of Royal Engineers. The millions of items in its collection tell a sweeping epic of courage, creativity and innovation and the stories of individuals of great renown (General Gordon, Lord Kitchener, John Chard VC) and the average Sapper who has helped the British Army move, fight and survive for over 200 years. The Royal Engineers Museum now has an e-newsletter. To subscribe for free, email 'Yes Please!' to [deputycurator@re-museum.co.uk](mailto:deputycurator@re-museum.co.uk)

### Events

First World War Battlefield Tour Groups: January 2014 - November 2018

For more information or to book please call: 01634 822312.

12 May – 15 November: **Front14/18 – the Great War in 3D**, a fascinating exhibition looking at Stereoscopic images of WW1. 3D glasses will be available in the exhibition.

September 10, 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm,

Lecture: *The Story of the Albert Medal now Superseded by the George Cross*, Martin Stoneham.

September 24, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm,

Lecture: *Justifying Chemical Warfare: The Origins and Ethics of Britain's Chemicals*, Prof Ulf Schmidt.

believed inmates should be employed in productive work which would offset the cost of their keep. He also believed in the education of children with a view to their future employment, thus relieving the burden on the Poor Rate.

Although news was not known as speedily as today, the constant fear of invasion was ever present and fear and panic were augmented by rumours. For example, it was thought Napoleon was going to build a bridge across the Channel. Officers would hover above it in balloons observing the progress of the marching troops. Meanwhile, it was said Napoleon was at large in the Channel disguised as a fisherman spying on British ports. Others believed he was hiding in the mountains of Wales or devising plans to build a tunnel *under* the Channel. It is not surprising, therefore, that all foreigners were under suspicion, as were solo travellers carrying sketching equipment. One unlikely group deemed suspicious were some nuns from Marnhull in Dorset who were accused of harbouring one of *Boney's* brothers, sent to spy out British opinion and arms' stocks. Many British sympathizers to the French Revolution were tried for sedition and revolution was a constant fear for the government, especially as the price of corn escalated. Yet poverty and distress were not treated with sympathy by the ruling classes, indeed, the government even told poverty-stricken labourers that it was unpatriotic and better to be starving as an Englishman rather than under the yoke of the tyrant Napoleon.

In the south of England fear manifested itself in panic buying, hoarding and a call to arms. In Kent, every town and village afforded its quota of volunteers. At the peace of Amiens many of these corps were disbanded, but on the breaking out of the war again in 1803, they were re-established. The government asked for a quota of 4,663 from Kent but so great was the fear and so patriotic the population that within six months a total of 18,996 had volunteered. Strood historian Henry Smetham (see *The Clock Tower*, Issues 14 to 16, May, August and November 2009) tells us that the Medway Towns were well represented with corps from Rochester, Rochester and Chatham, Chatham and Gillingham, Cobham, and six called Medway volunteers; one corps was known as the Strood and Friendsbury (sic) Volunteers. Smetham had access to this company's records including the muster roll. The Captain was Francis Barrow, First Lieutenant Barnaby Howes, and Second Lieutenant John Gibbs. G. Brown was the Sergeant on Permanent Pay with R. Sayers, James Bromley and Phillip Dive as sergeants not on permanent pay. If you think one of your ancestors may have been on the Muster Roll, see Henry Smetham's *History of Strood*, where the whole company is listed on page 339.

Smetham also shows the accounts for the company and the daily rate for the volunteers when mustered. They were paid for drill practice and review attendance. From 1799 to 1809 costs were itemised and were to be paid by bills drawn on Messrs. Day and Co., the Rochester bankers whose business was later absorbed into the London and Provincial Bank. There are good records not only of the activities and accounts but

dismissed as this was the first violation, but the Mayor warned the defendant that ‘one of their protections against air raids was absolute darkness, and lights showing out of windows must be reduced to an absolute minimum.’ This was one of many cases reported over the next few months but then the message literally hit home for in 1917 the first bomb landed on the Medway Towns.

Additional information from the website of Ian Castle, *Zeppelin raids, Gothas and ‘Giants’, Britain’s First Blitz – 1914-1918*, [www.iancastlezeppelin.co.uk](http://www.iancastlezeppelin.co.uk)

## The Napoleonic Wars – The Home Front, Medway and Victory at Last

Odette Buchanan



*Odette is a retired teacher and, of course, FOMA Secretary. She is fascinated by local history and is actively involved in many aspects of this. She was a City of Rochester Society visitors’ guide, a steward and guide at Restoration House, she has researched and presented as talks many aspects of local history, especially Broom Hill. Her book, Broomhill – Strood’s Hidden Gem was published in 2013 by the City of Rochester Society, (available at: [www.city-of-rochester.org.uk/shop/broomhill-stroods-hidden-gem/](http://www.city-of-rochester.org.uk/shop/broomhill-stroods-hidden-gem/)). Her book, Two Gentlemen of Strood, (short biographies of Henry Smetham and Rev. Caleb Parfect) is also published by the City of Rochester Society. She has produced sundry interpretation boards around Strood and was involved in the now completed England’s Past for Everyone Victoria County History Project. and the HLF funded Valley of Visions Strood Community Trail.*

*18 June saw the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. In this issue Odette Buchanan concludes her look at the effects in the Medway Towns of the Napoleonic Wars and the eventual victory over Napoleon Bonaparte.*

### Part Two

The long period of conflict between 1793 and 1815 has been named the Napoleonic Wars because every so often a shaky peace treaty would be signed, only to be broken soon after. This caused massive economic booms and busts with a few years of prosperity and much distress, starvation and hardship when a peace was declared. The Reverend Caleb Parfect’s<sup>1</sup> workhouse model was adopted across the country to try and cope with the increased numbers of distressed people. Parfect’s workhouse was distinct from the old poor house where one was merely housed and fed. Parfect

October 15, 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm,

Lecture: *Sir Edmund Frederick Du Cane Re: Huguenots, Engineers and Wormwood Scrubs*, Amy Dimmock.

October 29, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm,

Lecture: *Intimate Pictures: British and German War Photography*, Dr Stefan Goebel.

### Waterloo Display

As part of our commemorations for **Waterloo 200**, the Museum opened a new cutting edge display which focuses on one of our star objects; the Waterloo Map. This artefact was used by the Duke of Wellington before Waterloo to inform his decision as to where to fight the battle. It still bears the Duke’s pencil marks.

The new display includes cutting edge technology in the form of a new case for the Waterloo Map that has switchable ‘smart glass’. This blocks harmful UV light when the map is not being viewed and becomes clear when a visitor is present. The technology only exists in four museums around the world. The Gallery also includes a new touch screen interactive; this provides a unique view into the events of the day, the lead up to the battle, as well as a chance to explore the map in great detail. This is a new permanent display, which can be seen at any time in the Museum’s Galleries. Normal admission applies.

Opening hours: Tuesday – Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm; Saturday – Sunday and Bank Holidays: 11.30am to 5.00pm; CLOSED MONDAYS. Admission: pay once and get in for 12 months! Adult: £7.80; Family: £20.80; Concession: £5.20; Children under 5: Free.



The latest information can be found at:  
[www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/](http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/)

### Autumn Conference Programme

Kent’s Anglo-Saxon heritage, historic houses and industrial archaeology will be the themes of Kent Archaeological Society conferences in October (2015), hosted by eminent archaeologists and historians.

Saturday 24 October:

#### **Past industries of Kent and relevant buildings.**

Blue Town Heritage Centre, Sheerness.

To include talks by Dr Maureen Green on Hayle Mill, Maidstone, which thrived in the 19th century despite continuing to use traditional papermaking techniques; and by Sue Harris on the restoration of the grounds of Quex Park, Birchington. Tickets for the conference cost £20, including light lunch and refreshments. For a booking form email [mike@mikeclinch.co.uk](mailto:mike@mikeclinch.co.uk) or download from [www.kentarchaeology.org.uk](http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk).

Saturday 17 October:

### Investigating the North Coast of Kent

The KAS is supporting this Joint Study Day organized by the University of Kent and the Council for Kentish Archaeology and led by Dr Brian Philp, one of the most experienced field archaeologists working in Kent and beyond. Dr Philp will talk about Faversham Abbey and the tomb of King Stephen. Among the other speakers will be Dr Gillian Draper of Canterbury Christ Church University, who will look at the transformation of the Hundred of Hoo, from medieval to modern times. Tickets cost £5.00. Details of the programme will be posted on the CKA's website [http://cka.moon-demon.co.uk/cka\\_index.htm](http://cka.moon-demon.co.uk/cka_index.htm)

Saturday 31 October:

### Anglo-Saxon Kent: Old and New Discoveries

Rutherford College, University of Kent at Canterbury.

To include talks by KAS curator Dr Andrew Richardson on the society's collection of 'finds' of that period; Keith Parfitt on settlements in the Dover area and on the east Kent downs; Ges Moody on his research into where St Augustine and his missionaries landed in Thanet; Dr Andrew Richardson and Dana Goodburn Brown of Conservation Science Investigations (CSI) on The Meads Cemetery, Sittingbourne; Dr Gabor Thomas and Dr Alexandra Knox on discoveries at Lyminge, and Alison Taylor on St Peter's Cemetery, Thanet. Tickets for *Anglo-Saxon Kent: Old and New Discoveries* cost £20. Download a booking form from [www.kentarchaeology.org.uk](http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk) or email: [membership@kentarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:membership@kentarchaeology.org.uk) for full details.

## The Rochester Bridge Trust

### Bridge Wardens' Lectures 2015

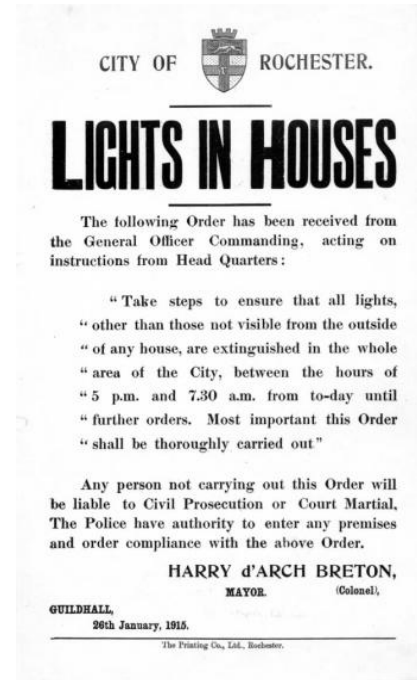
Tuesday 20th October 2015.

#### *The Wildlife of the North Kent Marshes.*

A talk by Alan Jarrett, Junior Warden, Rochester Bridge Trust.

Alan Jarrett has been wildfowling for over 40 years. He is a well-known sports writer and his first book, *Wildfowling – One Winter's Tale*, was published in 1988 with *Shooting At Clays* published in 1991. Alan is the current Chairman of both the British Association for Shooting and Conservation and the Kent Wildfowling and Conservation Association.

Lectures will be held in the medieval Bridge Chapel, 5 Esplanade, Rochester, ME1 1QE. Refreshments available from 6:30 p.m. Lectures begin promptly at 7:00 p.m.. **Tickets are free but MUST be booked in advance** from Sue Reilly at [sue@maxim-pr.co.uk](mailto:sue@maxim-pr.co.uk) or by telephone on 01892 513033.



Left: a blackout poster issued by Rochester Council, 1915; Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre.



Right: a Rochester policeman; Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre.

During the course of 1915 the German Command became more adventurous and airships were directed to attack the capital. On 31 May 1915 the first air raid took place on London for which the city was little prepared. The Medway Towns rapidly dusted off their earlier orders and made the public aware of how close we were to London and Chatham Dockyard, another likely target. Gillingham Council placed a notice in the *Chatham News* on 12 June, (see illustration) reminding residents of the need for stringent adherence to the blackout rule.

It was the role of the police to enforce the 'lights out' policy in World War One but most people could not understand how vulnerable they were to bombing and the consequences of light emanating from their properties. Rochester Police were the first to charge those who had flouted the regulation under the Defence of the Realm Act.

The initial case to come before the courts at Rochester was that of a John Ford of 14 Roebuck Road, accused of being abusive to PC Willis when he asked him 'to please draw the blind, to prevent the light upstairs showing outside.' Ford shouted: 'Go away, damn you, you and your damned lights!' and shut the door in his face. The case was



## The Home Front

Catharina Clement



In 2005, Catharina completed a BA in history at Canterbury Christchurch University, and in 2013 a PhD in local history entitled Political and Religious Reactions in the Medway Towns of Rochester and Chatham during the English Revolution, 1640-1660. She has been involved in various local history groups and projects such as FOMA, CDHS, and the Victoria County History EPE projects. She won the 2009 Friends Historical Society Award resulting in a paper on Medway Quakerism 1655-1918 delivered at the Institute for Historical Research and later this year at the Friends Library in London. Currently Catharina works for MALSC.

## Blackout Precautions

We always associate blackout regulations with World War Two and the German air raids. However this was also an issue in the Great War with the Zeppelins and Gothas which carried out bombing raids from 1915. The first round of bombing occurred on the East Coast on 19 January and targeted, amongst other towns, Scarborough and Whitby. After this initial raid the government introduced blackout orders. Rochester Council issued a poster on 26 January 1915 warning people about 'Lights in Houses' (see illustration) and the consequences of failing to comply with the order.



Left: the notice in the Chatham News issued by Gillingham Council cautioning residents to observe blackout regulations; Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre.

## Brompton History Research Group

[www.bromptonhistory.org.uk/](http://www.bromptonhistory.org.uk/)

Brompton village is a complex civilian area in the heart of a military world. To the south and east lie the Chatham Lines, a series of fortifications built to defend the Chatham Dockyard. To the west lies the Dockyard itself and to the north Brompton Barracks, home of the Royal Engineers.

15<sup>th</sup> October 2015 7pm,

*Military Road before the Pentagon Centre.*

A talk by Brian Joyce and the Brompton History Research Group about the shops, pubs and other landmarks of Military Road, from the Victorian period to the present day. For a comparatively short stretch of road, it contained a host of interesting features, many of which listeners will remember. Royal Engineers Museum. Tickets £3, booking essential, please email [bhrgbookings@gmail.com](mailto:bhrgbookings@gmail.com)

## Gillingham and Rainham Local History Society

<http://grlhs.weebly.com/>

Ron Baker, Society Secretary writes: "The Society was formed in 1950 by Ron Baldwin and the people interested in local history. Initially it was a great success in the area and opened a Local heritage centre in Napier Road School, with many of the Gillingham schools using its facilities. With the growth in school numbers the Heritage Centre premises were required for classrooms. The local council were unable to find an alternative site and the Centre never reopened. There is now a desire to rejuvenate the Society. We meet at Byron Road School on the second Friday of each month (September to July) with meeting starting at 7.30 pm.

## Talks

- 11 September - *The Heartbeat Years of Policing in Kent*, Roy Ingleton
- 9 October - *History of Clocks and Watches*, Mr. Peters
- 13 November - *The Edith Cavell Story*, Meanie Gibson Barton
- 11 December - *Industry of Lower Medway*, Jim Preston
- 8 January 2016 - *My Father's Story in Bomber Command*, Mark Cooper
- 12 February - *Queen Victoria*, Anne Carter
- 12 March - *The Huguenots*, Staff of the Huguenot Museum, Rochester.

New members and visitors are always welcome. For further information, contact Ron Baker on 01634 854982 or email [r.baker1234@btinternet.com](mailto:r.baker1234@btinternet.com)

## News from Medway Council and Fort Amherst Heritage Trust (June 2015)

We were delighted to receive the following from Joanne Cable, Medway's Heritage and External Investment Manager for *Regeneration and Economic Development*:

"Medway Council and Fort Amherst Heritage Trust have been successful in obtaining a first round award for the Heritage Lottery Fund bid for Command of the Heights.

The project will bring about the removal of the Riverside One building, and the restoration of the Barrier Ditch on Chatham Waterfront, provide a new entrance to Fort Amherst from Chatham town centre, enable the restoration of Spur Battery with Fort Amherst to open yet more publicly accessible green space in the Great Lines Heritage Park, and deliver a vibrant activity programme and a range of community engagement projects. Note that all services delivered from Riverside One will relocate to Kingsley House in Gillingham prior to demolition.

The project is due to commence in July 2015, and will enhance and extend the impact of the Command of the Oceans project currently underway at the Historic Dockyard."

### GRANTS OFFICER NEEDED!

Could you help the Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre identify exciting new projects such as the cataloguing of the so-called *Archives of Great Expectations* in 2009?

Could you help to find companies or organisations to fund new projects?

If so, support and training is available from Medway Council.

Please contact FOMA Secretary Odette Buchanan for further details:  
72 Jersey Road, Rochester, ME2 3PE, Kent.  
odette\_buchanan@yahoo.co.uk

## New Members

A warm welcome to new FOMA members Amy Adams, Helen Daniels and Deborah Collins.

and rentals of TV sets rocketed throughout the affluent mid and late 1950s, particularly after the creation of ITV in 1955 which broke the BBC's monopoly.

As early as 1930, a *Chatham News* reporter had perceptively observed:

"With the present apparatus – apparatus which will so rapidly find its way into the Science Museum to have its hard-won intricacies rudely labelled 'The Primitive Television of 1930' – only the broadcast of head and shoulders of the singer or speaker before the microphone is attempted. But this is a first and vital step towards the ultimate possibilities – possibilities which are almost lost in the airy realms of imagination. A whole nation, indeed the whole world forming one vast audience to be moved by a single play, thrilled by a single race or swayed by a single speech."

By the time Trevor Philpott visited Ash Tree Lane in 1960, the medium was well on the way to fulfilling the 1930s' journalist's prophesies.



*Gillingham High Street early 1950s, showing (left) the corner of Arden Street and the shop Gentry and Bailey. The shop is selling and advertising televisions. From the collection of Brian Joyce.*

The Strood artist Evelyn Dunbar was interviewed in a broadcast of 1938. She gave an account of her experiences at the BBC's Alexandra Palace studios to a *Chatham Observer* reporter. In doing so, she left us with a rare insight into the then live transmissions:

“Before the broadcast, which was just before 10.00pm, they made me up in the small make-up room. They gave me a Garbo mouth and powdered me up. There were no greens or yellows. The camera was like a great beetle looking at you ... Afterwards, I nearly walked in front of the camera ... Someone grabbed me, but obviously could not speak. It was a terrible moment...”

Those well-off residents of the Towns who actually purchased a set were soon denied such programmes. When war broke out in 1939, the BBC shelved their fledgling television service for the next seven years. The small number of TV receivers in the Medway Towns gathered dust until June 1946, when the BBC resumed transmissions. Wharton and Silliphant of Rochester had already been advertising its “retuning” service for months and Pye had begun to market new television sets.

In July 1948, the anonymous *Chatham Observer* journalist, “Man About The Medway Towns” boasted of having watched television three times in two days. He had spent a Saturday evening watching the BBC's output at a Rochester showroom, and earlier, test match cricket at a Gillingham radio shop. On the third occasion, he was at a church fete in Upchurch, where the enterprising vicar charged interested parties 6d each to watch television in his garage. The reporter's weekend viewing was somewhat marred by interference from passing traffic and a nearby fridge, but he felt that:

“If all traffic had suppressors fitted and if the experts can go just one step towards a reduction of general interference effects, I feel confident that television will be accepted, just as our ordinary radio today.”

“Man About The Medway Towns” was right. The onward march of television continued, and Medway was beginning to be featured. A Romford v Gillingham FA cup tie was televised in 1948. (The Essex club ran out 2 – 1 winners after extra time). A crew from the *Tonight* programme filmed a story on the short-lived coal mining at Scaler's Hill, Cobham the following year.

In May 1956, Richard Dimpleby and a crew from *Panorama* visited Rochester and the Hoo Peninsula to film a feature on Medway barges. Then when Chatham Borough Council decided to close the Ash Tree Lane gipsy encampment and re-house its residents in 1960, Trevor Philpott and a *Tonight* team arrived. The subsequent programme featured interviews with both caravan-dwellers and borough councillors.

By 1952, transmitters had opened to bring TV to the Midlands, the North-West and Scotland, and in 1953, 20 million viewers watched the Coronation. However most did so outside their own homes, either with friends and family, or collectively at venues such as the Palace Cinema in Chatham. This was a turning point for television. Sales

## Heritage News

Sue Haydock



*The latest from our roving reporter, Medway Heritage Champion and FOMA Vice President; photographs by Sue Haydock.*

## The Little Ships

On 21 May 2015 I was delighted to attend the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Ramsgate of the evacuation of Dunkirk in World War Two. In May some 50 boats, including the *Medway Queen*, took part in the re-enactment of the rescue of over 330,000 men from France in May and June 1940. The Association of Dunkirk Little Ships has organised the sailings every five years since 1970 and I was particularly interested to visit the vessel *L'Orage* which was owned by the late television presenter Raymond Baxter (1922-2006). The boat has all the plaques from every gathering of the little ships.



*Left: Dunkirk veteran, Vic Viners with Craig Mackinlay, MP for South Thanet.*

Right: Mayor and Mayoress of Medway, Cllr Barry Kemp and Mrs Joyce Kemp in front of the Medway Queen.



that the maximum distance for receiving television from Alexandra Palace was thirty miles. The shop, although on one of the highest points in the Medway Towns, was thirty-two miles away, so perfect reception was not to be expected. Even so, the journalist was impressed:

“When the pictures flashed on the screen, apart from slight interference by passing cars, I could see and hear quite clearly the artistes being televised and the film that was shown. Passers-by were vastly interested, and soon the demonstration room was crowded with persons interested beyond words in this, the first taste of ‘things to come.’

In October 1937, Baker’s Wireless Stores of Gillingham High Street held their fourth annual “Radiolympia” at the Pavilion dance hall in Canterbury Street. Record crowds witnessed demonstrations of television on a Baird set (priced at 47 guineas) and a Cossor (70 guineas). Above, in the balcony area, two Marconi sets, retailing at 60 guineas and 80 guineas, held pride of place. It is worth noting that the average wage was at that time £104 per annum, so these impressive new contraptions were well beyond the pockets of the vast majority of those gawping at them. Programmes they marvelled at included news bulletins, variety shows and a “visit” to Pinewood film studios where several movie stars were glimpsed.



Cllr. Peter Homewood below decks on board the Medway Queen.

**DON'T LEAVE IT TOO LATE!**  
Order NOW Your New  
**MURPHY**

RADIO TELEVISION

**Table Model A16**  
All-Wave Supersonic Heterodyne Receiver fitted with continuously variable tone control and automatic volume control, with sockets for gramophone pick-up connections. The cabinet, like all Murphy Cabinet work, is well constructed and beautifully finished. The veneers are contrasting French walnut and black walnut, and the loudspeaker opening has a narrow white surround which gives a very distinctive touch to the design.  
A.C. Model for use on 100-125c and 200-250v. 50-100 cycle A.C. Mains.  
**CASH PRICE £9/10/0**  
Reasonable Hire Purchase Terms to Suit Your Convenience.

**MODEL A56V TELEVISION**  
Excellent Picture Brightness and Definition. Sound Output of 5 Watts with unusually high quality of Reproduction. Excellent results are assured in the Medway Towns.  
**CASH PRICE £30**  
Reasonable Hire Purchase Terms to Suit Your Convenience.

**NINE OTHER MURPHY MODELS** may be inspected at our Show-rooms. **PRICES from £7.**

We are also Agents for:-  
**BUSH, MARCONI, PHILIPS, ULTRA AND COSSOR RADIO**

**BAKER'S** The Radio Specialists  
161, HIGH STREET, GILLINGHAM  
359, HIGH STREET, CHATHAM (Opposite the Ritz)  
Telephones—G11: 5472. Ch. 3650.

An advertisement (either from the Chatham News or Chatham Observer) for Bakers of Gillingham, circa 1938. From the collection of Brian Joyce.



## Things to Come: Television in Medway, 1930-1960

Brian Joyce



Brian Joyce is a retired teacher who now lives near Manchester. He was born in Chatham and has always been fascinated by the history of the Medway Towns. Brian is the President of the Chatham Historical Society and the author of several books including *The Chatham Scandal*, *Dumb Show and Noise*, *Chatham and the Medway Towns and Black People in Medway, 1655 - 1914*. He co-wrote *In the Thick of It - Medway Men and Women in the Boer War with Bruce Aubry*. His recent publications include *Chatham from Old Photographs and Gillingham and Around From Old Photographs* which he co-wrote with Sophie Miller. A volume in the same series on *Rochester, Strood and the Hoo Peninsula* will be published this autumn.

While the first television transmission – that of a human face – was demonstrated by John Logie Baird in 1925, it took many years of experimentation before a public service was inaugurated. Baird sent TV pictures from London to North America by transatlantic cable in 1927 and managed to transmit colour images the following year. The BBC began TV broadcasting trials in 1929, using Baird's 30 lines system, although at first, sound and vision were broadcast separately. Simultaneous sound and vision transmissions were achieved in 1930, and it was then that the Medway Towns had their first experience of the new medium.

The BBC was transmitting to a very restricted area around London: the Towns must have been at the very edge. In September 1930, half-hour experimental transmissions could be viewed at Wharton and Sillifant's shop in Rochester High Street. A *Chatham News* reporter arrived just in time to see a woman's head and shoulders appear on the tiny screen of the "exciting metal box with two knobs." Simultaneously, he heard her speak and later wrote, "As far as the process of image transmission has gone, for it is still, of course to an extent experimental, the results achieved are remarkably successful."

The experiments continued; a broadcast of the Epsom Derby was achieved in 1931, for example. By now, a rivalry had begun between Baird and the firm of Marconi as to which was to provide the first experimental television service. Marconi used wireless transmission rather than cable, and when the BBC inaugurated its service in September 1936, the two systems were used on alternate weeks. The Marconi system eventually beat its competitor.

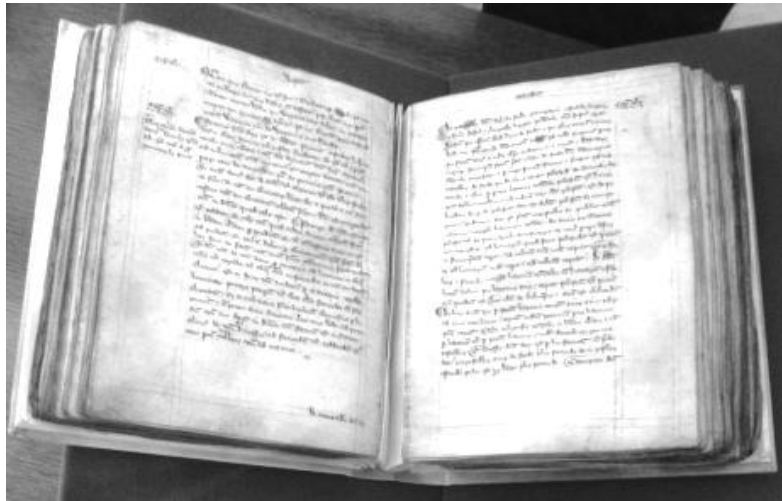
In November, Franklin Radio Ltd. of Watling Street, Chatham, invited a *Chatham Observer* reporter to witness the new phenomenon. The firm's TV engineer explained



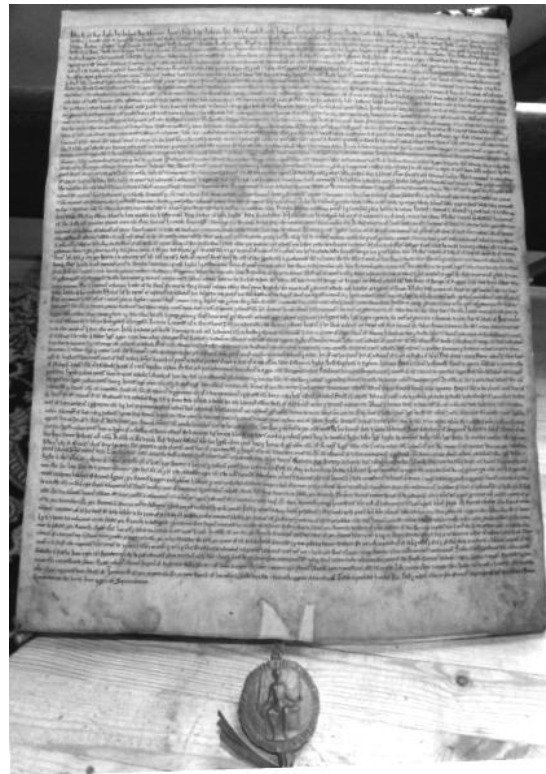
*The Little Ships plaques on board L'Orage.*

## Magna Carta

On 15th June Kent County Councillor, Peter Homewood and I attended a special evening at the Archbishop's Palace in Maidstone to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta - *A Celebration of Magna Carta in Words and Music*. We were entertained by the Canterbury Gregorian Music Society who sang several works in Latin, and singer-songwriter Paul Cullen (aka Paul Carbuncle). Paul is an Old English and Old Norse philologist and editor of the *Survey of Kent Place-Names* for the English Place-Name Society. He entertained us with some traditional songs, and some freshly written material. Also on the programme was local thespian Philippa Jevons, who read some poetry. On display at the Archbishop's Palace was a copy of the 1215 Salisbury Magna Carta and the 1325 Queenborough Statute Book (pictured overleaf). All in all a very enjoyable evening!



*The 1325 Queenborough Statute Book.*



*The 1215 Salisbury Magna Carta.*

## The Chatham Fire Brigade

Perhaps one of James Burrell's most important contributions to Chatham life was his involvement in the Chatham Volunteer Fire Brigade. The brigade was formed in November 1866, with James himself joining the brigade in November 1870.<sup>8</sup> For a time the fire brigade station was in premises at the back of Burrell's shop. In April 1885 a brand new fire engine, funded by public subscription, arrived at Meopham on the London train. It was harnessed to four horses, provided free of charge for the occasion by Mr J B Martin. A small procession formed which proceeded to Gravesend where it was greeted by the local Mayor and the town fire brigade. After a hearty luncheon at The Falcon Hotel the journey continued to Cobham. Joined by the Rochester brigade both engines drove through Cobham Park. The procession continued through Strood and toured Chatham High Street, New Road and Railway Street before finally stopping outside the Board of Health Offices where it was greeted by a large crowd of people. The journey from Meopham station to Military Road had taken five hours. After many speeches and much giving of thanks, Chatham and Gravesend dignitaries and members of the various fire brigades sat down to a meat tea at The Mitre Hotel.<sup>9</sup> In the same year a 'handsome and commodious' fire engine station was built on Military Road next to the Board of Health Offices. Lastly, in December 1885, James Burrell, 'a man whose business enterprise and indomitable energy (had) won him fame through all branches of his profession in the Metropolitan Centres as well as at the county markets', was elected as captain of the brigade.<sup>10 11</sup>

## Obituary

James Burrell died in December 1931. Although he had been in reduced circumstances for a number of years his special wish for his funeral was honoured. The old horse drawn fire engine from his time as captain of the fire brigade was once again put into service – this last time to carry James Burrell's coffin for his burial at Chatham Cemetery.<sup>12</sup>

## Notes

1. *Chatham Observer*, 11 December 1931 p. 4.
2. Frederick Sanders, *A Business History of Chatham High Street 1838-1961*, Volume 2, p. 50.
3. *Chatham News*, January 23 1892, p. 1.
4. Sanders, op cit, Volume 2, p. 49.
5. James Troubridge Critchell and Joseph Raymond, *A History of the Frozen Meat Trade*, p. 41, (2nd edition), Constable and Company Ltd., London 1912;(https://archive.org).
6. *Chatham 100*, compiled by Ronald Foster.
7. *Chatham News*, May 30 1896, p. 8.
8. Minutes of the Chatham Volunteer Fire Brigade, CBA/AMc/1/1. Medway Archives.
9. *Chatham and Rochester Observer*, 11 April 1885, p. 8.
10. *Chatham and Rochester Observer*, 5 December 1885, p. 8.
11. Thanks to Brian Joyce for listing some of the references in the local papers to the Chatham Fire Brigade.
12. *Chatham Observer*, 11 December 1931, p. 4.

This area was redeveloped between 1900 and 1902 with Fullalove Alley becoming the current Batchelor Street. This change would probably account for the absence of 263 and 265 High Street from the directories of 1900 -1902. James Burrell's business at these premises ceased to exist at this point although the factory and registered offices at 254 were retained. The missing numbers reappear in the directories in 1903 but number 263 is owned by a different butcher, James Nelson, with the ironmongers Hounsell and Sons at 265. The business of Burrell and Sons continued at various premises throughout the Towns although their fortunes appear to have been in decline. James himself is next listed in 1909 - 1910 as a ham and beef dealer at Lucky Lane in Chatham. Ultimately James' youngest son Herbert rebuilt a successful business, the shops bearing his name having a presence on Chatham High Street into the 1960s.

### Civic Duties

James Burrell was also prominent in the civic life of Chatham. Elected to represent St Mary's Ward, he was a member of the first council after the incorporation of Chatham in 1890. He retained this position until his resignation in May 1896.<sup>6</sup> His departure was allegedly due to the choice of the site at the end of Military Road for the building of the proposed Chatham Town Hall, rather than his own favoured option of the Gibraltar site. He was also upset by the criticism he encountered for his promotion of wood paving in Chatham High Street. He attended the council meeting with his resignation ready prepared and the £1 cheque for his resignation fee already written.<sup>7</sup>



Old Chatham. High Street, looking east and entry to Full of Love Alley (from the Chatham Libraries Collection); Medway Archives and Local Studies centre Couchman Collection, DE402/16/12 (L).

## About The Clock Tower

*The Clock Tower* is the quarterly journal produced and published by the Friends of Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre (FOMA), [www.foma-lsc.org/index.html](http://www.foma-lsc.org/index.html).

### Editorial deadlines

Please note, the deadline is the **last** Monday (or Tuesday when a Bank Holiday occurs) of January, April, July and October. Articles, letters, photos and any information to be considered for inclusion in the journal must be received before this date by the Editor, Mrs Amanda Thomas, 72 Crabtree Lane, Harpenden, AL5 5NS, Hertfordshire; [amanda@ajthomas.com](mailto:amanda@ajthomas.com).

**The copy deadline for Issue 40 of *The Clock Tower* is Monday 26 October 2015, with publication on Wednesday 18 November 2015.**

### Publication date

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The Clock Tower is printed by Ray Maisey, Rabbit Hutch Printers, 106 Charles Drive, Cuxton, Kent, ME2 1DU; telephone: 01634 294655; fax: 01634 723510; email: [Ray@Rabbithutchprinters.com](mailto:Ray@Rabbithutchprinters.com)

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### Front Cover Accreditations and Website Information

The logo for *The Clock Tower* was designed by Bob Ratcliffe.

The banner design (incorporating the logo) and the title *The Clock Tower* were designed by Alexander Thomas.

*The Clock Tower* is also available at [www.foma-lsc.org/newsletter.html](http://www.foma-lsc.org/newsletter.html)

### Further Information

Further information on the Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre can be obtained on the MALSC CityArk website <http://cityark.medway.gov.uk/> or by writing to Medway Archives Office, Civic Centre, Strood, Rochester, Kent ME2 4AU. Telephone +44 (0)1634 332714; fax +44 (0)1634 297060; email: [malsc@medway.gov.uk](mailto:malsc@medway.gov.uk)

General enquiries about the Friends can be obtained from the Secretary, Odette Buchanan: 72 Jersey Road, Rochester, ME2 3PE. Telephone: 01634 718231; email: [odette\\_buchanan@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:odette_buchanan@yahoo.co.uk)

Membership enquiries should be directed to the Membership Secretary, Betty Cole, 8 Hardy Close, Walderslade, Chatham, ME5 7LL, Kent. Telephone: 01634 316509; email: [bettycole@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:bettycole@blueyonder.co.uk)

## Keeping up with the Victorians

Alison Thomas

Archive and Local Studies Assistant, The Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre



After completing a degree in medieval and modern history at the University of Birmingham, Alison Thomas trained as a teacher and worked in primary education for several years. Whilst bringing up her family she had various part time jobs within education ranging from playgroup assistant to special needs teacher. Alison left work to become a full time carer for four years, and joined MALSC as Archive and Local Studies Assistant at the end of February 2010.

## Local Businesses through the Advertising of the Day Burrell and Sons

### Rags to Riches?

In the February edition of *The Clock Tower* (Issue 37, February 2015) Helen Worthy looked at rag and bone man Henry Burrell. Completely coincidentally, I had chosen to research the business of his son, James Burrell, for this article in the *Keeping Up with the Victorians* series.

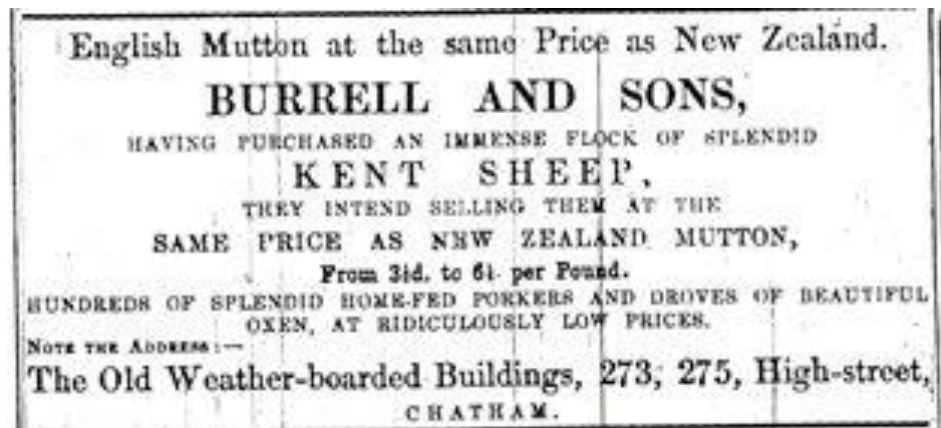
James did not follow his father Henry into the rag trade but set up a butcher's shop – becoming one of the foremost tradesmen in The Towns, a Chatham councillor and captain of the Volunteer Fire Brigade. It has been said that at one time he was so successful that he owned as many as 14 shops across Rochester, Chatham, Gillingham and Strood.<sup>1</sup> Frederick Sanders in his *Business History of Chatham High Street*<sup>2</sup> gives a description of James as he knew him, “he was a wonderful old gentleman ... a rare anecdotist. He always sported a spade shaped beard, and loved his old briar-pipe. A smoker of the old school he relished strong shag tobacco, his favourite brand being Player's 'Hearts of Oak' dark shag.”

### New Zealand Mutton

My curiosity was aroused by this advertisement from the front page of *The Chatham News* in January 1892.<sup>3</sup> Burrell and Sons were selling local mutton at the same price as that imported from New Zealand. Definitely reminiscent of today's supermarket adverts - so I thought this warranted further investigation! Rather ironically in light of the above advert, Frederick Sanders says that James Burrell was the first to introduce imported frozen meat to Chatham.<sup>4</sup>

Frozen meat from New Zealand first came to England in 1882. Fitted with the innovative Bell Coleman refrigerating machinery and insulated meat chambers, the Dunedin set sail on 15 February, arriving in London 98 days later with all but one of its frozen cargo still in good condition. But the voyage had not been without difficulty. The initial frozen carcasses had to be sold off before departure due to the failure of the steam freezing plant – the first consumers of New Zealand frozen meat were the New Zealanders themselves!

Having frozen a second load of carcasses, the ship set sail but during the journey to England the captain had to make repairs in the ship's hold. He became so cold that he was rescued by a rope attached to his legs to prevent him dying from hyperthermia.<sup>5</sup> However, the successful arrival of this first cargo marked the beginning of an export trade from New Zealand that still continues until this day.



Advertisement from the *Chatham News* January 23, Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre.

### Burrell's The Butchers

The first listing I can find for James' shop is in Percy's Directory of 1871 which shows his shop at 165 High Street Chatham. James' obituary states that he began his business a few years earlier, in 1866. The advertisement from *The Chatham News* in 1892 lists James' shop at 273 and 275 High Street Chatham - puzzling as *Kelly's Directory* for that year puts James' shop at 263 and 265 High Street with additional premises at 254. I can only conclude that there is a misprint in the advertisement – unless anyone knows differently? Certainly 265 was the new number for the old 165, and the photograph from the Couchman Collection shows a weather-boarded building, as described in the advertisement. These buildings were at the entrance to Fullalove Alley. If you look carefully at the photograph you can just see the sign showing the name of the alley on the left of the first weather-boarded building.