

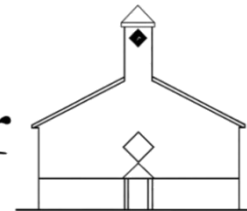
## *Norma Crowe is Honoured!*



On 10 March 2022, the FOMA Chairman Elaine Gardner (left) presented Norma Crowe the 2020 McCulla Award. The Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP), Local Studies Group's McCulla Award recognises outstanding contributions to local studies librarianship. More on page 6.

If undelivered, please return to:  
Medway Archives Centre,  
32 Bryant Road, Strood, Rochester, ME2 3EP.

# The Clock Tower



Issue Number 66: May 2022  
£2.00; free to members

The Friends of Medway Archives  
Excepted Charity registration number XR92894

## Thank you, Betty!



Betty Cole (pictured right) has sadly stepped down as FOMA Membership Secretary. At the recent AGM, FOMA Chairman, Elaine Gardner presented Betty with a thank-you gift. See pages 8 – 14.

ALSO INSIDE!

Part I of a *Clock Tower* Special

HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

See page 32.

## Norma Crowe is Honoured!



In March, the FOMA Committee and MAC staff gathered to hear the news that former Medway Archives Local Studies Librarian, Norma Crowe had been awarded the 2020 Dorothy McCulla Memorial Award by the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP), Local Studies Group. More on page 6.

*From left to right: Elaine Gardner, Chris de Coulon-Berthould, Norma Crowe, Jean Skilling, Amanda Thomas, Betty Cole, Odette Buchanan. Alex Thomas, Elspeth Millar, Adele Martin-Bowtell, Cindy O'Halloran. Photograph by Rob Flood.*

## It's Back !!!

Don't miss the FOMA Quiz night on 28 May! See right and page 41 for details.

Please contact Elaine Gardner  
emgardner@virginmedia.com  
01634 408594/07733 154004

**Friends of Medway Archives**

**QUIZ NIGHT**

**SATURDAY**

**28<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022**

**7:30pm**

**St Nicholas Church Strood, Lower Hall**  
(Car park entrance off Gun Lane NE2 4UG)

**DOORS OPEN 7 pm**

**Tables of 6 – bring your own food**  
(you are welcome to come along and make up a table)

**£5 per person**

**Booking essential**

**Elaine Gardner - emgardner@virginmedia.com**  
**01634 408595/07733 154004**

## Congratulations!



We were thrilled to hear of the marriage of FOMA members Angela Watson and Pat White. Angela and Pat quietly tied the knot back in 2020 and were proud to relate at the AGM how their wedding day culminated in a meal of fish and chips from the corner shop. Huge congratulations, Angela and Pat from everyone at FOMA!

*Above: Angela Watson and Pat White pictured at the FOMA AGM*

## The Bob Ratcliffe Portrait

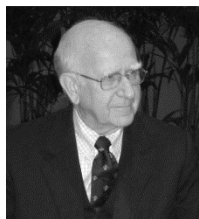
*As The Clock Tower was going to press, we heard that the Bob Ratcliffe portrait had been hung in the reading room at the Medway Archives Centre, as pictured.*



## *The Committee*

### Patron

Professor Sir Robert Worcester KBE DL



### President

Russell John Race, JP, DL



### Vice President

Sue Haydock

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## *Chairman's Letter*

Elaine Gardner



We've already had Easter and the May Day Bank Holiday and we are now gearing up for the four- day Platinum Jubilee to celebrate the Queen's 70 year reign.

The Queen's coronation in June 1953 was six days before my birthday and just one day before my sister had hers. We didn't have a television at that time and Mum and Dad planned to listen to the ceremony on the wireless – presumably on the Home Service, Radios 1,2, 3, and 4 not coming into being until the mid-sixties.

In order to keep us quiet I remember being given some birthday presents early, not sure what after all these years except that my gran gave each of us a model of the state carriage along with the horses pulling it and the jockeys/footmen in attendance. I have no idea what happened to it since then, if it was still complete and in its box, it might pay this year's gas bill!

The staff at Medway Archives are keen to collect your memories of the Coronation and other jubilee events and will be visiting Medway libraries throughout May to collect them. They would also like to have copies of any pictures you might own, and don't forget to take some of celebrations in your street. Many of you have already sent memories in to Amanda Thomas and these are featured in Part One of our Platinum Jubilee on page 32. Having seen the photos taken at a VE Day party in Valley View Road, I tried taking similar shots for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary but there were cars parked everywhere and the trees - planted in the 1950s - made it impossible! I dare say this will be also true of street scenes in 1953 and today.

We recently had our AGM, in person at last and thank you to those who came along to support. Sadly, Betty Cole has stepped down from her role as Membership Secretary having volunteered for the task back in 2008. She was also one of Amanda's most reliable proofreaders for *The Clock Tower* and Amanda is delighted she has agreed to carry on supporting the committee in that way as well as remaining a FOMA member. Thank you, Betty! Jean Skilling has agreed at this time to take on the membership role along with her treasurer's role.

Amanda's plea back in March for new committee members was extremely successful and we have appointed three new members to the committee, Peter Joyce, Vanessa Sanderson and Natasha Boardman-Steer (see page 8) Not only will their various skills and ideas be invaluable, but I suspect they will considerably reduce the average age of your committee!

Thank you very much to all of you and I look forward to your contributions. Does this mean I can retire?

I hope you have a good summer, catching up with all those Covid-postponed holidays and let's hope that the vagaries of the British weather are kind to us during the Jubilee.

\*\*\*

## Jubilee Weekend Special Event!



New FOMA Committee member, Natasha Boardman-Steer will be running free art sessions to make giant jubilee themed stamps as part of the Net Community Hubs activities.

Join her at the Net, 70 Silverweed Road, Chatham ME5 0QX on Wednesday 1st June 12.30pm-2.30pm and on Friday 3rd June 1pm-4pm.

Further details from Natasha Steer at [natasha@creatabot.co.uk](mailto:natasha@creatabot.co.uk)

## New Members

A warm welcome to new FOMA member Alan Hinkley.

## Membership Reminder

**If you have not renewed your subscription to FOMA this will be the last copy of *The Clock Tower* you will receive.**

Membership can be renewed on the FOMA website <http://foma-lsc.org/membership.html>,  
by Standing Order and by post; cheques made payable to Friends of the Medway Archives

For further information please contact: FOMA Membership Secretary,  
Jean Skilling, 15 Port Close, Lordswood, Chatham, ME5 8DU, Kent;  
[membership@foma-lsc.org](mailto:membership@foma-lsc.org)

## 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; [editor@foma-lsc.org](mailto:editor@foma-lsc.org).

**The copy deadline for Issue 67 of *The Clock Tower* is Monday 25 July 2022, with publication on Wednesday 17 August 2022.**

### 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)

### Copyright

The copyright of the contents of *The Clock Tower* belongs to the Friends of Medway Archives and the authors and owners of any articles and photographs printed. The contents of *The Clock Tower* may not be reproduced without permission of the Editor and/or the Medway Archives Centre.

### 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 Dr Alexander Thomas.

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

*The Clock Tower Index* (<http://foma-lsc.org/journal.html>) is updated by Nic Nicholas.

### 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 Centre, 32 Bryant Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent, ME2 3EP. 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 FOMA Chairman: Elaine Gardner, 102 Valley View Road, Rochester, ME1 3NX, Kent; [emgardner@virginmedia.com](mailto:emgardner@virginmedia.com); 01634 408595. All correspondence should be directed to the FOMA Secretary: Christopher de Coulon Berthoud, 4 Albert Road, Rochester, ME1 3DG, Kent; [berthoud@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:berthoud@blueyonder.co.uk)

Membership enquiries should be directed to the Membership Secretary, Jean Skilling, 15 Port Close, Lordswood, Chatham, ME5 8DU, Kent; [membership@foma-lsc.org](mailto:membership@foma-lsc.org)

## WE NEED HELP!

It's been a long wait to see the bus actually move under power again. The last time was on 18th November 2008 on the occasion of filming for BBC South East Today. It was driven by Chris Jenkinson. As is evident there's still quite a bit to do. We have the technical input, all the major components, a clean, dry, accessible working space, no more big-ticket costs to meet and a number of dependable volunteers. So what's the problem? In a word, supervision. Whilst we have pairs of hands, we are very light on people with appropriate experience in automotive mechanics who can carry out work of the type listed above with minimal oversight. (For a flavour of what's been going on see James Hodgson's latest blog - <https://forum.retro-rides.org/post/2729289/thread>). So, it's time, we feel, to cast the net more widely than we have done so far to search for volunteers who have experience in such work and who may be prepared to help speed the bus on its way to roadworthiness. If there's anyone out there with the time and inclination to contribute as a one-off opportunity we'd be very pleased to hear from you!

A full version of this update can be read at [http://files.chathamtraction.org.uk/updates/220501\\_Update\\_58.pdf](http://files.chathamtraction.org.uk/updates/220501_Update_58.pdf)

For more information see the website at [www.chathamtraction.org.uk](http://www.chathamtraction.org.uk) or 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).

## Friends of Broomhill



The Friends of Broomhill, Strood, Task Days are the first **Sunday** of every month (except January), from September to April inclusive, 10 am to noon. **Thursday** Task Days are every Thursday morning (all year) concentrating on the Old Orchard woodland, 10 am to noon. Meet in car park at end of King Arthurs Drive, Strood, ME2 3NB. All welcome, no experience necessary, tools provided or bring your own. It's fun, free and healthy!

For further details see our car park notice boards or visit our website: [www.friendsofbroomhill.org.uk](http://www.friendsofbroomhill.org.uk). You can also find us on social media (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter) or contact David Park, Secretary on 07968-380588 or email: [secretary@friendsofbroomhill.org.uk](mailto:secretary@friendsofbroomhill.org.uk)

## Secretary's Report

Chris de Coulon Berthoud



Spring has sprung and at least that means I can insist on not having the heating on for at least until it next snows. Even then I'll see how long I can last with a warm hat and an extra jumper or two.

Things are steadily getting back to normal and the Rochester Sweeps Festival was particularly moving this year as it returned for its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary after having been postponed for the last two years. On 30 April, as part of the festival, the final piece of work written by the much-missed Chris Broderick entitled *One Red Mitten* was performed in the Crypt of Rochester Cathedral. Vicky Price's singing and the instrumentation by Stuart Turner and Nick Price were a wonderful tribute.

A spectacular feature of the festival was the raising of Jack in the Green on Bluebell Hill. It is always something quite special to behold in the spring as people gather at dawn to see the light change over the North Downs. This year some two hundred people were present as various Morris sides danced, including Medway's own Wolf's Head and Vixen. The Widdershin Witches performed pagan blessings and we watched as the spirit of rebirth and renewal, the advent of summer came alive!

Another moving moment came at the close of the celebrations when Sweeps Festival Director Gordon Newton awarded the Green Man Shield, annually given for the most outstanding contribution to the Sweeps Festival, to not just one Morris side, but four groups. Wolf's Head and Vixen, Motley Morris, Loose Women and the Widdershin Witches. In his speech, Newton noted the importance of continuity of tradition and the passing on of that baton to younger generations. It seemed particularly appropriate.

Indeed, in this spirit it is nice to note that I am no longer one of the youngest members of FOMA's committee as we welcome three sprightly new members on board, Peter Joyce, Vanessa Sanderson and Natasha Boardman-Steer.

## *Norma Crowe is Honoured!*

Amanda Thomas

In February we were delighted to hear the news that former Medway Archives Local Studies Librarian, Norma Crowe (pictured right) had been awarded the 2020 Dorothy McCulla Memorial Award by the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP), Local Studies Group. Norma retired from the Medway Archives Centre (MAC) in July 2021 (see *The Clock Tower*, Issue 63), and because of the pandemic, the award had not been given for two years. The award for 2021 was given to Louise Birch, Senior Librarian Manager, Local Studies at Leeds Libraries.



Chris Bartlett, archivist at the Rochester Avionics Archive, originally suggested that Norma should be recommended for the award and - with the blessing of the FOMA Committee - FOMA Chairman, Elaine Gardner and MAC's Cindy O'Halloran set to work collating the material required for the nomination. In addition, Richard Bourne (Friends of Chatham Traction) and Alan Moss (Friends of Eastgate House and City of Rochester Society), together with many other people who had worked with Norma over the years, contributed information on how she had helped their various projects.

On 10 March the FOMA Committee and MAC staff gathered to present Norma with her award (see the inside front cover). We celebrated with speeches, sparkling wine and chocolate cake – it was a most fitting finale to Norma's career as a Local Studies Librarian!

\*\*\*

A few days' later we received a lovely thank-you card from Norma which read:

'Dear friends, colleagues and members of FOMA,  
I wanted to say thank you in writing for nominating me for the CILIP Local Studies McCulla Award. I was surprised and truly touched to receive this. Thank you for facilitating it and for making the presentation at MAC on 10<sup>th</sup> March.

## Medway Archives Centre Jubilee Roadshow

The Medway Archives Centre Roadshow has been travelling throughout the area since April visiting local libraries to record local residents' memories of the Queen and jubilees past and present. To record your memories, the next venues are as follows:

Rochester Monday 30 May, 10am to 1 pm

Hempstead Monday 6 June, 10am to 1 pm

Walderslade Hook Meadow Tuesday 7 June 10 am to 1pm.



Given the decision that the next target milestone should be to make the Medway Heritage Bus (MHB), the GKE 68, driveable, leaving full restoration of all other details until later, the focus has been on the mechanical work still outstanding. Ian Marsh has been in the lead on this, and his updating emails have been used to describe what's recently been achieved, and what remains. The work divides into six systems: brakes, fuel, cooling, transmission, exhaust and electrics.

- Brake and clutch pedals and brake rods are fitted; new springs and some fasteners needed. New vacuum hoses for the front brakes required (joint procurement with FKL 611). Pipe connection to vacuum reservoir to fit.
- Fuel system pipework to fit, connecting tank, autovac and engine.
- Engine cooling system pipework and hoses to obtain and fit.
- Drive shaft to re-install. Rear springs to change.
- New exhaust and pipework (quote awaited), or repaired original to fit.
- Dynamo and drive from engine to install.
- All chassis wiring to install – starter circuit, battery and charging circuits, distribution wiring. Running lights, windscreen wiper, to fit and connect. (It's a 12V system).

## Medway Archives Centre

32 Bryant Rd, Rochester ME2 3EP; 01634 332714; malsc@medway.gov.uk.

### Events and Exhibitions

#### *Focus on Royal Medway*

Drop-in session focusing on the royal events that have taken place in Medway. This event will showcase MAC's collections.  
Saturday 4 June, 10 am - midday

### Opening Hours and Visiting

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

Opening hours have returned to normal. Our reopening has been planned in a cautious way to ensure that we can review all of the practical issues involved in running the service safely. We will keep these opening arrangements under review.

We are now accepting drop-in visits for published materials and photographs if there is space in the search room. An appointment must be made to view original archive material and use microfilm or fiche readers

### How to Make an Appointment

Email us at malsc@medway.gov.uk to make an appointment and to discuss which items you wish to consult. For original archive material you must give at least 3 working days' notice of your intention to visit. For all other material (such as books, maps, photographs) we just require 1 working day's notice. When you book we will ask for your name and contact details so that we can keep in touch with you about your appointment.

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

If possible I will see you on 8<sup>th</sup> at the AGM.

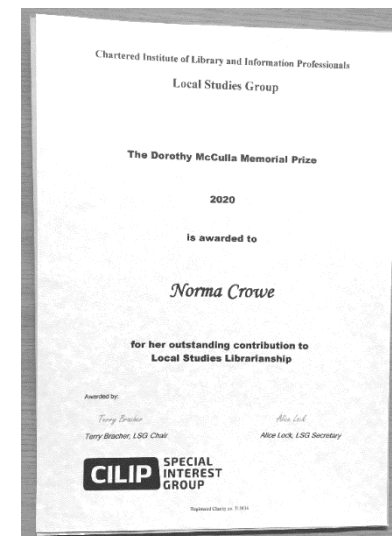
Best wishes,

Norma.'

*On pages 13 to 14 readers will see that Norma did indeed make it to the FOMA AGM!*

*The certificate presented to Norma together with a cheque for £250.*

\*\*\*



## *Russell Race Appointed High Sheriff of Kent*

Amanda Thomas

On 2 April 2022, FOMA President, Russell Race, JP, DL was sworn in as High Sheriff of Kent. Russell has always been a staunch supporter of FOMA and also works closely with the Rochester Bridge Trust, having been a member of the Court of Wardens and Assistants since 2004, and a Senior Warden for two terms. With regard to the historical significance of this prestigious position, The Bridge Trust commented,



‘The office is an historic royal appointment, with origins in Saxon times, and traditionally bestowed the holder with the responsibility to maintain law and order in the county. Today, the role involves supporting the Crown, as well as elements of the judiciary, with further activities relating to crime prevention agencies, the emergency services and the voluntary sector. The role is an independent non-political royal appointment that is entirely voluntary.’

We send him the warmest congratulations.

*With thanks to the Rochester Bridge Trust,  
<https://rbt.org.uk/2022/russell-race-appointed-high-sheriff-of-kent/>*

## *The FOMA AGM*

Amanda Thomas



On 8 April 2022 we were finally able to hold the first face-to-face FOMA AGM for two years! We were delighted that so many members were able to attend and also to welcome three new committee members: Natasha Boardman-Steer, Peter Joyce and Vanessa Sanderson, pictured below.



*From left to right: new FOMA committee members Vanessa, Peter, and Natasha.*

FOMA Chairman, Elaine Gardner (pictured opposite) began the meeting with news of all the exciting things which have been happening over the past few months. First of all was FOMA's successful nomination of Norma Crowe for the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) Local Studies Group's McCulla Award. This award recognises outstanding contributions to local studies librarianship and (due to the pandemic) was given to Norma for 2020. More details can be found below and on page 6.

## *News and Events*

Calendar of Forthcoming Events and Exhibitions

### **FOMA Talks and Events**

All events are subject to change and to government guidance. Further information will be available on the FOMA website ([www.foma-lsc.org](http://www.foma-lsc.org)), our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/fomalsc](http://www.facebook.com/fomalsc)) and sent to members via email, where appropriate.

### **FOMA Quiz Night**

Saturday 28 May 2022, 7.30 pm

St Nicholas Church Lower Hall, Strood (see below for directions)

Tables of 6 – bring your own food

You are welcome to come along and make up a table!

**£5 per person – BOOKING ESSENTIAL**

Please contact Elaine Gardner

[emgardner@virginmedia.com](mailto:emgardner@virginmedia.com)/01634 408594 or 07733 154004

Tuesday 7 June, 2.30 pm; doors open 2.00 pm (Medway Archives Centre)

*Rochester Bridge Trust Archives*

A talk by Alison Cable of the Rochester Bridge Trust.

Alison will be talking about the role of the Bridge Trust looking at some of the more interesting documents created.

Friday 9 September, 7.30 pm

*Richard Watts - A man of his time; a man for his time*

A talk by Geoff Ettridge

Friday 11 November, 7.30 pm

*Wings over Rochester* – to be confirmed

A film show on the story of Short Brothers in Rochester.

Booking for FOMA events is not necessary and unless specified are ALL held at St Nicholas Church Lower Hall, Strood, Rochester, Kent. ME2 4TR; car park entrance is off Gun Lane, ME2 4UG, almost opposite the Health Centre. Please check our website ([www.foma-lsc.org](http://www.foma-lsc.org)) for further information and for other forthcoming events. Talks are £3 for members, £5 non-members. Booking for Quiz Nights and enquiries through the FOMA Chairman: Elaine Gardner, 102 Valley View Road, Rochester, ME1 3NX, Kent; [emgardner@virginmedia.com](mailto:emgardner@virginmedia.com); 01634 408595.



Emma married James Skillen in 1858 and had 5 children. She died aged 42 in 1877 leaving 3 children, Henry (John's grandfather) 15, Edward 8 and Mary 5.

By the way I was interested to see Charles' parents named. I agree that he is likely to be the son of Thomas and Mary who had a large family at Dartford but I have never found his baptism.

Regards,

Jean Skilling.

## Chatham Veterans' Association?

19 April 2022

Good Morning

I've bought a book up in Yorkshire which turns out is historic register for veterans joining the Chatham branch of the army and navy association. It dates back to 1856 that I can see. I'm trying to establish if there is still an association in Chatham or if any local historians or veterans wouldn't mind assisting trying to establish the origins of the register. It documents all Chatham veterans pre WW1 and trying to find the correct museum it should belong in. There are also inserts which seem to show prison records and minutes from a veterans meeting back in the early 1900's.

Thanks in advance.

David Bean.

*If you can help with this, please email the Editor, Amanda Thomas, Editor, at editor@foma-lsc.org,*

## Karise West

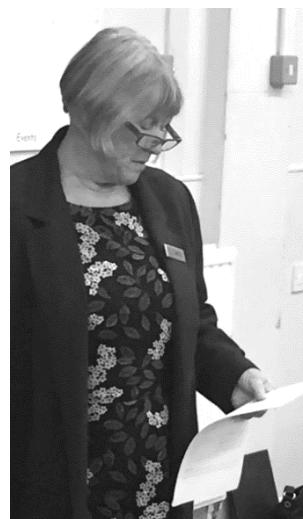
21 April 2022

Dear Amanda,

I was interested to read about Miss [Karise] West and her maid Doris [Howden] in the last issue of *The Clock Tower*. We lived next door but one to them [in Weston Road, Strood]. I knew nothing about Miss West's life but I remember my friend and I sometimes visited her and she liked us to read to her. We often saw Doris out on errands.

Best wishes,

Sue Poyser.



*FOMA Chairman, Elaine Gardner.*

FOMA is certainly starting to receive national recognition for the work we do. Up until now, FOMA's membership of the British Association for Local History (BALH) has merely provided us with public liability insurance. However, more recently we have started to send them copies of *The Clock Tower* and our journal is now being regularly featured in their own quarterly magazine.

Elaine also explained how delighted we were that FOMA had been involved with MAC gaining Accreditation Status from The National Archives. A benefit of this has been an approach from the Friends of the National Archives to start working more closely together. This is potentially extremely exciting.

In conclusion, Elaine thanked Jean Skilling for her hard work since becoming FOMA Treasurer last year, and also Bob Howe who had kindly agreed to act as Independent Examiner for the accounts.

Secretary, Chris de Coulon-Berthoud also expressed his pleasure at being able to have proper meetings again. He began with the news that the FOMA EBay Project, which he and Rob Flood launched in the summer of 2020 (see *The Clock Tower*, Issue 59, August 2020), has sadly come to an end. The project was initially set up to sell donated books online to raise funds for the Medway Archives Centre (MAC). Since the launch, Chris and Rob had struggled to overcome the numerous problems they encountered with PayPal, and these had unfortunately been too difficult and time-consuming to sort out.

The portrait of Bob Ratcliffe which had been commissioned by FOMA, and organised by Rob Flood, will hopefully soon be up at MAC, probably in one of the reading rooms (see the inside back cover). In addition, Bob's vast collection of historical documents and ephemera – which will be known as the Bob Ratcliffe Collection – has been donated to MAC, and Chris thanked Bob's son, Andy Ratcliffe for his help with this. The collection will be a valuable asset, but the archiving of the material will be an enormous task, for which Chris suggested a new project, perhaps funded by a Heritage Lottery Fund bid, might be started. It is an exciting future prospect.

In May 2021, we were delighted when our Dutch friend, Honorary FOMA Life Member, Henk van der Linden made a donation to FOMA of £100 (see *The Clock Tower*, August 2021, Issue 63). Chris announced that the committee had decided to

make use of Henk's kind donation by putting it towards the purchase of a special player for the digitisation of cassettes. This will be a most useful addition to the items required by MAC to continue valuable archival work. Chris thanked Henk once again for his generosity.

Following Chris' report, I commented on the on-going popularity of *The Clock Tower*, thanking contributors for all their wonderful articles and also Nic Nicholas, who compiles the quarterly index, and printer Jon Barker of Barkers Litho Printers in Rochester. Of particular significance this year was the article published in November 2021, *The Dock Road Tragedy*, by Brian Joyce, the last in our series, *What and Why?* Brian's articles are always excellent, but this was one of the most moving articles we have ever published. It relayed the dreadful story of one of the worst road accidents in British history and how, on the night of 4 December 1951, 24 Royal Marine volunteer cadets aged 9 to 13 years lost their lives in Dock Road. I am sure this will become one of the more popular pieces searched for by the public when it becomes available to non-members on the FOMA website.

Following on from this, FOMA Webmaster, Dr Alex Thomas revealed the latest viewing figures for the FOMA website, as below.

#### FOMA Website Visitor Numbers – January to March: 2021 vs 2022

Month	Unique Visitors			Number of Visits			Hits		
	2021	2022	% change	2021	2022	% change	2021	2022	% change
January	562	732	30.2%	888	1,138	28.2%	2,928	12,169	315.6%
February	635	738	16.2%	902	1,035	14.7%	4,507	8,934	98.2%
March	824	912	10.7%	1,058	1,211	14.5%	4,669	14,589	212.5%
<b>Yearly Totals (provisional figures)</b>	<b>10,884</b>	<b>2,382</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>14,559</b>	<b>3,384</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>120,917</b>	<b>35,692</b>	<b>N/A</b>

In addition, Alex had looked at which issues of *The Clock Tower* were most popular online, and revealed the enormous asset the FOMA De Caville Index has become to WWI researchers, as follows:

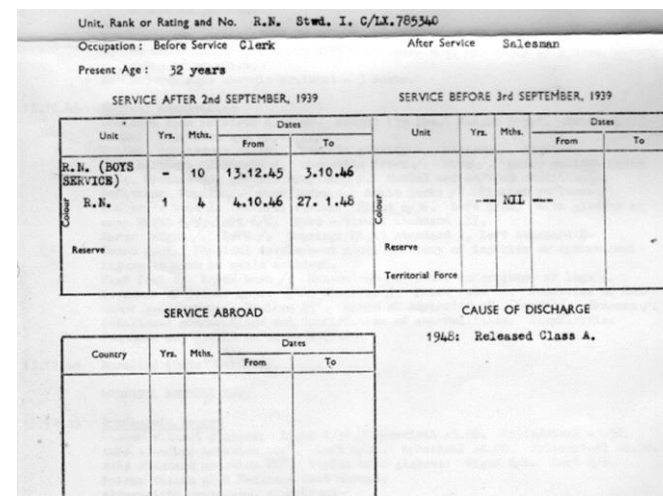
*The Clock Tower* issues continue to draw visitors to the FOMA website. *The Clock Tower* issues are easily found by search engines, such as Google, and as such downloads remain strong. Between December 2021 and March 2022, *Clock Tower* issues and related PDFs accounted for 15,833 total downloads. *Clock Tower* PDFs therefore had an average of 3,958 downloads per month during this period. Over 90% of *Clock Tower* issues were downloaded over 100 times. The five most popular issues during this period were:

*Amanda Thomas contacted Helen Worthy and MAC Archivist Elspeth Millar who forwarded further information., We were delighted with Terry's response:*

4 March 2022

Thank you for taking the time and the picture. I think that there may have been a difference between cadets and "boy sailors"? I seem to recall that they spent a fair amount of time attending to batman type duties? His title was "Asst. Steward" in 1946.

My Father was demobbed in January of 1948. He was deemed Class A, but unfortunately the Navy "knew" that he had contracted TB, which was pursued by the British Legion and the Navy eventually admitted it.



When we moved to the area, we drove Dad down to the dockyard but he did not get excited and although we obviously knew about the TB, it took a fair amount of unearthing to get to the dates and background of his time in Chatham (pictured above).

Thank you again,

Terry.

#### Richard Dadd and Charles Overy

11 April 2022

Peter Cook's article in *The Clock Tower* (Issue 65, February 2022) about Richard Dadd mentioned my husband's great great grandfather Charles Overy, the coachman who took Richard Dadd to Dover! I'd like to thank Peter for a very interesting story and for adding to my knowledge of this family.

Charles was married twice. Firstly in 1825 at Dartford to Ann Mary Bloomfield. Ann died in childbirth in 1830, aged only 26 and was buried at St Nicholas, Rochester on the day her 3<sup>rd</sup> daughter Sarah was baptised. In 1833 Charles married Mary Wright at St Mary, Chatham. John's great grandmother Emma was born in 1834, their eldest child.

10 February 2022

Dear Amanda (if I may),

Please may I introduce myself? I am a classical music journalist (I write for The I, The Sunday Times, BBC Music Magazine, etc) and am the author of seven novels and two biographies. I am thrilled to have a contract now with the music specialist publisher Kahn & Averill to write a new biography of Dame Myra Hess, a project that is very close to my heart.

Searching for information about her assistant Anita Gunn and Anita's sister Marjorie Gunn, I came across The Clock Tower online (<http://foma-lsc.org/Downloads/Issue%2061A5.pdf>) and saw that Marjorie Gunn's diaries are mentioned as either belonging to or having belonged to FOMA. There was also some very interesting correspondence about Marjorie Gunn from Muriel Lhermé. I was wondering therefore if you might have some idea of how I could access and read those diaries, please? Also, whether you might also be able to put me in touch with Muriel Lhermé? I'd be immensely grateful for your help and advice and would of course credit all such in the book.

Many, many thanks and I hope to hear from you in due course.

All best wishes,

Jessica Duchen.

*Jessica has since visited the Medway Archives Centre.*

## **Photographic Exhibition of the Medway Universities Campus: now and 116 years ago**

*This exhibition opened on Tuesday 7 March and runs until 28 May 2022.*

*Helen Worthy of MAC wrote to members:*

*'This photographic exhibition explores the changing character of the buildings and the people who worked in the space now occupied by the Universities of Medway. The exhibition comprises photographic works and artistic interpretations by Emeritus Professor Keith Tomlins (Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich) who is also a local artist and member of the Parkwood Camera Club.'*

*In response we received the following:*

03 March 2022

Good morning Amanda.

Thanks for the email; my Father served at HMS *Pembroke* as a boy sailor at the end of ww2, is there any coverage of this part of campus?

Regards – Terry Dansey

- Issue 29: the issue about the 1953 floods, which had 670 downloads
- Issue 21: the issue which focussed on Medway memories of the Battle of Britain, which had 539 downloads
- Issue 33: the issue about amateur dramatics in Medway, which had 434 downloads
- Issue 30: the issue about the Big Freeze of 1963 had 421 downloads
- Issue 12: the issue about the 90th anniversary of the World War One armistice, which had 363 downloads.

The FOMA De Caville Index remained a popular resource in the first quarter of 2022 with over 3,000 views. FOMA De Caville Index pages accounted for in:

- January: 1,267 views
- February: 680 views
- March: 1,174 views.

This equates to 1,040 views on average per month. It is important that FOMA, remains committed to developing this asset and continues to recognise that the historical and market value of this resource lies with the information it brings together and the way its data is structured.'

Sadly, MAC Manager and Archivist, Elspeth Millar (pictured) could not attend the AGM, but her report was read in her absence. Elspeth thanked everyone at FOMA for their support during such a challenging period. Despite these difficulties, restrictions had given the MAC team an opportunity to focus on tasks they might not have usually had the chance to do. These included devising user guides for webpage redevelopment, more online engagement activities, cataloguing and listing work, undertaking online training on a variety of work-related topics, collections care work in the strongroom, as well as continuing to run an external and internal enquiries service.



During 2020 MAC saw an update of its webpages (<https://www.medway.gov.uk/archives>) including the addition of new online exhibitions, smaller versions of those past and present at MAC. Since reopening, two exhibitions have already been staged in the foyer.

MAC joined Instagram in 2020 ([www.instagram.com/medway\\_archives](http://www.instagram.com/medway_archives)) which has enabled the sharing of images and stories from the collections including posters, theatre programmes, zines, manuscripts, maps, as well as photographs. It is hoped that this will demonstrate the breadth of the collections, increase knowledge of the Medway Archives Centre, attract new users, and provide inspiration for new creative projects.

The MAC team is currently working with Medway Council's ICT team on a refresh of the *Medway Images* website. This refresh will ensure that the site meets web accessibility standards, will update the look and feel of the site, including an enhanced ability to search and browse. It is also hoped to increase the number of images available and include more contemporary images.

Norma Crowe and Helen Worthy have held several reminiscence sessions via Zoom, with topics such as theatres, cinemas and entertainment, shops and shopping, and food. However, recently sessions have been conducted in-person again. During the pandemic MAC was still able to provide *Medway Memories* reminiscence resources to care home staff and prior to her retirement, Norma was able to send reminiscence packs (such as *Working Lives, Home Life, Leisure, Gillingham, and Summer Holidays*) as electronic resources.

Collecting was necessarily reduced in 2020, but a steady stream of parish deposits was received. Recent accessions have included:

- Scrapbooks kept by Beryl Mason relating to her career in theatre, television and film (DE1293)
- Robert Earl poetry papers (Rob was one of the members of The Medway Poets, a collective of poets who performed together in the late 1970s and early 1980s) (DE1294)
- Talking Telescopes, audio from the heritage project about The Strand (DE1298)
- Additional photograph albums and scrapbooks compiled by Ernest Harold (E.H.) Couchman comprising photographs, postcards, newspaper cuttings, etc, organised by subject: Short Brothers (4 albums), Aveling and Porter (1 album), Short Brothers Sunderland 3 (1 album), Charles Dickens (1 album), Medway Steam Packet (1 album), Chatham, Luton, Rochester (1 album), Rochester Naturalist Club (1 album)

Elspeth also commented on the new community archive collection (DE1297) comprising material such as photographs and artwork documenting life in Medway in 2020-21 during the Covid-19 pandemic. She thanked everyone who has made submissions.

Elspeth's report went on to thank the Friends of National Libraries, The National Archives, and FOMA for their help in securing some archive material auctioned in February 2022. MAC was alerted by The National Archives Sales Monitoring Team about the auction of some archive records (bill books dating 1859-1977) created by the solicitor firm Arnold Tuff & Grimwade. MAC already holds records (DE547) on this important local firm which operated in Rochester from the eighteenth century. MAC applied to the Friends of the National Libraries for a grant to purchase the documents, which was approved by their committee. The application was made in FOMA's name and Elspeth thanked FOMA for additionally facilitating delivery of the purchased documents from London.

*Queen Kapi'olani queen of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, consort of Mō'i (king) Kalākaua (r 1874 – 1891) at Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee celebration. Image by Henry Walter Barnett of Falk Studios - Bishop Museum, Public Domain, commons.wikimedia.org*



\*If any light could be thrown on the primary school (Dame's school?) at Restoration House, Michael would be keen to learn. Please contact the Editor, Amanda Thomas at editor@foma-lsc.org

\*\*\*

## *Readers' Letters*

*We welcome letters and emails from readers with their comments. If you have anything you would like to say please email the Editor, Amanda Thomas, Editor, at editor@foma-lsc.org, the FOMA Secretary, Chris de Coulon Berthoud at berthoud@blueyonder.co.uk, or visit the FOMA website, www.foma-lsc.org/index.htm or our Facebook page, https://www.facebook.com/fomalsc*

## **The Diaries of Marjorie Gunn**

In August 2012, in *The Clock Tower*, Issue 27, then Archivist Alison Cable (pictured) wrote in her column, *Archives Update*:

'I have recently re-catalogued the records of Cliffe Parish Council (to include additional material) and the diaries of Marjorie Gunn.

Since February 2021, Issue 61 of *The Clock Tower*, we published correspondence with Muriel Lhermé in France and Elizabeth Yates in Australia who were trying to find out more about Marjorie Gunn. Then we received the following email from journalist Jessica Duchon who is now also in contact with everyone interested in Marjorie Gunn.



Queen Victoria in 1837 and 1887, from a colour supplement;  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ks3-gcse-history-queen-victoria-monarchy/z73rnr>

The letter reads:

Restoration House

June 25<sup>th</sup> 1887

Dear Mother

I had a jolly day in London on Jubilee day, except that we had to wait in our seats for 6 hours and a half. I had to get up at 4 o'clock and went by the 5 train and got to London at about half past six and we had to wait from 7 to about half past one. Our seats were just in front of the Army and Navy club. [from 1847 situated at 36-39 Pall Mall, St. James's, London]. We saw the procession coming back from the Abbey, the worst of it was that the carriages of all foreign sovereigns were shut up. We had a very good site [sic] of the Queen, she happened to be looking our way [Queen Kapi'olani, see below]. The bodyguard of princes was very nice. We saw the Queen of the Sandwich [sic] Islands her carriage was not shut up. We play a match against the III XI of the Kings School they beat us by 16 runs. I made 3 and 3 and caught 1 catch. I was not very well yesterday headache etc, but I am quite well now. I saw Lines on Wednesday. Did you enjoy the garden party with [sic] castle gardens. We are going to have some sports on Friday in the park.

Love to all

Your loving son

A. G. Baker.

MAC has been supporting Medway Council in several activities, including the Census 2021 campaign, providing images and information on historic censuses in Medway. In addition to this, the Archive has been involved with various High Street Heritage Action Zone projects, helping with research and supplying images.

The report went on to discuss how MAC is keen to develop its audience and will be looking at audience development work in 2021-22. Before the spring 2020 lockdown the Archive conducted a survey of onsite visitors in February and early March and it is currently taking part in a distance enquiry survey organised by the Archives and Records Association and CIPFA, which opened on Monday 19 April and was live until Sunday 25 July 2021. This survey will provide information on the service provided for people who email or telephone seeking information, paid research, or copies of material.

MAC has continued its involvement in the Government's Kickstart scheme, which has been extremely successful. Currently there are two temporary Digital Archive Assistants employed with some of the initial tasks on the Digital Preservation Strategic Plan, as well as the digitisation of more of the Local Studies Photographic Collection. Ella and Chris joined MAC in April and will be in post until late October.

The report concluded with a 'huge thank you, and congratulations' to Norma Crowe on her retirement in July. Elspeth said, 'I want to say a personal thank you to Norma, who has been so supportive since I came in post in late 2019, and of a course a thank you from the team for the huge impact Norma has had during her tenure as Local Studies Librarian since 1998 (and before that as Heritage Officer, pre-Medway Council). We will miss you and wish you wonderful things for the future!'

Following the reading of Elspeth's report, the re-election of the FOMA Committee took place, conducted by Vice President Sue Haydock. With the exception of Betty Cole, who has stood down as Membership Secretary, the committee was re-elected en masse and included new members Natasha Boardman-Steer, Peter Joyce and Vanessa Sanderson, as above.

Then, under additional business, Elaine Gardner discussed the difficulties FOMA is encountering with rising costs and the possibility of putting up subscription costs and also whether it might be sensible for *The Clock Tower* to become an online publication. These are matters which will be discussed further with members.

Elaine invited Norma Crowe to take the floor. Norma retired as MAC's Local Studies Librarian in July 2021 (see *The Clock Tower*, Issue 63), but is still very much flying the flag for Local Studies. She has recently contributed a blog to the website of CILIP (the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals) Local Studies Group entitled *Case Study: Friends for your Library? The Friends of Medway Archive* which can be read at <https://lslibrarians.wordpress.com/2022/03/27/case-study-friends-for-your-library-the-friends-of-medway-archive/>

Elaine and I (Amanda) had both contributed to the piece which essentially explains why organisations like FOMA are such a good idea! Norma also stressed how nice it is that Friends groups such as ours are valued so highly by local studies organisations such as CILIP. Norma also took the opportunity to thank everyone once again for sponsoring her for the McCulla Award (see page 6) recently made to her by CILIP which recognised her outstanding contribution to local studies.



*Norma Crowe addresses the FOMA AGM; Secretary Chris de Coulon-Berthould takes the minutes.*

At the end of the AGM, Elaine Gardner announced that Betty Cole, FOMA's Membership Secretary would also be standing down. Betty was appointed Membership Secretary at the April 2008 AGM. A retired Local Government Officer, she had worked for 25 years with Kent Police as a civilian. However, Betty's interest in history quickly became evident with her regular contributions to *The Clock Tower*. In November 2008 (see *The Clock Tower*, Issue 12), she wrote her first article, *We Will Remember Them*, about her grandfather, Frederick Charles Wellard who was killed at Arras in August 1917. Since then she has contributed many articles and also instigated the series *Betty's Postcards* and the very popular *What and Why?* Betty has been an excellent Membership Secretary, keeping records up to date and corresponding with members by letter, email and telephone to resolve problems and queries. I shall miss working with her dreadfully but am happy to say that she has agreed to continue proofreading *The Clock Tower* – a job she has always characteristically undertaken to a very high standard. Elaine Gardner presented Betty with a beautiful arrangement of flowers (see the front cover) to say thank you – but not goodbye!

## Sue Poyser

In the 1950s I grew up in Weston Road, Strood. A street party was organised for the children of our road on Coronation day. A neighbour called round each week to collect money for the food etc. When the big day came, it was wet and cold so we transferred to the Parish Hall in Brompton Lane. I remember all the children sat on benches at long trestle tables tucking into sandwiches, jelly and cakes. We had a fancy dress competition and I went as old man Oxo (see right). I had the silver wrappers from Oxo cubes sewn onto a pair of pyjamas and my parents wrote to the Oxo company who sent me a cardboard hat and other accessories. In the evening our parents came and we had dancing.

I now live in Rochester and we are planning a street party for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Let's hope the weather is better this time [than 1953!].



*Read Elaine Gardner's recollections in her Charman's Letter on page 3.*

## Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee

The reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II outstrips that of all other British monarchs, including Queen Victoria's which lasted 63 years and seven months. Victoria celebrated her Golden Jubilee in 1887 and we were delighted to receive from FOMA member and regular contributor, Michael Baker, a copy of a letter written by his great uncle Arthur, the youngest of the ten Baker brothers. He was aged just 11 and a pupil at Restoration House\* when he was taken with his class to London to see the Jubilee procession. Arthur later became apprentice to the famous architect Sir Herbert Baker (who lived at Owletts in Cobham – (see *The Clock Tower* Issue 43, August 2016) and later became Chief Surveyor of Kenya

## Angela Watson



I have two recollections.

The children who lived in the vicinity of "the Dogs" (the Dog-Racing Stadium) at the top of City Way, (now Cloisterham Park), were all invited to a Coronation Party there. However, I was only nine years old at the time and my only memory of the occasion was sitting in the stand located on the far side of the track.

My second memory was of Coronation Day itself when our neighbour kindly invited us to watch the Coronation at her house with her four generations of family. In addition the youngest daughter, Georgie, arrived from London with a

bunch of American GIs whom she knew, so there was therefore a very jolly crowd around the television. But my abiding memory of the occasion is that the GIs had brought some packets of popcorn with them, which we had never really heard of, let alone eaten. All of a sudden there was a scream of laughter from the kitchen and when we all shot out to see what had happened, we found popcorn all over the kitchen ceiling. So, to this day I have never yet eaten popcorn.

## Terry Stephens

I remember Coronation Day 1953 very well indeed, as it was my 11th birthday, and I had to spend the morning with my family at a ceremony outside the Guildhall in Portsmouth, Hampshire, the city where I grew up. Her Majesty never asked me if I minded losing the opportunity to play with my friends! I believe there is something planned for 2nd June this year, so my 80th birthday will probably be overshadowed by whatever events take place, not that I am complaining. I will be quite content to have a meal with the family in an Indian or Chinese restaurant, or, preferably both! After all, when my wife was 60 in 2006, we had no less than six events to celebrate. Her birthday is also on 2nd June!

## Hazel Thorn

My husband would have been about 9 years old. There was only one television in the road, he was made to wash and dress in his best clothes to go to the neighbours' house to watch it on a tiny box tv with a fuzzy picture, oh how he wanted to be outside with his football, but his parents said it 'was history' and he had to go.



## The Extraordinary Story of Isaac Newell

Amanda Thomas and Elaine Gardner



On 31 December 2021, and as documented in the last *Clock Tower* (Issue 65, February 2022) we received an email from Mauro Emiliozzi in Rosario, Argentina. He leads a research group on the history of football in Argentina and was seeking more information about Isaac Newell who was born in Strood on 24 April 1853. Newell emigrated to Argentina in 1869 where he and his son Claudio later started a football club which was to shape the future of the Argentinian – and perhaps even the international - game. In this article, Elaine and Amanda bring some of the research together and delve a little deeper into the family tree of Isaac Newell.

*Isaac Newell circa 1900, Wikimedia Commons*

The Argentinian website, *Pionero Del Futbol*<sup>1</sup> explains that:

'Newell's Old Boys Athletic Club (Rosario, Argentina) was founded on November 3, 1903 by Claudio Lorenzo Newell. His father, Isaac Newell (who had been born in Strood, England) was the pioneer of Argentine and South American football as he introduced the first official rules (1884) and the first ball. These were used in the Anglo-Argentine Commercial school which he had founded together with his wife ...'<sup>2</sup>

The website explains how the club, Newell's Old Boys, founded the Liga Rosarina de Fútbol, the local league, and went from strength to strength, eventually building its own stadium in 1929, 'one of the first concrete-roofed sections in South America.' Newell's success continued both at home and overseas, perhaps culminating in the 1993-4 season, during the warm up to the 1994 US World Cup, when the legendary Diego Maradona played five matches with the club. Many other famous players began their careers at Newell's, including Ignacio Scocco, Cristian Ansaldi, Lionel Scaloni, Mauro Rosales, Fernando Belluschi, Maxi Rodriguez, Marcelo Bielsa, Mauricio Pochettino, and Lionel Messi.<sup>1</sup> When Maradona died in 2020, Lionel Messi - who began with Newell's aged six - paid tribute to him by wearing the famous player's number 10 Newell's shirt under his own, revealing it to the crowd in triumph having scored a fourth goal for Barcelona against Osasuna.<sup>3</sup>

*Pionero Del Futbol* also reveals that both a street and town square in Rosario are named after Isaac and Claudio Newell - but their roots are in the Medway Towns.

In 2012, and as reproduced in the previous *Clock Tower*, Cindy O'Halloran wrote an article entitled, 'Anyone for Football? Lionel Messi and the Higham Connection', part of her *Little Gems* series. In this she explained the family tree and described how Isaac had left England in 1869<sup>4</sup> for Argentina. According to Andrew Rootes, who also has recently re-visited the story for *Bygone Kent*,<sup>5</sup> Isaac

'... sailed to Argentina in a cargo/passenger ship in 1869 when he was 16, reportedly taking advantage of a trip to the country by some of his father's friends. His father (who may perhaps have become literate by this time) gave him a letter of introduction to William Wheelwright, a highly successful businessman in the world of ships and trains. Wheelwright, who owned the expanding Central Argentine Railway, gave Isaac a job as a telegraphist in Rosario, 180 miles northwest of Buenos Aires on the west bank of the Parana River, while he finished his studies.'

It was in Rosario that Isaac met and married in 1876 the German Anna Jockinsen; their first child, Claudio – the founder of Newell's Old Boys - was born on 26 May 1878. Although Isaac had started his life in Argentina working for the railway, before Claudio was born, both he and Anna had studied to become English teachers. In 1884 they established the Colegio Comercial Anglicano Argentino in a building Isaac acquired from Wheelwright, as Rootes explains, 'designing its shield with the distinctive colours of red and black, from the colours of the couple's homeland flags.'<sup>6</sup> These colours would later be used for the distinctive shirts of the Newell's Old Boys Athletic Club, as pictured opposite.



*Claudio Lorenzo Newell, 1920, Wikimedia Commons*

Elaine Gardner spent some time at the Medway Archives Centre looking at the parish records and Amanda Thomas used these and records from Findmypast and Ancestry to piece together the family tree.

Elaine Gardner writes:

Isaac Newell was born on 24 April 1853 and was baptised on 15 May that same year at St Nicholas Church, Strood. He was the son of Joseph Edward Savage Newell and Mary Ann Goodger. He died in Rosario Argentina on October 16, 1907, aged 54.

## Betty Cole



This is a photograph of the Coronation party in 1953 at what we called The Prim church hall (Primitive Methodist) on the other corner to the school in Magpie Hall Road, Chatham. The children at the forefront are my family. My younger sister, Vera is the fourth child from the front left-hand bench and I am the one above her, the fifth on the left. We all had an abundance of hair! The party couldn't have been held on Coronation Day as I clearly remember watching the event on my uncle and aunt's television in a prefab off Street End Road Luton. Small TV large audience!



CORONATION PARTY AT THE "PRIM" (PRIMITIVE METHODIST) ON OTHER CORNER TO SCHOOL IN MAGPIE HALL ROAD. CANNOT TRACE ORIGINAL. 1953.

## Frank King

I was just six when "the coronation" happened. Being a boy I was barely aware of the outside world of grown-ups, but, along with lots of school aged children, I was given a commemorative ceramic beaker to take home. So far so good. Clutching my treasure I jumped off the bus from Twydall to Rainham and the next thing I knew I was flat on my face surrounded by bits of pottery. That's my last memory of the pot, but a lovely lady, Mrs Guthrie I think from the carpet shop, came to my rescue and patched me up with Germolene and plasters. The bus stop back then was right outside her shop near the top of Station Road.



## A Clock Tower *Special Feature*

### Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Amanda Thomas



70 years ago on 6 February 1952, HM Queen Elizabeth II acceded to the throne on the death of her father, King George VI. This year from June 2 we will have four days of celebration to commemorate the Queen's remarkable reign.

The accession, and then the Queen's coronation a year later in 1953, are etched on our collective memories. A few weeks' ago, I put a plea out to *Clock Tower* members asking for recollections and received so many replies, this special feature will now continue in the August issue. Do please send me your photos and stories of your own celebrations in June – it would be lovely to include them.

*Portrait of Her Majesty The Queen taken inside Nottingham's Council House, Lee Haywood; Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.0*

My own memories are second-hand through my mother, Dulcie Wraight. In 1953, my Australian father, Lewis Jones was still in Melbourne but finalising his trip to England, a plan which would change the course of his life. I will be writing more about Dulcie's extraordinary experience of the Coronation in Part Two, however, in 1952 she was a recent graduate from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) and on tour with a small theatre company. In February the group of young actors had just arrived in Rhyl in North Wales but on the death of King George VI, the tour came to a halt and their contracts were cancelled. This was part of the process of the Demise of the Crown, a legal term for the transfer of sovereignty on the death of the monarch. In the past this had significant effects, effectively stopping Parliament, the courts, indeed the British legal system in its tracks. In the 1950s perhaps the curtailing of a travelling theatre's contract was somewhat unnecessary, however, Dulcie's recollection was that *everything* stopped and closed, but worst of all, she was stuck in freezing (boring) Rhyl with not much money, desperate to get back to her mum in Strood. In fact, when King George died, theatres and cinemas closed out of respect and there was a general hiatus. No decision on the lying-in-state or the funeral could be made until the new Queen arrived back in London from Kenya.

The following year, the mood for the Coronation could not have been more jubilant - and as documented by the following memories.



*Newell's Old Boys team, 1991 wearing their distinctive black and red shirts. Wikimedia Commons*

Joseph E S Newell's first marriage took place at St Mary's church in Higham on 3 June 1848. Joseph Edward Savage Newell to Mary Ann Goodger, *both of this parish*, meaning they were both living in Higham at the time but no addresses.

First son, Joseph, baptised at St Nicholas' Church Strood, May 20, 1849; family listed as living in Strood High Street, father's occupation fishmonger.

Second son William baptised at St Margaret's Church Rochester 23 February 1851; family listed as living in Strood.

Third son Isaac baptised at St Nicholas' Church Strood 15 May 1853; family listed as living in Taylors Lane

Burial of Mary Ann Newell (née Goodger) at St Nicholas Church September 14, 1854, aged 28, of Taylors Lane.

Second marriage took place at St Nicholas Strood, 7 February 1856. Joseph Edward Savage Newell, widower aged 28 to Susannah Elizabeth [sic] Chapman aged 22 spinster, both living in Taylors Lane.

Burial of Joseph Edward Savage Newell at St Nicholas Church Strood, 17 December 1885 age 58, of Conference Place (?) Strood.

Census records:

**1851 Census:** Joseph *Savage*, fishmonger, and wife Mary are listed in Strood High Street with sons Joseph and William. It is this entry which establishes Joseph was born in Harwich, Essex.

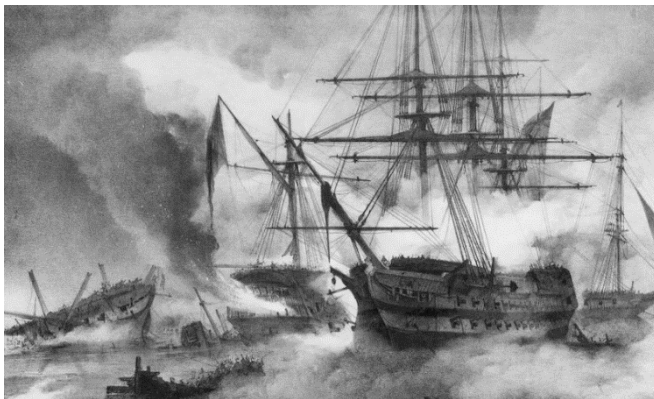
Amanda Thomas adds that in his *Bygone Kent* article on Isaac Newell, Andrew Rootes is concerned why Joseph is listed as *Savage* in 1851 (this could be an enumerator error, though interestingly it is repeated again in the 1881 Census entry):

'... Joseph Savage Newell, was born ... at Harwich in Essex and baptised there in the parish of St Nicholas.<sup>[7]</sup> Joseph's parents were listed as Joseph Savage, a mariner, and Mary Ann. Their place of abode was listed as Chatham – and perhaps there hangs a tale. In these baptism records it was common to give only one forename for the father so it may be that Savage was the

surname of the father and that the parents were not married – and that therefore Newell was his mother’s surname. One researcher from the Essex Society for Family History stated that the father’s surname was not recorded in the register. I have so far been unable to find a marriage record for them ...<sup>8</sup>

Amanda Thomas investigated a little further and found that Joseph Savage and Mary Ann had been married, but in Devon. Given that Joseph was a mariner, it seemed sensible to search country wide, and indeed the marriage of Joseph Savage Newell and Mary Ann Howes had taken place on 6 January 1824 in Stoke Damerel, Devon; Joseph is recorded as a mariner on the ship *Genoa*. So why Joseph’s surname is listed as *Savage* in 1851 and 1881 remains a mystery.

HMS *Genoa* was originally named *Brilliant*, a ‘*Téméraire*-class 74-gunship of the line of the French Navy’.<sup>9</sup> She was captured during the Napoleonic Wars when the Italian city of Genoa fell in 1814. She was renamed after that city but also because *Brilliant* had been built at the port of Genoa between 1812 and 1815 during the French annexation (from 1805). Then, in 1821, Genoa served as a guard ship in Chatham, but between 1824 and 1825 she was stationed at Devonport and Plymouth, which fits perfectly with why Joseph Newell married Mary Ann at Stoke Damerel. Why their son Joseph was born at Harwich is not clear, but the comment on their marriage entry that their abode was ‘Chatham’ makes more sense in the light of this wider information.



*HMS Genoa, drawn by George Philip Reinagle from onboard HMS Mosquito; Wikimedia Commons*

Elaine Gardner continues:

**1861 Census:** John (i.e., Joseph) E S Newell age 35, fishmonger; Susannah age 29, wife; William age 10, scholar; Isaac aged 8, scholar. Registered as living at 5 Higham Place, Higham. The eldest son, Joseph, aged 11, is listed as a servant at nearby Gad’s Hill (not the house) to George Butcher, a market gardener of Higham.



*Above left: Jack Bursey in 1947*



*Above right: Jack and his wife Rene (Irene May Bursey nee Anderson 1922-2013) in 1968.*

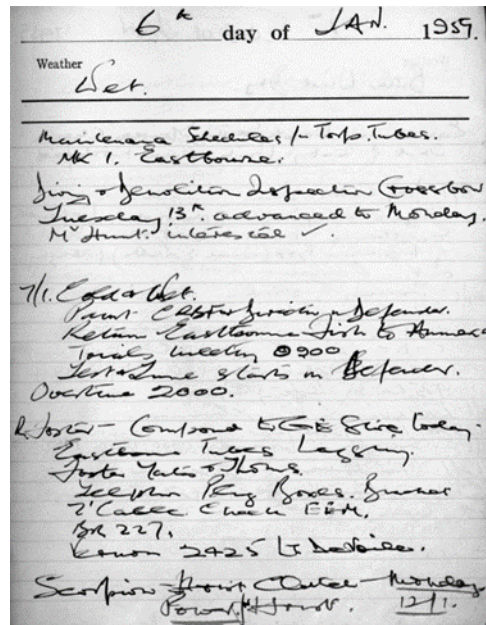


*The four children of Charles and Daisy Bursey in August 1980: Charles, Jack, Eva and Rene. Rene’s husband Vic Clark is in the background.*

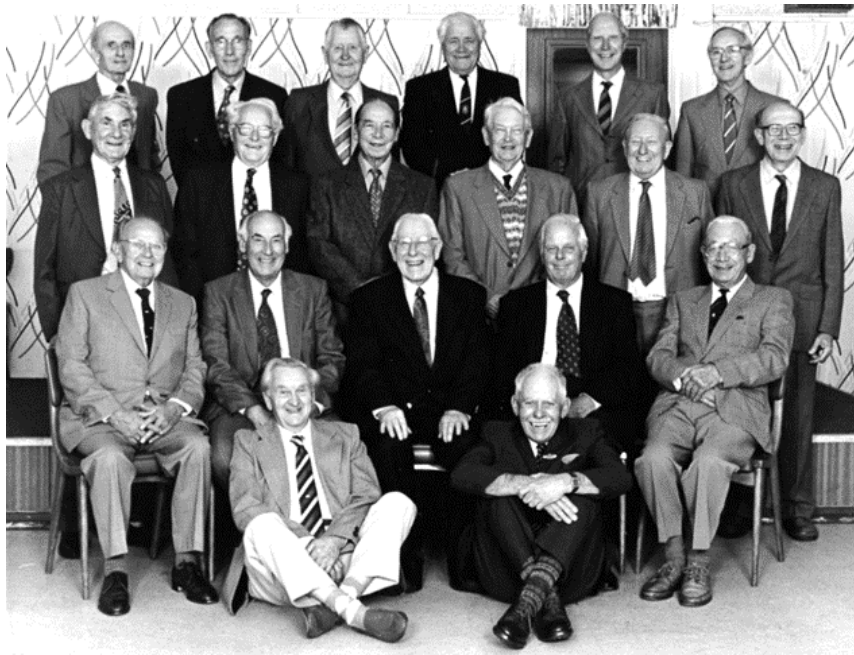
*Photographs from the author’s archive.*

*A copy of my full biographical notes on Jack’s life have been deposited at the Medway Archives Centre.*

Right: Jack Bursey's diary entry for 6 January 1959 shows his progress notes on the Eastbourne, Crossbow, Defender, and Scorpion



Below: the 1996 reunion photo of the 1936 entry of apprentices (all trades) to Chatham Dockyard. Jack Bursey is middle row third from the right. In 1986 fifty-four attended this function but the number was dwindling. I have a list of their names.



**1871 Census:** Joseph E S Newell and Susannah living in High Street West Malling, Kent with Susannah's father, William Chapman. Joseph is still listed as fishmonger; all three other sons are listed elsewhere. The sons are more difficult to trace in this Census and certainly by this time Isaac was in Argentina.

**1881 Census:** Joseph Savage, fish hawker and wife Susannah are listed at 3 Jupps Cottages, Halling Street, Halling.

Although Joseph is listed as a fishmonger in earlier censuses, the Medway trade directories do not list him as an owner, as the final entry for 1881 might suggest.

In his books *A History of Higham* parts I & II, held at the Medway Archives Centre, Andrew Rootes gives a clear idea of what Higham was like in the mid nineteenth century. At the centre of the original Anglo Saxon settlement of Lower Higham is St Mary's Church, whereas Upper Higham grew up around St John's Church which was built in 1862.

At the time of the 1851 census the population of Higham parish was 843. Of those whose occupations were listed 223 (68%) were farm servants/labourers/agricultural workers; another 129 were unspecified labourers; 32 market gardeners; 41 servants; 26 with a trade (such as blacksmith); 5 railway workers and 5 at the school.

The Vicar Rev Joseph Hindle lived at Gads Hill Place until Charles Dickens bought it in 1856, and it was he who married Joseph Edward Savage Newell and Mary Ann Goodger (Isaac's parents) at St Mary's Church in 1848. Hindle built Knowle House as the vicarage in 1856, as explained by Amanda Thomas in *The Clock Tower*, Issue 09, February 2008, 'The Rosher Family: From Gravesend to Hollywood':

'George [Rosher] married Mary Hindle, the daughter of the Rector of Higham, Joseph Hindle. Joseph Hindle was born in 1795 of a landed family in Great Harwood, Blackburn, Lancashire. Hindle was the occupant of Gad's Hill House when Charles Dickens decided to buy it in 1856. Whether this cemented their friendship, or if they had known each other previously, is not clear. However, Charles Dickens became a regular visitor to The Knowle, the house at Higham Hindle had built for himself, Mary and her husband George Rosher.'

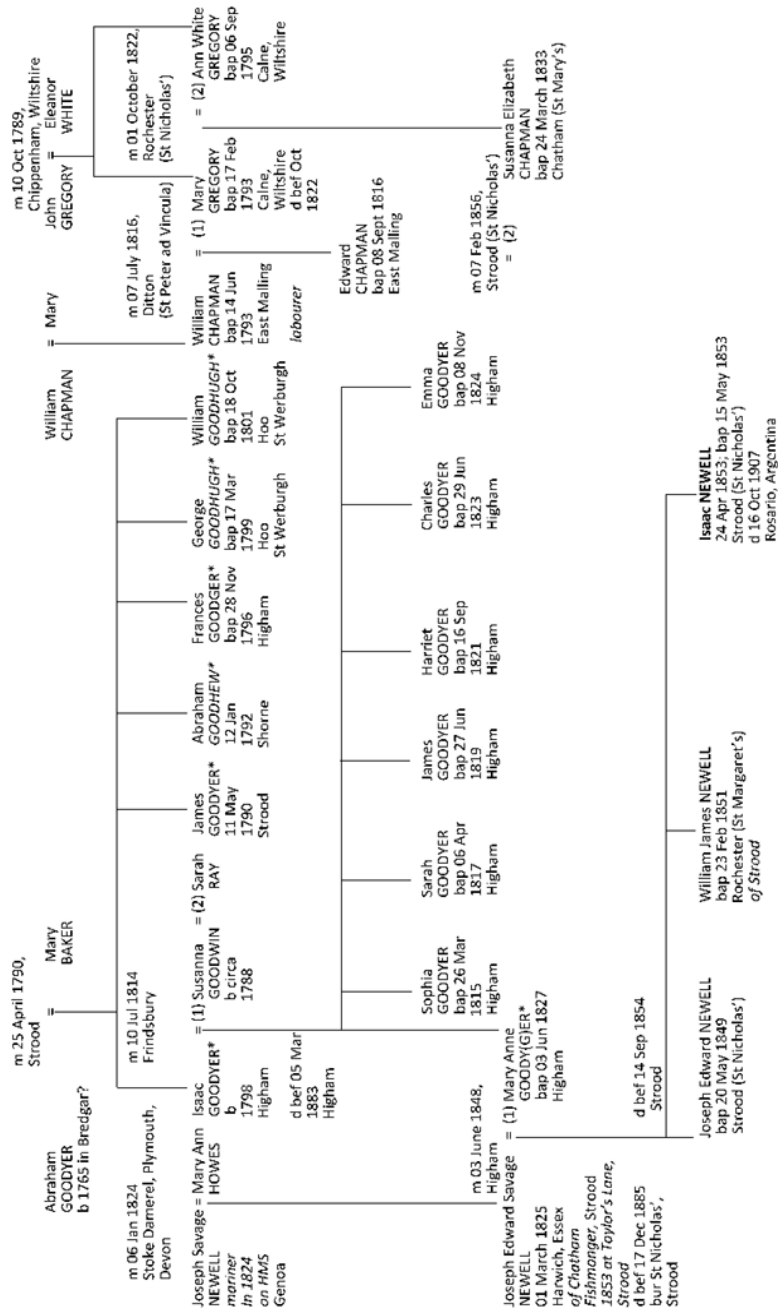
The school at Higham was founded in 1847 with donations of £567 including £100 from Jesus College Cambridge, who also gave the land it was built on, and several donations of £30 from local farmers/landowners. The school consisted of two large rooms, one for boys, one for girls. It would seem highly likely that William and Isaac Newell went to school there.

When Charles Dickens lived at Gads Hill (from 1852 to 1870) he encouraged village sports and cricket matches on his ground providing prizes for the winners – but there is no mention of football!

In 1861 Higham Parish went westward from Mockbeggar and Stone Horse to Shorne and from the Thames and Higham marshes up the Gads Hill Place on the Rochester to Gravesend Road. The parish was mostly a collection of farms and large houses with small clusters of houses to presumably accommodate farm workers.

Amanda Thomas has compiled a comprehensive family tree with information gleaned from the above:

THE FAMILY OF ISAAC NEWELL



\*Appear to be interchangeable

In the drawing office he was put in the steam turbine section (destroyers) where, amongst other tasks, he wrote instructions for teams working on the ships. While there he took the Inspector of Engine Fitters exam three times, and passed three times, but there were no vacancies. Then, in 1951 he was given an acting inspector's job in the factory. After about twelve months he was taken off that section and, in 1952 sent to be an acting inspector on the gunnery section. 'Jack had no say in the matter'. There were usually about half a dozen destroyers in the yard and each destroyer had about four or five gun mountings. Each one was removed from the ship, taken to the shop, and given a complete overhaul. Finally, a vacancy came up for a substantial weapons inspector's position – in Singapore!

In 1954, Jack took his wife Rene, and his son Robert to Singapore where he had 'the best three years of my life'. They returned in 1957 with a second son, Peter (me). The communist insurgency was in full swing on the Malaysian mainland and the military base at Singapore was a key part of the push back. In 1956, after the British nuclear bomb trials took place off Australia, the destroyer HMS *Diana* came to Singapore to be checked, cleaned, and repainted. This included having her weapons inspected – by Jack Bursey.

Jack returned to Chatham and continued on destroyers and cruisers before, in 1961, taking a role as dockyard education and college liaison officer. Between 1965 and 1968 he was given a promotion and transferred to Nottingham inspecting Royal Navy equipment ordered from companies in the Midlands. This was an exciting interlude for the family as it gave us the opportunity to see Nottingham Forest play football and see the England cricket team at Trent Bridge. In Jack's ever-changing career he was then sent back to Chatham, and given another promotion to foreman. Chatham Dockyard was about to become a nuclear submarine refuelling depot and they were creating two shops to be able to work on two submarines at any one time. Jack was given charge of one of them but first he had to go to Greenwich Naval College and do a formal course on nuclear propulsion.

Refuelling took place alongside the general refit of the submarines and each one took about two years. One duty he had to perform occasionally was to ride in the guard's van when accompanying the nuclear fuel waste when it was taken to Windscale by rail. The train consisted of a diesel, the nuclear waste wagon and the guard's van.

The 1970s saw him holding a key position in the dockyard before retiring, aged 60, in January 1981. In 45 years Jack served the navy, served the country and was a model employee. Like most of his generation he always wore a tie, was always courteous, put his family first, and behaved like a gentleman. There is a photo of him in the February 1981 issue of the *Periscope* receiving a retirement present.

Like his father Charles [see *The Clock Tower*, Issue 65, February 2022], Jack Bursey was a Dockyard man all his life. He was born in Pretoria Road Gillingham in 1921 and said that, during the 1930s, he knew everyone in the street. He attended Byron Road School until 1936 when he became an apprentice engine fitter in the Dockyard. That year Chatham took 125 apprentices and Jack's dockyard exam results put him in 24<sup>th</sup> place. I have to say that, up until the 1980s, his dockyard life was a bit of a mystery to me but, once I began to talk to him about it, I realised that his story was impressive. Not so much in a conventional sense of what he achieved but of how *interesting* it was.

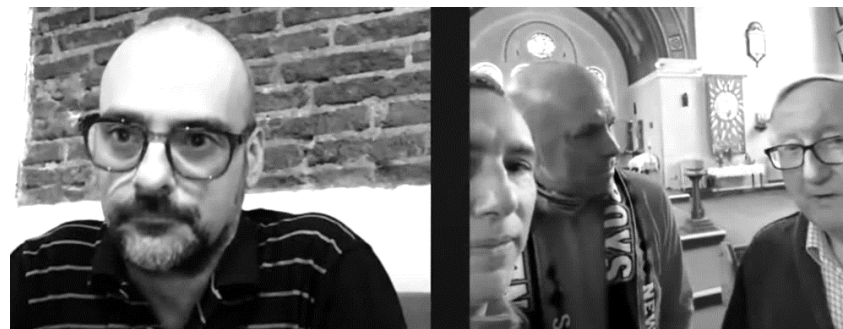
After his apprenticeship ended, Jack worked in the afloat section on destroyers until 1948 when he entered the drawing office. He had many stories of his working life during the war which arouse interest. They included seeing squadrons of German planes flying overhead on their way up to London during the blitz; how busy the Yard was during the Dunkirk evacuation when many damaged ships came in for quick repairs; working on the American destroyers Chesterfield, Mansfield and Bath sent over to aid Britain, what terrible condition some were in, and how impressed he was with the crews that had brought them over; and how, in 1941, he was sent to Scotland with a team to provide technical aid for the new aircraft catapult trolleys for planes on HMS *Victorious*. Ships worked on during the war included the destroyers *Wolfhound* (pictured), *Campbell*, and *Montrose*, and the *Whitshed*, *Walpole*, *Whitehall*, and *Wishant* (V and W class built 1916-19). One story told by Jack was that the boilers in these older destroyers had pressures of around 200-250 psi and it was possible to work on the safety valves without getting scalded by steam. In the later Tribal Class destroyers the boiler pressure was over 400psi and only 'superheated steam' emerged from the safety valves. This was invisible and made working on these valves a dangerous job for the fitters.



An old postcard view of the destroyer *Wolfhound*, one of the many ships Jack worked on during the war as an engine fitter

On 24 April 2022, a delegation from Rosario visited St Nicholas Church in Strood to mark the 169<sup>th</sup> birthday of Isaac Newell. Here Pablo Cerra interviewed FOMA's Len Feist in a live broadcast to Rosario, Argentina and anchorman, Mauro Emiliozzi.

We expect this might not be the end of this extraordinary story!



A screenshot of the broadcast with Mauro Emiliozzi on the left screen and FOMA's Len Feist far right.<sup>10</sup>

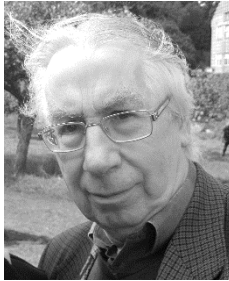
#### Notes

1. *Pionero Del Futbol* (<http://www.pionerodelfutbol.com/p/english.html>)
2. <https://www.goal.com/en/lists/lionel-messi-diego-maradona-and-the-best-ex-newells-old-boys/1sf98xaf3xkgo1nlf6xriffp3#csffbbab78d61327fd>
3. <https://inews.co.uk/sport/football/lionel-messis-newells-old-boys-tribute-to-diego-maradona-in-barcelonas-win-over-osasuna-explained-776636>
4. *Les Rosbifs* – the Medway Man who created a top Argentine club. <http://lesrosbifs.net>
5. *Bygone Kent*, Volume 45, no.2; 'Dickens, Strood, Messi and Maradona', pages 40 – 47.
6. *Idem*.
7. The record for the Harwich birth can be found at: [https://www.freereg.org.uk/search\\_records/604cac80f493fd5a981b85e9/joseph-newell-baptism-essex-harwich-1825-03-25?locale=en](https://www.freereg.org.uk/search_records/604cac80f493fd5a981b85e9/joseph-newell-baptism-essex-harwich-1825-03-25?locale=en)
8. *Bygone Kent*, Volume 45, no.2; 'Dickens, Strood, Messi and Maradona', pages 40 – 47.
9. *French ship Brilliant (1814)*, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French\\_ship\\_Brillant\\_\(1814\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_ship_Brillant_(1814))
10. The broadcast can be viewed at: <https://www.lacapital.com.ar/ovacion/se-cumplen-169-anos-del-nacimiento-isaac-newell-y-fue-homenajeado-una-iglesia-inglaterra-n10014028.html>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-2fL4I9Q90>

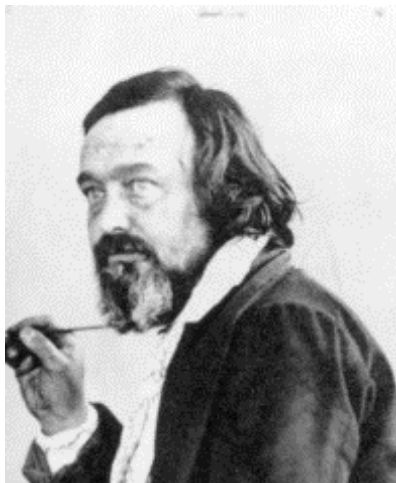
With thanks to Cindy O'Halloran, Andrew Rootes, and Mauro Emiliozzi

## Richard Dadd

Peter Cook



*Peter Cook began his journalistic career with the Gravesend Reporter during the early 1960s. While working for the paper, he met his wife Lizzie, and the couple became Ten-Pound Poms emigrating to Australia. There he joined the Australian Broadcasting Commission at its outpost radio station in Townsville, Queensland. In 1970, following his return to the UK, Peter joined the staff of a brand-new BBC local radio station in Chatham, BBC Radio Medway. Peter later joined the BBC radio newsroom at Broadcasting House in London, helping provide national coverage for local radio stations. After more than a decade he and a BBC colleague formed Orchid Communications, generating audio communications services for large companies, but this was not to survive with the arrival of new technologies. Peter returned to his local reporting roots and joined the Kent Messenger Group, first at Gravesend and then at Medway. For about 15 years he recorded local history in the Medway Messenger's weekly 'Memories' feature. He describes the latter as 'the best job of my career.' Now retired he and Lizzie live in Ospringe, Faversham.*

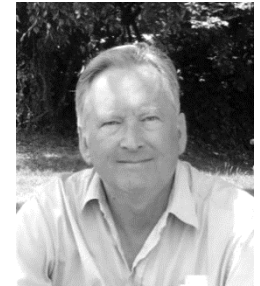


*Born in Chatham, Richard Dadd (1817-1886) was a painter best known for fantasy scenes and the supernatural, including fairies. Prior to his mental breakdown and incarceration in the Bedlam and Broadmoor asylums, his work had been more conventional. However, following a tour of Europe and the Middle East, his behaviour became more erratic and unstable, culminating in the murder of his father, and as described in Part One.*

*Richard Dadd working on one of his fairy paintings; Bethlem Hospital, 1856.*

## Notes from the Bursey Family Archive

Peter Bursey



*Peter grew up in Gillingham and attended Twydall Infant and Junior Schools, followed by the Grammar School when John Hicks was headmaster. Various jobs eventually led him to the Civil Service in Whitehall until he retired in 2007. In 1988 Peter spent five months at Chatham Dockyard on the Gannet project going up to the Public Record Office and the National Maritime Museum archives at Woolwich Arsenal where he discovered the original plans of the Gannet's masts and spars plus an assortment of other useful papers. He now lives in Shaftesbury, Dorset.*

### Part Three: Jack Bursey (1921-2004), Foreman, HM Dockyard Chatham



*In this Byron Road school photo of Standard VII taken in 1933, Jack Bursey is in the middle row, 5<sup>th</sup> from the right. The teacher on the right is Mr Ayers and the headmaster was Mr Woolcock.*

A year later he was to draw on this theme in an illustration of Robin Goodfellow, for a book of British ballads produced by a leading publisher of the day. About that time, he was introduced to Sir Thomas Phillips, a Welsh lawyer, businessman and politician, who had been shot and wounded during the Chartist rising at Newport, Monmouthshire, in 1839. He was knighted for his part in subduing the riot and, as a consequence, rose to fame and fortune. In 1842, Phillips set out on a journey through southern Europe and the Middle East, taking Richard Dadd with him to paint scenes they encountered along the way. It was a tough trip, with little time allowed to relax and take in the atmosphere. They also encountered intense heat, and Dadd suffered sunstroke, which was believed to have contributed to his mental state. Be that as it may, about May 1843, he left the expedition abruptly and headed for home. He later told a friend that many fiends had been about him during the voyage.

Back in London Dadd set to work feverishly to complete paintings from drawings he had made on the tour. There were also other projects, including a huge drawing of St George slaying the dragon, for a competition to choose decorations for the new Houses of Parliament. He also sent a five feet long canvas to an exhibition in Liverpool.

At one stage he seemed to be getting better. He met Phillips again, and over a meal discussed future projects. He also told his father he wanted to get back to the family roots. It was this request which led to the fateful trip to Cobham, and the dreadful incident in Cobham Park described in Part One. Of the murder of his father, Dadd said some years later, that he was compelled by a feeling that some such sacrifice was demanded by the gods and spirits above. After the deed was carried out, he had declared to the stars: 'Go and tell the great god Osiris that I have done the deed which is to set him free!'

*For more information on Richard Dadd and his work as an artist, please visit the Art UK website:*  
<https://artuk.org/discover/artists/dadd-richard-18171886>

## Part Two: Dadd's Early Life

In July 1843, talented artist Richard Dadd, 26, stabbed his father to death in Cobham Park. He escaped to France, but after repatriation was committed to be tried for murder at Maidstone Assizes. Declared insane, Dadd escaped the hangman's noose, but was destined to spend the rest of his life confined to asylums.

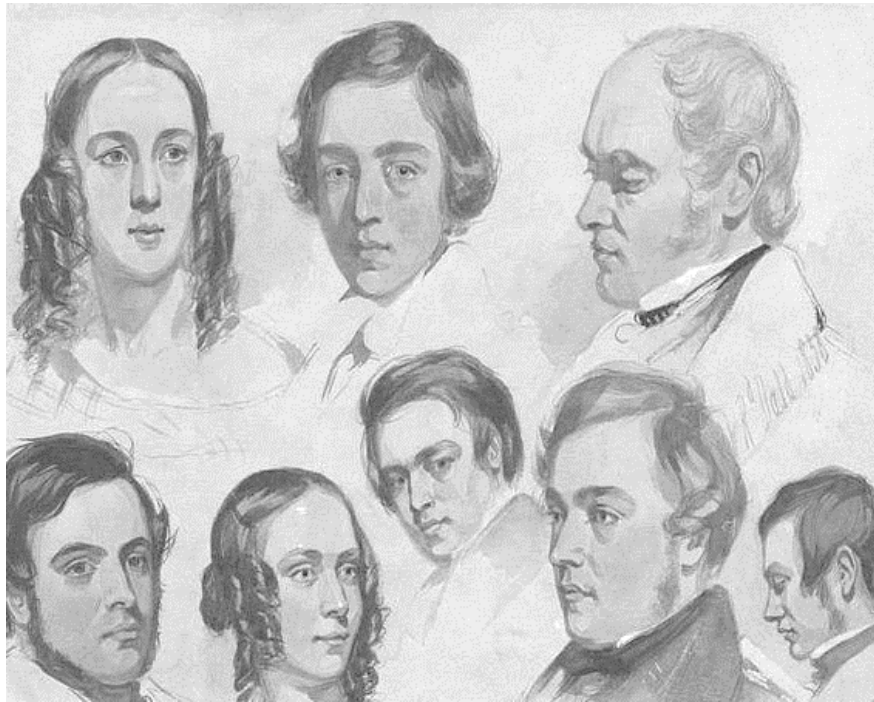
How could a gentle, good humoured, gifted individual like Richard Dadd, give way to murderous violence and the savage and bloody slaying of his devoted father? It was a question that perplexed those who knew him. 'None anticipated so horrible a termination to the struggle between reason and madness,' wrote one. 'For a person more invariably gentle, kind, considerate and affectionate did not exist.' 'He was emphatically one who could not injure a fly.'

But there was madness in the Dadd family. Richard's brother George, who was a carpenter, had become mentally ill a few months before his father's murder. He had arrived at the family home 'destitute and delusional' the day after that tragic event. George was admitted to Bethlem Asylum while Richard was still on the run. He died there in 1868. Maria Dadd, sister to Richard and George, also suffered mental illness, believing herself to be persecuted by religious figures. She had married the artist John Phillips – well known to Richard – and had begun to attack him violently. In 1863 she was admitted to an asylum in Aberdeen where the couple had set up home. Other siblings were also said to be affected.

Someone who knew the family well was Henry Gardiner Adams, who like Robert Dadd, the father of the family, was an apothecary based in Chatham. He was also a prolific writer, producing literature for young people under the name of *Nemo*. As secretary to the Chatham Mechanics' Institute, which brought education to working people, he would have often listened to Robert Dadd's talks on science. Adams was a strong slavery abolitionist, and edited a book entitled *God's Image in Ebony*, in which he wrote that all human beings had a common origin and that the enslavement of black people was therefore immoral.

Richard Dadd provided illustrations for a journal edited by Adams called *The Kentish Coronal* and in 1839 Adams wrote a sonnet to his artist friend, which read something like a love letter. It concluded:

'And, oh, my friend! May stern adversity,  
Heart-withering disappointment, gloomy care,  
That are too oft in life attendant, ne'er  
Conspire to blight those hopes for thy prosperity.'



*The Dadd family, painted by Richard Dadd. The Yale Collection of British Art, reproduced with the kind permission of the Paul Mellon Foundation, USA.*

The Dadds were very much a Chatham family. Robert Dadd was born in Chatham and baptised at St Mary's Church near the Dockyard where his father, Stephen Dadd, was timber master. It was at St Mary's that he also married Mary Ann Martin, in 1812. Within a year, Mary gave birth to the first of seven children, all born and baptised in Chatham.

Robert Dadd set up shop as an apothecary in Chatham High Street. His interests extended to general chemistry and geology, and he gave lectures on these subjects to local institutions becoming well known as an excellent public speaker. He also curated the museum of Chatham and Rochester Philosophical and Literary Institution and contributed many exhibits.

As soon as Richard's artistic talents became apparent, he received wholehearted support from his father. While a pupil at King's School, Rochester, he gained a reputation for the quality of his drawing. The portrait group above which depicts members of the Dadd family illustrates just how good an artist he was from a young age.

Mary died in 1824 and four years later, Robert Dadd decided on a complete change, setting up business in London restoring ormolu objets d'art. This was a process for making base metals appear golden. The entire family moved to London, which brought them into contact with wealthy and influential people. This was good for the gilding business and it also gave Richard the opportunity to study at the Royal Academy of Arts where he was described as 'one of the most regular and attentive students who ever studied at the school of the Academy.'

There was a fashion at the time for painting fanciful fairy scenes. Dadd took great delight in the subject. One of his most successful paintings, *Titania Sleeping* (illustrated), painted in 1841, shows the naked fairy queen recumbent among her handmaidens, surrounded by a bizarre archway of mischievous looking goblins of every sort available to the imagination. It is now in the Louvre in Paris.



*Titania Sleeping, 1841; oil on canvas. 23 1/2 x 30 1/2 inches. Department of Paintings of the Louvre, Paris, Room 719; Wikimedia Commons.*