

The Archaeological Dig at Cliffe

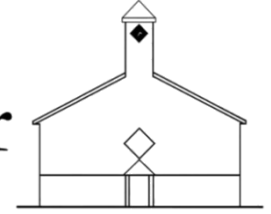
Following the geophysical survey (seen previous page and in Daniel Wilmer-Brown's hand, right) the archaeological dig at Buttway Field, Cliffe started in earnest again on 23 July 2016. The dig is being run by the Cliffe at Hoo Historical Society and early indications are that they have discovered a major Anglo Saxon site. Pictured are Chris Hughes and Daniel at the end of the fourth day. The group is in need of support in order to raise awareness of the site and to ensure that the Cliffe story becomes better known. Do visit their website at www.cliffeathoohistoricalociety.org/ and join the group!



Pictured: (left) Chris Hughes, Secretary, and (right) Daniel Wilmer-Brown, Chairman of the Cliffe at Hoo Historical Society. Photograph, Amanda Thomas.

**If undelivered, please return to:
Medway Archives Office, c/o Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road,
Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TR.**

The Clock Tower



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The Friends of Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre
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What's in the Trunk?



Starting in this issue the serialisation of Michael Baker's *Travels of a Tin Trunk*, the life of Alfred William Baker of Cobham.

Also in this issue, Betty Cole's fascinating story about a hospital admission in 1916.

PLUS

SPECIAL OFFER for FOMA readers:

Dr Andrew Ashbee's latest book - *Zeal Unabated: The Life of Thomas Fletcher Waghorn*.

Travels of a Tin Trunk



Photograph by Michael Baker

“The contents looked inviting. The cricket cap and cigar box needed little exploration. Then there was a “hussife” with buttons, pins, needles and thread perhaps made by his mother, which every soldier carried. Quickly I thumbed through lists of cricket scores and of game shot, diaries, notebooks and some delightful sketch books ...” Read more on page 8 about what Michael Baker discovered and the first part of the extraordinary story of his ancestor, Captain Alfred William Baker of Owletts.

The Medway Hulks

On 14 June Dr. Jeremy Clarke gave a talk to FOMA entitled *The Medway Hulks*. It was a fascinating evening enhanced by a book signing by FOMA’s Dr Andrew Ashbee (see pages 27 and 47). Jeremy is a fantastic speaker and in the autumn will be taking part in the lecture series at the Guildhall Museum in Rochester to commemorate the 950th anniversary of 1066 (see page 34).



Photograph by Amanda Thomas

Andrew Ashbee Book Signing

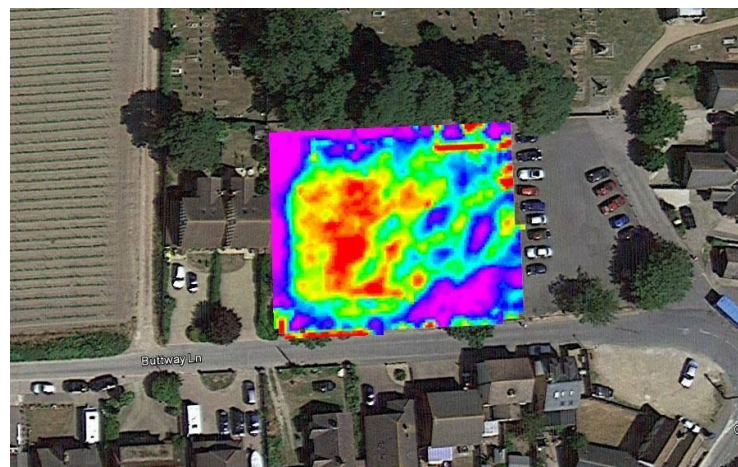
On the evening of 14 June 2016 (following a wonderful talk by Dr Jeremy Clarke, entitled *Medway Hulks*) Andrew sold and signed copies of his latest book, *Zeal Unabated: The Life of Thomas Fletcher Waghorn 1800-1850*.

See Bob Ratcliffe’s new column on page 27 for more information about the book and how to purchase it.

Right: Dr Andrew Ashbee signs a copy of his book for FOMA members Michael and Rosie Jennings. Photograph by Amanda Thomas.



Cliffe’s Anglo Saxon Heritage



Prior to the dig which commenced at Cliffe in July 2016 (see overleaf), a geophysical survey (above) was carried out on the Buttway by members of the Cliffe at Hoo Historical Society and West Kent Archaeology Society. The red and yellow areas indicate high resistance and the presence of a structure. More information can be found at www.cliffeathoohistoricalsociety.org

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From the Chairman

Tessa Towner, Chairman.



Once again it is time to bring you up to date on what FOMA is doing!

Over the last three years FOMA has been mounting exhibitions at the Medway Archives about the events of the corresponding year in WWI. These have been planned and organised by the FOMA Committee and staged by Vice Chairman, Elaine Gardner and me, using the information from our online De Caville Index (<http://foma-lsc.org/wwi/index.html>) in memory of the men of the Medway Towns who died in each year of the First World War.

The photo (right) shows the beginning of each exhibition

For 1914 we covered the sinking of the Live Bait Squadron, the HMS *Aboukir*, *Cressy*, and *Hogue*. The exhibition included articles about the war on the continent and the Battle of Mons, and what was going on at home. Exhibits looked at recruitment and visits by the King and Queen to the hospitals where the wounded had been taken.

For 1915 we exhibited some of the newspapers which covered many events. These included the loss of HMS *Bulwark* which had exploded in November 1914, the loss of HMS *Formidable*, an eyewitness account of an air battle over Cliffe, events in the Dardanelles, and also the loss of HMS *Princess Irene* which exploded off the Isle of Grain with the loss of over 300 men, many from the Medway Towns.

Our current 1916 exhibition features the Battle of Jutland where 6,000 men lost their lives in one single day. Lord Kitchener and many Royal Navy personnel lost their lives when HMS *Hampshire* was hit by a German mine: this ship is a protected war grave. The battle of the Somme also featured this year in the exhibition and was commemorated with events in the UK and in France. There was a very moving ceremony at the Thiepval Memorial on the hundredth anniversary, attended by members of the Royal Family and the British and French governments.



This year's exhibition at the Medway Archives is on display until September 6, so if you haven't seen any of our exhibitions and are able to get to the Archives please do come along to see it. My thanks to Elaine for all her help and for reproducing the newspaper photos of the men of Medway.

Finally, I am delighted to report that the FOMA Committee has agreed to purchase some new equipment - an Uscan fiche/film reader - for MALSC's forthcoming move to the Bryant Road site in Strood. We are also hoping to raise additional funds to help out and at the time of going to press Rob Flood and Amanda Thomas were looking at exciting ways to do this.



FOMA Chairman, Tessa Towner and Vice Chairman, Elaine Gardner in front of one of the display boards at MALSC. Photographs from Elaine Gardner.

Strood Library Bryant Road, Strood

Do you have any photographs of the old library?

With MALSC's move to the old library site at Bryant Road, FOMA is thinking ahead to future exhibitions and we are looking for photographs and information about the old library. In particular, MALSC does not have a photograph of the exterior of the old library before it was demolished in the 1970s. Do you?

Please contact *The Clock Tower* Editor, Amanda Thomas at amanda@ajthomas.com

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.

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.

The copy deadline for Issue 44 of *The Clock Tower* is Monday 31 October 2016, with publication on Wednesday 23 November 2016.

Publication date

The fourth Wednesday following the editorial deadline.

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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

Further Information

Further information on the Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre can be obtained on the MALSC website www.medway.gov.uk/malsc or by writing to Medway Archives Office, c/o Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TR. Telephone +44 (0)1634 332714; fax +44 (0)1634 297060; email: 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

Membership enquiries should be directed to the Membership Secretary, Betty Cole, 98 The Wharf, Dock Head Road, Chatham ME4 4ZS, Kent. Telephone: 01634 892976; email: betty-cole@outlook.com

of the Bridge Wardens and were sold by them to Rochester Corporation for much needed new housing in the years before and after the Second World War.

Writing in 1943, Canon Wheatley describes Delce Road (or Lane) in earlier times. Its eastern side was undeveloped and resembled the side of a railway cutting; the most prominent feature on this side was the Napoleonic Delce Tower – part of the military defences of Chatham Dockyard. [Old brick walls near The Cut still mark out the position of this building.] Until serious development began in the 19th century, the western side of Delce Road was occupied almost exclusively by scattered timber cottages and market gardens where strawberries and potatoes were grown in large quantities. In Wheatley's opinion the manor house of Great Delce was the only building of importance here.

Gradually the rural environment of the Delce succumbed to 19th and then 20th century development. It was this development which led to the creation of St Peter's parish, and the building of St Peter's Church in King Street in 1859.

The manor house was demolished in 1850, although the farmhouse remained until the 1960s. As new housing development engulfed Great Delce Farm, the need for the great thatched barn – which stood in the farmyard – diminished and finally disappeared, and this 'glorious building' was being dismantled in 1925, to the undisguised fury – and 'lamentation' – of Canon Wheatley. However, he noted that part of the building's timber frame had been sold and was to be re-erected in Cranbrook. Does part of Rochester's rural heritage still stand somewhere in Cranbrook? It would be fascinating to know.

Secretary's Report

Odette Buchanan



Hullo Friends!

At last the weather has picked up after the wettest June on record. The downside is that now I have to keep watering the plants. Mustn't complain. I hope those of you who attended enjoyed Jeremy's excellent talk on the hulks (see page 2) and that it inspired those who have not visited the scarily life-like hulks exhibition at the Guildhall Museum in Rochester to do so in the very near future.

Talking of the Museum, don't forget to get your tickets early for the next series of autumn lectures (see page 34). After last year's sell-out series on Magna Carta, this year the lectures are all related to the 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings. When you pay for your tickets, don't forget to show or include FOMA membership details to receive the discount.

The next FOMA talk is on 13 September. Entitled, *London Labyrinth* our speaker is Kathy Chater whom our Editor, Amanda Thomas met at a gathering of the Huguenot Society in London. Then there's the next quiz on 22 October. Usual drill: tables of six or make new friends by booking individually and making up a table. Tickets cost £8 and this includes an interval ploughman's dinner; please bring your own drinks. Booking is always essential for these popular events. You can contact me on 01634 718231 or odette_buchanan@yahoo.co.uk – and then pay at the door.

You may not be aware that this year is the 70th anniversary of the government act which gave local councils permission to erect temporary housing to try and alleviate the enormous post-war shortage. The various boroughs that now form Medway all took advantage of this. I am in touch with a society in South East London that is busy collecting anything to do with prefabs and the people who lived in them. If you have any memories or memorabilia, please let me know (contact details as above). I have many memories that I collected for a talk I gave a few years ago and am in the process of collating everything for a new series which will soon be featured in *The Clock Tower*. Watch this space!

New Members

A warm welcome to new FOMA members Ms Susan Payne, Cllr Mr Stuart Tranter, Mrs Patricia James.

Obituary



Robert Bruce Aubry 1936 – 2016

Aubry's Long Life

Brian Joyce

I met Bruce in 1998 after he contacted me to suggest a publishing project. I visited his home to discuss the idea. His partner Pamela was there too but was obviously very ill. I emerged two hours later with my head spinning. Was this strange man American or French Canadian? Who were Vokes, Schon, Cuffay, Lewington and the dozens of other names with which I had been bombarded? As I warily entered Bruce's world, he enlightened me.

Bruce Aubry was born in Oakland, California. His grandparents were French Canadian immigrants. Bruce attended the University of California at Berkeley but left after refusing to wear its army cadet uniform; it was difficult to be a socialist in 1950s America. He visited Cuba after Castro's revolution and spent time in Britain and Europe before returning home.

Delce Road

FOMA member Alan Moss emailed in response to Helen Worthy's article, The Strawberry and Pleasure Gardens in Rochester, The Clock Tower, Issue 42, May 2016.

This article, by Alan (pictured), was first published in the March 2016 edition of Neighbours, the parish magazine of St Peter with St Margaret, Rochester.



Continuing from last month with the theme of road names in the parish, Delce Road – when one stops to think about it – is a curious name. Where did that come from? The late Canon Wheatley (Vicar of St Margaret's 1915 – 1947) found evidence to suggest that it may have been Celtic in origin, or that it was, in part, derived from the French 'de la'. The information he obtained even propounded the somewhat implausible theory that, with the addition of 'se' (or sea), it could be interpreted as 'At Sea'. Delce Lane, as the road was once known, led from Star Hill to the hamlet of Delce. The manors of Great and Little (or Upper) Delce lay to the south of the City of Rochester. The site of Great Delce farmhouse and its farmyard is now occupied by the relatively modern houses at the junction of Delce Road and Cecil Road. Hereabouts, it may be presumed, lay the hamlet of Delce. Beyond the hamlet the lane continued southwards towards Horsted, but under the name of Dark Lane, which later became St William's Way recalling the murder of the pilgrim William (later St William) of Perth here in 1201.

The site of Upper Delce yard and farm buildings, and the house known as Delce Grange, is now occupied by Canon Close and St William of Perth School. The manorial lands had originally covered a large area of the countryside to the south of the city and were of sufficient importance in the 11th century to warrant a mention in the Domesday Book. The two manors were owned by several generations of the Lee family, who had their own chancel and family vault in St Margaret's old church. The estate had been purchased by Sir Richard Lee who was Sheriff of Kent in 1470 and twice Lord Mayor of London. The estate appears to have remained in the Lee family until gradually disposed of in the 18th century. Great and Upper Delce farms eventually came into the ownership

were carefully stored in the KAS Library in Maidstone, seldom inspected until, more than 50 years after he died in 1960, aged 94, the society decided they should be scanned and the images made freely available on the internet to researchers who would otherwise be unaware that they existed or know their content.

KAS Vice President, Ted Connell commented, ‘Historians are forever grateful to Faussett for his work as a pioneer recorder of “MIs,” to Torr for ensuring that his notes at the Society of Antiquaries became more accessible, and to Toke for using the best methods available in the early twentieth century to make lasting images of the beautiful craftsmanship of the unidentified stone masons who created the ledger stones.’

Other KAS members are now adding their own MI transcriptions and images to Toke’s collection. A biography entitled *Bryan Faussett, Antiquarian Extraordinary* by David Wright was published recently by Archaeopress Archaeology.

Readers’ Letters

We welcome letters and emails from readers with their comments. If you have anything you would like to say please write to: Mrs Amanda Thomas, Editor, The Clock Tower, 72 Crabtree Lane, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, AL5 5NS or email at amanda@ajthomas.com. FOMA Secretary, Odette Buchanan, often receives queries from members or visitors to the FOMA website, www.foma-lsc.org/index.html. If you have any additional information for the following correspondents, please contact the Editor.

Davy Court Development – more information required!

28 May 2016.

Good Morning Odette,

I am trying to find some information about the conversion of the old SEEBOARD site on the High Street in to residential use (i.e. what is now Davy Court/Faraday House). I’ve got some useful information from the Council, and from Medway Archives. It appears that the development’s final plans for Davy Court were approved around mid 2003- early 2004. [Units were sold from 2004, whereas Faraday House flats were sold from mid 2002 onwards]. (However it does appear that SEEBOARD had submitted some kind of plans around 1996, which the Council approved in outline in November 1999. I suspect they took a few years to find a developer, who then bought the site and submitted their own plan – hence the delays).

Best wishes,

Paul Anderson.

Bruce finally settled in Britain. He taught in Peterborough and then in Bristol, where he met Pamela. The couple eventually arrived in Maidstone, and Bruce obtained a teaching position at Mid-Kent College. While in the county town, he trawled through the Victorian local newspapers and compiled a unique index of references to Maidstone’s labour movement.

After Bruce and Pamela moved to Rochester, he became a familiar face at the newly-created MALSC, compiling an index of Medway’s labour history, again using the local press as his main source. This formed the basis of his two volume *Red Flows the Medway*.

As a volunteer at MALSC, he helped transcribe entries from census enumerators’ returns to create a card index of Medway’s Victorian residents. He used the local newspapers to assemble a detailed list of Medway people who died between 1830 and 1901.

In 2003, Bruce and I created the Pocock Press and through it, published several of our books on Medway’s history. For financial reasons, we had these volumes printed in India, a country he knew well. Bruce and Pamela visited India annually for nearly twenty years and after her death in 1998, he continued the tradition, eventually basing himself in Assam in the far north-east. He had a library built in the town of Bokakhat which he dedicated to Pamela. Bruce sponsored his great friend Bikash Bharali through Hadlow College and then purchased farmland outside Bokakhat where he had a house built; this he shared with Bikash for six months each year.

While this arrangement took Bruce away from MALSC for long periods, he had already accumulated enough material to enable him to write his labour history and his final book, *Aubry’s Brief Lives*. The latter was an entertaining collection of biographical sketches of some of Medway’s Victorian inhabitants and at last cleared up some of the unanswered questions left after our first meeting.

Bruce’s own life was interesting, complicated and productive. He did much to reveal some of the hidden delights of Medway’s history, obscured for too long by castles, cathedrals and Dickensian minutiae. It is little wonder that when FOMA was created, Bruce was elected a Vice President. His convoluted yarns and witty repartee delighted some and bewildered others. There are many Medway residents who will mourn his passing and regret that they will no longer be regaled with stories of India and forgotten figures of the local labour movement.

Travels of a Tin Trunk

Michael Baker

Michael Baker's interest in family history was started by a great-uncle who once unrolled a family tree on the dining-room table. It was seven feet long. After a career in Electrical Engineering, including 20 years overseas, he opened some boxes in the Owletts' attic...



Part 1: Owletts

Hidden in a corner of a musty attic I found a well travelled tin trunk, with a brass lock and leather straps. Over the passage of time, no one had thrown it out. What secrets did it hold?

Before I left Owletts, the family home in Cobham, Kent in 1994, I had become curious about the attic's dust-covered contents, but had no time to explore them. I had little idea what was there, but as the eldest son I wanted to keep alive the threads of family history. Along with cabinets, paintings and chipped china, I collected numerous family letters and photo albums, a seven-foot family tree dating back to 1760 ... and this tin trunk, and took them with me.



Owletts from the north-east

I grew up with an outline of Owletts' history and incidental family stories. The name Owletts is thought to derive from a Huguenot named Houlet, a yeoman farmer. The house was built in 1684 by Bonham Hayes and his wife Elizabeth. They placed their initials and the date on the chimneys and on the fine plaster ceiling above the stair well. Originally standing four-square, with hipped roof and casement windows, it was altered by a later Hayes who added the parapet. In 1790 it changed hands, coming to Henry Edmeades, whose daughter Maria married Thomas Baker. Thomas and Maria celebrated by creating stained-glass windows in oeil-de-boeuf windows showing their family crests, and by adding portraits in the dining room of their fathers, Henry and Samuel Baker the builder.¹ Perhaps they also replaced the casement windows with sash. One of their grandsons was Herbert Baker, my grandfather, born in 1862 the 4th son of Thomas Henry, a farmer, and his wife Frances Georgina

Friend costs just £5.00 a year, for this you receive information before it goes onto the website and invites to special Friends-only events, plus a regular newsletter.

Today the main space at the centre is occupied by the Criterion Music Hall, one of just a few remaining authentic Music Hall buildings, lovingly restored by Jenny and Ian Hurkett and their unbeatable team of volunteers. The Criterion stages professional Victorian style music hall shows (three seasons a year), cinema every Friday and theatre and live music shows; it is also available for private hire. Booking on 01795 662981 or by visiting the website: <http://www.thecriterionbluetown.co.uk/#!criterion-music-hall/cb3i>



The latest information can be found at:
www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/

Information from Paul Tritton, Hon.

Press Officer, KAS; paul.tritton@btinternet.com

Ledger Stones Yield Clues to 'Lost' Family Histories

Hundreds of memorial inscriptions (MIs) on graves marked by 'heraldic ledger stones' in Kent parish churches, Canterbury Cathedral and Rochester Cathedral can now be accessed on-line. This is following the completion of a transcription and digital imaging project by Kent Archaeological Society volunteers Ted Connell, Ann Pinder and Pat Tritton who have brought to light pioneer antiquarians' comprehensive records made up to 250 years ago, when the stones were still in pristine condition.
www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/19/000.htm

The earliest records were made by Rev Bryan Faussett soon after he became Curate of St Giles, Kingston, south-east of Canterbury, in 1750. After Faussett died in 1776, aged 56, by when he was Rector of Monks Horton, his four substantial leather-bound books detailing his research were deposited at the Society of Antiquaries in London where, 150 years later they were transcribed by Valentine John de Jersey Berry Torr, a dedicated antiquarian and long-serving KAS member.

Next on the ledger stone trail was Nicholas Eyare Toke of Folkestone, a descendant of the Toke family of Godington Park, near Ashford. An Army and University tutor, he had worked for the Local Government Board in WW1, helping the thousands of French and Belgian refugees who landed at Folkestone. After the war Toke spent most of his leisure-time visiting churches to make rubbings of monumental brasses, using a heelball of hard wax and lampblack. He adapted this method to reproducing coats-of-arms on ledger stones after noticing that those in Canterbury Cathedral were rapidly becoming eroded under the feet of thousands of visitors. 'It is possible to make photographs of valuable memorials,' he wrote in 1929, 'but an exposure of an hour or two is necessary even in a well-lit church.'

Guided by Torr's transcriptions, Toke went to the churches that Faussett had visited, and many others, and by 1938 had made nearly 300 rubbings, which he donated to the V&A in London after photographing them on glass-plate negatives for the KAS. His negatives

Available from outlets throughout the Medway Towns including: The Royal Engineers Museum, Guildhall Museum, Medway Archives, the Visitors Information Centre in Rochester and the King George V pub in Brompton. You can also buy it from eBay or borrow it from one of the local libraries in Medway. Take yourself on a trail around Brompton, read more about the village history and view a selection of images in this new booklet. For more information email bromptonhistoryresearchgroup@gmail.com

Gillingham and Rainham Local History Society

The Society meets on the second Friday of each month from September to June at Byron Road School, Gillingham, ME7 5XX (car parking at the rear, accessed from Milton Road) on the second Friday of each month (September to July) 7.15pm with meeting starting at 7.30 pm.

Love Twydall

Love Twydall is a community project based on the Twydall Estate in Gillingham. It is supported by Churches and individuals and a number of the Gillingham and Rainham Local History Society are included in this.

Saturday 10th September 2016, 7.00 pm

How Old is Twydall, an illustrated talk by David Burton

Twydall Evangelical Church, Goudhurst Road, Gillingham

Admission FREE

New members and visitors are always welcome; annual membership £20, visitors £3 per meeting. For further information, contact Ron Baker on 01634 854982 or email r.baker1234@btinternet.com



Blue Town Heritage Centre, The Criterion Music Hall and Cinema

www.thecriterionbluetown.co.uk/#!/criterion-music-hall/cb3i

The present Heritage Centre and café are on the site of two earlier establishments. Originally the New Inn in 1868, the site became

The Royal Oxford Music Hall. The following year the building, situated a few doors down from the court house, became The Criterion public house, which included to the rear a music hall called The Palace of Varieties. This offered "rational amusement for all classes" including, in April 1876, a one armed juggler! In 1879 the earlier building was replaced with a brick built one. The Heritage Centre is packed with items, memorabilia and artefacts, including an upstairs area dedicated to HMS *Victory*.

Open Tuesdays to Saturdays 10am - 3pm and for events. Entrance £2.00 and includes entrance to the Aviation annexe at Eastchurch. Entrance is free to Friends. To become a

Baker. He trained as an architect and in 1892 followed a younger brother Lionel to South Africa to help him establish a fruit farm. There Herbert met Cecil Rhodes, who gave him work, and there he made a name for himself as an architect before returning to live at Owletts with his wife and cousin Florence Edmeades.

Herbert added a library for himself and opened up the front hall to create a living room with more fine plasterwork. He commissioned Arts and Crafts workmen and filled the house with artifacts brought home from South Africa. Close to his heart was the preservation of rural England, including Owletts and its cherry orchards. He gave the house and 25 acres to the National Trust in 1939. After his and my grandmother's death, my father took on the tenancy. I took it over in 1984.

It was here that Herbert and his siblings were raised during the prosperous years for yeoman farmers. As the children expanded into the upper floor in the 1870s, they would have watched their father add a north wing, not as well proportioned or generous as the original, to accommodate the servants. Their mother, Frances Georgina, ran the household with a staff of nine.² With a Victorian passion for ferns she created a fernery, complete with a boiler stoked daily, hot pipes and hessian to give humidity when splashed with water. Owletts gave the boys space to roam and to indulge their love of sport, both ball games and shooting.

This was the time when families began to record their lives with photography. Children learnt to draw, paint and write diaries, and of course letters were exchanged by the efficient royal mail. Such were the records left by this generation for me to unravel.

Twelve children were born to Thomas Henry and Frances, two girls dying in their infancy:

1854, Henry Edmeades, known as Harry, a career soldier,

1857, Edward Lowther, known as Ned, a Rochester solicitor,

1860, Francis James, known as Frank, an apprentice farmer,

1862, Herbert, then known as Bert, the architect,

1864, Alfred William,³ known as Alf, whose trunk it is,

1866, Beatrice, known as Bee, animal lover, never married. She joined Lionel in Sussex.

1867, Percy Thomas, schoolmaster then solicitor with Ned, and a keen golfer,

1870, Lionel, fruit farmer in the Cape and later in Sussex,

1872, Charles Maurice, civil servant in India, who retired to Meopham,

1876, Arthur George, a surveyor in Kenya.



Herbert and Alfred, c. 1874

My first exploration from the family archive was into the letters sent from Iowa by the third brother, Frank. He died of typhoid in 1881, aged 21, only seven weeks after leaving England on the *S S Celtic*. I flew to Iowa in 2002 and was taken to see the barn where he worked and to the city cemetery to see his gravestone, one of the earliest there.

Having explored the brief life of the third sibling, what about the tin trunk? There was no doubt about who was the owner:

Cap^t A. W. Baker D. L. I.



The contents looked inviting. The cricket cap and cigar box needed little exploration. Then there was a “hussife” with buttons, pins, needles and thread perhaps made by his mother, which every soldier carried. Quickly I thumbed through lists of cricket scores and of game shot, diaries, notebooks and some delightful sketch books. There were a dozen notebooks and diaries, bank books, game shooting records and “Instructions of Officers in Practical Tactics” from the Indian Army and even a leather writing satchel. His mother Frances Georgina had also kept many of his letters: would all this be enough to tell his story?



Alfred, aged 18 at Tonbridge School

Notes

1. See Michael Baker's *The Samuel Bakers, Tradesmen of Kent*, 2008. Also *From Owletts to Iowa*, 2002.
2. Census of 1871, Civil parish of Cobham, page 31 from Ancestry.co.uk
3. Alfred William was born on March 6th, 1864.

Events

January 2014 - November 2018, First World War Battlefield Tour Groups.

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

June 25 - December 20, Exhibition: *Sappers and the Somme*.

This exhibition will commemorate the contribution of the Royal Engineers in supporting the Army at the Battle of the Somme.

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.

ADMISSION IS FREE DURING 2016 DUE TO THE RENOVATION WORKS.

The Rochester Bridge Trust

Further information from <http://www.rbt.org.uk/>

The Bridge Wardens' lectures are held in the medieval Bridge Chapel, 5 Esplanade, Rochester ME1 1QE, unless otherwise indicated. Refreshments available from 6.30 p.m. Lectures begin promptly at 7.00 p.m. Tickets are free but places are limited so **MUST** be booked in advance from Sue Reilly by email to sue@maxim-pr.co.uk or by telephone on 01892 513033.

6 October.

The Romans on the Medway, a talk by Simon Elliott.

ICE Kent & East Sussex Historical Engineering Group (KESHEG) lectures are held at various venues around Kent and East Sussex. To register for information about events, please email kesheg@gmail.com

20 September

Historic Bridge Bearings (Menai & Rochester), a talk by William Day and Tim Belcher-Whyte, Arcadis UK; Rochester Bridge Chapel.

17 November

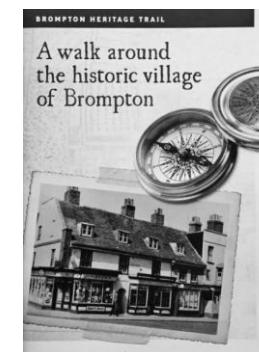
Engineering the Railways of the South East, with a particular focus on the Sevenoaks Tunnel and Dover to Folkestone; Angel Centre, Tonbridge.

Brompton History Research Group

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.

The Brompton Heritage Trail Booklet is now available!



Task Days

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

For further details see park notice boards, www.friendsofbrommhill.org.uk, find us on Facebook or contact Odette Buchanan, Secretary, 01634 718231, or email odette_buchanan@yahoo.co.uk

The Chatham Historical Society

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.

8th September 2016

Filmed Views of Kent, a talk by Colin Coe.

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

The Royal Engineers Museum, Library and Archive

Prince Arthur Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME4 4UG

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

During 2016 the Royal Engineers Museum is upgrading the heating and lighting systems. This means the main Museum building is closed from 13 May; the Bridging Gallery and Temporary Exhibition are still open. Because of this reduced space admission is FREE in 2016; there will still be a wide range of children's activities and the Somme exhibition will also be available.

Due to the building works at the Museum the main car park is closed. There is an overflow car park that can be found using the signs, please note this is a five minute walk from the main site.

Hospital Admission 1916

Betty Cole



Betty has lived all her life in the Medway Towns and attended Medway Technical School for girls, Fort Pitt. For most of her working life she was a civilian in the Kent County Constabulary. She has always had a keen interest in history and on retiring from work took up a Degree Course in the Theory and Practice of Local History with the University of Kent at Canterbury obtaining a Certificate with Merit in 2002. She is a volunteer transcriber and checker for free to access family history websites. She has been FOMA Membership Secretary since 2009.

For those of you who have a copy of Roy Murrant's *Glossary of Past and Present Pubs Chatham (A to M)* if you look up *Lads of the Village* you can see in the photograph (see below), on the left of the pub, a terraced house which was number 40 Henry Street, Chatham.



Lads of the Village, Henry Street.

Above: photograph from Roy Murrant's book; thanks to Rob Flood.

Left: the original building plan of the Lads of the Village pub held at the

Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre; thanks to Cindy O'Halloran.

One hundred years ago my mother, then Ivy Wellard, fell out of the lower window of that house and suffered injuries which caused her to be hospitalised. In her own words, "The shock caused double pneumonia, pulmonary abscess and a slight curvature of the spine," and she was admitted to Great Ormond Hospital for

Children. Having heard this story from my mother many times I contacted the archivist at the hospital to see if there was a record of her admission.

I then had an email from Nick Baldwin, the archivist as follows:

“I have now checked our in-patient Admissions Register and confirm there is an entry for Ivy Wellard in the 1916 volume. She was admitted, aged 5, to Louise Ward on 15 August 1916 on the authority of the Resident Medical Officer, staying until 13 October 1916 when she was discharged as ‘cured’. The diagnosis was ‘Empyema’, which is the accumulation of pus in the lung, often as a result of trauma to the lung, and is only treatable by surgery.

The operation was performed on 23 August. Until the First World War, the Hospital had not employed female clinical staff, but with many of the regular doctors and surgeons away on War service, the policy had to be relaxed, and your mother’s surgeon and anaesthetist were both female, Naomi Tribe and Marjorie Blandy. The attached group photograph (see below) of the 1916 House Staff shows Miss Tribe seated on the right, and Miss Blandy, the anaesthetist in the roundel on the left.”



The 1916 house staff of Great Ormond Street Hospital; thanks to Nick Baldwin, Archivist, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust.

My mother remembered that during her stay in hospital, she could hear the Zeppelin air ships overhead and the patients in their beds were rushed into the passages.

The archivist told me, “The Hospital escaped the Zeppelin raids with minor damage and bombs falling in the garden. Others nearby were less lucky – one of the hotels in Southampton Row, only 200 yards away, was hit with considerable loss of life.”

The Saturday Club.

10.00am – 12.00pm: £4 per child or £35 per year.

Do you like getting messy and having fun? Come along to the Saturday Club to take part in different arts and crafts on the first Saturday of each month. 8+ years. Booking as below.

3 September	Marble book making
1 October	Lanterns
5 November	Mosaics
3 December	Christmas ribbon wreaths

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

26 November Cinderella

Huguenot Museum: Story Time

Bring your under 5s along every Thursday morning to have fun with props and games as we bring a different story to life each week. From Room on the Broom to Owl Babies and the Very Hungry Caterpillar. Toys and play mats available- and even tea for the grown-ups. **Pick up a loyalty card and get the 5th and 10th sessions free.** See our website (www.huguenotmuseum.org) for a full story list. £3.50 per child, adults free. No need to book, just turn up!

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, call 01634 789347 or email learning@huguenotmuseum.org Unless otherwise indicated, for all booking call 01634 789347.

Friends of Broomhill

Broomhill Park has been awarded a fourth Green Flag; the Award recognises the best green spaces in the country. Help us get a Green Flag for the fifth year running and 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.

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, 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 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.

HUGUENOT MUSEUM

discover your story

Huguenot Museum Main Events

10 September. Heritage Open Day; **Free Entry.**

16 September, 2:30-4:00pm. Tracing Your Huguenot Ancestors in Europe, Dr Kathy Chater; £10.

17 September, 10:00-1:30pm. Beginners Crochet; £35.

22 October 10:00-4:00pm Bookbinding, Mike Fitzgerald; £45.

19 November, 10:00-4:00pm. Make a Rag Rug; £45.

10 December, 3:00-4:00pm. Secrets of the French Hospital Silver. Tessa Murdoch, Deputy Keeper at the Victoria and Albert Museum and Huguenot Museum Trustee; £10.

Family Events

Every Thursday of the summer holidays 10:30, 12:30 & 2:30pm - Huguenot Pirates; £4 per child.

27 and 28 October 10:30, 12:30 and 2:30pm. The Big Draw; £4 per child.

My mother also remembered thinking that people who owned hospitals must be very rich because she saw a crate of milk bottles. At home in Henry Street, Chatham, nobody had milk in bottles, they collected theirs in a jug from the dairy in the same road. She said that crocks of bread and dripping were brought round the wards. No butter because of the war. A doctor promised her a penny if she didn't cry when they took the fluid off her lung.

Her father was a Royal marine and at the time of her release from hospital had recently been sent to the Western Front after returning from Gallipoli. I have a letter from him dated 26 November 1916 in which he says, “I am so pleased to hear you have got Ivy home again and looking so well. I hope she will continue to do so, you will have to be very careful with her in this cold weather as she may get bad again.” Sadly he was killed at Arras the following year,

I hope this story will be of interest as a reminder, if one is needed, of how many women came into their own on the home front because of the war. I wonder when these two women, Miss Tribe and Miss Blandy, would have been able to practise their skills in peace time.

Hospital records are subject to the 100-year rule so it was too late to tell my mother the result of my enquiries.



A faint image of Louise Ward, Great Ormond Street Hospital at around the time of Ivy's admission; thanks to Nick Baldwin, Archivist, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust.

Archivist's Note

Next of kin have no legal right of access to medical records of family members except with their personal permission or in certain exceptional circumstances. Once the information is 100 years old, access is allowed under the 1958 Public Records Act.

Read more about the women doctors who looked after Ivy Wellard in *Editor's Footnotes* on page 30.

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.

Does your family have its very own Clarke the Chemist or Burrell the Butcher? Did your ancestors sell pianos, fluid beef or green bone for chickens? Or were they involved in selling another much-loved or much-needed product? As a conclusion to the series of articles about advertising and the businessmen of the Medway Towns, this final part of *Keeping Up with the Victorians* will look at the resources held at MALSC that might help you research your ancestor's business.

Census

Following your ancestor through a number of census (viewable free on *Ancestry* here at MALSC) gives a good idea of family background and changes in careers and circumstances. Always start with the most recent information and work backwards. The 1911 Census shows a Henry James Arthrell, a coal merchant, living in Lower Higham. His four older children were assistants at a fruit shop.

Directories

MALSC's most comprehensive set of directories, *Kelly's*, begin in 1890 and continue until 1974. These are invaluable for researching the duration of your ancestor's business. Arranged alphabetically by street, *Kelly's* directories list the occupiers of each house or business. They also contain a commercial directory listed alphabetically by owner's name and an additional listing arranged alphabetically by type of business. The commercial directory can also show if your ancestor held multiple premises; a good indication of the profitability of the business.



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.

Work to restore one of Rochester's most treasured landmarks resumed in spring, 2016. The £2million Heritage Lottery Funded project to conserve Eastgate House was paused in July last year due to the voluntary administration of the main contractor, Fairhurst Ward Abbots.

Medway Council has now awarded completion of the project to construction company Buxton Building Contractors Limited. Founded in 1924, Buxton has vast experience working with historic and listed buildings, and is also working on the Heritage Lottery Funded *Hidden Treasures, Fresh Expressions* project at Rochester Cathedral.

The works to Eastgate House are due for completion at the end of 2016, and include essential repairs to the roof, windows and floors with new heating and lighting installed. Access for visitors will also be improved with a new lift to the upper floors and the reinstatement of a staircase that was removed more than a century ago. The house will re-open to the public early in 2017 with exhibitions and displays telling the story of those who lived there, and space available for cultural activities and events.

The decorative coat of arms on the façade has recently been replaced. The previous panel, which was rusting and breaking away, was a reinforced cement replica of the original coat of arms. Latex type moulds of the panel were taken for reference and then a new panel was hand sculpted in the traditional method using lime mortar. The new panel can be seen in the photograph (right).



Further information can be obtained at: www.friendsofeastgatehouse.org on Facebook on 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; a copy of the membership form is also available on the website.

Guildhall Museum, Rochester Autumn Lecture Series

Doors Open: 7pm
Talk: 7.30pm
Tickets: £7.50 (£5 Friends Groups)

BOOKING ESSENTIAL – call 01634 332680 or email
guildhall.museum@medway.gov.uk

Tickets to be **paid for and collected** prior to the event

Thursday 29 September
Dr Marc Morris
1066: The Most Important Date in History

The first talk in our Autumn Lecture series will be delivered by Historian and TV presenter Dr Marc Morris, who will examine that most pivotal of dates in English History; 1066.

Tuesday 4 October
Dr Jeremy Clarke
The Last of England? The Anglo-Saxon Background to 1066

Museum Education Officer Dr Jeremy Clarke will speak about English life during the 11th century and whether it's possible to think of 'an Anglo-Saxon achievement'.

Thursday 13 October
Dr Hugh Doherty
The Battle of Hastings

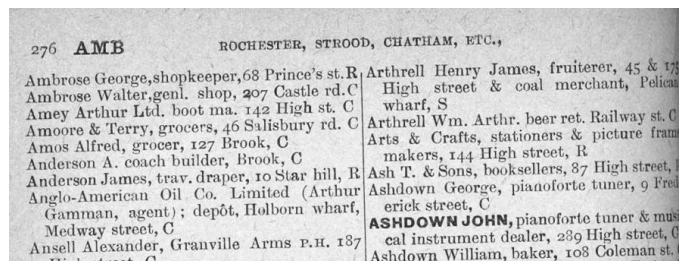
Dr Hugh Doherty, Fellow at Jesus College Oxford and Lecturer at the University of East Anglia, will be speaking about the Battle of Hastings.

Thursday 20 October
Trevor Rowley
Bishop Odo, The Man Behind the Bayeux Tapestry

Emeritus Fellow of Kellogg College, Oxford, Trevor Rowley will talk about Bishop Odo, William the Conqueror's half-brother. Best known for commissioning the Bayeux Tapestry, Bishop Odo played a key role in the Conquest before falling from grace.

Thursday 24 November
Carol McGrath
Noble Women of 1066

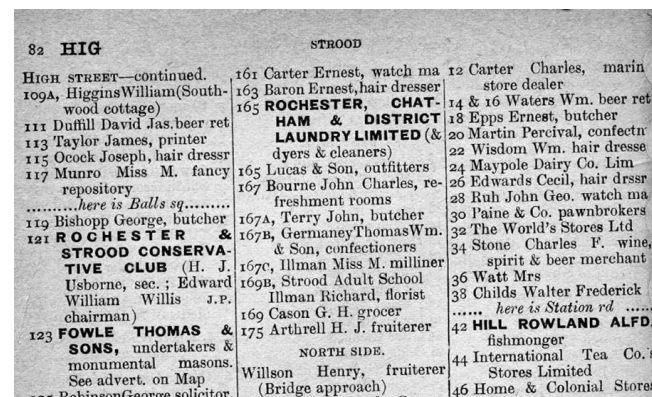
Author of historical fiction, Carol McGrath will talk about the role that women played during the time of the Norman Conquest. Shortlisted for the 2014 Romantic Novel of the Year Awards, *The Handfasted Wife* tells the story of the Norman Conquest from the perspective of Edith Swanneck, Harold's common-law wife.



175 High Street, Strood.

A check of the street listing for the same directory shows that 175 was the last property on the south side of Strood High Street.

You can view the *Kelly's* directories on microfilm in our searchroom. MALSC also holds earlier directories that could help in your search.



You may even find an advertisement placed by your ancestor to promote the business. This advertisement from *The Chatham News Almanack* of 1914 shows that Henry Arthrell also had premises in Rochester.

90 CHATHAM NEWS ALMANACK AND YEAR-BOOK, 1914.

☎ Telephone 467. ☎

H. J. ARTHRELL & SONS

English and Foreign Fruiterers.
Greengrocers and Coal Merchants.

**44, HIGH STREET, ROCHESTER, and
45 & 175, HIGH STREET, STROOD.**

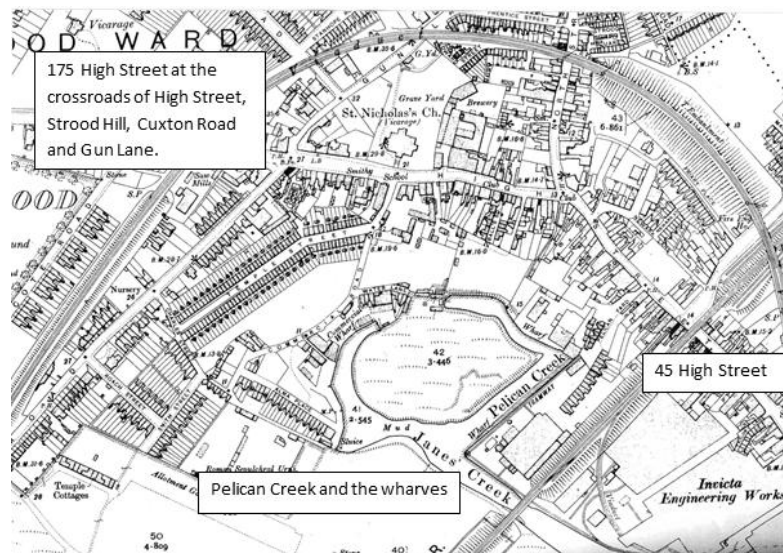
Coal Depot:
South Hetton Wharf, Pelican Yard, Strood.

SOUTH HETTON COALS AT POPULAR PRICES.

Maps

When the business has been located using the directories, MALSC's extensive range of old Ordnance Survey maps can be used to help pinpoint the location.

This 1909 map of Strood shows Arthrell's business at 175 High Street on the corner with Cuxton Road. It also shows the approximate position of 45 High Street, and Pelican Creek with its wharves.



Photographs

Knowing the location makes it easier to search for a photograph. Some photos are available to view online but we have many more here at MALSC. This postcard from MALSC's collection shows the corner of High Street and Cuxton Road. [Every effort has been made to identify the copyright holder of the photograph but the author apologises for any accidental oversight.] The fruit shop on the corner, called New Covent Garden, belonged to Henry Arthrell.



If you think you may have had an ancestor who owned a local business then come along to MALSC to see if we can help you find more information. We cannot guarantee you will find what you are looking for - but you will have fun in trying!

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. For Satnav please use ME2 2AD.

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.

Until further notice, our postal address is Medway Archives Office, c/o Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TR.

Heritage Open Days event at MALSC

Saturday 10 September 11.00 – 14.00.
Delving Deeper into Medway's History.

We owe much to historians and archaeologists of the 19th and 20th century who uncovered and recorded sites and information about the Medway area. They relied on the writings of earlier historians. And we celebrate local historians and groups who continue to shed light on our fascinating past. For this special event we will showcase their work through some of the treasured books, maps and plans in our collections. **Event not suitable for children under the age of 7.**

Help is needed with setting up and clearing up on the day: 9.00 -11.00 and 14.00 – 15.00: one or two volunteers. Stewarding on the day: 11.00 – 14.00, either for entire session or for two hour slots: 11.00 – 13.00; 11.30-13.30 or 12.00 – 14.00. Please email Norma Crowe at MALSC if you can help with any of these aspects of our event: norma.crowe@medway.gov.uk or on 01634 332714.

Palaeography Workshop

Dr David Wright will be running his popular Palaeography workshop at MALSC on 19 October 2016. The course will run from 10 to 4pm and be limited to 10 attendees. Please let Alison Cable know if you are interested at alison.cable@medway.gov.uk or on 01634 332714.

The Friends of the Guildhall Museums

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 see www.friendsoftheguildhall.com/events/**

News and Events

Calendar of Forthcoming Events and Exhibitions

Friends of Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre

Talks

13 September, 7.30 pm,

London Labyrinth

Finding your way through the hundreds of national and local records in London.

A talk by Dr. Kathy Chater.

22 October, 7.30 pm

Quiz Night

£8 for members and non-members. **BOOKING REQUIRED** (see below).

Please do your best to get a table of friends together!

8 November, 7.30 pm,

Borsholders to Bobbies

A talk by Elaine Gardner.

14 March 2017, 30 pm,

A Rat's Tale

A talk by Rob Flood

11 April 2017

FOMA AGM

Full details in the February issue of *The Clock Tower*.

Booking is not required for FOMA talks. Until further notice all events are at Frindsbury Parish Hall, Church Green, ME2 4HE. 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.

Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre

Exhibitions

Lest We Forget—1916

30 June - 6 Sept 2016

Remembering the Men of the Medway Towns in WW1: The Ultimate Sacrifice, Part 3: 1916. Exhibition by the Friends of Medway Archives

ALL MALSC EXHIBITIONS ARE FREE.

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.

Conscientious Objection

Part 3: Pressure Groups

Opposition to the Great War commenced long before conscription was introduced. An open air anti-war demonstration was held in Gillingham shortly after hostilities were declared. Rochester Quakers also posted a notice in the local paper, which whilst not directly opposing the war did criticise all parties and nations that had contributed towards the circumstances that led to the conflict. Headley Horsnail, clerk to Rochester Meeting, was clear that the government had made great efforts to find a peaceable resolution to the state of affairs in Europe:

‘While as a Society, we stand firmly to the belief that the method of force is no solution of any question, we hold that the present moment is not one for criticism, but for devoted service to our nation.’

Rochester Quakers considered their own position on warfare and in the above statement concluded:

‘For those whom conscience forbids them to take up arms there are other ways of serving, and definite plans are already being made to enable them to take their full share in helping their country at this crisis...To do this is in no sense unpatriotic. We find ourselves the subjects of misunderstanding. But our duty is clear-to be courageous in the cause of love and in the hate of hate.’¹

Although holding a pacifist stance, Rochester Meeting were quick to point out that they were prepared to be patriotic and undertake non-combatant roles. The Friends Ambulance Unit was set up immediately on the outbreak of war to allow

Quakers to voluntarily serve their country behind the frontline in France. Many volunteered long before conscription was introduced; Arthur Jeffrey, Rochester's librarian, joined the unit in November 1915, undertook some basic training and by 15 December was posted to Dunkirk as an ambulance driver.² However Horsnaill not only looked at the circumstances surrounding the conflict, but was also considering the need for negotiation and reconstruction after the war. Quakers, were therefore, looking at the wider picture and long term implications of the Great War.³

By September 1914 the Voluntary Training Corps (VTC) had been set up as a home defence unit. Part of the VTC's role was to drill and train volunteers in the use of weapons. In April 1915 the local VTC asked Rochester Council to help set up and maintain a rifle range at the Quarry Cement Works in Frindsbury. However councillors Alfred Horsnaill and Robert Dale, both Quakers, opposed the use of ratepayers' money to fund this scheme. Horsnaill went on to explain his pacifist stance and opposition to the rifle range: 'killing was absolutely wrong, and that it was anti-Christian; therefore as a Christian, he was unable to support in any way this recommendation.' Some councillors refused to condone this pacifist outlook when at war with Germany. E. W. Willis judged his fellow councillor to be unpatriotic: 'it had given Councillor Horsnaill an excellent opportunity of giving his view on war generally, and no doubt if the Kaiser came here he would hold out the right hand of fellowship ...'⁴

The motion was passed with three councillors voting against. Although in the minority, the Quaker councillors were prepared to take every possible opportunity to promote their cause. It is also clear that despite their longstanding history of pacifism in the Medway Towns, their promotion of anti-war views was not overly popular amongst local councillors. Yet they received a level of both fair treatment and exemptions at the Rochester tribunal, which was not matched elsewhere. Quakers were thus respected for their individual conscience, but not encouraged to impose their opinions on others.

Just a week later Rochester meeting posted a Peace Memorial in the *Chatham News* addressed to the Prime Minister and government. An open invitation was given to all to come and sign the petition at the Friends Meeting House in Rochester or contact the clerk of the meeting, Headley Horsnaill. The intention was to convince the government to start peace negotiations with Germany after eight months of warfare.⁵ During May 1915 the *Daily Telegraph* asked local councils to pledge that they would give preference in filling jobs to men who had enlisted to serve their country or were munitions workers. Robert Dale stated he could not agree with this notion: 'He thought the highest conception of patriotism was, that every man should act up to the dictates of his conscience,' and subsequently voted against the proposal. However opposition to this proposal also came from Councillor Hudson: 'it is very often harder to say "No" than it is to say "Yes".' Councillor Willis had a particularly hostile attitude to conscientious objectors, wanting 'to intern with the naturalised Germans the three gentlemen

1914 and after the war she lived in London (33 Hunter House, St Pancras) and married Martin in 1922 though she remained in practice as a "physician" at 59 Queen Anne Street, Mayfair. They had two sons, both of whom became engineers. She died in 1937."

Unfortunately I have been unable to discover the cause of her early death.

Naomi Tribe was born in 1888 and towards the end of the war in July 1918 she married John Horace Dancy. Information from the *Ancestry* website shows she died on 23 November 1937, but a newspaper article contained within the *Ancestry* family tree of descendant Graham Tribe, revealed more:

'A former army officer, maddened by the gathering darkness of total blindness, shot and killed his sleeping sister with bullets through her "beautiful eyes" today, then ended his own life by slashing his throat with a razor.

Dr John Horace Dancy, husband of the victim of the shooting, Dr Naomi Dancy, 49, baby specialist, rushed to the bedroom scene of the tragedy and barely missed bullets fired from the pistol in the hands of Maurice Tribe, 43, the invalid former officer.

The husband's 70-year-old mother, also a physician, said Tribe, embittered by failing sight in his one good eye, shouted to his sister, "you've beautiful eyes," then slew her.

Dr Naomi Dancy had dressed her brother's injured knee and laid down for a nap when he entered her room. Her husband escaped bullets aimed at him by switching off the lights when he ran into the room.

The sound of the revolver shot and screams of Mrs Dancy aroused the household. A maid found both persons in a dying coma with an army service revolver and a razor in the room.

One published account said Tribe showed a "strangeness" when Mrs Dancy came home. He was said to have shouted wildly:

"Naomi, you have beautiful eyes. They are glorious to look upon."

Friends said Mr and Mrs Dancy were a devoted couple.

Mrs Dancy was extremely attractive, with striking eyes.

Tribe, who had lived with the family for some time, was wounded badly during the World war [sic]. He had only one eye.

Mrs Dancy was shot in the eyes, and some investigators linked this fact with reports her brother had brooded over his own eye trouble.'

Sadly in the 1916 photograph (right) Dr Tribe has her eyes closed.

Photograph kindly supplied by Nick Baldwin, the Archivist at Great Ormond Street Hospital.



New Accessions

DE1260	Kingsnorth landing pier, plan	1931	May 2016
GBC/H	Gillingham BC: Public Health (series)	1894-1975	Jul 2016
DE1248	Lewis, Bell, Darley & Gambrill Solicitors papers	1720-c1970	Jul 2016

Editor's Footnotes

Amanda Thomas



Amanda Thomas is a freelance writer and public relations consultant. Born in Chatham, but now based in Hertfordshire, she belongs to several historical organisations, including the Kent Family History Society, the North West Kent Family History Society, and The Council for British Archaeology; she has a degree in Italian from the University of Kent and is a member of their alumni association. Amanda was made a full member of the Society of Women Writers and Journalists in 2008.

The Women Doctors who looked after Ivy Wellard

When I first read Betty Cole's article (see page 11) I was intrigued about what had happened to surgeon Naomi Tribe and anaesthetist Marjorie Blandy. Were their careers advanced by the First World War or, when the male doctors returned from the Front, did their lives return to what they had once been? The answer was somewhat unexpected.

Marjorie Blandy became Assistant Physician at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital in London and researched on early nervous disease. She married Ulsterman James Purdon Martin, a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, with whom she had two sons. Further information was gleaned from the *Dictionary of Ulster Biography*

(www.newulsterbiography.co.uk/index.php/home/viewPerson/2128):

'Marjorie Ada Blandy, a doctor and the first woman medical registrar ever appointed at Queen Square. She was born in Spain in 1892 her father being Richard Redpath Blandy, a British Subject though born in Madeira. [Her mother was Ada Eliza Penfold]. Marjorie served in the Women's Hospital Corps at Wimereux in the Pas-de-Calais of northern France, as early as October

who had spoken ... Of course in the case of Councillors Horsnaill and Dale he quite understood the atmosphere-the Society of Friends-in which they were brought up, and could make allowance for them ...'⁶ There is again this notion that councillors, like Willis, accepted the Quakers principle of individual conscience, but did not think the council chamber was a place to air their views. In January 1916 the Military Service Act introduced conscription into Britain for the first time. Provision was made within the Act for men to put in appeals before local tribunals on grounds of business, family or conscientious objection. The first of these tribunals met in February 1916 with Rochester appearing to have started this process before either Chatham or Gillingham. Headley Horsnaill placed a notice in the *Chatham News* of 19 February 1916, inviting fellow conscientious objectors who were due to appear before any of the local tribunals to contact him. Rochester Quakers were prepared to discuss and give advice to all 'conchies' regardless of their religion or stance. This was a bold move by him at the time his own application was being heard by Rochester tribunal and considering the manner in which some members of the council (and now also tribunal members) had slated his father the previous year for the same views.⁷ Horsnaill was given exemption from combatant service by the local tribunal, but appealed to the West Kent tribunal for total exemption; this was a category rarely granted anywhere for conscientious objectors. Needless to say he was unsuccessful and opted to join the Friends Ambulance Unit during May 1916, being sent to Saddlescombe in West Sussex to undertake farmwork.⁸ His occupation as a corn and seed merchant was probably behind this decision.

From 1916 until the end of the war Councillor Alfred Horsnaill was a prison visitor to conscientious objectors held in Maidstone Gaol. Rochester Quaker Minutes record a number of non-Friends he had contact with in gaol. He also backed Bert Cable of Gillingham, a member of the Peculiar People, at his appeal at the West Kent tribunal, succeeding in getting the local decision overturned and allowing Cable to join the Non-Combatant Corps.⁹ Henry Smith, the Quaker gospel minister at the Delce Mission, acted as a witness on behalf of Ernest Johncock of Maidstone on his arrest. Norman Grubb, a Friend and Cobham market gardener, ensured that Albert Waterton of Denton could continue his work of national importance by offering him employment on his farm. Headley Horsnaill stated his business had refused army contracts since the outbreak of war and was praised by the Kent tribunal for his well-presented case. The only absolute exemptions for conscience objectors granted in the Medway Towns were to his brother Alfred Horsnaill and Henry Smith. Both of these decisions were challenged by the Military Representative on the tribunal, but were upheld. Smith's case was so unique, that it was quoted as a precedent in the case of a Diss Quaker minister of the gospel.¹⁰ Further proof of Rochester Quaker's stance against war is evident in the meeting minute book for the period. Their willingness to proactively promote the cause of conscientious objectors and support those from outside their faith, despite criticism from councillors and others shows their whole-hearted commitment to pacifism. Throughout 1917 and 1918 they continued to challenge unfair treatment of conscientious objectors and warfare in general.¹¹

Nationally many Quakers joined or supported the No-Conscription Fellowship (NCF) set up in 1915 to fight the proposed Military Service Act. However locally there is no indication that the two groups worked together. From the NCF registers held at the Imperial War Museum we know two Strood men were members of the organisation. Ishmail Girling, a Primitive Methodist and employee of Aveling & Porter, apparently belonged to this pressure group, but there is no evidence of him coming before a local tribunal or fighting the cause of other local conscientious objectors. In all likelihood his job as an engineer for Aveling & Porter would have been badged, i.e. giving him exemption in a vital occupation to the war effort.¹²

Various tribunal records indicate that a further three Medway conscientious objectors were members of this organisation in 1916. George Osborne was the secretary of the Rochester and District branch of the organisation, which sent a protest to the *Chatham News* on 18 March 1916 about the operation of two of the local tribunals. It complained that the Rochester Tribunal was hearing cases in camera, rather than in public. However this was not the first time this grievance was aired, as a correspondent pointed this out in the *Chatham Observer* of 4 March:

‘It would be interesting to know the reason why the Rochester Tribunal decided to take the claims of conscientious objectors in camera. There is no class of cases that require more careful scrutiny than these, and the more publicity that is given to them the better the bulk of residents be pleased.’¹³

After this public condemnation of the way the tribunal heard cases, Rochester opened its doors to the newspapers and public. The correspondent had a point as false or inaccurate evidence could not be challenged without public reporting. All Medway tribunals were open and allowed full reporting of names and cases. This is not the case across Kent, where openness and reporting differed widely. The NCF was also quick to point out that the *Chatham News* had shown how unfair the other local tribunals had been to conscientious objectors:

‘The proceedings at Gillingham last week will serve as an example. Instead of ascertaining facts, the applicants were badgered with questions of a hypothetical nature, dealing not with the moral issues of the long and carefully calculated effort of one community to kill another community, but with the moral issues of a sudden personal emergency. Nor was there at that Tribunal that atmosphere of calm which should over accompany the deliberations of a judicial assembly.’¹⁴

Author and FOMA member Brian Joyce has calculated that these appellants were given at most five minutes to state their case and much of this was taken up with questions of the nature: ‘what would you do if the Germans raped your mother or sister?’¹⁵ Newspaper reporting allowed the NCF to scrutinise the activities of these tribunals and expose any obvious flaws or prejudice.

Although the local NCF branch was active in early 1916, none of the conscientious objectors received any assistance from the NCF at their hearings locally or at county level. As Joyce observed, it seems apparent that the local NCF fizzled out

Archives Update

Alison Cable, Borough Archivist



The latest news from the Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre

Relocation

Building work has commenced at the Bryant Road, Strood site prior to our move there from the clock tower building. Local houses have been leafleted about the work and advised that access to the car park will be curtailed from now on. The project is on schedule and we aim to have a soft launch in Spring, 2017; regular reports will follow from the autumn onwards.

Archive Collections

We have gone into partnership with the family history website *Ancestry* in order to make our pre-1916 workhouse registers available online. They are hoping to launch the project in late August, and there will be publicity about this nearer to the time.

As we are preparing collections for moving, it will not be feasible to accept new donations or deposits from now on. New accessions will be accepted only when we have reopened to the public in 2017 and then (as always) by prior appointment after a preliminary approach has been made to the archivist.

November Stocktake

As we will be closing after Christmas to facilitate the move to Bryant Road, we will not be closing for our November stocktake this year. The office will remain open throughout November.

FOMA Purchase

We are delighted that the FOMA Committee has agreed to purchase an Uscan fiche/film reader for our move to the new site (see Tessa Towner's report on page 3).

Events

Dr David Wright will be running his popular Palaeography workshop at MALSC on 19 October 2016. The course will run from 10 to 4pm and be limited to 10 attendees. Please let me know if you are interested at alison.cable@medway.gov.uk or on 01634 332714.

This written material, as well as copious illustrations including one of 'Mr Waghorn's iron express coach for the desert', from a variety of concurrent sources, has enabled the author to portray Waghorn as a young man of considerable determination in achieving his aims and objectives with an unabated zeal against often overwhelming opposition. Such continued activity no doubt shortened his life, and he died in 1850. Nineteen years later the opening of the Suez Canal was to render all his ideas and works obsolete. Today a passage to India will involve a different type of *Jumbo* taking you to Bombay in ten hours, an impossible dream for Thomas Fletcher Waghorn and his canal train of 1840 between Alexandria and Cosseir.

Zeal Unabated: The Life of Thomas Fletcher Waghorn 1800-1850 by Andrew Ashbee; ISBN 978 0 9507 8 4. Available from local booksellers for £15 and from the counter at Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre at a special discounted price of £12.99.

Copies are also available direct from Andrew Ashbee for only £10 (p&p £2.50); 214, Malling Road, Snodland, Kent ME6 5EQ.

Andrew Ashbee signed copies of his latest book following the *Medway Hulks* talk on 14 June 2016 by Dr Jeremy Clarke – see page 47.



The Council for British Archaeology, Home Front Legacy 1914-18 project

A UK-wide project helping communities record and map our First World War sites, coordinated by the Council for British Archaeology. Contributions are welcome. For further information please visit:

<http://www.homefrontlegacy.org.uk/wp/blog/home-front-legacy-spring-2016-update-the-build-up-to-the-somme/>

quickly and made no effort to support its local members or other conscientious objectors. Most NCF area representatives informed headquarters of arrests etc. and these cases were subsequently reported in the group's newsletter, *The Tribune*, but none of the Medway objectors were mentioned. The enlistment of its local secretary, George Osborne, into the Non-Combatant Corps in November 1916 was the end of the movement's operation in the Medway Towns.¹⁶

Rochester Quakers took over the role that the NCF failed to fulfil. Why did they not join and bolster the NCF locally? Possibly their two hundred and fifty year history of pacifist struggle locally attracted conscientious objectors to them for advice and representation rather than a new unknown quantity. Though restricting new membership during the war years, the Quakers had enquiries from pacifists and several of these became attenders at the local meeting. Perhaps the local Quakers felt comfortable and confident in their ability to carry out this work alone.

The final article in this series on conscientious objectors in World War One (The Clock Tower, November 2016) will look at the role, manner, and bias of the local newspapers in reporting this topic.

Notes

1. *Chatham News* 12/9/1914.
2. Friends Library, Friends Ambulance Unit Personnel Cards, No 1/1/1053.
3. *Chatham News* 12/9/1914.
4. *Chatham News* 17/4/1915.
5. *Chatham News* 24/4/1915.
6. *Chatham News* 15/5/1915.
7. *Chatham News* 19/2/1916.
8. KH&LC, West Kent Appeal Tribunal 1916-1918, Conscientious Objectors Case Files, C/A2/15/14 File A; Friends Library, Friends Ambulance Unit Personnel Records, No 1/1/1317; *Kent Messenger* 25/3/1916.
9. Friends Library, SERV/VOPC/Cases, Box 29 (Mitchell), Letter A E Horsnail 2/4/1917; Temp MSS 835, Harvey Papers, Box 11/4, Letter Alexander to Harvey 18/8/1916; KH&LC, N/FMr1/8, Rochester Quaker Meeting Minutes 1910-1932; West Kent Appeal Tribunal 1916-1918, Conscientious Objectors Case Files, C/A2/15/14 File A.
10. *Kent Messenger* 25/3/1916; *Chatham News* 31/3/1917; KH&LC, West Kent Appeal Tribunal 1916-1918, Conscientious Objectors Case Files, C/A2/15/14 File A.
11. KH&LC, N/FMr1/8, Rochester Quaker Meeting Minutes 1910-1932; *Chatham News*, 1/12/1917 & 17/8/1918.
12. Cyril Pearce Conscientious Objectors Database; *The Primitive Methodist Leader* 30/7/1914.
13. T. Kennedy, *The Hound of Conscience*, Appendix A; *Chatham News* 18/3/1916; *Chatham Observer* 4/3/1916.
14. *Chatham News* 18/3/1916.
15. B. Joyce, 'Medway Towns Conscientious Objectors and their treatment at the hands of the Local Military Service Tribunals 1916-1918', (MA Dissertation, 1988).
16. Ibid; www.findmypast.com or www.ancestry.co.uk for G Osborne military record (service no 4587 in NCC). Record includes correspondence about his conscientious objection.

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.

Hanover

It was possibly conflict and conciliation that brought the Dukes of Sussex and Clarence to Rochester in the early nineteenth century, to be enrolled as Honorary Freemen of Rochester.

William Henry, Duke of Clarence (later to be William IV), was the only son of George III not to have a military career. Because of his more liberal views and sympathy for the various reform movements he was known to be out of favour with his father and the government. Revolution and Reform were in the air at that time and had been for some years. Rebellion, due primarily to the Corn Laws which protected large landowners in times of poor harvests, by raising prices, and shortage of food for the rest of the population led to the formation of the Anti Corn Law League. Radical pamphlets were showered on the public concerning Catholic emancipation, slavery and franchise.

The Medway area was not immune to this. In 1793 there was a riot at Chatham over the price of meat, which had been supported by the local militia³⁸. The Patriotic Society of Rochester had been banned³⁹ and on 14 October 1811 a committee was appointed to inquire into the *causes of the late outrageous proceedings in the city who conceived it not only to be their duty in the present Situation of Public Affairs but feel it their strong inclination to cooperate with the*

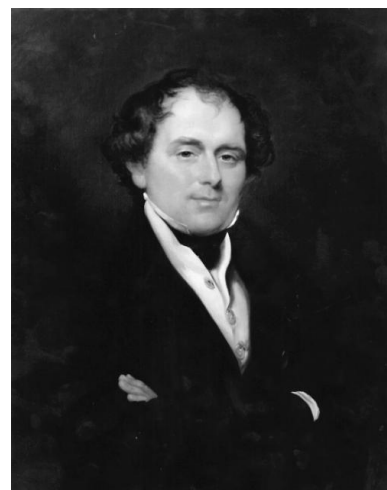
Magnum Opus

Bob Ratcliffe



Bob Ratcliffe is a retired architect. He is President of The City of Rochester Society and a local historian; Bob is also a FOMA committee member.

Zeal Unabated: The Life of Thomas Fletcher Waghorn by Dr. Andrew Ashbee



To most residents of the Medway Towns, T.F. Waghorn is the gentleman frequently wearing a traffic cone at the junction of New Road and Railway Street, Chatham. Those of a more inquisitive nature may know that he had something to do with 'the overland route to India' and that he lived at Snodland during the first half of the nineteenth century (see *The Clock Tower* Issues 6: May 2007, 7: August 2007, 15: August 2009, and 28: November 2012). Now, thanks to Andrew Ashbee's excellent biography, a more detailed tale of Waghorn's endeavours is told.

Waghorn was only twelve when he joined the Royal Navy. He was promoted to the rank of lieutenant before being transferred to the East India Company where he developed an interest in alternative routes to the sub continent. In the face of much adversity and at the time when transport, both by land and sea, was being revolutionised, Waghorn sought alternate routes via Syria and the Persian Gulf and via Egypt and the Red Sea. Despite considerable opposition he maintained pressure on the various parties involved by a continuing barrage of letters and reports.

Through considerable research, Dr Ashbee has brought together much of Waghorn's correspondence, together with that of other parties involved in developing the route to India and the East. Also included are extracts from the journals of two intrepid ladies of the time, the Misses Emma Roberts and Georgina Damer, who used Waghorn's overland route in 1839 and 1840.

43. Pocock, Tom: *Sailor King: The Life of William IV*.
 44. *Rochester Gazette*, 6 December 1836.
 45. Raymond, John: *Queen Victoria's Early Letters*.
 46. Longford, Elizabeth: *Victoria R.I.*.
 47. Bignell, Alan: *Hundred of Hoo Railway*.
 48. *Chatham Rochester & Brompton Observer*, 5 February 1898.

In the next issue: *The Twentieth Century*.

Huguenot Museum Update

Amy Dimmock



Amy Dimmock is the Learning and Community Engagement Officer at the Huguenot Museum, Rochester. Amy studied Classics and Archaeology at the University of Kent before completing her Museum Studies MA at Leicester University. She returned to Kent to begin her museum career as Assistant Curator at The Royal Engineers Museum in Brompton. Amy is passionate about history and crafting and is excited to be a part of the Huguenot Museum team!

It's been a busy time at The Huguenot Museum with lots of events and activities. The Museum was happy to welcome Cas Holmes back for another wonderful stitching workshop on 16 July. The event was so popular we even had a waiting list and the participants all had a lovely time making postcard sized textiles pieces.

With the school summer holidays now upon us The Huguenot Museum will be running children's craft activities every Thursday on the theme of Huguenot Pirates. The latest sessions will be running on the 18, 25 August at 10:30am, 12:30pm and 2:30pm and are priced at £4 per child. We even have play mats, colouring and toys to keep the really little ones entertained!

Come September The Saturday Club will be starting again on 3 September with marble book making, and the return of Story Time for the under 5s every Thursday 10:00-11:00am. For adults we also have some exciting events coming up including a talk by Dr Kathy Chater on how to trace your Huguenot ancestors in Europe on 16 September, 2:30-4:00pm; £10 a ticket. We also will be running a beginners crochet workshop on 17 September, 10:00-1:30pm; £35 a ticket which includes a goodie bag to take home with you! The Huguenot Museum is also taking part in Heritage Open Day on 10 September with free entry all day.

In other news the Museum is now advertising for a new Director as Emily Fuggle will soon be moving to New York! We are all very excited for her but sorry to see her leave the Museum.

To book all events please call 01634 789347 or visit www.huguenotmuseum.org; more information on page 36.

neighbouring magistrates in suppressing all seditious meetings and ordered that all inhabitants of Rochester should report any knowledge of such⁴⁰.

On 18 November 1816 the Corporation met at one o'clock at the Guildhall, and having finished their ordinary business at half past two they robed and, preceded by their sergeants and Peace Officers, went to the Crown Inn to receive the Duke of Sussex who was accompanied by several dignitaries including the Lord Mayor of London. After mutual introductions a procession was formed for the return to the Guildhall. The Duke was on the right of the Mayor, followed by the Aldermen, the Town Clerk and Assistants. In the Guildhall the Duke was on the right of the Mayor when the Town Clerk administered the oath of an honorary freeman. The Lord Mayor of London was also enrolled as an Honorary Freeman that day. After the formalities the royal party was entertained by the Mayor and Corporation at the Crown Inn *at their own individual expense*⁴¹.

A statue of the Duke of Sussex stood for many years in the middle of Theobald Square (now La Providence). The only statue to have ever been erected in Rochester it was removed much vandalised, in the 1950s. His older brother, William Henry, Duke of Clarence (later William IV) was admitted as an honorary Freeman on 24 July 1820 and was presented with a certificate of his freedom *fairly written on vellum and emblazoned with the City Arms and bordered by a wreath of oak*⁴². Sailor Billy, as he was known, would also have been considered to be sympathetic to the Medway Towns. During several visits to the navy at Chatham he stayed at the Mitre Hotel (*Clarence* was added later) in Chatham High Street. He entered the Royal Navy as a midshipman in 1785 at the age of thirteen, served in North America and the Caribbean, and was present at the battle of Cape St Vincent⁴³. The Duke was captain of several ships, the last being the 74-gun *HMS Valiant* that was launched at Chatham on 10 August 1759.

In December 1836 Princess Victoria (later Queen) arrived at the Bull Hotel in Rochester High Street with her mother, the Duchess of Kent, on their return from a tour of the county. They had intended to change horses only. However, because of the intensity of the storm then raging, it was decided to stay overnight⁴⁴. Subsequently *Royal Victoria* was added to the inn sign and a coat of arms was placed over the main entrance.

More conflict brought royal visits when in 1855 Queen Victoria and members of her family made three visits to the area. On 3 March the Queen came *for the purpose of evincing Royal sympathy and consideration for those brave and gallant men who are now suffering from the effects of the mighty war ...* On 5 March she wrote to Lord Panmure⁴⁵:

The Queen is very anxious to bring before Lord Panmure the subject which she mentioned to him the other night, viz. That of Hospitals for our sick and wounded soldiers. This is absolutely necessary, and now is the moment to have them built, for no doubt there would be no difficulty in obtaining the money requisite for this purpose, from the strong feeling now existing in the public mind for improvements of all kinds connected with the Army and well-being and comfort of the soldier.

Nothing can exceed the attention of these poor men in the Barracks at Chatham) or rather more Fort Pitt and Brompton), they are in just that respect very comfortable; but the buildings are bad – the wards more like prisons than hospitals, with the windows so high that no one can look out of them; and the generality of the wards are small rooms, with hardly space to walk between the beds. There is no dining-room or hall, so that the poor men must have their dinners in the same room in which they sleep, and in which some may be dying, and any rate many suffering, while others ate their meals. The proposition of having hulks prepared for their reception will do very well at first, but it would not, the Queen thinks, do for any length of time. A hulk is a very gloomy place, and these poor men require their spirits to be cheered as much as their physical sufferings to be attended to. The Queen is particularly anxious on this subject, which is, she may truly say, constantly in her thoughts, as everything is connected to her beloved troops, who have fought so bravely and borne so heroically all their sufferings and privations.

She described an underground ward in one hospital as a *robber's den* and she also had *pity for the men who could bear pain so much less than us women*⁴⁶.

From the 1880s many members of the royal family were in the Medway area when travelling to the continent. The South Eastern Railway promoted a railway line to be built through the Hoo Peninsula to carry passengers from London to the Isle of Grain. Port Victoria, as the station was called opened on 11 September 1882. Queen Victoria was a frequent traveller. It was reported that she *took a rather curious fancy to Grain as a departure point for trips to Germany*⁴⁷. The station closed in 1951.

On the 22 June 1896 Queen Victoria's second son, Prince Alfred, the Duke of Edinburgh and Saxe-Coburg and Gotha visited Chatham to present new colours to the Chatham Division of the Royal Marines at the Officer's Mess. The Prince served in the Royal Navy for over forty years and was Honorary Colonel of the Royal Marines.

A celebratory royal occasion took place at Chatham on 3 February 1898 when Queen Victoria's daughter, Princess Christian of Denmark, laid the foundation stone of the new Town Hall. The Princess travelled from London by special train on the London, Chatham and Dover Railway which on *this occasion being more than punctual* arrived one minute early. A Guard of Honour of one hundred men of the Royal Scots Guards, *with band and colours* was lined up in the yard of Chatham station, who together with a detachment of the West Kent (Queen's Own Yeoman Cavalry) formed the Royal escort. Chatham was *en fete* as described in a local newspaper⁴⁸:

The pageant on Wednesday was a brilliant affair, and was distinguished by the combination of the civil, clerical and service elements of the town, and the gracing of the whole by the presence of Royalty... with the cooperation of the naval and military we had a display that at once appealed to the eye and gave a

demonstration of the important factors in the life of Chatham as a Dockyard and Garrison town. The red line along the streets, the brilliant guards of honour, the royal escort, the military bands... Captain Burgess and the members of the Chatham Fire Brigade whose helmets glistened like burnished gold as the rays of the sun every now and then fell upon them made up a picture which shone resplendent in the exceptionally bright, clear sunshine of a February day ...

The road between Chatham station and the Dockyard was lined with *gay and picturesque* decorations including Venetian masts with multi-coloured streamers and banners and a shield surmounted by five small flags halfway down the masts and loops of paper rosettes and evergreens strung across the roadway. After the official proceedings at the Town Hall site the Princess was presented with the silver trowel, ivory mallet and level to commemorate the occasion and the Princess and invited guests left for Government House. The procession passed under a *triumphal arch which spanned the roadway at the Gun Wharf*, where the drawbridge used to be. It was built:

From the multitudinous materials drawn from the art and craft of the Engineer. The skeleton of the arch was built on the same lines as a bridge would have been constructed for military purposes and the decoration were the ordinary tools and appliances which are used in their every day work... a rebutment was built of 1,800 sandbags and 50 railway sleepers... huge beams were supported on two piers, so that three arches were formed... The piers had at their base steel band gabions six feet high with submarine mine resting on the huge beams were carried over the thoroughfare top one on each corner on the ground. On the sides of the piers facing Chatham a submariner miner in his weird uniform sat like a piece of statuary on each of the upper mines. Suspended above were escalading ladders and various kinds of tools... and a side design of oars with lifebuoy in the middle. On the other side of the arch on a shield were a new helmet designed for exploring foul mines, and the pump for introducing fresh air. In the centre of the arch above the crossbeams a crow's nest was formed from which hung the flagstaff bearing the Royal Standard. Large shields with trenching and other tools formed the centre piece of the crow's nest on each side and underneath the mottoes God Save the Queen. Rows of gabions along the upper line of the arch gave to the whole a castellated look and the sight of two three-pounder quick-firing Hotchkiss guns added an air of modernity.

The arch was constructed by the 286th Squadron, under the supervision of Q.M.S Baker and flags hung by four of the naval signallers. After lunch the Princess attended the dedication of the new Victoria Tower of St Mary's Church, Chatham before being driven back to Chatham station where she departed at 4 o'clock.

Notes

38. Woods, Joanna: *The Commissioner's Daughter*.

39. City of Rochester Archives: RCA/A1/5.

40. Ibid.

41. Ibid.

42. Ibid.