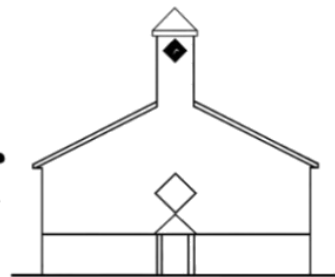




The Clock Tower



Issue Number 48: November 2017
£2.00; free to members

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

The Uscan Digital Reader



The Uscan fiche/film reader has been purchased and is now available to use in the new Medway Archives Centre. Pictured are FOMA Chairman, Elaine Gardner and (seated) Secretary Odette Buchanan. Odette helped forge the agreement with the City of Rochester Society for its purchase. More overleaf.

ALSO INSIDE:

Broom Hill in World War One AND the War Memorials of Cobham architect Herbert Baker

PLUS

Let's all go down the Strand! By Chatham Traction's Richard Bourne

The new Uscan fiche/film Reader

Amanda Thomas

Prior to the Medway Archives' move to the new site in Bryant Road, Strood, the FOMA Committee asked Archivist Alison Cable if there was any new equipment she needed. Having agreed to purchase a new Uscan fiche/film reader, the committee was delighted when the City of Rochester Society offered to help us out with a grant of £2,600. Engineered by FOMA Secretary, Odette Buchanan, the FOMA Committee realised that this boost to funds would enable us to do even more in the future – something which we are continuing to look at.

At the FOMA Celebration on 25 March 2017, City of Rochester Society President (and also FOMA Committee member) Bob Ratcliffe presented FOMA President Russell Race and Chairman Tessa Towner with the cheque (see *The Clock Tower*, Issue 46, May 2017).



Above: The presentation in March.

Right: Bob Ratcliffe makes a note of the wording to give to the plaque engraver.

The Uscan fiche/film reader has now been purchased and is available to use in the new Medway Archives Centre. An engraved plaque has been attached to the reader which says: 'This machine was purchased by FOMA from a donation given by the City of Rochester Society.'

Let's hope it gets plenty of use!



Chairman's Letter

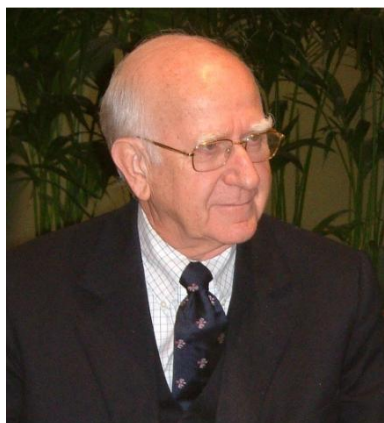
Elaine Gardner



In my last newsletter I was speaking of FOMA's exhibition commemorating the men from the Medway area who lost their lives in 1917. This is now on display in the lobby of the new Medway Archives Centre (MAC) and it will be there until the beginning of December – even during the stock taking closure period. So, if you haven't yet visited the new building, kill two birds with one stone, as the saying goes, and go and visit both! It was very difficult for Tessa and me working blind on this exhibition since we had no idea just how much space there would be to display the material we were putting together. In retrospect the pictures of the men along the bottom of the display could have been much bigger. However, we now know for next year which will be the final one (1918) in our series to commemorate the Centenary of World War One.

Having spent so much time researching the Ypres campaign of 1917 it was both interesting and thought provoking to spend a day visiting some of the sights whilst in Belgium during October. The Menin Gate and Tyne Cot Memorials gave me the opportunity to photograph the names of some of the men in the FOMA exhibition who are recorded there. The Flanders Fields Museum in Ypres gave an insight into the whole period of the war, and the Passchaendale Museum in Zonnebeke concentrated on the third Ypres Campaign of 1917 from the point of view of all the nations involved. Some of the Imperial War Museum photographs I had chosen for our exhibition at MAC were on display there too!

By the time you read this we will have held our last talk of the year, *Establishing the Commonwealth War Graves Commission 1917*. The talk links up with our WWI exhibition at MAC as it is also 100 years since the Commonwealth War Graves Commission was established. Herbert Baker, an ancestor of our member Michael Baker was involved with the designs for many of the cemeteries and you can read Michael's article about this on page 9.



Photograph: Sir Robert Worcester, with thanks to Kerry Colville.

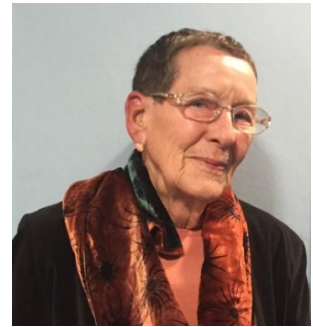
Shortly after the new Medway Archives Centre opened, Tessa Towner and I were delighted to be able to give FOMA Vice President Sir Robert Worcester a private tour. Sir Robert (pictured) is passionate about the history of our area and we were delighted that during our tour he agreed to become FOMA's Patron. Sir Robert has loyally supported FOMA's projects over the past ten years. He is the Founder of MORI, (Market and Opinion Research International), Deputy Chairman of the Magna Carta Trust, and Visiting Professor of the London School of Economics and Kings College London.

It would be lovely to see more of you at the events we organise. Please let us know what sort of things you would like to do and see so that we can arrange them. Contact our Editor, Amanda Thomas at amanda@ajthomas.com

Since this is the last edition of 2017 may I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and I look forward to your feedback in 2018!

Secretary's Report

Odette Buchanan



Hullo all and welcome to autumn! We know it's autumn because the trees are all russet and gold, there's a morning nip in the air and the clocks have gone back to Greenwich Mean Time. (I see that even that has joined in the great Brexit debate – when we've ceded from the EU should we stick with the status quo or have summer time all year?). However, another sign that it's autumn are the Autumn Lectures that we have again enjoyed at Rochester's Guildhall on Thursday evenings throughout October. The Guildhall team are to be congratulated for again producing high quality speakers to enlighten us on yet more insights into the medieval world and Rochester in particular. Talking of that, they are anxious to continue to present quality speakers on topics of local historical interest in what has turned into an annual feature – do you have any special ideas or subjects that interest you? If so, let me know and I will forward them all on to the organizers.

At our September talk we were also entertained when Archivist Alison Cable regaled us with the problems encountered in the moving of the Medway Archives from the Clock Tower building to what was the library in Bryant Road, Strood. You can read Elaine Gardner's report on the talk on page 19. Also, have you noticed that with the move there has been a change of name? No longer is it Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre (MALSC). It has shrunk into Medway Archives Centre (MAC).

Please visit FOMA's annual World War One exhibition in the MAC foyer: *The Ultimate Sacrifice: The Men of the Medway Towns 1917*. This was an especially significant year in the war with some horrendous battles in which many local lives were lost. Elaine Gardner and Tessa Towner have excelled themselves with the exhibition this year, and the foyer will remain open during the Archives' annual stocktake closure (Monday, 6 November to Saturday, 18 November).

Talking of the foyer, FOMA and Friends of Broomhill have been working with the Prefab Museum at Catford to mount their travelling interactive exhibition in the MAC foyer on Saturday, 14 October. Over 120 people visited and shared their memories, photos and mementos. This was financed by a Heritage Lottery Fund grant which expired at the end of October. The Prefab Museum recorded many of the memories and we were also treated to a very informative film. There were displays about prefabs in general as well as the Archives' display from 2009 on the prefab estates in Medway. Also on display was information about the prefabs which had once been on Broom Hill, thanks to the Friends of Broomhill (see also my articles on prefabs in *The Clock Tower* : Issues 44, 45 and 46, November 2016, and February and May 2017).

After the spring setback when we had to cancel the bi-annual quiz due to lack of support, we were very pleased on Saturday October 28 to get back to this usually well supported function. As always, Elaine Gardner's questions were challenging and in the interval the food was very good! Thanks to Elaine and also Betty Cole and Tessa Towner for preparing the food, and to Tessa for keeping score, Kevin Russell for assisting with tables and Cat Clement for helping me man the door and sell raffle tickets. All in all, a very enjoyable and entertaining evening.

And so to Christmas! Please join us at MAC for their Christmas Event on 13 December. I must say I am looking forward to the afternoon talk – *Christmas in the Workhouse* with Deborah Collins – see the back cover for details. Very best wishes to you all for a happy and healthy New Year.

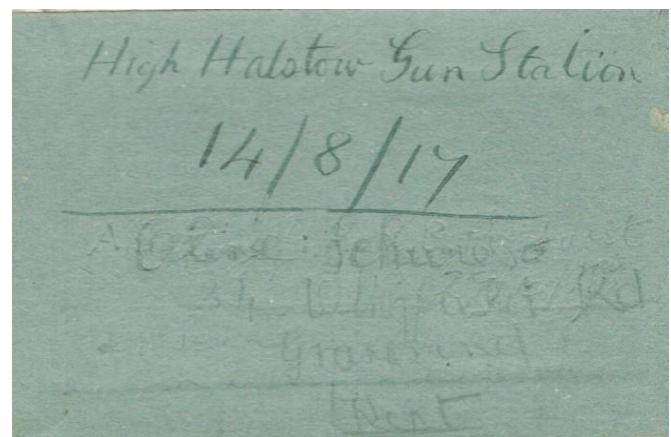
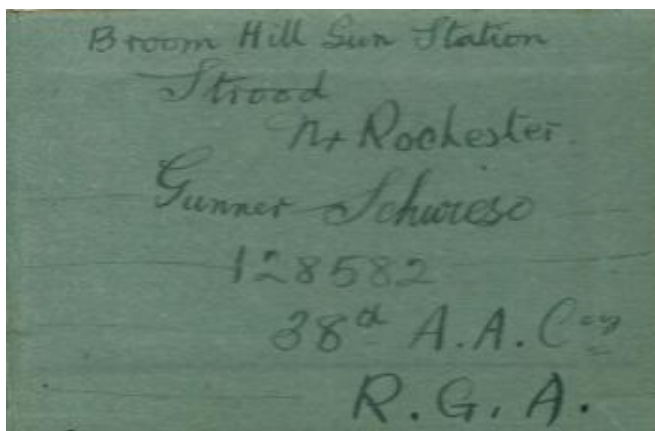
Broom Hill in World War One

Josh Schwieso



Josh Schwieso was born in Rochester in 1949 and lived in Dartford until he went to college. He spent his working life teaching Psychology in Reading and Bristol and now lives in Somerset.

Amongst my family documents is a tiny album containing photos, most of which are about an inch square. On the inside of the front covers is written, 'Broom Hill Gun Station/ Strood / nr Rochester/ Gunner Schwieso/ 128582/ 38th AA Coy/ RGA' and on the back cover, 'High Halstow Gun Station/ 14/8/17.'



The front inner and back inner covers of the albums.

Gunner Schwieso was my grandfather, Charles Ernest Schwieso. Unfortunately none of the photos are labelled but I am reasonably certain that I can identify him in two pictures and that another half dozen or so pictures are of our family. The remaining dozen or so are of soldiers, presumably from the 38th Company. Some include buildings but others show soldiers posing in a boat, presumably on the Medway.

Charles Schwieso joined up in November 1914. The 38th AA Coy RGA was the 38th Anti Aircraft Company of the Royal Garrison Artillery. The RGA was a branch of the Royal Artillery, formed in 1899 to man the heaviest guns in the British Army as used in sieges, for defending ports, army bases and the coast in general.

When the First World War began, Britain was largely unprepared for aerial warfare and had to quickly develop not only suitable anti-aircraft artillery but also structures to house it and units trained to use it. Even if these guns were defending naval establishments, the army manned them.



Images of Charles Schwieso; in the group picture he is believed to be the soldier on the right.

The obvious starting point for my research was Victor Smith's 2011 article on the twentieth-century defences of the Medway. In 1914, the major naval base at Chatham, including the huge ordinance depots on the Hoo Peninsular, such as Chattenden, already had extensive defences against naval or land attacks. By 1916 they had also gained anti-aircraft batteries on sites ranging from Allhallows in the north to Fort Luton in the south and from Higham in the west to Lower Halstow in the east.

A gun station at High Halstow appears in War Office lists for 1917 but not 1916 (Dobinson 1995). However, in 1916 there was an anti-aircraft battery at Lodge Hill, which is in the parish of High Halstow. The same document lists nothing under High Halstow, so I assume they were one and the same place. Not only was Lodge Hill one of the very first purpose built anti-aircraft batteries in Britain, construction having begun as early as 1913, but it also survives virtually intact (minus the guns and ammunition!) and has recently been scheduled by Historic England as a monument of national importance. The remains include concrete gun emplacements, a defensible barrack block of brick and concrete, officer's quarters, ammunition store, and an early pillbox. As early as Christmas 1914 its guns were used (ineffectually) against a German bomber that had dropped a bomb on Cliffe.

What of Broom Hill? The map accompanying Smith's article shows nothing at Broom Hill whatsoever. There was an anti-aircraft battery at Beacon Hill north of Upnor, another at Tower Hill south of Upnor, and one at Higham some miles to the west. However, the War Office list for 1917 provides a fuller list of the air defences for the Medway and Broom Hill is included.

Charles Schwieso's military record card.

Name.		Corps.	Rank.	Regt. No.
SCHWIESO, Charles E.		R.G.A.	Ent.	128582
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.	
VICTORY	R.G.A./173 rd	7318.		
BURIAL	— do —			
STAN				
Theatre of War first served in				
Date of entry therein				

K. 1990

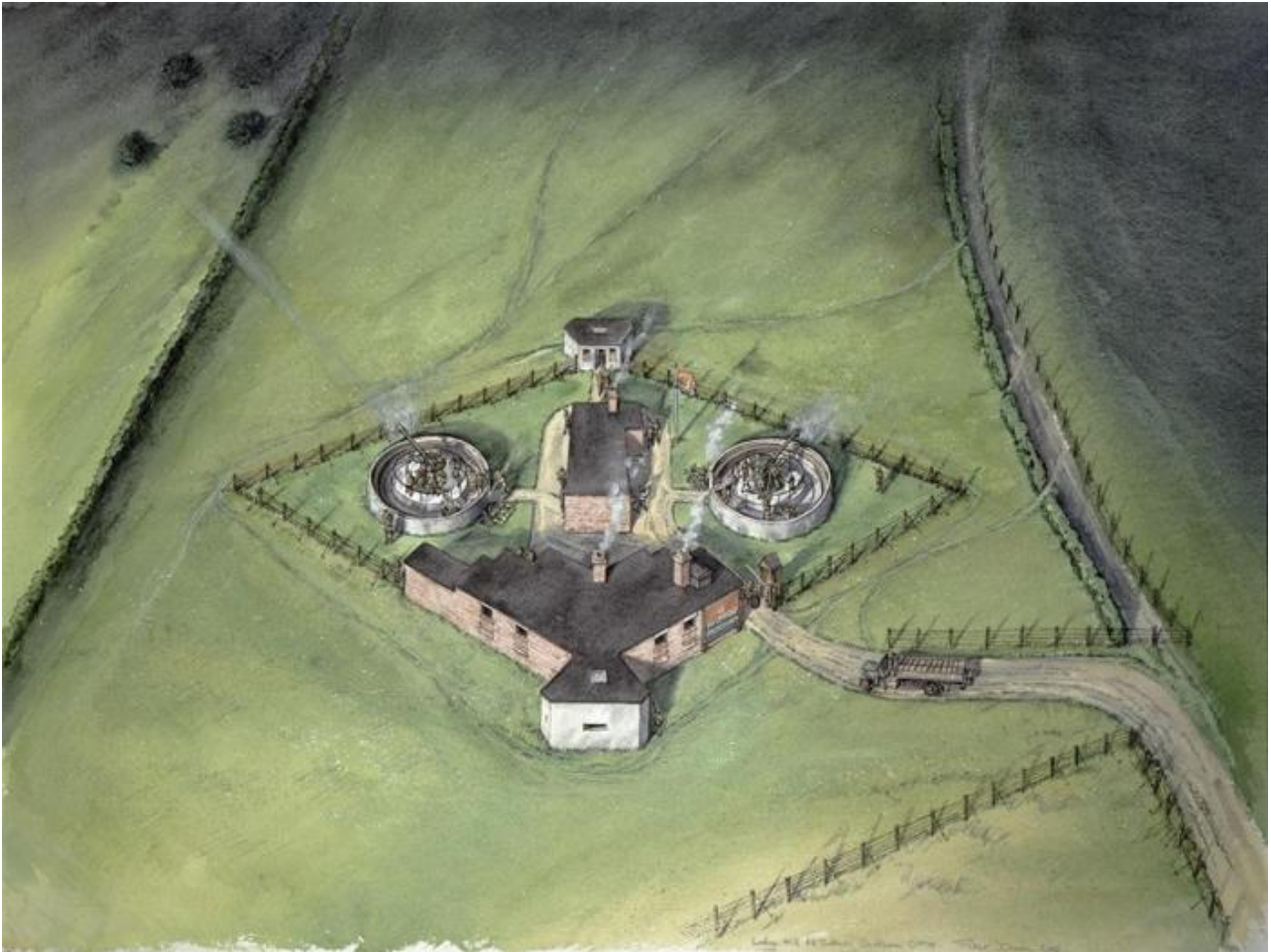
In 1917 each battery was equipped with one Vickers 3" 20cwt gun. This versatile quick firing gun not only became the preferred weapon for ground defence against aircraft and airships in WWI but was also used on warships and, later, was redeployed in WWII on submarines. It could sustain a firing rate of 16 – 18 rounds a minute, sending a 16 lb (7.3 kg) shell to between 16,000 and 22,000 ft (4,900 - 6,700 m.). In 1916 Lodge Hill had two of these guns, in 1917 each of the sites had just one. Could it be that one of the Lodge Hill Guns had been moved to Broom Hill?

My research has turned up nothing about the actual structures that would have been on Broom Hill. It seems that no trace remains of any permanent buildings comparable to those surviving at Lodge Hill. Since many of the 3" guns were mounted on wheels it may have been that there were no permanent erections. There are wooden (?) buildings behind the soldiers in some of the pictures in the photo album and it may be that these housed the garrison. I do wonder, though, whether the ammunition would have been stored in thin-walled temporary buildings?

In their report on Lodge Hill, English Heritage estimated that the two guns of 1916 would have each been manned by 11 soldiers with another 13 for auxiliary tasks such as range and height finding. Perhaps the one gun at Broom Hill in 1917 was one of the guns from Lodge Hill, and the troops had been split accordingly between the two sites.

A final curiosity. Charles Ernest Schwieso lived in Gravesend with his family, including my father who was 6 years old in 1914. Just down the hill from Broom Hill is Weston Road, where my *maternal* grandfather, then working in the dockyard, lived with his family including my mother, also 6 in 1914.

But mum and dad only met 30 years later during World War II!



Reconstruction of Lodge Hill Gun Station in 1916 showing two gun platforms, two blockhouses, the fortified barracks (forefront of suite) and ammunition store (middle of site).

<http://www.heritage-explorer.co.uk/web/he/searchdetail.aspx?id=11588>

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- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/QF_3-inch_20_cwt (accessed 1 Oct 2017).
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War Memorials

Michael Baker



FOMA member Michael Baker's interest in family history is well known to Clock Tower readers. Here he talks about the work of another of his ancestors, his grandfather Herbert Baker (1862-1946), one of three architects who designed the World War One memorials.

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.*

On November 11th, we remembered once again the terrible loss of life on the Western Front a century ago. It was also in 1917 that Sir Fabian Ware was charged with the question - how should those who had died be honoured? It was agreed that the men should be commemorated where they had fallen and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission was born. My grandfather Herbert Baker from Cobham was one of the three architects given the task of designing the memorials. Together with Edwin Lutyens and Reginald Blomfield, Baker suggested that the Memorials should reflect churchyards at home, with flowers and trees and enclosed by wall or hedge, and that each should have a Cross and a Stone of Remembrance. "Our task was to beautify the hallowed resting places of our dead, even where they slept on hard-won battleground."



From Michael Baker, from the Commonwealth War Graves commission website, www.cwgc.org, where there is an entire section dedicated to the work of Herbert Baker.

There are 950 cemeteries from World War One in France and Belgium and Tyne Cot near Ypres is the largest, designed by Baker. Here 12,000 lie under yews and poplars and it was here that the centenary of the Passchendaele battle was recently commemorated. You can walk the length of the Memorial Wall which records yet more who have no known grave. The wall had to be extended even as it was being built to accommodate 35,000 names.

A few miles south, John Kipling's name is inscribed on another wall, this one at Dud Corner (see the inside back cover) outside Loos, designed by Baker to enclose both graves and names. There I like to re-read his father's, Rudyard's poem, *My Boy Jack* and to look for his words on the Stone of Sacrifice, as in every cemetery:

Their name liveth for evermore.

Not far from here is Neuve Chapelle, a hamlet where many Indians died and Baker formed a circular stone wall "pierced and carved with symbols like the railings of the Buddha's shrine at Budh Guaya." He used the Emperor Ashok's column and two sculpted tigers to stand guard; the setting of low domes, a traditional protection for sacred relics, would be familiar to those who lie there.

Further south by the River Somme is Delville Wood, which honours South Africans of all races who died in that battle. An avenue of oaks, grown from Cape Town acorns, leads from their cemetery to a Memorial wall and through an archway to a Cross, all to Baker's design.

It's a haunting experience to walk through Reginald Blomfield's Menin Gate of Ypres and to hear the buglers sound *The Last Post*. They commemorate the many who passed through the city never to return. And it is equally humbling to climb the stairs of Edwin Lutyens' incredible Thiepval Memorial to the *Missing of The Somme*, high on a promontory and to wonder at its cry that war should be no more.

The tigers and pillars at Neuve Chapelle; photograph by Michael Baker.



If you visit the battlefields, look for "some little building, added as both a shelter from the weather and a resting place for thought and prayer," which Baker suggested for every graveyard. This came about because he and his wife "once found a lone woman shivering in cold rain. For two years she had saved her mites to visit the grave of her son and instinctively turned to my wife for sympathy and comfort."

Nearer to home the World War One memorial Crosses in Rochester, Meopham and Cobham were all designed by Herbert Baker.

Quotations from *Architecture and Personalities*, by Herbert Baker, 1944.

Our two on-going series, Michael Baker's Travels of a Tin Trunk and Pat Salter's Charles Larkin 1775 - 1833 will return in the next issue of The Clock Tower.

Let's all go down the Strand!

Richard Bourne



Richard Bourne was born in 1948 in Chatham's East End, very close to the course of the Old Bourne. A 40-year career as a Chartered Engineer in the railway industry took him away from Medway from the early 70s. Now retired he lives in York.

An opportunity to re-connect with the Medway of his early life emerged with the discovery in 2002 that there still existed a Chatham Traction bus, much neglected but intact. The idea formed of using the bus as a vehicle for studying the Towns' local and social history, and for giving something back to Chatham.

Richard is Chair of the Friends of Chatham Traction, formed in 2007 and now a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.



Many towns seem to have had locations dedicated to recreational use that conjure up an air of excitement. I can remember once thinking how *risqué* was the notion of a red London bus bound for *RUISLIP LIDO* potentially to mingle amongst Betjemanesque swimsuits. Other places made do with less exotic destinations. As 1950s kids in the Medway Towns we went down the Strand – our little Riviera beside the mud flats.

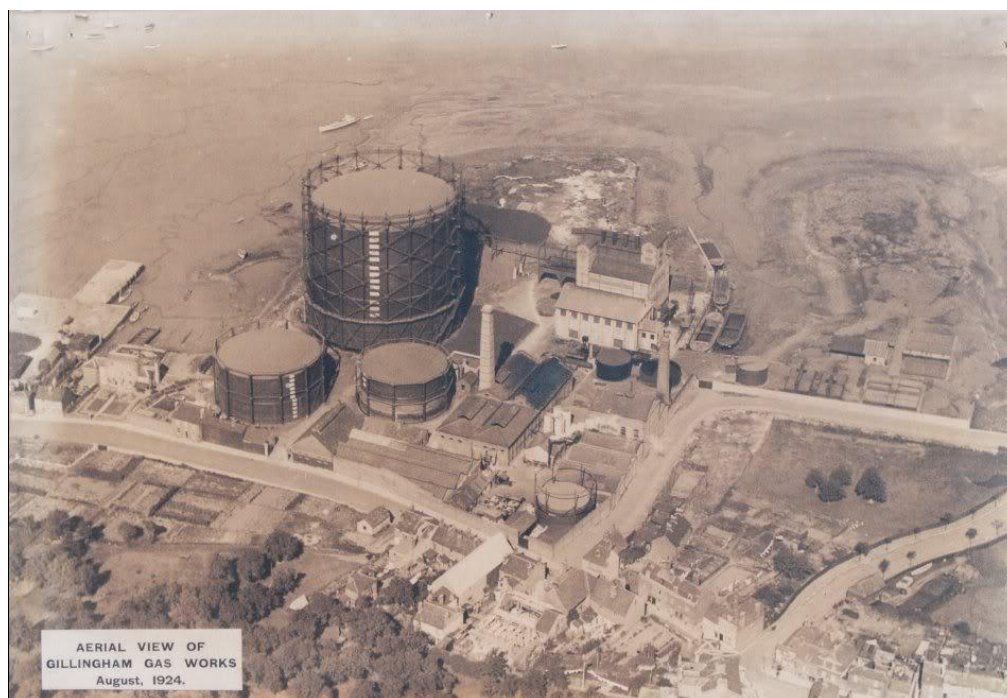
First opened as a recreational facility in 1896, it had been progressively developed from the 1920s and eventually took over from Upnor as the place to go. As such facilities went it wasn't bad – a swimming pool (open air, of course), a boating pool (it didn't run to a *lake*), crazy golf and so on. There was a beach of sorts; a pebbly bit along the top of the mud where you could get close to the water. A popular destination in the summer holidays – and of course in those days everyone went on the bus.

I used to get on with my Mum at the Regent, which was right opposite where we lived. This bus ride was the exciting start to an afternoon out. A great prize was to be able to get the best seat on the bus – the one behind the driver. For a small boy fascinated by mechanical things that moved in predictable ways watching the driver battling with both bus and Medway's hilly terrain was true entertainment. An 8-ton bus with no power steering or synchromesh required both skill and strength.

Contemporary timetables show there was a six-minute service frequency, with alternate buses coming from Borstal or Cookham Wood. Excitement mounted during the journey – up Chatham Hill, round past the Jezreels, through Gillingham High Street and down Richmond Road, at last turning at the Shalders Arms into Pier Road where the beginnings of a faint salty smell mingled with that of the gas works. Just to rub it in, the bus route down to the Strand followed a right-angled course beside the gasworks wall, over what was to have been the tram route.

Transport to the Strand had a wobbly start. Trams started running in Medway in 1902, and the initial routes included the laying of track right down to the Strand swimming pool, as shown on contemporary maps. However for reasons yet to be established (a small research project for someone?) the public service never ran beyond the Shalders Arms, and the line from there to the Strand was lifted again by 1908. In 1930 the trams were replaced by buses. The Chatham & District Light Railways Company was renamed as the Traction

Company under an Act of Parliament in 1929, one provision of which was that the replacement bus services were restricted to follow the original tram routes. The buses ran through to the Strand from the outset, but because of the legal requirement this included the gasworks wall experience. I can remember this stretch of road being of the concrete slab construction, and the course of it is still visible today, at the Strand end. The 1924 aerial photo shows it clearly, together with the later tree-lined public approach road.



Photograph: Kent History Forum

There are old postcards of the Strand from a number of eras which include buses. However we recently came by a superb example we hadn't seen before. It is dated as 1938, but shows one of Chatham Traction's original 1930 fleet of Leyland buses setting off homeward past the Strand Refreshment Rooms. This little building lasted until about 1970, and served the Strand's crowds with tea and ice cream for many a year. Curiously the bus is showing Shalders Arms as its destination. Often this was a short walk coming from the Chatham direction, but perhaps there were operational reasons this time (or a preoccupied crew ... ?). According to legend the pub was named after Richard Shalders, a brickmaker and builder who died in 1804. (This raises questions about whether Mr Shalders was of sufficient status to have *arms* in the heraldic sense, or whether the pub naming drew on the available pun! Maybe the chaps who helped out in the cellar were Shalders Arms hands?)

For a budding railway engineer a ride on the miniature railway was a must. There's a post card view of this too. I can clearly remember a wooden box on the platform which held a supply of coal, and the engine itself which I later learnt was a very fair replica of a London & North Western Railway *George the Fifth* type.

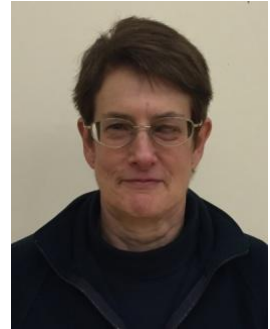
When it was time to go home we used to try and time our departure so we could be near the front of the queue and get the choice seat again. By the mid-50s the usual vehicles on the Strand run were the then new Guy buses with plain brown leatherette seats, and a device called an exhaust brake. The trip back down to Chatham was inevitably rather more subdued, but was enlivened before we alighted by the descent of Chatham Hill to the roaring sound of said braking system, forever etched in my mind!

Our aim as the Friends of Chatham Traction is to put the story of Medway's local bus company into context, and use it to encourage nostalgic recollections. So if any of this prompts any further memories, photographs or memorabilia, bus-related or otherwise, do get in touch.

See page 25 for further details on Chatham Traction.

The Medway Raid or De Tocht naar Chatham

Catharina Clement



Part 2

In the last issue of *The Clock Tower* I promised some further non-English accounts of The Medway Raid. Here is a comparison of the Dutch and English newspaper reporting of events.

Hollandtze Mercurius, June 1667.

20 June 1667.

A few of our people steered with cutters towards land; they plundered much household goods and sheep there and set light to a few houses as well, although against instructions. The people fled in all directions, when our people landed. As soon as our Lieutenant-Admiral became aware of it, he instructed that all the plundered people were put on board.

21 June 1667

This was the King's magazine, great masts and other woodwork: tar, Pick, nails, in great abundance. Therefore we took the finest masts and the others that were discovered were chopped and burnt. The castle and the watchman's houses adjacent were also burnt and destroyed; an unbelievable sum of money. Then the people ran inland and experienced great fear. Most of all it was astonishing that no people were seen inland, but were all flown; the houses and cellars were left untouched by us.

23 June 1667.

Notwithstanding all the shooting from all her ships and batteries, we sailed right up to the English with great effort and courage.

Despite the English, we boarded and captured the ship the *Unity* with 42 pieces on board. Then our fireship the *Susanna* followed us and sailed right up to the chain, then she went back. This was followed by the fireship *Pro Patria*, which went up to the chain and broke the same.

24 June 1667.

In England the people from these parts were so frightened that everybody that could had fled inland with their goods and chattels.

In the meantime all the English ships lying in the Thames withdrew up to London. The merchants on the Stock Exchange were so surprised by these times that they could not speak about Commerce. Moreover further news came from Dover and Harwich that the Dutch were already there prepared with ships ready to land. And one saw quite evidently great flights of people from the coast heading inland. People grabbed the Commissioner Pett from Chatham by the head and the people threw him in the Tower, because he had not sufficiently strengthened the chain and the dockyard at Chatham. The Whitehall officials had to put up with similar disturbances and had also to impose order on the sailors, who came to speak harshly about their [lack of] payment.

The London Gazette, 16 June 1667.

The Dutch Fleet having the tenth instant in the evening made themselves masters of Sheerness, on the eleventh they advanced up the River Medway, and though with much difficulty, passed by several vessels which had been sunk about Musclevbank, which was the narrowest part of it, the better to put stop to them in their passage; and with 22 sail came up upon the Chain, where the Lord General [Albemarle] was in person with a considerable force to oppose them; but the Enemy taking advantage of an Easterly Wind and the Tide which both served them, pressed on, and though their first Ship struck upon the Chain, the second broke through it; and not withstanding a stout resistance in which our Men showed infinite courage, with considerable loss to the enemy, yet they clapt their Fireships aboard the *Matthias* and the *Unity*, that lay at anchor as a Guard to the Chain, and then upon the *Charles the Fifth*, all three of them Dutch ships, that had formerly been taken from them. The same day they possest [possessed] themselves of the *Royal Charles*, which was twice fired by our Men, and as often quenched by the Enemy.

On Thursday the 13th Instant, about One of the Clock, taking again their Advantage of the Wind and Tide, they advanced with six men-of-war and five Fire-ships, and came up towards Upnor-Castle, but were so warmly entertained by Major Scot, who commanded there, and on the other side by Sir Edmund Spragg, from the Battery at the Shoare [sic], after very much Dammage [sic]received by them in the shattering of their Ships, in sinking several of their Long Boats manned out by them, in the great number of their Men kill'd and some Prisoners taken, they were at the last forced to retire, having in this attempt spent in vain two of their Fire-ships which attempted the *Royall Oake*, but were forced off, and burnt down without any effect; but a third had its effect, the two others coming also aboard the *Royall James* and the *Loyall London*, which are much injured by the Fire, but in probability may be again made serviceable, having been sunk before their coming up, and the greatest part of them laid under water.

Since then they have not made any considerable Attempt, and by some Prisoners we have taken finde that the loss we have received has been hitherto so fully returned upon them, that they can but little reason to Brag of their Success, and less encouragement to make any farther Attempts on these parts. Part of the Enemies Fleet hath since this Action continued about Musclev-Bank, where on Friday were seen 24 Sail, on Saturday only 14, which 'tis believed stay there only to get off the *Royal Charles*, which is on shoare.

Note: The Dutch dates were eleven days ahead during this period as the Netherlands was already using the Gregorian calendar; England continued using the Julian calendar until 1752.

Major Thomas Scott

Peter Lyons



FOMA member Peter Lyons is retired after a career spent mostly in banking. He has participated in several local history and archaeology projects and is currently a volunteer at the Royal Engineers Museum, Chatham where he reviews, summarises and enters documentary records so that they are available to the general public on the museum's computer.

Major Thomas Scott (1788 to 1834) was an officer in the Royal Artillery and during the Napoleonic Wars was in Sicily and Spain, at Waterloo and in the Army of Occupation in France. He was born in Rochester, was a frequent visitor in later life as his mother maintained a house there, and was related to an old Kent family the Scotts of Scot's Hall, Smeeth.

Twenty three volumes of his diaries are held by the Royal Engineers Museum, Chatham, running from 1811 to 1834, with a gap from June 1814 to July 1815. Passages in these diaries relate to discipline in the army which was harsh, particularly in time of war as evidenced by these experiences beginning in Sicily and later elsewhere (spelling and punctuation as in the original):

Part 2: Coach Travel

Coach travellers had the option of an inside or an outside berth and generally Tom Scott preferred an outside one but on occasion travelled inside:

Took my place for a return home in the evening. – as it is no joke travelling outside in such rain – inside was quite as bad to me for I got into a violent heat – which brought on sickness and I had no other for it than just emptying my stomach out of the window – fortunately I was near one – or I should have been a mighty dirty companion.

A raw cold and extremely foggy morning, was not at all sorry at having taken the precaution to secure an inside place – the Commodore was full inside and out – a lady inside had a Chinchilly [sic] Muff which stank very much and was extremely disagreeable, but I was obliged to grin and bear it.

I walked quietly up to Shooters Hill to the Commodore Coach – it was quite full, but they made room inside for a few miles – I was trussed up like a fowl and nearly stewed – I got outside at Dartford, my travelling companions not the most agreeable in the world – consisting of five great stout pilots one of which obliged to make room for me and a Jew who amused himself while awake, tucking on oranges – and when asleep snoring most intolerably – my station unfortunately was stuffed between two enormous chaps – the windows all up – made it still more uncomfortable- I took every opportunity of lowering them – glad enough to walk up Boston Hill – at Canterbury remained nearly an hour whilst they were changing coaches – and had the provocation of being charged thirteen shillings for luggage – from Canterbury had the coach to myself which was a very great relief – arrived about half past seven – got a baddish breakfast.

Went up to Woolwich in the heavy with six inside and 12 out – it was suffocating work.

But outside could also have its problems:

At a little after six mounted on the top of the Union Coach – nasty misting morning found my old cloak very serviceable – as with little intermission it rained nearly all day – a fattish woman we took up at Canterbury was a very great inconvenience to me and she jolted me terribly, her large after part incommoded me very much – I was obliged to make a great effort of politeness and hold an umbrella over her head all the day- if it had been the pretty female within, willingly would I have put myself to any inconvenience.

And it was important to be prepared for the weather, particularly in the winter months:

Met the Coach at Shooters Hill just before entering Dartford – a violent storm of rain, hail and wind came on – however it being in ones back, & being well provided with box coats and an umbrella, I managed to keep myself perfectly dry, as well as a lady by my side.

Felt but little inclination to turn out at a very early hour, and a precious wet morning for gentlefolks to travel, especially outside, however well cased up in the box seat - an oil skin over my hat and all snug – I cared not much about the weather – tho' it rained at times tremendously and the wind blew to that degree that once or twice I thought we stood a very fair chance of being capsized – especially on Blackheath, when I was a wee bit afraid.

Up early in order to go up to town again, very delightful morning at starting – quite exhilarating to the spirits – I felt it completely so and sang for many a mile, with the coachman, who was as musical as myself – at Gravesend though thought it necessary to put on the Cloak – it turned excessively cold – just escaped a tremendously heavy hail storm.

Arrived just at the moment the Coach was about to start – the outside passengers not vastly respectable looking folks, was glad to get the box, tho' of a cold night it is undoubtedly the worst place a man can sit – one thing you are not inconvenienced by the fumes of Gin. A North wind blew directly in ones face, not very agreeable – the coach an uneasy heavy thing – towards night the roads were frozen, the ruts made it terrible jolting work – coming down Chalk Hill was informed a man had been thrown off the box and crushed to pieces.

Travelling companions varied:

Started from Rochester at six o'clock – seeing a man handcuffed and secured to the coach I fancied I was in baddish company – but at last found out that the poor object was a poor lunatic conveying to St Luke's.

Took coach at the hill at ½ past eleven – a lovely day – found no less than three Engineers and a ci devant [sic] Artillery man – on the outside – Alex Robe one of the former made the journey pass very agreeably – there was a Methodist preacher also – who was obtruding his occasional remarks upon us – I longed to be his antagonist – but had not an opportunity of displaying my aversion to that sort of gentry.

My travelling companions were the stupidest I almost ever met with – one a divine another an officer of the sixty fifth – we did not exchange words the whole way to London.

A lovely night as I could wish, especially good for outside travellers which I was as far as Northampton – had a curious adventure - outside as usual found a young creature alone, offered her part of my cloak and on arriving at the Tavern, persuaded to take some brandy and water to keep out the cold – it was monstrous strong and it overpowered her – for when she got a little way on the road Dick had to support her while she unloaded.

It was certainly not without its dangers:

Got a letter from Messrs. Codd announcing the satisfaction they had in acquainting me that my share of the Tarragona Prize Money was ready when I felt disposed to call for it, I certainly shall honour them with a speedy visit – tho' it will be dangerous to bring so much money down from town, as the high roads begin to be infested with robbers – the Heavy Dover was robbed of five hundred pounds two evenings ago – of course they must have been in league with porters or some such rascals, who gave information that money was to be carried.

A dreadful accident occurred by the upsetting of the Tally-Ho coach – poor Henry Macleod from whom I parted at twelve was thrown from the top – feared that a concussion of the brain had taken place – an unfortunate woman had both her arms broken – a child was killed. Major Carter 72nd had the flesh torn from his thighs and it is feared a fracture - the Coachman's head fractured and an eye knocked out - and this from galloping down Blackheath hill – having fiery horse and not locking the wheels.

A dreadful accident occurred by the upsetting of one of the Dover Coaches – a French woman and her child were thrown off - and the former so hurt as to have little hope of her surviving.

Which were sometimes avoided:

Then proceeded by the 11 o'clock omnibus to London – driven by a Coachman as drunk as a Lord – however fortunately we got up to town without any accident.

Huguenot Museum Update

Amy Dimmock



Amy Dimmock is the new 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!

We are delighted to announce our first partnership exhibition with Rochester Art Gallery, featuring internationally renowned textile artist and designer Margo Selby. *Margo Selby: Pick by Pick* will run from 14 December 2017 to 24 February 2018 across both sites in the Rochester Visitor Information Centre.

The core of the display will be a collection of hand-woven artworks created using a technique called Lampas. Lampas is a term for a woven structure that was initially developed in the 17th century and used by Huguenot weavers to create decorative brocade fabrics. Margo is now using these weave structures in a new way to create stunning geometric framed works with a modernist feel which explore how colour and structure unite. Margo is based in Whitstable and is widely known for her design work for well-known companies such as John Lewis and Osborne & Little and the exhibition will include an archive which demonstrates the process from design to finished product.

Huguenot Museum Director, Dinah Winch, says:

‘Huguenot silk weavers came to England in large numbers, as refugees from religious persecution and created some of the most exquisite and technically daring silk fabrics in the world in the 1700s. Their legacy and influence continues to be felt today and we are delighted to show the work of an innovative and distinctive modern weaver in historical context.’

From November we will also be stocking Margo’s stunning scarves, cushions and hand towels in our shop alongside a wonderful new range of hand-blown glass, jewellery, natural toiletries, honey made by a Huguenot beekeeper, books and craft items including new cross stitch kits. We are also featuring jewellery by Liz Willis, the winner of our New Huguenot Silver award and Christmas cards and decorations.

More information can be found on page 25 and on the museum’s website, www.huguenotmuseum.org. All events can be booked there, and on 01634 789347, or in person.

Relocating the Archive.

The trials and tribulations of moving MALSC.

Elaine Gardner



Long before the Archive move began, Alison Cable agreed that after it was over she would give a talk to FOMA on how the move had gone. As it turned out, when she gave her talk on 12 September to FOMA members she was still in the process of actually getting all the archive material into the new store room - a task made slower due to the limited space to turn round in!



*Alison Cable during the talk;
photograph by Elaine Gardner.*

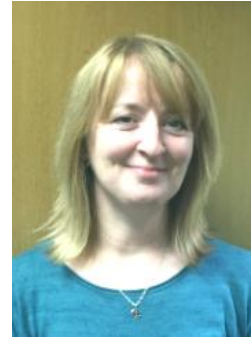
They say moving house is the most stressful thing you can do but, compared to Alison's account, my house moving experiences were more like a walk in the park. First get your removal quotation ... Alison had 12 companies lined up to visit the old building to assess the task. This was in order to submit a bid to Medway Council so that the Council could accept their preferred quotation. Fortunately the removal company which was chosen was also the one Alison preferred. Then packing had to begin. Archive documents were ok, as they are mostly stored in boxes already, but the local studies books filled a lot of boxes. Of course, with a new building you are waiting on the builders to both get started and finished on time. When visiting to check on progress, Alison was impressed with all the builders' fridges, kettles, microwaves and toasters present in the lobby area, but doors? shelving? decorating? None to be seen!

The deadline for opening moved to May, then June, and then the government called a snap election which meant the Council couldn't possibly consider the opening until July. The staff breathed a sigh of relief. They had time to get unpacked and figure out how they were actually going to fit everything in. Quart into a pint pot I think the expression is.

Still, the staff are now settled in and getting used to their new surroundings. Please do go and visit if you haven't done so yet - the Christmas event on December 13 (see below) would be a good opportunity.

Archives Update

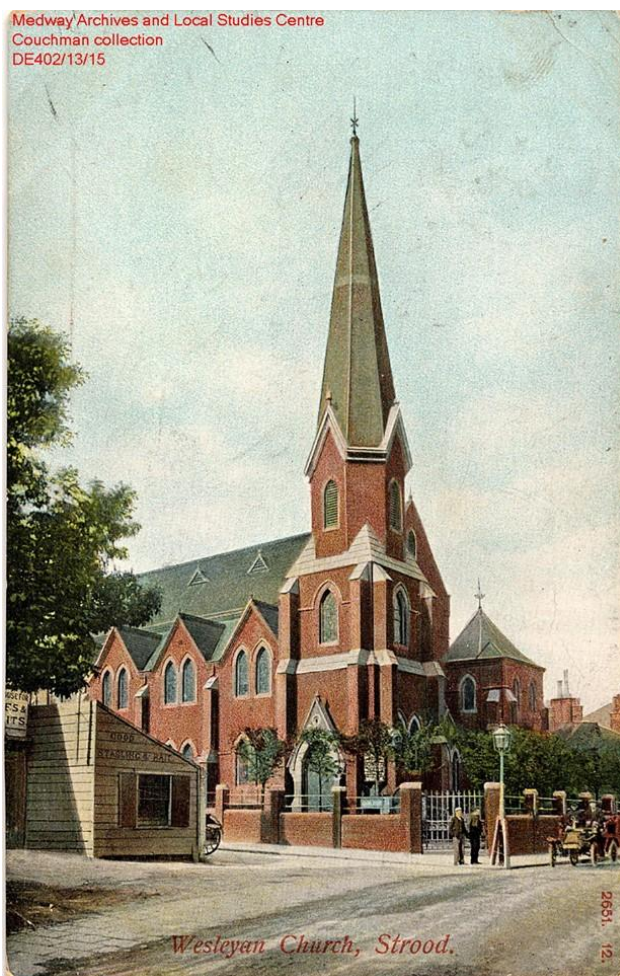
Alison Cable, Archivist



I am pleased to report that building work at the new Medway Archives Centre (MAC) nears completion and hopefully by the time you read this all the 'snagging' will be done.

Whilst we were involved in the move to the new premises in Bryant Road, Strood, a major piece of news slipped through the net! We are delighted to announce that we have joined forces once again with *Ancestry* (see *The Clock Tower*, Issue 48, November 2016) to make available for the first time online the Medway Methodist Registers for 1798-1932. These are now available to search at <http://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/db.aspx?dbid=61402>

The records were originally deposited at MAC by Medway Methodist Church. *Ancestry* can be accessed free of charge at MAC and if you would like to book a computer to search the online records, please telephone 01634 332714.



The Wesleyan Church Frindsbury Road Strood, circa 1910; ref. C050958719, Medway Archives Centre.

FOMA's Brian Joyce - in the book he co-wrote with Sophie Miller - *Rochester, Strood and the Hoo Peninsula from Old Photographs* (2015), makes the following observation about this well-known church: 'The original church on the corner of North and Prentice Streets could hold 300 people. By 1887, it had become inadequate and was sold to the Salvation Army. The new red-brick building at the junction of Frindsbury and Stonehorse (later renamed Cliffe) Roads could accommodate twice as many people. Its English Gothic design, complete with distinctive spire, was by J.W. Nash of Rochester. The church had outlived its usefulness by the 1970s and was demolished.'

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.

I find it hard to believe that this is the last *Clock Tower* of the year and that Christmas is fast approaching. Help!

But what a year it has been for FOMA. When Stephen Dixon, the former Archivist at what was then MALSC, suggested we should form a Friends group over ten years ago, I don't think any of us could possibly have imagined what a difference we would be able to make. The opening of the new Medway Archives centre in July confirmed why all of that hard work has been worthwhile.

It is extraordinary how FOMA has gone from strength to strength and how we and other heritage organisations in the Medway area have joined forces to stand up for – and celebrate – what makes this part of Kent so special. In March we celebrated this on a grand scale at the Copper Rivet Distillery in Chatham (see Issue 46 of *The Clock Tower*, May 2017) and were thrilled to receive a grant from The City of Rochester Society to purchase a new Uscan fiche/film reader for the new Medway Archives Centre (see page 2).

Supporting our history and our cultural heritage enriches our lives. At Christmas please raise your glasses to FOMA and the Medway Archives – but especially to Kent and the Medway Towns. How fortunate we are to be able to support this wonderful place!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Medway Archives Centre Annual Stocktake

The Medway Archives Centre will be closed from
Monday, 6 November to Saturday, 18 November 2017.
We reopen to the public on Monday, 20 November.

The *Men of Medway* exhibition will remain open in the foyer and until 2 December 2017.

Readers' Letters

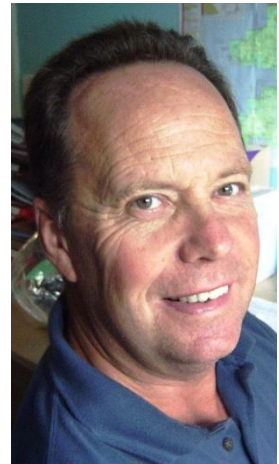
We welcome letters and emails from readers with their comments. If you have anything you would like to say please write to: Mrs Amanda Thomas, Editor, The Clock Tower, 72 Crabtree Lane, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, AL5 5NS or email at amanda@ajthomas.com. FOMA Secretary, Odette Buchanan, often receives 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.

The Walter Surname – now on Ancestry!

29.09.17

FOMA member Ken Walter writes:

'I have conducted a study of the surname WALTER since I retired in 2010 and it is available to be viewed on *Ancestry*. It has over 36,000 individuals in it now from all the WALTER branches I traced in Kent, Sussex, Surrey, London, Middlesex and beyond! The name also occurs quite a lot in Somerset and Devon, but it can be found in all southern and midland counties. There is a surprising amount of mobility from before the arrival of the railways in England and I have built up a fair number of contacts who are living relatives or researchers of the surname across the country. If any readers have an interest in the surname I'd be happy to field any enquiries to assist in their research.'



Please contact the Editor, Amanda Thomas at amanda@ajthomas.com and your details will be passed to Ken.

John Gallagher

05.10.17

Dear Odette,

I am trying to find a local Medway person who would be willing to search for a baptism. Maybe someone on your committee or a member could be interested.

My g grandparents had a son, John Gallagher, born 8 May 1838 at Chatham Barracks. The father, Thomas Gallagher was a soldier in the 51st Regiment of Foot stationed there before sailing to Tasmania.

I have John's birth certificate but would like to have his baptism details. They were Irish Catholics so would have gone to the local Roman Catholic church. The closest church seems to have been built after 1838.

From New Zealand it is difficult sorting the next closest church. I have an English Bank Account so will be able to pay any reasonable costs.

I find the name Gallagher can also be recorded Gallaher because of the correct pronunciation.

Do you think you may be able to help me?

Donald Clow Gallagher.

Don is happy to be contacted direct at dongall@xtra.co.nz

News and Events

Calendar of Forthcoming Events and Exhibitions

Friends of Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre

Talks and Events

Thursday 14 September 2017 to Saturday 02 December

FOMA Exhibition

The Ultimate Sacrifice: The Men of the Medway Towns 1917

The Foyer, Medway Archives Centre, 32 Bryant Road, Strood, Rochester, ME2 3EP.

Still available to view during the annual stocktake closure.

Tuesday 13 March 2018, 7.30 pm

Untold Stories and Hidden Treasures

Is Rochester Cathedral revealing its secrets?

A talk by Simon Lace, Rochester Cathedral Chapter Clerk, Executive Director.

Tuesday 10 April 2018, 7.00 for 7.30 pm,

FOMA AGM

Booking for FOMA events is not necessary and until further notice they are held at Frindsbury Parish Hall, 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.

Joining FOMA is easy and can be done on the website (www.foma-lsc.org); membership enquiries can also 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

Medway Archives Centre

32 Bryant Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent, ME2 3EP (previously the old Strood library). Contact our expert team if you require further information on 01634 332714. For further details see the MAC Facebook page www.facebook.com/malsc/, the FOMA website (www.foma-lsc.org) and Facebook page www.facebook.com/fomalsc/

If you would like to make a Local Studies donation please e-mail the local studies Librarian at malsc@medway.gov.uk

Current electoral registers can be still be viewed at Gun Wharf. Please contact the Electoral Services Team on 01634 332030 to arrange an appointment.

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

Unless otherwise stated , all events take place at the Medway Archives Centre, 32 Bryant Road, Strood, Rochester, ME2 3EP.



The Medway Archives Centre
Christmas Fair

Wednesday, 13 December from 10.30am until 1.00pm.

Browse local history society stalls!
Buy from our old and new book sale!
Purchase festive refreshments (for a small charge)!

PLUS

A talk by Deborah Collins
Christmas in the Workhouse

2.00pm

Tickets £4.00

Booking essential

Tickets and further information on 01634 332714.

The Medway Archives Centre, 32 Bryant Road, Strood, Rochester, ME2 3EP.

Eastgate House

Opening hours are Wednesday to Sunday, 10am to 5pm (last admissions 4.30pm); Mondays and Tuesdays CLOSED. For large group visits and special events it may be possible to open the house on Mondays and Tuesdays. Please contact eastgate.house@medway.gov.uk for further information. Adults: £5.50, Concessions (inc. Friends Group): £4, Under 5s: free, Family Ticket: £15. Groups of 10 or more: 15% discount and school groups: 15% discount on concession price.

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. Further information can be obtained at: www.friendsof-eastgatehouse.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.

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/

FRIENDS OF CHATHAM TRACTION

The Friends were constituted in 2007, with aims centred on the restoration of the sole surviving Chatham Traction bus, GKE 68 of 1939. The Chatham & District Traction Company had operated bus services over Medway's former tram routes from 1930 to 1955, when it was absorbed into Maidstone & District. The bus, a once-familiar piece of Medway's fabric, is to come alive again as a resource for the study of local and social history.

Buses were central to life in the Towns for many decades, taking people to school, shops, work or play. Studies might look inward to the company's people and facilities, or outward to its services and locations served, and how lifestyle changes influenced its development.

To support the educational aim we are collecting relevant material to form an archive of local transport history, including an oral history collection. We would be happy to receive any items – photographs, artefacts, ephemera – relating to Chatham Traction, its predecessor trams or local bus operations up to 1970 (the year of withdrawal of the last Chatham Traction vehicle).

Grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Rochester Bridge Trust have allowed completion of two fundamental stages – the reconstruction of the body structure and overhaul of the engine. We are now seeking further funding to complete the restoration and to prepare our organisation for its educational role.

We offer talks to interested bodies, and organise occasional events to which the public are invited. For more information contact Richard Bourne (Chairman); 31 Usher Park Road, Haxby, York YO32 3RX; 01904 766375, or 07771 831653. Email Richard@thebournes.me.uk. Or see our website at www.chathamtraction.org.uk.

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, its events and how to join is available. All talks are at The Moat House, 8 Crow Lane, Rochester, ME1 1RF; there is a small charge for events to defray expenses.

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

The Huguenot Museum has teamed up with Rochester Art Gallery, to stage an exhibition featuring internationally renowned textile artist and designer Margo Selby. *Margo Selby: Pick by Pick* will run from 14 December 2017 to 24 February 2018 across both sites in the Rochester Visitor Information Centre.

Our programme for the early part of 2018 ties in with this exhibition (please check the website : for further details: huguenotmuseum.org)

Sat 20 Jan 2018 10.30-12.30am: Colour & Stripe Workshop with Margo Selby; £20 per person.
Sat 20 Jan 2018, 2pm: Talk by Margo Selby; £10, incl. Museum admission.
Sat 3 February 2018, 2pm: Talk by Olivia Horsfall Turner: 'Pattern-drawing and silk-weaving: decoding the designs of the late ingenious Mr Leman' exploring the extraordinary work of Huguenot master weaver, James Leman, who worked in Spitalfields in the early 18th century; £10, incl. Museum admission.
Fri 16 & Sat 17 Feb 2018: Two Day Weaving Workshop with Margo Selby; £160 per person.
This workshop is suitable for all levels from complete beginners through to advance weavers but please check our website or contact us for details before booking.
Thurs 15 February, 11am-2pm: Family weaving workshop with Ann Bowdler; drop in: £1 per child.

Book Club

On 30 November at 2pm we will be discussing Dumas's classic tale of passion and intrigue, *La Reine Margot*, written in the 19th century, but set in the late 16th. The book is, of course, available in the Huguenot Museum shop.

Film Night

12 December, 7.00-10.00pm: *Breathless*.

Finish the Rochester Film Society season with mince pies and this classic French film telling the story of a wandering criminal and his American girlfriend. Have a look around the Museum galleries beforehand with admission included in the ticket price. Doors open 7pm, film starts 7:30pm Adults £6.50, concessions £4

Family Events

The Saturday Club

10.00am – 12.00 noon: £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. In March we are getting crafty making finger puppets and in April we are getting messy with tie dye! Booking is essential - see below.

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

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. Baby change facilities, 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. £2.00 per child, 50p per additional 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 seventh consecutive Green Flag; the Award recognises the best green spaces in the country. The Park has again been awarded 'Outstanding' in the RHS S.E in Bloom competition. Healthy Walks

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

Task Days

Task Days are the first Sunday of every month except January, from September to April, inclusive, from 10.00 am to noon. Meet in King Arthur's Drive car park. Hot drinks afterwards. Bring your own tools or we have plenty. Help us keep our Green Flag status for the 8th consecutive year and our RHS S.E in Bloom status of 'outstanding.' IT'S FUN IT'S FREE and IT'S HEALTHY.

Sunday, 3 December, shrub planting

Sunday, 4 February 2018 - Bob Wade Commemoration Day - Monster scrub clear to continue fulfilling his last wish for us all to conserve our green spaces.

Sunday, 4 March 2018 - Wild flower planting.

Sunday, 1 April 2018 – scrub clear ready for spring.

For further details see park notice boards, www.friendsofbrommhill.org.uk, find us on Facebook or contact David Park, Secretary on 01634 718972, email: davidpark1999@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.

14 December, Society Christmas evening.

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

SEE THE WEBSITE FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

The Royal Engineers Museum is Kent's largest military museum, with a designated collection of historical and international importance.



Events

September 5, 10:00 am - December 17, 5:00 pm

Britten War Requiem Prints

Including 17 December 10.00 - 5.00pm Ruth Dent will be in the small Gallery talking about her exhibition.

October 31, 2017 - January 7, 2018

5000 Poppies

Come and see the 5,000 Poppies exhibition – a colourful community tribute of respect and remembrance.

December 6, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

British Propaganda and the War Effort in WWI

Professor Mark Connelly examines 'What would have happened to the liberty of nations if it had not been for the British Empire?'

December 9, 10.00am - December 10, 5.00pm: Wartime Christmas;

discover how Christmas was celebrated during the Second World War. Special displays and living history demonstrations will capture the ambience of 1940's Christmas festivities.

Opening hours: Tuesday – Sunday 10.00am to 5.00pm, last entry 4.00 pm; Bank Holidays: 10.00 am to 5.00pm, last entry 4.00 pm; CLOSED MONDAYS. Admission: adult – £8.40, child (Aged 5-16) – £5.70, concessions – £5.70, family ticket (2 adults and 2 children) – £22.50; children under 5: free.

The Bridge Study Centre:

Bridging has been an essential part of warfare for thousands of years. In this gallery the full history of military bridging is explored. Hands on activities from our Sapper Workshop and dressing up are also available for kids.

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.

Bridge Works

Crossing the River Medway – A story of the Rochester Bridge Trust
www.rbt.org.uk/bridgeworks

Find out more about 2,000 years of bridges and the modern day role of an ancient charity, at a free exhibition featuring historic artefacts, interactive displays and Langdon's den, the dedicated children's area.
The Crypt, Rochester Cathedral; daily, 10am until 4pm, until June 2018.

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

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.

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) 7.15 pm with meeting starting at 7.30 pm.

December 8th *Paranormal/Spooky Kent* a talk by Neil Arnold.

New members and visitors are always welcome; annual membership £20, visitors £3 per meeting. For further information, please visit the website www.grlhs.org; contact Val Barrand on 07947 583327 or email lupusrufus@sky.com



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



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 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>

Canterbury Christ Church University Medieval Canterbury Weekend

www.canterbury.ac.uk

6-8 April 2018

A weekend of events (lectures and guided tours) organised jointly by the Centre for Kent History & Heritage and Canterbury Cathedral Archives & Library to celebrate medieval history in Canterbury, mainly centred at Old Sessions House, Canterbury Christ Church University.

Speakers include: Carenza Lewis, Richard Gameson, Helen Castor, Louise Wilkinson, David Starkey, Leonie Seliger, Marc Morris and Janina Ramirez

In aid of the Ian Coulson Memorial Postgraduate Award fund helping postgraduates studying Kent history topics at CCCU.

Tickets: £10 per event. For Canterbury Christ Church students and those purchasing at least 10 tickets in one transaction the price is £8 per event

Full details and Booking available:

- online at: <http://www.canterbury.ac.uk/medieval-canterbury>
- by phone (office hours): 01227 782994
- in person (office hours) at the Canterbury Christ Church University, Arts & Culture book office, Canterbury which is located on the ground floor of Augustine House (next to the Canterbury Police Station).

Enquiries: ruth.duckworth@canterbury.ac.uk or sheila.sweetinburgh@canterbury.ac.uk

Friends of Martello24
Registered Charity No. 1172376

www.martello24.net



Martello Tower No. 24 in Dymchurch has recently been opened to the public, a very successful partnership arrangement with English Heritage (EH). It has now been agreed with EH to have regular weekend and BH openings again next year,

from Easter 2018 through to the end of October 2018. We thought it would be nice to open up the tower by appointment during the closed period (30 October 2017 to 29 March 2018) for visits by Kent - and other - history societies. If you feel your society would like such a visit, then please either email me, Peter Faulkner, peter@martello24.net or telephone 01797 212507.

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 49 of *The Clock Tower* is Monday 29 January 2018, with publication on Wednesday 21 February 2018.

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

The Committee

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Kent.
rob@feetontheground.co.uk

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141 Watling St, Strood, ME2 3JJ,
Kent.
josie_iles@live.co.uk

Secretary

Odette Buchanan:

72 Jersey Road, Rochester,
ME2 3PE, Kent.
odette_buchanan@yahoo.co.uk

Membership Secretary

Betty Cole:

98 The Wharf, Dock Head Road, Chatham, ME4 4ZS, Kent.
betty-cole@outlook.com

Members

Len Feist:

29 Hawthorn Rd., Rochester ME2 2HW
lfstrood@gmail.com

Simon Lace

Rochester Cathedral, The Chapter Office, Garth House,
The Precinct, Rochester, ME1 1SX, Kent.
simon.lace@rochestercathedral.org

Bob Ratcliffe:

12 King Edward Road, Rochester,
ME1 1UB, Kent.

Kevin Russell:

7 Donald Troup House,
Watt's Almshouses, Maidstone Road,
Rochester, ME1 1SE, Kent.

Tessa Towner:

37 Ravenswood Avenue, Frindsbury,
ME2 3BY, Kent.
picketywitch@blueyonder.co.uk

The Clock Tower Editor and Publicist

Amanda Thomas:

72 Crabtree Lane, Harpenden, AL5 5NS, Hertfordshire.
amanda@ajthomas.com

War Memorials

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.*



Below: Dud Corner cemetery Loos-en-Gohelle and the memorial designed by architect Herbert Baker of Cobham; photograph by Caroline Baker.



On page 9, Sir Herbert's descendant, Michael Baker writes:

‘A few miles south, John Kipling's name is inscribed on another wall, this one at Dud Corner outside Loos, designed by Baker to enclose both graves and names. There I like to re-read his father's, Rudyard's poem, *My Boy Jack* and to look for his words on the Stone of Sacrifice, as in every cemetery:

Their name liveth for evermore.'





MEDWAY ARCHIVES CENTRE

We Cordially Invite You to Our

CHRISTMAS EVENT

Wednesday 13th December 2017

Browse local history society stalls, buy from our old & new book sale
and purchase festive refreshments for a small charge.

10.30am-1pm

Talk: 'Christmas in the Workhouse' by Deborah Collins
2pm (tickets £4.00; booking essential)

Medway Archives Centre, 32 Bryant Road, Strood.

www.medway.gov.uk/archives

Phone: 01634 332714

 Medway Archives and Local Studies

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**A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY
NEW YEAR FROM EVERYONE AT FOMA!**

