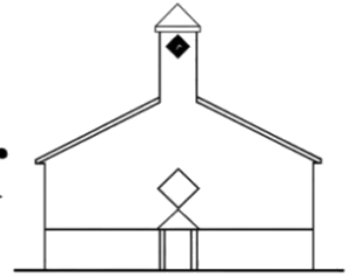


# The Clock Tower



Issue Number 49: February 2018  
£2.00; free to members

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

## A Donation to FOMA



FOMA Vice President Sue Haydock presents Chairman Elaine Gardner with a copy of *The Knowles Family*, donated by Jill Clowes (née Knowles), a direct descendant of Sir Robert Knolles. With Sir John de Cobham, Knolles paid for the construction of Rochester's Medieval bridge, completed in 1391. See page 9 for more details.

### ALSO INSIDE:

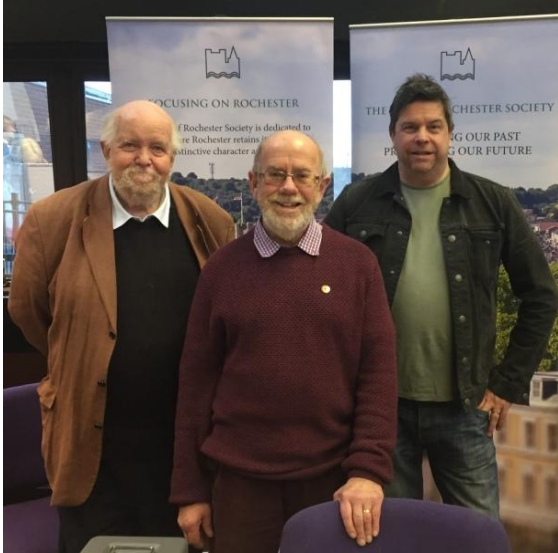
The Launch of FOMA Publications  
The Christmas Event at MAC

### PLUS

*The Nore Orphanage* by Betty Cole

## *The Christmas Event at MAC*

On 13 December 2017 the Medway Archives Centre (MAC) hosted a special Christmas event for local heritage organisations; in the afternoon there was a talk by Deborah Collins entitled, *Christmas in the Workhouse*. See page 24; more photographs on page 38.



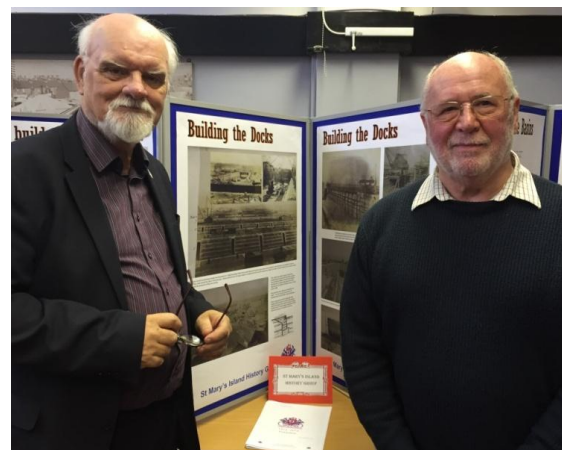
*Left: the City of Rochester Society team (from left to right): Bob Ratcliffe (President), Alan Moss (Chairman) and Philip Dodd.*



*Right: Medway Heritage Development Officers (from left to right): Lisa Caleno and Abby Found.*



*Left: the Kent Family History Society, Medway Branch (from left to right): Ian Smith (Chairman), Brenda Paternoster (Secretary), and Jean Skilling.*



*Right: the St Mary's Island History Group (from left to right): Brian Portway (Secretary) and Barry Woolford (Chairman).*

## *Chairman's Letter*

Elaine Gardner



By the time you read this we will be well into the new year so I hope yours has started well. It's lovely to see new members joining us, both individual and Society: welcome (see below). We hope you will enjoy what membership brings and will continue to renew.

Norma Crowe, our Local Studies Librarian organised a very successful event at the Medway Archives Centre (MAC) in December (see page 24), adding a variety of local society stalls to the usual book sale and mince pies, followed by a very interesting and well attended talk in the afternoon – *Christmas in the Workhouse* by Deborah Collins. It was great to see a number of members had answered Norma's call for helping hands. Thank you, as too often it is just the committee left to help out.

By the time you read this the next event at MAC, linked to the new Strood photographic exhibition, *Strood 2000 Years of 'Just Passing Through'*, will have taken place. The exhibition is on until Tuesday 1 May so do go and see it if you haven't yet done so.

On 14 November 2017 the FOMA talk *Establishing the Commonwealth War Graves Commission 1917* was given by Les Kibble, the CWGC South East Region organiser. Following this I was contacted by their education branch, the Commonwealth War Graves Foundation, about a project they would like to run this year to commemorate the end of World War One in 1918. In conjunction with Oxford University they are hoping to encourage families to bring in WW1 memorabilia such as letters, photographs, stories or other objects which can be scanned or photographed and then stored digitally – I think alongside a soldier's entry on CWGC records – before they deteriorate or get lost. At the moment the Commission is waiting to hear from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) if they have been successful in their bid for an HLF grant. If they are successful FOMA will be involved in running days when local people can bring items to be recorded. FOMA is also hoping to be involved with Medway Council's *1918-2018 WW1 Then & Now Project* – see page 4, overleaf!

## *New Members*

A warm welcome to new FOMA members Lorraine Crosby, Michele Morement, Michele Robinson (Life Member) and the St. Mary's Island History Group.

## *Medway Council's 1918-2018 WW1 Then & Now Project*

Elaine Gardner, FOMA Chairman.



As you know, FOMA is very keen to get involved with local heritage projects and in the last four years we have been particularly involved with the WW1 commemorations. In 2014 we launched the De Caville Index on the FOMA website (see <http://foma-lsc.org/wwi/index.html>), we have staged exhibitions and we have played a major role in supporting Henk van der Linden and the Live Bait Squadron Society.

This year as commemorations come to a head, the Heritage Lottery Fund is offering grants for projects to enlighten and inform local people of the sacrifices made by the men who lived in the areas around them. Abby Found, Medway Council's Heritage Development Officer and project organiser (see page 2), proposes to do this by looking at individual streets and the men who lived there in WW1. This ties in very well with the De Caville Index, which was initially begun as a street by street record.

Naturally we are very keen to help, and we are looking for members who would be interested in volunteering. To obtain HLF funding Abby has to show what educational and training aspects will be built in. If you are interested in volunteering with this can you read Abby's notes below on training - especially the last paragraph - and let us know what you think would be useful/interesting/enjoyable for you as a volunteer. This information is needed promptly as Abby needs to submit her HLF application soon in order that any funding she gets will be in time for the project to run later this summer.

PLEASE EMAIL ELAINE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED AT [emgardner@virginmedia.com](mailto:emgardner@virginmedia.com)

### **Training**

Abby Found, Heritage Development Officer.

The HLF is very keen on providing training and skills-building, so I would like to include an element of this in the application. I am keeping with the idea of having a couple of open days/sessions at the archive where FOMA volunteers and staff can help members of the public find their house on the index and then research further information about the soldier who occupied it.

I would class this as a form of basic training for the public, in that they will be introduced to the archive in a relaxed and informal way, and shown the various sources and systems to research a building or person.

For something more formal, is there any training that FOMA volunteers would be interested in receiving? Such as enhancing archive research skills, an aspect of WW1 history, working with the public, working with young people, presentation skills etc. The training would need to be relatable in some way to the project, but importantly, have a benefit which will go beyond the life of the project, and prove useful to FOMA members and MAC's work in the future.



## Secretary's Report

Odette Buchanan



Hullo and best wishes for 2018. Looking out at the rain-soaked garden first made me think and worry about my friend in Cape Town where they have no water at all; with all our troubles in GB at least we've got a ready supply of good clean water. Then I looked more closely and was amazed to see a small clump of daffodils in bloom as well as several crocuses/crocii? (Latin a bit rusty!) There they are standing tall and waving at the birds and the cat – Spring is on the way!

Another lovely piece of news – many of you will remember Brian Joyce who emigrated to northern climes a year or two ago. We have just had news that he is soon to be married – warmest congratulations Brian and we hope you and your new bride will be very happy.

On a more serious note, how blind are we all? The other day FOMA member Peter Burstow rang me to check on the date of this year's AGM. He had actually used his membership card to check when it was and saw it said 'Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> April.'

### WRONG!

It has been wrong ever since it was printed this time last year and he is the first person to realize it could not be right: 13<sup>th</sup> April is a Friday! The correct date for this year's FOMA AGM is:

### TUESDAY 10th APRIL, 2018

So, with a bit of luck, having read this all of you, and Peter of course, should be there that Tuesday clutching the *Clock Tower* insert leaflet.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the Medway Archives Centre (MAC) Christmas event on 13 December 2017, but I understand it was a great success. The interactive Prefab Museum and Archive Exhibition held on Saturday 14 October at MAC was also extremely well attended and many previous inhabitants of these *People's Palaces* turned up with photos and other memorabilia, including a beautiful model of the type of prefab built on Broomhill; the curators of South London's Prefab Museum gave an interesting talk as well. This was an excellent opportunity to showcase the new MAC and inspire many who had never visited MALSC when it was in the Clock Tower Building to have a wander round and discover all the exciting things they could research. There were also many admiring comments for FOMA's WWI 1917 exhibition in the foyer - *The Ultimate Sacrifice: The Men of the Medway Towns 1917* organised by Elaine Gardner and Tessa Towner.

You will find a list of up-coming events on page 28 but especially don't forget what should prove to be a very interesting talk on Tuesday, 13 March by Simon Lace: *Untold Stories and Hidden Treasures of Rochester Cathedral*. We look forward to seeing you there.

Finally, please don't forget membership subscriptions are due in April and can be paid at the AGM – and don't forget to bring the enclosed AGM leaflet with you on **Tuesday, 10 April!** (A surprise pressie for whoever spots any errors in your 2018/19 Membership Card. April Fool!)

## *FOMA Members*

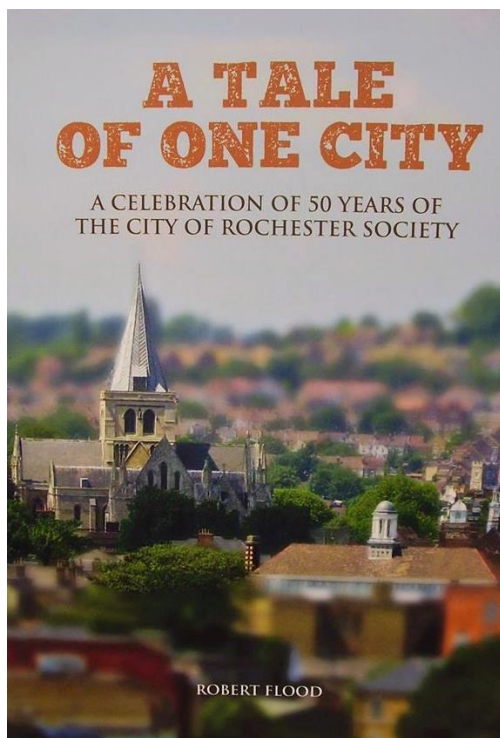
### Stephen Dixon

Many of you know Medway's former Archivist, Stephen Dixon, pictured here in 2017 at the FOMA Celebration. Stephen founded FOMA in 2006 and after leaving his position as Borough Archivist at the Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre, he took up the position of Essex County Archivist at the Essex Record Office in Chelmsford. We were delighted to hear from Stephen recently and learn that he retired from the Office in October last year (2017). He is now working as a freelance consultant for an IT company to market and sell the Essex Record Office collection management system Seax (see <http://seax.essexcc.gov.uk/>). This Essex County Council coding had been transferred to them to be marketed as SDS Seax. Stephen also thinks he will be doing some teaching and even some lecturing in the Far East. We at FOMA wish him well!



### Rob Flood

*A Tale of One City – A Celebration of 50 Years of the City of Rochester Society*  
by Robert Flood.



For five decades the City of Rochester Society (CoRS) has fought to conserve the essential, very special character of Rochester – not just protecting the past but always looking forward to future possibilities. *A Tale of One City* is a history of the first 50 golden, though often challenging, years of CoRS. It shows how a group of local activists were brought together in 1967 to protect Rochester against a truly monstrous road plan, and discovered a common bond and set of beliefs which are as relevant today as they were then.

Written by FOMA Vice Chairman, Rob Flood, the book costs £10 and is available to buy at the following Rochester shops: Baggins Book Bazaar, the Visitor Information Centre, the Huguenot Museum or Roadmaster Books. It is also available to order from the City of Rochester Society's website:

[www.city-of-rochester.org.uk/shop](http://www.city-of-rochester.org.uk/shop)

Rob has had plenty to celebrate this year with the news that his artist wife, Wendy Daws is to receive the British Empire Medal in recognition of her voluntary service work with visually impaired people in North Kent. More details can be found at the Kent Blind Association,

<http://www.kab.org.uk/about-us/community-news.html>



## *The Launch of FOMA Publications*

Amanda Thomas



Some time ago it was mooted at a FOMA Committee Meeting that we should publish in their entirety some of the wonderful articles we have serialised since the *Clock Tower* began in 2006. We were delighted, therefore, when FOMA Vice President, Pat Salter agreed that her work, *Roll out the Red Carpet* should be the first to be included on the new section of the FOMA website, entitled FOMA Publications. This new facility is being launched simultaneously with this issue of *The Clock Tower* and can be found at <http://foma-lsc.org/>

*Roll out the Red Carpet* was originally published in *The Clock Tower* from May 2105 to May 2017 inclusive. It is a compilation of work originally undertaken by Pat for an exhibition at the Medway Archives 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.



Pat worked at the Guildhall Museum Rochester and at the Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre for over 20 years. She is a well known author and works include *A Man of Many Parts - Edwin Harris 1859 – 1938*. Thanks must also go to Rob Flood and Philip Dodd for helping to make the publication of *Roll out the Red Carpet* possible.

Part 5 of Pat's latest serialisation, *Charles Larkin* can be found on page 21; the penultimate in the series.



## *Heritage News*

Sue Haydock

*The latest from our roving reporter, Medway Heritage Champion and FOMA Vice President*



### A Donation to FOMA

Each year the Rochester Bridge Trust holds a service on All Souls' Day to remember the founders and benefactors of the trust.

By way of a little background information, most medieval bridges had a chapel, much like chapels at airports today. The one at Rochester was founded by Sir John de Cobham with Sir Robert Knolles, and is described as being 'newly constructed' in 1393. The chapel was dedicated to All Souls.

The Rochester Bridge Trust was founded by letters patent of King Richard II in 1399 as a means of managing the donations of land and money given by benefactors for the repair and maintenance of the bridge.

Over the passage of time the chapel fell into disrepair, and was used in a number of different ways, but in 1937 the Bridge Wardens and assistants commissioned the restoration of the chapel, and in 1990 the celebration of Holy Communion was revived. This has now become an annual tradition, following a form of service from Wycliffe's translations.

At the November service in 2017 the chapel was not available due to refurbishment works, so the Dean and Chapter kindly offered the use of the St Ithamar Chapel in the crypt of Rochester Cathedral. This was followed by a lunch set out in the crypt itself. The settings for both the service and the lunch were wonderfully atmospheric and it is good to see the crypt used in this way.

However, the location was not the only difference this year. In the congregation were direct descendants of Sir Robert Knolles. The Trust were unaware of the existence of the descendants until, after a series of investigations into their family tree, members of the Knowles family made their findings known to the Trust. The history of the family is recorded in a book *The Knowles Family*.

Direct descendant Jill Clowes (née Knowles) was on my table and she kindly gave me a copy of her family's history book. I have donated this book to The Friends of Medway Archives, so that it is easily available at the Medway Archives to those who wish to refer to it in any research they may be working on.

#### Editor's Note

More information about the Rochester Bridge Trust can be found on their website, <http://www.rbt.org.uk/> The section regarding the building of the medieval bridge reads:

In February 1382 a royal commission was appointed to decide who was responsible to repair the ruined Roman bridge. The commissioners, who included Henry Yevele, the best English architect of his time, and the powerful Kentish knight and landowner Sir John de Cobham,

concluded that Rochester needed a new bridge with stone arches. Sir John recruited the help of another wealthy knight, Sir Robert Knolles, and between them they paid for the construction of a new stone bridge 100 yards upstream from the remains of the Roman bridge. Construction began in August 1387 and finished in September 1391.

The entry for Sir Robert in the *Dictionary of National Biography, 1885-1900, Volume 31* (see: [https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Knollys,\\_Robert\\_\(DNB00\)](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Knollys,_Robert_(DNB00))) commences with the following:

KNOLLYS or KNOLLES, SIR ROBERT (*d.* 1407), military commander, was a native of Cheshire. Walsingham calls him 'pauper mediocrisque valletus' (*Hist. Angl.* i. 286), and Malverne says that he was sprung 'quasi de infimo genere' (ap. HIGDEN, viii. 372); but, despite such expressions, Knolles was probably of honourable parentage. On 1 May 1354 the estate of Lea was entailed on Hugh, David, and Robert, sons of Richard (it should be David) de Calvylegh, while in the inquisition held on the death of Mabel de Calvylegh in 1361, 'Robert Knollus chivaler' is included in the entail with Hugh and David de Calveley [see CALVELEY, SIR HUGH], and may therefore possibly be their brother (ORMEROD, *Cheshire*, ii. 764, 768, ed. Helsby). Lysons, on the other hand, makes Knolles the son of Richard Knolles by Eva de Calveley, and nephew, not brother, of Sir Hugh (LYSONS, *Cheshire*, p. 543). That there was some special connection between Calveley and Knolles seems to be proved by the appearance of Knolles's arms on Calveley's tomb, while Calveley's arms appear with those of Knolles at Sculthorpe, Norfolk; the arms of Sir Hugh Browe, whom we know to have been a cousin of Knolles, also appear on Calveley's tomb. No contemporary authority, however, mentions the two men as relatives. The date of Knolles's birth is uncertain; Fuller conjectures that it was at least as early as 1317, but it may well have been some years later. Jehan le Bel strangely asserts that Knolles was a German, and says that he had been a tailor (ii. 216).

Sir Robert fought in the Hundred Years War and his reputation was not as honest and honourable as his title of *knight* might suggest. His brutal tactics, particularly in France, debunk any dashing image portrayed in popular English folklore. The confusion over his background (above) also shows why a book about the Knolles family by the Knolles family is a welcome addition for any historian.

## *Barkers Litho Printers*

Amanda Thomas



You may have noticed that *The Clock Tower* is looking a little different. Back in September 2017, FOMA Vice Chairman Rob Flood agreed with Jon Barker (see the back cover) of Barkers Litho Printers in Rochester to handle the printing of our well-loved journal. The printing of the November issue soon followed and we were delighted with the results.

Barkers is based at the Castlevue Business Centre in Rochester and handles a wide range of work including leaflets, brochures, stationery and even banners and posters. Their website states, 'We offer a full range of printing services including digital, litho and large format; and a wide range of finishing techniques such as folding, gluing, perforating, die cutting, laminating and binding.' Indeed for some time now Barkers has been printing for other heritage and historical societies in the Medway area and so it was not a difficult decision to make the full switch when our former printer, Ray Maisey, retired.

Established in 1995, the company is well known throughout the Medway Towns and beyond and works with many businesses, schools and organisations such as the City of Rochester Society. Not surprisingly, Jon has just completed the printing of Rob Flood's new book about the history of the society, details of which can be found on pages 6 to 7.

Many thanks to Jon and his team for helping us out and we look forward to a long and successful collaboration! More information can be found at <http://barkerslitho.co.uk>

## *The Nore Orphanage*

Betty Cole



*Betty Cole is FOMA's Membership Secretary. She is interested in local and family history and holds a Certificate in Theory and Practice of Local History with the University of Kent at Canterbury. Betty is a volunteer transcriber and checker for free-to-access internet sites for the researching of census and parish records.*

This imposing red brick building in Oxford Road, Gillingham is a residential home for ex-naval personnel and their widows. Did you know it was once an orphanage for girls called The Nore?



*The Nore.*

The Chatham Depot Orphanage had been in existence for some time in two houses in Boundary Road, Chatham. Larger accommodation was needed even though at the time the huge number of children who would lose their fathers in the First World War could not have been foreseen. The Foundation Stone for a new orphanage was laid by Admiral Sir Charles Drury (Commander-in-Chief, The Nore) in August 1911.

The opening of the new Orphanage was reported in both local and national newspapers. *The Times* on Thursday 19 September 1912 reported, 'Lady Poore, wife of the C-in-C [sic] at the Nore, opened a

new RN and RM Orphans home at Gillingham yesterday. The Officers, Petty Officers, Blue Jackets and Marines of the Nore District are responsible for the building and maintenance of the institution. The home is built in the Queen Anne style and has cost £4,000. The accommodation being for 45 girls.'

*The Chatham News*, 21 September 1912 also has an article and photographs. It reports that 'the Deaconess and children took formal possession of the new home on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July 1912.'



*Ivy Edith Wellard.*

My mother, Ivy Edith Wellard (pictured), was admitted to The Nore Orphanage on 28 March 1918, less than a year after her father's death on the Western Front in August 1917. She was discharged on 21 December 1924 just after her fourteenth birthday. A whole childhood spent in an institution. Among her friends there were many girls whose fathers had gone down on the ships *Cressy*, *Hogue* and *Aboukir*<sup>1</sup> at the very start of the First World War. Ivy said that there was a rivalry between the sailors' children and the marines' children who were in the minority.

Ivy was seven years old at the time of her admission and she left behind at home four brothers. One of her older brothers went to Greenwich School, via the Swanley Home, in September of the same year and one of the younger brothers followed the same route in 1923. The Nore was only for girls but details at the back of the Admission Book show boys who went before the same committee. The eldest and youngest boys remained at home.

The regime in the Home was fairly Strict. Among the Rules set out 'for the guidance of the parent or guardian' was, 'The general principle of the uprearing and education of the girls is to fairly equip them morally, physically, and by practical education for the struggle and competition of the 20<sup>th</sup> century life ... 'and 'The whole training of the children has for its object the fitting of them for domestic service. On leaving the home the committee do their utmost to find the girl a suitable situation.'

Unless the parent or guardian expressed any objection, the children were to attend the morning service on Sundays at St George's church, Royal Naval Barracks, weather permitting, and would receive religious instruction under the sole direction of the senior chaplain of the depot. They had to walk one and a half miles to church and one and a half miles back and were given a cold meat dinner on

their return accompanied, according to Ivy, by 'one pickle or one slice of beetroot.' A Deaconess called in during the afternoon for further religious instruction.

For their education they attended Barnsole Road School, Gillingham where they were called *The Home Girls*. They wore blouses made of striped marine shirting, black serge skirts and black laced boots which were handed down. They had to knit their own stockings as one of their evening tasks; when washed the stockings turned green. They were darned with the original black wool and so often had black patches. The Naval uniform in the photograph (c.1912) was only worn on special occasions.

The children could have visits from a parent or guardian only on the first Saturday of each month between the hours of 3 and 4 o'clock. They could also go home during the holidays, for a term not exceeding 14 days, with the committee's permission. Ivy doesn't remember ever going home.

The Home was run on strict rules. The orphans had to be up at 6am in the summer, 6.30am in the winter; half an hour later for those under 10. Breakfast consisted of two slices of bread with margarine. Sometimes porridge with a very small amount of sugar which the girls tried to make last until the porridge was eaten. They had a cup of tea with meals. As they grew older a second cup was allowed but Ivy said that the urn always ran out before she could have another. Easter was the only time you were given an egg, even though they kept their own chickens. Chores had to be done before leaving for school such as scrubbing down the plain wooden dining room tables.

After more tasks they went to bed at 7pm every evening. On Saturdays they washed their hair and were made to rub it bone dry, after which there was an inspection of the buckets they used which had to look good as new. Girls who did not pass the inspection had their desserts stopped. Ivy had hers stopped because she bit her nails.

The girls were taken on holiday every year either to Deal or Hastings. They stayed at boys' schools which had been vacated for the holiday. The only money they had to spend was what their mother had given them: Ivy used to have 4d.

My mother's memories of The Nore were not good and she always felt sad that her mother had put her in there when she was the only daughter. Although being sent away from your home when you were so young could never be the best childhood, at least she was always fed, clothed and kept clean where other children still at home during these years were often deprived - and very few would have had a seaside holiday.

#### Notes

1. HMS *Aboukir*, *Hogue* and *Cressy* are known as the Live Bait Squadron. Early on the morning of 22 September 1914 in the Broad Fourteens off the Dutch coast the three ships were sunk between 6.20am and 7.55am by a German submarine *U9*. 2,296 men and boys were on board and of these 1,459 perished and only 837 survived. There were thirteen young boys aged 15 and 16 amongst those who died and the crews were mostly reservists, many from the Medway Towns.

In 2004 a Dutchman, Henk van der Linden – now a FOMA member and firm friend - discovered a cemetery in The Hague that contained war graves commemorating the British sailors. He was so intrigued by this that he spent the next eight years researching the men and what had happened to them. He founded the Live Bait Squadron which has brought the story of the event back to the forefront of WWI history and has provided a focus for descendants of those who perished in 1914. In 2017 Henk received the British Empire Medal. More can be found on Henk's website, <http://www.livebaitsqn-soc.info/the-live-bait-squadron/>

See also *The Clock Tower* Issues 28 (November 2013), 30 (May 2013), 33 (February 2014), 36 (November 2014), 45 (February 2017) , and 46 (May 2017).

## *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. This is the final part of the series (spelling and punctuation as in the original):

### Part 3: Major Thomas Scott On His Grand Tour

On 2 July 1820, with two companions, Scott set sail for Rotterdam to commence a nine month tour of Europe. The diary daily records his experiences and observations and some extracts are given below.

*Settling in in Holland he is able to observe local customs:*

July 6 –Got an excellent spread – a fat blowsey Dutchman opposite, shewed us manners by picking his teeth with the end of his knife. NB at a dinner of this kind, always keep your knife & fork from the beginning to the end of dinner.

July 9 – (In Haarlem) – A curious custom prevails here of placing a pasteboard with lace tastefully arranged on the outside of the door, when the lady of the mansion is in the straw.

The commencement of the sand hills, where in fine weather thousands of boors, men & women resort – we perceived on our arrival the jollification going on – young men taking the other sex in their arms, & closely clasped, then rolling over one another down the sand hills – others hold the ladies by their legs & pulling them down the hills on their good broad dutch catastrophies – I cant [sic] say much delicacy was observed in their amusements – on the contrary the most indecent brutish behaviour, however the ladies, some of whom were very pretty, seemed to like the fun much.

*Although in general he observes that the Dutch are very clean he cannot say the same for the waterways:*

July 10 – (In Amsterdam) The Canals are numerous and large but the most offensive smell comes from them enough to turn any Englishmans [sic] stomach, Dutch men they may thank their stars are by no means so delicate.

July 13 – Readily got up to prepare for departure – quite tired of Amsterdam, its horrid canals enough to make fevers - had I remained a month I should have spit myself into a consumption.

*In Belgium he visits the field of Waterloo and reminisces:*

July 19 – We went to the Diligence Office – where this cumbersome machine was proposed to start – Burton took his station in the Cabriolet in front – Mac and I in the interior where there were no less than seven others – one female only rather of a pleasing countenance – the men folk inclined to be very civil – the principal part of their conversation was violent abuse of the Prussians – Waterloo was a topic they dwelt much upon – and many were the anecdotes related as we passed over the field – I felt a sweet pleasure in having shared in the fortunes of the day – and traced with my eyes every spot we had passed over – my sensations were those of joy – and I looked with peculiar satisfaction to those points where I had witnessed the determined bravery & resolution of our fellows in repelling the attacks of the enemy – many minute circumstances were recalled to my memory – as I saw particular places that gave rise to them – my only regret was being inside the Dilly – my view being much confined – the exterior of some of the houses remain in the state they were after the battle – the proprietors have found their account in leaving them so others have plastered shot half way in the wall with much ingenuity to deceive and astonish the wonder searching traveller – more bullets, buttons etc. have been sold than ever appeared on the field.

*They pass through Germany and arrive in Switzerland:*

July 31 – (On route to Basle) – At nine we once more took our stations in the Dilly. B & I having a fair companion whose catastrophe was rather Dutch – therefore not an agreeable one in a small space.

August 4 – (Zurich) – The country we passed thro' in the morning was a very fine one – an amazing number of reapers employed – the females not over long petticoats – and in the act of stooping display much more than their garters – the petticoat of a lightish blue with a dark blue tuck about a foot broad at the bottom – stays with various coloured ribbons laced in front – the peasant men for the most part clad in a whitish stuff resembling corduroy.

*In Switzerland they walk in the mountains visiting places of interest along the way. Not all their inns are pleasant:*

August 13 – (At a spa) – The means of getting to this source, is over a couple of planks, nailed together and supported by pieces of wood resting on the rocks – in some places you appear quite suspended over the roaring stream below – away from the rock – and no railing on either side it requires a steady head to go the whole distance of 400 yards - on such a slight bridge - for many a day I have not had such a momentary shock as I experienced when we looking back could not discover Mac – the guide Johnny and myself – stretched our necks forward could not observe him – it immediately struck us he had lost his head & fallen – the guide ran back & found him in a recess wither he had gone finding himself getting giddy. I never saw such an abyss – such a hell like scene as the place presents – the water is conveyed by a trough into a large room of the convent, where the patients walk up and down drinking – til nature calls them away – peasants, ladies & fat monks all melès together.

La Croix Blanche – numerous fleas and bugs otherwise good.

August 14 – What in the world flies, fleas and bugs could be invented for as Johnny says I cannot tell – they are certainly dreadful torments – the first by day & the two last by night. I experienced this most fully, scarce five minutes rest did I get in consequence – the latter annoyed me dreadfully

August 15 – (Having moved on) Much to our satisfaction and contrary to our expectation we



had not had an attack from the flea Army – this induced us to take a longer snooze than usual. August 17 – (Further on) Was fully ready to start at an early hour – having never closed my eyes the whole night – what with heat and legions of fleas.

*Their strenuous time in the mountains comes to an end:*

August 29 – (In the mountains) -The road up was not calculated for the timorous – in some places there was just space enough hollowed out of the rock for placing the foot – had to walk over a narrow fir plank – and when we got on the Glaciers themselves, it was nervous work, but somehow the spirits were elated, & the idea that if your foot slipt – you would be lost did not impede our progress – the guide was obliged to make small stepping places in the ice, with the end of his stave – having overcome some difficulties, but by no means so great as I have heard many travellers describe we arrived at what is called the Mer de Glace.

September 21 – And so here ends I believe our walking trip – having accomplished 906 miles in forty six days – being nearly twenty miles a day on the average – we arrived about half past ten at Geneva.

*They pass into Italy and to Padua via Milan. At Padua the theatre does not impress:*

October 21– In the evening the four of us went to the theatre – a large one, ugly in shape – but prettily decorated, the orchestra numerous noisy & out of tune, the actors wretched, buffo excepted. I was truly astonished to hear Italians applaud such horrid performances – absolutely singing a different tune to the one played by the musicians – the ballet execrable – yet immense applause. I was glad to come away before the close.

*Some comments on the way to Rome:*

October 29 – Went in the same evening to Bologna – a curious young chap as a driver, who as an excuse for his want of courage said his father had not bequeathed him any.

November 1 – Without waiting for an order from the Senate of Rome, we had the audacity to pass the Rubicon – but having no intention to follow Caesars [sic] example we were content to pass over the bridge, instead of the ford, tho' if it was not broader in his day – without being very active he might have leapt it.

*Rome:*

November 17 –The rain came down in such torrents we were forced to remain a considerable time under the colonnade before wading thro' this dirty town – every here and there at the end of a street is the word *Immondezzaio* [rubbish dump] – which is as much as to say be kind enough to make this a spot for filth & the invitation is not disregarded – the worst of it is the scavengers do not clear it away every day.

*No change at Naples:*

December 1– We dived from the Mole into the streets - & presently found ourselves among butchers, tanners – dyers and all descriptions of dirty and stinking trades – narrow streets, very high & brutally filthy.

*Tom parts from a dear friend in Genoa:*

February 18 – I passed the most of the day in visiting my friends – most agreeably. Oh Genoa never shall I forget thee – what joy have you given me – what misery are you likely to

create in my poor afflicted bosom – parting from those I love and esteem – cruel indeed is the separation – but thus are we poor mortals put to the proof, to try the strength of our affection – would I could solace those who suffer – take them to my bosom and cherish them there for ever.

February 20 – The last day of delightful Genoa, how sorry I am to quit it.

The evening however was the worst – I cannot think except by the beautiful and soul possessed by M. – I cannot express the sensations that agitated me & the necessity for concealing them – the parting was horrid, & I rushed from the house to give vent to the tears that instantly mounted to my eyes, best kindest, dearest M.

*Returns home via Paris:*

March 25 – In the rain and after a bit of bustle and hurry started at nine by the Diligence for Calais, six inside, all of us English. I did not leave Paris with so much regret – the Spring and Autumn the most pleasant, now all is mud, dirt and cold.

March 26 – Passed by Boulogne sur Mer, the retreat of English debtors – there are about three thousand resident, in fact the lower town is almost an English colony.

March 27 – Mac and I had a terrible job on hand – that of dressing ourselves out in all our smuggled goods – so as to elude the vigilance of the Custom house officers at Dover – it was rather a laughable scene – to see us putting stockings over stockings – silks round our waist, cambric around our necks – dresses and trinkets – very pretty turn out we made of it at last.

The wind blew very fresh from the S.S.W. and when mid channel the sea was exceptionally high – we got a dreadful ducking almost every moment and I was horribly sick – tho' not so bad as many others – nearing the English coast, the wind increased, and we were caught in three or four heavy squalls – the vessel (*Royal George*) was a capital one, and stood out the gale famously – got into Dover harbour at four, after a five hours passage, perhaps one of the roughest ones possible – most of the passengers completely drenched.

March 28 – Much relieved by a tolerable rest – got our traps out of the Customs without much difficulty – and started at ten in one of the most wretched days – got to Canterbury and speedily found myself at St Stephens – once more thank God in the bosom of my dear family a great comfort after racketing about for nine months.

## *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 ...*

*In his issue of The Clock Tower, the fascinating story continues of what Michael found in the tin trunk belonging to Alfred, the brother of Michael's grandfather, Herbert Baker.*

### Part 6

#### England, 1887 to 1889

Though there are no letters from this period, the thread of Alfred's life in England can be kept alive by his sporting records. In 1887 he played cricket 18 times with the DLI, scoring 500 runs, including one century, with an average of 31.3 and he took 30 wickets. Perhaps it was for this success that he received a small gun-metal shield, found in the trunk with his sketchbooks. I imagine it would have been riveted to a cup or cup stand and is inscribed:



*Presented  
To  
A W Baker Esq DLI  
by  
Mr Briggs  
for best batting averages  
for  
1887*

When he was not playing for the regiment it was for the Colchester garrison (where he made another century) or the Colchester and East Essex team. Back at Tonbridge in July he played for the old boys and at home for Cobham against the Royal Engineers, scoring 52.

The following year, 1888, saw him back in the barracks in Newcastle and playing now for Northumberland every week in May and June. From mid July to mid September he played three matches a fortnight, travelling all over Tyneside. 1889 seems to have been the climax, when he played 27 times for Northumberland, some on a tour with the team as far afield as Yorkshire, Norwich, Northampton and finally Lord's, where he scored 10 against an MCC team. From May to September

there were games for the Regiment or the Garrison up and down Northumberland and Durham.<sup>1</sup> The last entry was a game in December 1889, but that was in Suez. Alfred was back with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion and on his way to India.



*Alfred in working uniform with medal ribbons*

#### Notes

1. Cricket records mainly from AWB's notebook D3, also Tyne & Wear Archives, ref 3348.

## Charles Larkin 1775 - 1833

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.*

### Part 5

By 1813 Larkin was actively promoting Parliamentary Reform. He was present at a *Common Hall*, convened by R. Thompson, Mayor, requested by fifty six freemen to consider the propriety of *Petitioning Legislature in favour of that great National Object A Parliamentary Reform*. At the meeting Larkin proposed the Mayor as Chairman, the petition was proposed by Thomas Hulkes, seconded by Thomas Moulden and carried unanimously. Larkin made a statement and finished with a proposal that the Address be signed by the Mayor on behalf the meeting and *moved the vote of thanks to the Mayor for his impartiality in the Chair*. Both were carried unanimously. Unfortunately we do not know what the statement included. However in 1832 his opinion of the current parliament was made quite clear at a meeting of the Strood Political Union when he stated that *A Reformed Parliament would never allow such a host of pensioned caterpillars to feed upon the industry of the nation*.<sup>1</sup>

On 16 March 1830 Larkin attended a meeting held at Penenden Heath in a large area in front of the Shire House enclosed by wagons. The meeting was called to petition the King re distress in Kent. Following many speeches it was decided the Sir Edward Knatchbull should petition parliament rather than the King. The petition from the Gentry and freeholders of Kent was duly presented on 29 March 1830.

Larkin blamed the Aristocracy and the Church for the countries problems. Speaking at a West Kent Reform meeting he declared that ‘... all the measures that they have adapted have been to promote the happiness of the few at the expense of the many.’

He then qualified this statement with, ‘I do not apply these remarks to the whole of them. I say that there are many honest among the members of the Aristocracy. I do not grudge them their titles and property and their influence, when legitimately exercised; but let them not infringe on the birthright of the people.’

The Great Debate about Parliamentary reform led to the formation of Political Unions. One for the three towns of Rochester, Chatham and Gillingham in 1831. Strood formed their own. During a Strood Political Union meeting on 5 June 1832 which he chaired Larkin declared that, in his opinion, ‘had it not been for the Political Unions the country would be under the feet of a desperate society of Oligarchs ... A reformed House of Commons would effect a thousand reforms both in Church and State; - would reduce those enormous establishments which burthen the country.’<sup>2</sup>

The Third Reform Bill became law in 1832. It revised enfranchised boroughs whereby many new towns gained the right to elect their own MPs while many so-called rotten boroughs lost theirs. Rochester lost one of its MPs to Chatham. Based on property many throughout the country were

disenfranchised. It also specifically disenfranchised women thus igniting the women's suffrage movement. Only one in seven men received the vote.

Charles Larkin died a year later. The *Rochester Gazette* reported that he died aged 56

‘ ... at his home on Boley Hill ... . He had been to Dover, and returned from thence on the evening on which he died, in company of his son-in-law, Mr Horne and a friend. Having been unwell a few days previous, it was remarked that he appeared to have returned in better health, but about half past eight o'clock he was taken ill and expired in about three hours afterwards. He is supposed to have died from disease of the heart. In politics his principles were Liberal, but of his public life it is not necessary for us to speak - his Consistency, and the energy with which he maintained his opinions, must be familiar to all. In private life, no man could be more esteemed than he was for the practice of every social virtue. His advice, rendered valuable from a general fund of information acquired in his extensive commerce with men of business, was ever readily given, and assistance to the utmost of his means offered to all who applied, without regard to party or expectation of gain - his charity was universal, and liberal, but without ostentation - his kindness to the poor unbounded - and if in the heat of party, any angry feelings arose he was always the first to extend the olive branch, and it rarely be said that he suffered the sun to go down on his wrath. His whole conduct was marked by a singleness of heart which endeared him to an extensive circle, and we have seldom witnessed a death that has caused such universal regret.’<sup>3</sup>

#### Notes

1. *Rochester Gazette*, 5 June 1832.
2. *Rochester Gazette*, 5 June 1832.
3. *Rochester Gazette*, 17 August 1833.

*The final part of Charles Larkin concludes in the next issue of The Clock Tower.*

## Archives Update

Alison Cable, Archivist



### MAC's New Archive E-Catalogue (Farewell CityArk!)

The time has finally come for CityArk to be retired and a new *industry standard* software has been brought in to replace it. Our online catalogue (for that is what it is - not actually a website) had been massively overburdened for some years. Despite a new server being purchased about seven years ago - specifically for the CityArk data - our IT team confirmed a couple of years ago that even that was over-burdened and they couldn't help us to reinvigorate the old catalogue.

After much research, we managed to find a way forward and a one year project enabled us to employ a project archivist to transfer all the *catalogued* collection data to the new software (supplied by Adlib). Adlib was chosen as it is tried - and - tested, has a helpdesk (for the data inputters) and is used by a number of archives and museums in the UK. It is designed to enable us to catalogue to the required international archival standard known as ISAD (G). In addition, Adlib Museum was already in use by our Guildhall Museum curator for the purpose of cataloguing artefacts. This means that researchers will be able to search both databases through the one Adlib portal.

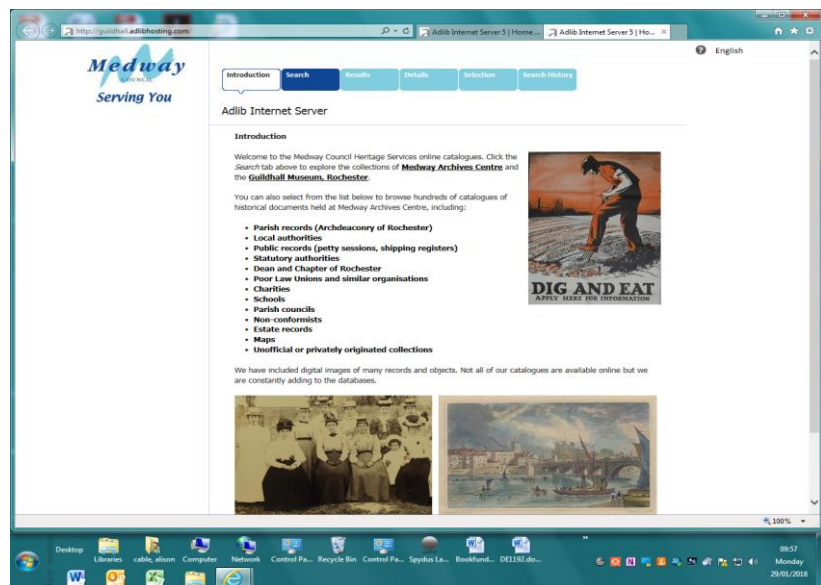
Mindful that a good many of our faithful CityArk users were only really interested in the digitised parish records, our project archivist found a way of replicating those images on the new Adlib software. They are presented as PDF files, and whilst they take a little longer to open, once they are open you can view two open pages of a volume on one screen ... much more easy on the eyes.

Of course the new catalogue will always be a work in progress, with new collections being added. The next stage is to work on putting collection-level references online for those collections that are not actually catalogued, so do bear with us.

I will be working with our IT team to ensure that anyone using the CityArk web address will be sent seamlessly to the new e-catalogue. At the time of writing, we have not identified the specific date when this will happen, but it will be late February. In the meantime, you can get to the new catalogue via our web page (as illustrated below):

<http://www.medway.gov.uk/leisurecultureandsport/medwayarchivescentre/searchthecollections.aspx>

Happy searching!



A screenshot of the new facility.

## *The Christmas Event at MAC*

Amanda Thomas



The Medway Archives Centre (MAC) Christmas Event was held on Wednesday 13 December 2017 (see the inside front and back covers for photographs). In the morning the hall attached to the Archives was packed full of local history society stalls and a second hand book stall had been set up in the foyer. Here the FOMA exhibition, *The Ultimate Sacrifice: The Men of the Medway Towns 1917*, could also still be viewed. The event was extremely well supported and many FOMA members kindly offered their help making the day one everyone could enjoy.



*The FOMA stall at the MAC Christmas Event. Pictured from left to right: Elaine Gardner (Chairman), and committee members Kevin Russell and Tessa Towner.*

Local history stalls included FOMA (of course!), the City of Rochester Society, the Friends of Eastgate House, the Snodland Historical Society, the Chatham Historical Society, Medway Council's Heritage Development team, the Friends of Medway Libraries, the Kent Family History Society (Medway Branch), the Friends of Broomhill, author Terry Ward, and the St. Mary's Island History Group.

In the afternoon the hall was transformed into a lecture theatre. Armed with yet more coffee and mince pies, we were entertained and informed by Deborah Collins with her talk, *Christmas in the Workhouse*, a fascinating synopsis of much of the research she has undertaken at the Medway Archives Centre.



The day was a tremendous celebration of Medway heritage and a perfect start to Christmas!

*In the morning there was a brisk trade in coffees, teas and mince pies from the counter.*



## *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](mailto:amanda@ajthomas.com). FOMA Secretary, Odette Buchanan, often receives queries from members or visitors to the FOMA website, [www.foma-lsc.org/index.html](http://www.foma-lsc.org/index.html). If you have any additional information for the following correspondents, please contact the Editor.*

### **Frederick Leach**

#### **Mapping Mr Leach - St Margaret's Rochester, St Peter's Rochester and St John's Chatham**

24.01.18

As part of a large heritage project for the David Parr House in Cambridge ([www.davidparrhouse.org](http://www.davidparrhouse.org)), I am co-ordinating a nationwide research project to discover more about the Cambridge-based firm of Victorian Artworkmen, F.R. Leach (& Sons). We are particularly keen to find invoices from the firm and any photographs of their work and, according to a tradecard from the firm, three of the buildings 'where examples of our work can be seen' are St Margaret's and St Peter's, Rochester and St John's Chatham. We also know from appointment diaries that work was carried out by the Leach firm in Folkestone too.

Frederick Leach established his firm in 1862 and quickly built a reputation for skilled craftsmanship in all aspects of church decoration, working all over the country for architects and designers such as George Frederick Bodley, Charles Eamer Kempe and William Morris. The firm moved from church decoration to grand domestic houses from the 1880s. The firm closed in 1916 but the various branches were carried on in Cambridge by Frederick's three sons and then grandson until the 1980s.

Unfortunately (to say the least!), the central records of the firm were lost in a fire in 1970 and so information about what the firm was doing and where needs to be gleaned from whatever records can be found surviving in the places where we know (from sources in the family archive such as the tradecard and Frederick's appointment diaries) they carried out decorative work. They were involved in all aspects of church decoration - highly-skilled artistic wall and ceiling painting, stained glass windows, wood and stone-carving, ornate metalwork and church textiles such as altar frontals.

And so, I am trying to reach potential research volunteers in your local area to help with the research and to put Rochester and Chatham on our Leach map.

Thank you for very much taking the time to read all this! Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like to find out more or if you can offer me any further help with reaching local researchers.

Best wishes,  
Shelley Lockwood, Audiences and Volunteer Manager,  
*Life and Art in a Worker's House*, David Parr House.

**PLEASE CONTACT SHELLEY LOCKWOOD AT [shelley@davidparrhouse.org](mailto:shelley@davidparrhouse.org) IF YOU HAVE (OR NEED) ANY INFORMATION.**

## Medway Evacuees to Nantyglo, South Wales

04 .01.18

Greetings from South Wales,

I am contacting you in the hope that your archives may be able to provide some information for a little research I am doing.

I recently discovered that, in 1943, my parents met a Mr Albert Charles (AC) Halliday while they were on honeymoon in Llandogo, Near Tintern in the Wye Valley. They have a handwritten poem which he kindly gave them. At the bottom of the poem he signed it and gave his address as Rochester Kent and also stated that he was evacuated to Duffryn House, New Road, Nantyglo.

I have managed to find out that he was a teacher and was possibly about 60 in 1943. He seems to have written quite a few articles for local papers in Kent and South Wales but I would be very interested in any extra information you might be able to provide.

Also, if you are able to ask former evacuees to Nantyglo if they have any memories of him that would be wonderful ...

Finally, there is another connection between the Nantyglo / Blaina area and Kent through the 'Blue Pilgrims' organisation and I have a feeling his turning up in Nantyglo may not have been due to a purely random selection.

Well, thanks again for any help / information you can provide. I have tried accessing the Cityark website but it seems to be having problems at the moment as nothing is displayed even when a known reference is entered.

Best wishes,

Graham Oakes.

*Clock Tower* Editor, Amanda Thomas responded:

Dear Mr Oakes,

I will make sure that your letter is published in our forthcoming issue of *The Clock Tower*.

I also hope Cindy [O'Halloran] at the Archives will be able to guide you through the current difficulties with using CityArk. The system is being upgraded as the old one is running out of steam; I am sorry that you have experienced difficulties with this. [See page 23 for Alison Cable's update].

In the meantime, I have had a look for you and have found some more information. First of all I had a look at the 1939 Index and at that time Albert was a school teacher in Elham Rural District. His name is ALBERT CHARLES HOLLIDAY, which may be why you are having some trouble finding him. The Index shows he was born on 2 Nov 1881 and in 1939 he was an elementary school master.

He was married in 1908 to Louisa E Coulter who was born in Frindsbury or Strood on 21 Dec 1878 and in 1939 her occupation is 'unpaid domestic duties'. I have copied in my colleague Tessa Towner

as she is an expert on the Coulters in this area and may have further information. However, I do know that Louisa was the daughter of Henry Coulter and Sarah Frances Apps.

Albert was the son of Frederick Hope Holliday and Hannah Mowatt. The 1901 Census shows Frederick was a grocer's assistant and that he was born in Sheerness in 1840 to Frederick Hope Holliday and Elizabeth (I think); Hannah was born in Chatham in about 1845. The Hollidays were Bible Christians and I have found the baptism of an earlier sibling to Frederick (also called Frederick Hope, who died aged 3 years old) at the Sheerness Ebenezer Chapel.

I have also attached a document I found on Findmypast which shows Albert qualified as a teacher in 1919. [For copyright reasons this document is not reproduced here].

I do hope that fills in some gaps for you.

Best wishes,

Amanda Thomas,  
Editor, *The Clock Tower*.

## *News and Events*

### Calendar of Forthcoming Events and Exhibitions

#### **Friends of Medway Archives**

##### Talks and Events

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**

Saturday 12 May, 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!

Tuesday 12 June, 7.30 pm

*The History of Luton Village to 1914.*

A talk by Brian Joyce.

**Booking for FOMA events is not necessary and 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](http://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](mailto:betty-cole@outlook.com)**

#### **Medway Archives Centre**

Thursday 1 February to Tuesday 1 May

##### **Strood 2000 Years of 'Just Passing Through'**

An exhibition about the fascinating history of Strood with images from our photographic collection.

##### **On Display - Short Mayo Composite (1937)**

The Short brothers moved their successful business to Rochester in 1913 due to their interest in developing seaplanes. The Medway was an ideal place for testing. The business relocated to Belfast in 1948. We are delighted to now have the model of the Short Mayo Composite (1937) on display in the foyer of MAC (see photograph). We also have a collection of plans, drawings, photographs and ephemera to view by appointment.



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/](http://www.facebook.com/malsc/), the FOMA website ([www.foma-lsc.org](http://www.foma-lsc.org)) and Facebook page [www.facebook.com/fomalsc/](http://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](mailto: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.**

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

## **The Friends of the Guildhall Museums**

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

The Friends of the Guildhall Museums is a group which supports the work of two important but very different elements of Medway's heritage - the Guildhall Museum in Rochester and the Old Brook Pumping Station in Chatham. Supporting the Guildhall Museums will help conserve our local history for generations to come through specialist events and opportunities designed to educate and inspire, telling the stories of the Medway Towns.

**For all events see [www.friendsoftheguildhall.com/events/](http://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.

## **Notice of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:**

**Saturday 3rd March 2018, 13.30 for 14.00, to 16.30.**

**Avenue Tennis, Featherby Road, Gillingham, ME8 6AN. (Not as previously advertised).**

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](mailto:Richard@thebournes.me.uk).

Or see our website at [www.chathamtraction.org.uk](http://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](http://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](http://huguenotmuseum.org))

**The Huguenot Museum is open Wednesday – Saturday 10am – 5pm on the top two floors of 95 High Street, Rochester, Kent. Entrance is £4 for adults and £3 concessions and can be validated for 12 months with gift-aid. For more information or to get in touch visit [www.huguenotmuseum.org](http://www.huguenotmuseum.org), call 01634 789347 or email [learning@huguenotmuseum.org](mailto:learning@huguenotmuseum.org) 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 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive year and our RHS S.E in Bloom status of 'outstanding'. IT'S FUN IT'S FREE and IT'S HEALTHY.

Sunday, 4 March 2018 - Wild flower planting.

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

**Friends of Broomhill has nearly achieved enough sponsorship money to purchase the old orchard. All monies received before end of March will be matched-funded by Medway Council. YOUR PARK NEEDS YOU NOW! Contact Secretary, David Park for details if you haven't yet donated (see below).**

For further details see park notice boards, [www.friendsofbrommhill.org.uk](http://www.friendsofbrommhill.org.uk), find us on Facebook or contact David Park, Secretary on 01634 718972, email: [davidpark1999@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:davidpark1999@yahoo.co.uk)

## The Chatham Historical Society

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month, except January and August, at St Stephen's Church, Maidstone Road, Chatham, ME4 6JE. There is a small car park to the front of the church and access is via Maidstone Road. Alternative parking is available in nearby roads including Maidstone Road. Please do not park in the bus bay; there is disabled parking and step free access to the hall.

Wednesday 14 March, *Medway Memories* – a reminiscence session with Peter Cook.

April 2018, Annual General Meeting.

May 2018, Brompton Virtual Tour - Ben Levick.

June 2018, *Chatham Scandal* - Brian Joyce.

July 2018, *Short Brothers* - Norma Crowe.

Doors open at 7:15 pm for a 7.30 pm start; meetings finish at 9:00 pm. All meetings are open to the public, and visitors are very welcome. No need to book; just turn up and pay at the door! Members £1, visitors £3; annual membership is £10 and can be paid on the night. Further information is available at [www.chathamhistoricalsoc.btck.co.uk](http://www.chathamhistoricalsoc.btck.co.uk)

## The Royal Engineers Museum, Library and Archive

Prince Arthur Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME4 4UG

SEE THE WEBSITE [www.re-museum.co.uk](http://www.re-museum.co.uk)

FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

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



Library and Archives: essential building maintenance is taking place but a limited service will be available from early summer 2018 – please check the website [www.re-museum.co.uk](http://www.re-museum.co.uk) for more details.

### Events

20 January – 4 March.

*Ubique* [oo-bee-kwe] an exhibition which brings together eight dynamic graduating photographers from UCA Rochester in collaboration with the Royal Engineers Museum Library and Archive. In response to the archive the diverse photographers created individual works which shed new light on the historical material.

13 – 18 February.

Half-term Activities – *The Chinese Year of the Dog*.

Join us as we run a host of children's activities, celebrating Chinese New Year, The Year of the Dog, and Royal Engineer Charles Gordon's close connection with China. Time Drop-in: 10:30am – 1pm and 1.30pm- 3:30pm.

17 April – 22 July

Marco Cali exhibition – *Women in the Armed Forces*

The Crimean War (1853-6) is recognised as the first conflict where photography and news correspondents were present. In addition, it's the last war, at least officially, where wives accompanied soldiers to the front line.



## 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.

**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 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:kesheg@gmail.com)

## Brompton History Research Group

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

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

For more information email [bromptonhistoryresearchgroup@gmail.com](mailto:bromptonhistoryresearchgroup@gmail.com)



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

## 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.

9 March, *Gardens at Versailles* – Martin Heard.

13 April, *Shipbuilding at Sheerness* – Jeremy Thornton.

11 May, AGM.

8 June, Members' Evening.

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



### Blue Town Heritage Centre, The Criterion Music Hall and Cinema

[www.thecriterionbluetown.co.uk/#!/criterion-music-hall/cb3i](http://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>

**Friends of Martello24**  
Registered Charity No. 1172376



[www.martello24.net](http://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](mailto:peter@martello24.net) or telephone 01797 212507.

## 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](mailto:ruth.duckworth@canterbury.ac.uk) or [sheila.sweetinburgh@canterbury.ac.uk](mailto:sheila.sweetinburgh@canterbury.ac.uk)

## Medway Events

Below are some highlights from Medway Council's Heritage and Visitor Development Team. For more information go to <http://www.enjoymedway.org/events/heritage>.

Family crafts and trails – every school holiday period at the Guildhall Museum, Eastgate House, Rochester Castle (not February), Upnor Castle (between Easter and October half-term) and Temple Manor (weekends between Easter and October half-term).

24/25 March, Kent Big Weekend – visit Rochester Castle, Upnor Castle and Eastgate House for free (**apply for ballot tickets here: <https://www.kentbigweekend.co.uk/>**)

Outdoor Theatre performances at the castles .

11 July, Measure for Measure by Changeling Theatre at Upnor Castle.

12 July, Blithe Spirit by Changeling Theatre at Upnor Castle.

24 July, Measure for Measure by Changeling Theatre at Rochester Castle.

2/3 August, Treasure Island by Boxtree Productions at Upnor Castle.

7 August, The Importance of Being Ernest by The Immersion Theatre at Upnor Castle.

21 August, Robin Hood & his Merry Men by Chapterhouse at Rochester Castle.

11-12 August, Medieval Merriment Living History event at Rochester Castle.

September/October, Outdoor Cinema.

September and October, Autumn Lecture Series.

## About The Clock Tower

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

### Editorial deadlines

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

**The copy deadline for Issue 50 of *The Clock Tower* is Monday 30 April 2018, with publication on Wednesday 23 May 2018.**

### Publication date

The fourth Wednesday following the editorial deadline.

*The Clock Tower* is printed by Barkers Litho, Unit 18 Castle View Business Centre, Gas House Road, Rochester, Kent, ME1 1PB; telephone: 01634 829048, email: [info@barkerslitho.co.uk](mailto:info@barkerslitho.co.uk)

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### Front Cover Accreditations and Website Information

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

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

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

### Further Information

Further information on the Medway Archives Centre can be obtained on the MALSC website [www.medway.gov.uk/malsc](http://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](mailto:malsc@medway.gov.uk)

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

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

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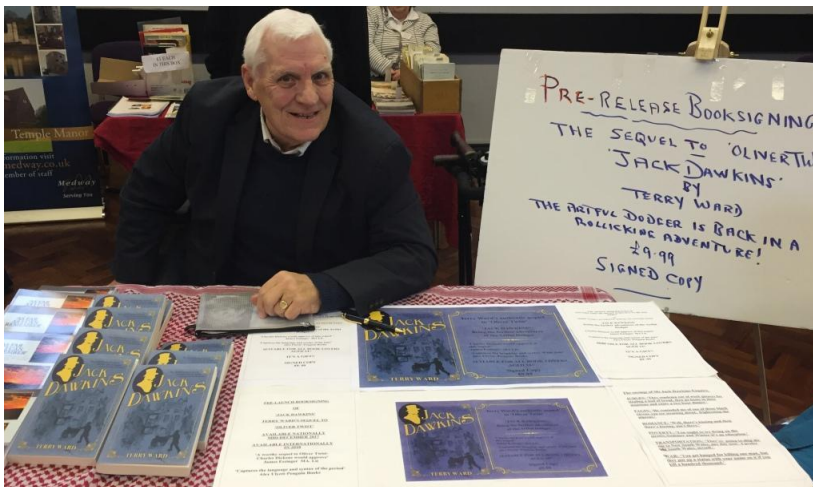
72 Crabtree Lane, Harpenden, AL5 5NS, Hertfordshire.  
amanda@ajthomas.com

## The Christmas Event at MAC



*Left: Deborah Collins.*

*Below: Sue Haydock, the Friends of Eastgate House.*

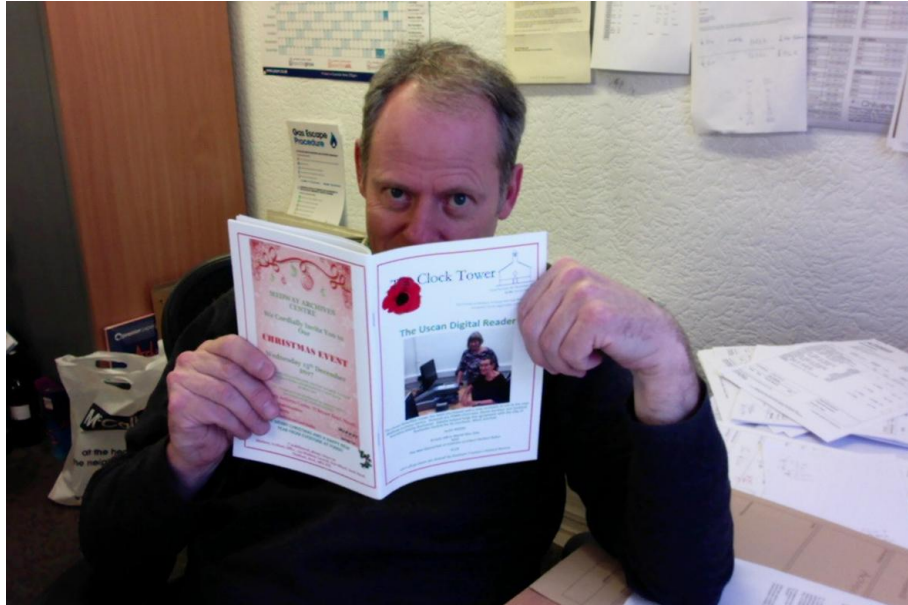


*Left: author Terry Wood.*

See page 24 for more details; more photographs on page 2.

## Who's Reading *The Clock Tower*?

It's Jon Barker of Barkers Litho Printers in Rochester! Read all about our new printers on page 11.



## *The Uscan Digital Reader*

In the last issue of *The Clock Tower* (Issue 48, November 2017), we reported on the purchase by FOMA of the new Uscan fiche/film reader. This was thanks to a donation by the City of Rochester Society and presented to us last year at the FOMA Celebration (see *The Clock Tower*, Issue 26, May 2017). The reader is available to use in the new Medway Archives Centre and the engraved plaque has now been permanently fixed to the machine – as in the photograph (right). The plaque reads:

'This machine was purchased by FOMA from a donation given by the City of Rochester Society'

