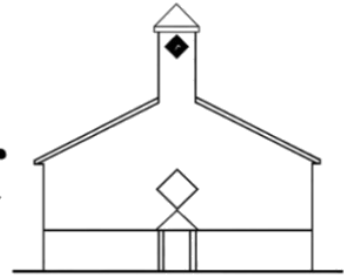


The Clock Tower



Issue Number 50: May 2018
£2.00; free to members

The Friends of Medway Archives
Excepted Charity registration number XR92894

Farewell Alison!



At the FOMA AGM on 10 April 2018, Archivist Alison announced she would be leaving the Medway Archives. Following a thank you speech, FOMA Chairman Elaine Gardner (left) presented Alison with a bouquet of flowers. More on page 3.

ALSO INSIDE:

The unveiling of one of Medway's WWI memorial paving slabs

AND

The Clock Tower at 50!

Congratulations Wendy!

At the beginning of the year we were thrilled to hear that Wendy Daws, the wife of Rob Flood, FOMA Vice Chairman, had received the British Empire Medal (BEM). The honour was for her *Voluntary Service to Visually Impaired People in North Kent*. Wendy has been volunteering with the Kent Association for the Blind for over 12 years and started the Medway and Gravesend Art Groups. (www.kab.org.uk/about-us/community-news.html)

On 10 April 2018 Rob accompanied Wendy to Penshurst Place (pictured) where she was presented with the BEM by the Lord Lieutenant of Kent Viscount De L'Isle.



In May, Rob kindly brought Wendy's medal to the FOMA Committee Meeting at MAC to show us all (pictured).

Chairman's Letter

Elaine Gardner



In April I was very fortunate in being able to represent FOMA at the ceremony to unveil the paving slab commemorating the Victoria Cross awarded one hundred years earlier to Major James McCudden, the first to be awarded in the newly formed Royal Air Force (see page 8).

A large number of descendants from both the McCudden and Byford sides of the family were present, including Paul Spears, grandson to Arthur Spears, (who was married to one of Major McCudden's sisters), and Arthur's great great grandson Matthew Spears. Matthew was the youngest descendant present and helped another descendant, Stephen Byford unveil the stone. Three of the McCudden brothers, along with their brother-in-law Arthur, were all casualties of WWI. Arthur, a shipwright, was blown up on the HMS *Princess Irene* in 1915 and the three brothers were all killed in flying accidents. The Royal Engineers and the Royal Air Force connections continue into the youngest generation with Brandon Byford, who is training with Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, and Matthew Spears who has just joined the Air Cadets. It was also fascinating to talk to Sheila Grundy whose father Alfred Frederick Peter Adams had been James' aircraft mechanic. He had survived the war and lived to the age of 98; Sheila was a daughter from a second marriage after Alfred's first wife died.

We will be including more on these stories in this year's final WWI exhibition which FOMA is currently putting together.

By the time you read this, Alison Cable, MAC Archivist for the past nine years, will have started her new job as Archivist at the Rochester Bridge Trust - just across the river from her old location. She arrived at what was then MALSC in 2009 as FOMA was about to begin its Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Project for the cataloguing of the City of Rochester Archive - the so-called *Archive of Great Expectations*. One of her first jobs was to appoint a project archivist and an assortment of volunteers, not to mention the organization of all the educational events that go along with HLF funding! It has been a real pleasure working and liaising with Alison for the past nine years and we hope that she will continue to support and play a part in future FOMA events. In fact we know she will as she was awarded honorary life membership at the FOMA AGM. We all wish her well in her new role!

THIS WILL BE YOUR FINAL COPY OF THE CLOCK TOWER IF YOU HAVE NOT RENEWED YOUR FOMA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP.

To renew your membership please contact the Membership Secretary, Mrs Betty Cole, 98 The Wharf, Dock Head Road, Chatham, ME4 4ZS, Kent.

Email: betty-cole@outlook.com

Alternatively you can visit the FOMA website at foma-lsc.org/membership.html

New Members

A warm welcome to new FOMA members Mrs Gloria J Angel; Mrs K E Hicks.

New Committee Member

On Wednesday 2 May, the FOMA Committee gathered at MAC to hear from ED Woollard, Medway Council's Heritage Services Manager about the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). It was an extremely useful and informative session. We were delighted that our FOMA Webmaster, Alex Thomas (pictured) was also able to attend, taking time out from his PhD studies at Bristol University. Alex wanted to check that the FOMA website would comply with GDPR in the future. Alex also agreed at the meeting to be co-opted onto the FOMA Committee. His position will not change, but it was a pleasure for the Committee to be able to formalise his role.



Thank You!

We would like to thank Pat Harlow for his donation to FOMA. This was kindly given for research undertaken for him by a FOMA member at the Medway Archives Centre during its closure to the general public.

News about the FOMA De Caville Index

The Index (foma-lsc.org/wwi.html) was launched on the FOMA website on 4 August 2014 for the centenary of the outbreak of World War One. It now contains details of over 4,000 men who served from the Medway area. It includes many photographs, full names, family connections, and addresses. In anticipation of the Armistice commemorations in November our webmaster, Alex Thomas has revamped the Index so that each entry is now fully printable.

The entries are not just of those who were born or lived in the Medway Towns, but also stationed at the barracks of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines and the Royal Engineers, and even includes men who were working at Chatham Dockyard. In the past four years it has been an invaluable research resource and includes the facility to contribute information. As a result some mysteries and misunderstandings have been resolved. One of these was the entry in the Index for Percy Cossom which we realised correlated with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's 'Percy Cosson'. The Commission subsequently amended the official entry to 'Cossom'.

The Old Strood Library

Amanda Thomas



Readers may recall that some time ago we put out a request to see if anyone had a photograph of the old Strood Library. Recently I was contacted by MAC's Cindy O'Halloran to say that an image had been donated (see below). The address of the old building was 32 Bryant Road, the same as today, but it was also known as Lorne Villa. I visited the old library many times and also recall it being used as a polling station. However what I had not realised was the following:

'In 1913, Strood was operating scattered homes for children at 49-51 Goddington Road and 32 Bryant Road, Strood. By 1924, the Goddington Road home had closed and the Bryant Road home then accommodated 40 boys, girls and infants over 3.' (<http://www.workhouses.org.uk/Strood/#Homes>): Strood Branch Library was housed in Lorne Villa from 1947 to 1973 when it was closed for demolition. The new purpose built library was opened on 14 March 1974 by local M.P. Mrs Peggy Fenner; at the time it housed over 20,000 books. (see <http://medway.adlibhosting.com/Details/archive/110042795>).



Lorne Villa, 32 Bryant Road, Strood. Undated image (perhaps c. 1963), probable © Chatham News. Donated to MAC by the family of the late Vernon Stratford, Deputy Picture Editor of the Chatham News and Standard.

Secretary's Report

Odette Buchanan



I do hope you enjoyed this year's spring that week in April – especially after the Beastly Easterly horrors we were subjected to throughout March. Just sit back in a dry spot and wait for our annual week of summer now.

It was good to see so many of you braving the fog to enjoy the excitement of the AGM (of course I know most of you only come to enjoy Elaine's lovely cakes but we won't dwell on that). For those of you that were unable to attend, we were reminded that MALSC has not only a new home but also a new name now: Medway Archives Centre or MAC. The name change was voted on at the AGM. This means that the FOMA Committee is now in the process of re-vamping our membership leaflet – and also in light of the new data protection laws.

At the AGM we had another shock – Alison Cable announced her resignation as Chief Archivist at the end of April! We are sad to see her go – her nine year tenure of the very demanding job will be a hard act to follow. She arrived at the outset of our Heritage Lottery Grant work and now this last year she has had all the chaos and upheaval of moving the Archives to Bryant Road. Of course we wished her well at the AGM with a bouquet (see the front cover), but she will not be going far. She has taken up the post of Archivist with the Bridge Wardens' Trust. At the AGM she was also awarded FOMA Honorary Life Membership and so we will probably be in touch quite frequently.

Also at the AGM we discussed the idea of a FOMA summer visit to the Dymchurch Martello Tower and there appeared to be quite a lot of interest. At the recent FOMA Committee Meeting we concluded Saturday, 7 July as the best date. If you think you might like to come, please contact me and when we know the level of interest we can get it organised (see below).

In last quarter's *Clock Tower* I told you about FOMA's Brian Joyce's recent marriage – well, don't forget to come to his talk on Tuesday, 12 June – *A Walk along Luton Road* (see *News and Events*, page 27 for details) Then you can congratulate him in person, apart from enjoying one of his informative and interesting talks.

FOMA SUMMER VISIT

Saturday 7 July 2018

Martello Tower No. 24, Dymchurch.

'Martello Tower No. 24 in Dymchurch High Street was one of 74 towers built along the south coast between 1805 and 1812 to resist the threatened French invasion. It has been restored to its original design and contains replica gunpowder barrels and a 24 pounder muzzle-loading cannon on the gun platform. Of all the Martello Towers remaining, Martello24 is closest to its original condition and it can be seen as it was when occupied by the military.' (theromneymarsh.net/martello24)

PLEASE LET FOMA SECRETARY, ODETTE BUCHANAN KNOW ASAP IF YOU ARE INTERESTED:

72 Jersey Road, Rochester, ME2 3PE; telephone: 01634 718231;
email: odette_buchanan@yahoo.co.uk

IF A SUFFICIENT NUMBER IS KEEN – WE WILL GO AHEAD!

Untold Stories and Hidden Treasures:

a FOMA talk by Simon Lace

Elaine Gardner



On Tuesday 13 March 2018, we were delighted to host Simon Lace's talk, *Untold Stories and Hidden Treasures: is Rochester Cathedral Revealing its Secrets?* Simon is a FOMA committee member and has been Rochester Cathedral's Chapter Clerk and Executive Director for just over a year; he was formerly Medway Council's officer whose brief included Heritage, Museums, and the Medway Archives Centre.

Simon began by suggesting that perhaps many in his audience knew more about the Cathedral than he did, but I think we all learnt things we hadn't known before. The thing which had surprised him most when he took up the post – and I think surprised all of us too – was that the Church of England does not provide anything towards the cost of keeping the Cathedral open. It pays just the stipends for three clergy, a very small sum in the general running of things. Simon calculated that if he divided the total annual running costs by the amount of time in the year that the Cathedral doors are open, it worked out that it cost £4.50 per minute. That is quite a lot of money that has to be raised each year! I suppose it is not a surprise that some cathedrals charge entry fees for visitors, but our Dean, the Very Reverend Dr Philip Hesketh, does not believe in doing that.

Simon then showed us some old, mostly hidden (or unnoticed) objects, such as graffiti in the crypt, the remains of wall paintings, and a collection of stonework objects like heads or carvings. All of these have been hidden away after previous repairs to the outside stonework. He then went on to look at the recent changes. Hopefully by now most of you have been into the crypt since its renovation – if not then do go. It really does look wonderful - who knew that such a dark and grubby looking space could be transformed into something so beautiful? The renovation work uncovered the foundations of a Roman villa, two a penny in Rochester so not worth leaving on display it seems. The work also uncovered two old stone steps. These turned out to be part of Gundulf's eleventh century building and had to remain at all costs. And cost it did since it prevented the installation of the lift access to both the crypt and the renovated library. The installation of a lift is a problem still being worked on.

The renovated crypt now includes an excellent exhibition display area, the last part of which should be open by now, and the beautifully restored St Ithamar chapel for quiet prayer and services. On permanent display is the *Textus Roffensis*, the important eleventh century manuscript, written by one of the Cathedral monks. Amongst other things it contains details of early English law and also information on the parishes responsible for the maintenance of the early Rochester Bridge.

The current exhibition has been put together by the Rochester Bridge Trust and it details the history of the bridges including many documents from their archive. It was due to close in June but as it has proved so popular is being extended to the end of October (see page 31). Sue Threader, Bridge Clerk, will also be repeating the talk she gave in February on the significance of the Bridgeworks List on Tuesday 26 June in the Cathedral Nave. Again, see page 31 for further details.

Finally there is also now a café in the crypt run by volunteers and serving drinks and cakes. So, if you haven't been recently, drop in, see what's new, have a coffee and maybe drop the odd contribution in the donations box!

*Major James Thomas Byford McCudden,
VC DSO* MC* MM CdeG (FR) RAF*
Elaine Gardner



On Thursday 12 April 2018 I attended the unveiling of the memorial paving slab dedicated to Major James McCudden VC at the Royal Engineers Museum, Brompton. Across the country each Victoria Cross awarded during World War One is being remembered in this way with a paving slab laid in the town of the recipient's birth.



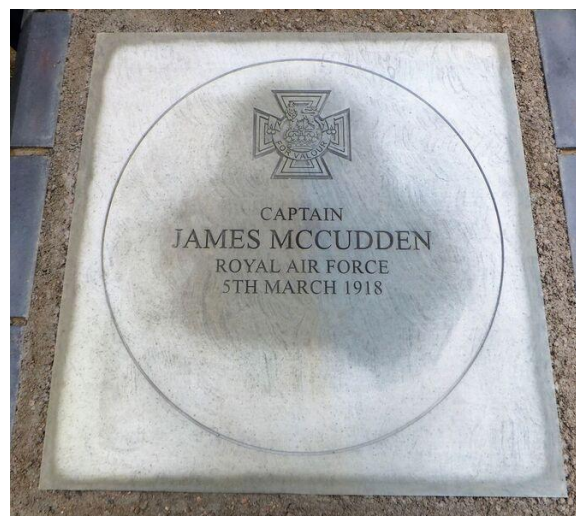
An image of James McCudden from the cover of The War Illustrated, 8 June 1918. This image was provided by Richard Benns, a descendant of the McCudden family.

Major McCudden was the most decorated pilot in the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) which, combined with the Royal Naval Air Service early in 1918, was to become the Royal Air Force (RAF). Major McCudden was thus awarded the first VC in the RAF.

Major McCudden began his career in the Royal Engineers, as did his father before him, before transferring to the RFC, and both forces were represented at the dedication service along with many relatives of the McCudden and Byford families and local dignitaries.

The Viscount de L'Isle MBE, Lord Lieutenant of Kent gave a short summary of Major McCudden's war history before joining Stephen Byford and Matthew Spears, the youngest relative present, to unveil the stone. The Last Post was sounded and Padre Jonathan Hyde, padre to the *Royal School of Military Engineering* Regiment, then conducted a short service, and Squadron Leader Paul Spears (Rtd.) read the epitaph: "*They shall not grow old ...*" Squadron Leader Spears is the grandson of Arthur Spears, Major McCudden's brother-in-law who was killed when the HMS *Princess Irene* blew up in the River Medway in 1915.

The paving stone (pictured) is set on a brick plinth outside the gates of the Royal Engineers Museum.



The Order of Service for the unveiling included the following announcement taken from *The London Gazette*, 2 April 1918:

Major James Thomas Byford McCudden

VC DSO* MC* MM CdeG(FR) RAF

The citation for James McCudden's VC in 'The London Gazette' of 2nd April 1918 stated:

For most conspicuous bravery, exceptional perseverance, and a very high devotion to duty. Captain McCudden has at the present time accounted for 54 enemy aeroplanes. Of these, 42 have been destroyed, 19 of them on our side of the lines. Only 12 out of the 54 have been driven down out of control. On two occasions, he had totally destroyed 4 two-seater enemy aeroplanes on the same day, and on the last occasion all 4 machines were destroyed in the space of one hour and thirty minutes.

While in his present squadron, he has participated in 78 offensive patrols, and in nearly every case has been the leader. On at least 30 occasions, whilst with the same squadron, he has crossed the lines alone, either in pursuit or in quest of enemy aeroplanes.

The following incidents are examples of the work he has done recently: on 23 December 1917, when leading his patrol, 8 enemy aeroplanes were attacked between 1430/1550 and of these 2 were shot down by Captain McCudden in our lines; on the morning of the same day, he left the ground at 1050 and encountered 4 enemy aeroplanes and of these he shot 2 down; on 30 January 1918, he, single-handed, attacked 5 enemy scouts, as a result of which 2 were destroyed. On this occasion, he only returned home when the enemy scouts had been driven far east; his Lewis gun ammunition was all finished and the belt of his Vickers gun had broken.

As a patrol leader he has at all times shown the utmost gallantry and skill, not only in the manner in which he has attacked and destroyed the enemy, but in the way he has, during several aerial fights, protected the newer members of his flight, thus keeping down their casualties to a minimum. This officer is considered, by the record he has made, by his fearlessness, and by the great service which he has rendered to his country, deserving of the very highest honour.

If you would like to find out more about the McCuddens and Spears, visit FOMA's De Caville Index at <http://foma-lsc.org/wwi/index.html> which contains information on them and over 4,000 other Medway men killed in World War One. See also page 4.

Rochester High Street Through the Eyes of a Child in the Early 1950s

Julie Gay

Julie Gay has lived in Rochester all her life, except for the couple of days when she was born in Chatham! Her first twenty years were in a flat on Rochester High Street near Northgate, so she has seen many, many changes over the years.

We are indebted to Julie for allowing us to publish this work which was written in 2016.

Part 1

As a child of five years old in the early 1950s Rochester High Street was a dangerous and exciting area. I lived with my parents in a flat above a shop at 66 High Street, Bourne and Hillier's Creamery, and when I go into that shop in 2016 so many of the features are still visible. The blocked off door way, the entrance to the flat, a small door way at the rear of the shop that leads to the back yard and in 1950 the outside toilet - the only one in the building.

The flat was accessed by a spiral staircase which went from the shop to the top of the building. I was told by my father 'that I could never fall from top to bottom of a flight of stairs as I would wedge on one on the bends.' The flat contained three floors of two rooms on each, floor one had the kitchen at the back and living room, what we would call the lounge today, at the front. On the second floor there were two bedrooms and the top floor there were two attics which doubled as drying rooms if the weather was bad - and also my play den. All rooms had open wooden beams in the ceilings and walls and once warm stayed very warm and cosy.

There was no bathroom and as I said before the toilet was out the back in the yard (all right in summer but winter was a very different story). The bath was kept in a walk-in cupboard in the kitchen and an old gas copper heated the water for it on a Friday night when all three of us took our weekly bath, me first then mum then dad. What memories. During the week it was a wash in the sink with water boiled in the kettle on the gas stove. There was a boarded up range in the corner of the kitchen but never used.

My life was simple but exciting living in the shadow of St Nicholas Church and the Cathedral bells every day at service time. I must admit that like most noises that are repetitive you grow to ignore them and not hear them.

The High Street at that time was so interesting that to a small child their face lights up at every shop but it was still a dangerous place as the traffic was still two way and it was a very busy A2 link from London to the coast. Living near the cross roads of Northgate it seemed even busier and was the site of many crashes. You would hear a bang and know that someone had jumped the traffic lights in one direction or the other.

Now let's have a look at the shops in the close vicinity of 66.

As Mum could watch me go down the High Street I was allowed to go as far as Casa Ventana – the sweet shop owned by Mrs Leech – as long as I stayed close to the walls all the way down. Mrs Leech also had a coffee shop on one side of the sweet shop so not only did you have the sweet smell of the sweets in jars but the coffee as well. But what a mixture of shops I had to pass; everyone knew me and waved as I passed by.

Next door was the Neech family, Mum, Dad and two sisters a lot older than me but they still played with me in the back yard. This family owned a tobacconist – I did not like the smell very much - and newsagent's for daily papers. Journals if you ordered and paid for them when you ordered them would be awaiting you the next time you went in the shop.

The shops took a turn backwards away from the road here and a big white stone fronted building was a bank – can't remember which one. Next door and the other side of Black Boy Alley which led to

the cathedral, was Porters the Estate Agents and Woods Agricultural Auctioneers. This was a very tall red brick building with large windows and a very big wide front door.

Gold Medal, a dream of a shop selling household items and furniture, I cannot remember the lady's name in there but I do remember sitting in her little office drinking orange juice and listening to her stories. She was a marvellous story teller making them up as she went along, so if you said to her days later, "tell the story of ..." she would start but it never ended the same. If mum let me go just to Gold Medal she knew I was safe and enjoying myself.

Now the chemist with its big glass bottles of coloured liquid in the window. Jars of this and that lined the shelves and it smelt very clinical. This was Mr Freestone's emporium and along with Mr Clarke at Ryder's Chemist, opposite the Guildhall, a trip to one of them and all minor ailments could be cured with a pill or potion no need for a trip to the Dr's. They were both very clever men in their field of medicine.

Oh what a smell! Newly baked bread from the bakery next door. With a nose pressed up against the window you could see all the cakes and bread, hot and soft or crusty straight from the oven. Not allowed in there unless mum was with me – not at this tender age when fingers were into everything.

The cenotaph used to spook me as a small child, I suppose because I did not really understand the significance of it, but there it was this tall lump of stone and (in the mind of a child) ready to fall over.

Oh yes, another tobacconist. This one just sold tobacco and was run by Mr and Mrs Theobald, a lovely couple who would wave as I passed by. Another dreary office, which turns out to be the office of the local newspaper. Oh well, to a child that could not read it meant nothing other than pictures. A lovely family lived next door to this office. The Ash family, mum and dad and I think only a daughter. (I remember playing with her, with Mum's permission, in their living room). They lived in two rooms at the back of the shop and bedrooms above. Mr and Mrs Ash ran a stationers and book shop which also had gifts as a side line. What an Aladdin's' cave, quite dark in places but Mr Ash could find all you wanted in a twinkling of an eye. I suppose this may have been where my love of paper and books was nurtured under Mr Ash's watchful eye.

A private house stood next door. This was the home of Mr Ashby, a very pleasant gentleman, but we did not see him that much. And so to Mrs Leech in the sweet shop. My journey on my own was complete with Mum safe in the knowledge that I had arrived safely, could return to her work in the shop below 66. My return journey was watched by Mrs Leech, if Mum did not come to find me, and so Mrs Leech was satisfied that I was back home safely.

Across the road opposite 66 lived a Miss Boyce, Mr Luckhurst and Mr and Mrs Pepperday. These lovely people also helped to shape the early years of my life.

Julie Gay's memories of Rochester High Street will continue in the next Clock Tower, Issue 51, August 2018.

When is an Oast not an Oast

Hazel Thorn



Hazel was born and has lived in the Medway towns all her life. She spent 30 plus years working in Kent and Medway Libraries and first got into local history working with a blind local history librarian at Springfield. She was one of the AIM group who produced the two volumes of Times of Our Lives recording the lives of the women in Medway, and then Dewponds and Doodlebugs, history of Walderslade for the Kent Arts and Libraries. More recently Hazel helped Doris Herlihy with her project on Parkwood. She is on the FPOGA committee and also enjoys photography and crafts.

Oast Houses are a familiar sight in Kent, be they round or square. Many have been successfully converted into homes, or storage buildings when no longer needed for processing hops. Rainham has three oasts, two visible from the main A2, one to the east converted for domestic use; this one has the Kent horse on the sails. The *famous* Oast Theatre to the south of the A2 behind the High Street is described as the first Oasthouse Theatre in the World, established in 1963.

There is another to the north of Rainham Railway Station, facing the down platform on the main London to coast line; this one has steam trains on the sails. It is barely visible from the A2 even from the top of the Millennium Centre by the Church. This building is very much associated with the Wakeley Family, sometimes called Wakeleys Oast, or Station Oasts and more recently Oast House Community Centre.

The original Wakeley family were from Rainham at least from 1750s onwards. Thomas Wakeley and Mary Butcher married at St Nicholas Rochester in 1829, as shown in the parish records. They were the parents of William Henry Wakeley who married Helen Bertha Dodd and William is the person mainly associated with the Oast building.

The Wakeley family were very prominent in the area, newspapers report many instances of the family and their workers having awards for farming achievements. For example, at the third annual ploughing match of the Sittingbourne Agricultural Association in November 1839, a Mary Naylor received an award for 115 $\frac{3}{4}$ days of outdoor work for William Lake Wakeley, earning 6/-.

The Wakeley family appear in many of the trades sections of the local directories under a number of *manufacturing and suppliers* headings and also as private residents. The address most often recorded for their business ventures is Rainham Station. It is not clear if the oasts were built at the earlier dates, or whether this is another building altogether. The rail line was running through Rainham in 1847, and the signal box was a landmark in the 1851 census, but the oast was not residential and so it was not recorded. However the cottages, variously named Platform Cottages and Station Row, are recorded from 1861 onwards. The inhabitants of the cottages were, variously, a brickfield or lime labourer, a stone quarryman, plate layers, a worker in a coal yard, and a barge master/waterman, and a corn warehouseman. Prior to the building of the station in about 1858 this was called White Horse Road, one presumes because of the White Horse Pub on the A2.

The Wakeley family were described over the years as *principle* landowners, hop farmers, fruit growers, corn factors, millers, merchants, oil cake merchants, brick and tile makers, coke and coal merchants, and manure merchants. In 1897 Wakeley Brothers Rainham was formed and the oast building was their main office. All of their various businesses traded from there.

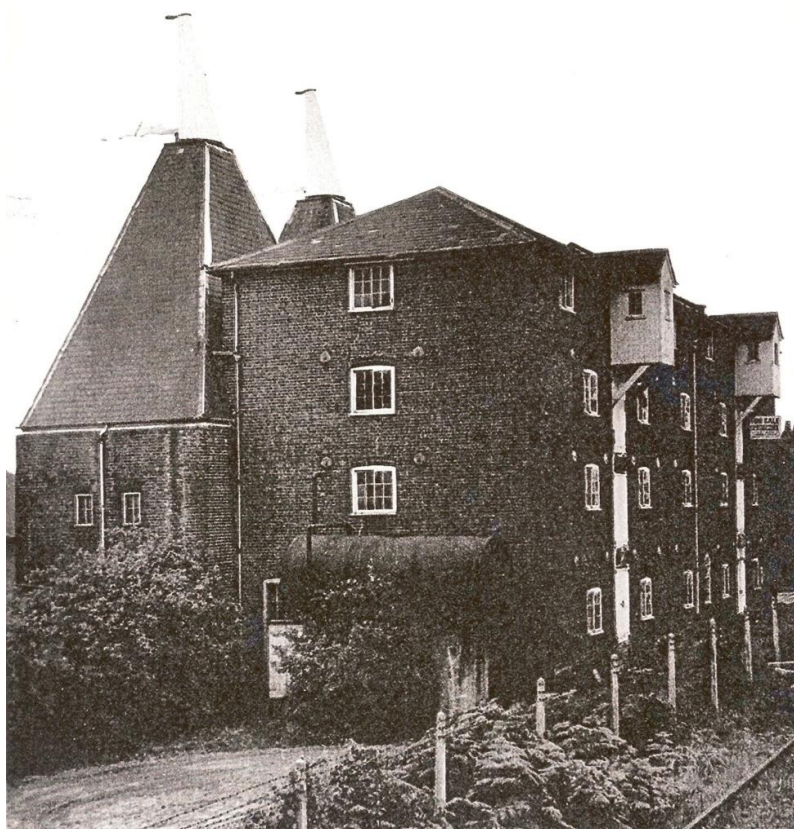
The Wakeley family also had barges, some built by them, some made for them locally and some made for other companies. The Port of Rochester shipping records give details of a number of them. For example, *Utility*, ship number 1118222, which was a wooden sailing barge registered in 1906 for

William Henry Wakeley and built in Rainham It was sold in 1944 to Sir Roger Wibrew RN of Maidstone Road Rochester. His father was a publican at the Angel public house, Rainham and it was he who sold it on to Sidney Lord Bannister of Barnsole Road, Gillingham in 1947; it was de-registered in 1948 for use as a houseboat. These barges were mainly single deck wooden sailing barges which had two masts and were spritsail rigged. They were used to take bricks to London from the brickfields in Rainham. The Wakeley *bob* is visible in some photos from the Mersea Island Museum. It was a white cross on a blue ground. There are also images advertising Wakeley's *Famous Hop Manure*, which apparently was often featured on the sails of the barges.

Some key dates in the twentieth century. In 1901 a farm fire at Upchurch demolished many buildings and stock was extensive damaged and by 1903 Wakeley Road had been constructed. In 1938 Wakeley Brothers were winning prizes in the hop competition at the Brewers Exhibition in various categories. In September 1939 it was reported that Wakeley Brothers were expecting some 1500 pickers due to the good weather and a substantial crop of hops. By 1955 the building was being used as a grain store, there were corn fields surrounding the building at this time, before the building of new homes got under way. In 1965 Wakeley Brothers were still in business, a ledger book shows sales of barley, maize, wheat and *growers mix*, but no hops.

In the 1960s with new modern hop drying practices, Wakeley's decided to consolidate their oast houses in the Upchurch/Rainham area and build a new, less labour intensive oast house in Spade Lane, Hartlip; five of their older Oast Houses were sold off. Some were converted to houses, some knocked down and the Station Oast was sold; it was later converted to the Community Centre. In 1969 the Rainham and Wigmore Community Association had held their first children's party there. 120 children aged four to ten were entertained by Uncle Les (Skinner) with magic tricks and a Punch and Judy show; jelly and ice cream were served.

A sketch of the building from the 1970s shows the architect plans, including an extension to the eastern end of the oast, but slightly different to the one eventually built. Other items and documents found there have yet to be catalogued.



An image of the Station Oast when it was put up for sale. Image from Action Forum magazine, circa 1970, accessed at the Medway Archives Centre.

**Sadly none of the other images were suitable for publication here.*

Travels of a Tin Trunk

Michael Baker



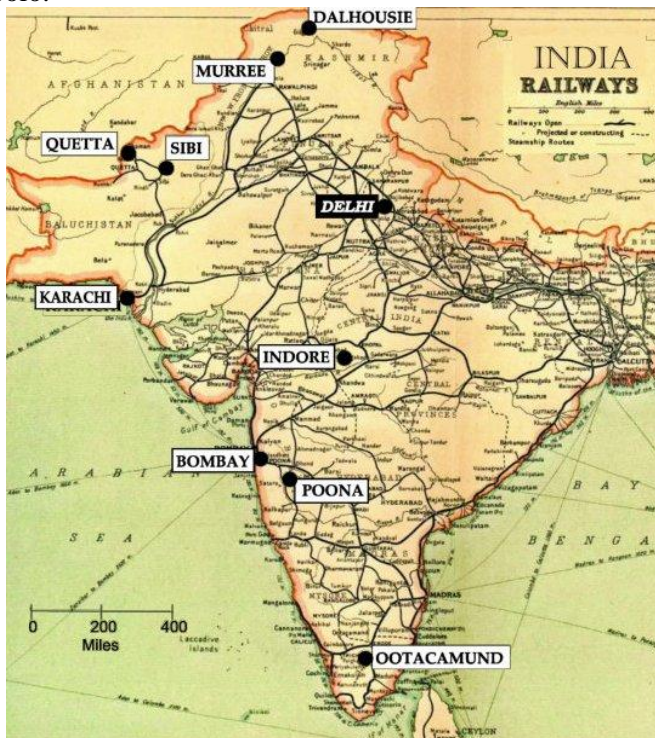
Michael Baker's interest in family history was started by a great-uncle who once unrolled a family tree on the dining-room table. It was seven feet long. After a career in Electrical Engineering, including 20 years overseas, he opened some boxes in the Owletts' attic ...

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 7

Sport and Sketching: India, 1890 – 93.

The British had been many years in India by the time Alfred reached Bombay. India was such a source of wealth with cotton, silk, tea, salt, spices etc being traded between Europe, India and China, that an Army was kept to preserve the routes of trade, both land and sea. By 1889, internal transport was being developed and the map shows how extensive a rail network the British built. The army could respond should the Mutiny of 1857 recur or if troops were needed in Afghanistan where Russia and Britain might clash. Alfred's records of his movements about the country show that he spent many hours on those trains. Troops were deliberately moved allowing each regiment its share of the good postings as well as the difficult. They took the opportunity to arrange shooting competitions and polo.



India's Rail Network (1909), showing where Alfred served, 1890 – 93

Twenty years earlier the Indian Army had assimilated that of the old East India Company and applied a rule of at least one European to two Indian soldiers. Alfred didn't write of his military work. The trunk revealed certificates from courses he took to qualify as a mounted infantry officer and as a signalling and musketry instructor.¹ He taught Indians as well as British. Otherwise it was a waiting game and he made the best of it.

Arriving in Poona in January 1890, Alfred was immediately in his element: shooting in January quickly moved to cricket and *I take twice the exercise I used to in England; early evening go up river, getting rather an oarsman, racing form almost...*²

Three weeks later on exercise at Wanowrie, three miles south of Poona he made this delightful sketch from his tent of the Parbutti (now Parvati) temples on their hilltop (see below). But he was expecting to be on the move again: Quetta in March, *unpromising*, he wrote beforehand, *snow there and now raining hard we hear*. Getting there meant 100 miles by rail to Bombay, a sea voyage of three nights to Karachi, then 500 more miles by rail, tedious no doubt. Though his cricket records show us where he was month by month there is no letter surviving until July. He had left Quetta for Kashmir.

He wrote to his sister from "Snow view", Dalhousie in July 1890, with cheery humour: *little to do except peacocking about after uninteresting females on the tennis courts or ball room. Racquet court shut and no cricket, now it rains all day and every day. I do a lot of walking up the cliffs here as I have not got a pony... tried one but found I could carry him not he me.*

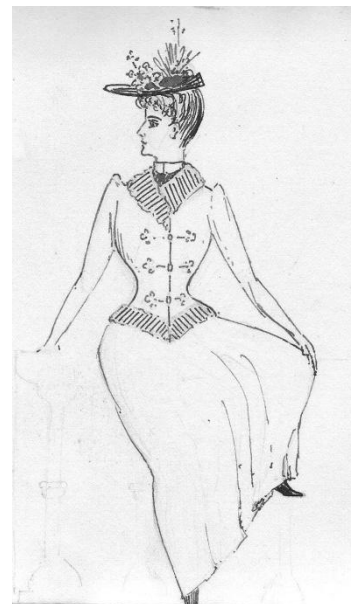


Parvati from Alfred's letter 1890, 02 16. He claimed that at the spot marked Prince Albert (later the Duke of Clarence) and his wife were pitched off an elephant.

I brought my dog, a stray I picked up in Quetta, a fox terrier a little long in the leg and very pretty head, only like all natives his face is black. There were two swallows building in his bedroom: they wake me every morning at 6 to let them out. They had a great fight this morning with two others who came in. Feathers and swallows were falling on my bed for half an hour when the intruders got the boot.³ He sent fern specimens to his mother.

Back in Quetta, 5,000 feet up on the border of Afghanistan and hot and dry in August, there was regular cricket for two months. In October he wrote to his sister Bee to say he had a touch of fever, but he was able to buy a pony: *the first I have found up to my weight and he is strong enough to carry me at polo. At present he is rough just having come in from Kabul. A pony is not much use here except for polo as the country is uninteresting and not safe, though a little shooting. There were two kinds of partridge, sandgrouse and teal. India suits me well enough but I shall never prefer it to England.*

In November there was a flood, *but today is lovely, out all morning riding. ... I have been trying to be too young; not content with football, I ran in a paperchase yesterday and can't move today from stiffness. Came in 2nd though. His sense of irony has not left him: the only spinster in the place is to be married tomorrow, temporary insanity on the part of the future bridegroom. Glad to hear of all the marriages at home; congratulate them from me.*



From Alfred's portfolio, undated.

By January 1891, my pony has turned out a clipper, won't make a racer as he carries 14 stone but ought to do well for polo. Alfred was confined by winter inactivity and one's ideas get cramped, cut off as we are from all the world.⁴ But he could use the time to study with a view to gaining the rank of Captain. I passed my examinations with a certain amount of credit, but I see no chance of promotion for some time.⁵ Indeed none came for two years.



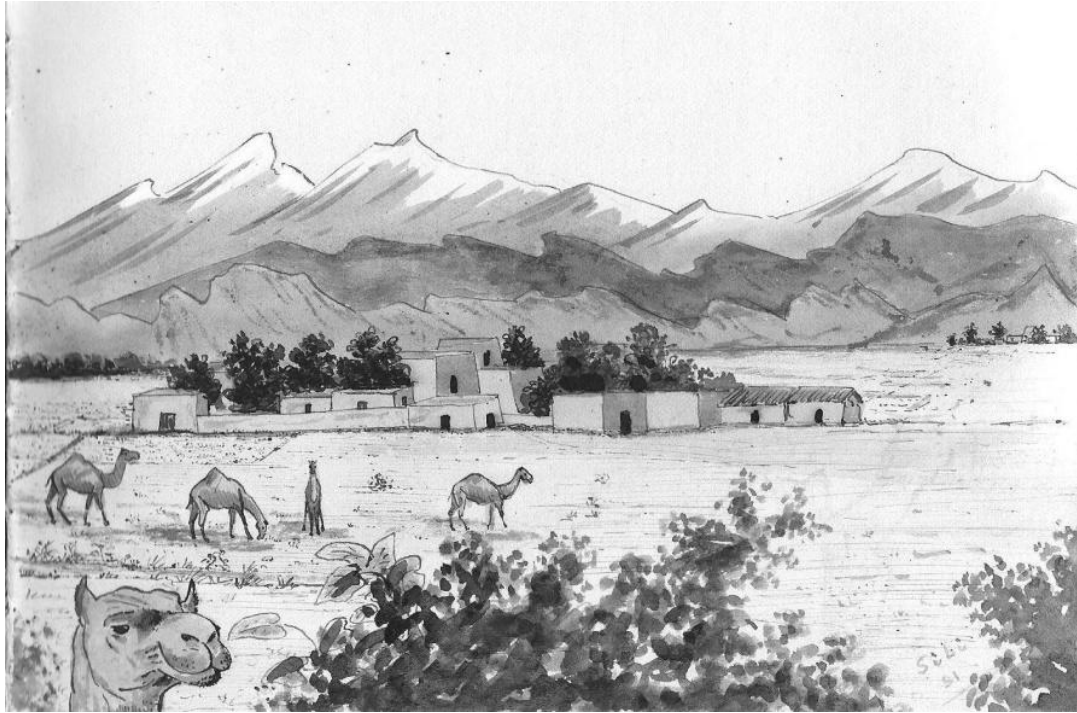
The 2nd was the less well known of the two DLI battalions when it reached India, but it won a high reputation there in the 1890s, largely on the polo field. If a unit did well at polo, it could be trusted in battle. The leading light was a Guernseyman, H de B de Lisle, who had distinguished himself in The Sudan.⁶ Alfred and de Lisle were the same age and would have known each other at the battle of Ginnis and later at Colchester in 1886-7. De Lisle had an ability to choose and train ponies and he developed the Battalion's teamwork. An early success was in 1891 at an Open Tournament at Quetta. Alfred was there then and must surely have taken part. Though the trunk has records of the game he bagged and his cricket, I could find no detailed records of polo.



Letters from home were crucial and he was cheered by one from his aunt, his mother's sister Sarah Miller, who lived close to Owletts. There is a delightful rapport: *thank you for a long letter, full of infinite jest. It was not you who wrote nonsense of me basking in the sun fanned to sleep by dusky maidens. The facts are as follows. I have spent the day crouched over a fire, my head tied up in a bag owing to toothache and with devil a dusky maiden about the premises. Coal is 96 shillings a ton and bad, wood nearly used up and priceless. Only news a spinster who came to stay has been snapped up by the best looking subaltern. Ladies wait only a week here with 3,000 white bachelors and one spinster. Couldn't you come and bring some?*⁷

In March 1891 he was back in Poona for three months, then Quetta again from June to August. It was summer, with cricket at least once a week. He seems to have been more valuable with ball than bat, averaging 3 wickets an innings. In early September he travelled again this time further north to the Kashmir border for two months. He gave no hint of any military reason but recorded yet more cricket. He was also after pheasant and chukar partridge, but found more success in official shooting: writing to his mother: *we won the Chief's simultaneous match prize this week, competed for all over India, 150 entries. The score made a record for rifle shooting I believe. He was very fit, too much so and waxing very fat.*⁷

Alfred's Christmas 1891 letter to his aunt Sarah was written from Sibi, then little more than a railway station in the desert at the bottom of the pass below Quetta: *I am here with a depot of convalescents from Quetta, men who could not stand the cold up there. I came down of my own choice, the idea being perfect peace and fair shooting. I am getting both: snipe, black partridge and 3 sorts of grouse.*⁸



Sibi, 1891.

A Brief Guide to the Life of Alfred William Baker

When?	Rank	Where Was He?	Doing What?	Other Events
1887 – 88	Lt	Newcastle, Whitley Bay	In barracks, training	Ivory Coast declared French. Queen Victoria's Jubilee
Jan 1890	Lt	Poona, India	British Army	
March 1890	Lt	Quetta (now Pakistan)		
July 1890	Lt	Kashmir		
August 1890	Lt	Quetta		
March 1891	Lt	Poona		
Christmas 1891	Lt	Sibi		

Notes

1. Signalling at Poona 13 June 1891, musketry at Chunglagully 21 Dec. Riding at Mhow 13 June 1892.
2. AWB 1890 01 29 from Poona.
3. AWB 1890 07 01 from Snowview, Dalhousie to his sister Bee.
4. AWB 1890 11 20 and 1891 01 17 from Quetta.
5. AWB 1890 10 00 also to Bee. The examinations would have been for the rank of Captain.
6. Later General Sir Henry De Lisle, from Ref 11.
7. AWB 1891 02 09 from Quetta to Mrs Miller, which included the double sketch.
8. AWB 1891 09 26 with sketch from Changla Gali. Cricket records in D3.

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 6: Final Part

His funeral took place at St. Mary's Church, Gillingham

‘ ... with many marks of esteem.¹ Those of his friends who intended to follow to his last abode began to assemble at the home of the late Mr James Simmons now occupied by his brother, at half past eleven o'clock in the morning; about twelve o'clock they were admitted at the side entrance of the house of the deceased, and passed through the hall in which the coffin was placed, proceeded out of front door and formed two lines down the avenue to the iron gates at the entrance. Shortly afterwards the hearse, drawn by six horses, pulled up at the gate, and the coffin was brought out from the house, the whole of the persons lining the avenue taking off their hats while it passed between their ranks. The corpse was followed by Mr E Larkin, the brother of the deceased, his chief mourner, Mr Horne, his son-in-law, and other near relatives and friends who occupied three mourning coaches, each drawn by four horses. The parties who attended the funeral, fell in behind the mourners, two and two, as they passed and they were followed by several private carriages, in which some of the old friends of the deceased, who were unable to walk the whole distance. In this way the procession moved through the High Streets of Rochester, Chatham, Brompton and Gillingham ... The funeral ceremony was performed by the Reverend Dr. Page, and the remains were deposited in a brick grave in the churchyard. At the conclusion of the service, Mr John Tribe read from a paper, a short oration, which was couched in language highly complementary to the Deceased.’

About one hundred and twenty quitted Boley Hill, on foot, with the corpse and they were joined by others on the way...

For a long time previous to the funeral procession quitting Boley Hill, a crowd had assembled there, the very summit of the castle was crowned with spectators, and along the streets, on the Military Road, and on the lines multitudes had

‘collected on the mournfull [sic] occasion, and a universal expression of sorrow was evinced by the thousands thus congregated. As a mark of respect, the shops in Rochester and Chatham were generally closed. The churchyard and church at Gillingham presented a dense mass of spectators and altogether the regard shewn for the memory of the deceased was of the most gratifying description.

Grateful, however as this may be to his surviving relatives and friends, we understand have yet in store a further token of their esteem, - a subscription is intended for the purpose of erecting a testimonial to his memory in some conspicuous part of our city.’

A subscription for a monument in his honour was opened in the following month. Within another month £150 had been collected from 64 subscribers.

On 6 May 1834 a meeting of the subscribers was held at the City Repository where it was proposed to erect a monument in St. Nicholas Church. This was opposed by the *Maidstone Gazette* and the Church who objected to Larkin's politics. The meeting was adjourned for a fortnight.²

The monument was eventually erected on Telegraph Hill, Higham overlooking Rochester and the people, on whose corns he had trod, *in order that a light so brilliant should shine before men.*

The monument was completed by September 1835. It was described in a newspaper report as

‘A column nearly sixty feet in height, built of a composition called concrete, in imitation of stone, and the structure, by its correct and elegant proportion, reflects great credit upon the architect Mr Ranger.

A few feet up from the base of the monument was a cornice and below it facing south, was the inscription:

‘The Friends of Freedom in Kent erected this monument to
The Memory of
CHARLES LARKIN,
In grateful testimony to his fearless and long
Advocation of
Civil and Religious Liberty
And his zealous exertions in promoting the
Ever Memorable Measure of Parliamentary Reform
AD 1832’

Notes

1. *Rochester Gazette* 24 September 1833.
2. *Maidstone Gazette* 6 May 1834.

Huguenot Museum Update

Dinah Winch



Dinah Winch has been Director of the Huguenot Museum since the end of 2016. She moved to Rochester from Greater Manchester where she was for many years Head of Exhibitions and Collections at Gallery Oldham, and then Director of Elizabeth Gaskell's House. She has a PhD in seventeenth century history and started her Museum career at London's V&A.

We started a Book Club at the Huguenot Museum last autumn and now have a regular monthly meeting over tea and biscuits. We mostly read historical novels but we have cast our net wide, from Dumas's *La Reine Margot* to Matt Haig's very recent *How to Stop Time*; we occasionally read a history book too. We meet on the last Thursday of the month and you can always buy the book in our Museum Shop. We very much welcome new members!

We were thrilled to have a visit from Amber Butchart (of television's *Stitch in Time*) who presented a programme called *The First Refugees*, about the Huguenots of Spitalfields. The show aired on 30 April on BBC1 London, but is available still on BBC iplayer as part of the *Civilisations Stories* series and features our extraordinary exhibit the Bible baked in a Loaf of Bread. Our website (www.huguenotmuseum.org) also features a blog about the same object from social historian Emma Muscat.

Craft workshops for adults and families continue to be part of our core programming. On 14 and 21 July Rachel Moore from *iprintedthat* will be running an adult linocut and screen printing workshop, inspired by a talk at the Museum earlier last year about the great Huguenot textile designer James Leman. Rachel will take you on an exploration of pattern and teach you different printing techniques to produce sample wallpaper and fabric. No previous printing experience necessary.

On 1 and 2 August local artist Xtina Lamb from *INTRA* is running family workshops inspired by an early Georgian kaleidoscope, created by Huguenot tinplate worker John George Le Cluse. Families will experiment with colours using a range of exciting materials to create a unique kaleidoscope.

Local stained-glass artists Shelly Kitto joins us on 1 and 8 September to lead an adult workshop exploring different painted and stained glass techniques.

Xtina Lamb will also be running Arts Award sessions at the start of the summer holidays so please contact our new Learning Officer, Hannah Birkett if you would like to bring a group along to take part or find out more information. learning@huguenotmuseum.org.

Our new talks programme will also start in the autumn. This year is the 300th anniversary of the founding of the French Hospital in London, which is now on Rochester High Street. There is more information at www.frenchhospital.org.uk. We will be celebrating Heritage Open Day together this year on Saturday 15 September with a special Huguenot Day across both sites, including special tours and entertainment.

We are also taking part in the annual Medway Print Festival on 8 to 24 June this year with a small display showing prints from the French Hospital's Collection, and discussing some of the issues faced by Museums when collecting and curating print collections. This will be followed by a new temporary display about the history of the French Hospital, including objects that have not previously been on display.

For more information have a look at our website www.huguenotmuseum.org ; bookings can be made over the phone on 01634 789347, through the Museum website, or in person.

Archives Update

Alison Cable, Archivist



Archivist's Report to FOMA AGM, 10 April 2018

The preceding 12 months have been dominated by the relocation of MALSC, now MAC, which finally came to fruition on 3 July 2017, when we had our official launch at Bryant Road. In truth, we were still moving collections in, and *snagging* the building works for some time after, so 2017 was really quite a year!

Whilst we were organising the move, we were also in the process of creating the replacement for the ailing online CityArk service (see also below). This work was undertaken by our project archivist, George Cooban, under my supervision. The initial intention had been to have CityArk and the new Adlib database run in parallel for a few months, whilst we ironed out any problems. However, by early 2018 CityArk was regularly refusing to work and the public interface for the new system had to be hastily brought to the fore to replace it. We still had hoped to have an official launch of the new archive catalogue but we were getting close to the Council's re-launch of the main webpages, so IT support was not in abundance. They did however, manage to finally re-route the CityArk URL to our new database (<http://medway.adlibhosting.com>). This new archives catalogue is on the same software platform as the Guildhall Museum catalogue, so researchers will be able to search for documents and artefacts in the same place.

We started to get back to some normality by the autumn of last year, when our outreach work began again. Much of this was joint local studies/archives outreach, for example: a group of pupils visited from Strood Academy in November. They were taking part in a Young Roots lottery funded project run by the Guildhall Museum, which involved them researching the history of the area around Temple Manor.

I attended a couple of *meet the students* sessions at Canterbury Christchurch University, enabling me to publicise MAC and explore the possibility of future placements for students.

Our Palaeography Workshop went ahead at the end of March 2018, and we will look to deliver the workshop again soon - perhaps on a Saturday to assist people who wanted to attend but work full time. It was good to note that the workshop attendees were new faces who may not have visited us before.

Our special open days on local history subjects have proved popular and our Strood event brought in over 100 people in one day. Indeed our visitor figures are slowly picking up and by the end of March 2018, we had recorded 2,700 in-person visits to the new centre (please bear in mind that we deal with hundreds of email and telephone enquiries too).

Other projects have included the loan of some early Cathedral Charters to a major exhibition in Germany which examined the period of Richard the Lionheart's exile in Worms. These important documents will be returning shortly before my departure to the Rochester Bridge Trust.

Finally, I would just like to say a big thank you to FOMA for being such a support!

Before leaving MAC, Alison archived the following (from January to April 2018):

DE738	Papers & photos Cllr Mrs B Grieveson	1908-1974	Jan 2018
DE1267	Medway Film Society	1986-2014	March 2018
P167/8	High Halstow PCC minutes	1936-2006	March 2018
P343/1D/12-14	Southfleet marriage registers	2003-2017	March 2018
M5/2/Bn	Additional registers	1950-2007	March 2018
DE1269	Deeds re Strood and Rochester (Kent Electric Power Co) inc. Taylors Lane, Strood	1702-1917	March 2018
DE1270	Legal papers: Walderslade Road	1960s	March 2018
DE1271	Personal papers: John Le Duc, Gillingham	1915-1967	March 2018
DE1273	Autograph book: Emily Huggett, Rochester	1903	
N//B/Ra	Rainham Baptist Church	1895-1914	April 2018
DE1274	Legal docs : Chatham, incl. deed of partnership Messrs Conquest and Godfrey (surgeons)	1804,1812	April 2018
DE1275	Deeds: South Eastern Hotel, Strood	1865-1932	April 2018
DE1276	Deeds: Mansion Row, Brompton, Gillingham	1774-1900	April 2018

CityArk

Further to Alison's report on page 21, we know that there have been problems accessing the new online search facility. Before leaving MAC, Alison composed a brief explanation of the new online facility, as follows.

The re-route to the new URL now works, so if you Google *CityArk* it will point you to the Adlib page and from here you can click through the tree structure of the catalogue to reach the downloadable pdf files.

The parish registers are generally quite large files and a register may be about 32 MB, so this will take about 15 seconds to download. Depending on what software is being used it might seem that nothing is happening. However, on Windows 10 the pdf software will indicate the size of the file and how long it will take to open.

MAC catalogues can now be reached via: www.medway.gov.uk/archives + 'search the collections'. The direct URL is: <http://medway.adlibhosting.com>

Adlib is the tool that MAC's Museum Curator and Archivist use to manage and catalogue the collections and to let people know what is held at MAC so that visitors can plan their visit. It is not intended to be a genealogical website.

Medway Ancestors was an externally funded project to make parish register images available online. We fulfilled the requirement of the grant to make them available for free for ten years and the Heritage Lottery Fund confirmed that we had fulfilled that obligation. No more registers will be added to Adlib.

The Deborah Collins Workhouse Index

Amanda Thomas



Many of you will recall that at the Medway Archives Centre (MAC) Christmas Event in December when Deborah Collins (pictured) gave a talk entitled, *Christmas in the Workhouse*. This was a fascinating synopsis of much of the research she has undertaken at the Medway Archives Centre.

At the FOMA AGM, MAC's Norma Crowe (pictured right at the FOMA AGM) revealed that some of Deborah's work, in the form of Indexes, has now been accessioned at the Medway Archives centre.

Norma writes:

I have accessioned Deborah Collins' indexes as three different documents on Spydus (the libraries catalogue) although they are all in one large folder. I may get them bound as individual volumes during the year... depending on funds being forthcoming!

Workhouse Name Index 1835 – 1841 compiled by Deborah Collins 2017.

www.kentworkhouse.uk

Hoo Union C051161673

SOURCES USED: Register of births 1838 to 1841; Register of Deaths 1837 to 1841; Indoor Relief List 1837 to 1841; Poor Law Commissioners letters 1835 to 1837 and Minutes of the Board of Guardians 1835 to 1841

Medway Union C051161674

SOURCES USED: Register of births 1836 to 1841; Minutes of the Board of Guardians 1835 to 1841 and Correspondence Out letter book 1835 to 1841

North Aylesford/Strood Union C051161675

SOURCES USED: Minutes of the Board of Guardians 1835 to 1841 and Correspondence Out letter book 1835 to 1841.

Deborah has asked that we restrict the amount of data which we copy for users and that users acknowledge her as the source of the compiled index.



The Clock Tower at 50

Amanda Thomas



The official launch of *Medway Ancestors* took place at the Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre, Strood, on 14th December 2005.

Cutting the ribbon (from left to right) is John Leigh Pemberton of the Heritage Lottery Fund Committee South East, Tessa Towner, Friends' Vice Chairman, Patricia Salter, Friends' Vice President, Roy Murrant, Friends' Chairman, Cllr Sue Haydock, Medway Council, Stephen Dixon, Borough Archivist, and Brian Kingsley-Smith, Friends' Vice President.

Medway Ancestors is Medway Council's project to publish images of the original parish registers in its custody on the Medway Archives website, *CityArk* (cityark.medway.gov.uk), made possible by a grant of £49,500 by the Heritage Lottery Fund under the *Your Heritage* scheme. The registers are held on deposit from the local parish churches and cover the Rochester Archdeaconry area, extending from Dartford and Gravesend in the west to Rainham in the east, and focusing on the Medway Towns. *Medway Ancestors* is already proving to be a huge success with almost 33,000 researchers worldwide visiting the site between 14th December 2005 and 28th February 2006.

This is our fiftieth issue of *The Clock Tower* and in the last 12 years we have published over 765 articles! No, I don't believe it either. The first issue (pictured) was published in spring 2006 and was only 12 pages long. There were only two main articles inside – the FOMA Constitution (which is still available to read on the website, foma-lsc.org) and *The Victoria County History at MALSC*. This was a piece about the research Dr Andrew Hann was about to undertake at the Archives for the Victoria County History's *England's Past for Everyone* programme. Andrew had been appointed Kent Team Leader of the project in September 2005 and the book which was produced at the end of the project is well worth buying, if you haven't already done so: *The Medway Valley: A Kent Landscape Transformed*; ISBN 978-1860776007.

So what was going on in the spring of 2006? Given that as I write Prince Harry will be married in around two weeks' time, it is perhaps noteworthy that in April 2006 he had just concluded his training at Sandhurst and had become a commissioned officer. Once again in the summer England didn't win the World Cup which was held in Germany. That honour went to Italy, who this year hasn't

even qualified (a national catastrophe, apparently). 2006 was also the year Alexander Litvinenko was poisoned in London. Following the incident in November, traces of the radioactive substance polonium-210 were found at his home, at the Millennium Hotel and at a branch of Itsu in London. I avoided Itsu for a long time after that and finally visited the very same branch in Piccadilly a couple of weeks ago. Given that Sergei and Yulia Skripal had been recently attacked in Salisbury with the nerve agent novichok, the irony was not lost on me. But was the Litvinenko incident *really* 12 years ago? One final piece of *fascinating* info is that twelve years ago we also did not win the Eurovision Song Contest – again. That accolade went to the rather scary rock band from Finland, Lordi with *Hard Rock Hallelujah*. By the time you read this, you will know if we have finally managed to win Eurovision and if SuRie has followed in the steps of Lulu and Sandie Shaw. I think I know the answer already!

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.

Ms. Gardner and Mr. Flood, Thank you for the Helpful Educational World War One Information

From: Miriam Webber.
To: Elaine Gardner/Rob Flood.
22 February 2018.

Good Afternoon Ms. Gardner and Mr. Flood,
I just wanted to let you know that both my daughter and I really appreciated the World War I information you've included on your links page [<http://foma-lsc.org/links.html>]. Several of the websites you've listed here have been very helpful to us so far for [my daughter] Rebecca's school project. Thank you so much for sharing!
As a way of thanks, I'm also including an article that Rebecca found last weekend from Duquesne University, in case you have any interest. The History of Wartime Nurses - I've included the link below if you'd like to review.
onlinenursing.duq.edu/history-wartime-nurses/
I thought it had some fantastic information on the historic involvement of nurses in major wars (including WWI and WWII), and felt it might be a great one for your page if you didn't mind including it. I'd love to show Rebecca if you find you are able to add it - she might even receive some major bonus points on her project for helping others to learn through her research! (<http://foma-lsc.org/wwi/links.html>)
I'd love to hear what you think about the suggestion, Elaine! Thanks again and enjoy the rest of your week :)

All my best,
Miriam Webber.

From: Amanda Thomas.
To: Miriam Webber.

26 February 2018

Dear Ms Webber,

Elaine Gardner has forwarded me your email below. I am delighted that you have found our FOMA website so helpful, as it is absolutely our intention that this should be the case. Indeed, we are currently in the process of adding more information to the website, particularly in light of the final WWI commemorations for 1918-2018.

The links you have sent us are indeed most interesting and I saw that within this there was also a link to the BBC website. I have therefore instructed our webmaster, Alex Thomas, to include both links on the website.

I will also be publishing your letter in the next issue of our quarterly journal, *The Clock Tower* as it is lovely for our members to see where we are making a difference.

Thank you again for getting in touch and please send our regards to Rebecca.

Best wishes,
Amanda Thomas.

The link has now been added to the FOMA website.

The Nore

From: Henk van der Linden
To: Betty Cole/Amanda Thomas

26 February 2018

Dear Betty and Amanda,

Today I received *The Clock Tower*. Again very interesting. I read everything each issue. To my surprise a very fine story about The Nore, a story that is certainly special to the Members of The Live Bait Society.

May I have it digital (Word) to publish in my next Bulletin? Including the photos? Would be so nice.

Kindest regards from your firm friend!

Henk.

From: Amanda Thomas
To: Henk van der Linden

12 March 2018

Dear Henk,

How lovely to hear from you and to know how much you enjoyed Betty's article. Let me know how you would like to receive it and I can send it to you with the illustrations.

Amanda.

From: Robert Howe
To: Betty Cole
22 February 2018.

Dear Betty,

I was fascinated by your piece about The Nore Orphanage and felt moved by the story of Ivy. I would have been interested to know how her life continued. My own Mum was also 14 in 1924 and was sent into service. She was in the household of a kind and lovely Irish doctor who eighteen years later brought me into the world! He saw me through measles and whooping cough and I can remember him giving me a penny to put in the pocket of my new trousers when I was about four. After Mum married in 1932, she continued to clean for Dr Beatty until 1947 when my father came out of the army. I hope Ivy's life turned out to be as happy as my mum's.

Best wishes,

Bob.

News and Events

Calendar of Forthcoming Events and Exhibitions

Friends of Medway Archives

Talks and Events

UNDER THE NEW DATA PROTECTION LAWS WE ARE ADVISED TO TELL YOU THAT PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE TAKEN DURING OUR EVENTS. IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO BE INCLUDED IN A PHOTOGRAPH, PLEASE ADVISE A FOMA COMMITTEE MEMBER ON YOUR ARRIVAL.

Tuesday 12 June, 7.30 pm
A Walk Along Luton Road.
A talk by Brian Joyce.

Tuesday 11 September, 7.30 pm
Building the Basins.
Brian Portway, St Mary's Island History Group.

Saturday 27 October, 7.30 pm.
Quiz Night.
£8 for members and non-members. **BOOKING REQUIRED** (see below).
Please do your best to get a table of friends together!

Booking for FOMA events is not necessary and **until further notice they are held at Frindsbury Parish Hall**, ME2 4HE – please check our website (www.foma-lsc.org) for further information. 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

See our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/fomalsc) and our website (www.foma-lsc.org) for all the very latest information on FOMA and Medway heritage.

Medway Archives Centre

Thursday 3 May - Friday, 6 June
Histories of the Hoo Peninsula

An exhibition put together as part of the Whitstable Biennale 2017 and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The exhibition celebrates and records stories from the Hoo Peninsula in North Kent. The project involved local people having their memories and stories of working at Hoo recorded for the future. See <http://hoo-peninsula.com/>

Saturday 9 June 11 am – 3 pm
Explore Your Streets
Chatham High Street 1945-1990.

Join us to explore Chatham town centre. Browse old maps and photographs and revisit shops and businesses from bygone days.

Thursday 2 August – Saturday 1 December 2018.
Men of the Medway Towns; The Ultimate Sacrifice 1918.
A FOMA exhibition.

Thursday 6 December – Tuesday 5 March 2019.

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; an exhibition by the Rochester Bridge Wardens Trust.

On Display in the Foyer - 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/, 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 still be viewed at Gun Wharf. Please contact the Electoral Services Team on 01634 332030 to arrange an appointment.

Please note that due to staffing levels, Medway Archive Centre will only open on Saturdays between the hours of 9.00 – 12.30pm commencing 5th May 2018 until further notice. Opening hours Monday to Friday remain as advertised 9am – 5pm (closed Wednesdays).

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 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.

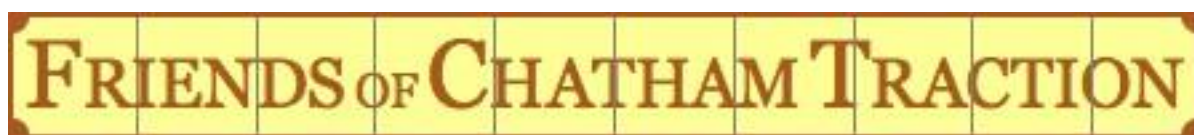
Eastgate House is one of Rochester's landmarks. Built in the 1590s by Sir Peter Buck, the most senior member of staff at Chatham Dockyard, its structure has been adapted considerably over the years, but research has indicated that the original building may be Medieval or earlier. Further information 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/



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! Tours are 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

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 eighth consecutive year and our RHS S.E. in Bloom status of 'outstanding'. IT'S FUN IT'S FREE and IT'S HEALTHY.

Sunday, 1 July – Annual Funday.

All the usual stalls, Park's Cafe and entertainments as well as some new exciting arena displays. Fun for all the family! Visit the FOB stall to learn more about the plans for the Old Orchard **now that we have purchased it.**

The Friends Of Broomhill would like to thank all those who contributed so generously towards the purchase of the Old Orchard. We now look forward to the hard work of realising our ambition for this to remain a green and inviting place in perpetuity for everyone without fear of development. If you would like to volunteer please visit the FOB stall at our Annual Funday on 1 July (see above) to find out more.

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 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.

13 June 2018, *A Walk down the Luton Road* - Brian Joyce.

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

The Royal Engineers Museum, Library and Archive

Prince Arthur Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME4 4UG

SEE THE WEBSITE 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 for more details.

Events

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/>

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 31 October 2018.

PLEASE NOTE THE EXHIBITION HAS BEEN EXTENDED UNTIL 31 OCTOBER

The Significance of the Bridgeworks List

A talk by Sue Threader

Tuesday 26 June, 6.30 for 7 pm in Rochester Cathedral Nave; FREE but MUST be booked. Email sue@maxim-pr.co.uk or call 01892 513033 to reserve.

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



The latest information can be found at:
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.

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; contact Val Barrant on 07947 583327 or email lupusrufus@sky.com



Blue Town Heritage Centre, The Criterion Music Hall and Cinema

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

The present Heritage Centre and café are on the site of two earlier establishments. Originally the New Inn in 1868, the site became The Royal Oxford Music Hall. The following year the building, situated a few doors down from the court house, became The Criterion public house, which included to the rear a music hall called The Palace of Varieties. This offered "rational amusement for all classes" including, in April 1876, a one armed juggler! In 1879 the earlier building was replaced with a brick built one. The Heritage Centre is packed with items, memorabilia and artefacts, including an upstairs area dedicated to HMS *Victory*.

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

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.

FOMA SUMMER VISIT

Saturday 7 July 2018

Martello Tower No. 24, Dymchurch.

'Martello Tower No. 24 in Dymchurch High Street was one of 74 towers built along the south coast between 1805 and 1812 to resist the threatened French invasion. It has been restored to its original design and contains replica gunpowder barrels and a 24 pounder muzzle-loading cannon on the gun platform. Of all the Martello Towers remaining, Martello24 is closest to its original condition and it can be seen as it was when occupied by the military.' (theromneymarsh.net/martello24)

PLEASE LET FOMA SECRETARY, ODETTE BUCHANAN KNOW ASAP IF YOU ARE INTERESTED:

72 Jersey Road, Rochester, ME2 3PE; telephone: 01634 718231;
email: odette_buchanan@yahoo.co.uk

IF A SUFFICIENT NUMBER IS KEEN – WE WILL GO AHEAD!

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).

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.

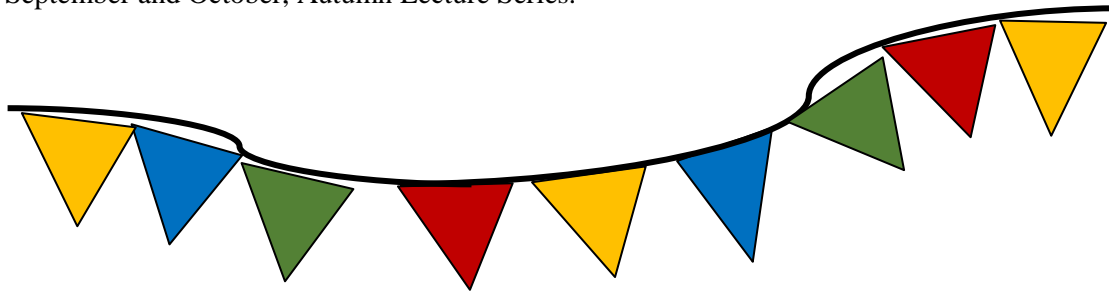
7 August, *The Importance of Being Ernest* by The Immersion Theatre at Upnor Castle.

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.



St Nicholas Church, Strood
Summer Fete
Saturday 23rd June 2018
10 am till 2 pm

Strood Fellowship

Will be at St Nicholas Church Summer Fete – supporting FOMA! Come and visit our stand.

Strood Fellowship meet every third Monday in the month, 7.30pm, at St Nicholas Church Hall, Edward Street, Strood (first right off Gun Lane to car park). Admission £2 for members or £3 for non-members (including tea and biscuits), £5 Annual Membership. We are interested in the history of Strood and surrounding areas and have outings to local historic buildings. For more details ring J Weller on 01634 309033 or Len Feist 01634 717135.

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.

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 51 of *The Clock Tower* is Monday 30 July 2018, with publication on Wednesday 22 August 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

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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 Centre can be obtained on the MAC website <https://cityark.medway.gov.uk/> 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

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***The Unveiling of the WWI Commemorative Paving Slab to
Major James Thomas Byford McCudden, VC DSO* MC* MM CdeG
(FR) RAF***



***Above: the salute following the unveiling outside the
Royal Engineers Museum.***

***Right: Brandon Byford, of the Royal Engineers, a
descendant of Major McCudden, holding the original
Victoria Cross awarded to his ancestor.***

For more see page 8.



***The Unveiling of the WWI Commemorative Paving Slab to
Major James Thomas Byford McCudden, VC DSO* MC* MM CdeG
(FR) RAF.***



Stephen Byford (left) and Matthew Spears (right), James McCudden's youngest descendant present, unveil the commemorative slab outside the Royal Engineers Museum on 12 April 2018. Centre (in black) is the Viscount de L'Isle MBE, Lord Lieutenant of Kent who gave a short summary of James McCudden's war history. For more see page 8.