

SNODLAND MILLENNIUM MUSEUM





John May of Snodland
(1732-1805)

The Museum is open
on Wednesdays and Sundays
from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Admission is free and there is
wheelchair access

(The museum is closed for about three weeks
around Christmas time and on Easter Sunday.
Precise dates are advertised each year in the
Press and locally. The museum is manned by
volunteers from Snodland Historical Society.)

Honorary Curator: Andrew Ashbee, 214, Malling Road, Snodland, Kent
ME6 5EQ (e-mail: ashbeeandrew4@gmail.com)



The Old Fire Station

Snodland's volunteer fire brigade was formed in 1897 and the Misses Hook (of the paper Mill family) leased their depot to the Parish Council. In 1915 Maude Midsummer Hook gave land in Waghorn Road to the Parish Council to enable them to build a new fire station. This was achieved in 1923. It served until 1948, after which the building was used for a variety of purposes.



A group of people, including children and adults, are gathered around a table in a museum setting. They are looking at historical photographs and documents. In the background, there are display cases with more historical items. The scene is brightly lit, and the people appear to be engaged in a learning activity.

In 1994, to commemorate their centenary, Snodland Parish Council held a local history exhibition in the Devonshire Rooms, Waghorn Road, Snodland.

This was very successful. Exhibits were drawn from the Council's archives, supplemented by others loaned by parishioners.

With this in mind, as the Millennium approached, the Council decided that it would like to create a local museum as its millennium project.

It purchased the old fire station in Waghorn Road (ownership of which had transferred to the District Council) and renovated it.



The Museum was opened on 4 October 1999
by Jonathan Shaw MP.

Left to right: Andrew Ashbee (Honorary Curator), René Drouin, Mayor of Moyeuve Grande (Snodland's twin town), Barry Miners (Chairman of Snodland Town Council) and Jonathan Shaw MP.

It is hoped the following pages will give a taster of what is available, not all of which can be displayed.

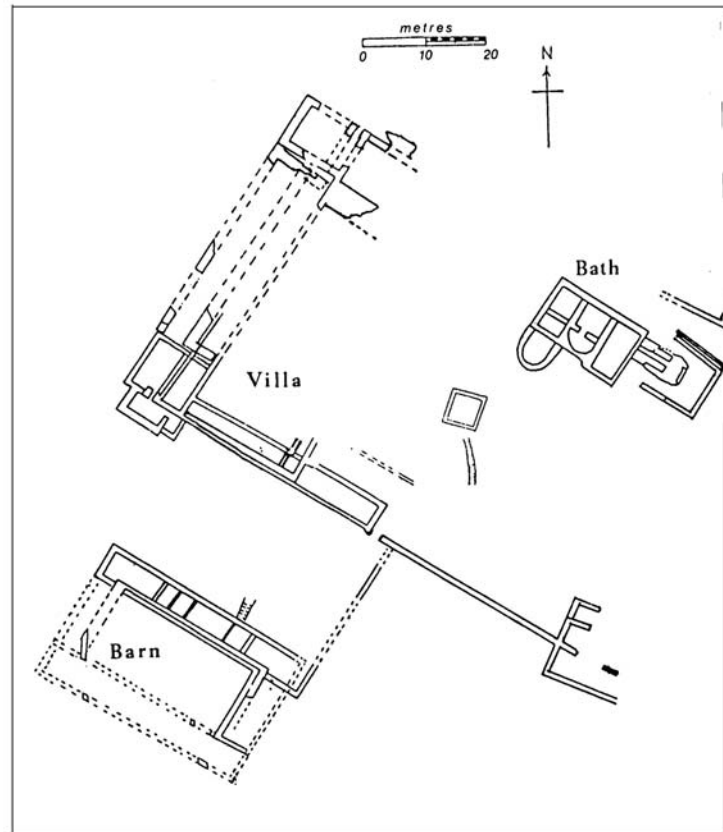
For detailed catalogues go to www.snodlandhistory.org.uk/museum and select 'catalogues'. We will endeavour to keep these up to date.



The oldest exhibits come from the gravel pits in the parish excavated some years ago. These include a fine hand axe

and part of a mammoth tusk.





A Roman villa in Snodland has been excavated intermittently since the 1840s, and part of the estate was recently found to extend beyond the railway line (above). A major find of 4643 coins was made here in 2007.



Most of the Roman finds on display are on loan from the Maidstone Area Archaeological Group, who spent several years working on the villa.



THOMAS FLETCHER WAGHORN (1800-1850)

Snodland's most famous Parishioner was Thomas Fletcher Waghorn, who pioneered the Overland Route to India through Egypt in the 1830s. The museum has a good collection of material relating to him and his enterprise.



‘Interview with Mehemet Ali at his palace at Alexandria’ [12 May 1839], coloured lithograph by David Roberts, R.A. Waghorn is seated in the centre.

THE HOOK FAMILY

The Hook family came to Snodland in 1854-5 as new owners of the paper mill. Their influence on Snodland is still felt through the many benefactions they made. They set up a Swedenborgian Society here.



Samuel



Anna Maria



Charles
Townsend



Edith



Eustace

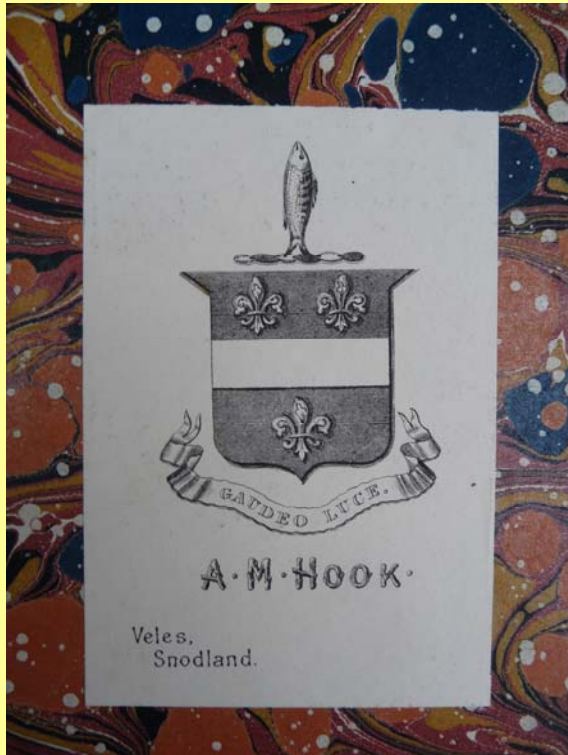


Agnes

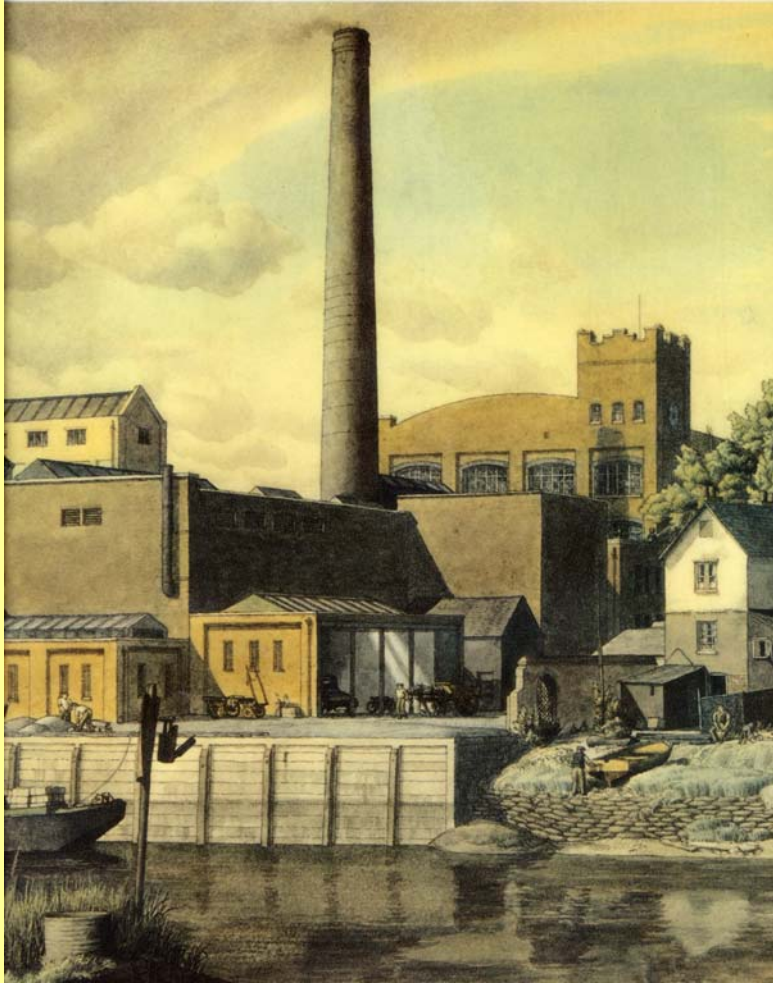


Maude

Sadly little has survived here of personal effects of the Hook family, although we have Maude's memoir of Agnes and also many of Anna Maria's copies of Emanuel Swedenborg's published writings in fine mid-nineteenth century editions. The Hook legacy is equally evident in the town in many buildings which they financed for which we have both pictures and some documentation.



THE PAPER MILL



Unfortunately over the years the Paper Mill has thrown away most of its archive, which originally extended back to the eighteenth century. We do have a few items on loan, together with other material, including more than fifty photographs of the fire of 12 August 1906.

THE CEMENT INDUSTRY

Again there is little material to hand as the surviving archives of local cement works are held by Lafarge Cement and are currently inaccessible. We have some pictures of several works in the Medway valley, including Lee's and Holborough works.



FAMILY HISTORY

The museum has much to interest the family historian. A database of Snodland parishioners can be consulted, but is also available on-line at www.snodlandhistory.org.uk .

Other material includes:

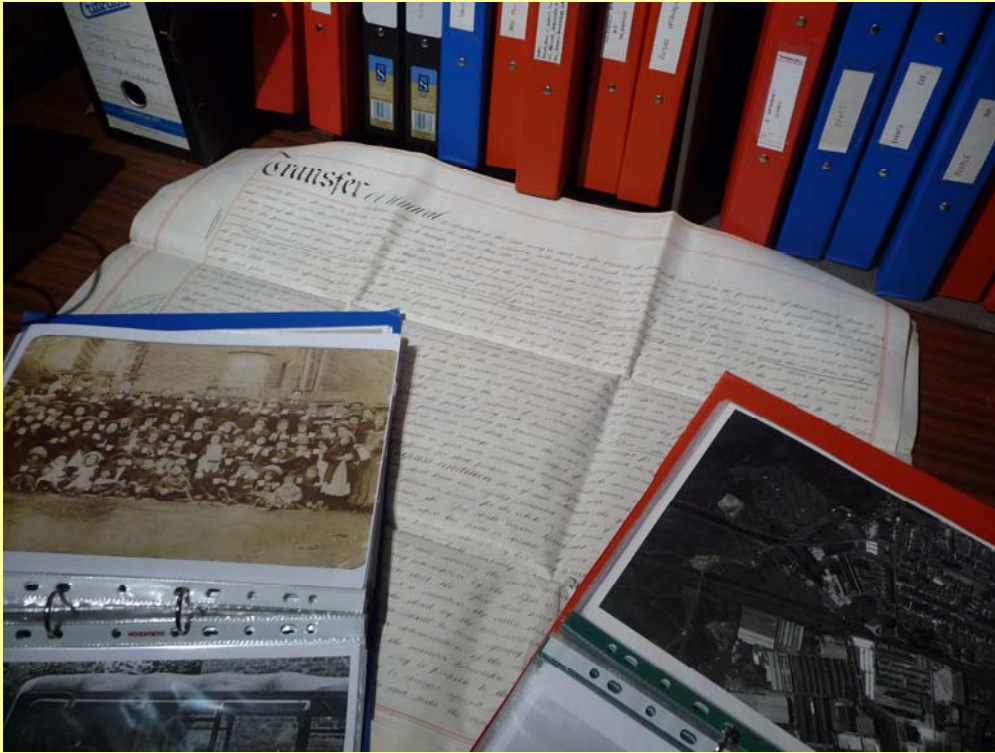
(a) photocopies of the National (Brook Street) School log-books, 1863-1930, and of the admission registers from the late nineteenth century to 1930. We have many class photographs for Brook Street from 1870 and some for Holmesdale, especially c.1949-1953.

(b) Census returns for Kent 1841-1911; we also have electronic copies of some local parishes for 1841, 1861, 1881 and 1901; and of Snodland 1841-1911.

(c) copies of Snodland church and cemetery registers to the mid-twentieth century.

(d) Many Snodland directories 1847-1938 – also available on-line.

PICTURES



Our picture collection continues to grow and covers a wide variety of subjects arranged under headings. Copies are available for perusal in files: e.g. Churches; Events; Industry; Landscape; People, River; Roads; etc.

Snodland Historical Society is particularly collecting postcards published by Alfred Hambrook, stationer in the village c.1901-1950. These cover many places in Kent as well as local views and events.

BUILDINGS

A project is in hand to study the pre-1914 buildings, including any which have been demolished. We have modern photographs of individual properties (taken as part of the research for an England's Past For Everyone project) and many old pictures and documents.



Three buildings which have been demolished

Here finally are a few general pictures of the Museum and its displays.

One room houses a temporary display on a chosen Topic. This is changed after six months or a year.





NATIONAL HAIRDRESSERS	
FEDERATION	
MIDWAY BRANCH	
WORKING CHAIRS	BEAUTY SALOON
haircutting	s. d.
having	1 6
haircutting	(short under 11)
enging	1 3
shampooing Dry	1 0
shampooing Wet	1 0
head Trimming	1 0
neck Shaving	1 3
razor Setting	1 6



Small white notice pinned to the wall above the display case.

Several historical documents and notices pinned to the wall, including one with the heading 'MIDWAY BRANCH'.

J. R. DENNANT
 HIGH STREET,
 SNODLARD,
 KENT.



Parish Meeting
 NOTICE
 PARISH MEETING
 THURSDAY AFTERNOON 20th
 Devonshire Room



Small circular emblem or logo with text around it.



Small document or notice pinned to the wall.

Small document or notice pinned to the wall.

J. E. GAMMON
 TRADESMAN



Small document or notice pinned to the wall.

Small document or notice pinned to the wall.

THOMAS FLETCHER WAGHORN
 (1800-1850)



THOMAS FLETCHER WAGHORN (1800-1850)



