

## *News and Events*

Calendar of Forthcoming Events and Exhibitions

### **FOMA Talks and Events**

Please see the FOMA website for the latest details at <https://foma-lsc.org/>

Booking for FOMA events is not necessary and unless specified are ALL held at St Nicholas Church Lower Hall, Strood, Rochester, Kent. ME2 4TR; car park entrance is off Gun Lane, ME2 4UG, almost opposite the Health Centre. Please check our website ([www.foma-lsc.org](http://www.foma-lsc.org)) for further information and for other forthcoming events. Talks are £3 for members, £5 non-members. Booking for Quiz Nights and enquiries through the FOMA Chairman: Dr Christopher de Coulon Berthoud, 4 Albert Road, Rochester, ME1 3DG, Kent; [panthropology@gmail.com](mailto:panthropology@gmail.com)

### **Medway Archives Centre**

32 Bryant Rd, Rochester ME2 3EP; 01634 332714; [malsc@medway.gov.uk](mailto:malsc@medway.gov.uk).

#### Drop-in Sessions

Wednesday 21 May, 2pm to 3.30pm

A free talk for Local and Community History Month.

**Booking essential:** 01634 332714; [malsc@medway.gov.uk](mailto:malsc@medway.gov.uk).

*Teachers and Triangle Girls: Women in World War One* - Janys Thornton.

Join Janys as she talks about how she used research into the work women performed during World War One on Sheppey to write her novels. Using extracts from local and national archives, together with stories from local papers and other sources, she demonstrates how varied women's lives were during the Great War.

Saturday 7 June, 10am to 12noon

Saturday drop-in: Medway's World War Two

Join us as we take a look at Medway's contribution to the Second World War and see how the area was affected. Chat to staff and volunteers and book a return visit to see more of the collection.

## The MAC Spring Lecture Series 2025

4 June 2025

*The Explosive Works at Cliffe - Cordite, nitroglycerine and the 'Flying Archaeologist'*  
Amanda Thomas.

Notorious for its many fatal and grisly accidents, the factory employed a great number of local women during World War One, including Amanda's grandmother.

In 2013, English Heritage published an archaeological survey and analysis of the remains of the Curtis and Harvey works, to which Amanda and her mother Dulcie contributed. Later that year, Amanda appeared on *BBC 4's Flying Archaeologist*, to talk about her family's involvement with the production of explosives at Cliffe. (FULLY BOOKED)\*

2 July 2025

*A Meander along Rochester High Street (part 2)*  
Geoff Ettridge.

For over 10 years, Geoff Ettridge has used tours and rambles to tell something of our past and to raise money for good causes. In this talk Geoff draws from his various tours to make connections with places along the High Street, and our local and national past.

Geoff gave the first part of this popular talk in 2024. Join him for part two as he continues his meander along Rochester High Street. (FULLY BOOKED)\*

£4 for a single lecture. Advance booking is essential (see below).

Email [archives@medway.gov.uk](mailto:archives@medway.gov.uk) \* telephone 01634 332 714 \* drop in and purchase at the Medway Archives Centre.

### **\*PLEASE NOTE**

**At the time of going to press, all the remaining lectures in this year's series were already fully booked. In order to avoid disappointment, admission is by prior booking only.**

**There are often cancellations and so please email or call us (see above) if you would like to check availability or wish to be placed on the reserve list.**

## MAC Newsletter

The best way to hear about our forthcoming events and outreach is to sign up for our newsletter. Go to [www.medway.gov.uk](http://www.medway.gov.uk) and click on 'Sign up for email notifications.' Select 'archives' and you'll receive a regular email keeping you up-to-date with our events programme and news.

## Opening Hours and Visiting

Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm, Saturday 9am to 12.30pm, Wednesday and Sunday closed.

An appointment must be made to view original archive material and use microfilm or fiche readers.

## How to Make an Appointment

Email us at [malsc@medway.gov.uk](mailto:malsc@medway.gov.uk) to make an appointment and to discuss which items you wish to consult. For original archive material you must give at least three working days' notice of your intention to visit. For all other material (such as books, maps, photographs) we just require one working day's notice. When you book we will ask for your name and contact details so that we can keep in touch with you about your appointment.

- You can also search or browse for original archive material on the [Medway Council Heritage Services catalogue](#).
- You can find books and periodicals by searching the [Medway Libraries online catalogue](#).
- If you cannot find what you are looking for, please contact us.