



Snodland Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 13, Issue 1

www.snodlandhistory.org.uk

December 2009

Contacts

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Subscriptions

Subscriptions for the new season were due on 1 September 2009 and should be paid before February 2010, otherwise membership will lapse. They should be sent to Mrs Brenda Ashbee, 214, Malling Road, Snodland, Kent ME6 5EQ or paid at one of the meetings. Members will remember that at the last AGM it was agreed that single subscriptions would be increased to £6 and joint subscriptions to £8.50 a year. All other rates remain unchanged.

Society Meetings 2009-10

These will be at the Devonshire Rooms, Waghorn Road, Snodland, on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. Free to members; visitors £1 per meeting.

3 February 2010. We welcome again Dr. Mark Hows, who delighted us with his talk on hill figures last year. This time his subject is 'Weird and Wacky Railways' - cliff funiculars and the like.

3 March 2010. I'm pleased that Dr. Ann Kneif has accepted an invitation to speak to us again—on Lola Montez (1821-1861), an adventuress and dancer, who had a very colourful life!

7 April 2010. Another highlight: Monty Parkin will be with us again, with 'Women in Print': how the way women have been por-

trayed in paintings, prints and adverts has reflected attitudes to them.

5 May 2010. Gordon Bentley will speak on The History of Pub Signs. Our member Jeff Tucker warmly recommended this and I'm delighted that Gordon has accepted. We too heard him in Maidstone a year or so ago and made a mental note then that he should be invited to speak to us.

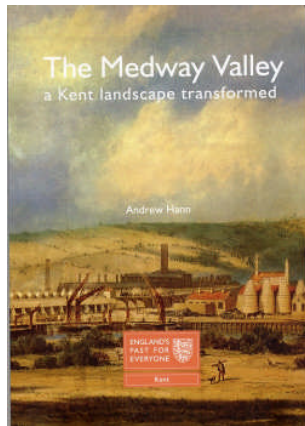
The Aveling & Porter building at Strood

The latest news is not encouraging. SAVE Britain's Heritage has decided against listing the building, although recognising it has strong local interest. Their grounds are that it did not contribute to the most important developments made by Aveling & Porter, which occurred in earlier years. Unfortunately there is no acknowledgement that the firm had an international reputation in the development of traction engines, steam rollers, industrial railway engines and the like, and that it was at one time the principal employer in the area. Having just listed the metal workers in the Strood/Frindsbury 1901 censuses for EPE, I can vouch that more than 700 men were employed there at that time.

England's Past for Everyone

Andrew Hann's book: *The Medway Valley a Kent landscape transformed* was published in October and is a masterly survey of all the changes in the eight parishes studied between 1750 and 1914. The paddle steamer *Kingswear Castle* was chosen for the launch on 22 October. After Andrew had spoken of the project and thanked the volunteers John Bennett, Director of the Victoria County History, presented copies of the book to representatives of five supporting groups: Kent County Council; the Kent Archaeological

Society; The Medway Archives; the City of Rochester Society, and our own Snodland Millennium Museum. It costs £14.99 in the shops, but I can sell it to members for £11. The ISBN number is 978-1-86077-600-7



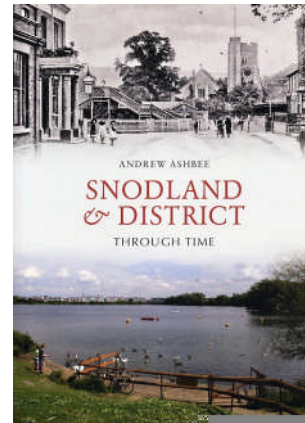
Although the book has been published, work continues in providing associated material on the web-site:

www.englishspastforeveryone.org.uk .

(At the moment this is largely left to your chairman, so Snodland is prominent!) Click on 'Kent' which will give a further list and go to 'Explore Kent's Past'. Then the 'Medway Valley' (on the right) and click on 'show all the items ...' to bring up an alphabetical list. At the moment I am putting many of the local censuses on-line: 1841, 1861, 1881, 1901 for Aylesford, Burham, Cuxton, Halling, and Wouldham; for Frindsbury and Strood 1841, 1861 and 1881 only, with selected occupations shown in combined lists for both parishes: army and navy; brick-makers and builders; cement workers; metal workers; watermen; oil and cake mills; railway. Snodland will have all censuses from 1841 to 1901, but Ham Hill has yet to be added.

Snodland and District Through Time

The Amberley Press picture book was published in the same week as Andrew Hann's book and is selling well. Again the shop price is £12.99, but I can sell it to members and visitors to the museum for £10. The ISBN number is 978-1-84868-658-8



Valley of Visions

The Valley of Visions programme is now about half-way through its allotted three-year life and I attended a meeting on 26th November which aired fruitful discussions on how to ensure that the valuable work which the scheme is putting in place would be maintained in the future. It has been decided that each parish should appoint a Heritage Warden 'who will identify, record and monitor heritage assets in their area.' A particular duty would be to liaise with the Kent office of the Historic Environment Record (HER) and ensure that new finds are entered on the HER database (formerly known as 'Sites and Monuments'). I have asked Denis Anstey to undertake this, since he is already in touch with them and has contributed information in the past. Many of the 'additional projects' named in the Heritage Warden's brief have already been completed or started by us anyway, so those can be continued through me as and when necessary.

I am including with this newsletter details of some splendid courses (free!) which VoV are running or linking with. As you can see several of them will be in Snodland. The contact is Tay Arnold, The Cedars, Holborough Road, Snodland, Kent ME6 5PW, or places can be booked via the web-site: www.valleyofvisions.org.uk or via training@vov.kentdowns.org.uk . There will be a 'Heritage Conference in the spring of 2010, but not now on the originally-planned date of 30 January 2010.

Museum

The museum will close at 5 pm on Sunday 13th December and will reopen on Sunday 10th January 2010.

The current exhibition of Medway Valley cement works will be replaced by one of aerial views of Snodland and Halling. In addition to the wonderful aerial photos commissioned and donated by *Town Talk* there will be a few from earlier times for comparison.

Mrs Winnie Warnett has kindly donated Tony's fine collection of hop-tokens and I hope to put at least some of them on display

soon. We now need to find a book to enable us to catalogue them properly.

The Town Council has recently re-discovered and placed on loan to the museum the instructions sent out to parishes in 1942 in case of invasion, together with some forms which parishioners were supposed to complete. The only ones (left?) are from the inhabitants of Church Fields and Mill Street and very few of these were completed beyond a name and address. That is useful in itself, but George Stevens, the ferryman, was one who filled in the form as shown. Within a small group many were doing their bit: 'warden and first

a i d helper' (two); 'food distributor for this section'; 'helping at the "Rest Centre" at the Central School'; 'member of the Home Guard, 24th Battalion (Birling)'; 'Home Guard'; 'A.R.P. Sector Warden on duty at Devonshire Rooms'. One sadly entered 'We have been bombed out [and] have nothing to lend.' One listed a pick for loan in an emergency, but unfortunately it had 'no shaft'.

It is intended to put this material on our web-site in some suitable form as it is a vivid reminder of those anxious

TO THE PARISHIONERS OF SNODLAND.

Your Duty in Invasion

When invasion comes you may not be able to carry on your present work. Every able bodied man and woman will then be obliged to help. Last minute preparations have always led to disaster in other countries. Decide now what you will do. Arrangements will be made for the care of your children.

The Snodland Triumvirate, (B. H. Norman, Parish Council. D. R. Gower, Police, Major Jackson, Military Commander,) require the following details, for the Organisation and Defence of the Village.

Women will you help your men?
Each woman that helps, releases one more man to fight.

Name ..*Geo. Stevens*..... Address: *Ferry House Snodland*

No. of children under 15 *Two*.. No. of children over 15 ..*None*....

Put a cross against the work you select, and also against the other means of help you can provide.

DUTIES

Trench digging & filling sandbags	Messenger Service (Boys & Girls between 16 and 20)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Water Squads to distribute water in emergency	Cooks	Laundry
Milking Cows (Women only)	First Aid & Stretcher Bearers	
Can you Billet evacuees? (if so, how many)	Can you take in casualties and First Aid equipment	
Looking after Aged & Children (only for those unfit for other work)		
Telephonists (Women only)		

Say how many of the following items you could loan in an emergency.

Have you a fixed bath *NO* Picks *2* Shovels *2* Bicycles *1*

Motor cycles ~~1~~ Handcarts ~~1~~ Water Carts ~~1~~ Crockery ~~1~~

Cooking Stoves (Oil, etc.) ~~1~~ Cooking Utensils ~~1~~ Candles

Shot Guns *4/10* Sheets & Blankets ~~1~~ Old Linen for Bandages ~~1~~

Mattresses ~~1~~ Splints or wood for same

Containers for storing water *20 tins* Shovels or Spades ~~1~~

Containers for storing paraffin *40 tins* Forks ~~1~~

Wheelbarrows. *1*

Have you a week's supply of food in hand *yes*

times.

National (Brook Street) School admission registers

Mrs Hobson, headmistress of Roberts Road School, telephoned me recently to say that the Governors have decided that the Log Books kept at the school should now be transferred to the Centre for Kentish Studies at Maidstone. Since I had previously photocopied the Log-Books from 1863 to 1930, we will still have a record of those volumes in Snodland. I enquired about any surviving early admission registers and she kindly allowed me to borrow those which seem to be the oldest remaining and to photocopy them. So in addition to the girls' register previously copied, we now have the following at the museum:

Infants: 1909-1938

Boys: 1904-1930

These are very useful for providing dates of birth, father's name, a street address, and any previous school attended. Some entries also record date of leaving and subsequent employment.

Parish Council Minutes

Following my appeal at the AGM for volunteers to type copies of the early Snodland Parish Council minutes, I'm delighted to say that Ernest Pennington, Gina Turner and Rosemary Crouch have all begun the work. We have established a consistent format and it is planned that the minutes will be added to the Society's web-site and will be searchable by name, topic, or any word. This will make searching much more reliable than using just the rough indexes which are given in some volumes. Meetings were generally held fortnightly and the current plan is to group the material into annual files. But because the inaugural meeting was held at the end of 1884 the first file will run to December 1885. If anyone else would like to help in this task please let me know—it is a big project.

Cemetery

A list of the burials at the cemetery from 1896 to 1952 was made available some years ago as No. 3 in our series of registers. We are

working on two further lists and the first is now published: *Memorials and Burials in Snodland Cemetery (North-East Sector)* (2009; £3). The primary aim has been to record the memorials, some of which are now very decayed, but by including the unmarked plots a secondary advantage is that it will be easy to locate all the burials in the sector. Work is now in hand on the south-east sector. We are taking photographs of all the memorials which will be kept on CD-ROMs at the museum. I attach two pictures commemorating casualties from the first World War—on family stones rather than the CWGC official ones.



JAMES JOHNSON / who died / March 28th 1916 / aged 56 years / And his wife / SOPHIA EMILY / who died November 16th 1931 aged 69 years // *Thy will be done* / Also his sons JAMES WILLIAM JOHNSON / who died / October 1st 1912 / aged 25 years / Signaller BERTIE [JAMES] JOHNSON / R.G.A. / who was killed / in France / November 28th / 1917 / aged 35 years.





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Meetings and Events

Society's Meetings are held at the Devon-
shire Rooms, Waghorn Road, Snodland, on
Wednesdays at 8 p.m. Free to members; visi-
tors £1 per meeting.

5 May 2010. For the final meeting of the pre-
sent season, Gordon Bentley will speak on
The History of Pub Signs. Our member Jeff
Tucker warmly recommended this and I'm
delighted that Gordon has accepted. We too
heard him in Maidstone a year or so ago and
made a mental note then that he should be
invited to speak to us.

1-3 May 2010: Birling Flower Festival. The
Society has been invited to put on a local his-
tory display in the church. We plan to show
pictures of Birling from our collection, both
on display boards and also on computer. We
will have other pictures available on the com-
puter (Ryarsh, West Malling, Snodland)
which can be alternated as seems best. The
display boards will remain throughout the
three days, but our table will only be manned
on Saturday and Monday. The computer will
also hold our database of family history re-
cords, so these can be accessed by visitors if
wished.

4 July 2010. Andrew Ashbee will be leading
another walk for the Valley of Visions pro-
ject. Meet at Rocfort Road car-park at 2 pm.

Walk west via Constitution Hill and White-
dyke Road to the Pilgrim's Way; then north
to Ladd's Lane, east to Holborough and re-
turning to starting point. No booking re-
quired.

Heritage Weekend. The museum will open
on both the Saturday and Sunday afternoons,
September 11th and 12th.

17 November 2010. Devonshire Rooms, 7-
30 pm. Also for Valley of Visions: a talk by
Andrew Ashbee: From Village to Town: the
Growth of Snodland, 1750 to 2000. Free and
no booking required.

Dates of the Society's own meetings next
season are:

6th October: AGM; 3rd November; 1st De-
cember; 2nd February 2011; 2nd March; 6th
April; 4th May.

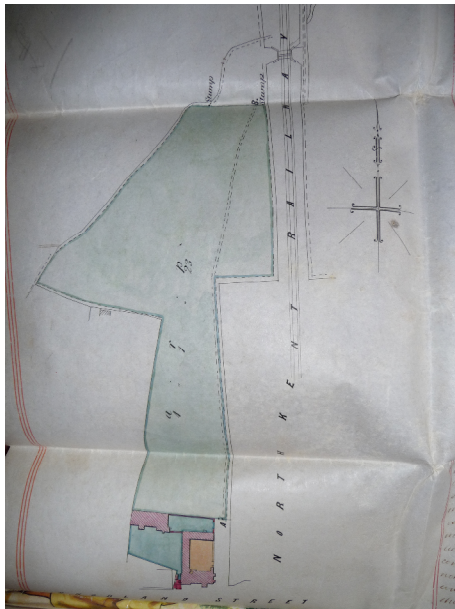
Members will be sad to learn of three deaths
of members of our society since Christmas.
Brian Porter was a well-loved figure in the
community and contributed much to it, in-
cluding his involvement as a Committee
member of our Society. Vic Bonella too was
a loyal supporter, attending most meetings.
Iris Tobin had moved to Wokingham a few
years ago, but kept in touch with us.

The Museum

We have been given or have bought several
interesting items recently.

(1) Three deeds for the Queen's Hotel, dated
1865, 1885 and 1890. The last of these ap-
peared on e-bay and a few days afterwards
the vendor contacted me to say he had found
the other two, one in a poor state through wa-
ter damage. As a former solicitor he had sal-
vaged a quantity of deeds rather than seeing
them destroyed. The 1885 and 1890 docu-

ments are similar, but both have an interesting map showing the building and the meadow behind. The 1865 deed is the most interesting because it recites transactions from the sale by the Earl of Romney in 1808, descending through John Goodhugh and members of the Waghorn family (and Edward Waghorn in particular) to its purchase by William Henry Poynder. It shows that the (New) Poor House of 1788 was on the site now occupied by the Queen's Hotel building.



The small red section was a cooperage. Note the footpath leading to a bridge under the railway.

(2) parts of a broken pie-dish picked up on the marshes at Halling, with a printed stamp for 'Moore & Co., Snodland'. The firm is known from directories between 1895 and 1918.

(3) We have been promised some internal pictures of the Red Lion by a former licensee.

(4) A CD of ten photographs of the 1937 Coronation procession (most taken opposite the Delamere garden fronting the High Street), with other family photographs, donated by Michael Fuller. One is of Ham Hill between 1928 and 1941 showing 'S. Fuller' as licensee of the Freemasons Arms.



This is Snodland Fire Brigade, all with false beards. The picture is also useful in showing the former garden at the front of Delamere.

Valley of Visions

As noted above, further events are being planned for 2010-2011 and a booklet is in preparation.



About 30 people went on the Valley of Visions walk to Holborough via the marshes on 7 March. As can be seen we had very fine (if bracing) weather. (Photo by John Coomber)

Also Mike Phillips has been co-opted for 6 months from the Kent Downs—Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty office to prepare a booklet of walks in Snodland parish. He and I have discussed the possibilities both rural and within the town, and this will be a valuable addition to local resources when it becomes available.

Exploring charitable status for the Society

In my Chairman's Report at the AGM of 2009 I mentioned that the Society had been asked by Tonbridge and Malling BC to consider becoming a charity, so that business rates on the museum would then become a mandatory payment by the government. Your Committee is well aware of the help and support we have received from Tonbridge and Malling BC and more especially from Snodland Town Council, so, with one dissenting voice, it has been exploring whether we could apply to become a charity. Because our income is less than £5,000 a year, we cannot apply to be registered with the Charity Commission and the new 'Charitable Incorporated Organisation' format which is being introduced by them during 2010 does not change that. The Commission therefore recommended that we apply for registration through HM Revenue and Customs, where the £5,000 limit does not apply, but where all the benefits of charitable status are granted.

Our findings are (a) that it would be possible to create a new constitution and rules to submit to HMRC together with other documentation they require. In this we have received help from a colleague who has drawn up similar documents for other organisations. However, to go forward, two-thirds of our members would need to agree to the new constitution, etc., and to our executive committee becoming Trustees. In effect a new society would need to be created at an AGM or Extraordinary Meeting, although the membership would not notice any significant change.

(b) There are two major obstacles to this procedure. First the Trustees alone would become liable for any claims made against the Society. While this is an unlikely event, it cannot be dismissed outright and we would not wish to put the Trustees in this position. Second, at dissolution, the law requires that assets of a charity are passed to another charity. There has never been, nor is currently a charity in Snodland which would be an appropriate home for our assets, so this would

force those we hold to be placed outside the parish. Therefore the Committee has decided that we will not apply for charitable status at this time and has notified the authorities accordingly.

Hambrook

Our collection of Hambrook postcards is growing. Here is a current list of those we own from the sepia series (with their numbers; we have many scans of others).

None	A peep at Leybourne Church
None	The Friars gateway, Aylesford
None	Greetings from Cobham
None	Greetings from Sandwich
None	Greetings from Rochester
None	Greetings from Boro' Green
None	Greetings from Knockholt
None	St Mary's Road, Wrotham
None	Chevening Lane, Knockholt [W. Fowler]
1002	Rochester Castle & New Terrace
1004	Rochester Cathedral
1005	The Vines & Cathedral, Rochester
1006	The Bridges Rochester
1008	Priory Gate, Rochester
1016	Rochester Cathedral. (Showing ruins of Gundulph Tower, built 1080)
1018	Rochester Cathedral Ruins of Chapter House & Cloisters, Built 1080
1021	Rochester - Eastgate House
1023	Rochester castle and cathedral
1028	Rochester Castle
1035	Aylesford vicarage
1036	Aylesford St Peter's church
1038	Aylesford (river bank)
1039	Aylesford Bridge
1040	The Friars, Aylesford
1043	Aylesford, Kent
1047	Boro' Green Church
1050	Council Square, Boro' Green
1054	Aylesford
1061	St Clements Church, Sandwich
1062	St Peter's Church Sandwich, with curfew tower
1065	The Barbican, Sandwich
1066	Toll bridge and Barbican, Sandwich
1067	Fisher's Gate, Sandwich
1070	Strand Street, Sandwich
1071	Strand Street, Sandwich
1073	Sturry church and old gateway
1079	The High Rocks, Tonbridge Wells
1083	Seal church
1091	Wrotham Hills
1099	The church Trosley Kent
1103	Ightham Court (Built 1575)
1111	Preston Hall, Aylesford
1113	Basted Lake, Borough Green
1136	St Nicholas Church, Ash

- 1145 Wrotham from the church tower
- 1146 London Road Wrotham
- 1165 The devil's kitchen, Wrotham
- 1166 Pilgrim House
- 1168 The pines, Seal Chart
- 1169 The fountain, Seal Chart
- 1195 River Medway Chatham
- 1196 Darland Banks
- 1211 Borough Green from Sandy Lane
- 1215 Vigo hill Trosley
- 1217 The Lodge Gate, Cobham Park
- 1223 Entrance to Cobham village
- 1226 Cobham Hall, West Front
- 1233 Nave looking east, Rochester Cathedral
- 1253 Church Steps, Aylesford
- 1257 Aylesford
- 1276 St Mary's Chatham
- 1277 Railway Street, Chatham
- 1295 Ye Olde Town Hall Sandwich
- 1296 St Thomas's Hospital, Sandwich
- 1316 Platt Woods Nr. Borough Green
- 1317 Platt Woods Nr. Borough Green
- 1335 St Lawrence church, Seal Chart
- 1336 St Lawrence church, Seal Chart
- 1340 The Quadrangle, Cobham College
- 1357 Ightham village
- 1364 Sandwich
- 1369 Trosley Towers, nr Wrotham

Early Parish Council Minutes

Thanks to the work of our volunteers the first instalments of the Parish Council Minutes can now be seen and searched on our web-site: the years 1894-5 to 1897 are complete and others are in preparation.

Potyns Field

Albert Daniels (of the Maidstone Area Archaeological Group) reports in their Newsletter: 'Five visits to the site to carry out field walking and metal detecting have taken place. The original plan was to locate a missing farm house. This appeared to have been demolished to about 500mm above ground level and a barn built on the foundations in the 19th century. A barn has been converted into a modern house. The field adjacent revealed nothing dating before 1800 except a few flints and four musket balls. The total finds from the site were 73 iron finds, 97 non-iron finds and 60 non-metal finds. Distribution plans have been drawn and a report is in progress.



This picture hangs in the Parish Clerk's office. The group is unidentified, but is posed outside the old Working Men's Club. Date is early 1900s, when W. G. Cullen is named as the District Secretary of the National Deposit Friendly Society. Second from the right in the back row is William Gooding.



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6 October 2010. AGM. Following the business meeting Andrew Ashbee will talk about his preparation of a new book: *Alfred Hambrook's Mid Kent Through Time*, which Amberley Publishing will issue during the autumn.

3 November 2010. Albert Granville CBE, CLH, will give his talk 'And so we raised the Mary Rose'. Albert speaks without slides or notes and it is a mesmerising talk from one involved in the civil engineering part of the

project. Not to be missed!

1 December 2010. The usual slide show of Snodland pictures and Hambrook postcards, including new ones acquired during the year. Wine and mince pies to follow.

2 February 2011. Monty Parkin: 'Surviving by Magic': the remarkable story of a prisoner-of-war in a Japanese prison camp and his means of survival.

2 March 2011

6 April 2011. Rev. Richard Lea, whom some may remember as a former vicar of Larkfield and priest-in-charge at Leybourne, will speak on 'The History of West Malling Abbey.' Richard now lives in the gatehouse.

4 May 2010

Society Questionnaire

The Society has operated in more-or-less the same way since our beginnings in 1997. We haven't had any complaints, so assume that members are generally happy with what we have done. Nevertheless your Committee feels it would be a good idea to sound out the membership about a number of issues where we could possibly make some changes if they wished it.

We hope that each member will complete the questionnaire, which should take little time and is intended to be anonymous. In particular it will enable us to gauge how best to serve those members who live too far away for attending evening lectures.

We will provide a box for returns at the AGM and at the meeting on 3 November, which will be the closing date, or they can be posted to the Secretary at her address above. We will publish the results in the December

Newsletter.

Open Day at All Saints and Christ Church and Heritage Weekend

This notice may reach you too late for any action, but, as part of the national Heritage Weekend, and coinciding with the annual cycle ride organised by The Friends of Kent Churches, both All Saints and Christ Church will be open on Saturday 11th September from 10 am to 6 pm. At 11 am Andrew Ashbee will give a talk at All Saints on the history of the building and there will be an exhibition from the museum's collections at both buildings. There will be one or two stalls and refreshments will be available. The museum will be open on both Saturday and Sunday afternoon (11th-12th) between 2 and 5 pm.

Town Talk

The demise of *Town Talk* has been met with universal regret in the parish. All are enormously grateful to Mel, Peter and Alan for their dedicated work in producing it on time, four times a year, for more than ten years. It was a tremendous undertaking and they well deserve release from their labours. From our point of view it was an ideal means to publicize the history of Snodland, not only history of the past, but also history in the making, through accounts of parishioners and their achievements. It is a record of which the town can be proud, and I am sure it is. No other endeavour has focused so closely on this place and its activities, so while we give thanks for all that the *Kent Messenger* does, both it and other publications like the *Net* and *Downsmail* cover a wider area of which Snodland is only a part. I record here our continuing thanks to Roy Penny for extracting the Snodland material from the *Kent Messenger* which is held in files at the museum.

Valley of Visions

Since the last Newsletter Mike Phillips's booklet of walks in Snodland has been delivered to each household in the parish. This has

been beautifully produced and is most attractive.

A new programme of events can be seen on the Valley of Visions web-site: www.valleyofvisions.org.uk. Here are those for September-December which are local. Admission is free, but pre-booking is required except where noted otherwise. (telephone is 01634-242826; or e-mail@vov.kentdowns.org.uk).

14 September: Holmesdale Technology College. **Exploring Strange Lands: the Medway Valley Prehistoric Landscapes Project.** Talk by Paul Garwood, Birmingham University lecturer in Prehistory, who will include the results of new fieldwork. (He gave a similar talk last year which was most enjoyable and interesting.)

15 September: Devonshire Rooms, Waghorn Road. **Photographing Heritage and Architecture for Beginners.** Taught by a professional photographer. How to photograph standing buildings, the potential pitfalls and how to avoid them.

24 September: Halling. **Signposts to the past: a workshop on place names and archaeology.** 'Site specific case studies will be presented and the workshop will include a guided walk in the local area and afternoon workshop session.'

2 October: Devonshire Rooms, Waghorn Road. **Recording Historic Buildings in the Medway Gap.** 'Through discussion and observation, we will aim to create a full record of certain buildings that will be incorporated by Medway Mosaics into the Kent Historic Environment Record'. (But see below!)

17 October: Friars Guided Tour. 2 pm. 1 hour tour. Disabled access.

17 November: Devonshire Rooms, Waghorn Road. 7-30 pm. Andrew Ashbee: **From Village to Town: the Growth of Snodland 1750-2000.** This will look particularly at the expansion of the village through its buildings.

(No booking required)

8 December: Burham Marsh Guided Walk, 10 am. Led by the Kent Wildlife Trust.

Snodland Buildings Survey Part Two

Some members helped in the survey which was carried out as part of the England's Past for Everyone project in 2007. That concentrated on the pre-1914 housing in the parish. We have the database which was subsequently compiled from our notes and photographs of those houses. We also have the forms which were compiled for each house giving details of occupants as recorded in the censuses 1841-1901, the Tithe map and schedule, directories, etc. We have extended the material by including buildings demolished before the survey was made. Where we are reasonable confident of the information we have compiled lists road by road of occupants and buildings. There are some areas which require more information before we can proceed—particularly upper Malling Road, Oxford Street, Bramley Road and Ham Hill. Hopefully the 1911 census will help in due course.

I have received a circular from the Historic Environment Record team in Maidstone pointing out that 'the HER will in future be required to store a wider range of information about Kent's heritage ... If the HER is to fulfil its enhanced role we need to have a better understanding of what information people are recording, what they do with it, how it has been collected and how people can access it.'

In response to that I have sent them samples of the material we have about Snodland's buildings and how we are currently organising it. In due course they will advise us on making our recording compatible with theirs.

I should now like to extend the project further! The EPE recording was carried out quickly (over three days) and there is much we can still add to it. I suspect that if we do not act soon a lot of information which could be of use to future historians will be lost from

the collective memory. I am hoping that members will join me in thinking more about what houses were like behind the front facade. Most of us will have lived in more than one house, so between us we will should be able to record a good cross-section of the properties here—our own and perhaps also those of relatives. It will be good to include all the modern houses too. I would like each of us to make a record of our houses on the lines of those given below—a sketch of the layout of each floor and notes of certain features (once) to be found. All of us have modernised our properties and no doubt many things have changed or disappeared. The aim is to recall what was there originally and what we know about original heating, lighting, etc. Our is probably the last generation to have grown up without central heating, with gas lighting, with a kitchen copper as a standard fitting, etc. etc.

Sample headings

- (1) Address:
- (2) Sketch of ground floor
- (3) Sketch of upper floor

Also what information can be retrieved about the following:

- (4) When built
- (5) Builder
- (6) Cellar: yes or no
- (7) Rented or owned (a) from person or (b) from firm
- (8) Lighting (i.e. gas or electricity)
- (9) form of heating (e.g. fireplaces; central heating)
- (10) water heating: (e.g. via kitchen boiler; central heating)
- (11) presence of e.g. sink; copper; range; kitchener

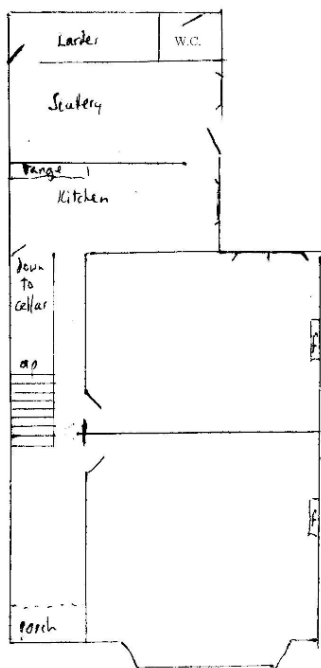
Leave blank if answer unknown. The sketches do not need to be elaborate works of art—a simple line-drawing is fine.

Original deeds would be most helpful, but these are disappearing fast. We have a good number of house auction/sale prospectuses and these record many of the answers to the above. We also have all the plans of houses

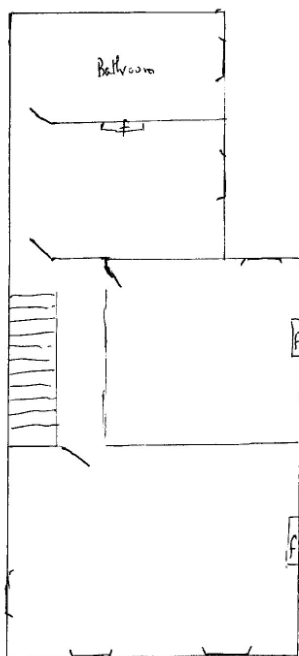
and bungalows for the Rookery Farm estate: Godden Road, Gorham Close, Dryland Road, Taylor Road and Roberts Road **so do not need these.**

Sample 1

(1) 44 High Street



Ground floor



Upper floor

- (4) c.1890;
- (5) unknown;
- (6) cellar
- (7) rented;
- (8) gas
- (9) coal fires
- (10-11) sink; copper; geyser over bath; kitchen range

Sample 2

31 Queen's Avenue

(sketches omitted)

- (4) Built c.1938-9
- (5) Builder: unknown
- (6) no cellar
- (7) owned
- (8) electricity
- (9) coal fires
- (10-11) sink; kitchen boiler for h&c water

Sample 3

214, Malling Road

(sketches omitted)

- (4) built 1915
- (5) Charles Brattle
- (6) no cellar
- (7) owned
- (8) gas
- (9) coal fires
- (10-11) sink; copper; kitchen range

If known, it could be helpful to estimate e.g. when conversion from gas to electric lighting/heating was made. Pieces of paper, each with details of a property, will help us trace the development of Snodland's housing during the twentieth century. No deadline for these! We have come a long way since 1865, when the Rector attacked the Malling Board of Guardians for voting against drainage improvements here and stated:

'Men build houses here without wells, and without drains; with open cesspools, and with open drains; with the drains of one block of houses running under the open sinks of another block of houses, and sending up their vapours through them; with closets in the closest possible proximity to the houses, crowded, and not cleaned for eighteen or more months at a time. The demand for labour, moreover, is such that the poor labouring man has no escape. He must take the house which offers itself, or lose his bread.'



Snodland Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 17, Issue 3

www.snodlandhistory.org.uk

September 2014

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Secretary: Mrs Ann Pinder, 17 Midsummer Road, Snodland, Kent ME6 5RP

Society Meetings 2014-15

At the Devonshire Rooms, Waghorn Road, Snodland, Wednesdays at 8 pm. Free to members. Visitors £1 per meeting.

October 2014. AGM. After the business meeting Andrew Ashbee will repeat the talk he gave in the Library: 'Snodland and the Great War'.

5 November 2014. Bob Ratcliffe: A tram ride through the Medway Towns [Rainham to Strood and deviations in between]

December 2014. The usual Christmas meeting featuring newly acquired pictures of Snodland.

4 February 2015. Richard Filmer: Bricks and Brickwork—an illustrated history. Richard has kindly provided a synopsis: 'The brick is one of our most overlooked, yet most enduring building materials, especially in the south east. Tracing the remarkable story of the brick, the presentation should be of interest to all those who have an awareness of period and traditional building construction, and who wish to know more about brick styles, techniques and skills used in our local buildings, where some of our brickwork is unsurpassed.'

4 March 2015. Wilf Lower: 'Behind the scenes of television's golden years.' 'Who could forget Morecambe & Wise, the Two

Ronnies, Terry & June, Till Death Do Us Part and the Good Life? Dramas like the Forsyte Saga, Pennies from Heaven and When the Boat Comes in; music from Top of the Pops to the Last Night of the Proms; and the pageantry of the Silver Jubilee and the Royal Wedding. These were truly part of television's 'Golden Years', but how these and many other great programmes were made, the situations and 'characters' involved. Was often astounding and hilarious. Never has '*you wouldn't believe it*' been more appropriate!

1 April 2015. David Carder, this year on 'Pilgrimage'

6 May 2015. To be arranged. We hope to book a speaker on the subject of the Thames and Medway Canal.

World War I

Many of you will have seen the exhibition in the Library during August and early September. Smaller ones were presented at All Saints and at Christ Church on Sunday 3rd August, when a moving Service of Light was held at All Saints at which names of all the Snodland men who were killed were read out. Another exhibition is being prepared around Remembrance Sunday and will be at Christ Church between 6th and 11th November. It is hoped that local schoolchildren will be able to come and see it.

Sue Brooks and I have been very grateful for items loaned for showing—not always concerning Snodland men, but providing vivid memories of those involved in the fighting.

Names and pictures continue to be added to the pamphlet of Snodland men who served in WWI, which now has over 660 names. The

Kent Messenger at the time reckoned that Snodland had nearly 1000 serving men out of a population of 5000. The booklet has been swelled by information gleaned from the digital version of the *Kent Messenger*, available online from June 2014. A small subscription is required to access the years 1914-1918. I have downloaded many pages mentioning Snodland men, which are available to view at the Museum. We will have a rolling programme from 2014 to 2018 exhibiting Snodland's part in the war. Some relatives supplied photographs to the *Kent Messenger*, to which were often added quotations from the letters which officers were obliged to write to families explaining how a man died; others were extracts from letters written by the men themselves describing their part in various actions.

Cataloguing of war memorials and research into the men named on them is currently a nationwide activity and I have been in touch with several people where Snodland becomes part of the enquiry. Recently (4 August) the Michael de Caville Index of over 4000 names of casualties from the Medway Towns was launched by the Friends of Medway Archives. It can be freely searched by anyone at www.foma-lsc.org. This index includes several men on our Snodland cenotaph, because they also appear on the Halling memorial. Questions sometimes arise through these duplications. Ralph Startup lived at Ham Hill (as did his widow), but he is not on the Birling or Ham Hill (=Christ Church) memorials. He is on the one at West Malling (because he was born there and his wider family remained there), but he also appears in the Halling list. Why?

The Paper Mill

It was good to prepare a small exhibition on the history of the mill which attracted considerable interest at the Fun Day on 29 August and enabled me to show some items not normally on view. This was in the same tent as the mill's own portrayal of the new machine currently being built, so old and new were shown together.

As the mill looks to the future I understand that the Townsend Hook name will be dropped. As part of this move we have received a rich collection of documents, mostly concerning property, which add significantly to our knowledge of the

history of the houses around the mill:

General

- 1972 File recording rates and rentals of properties, names of tenants and details of rooms etc.:
Abingdon House, West Malling (4)
Birling Road (1); Bramley Road (7); Brook Street (18); Church Fields (5); East Street (21); High Street/Waghorn Road (16); Holborough Road (4); King Street, West Malling
- 1972 Similar file to above:
Malling Road (3); Mairs Nest, West Malling (6); May Street (50); Mill Lane (6); Mill Street and environs (12); Waghorn Road (19 – including garages)

Bramley Road

- Undated 45 and 47 Bramley Road (formerly 1 & 2 Parkestone Terrace) and land at rear of 55 Bramley Road (6 Parkestone Terrace): land searches

Church Fields

- 1936/1950 Bundle of documents relating to 1-5 Church Fields, ex. Norman family to C.T.Hook & Co., Ltd.

High Street, Church Terrace

- Abstract of title of piece of land [Church Terrace] from T.W.Peters to Alfred Capon, 25 Sep 1883, for £90; Conveyance of the same
- 1883 Mortgage of same: Alfred Capon to Wm. Henry Bell, 21 Nov 1883 [2 copies]
- 1884 Conveyance of same: Alfred Capon to Miss Mildred Gowar, 26 Mar 1884
- 1885 Conveyance of 2 cottages in Church Terrace from Mildred Gowar to Wm.Henry Bell
- 1889 Further £100 mortgage from Arthur Joslen to Thomas William Peters on nos. 1-4 Church Terrace, Snodland: 7 Feb 1889
- 1890 Re-conveyance of same: Wm. H. Bell to Mrs Mildred Homewood [formerly Gowar], 26 Sep 1890
- 1897 Conveyance of 1-4, and 7-8 Church Terrace: T.W.Peters and two mortgagee to A.M.Flint: 27 May 1897
- 1911 15 Aug 1911: 1-4 Church Terrace from Maurice William Frye and Frederick George Stenning of Maidstone (executors of will of Abraham Marsh Flint of Larkfield, coal merchant, to Miss Edith Caroline Haymen of Gordon House, Rochester for £500
- 1911 Sale of properties in Maidstone, Snodland, Ditton and Aylesford by W.Day & Sons: 27-07-1911; Lots 4-6 are 1 & 2 and 3 & 4 and 7 & 8 Church Terrace, Snodland; tenants: Burlock, Monk, Gash. Peters, Holden and Hazell
- 1933 Abstract of title of 5 & 6 Church Terrace of representatives of Charles L. Knell, deceased, 1933

- 1947 Will of E.C.Haymen: 16-2-1945; died 11-7-1946; proved 21-9-1946: executors: sister Catherine Louisa Haymen and nephews William Sherwin Knight, Cyril Sherwin Knight and Gordon Harry Gill
- May Street**
- 1997 citing earlier documents. Land Registry register concerning property in May Street (formerly Carisbrooke House, etc)
- May Street, Mill Street, East Street, Brook Street**
- 1887,1908 May Street, Mill Street, East Street and elsewhere
Lease of 53 houses for 21 years from 29-09-1887: The Misses Hook (Edith, Maude, Agnes) to C. Townsend Hook & Co, Ltd.
Renewed 16-11-1908 by Maude Midsummer Hook
Schedule shows tenants and addresses
- Mill Street: Court Lodge**
- CL01**
1874 Abstract of title of William Henry Poynder, 1874, to the Manor of Veles [= former Court Lodge and 22+ acres]
- CL02**
1874 Conveyance from W.H.Poynder to T.W.Peters of [Court Lodge], 20 Nov 1874 £520 occ. William Peters or his undertenants [**the house and 1 r 5 p = yard and out buildings only**]
- Schedule: (a) 21-11-1821 (1) James Martin (2) Edward Martin, (3) Nathaniel and Ann Beckford, (4) T. Poynder and W. Hobson and T. Poynder the younger, (5) William Wix, (6) Thomas Knight
- (b) fine: Michs. 2 Geo. IV: Thomas Knight (pl) Nathaniel and Ann Beckford (df)
- (c) 21-11-1821: (1) James Mair (2) Elizabeth Mair, widow, Samuel Hayward the younger, George Palmer, (3) James Martin, (4) T. Poynder and W. Hobson and T. Poynder the younger, (5) William Wix, (6) George Hobson (7) William Blackburn
- (d) 16-17 Dec 1840: Lease and release between (1) William Hobson, Joshua Hobson, George Rougement, Rev. George Hobson Thompson; (2) Thomas Poynder the younger
- (e) 27 Nov 1849: indenture (endorsed on (d)) between (1) Thomas Poynder the younger; (2) Edward Medlicott; (3) William Henry Poynder; (4) Rev. Samuel Wix; (5) Thomas Henry Allan Poynder
- CL03** 1883 Abstract of title of Thomas William Peters to [Court Lodge as above], 1883; purchased on 20 Nov 1874 for £520
- 1883 Abstract of title of Thomas William Peters to [Court Lodge as above], 1883; purchased on 20 Nov 1874 for £520
- 1892 28 Oct 1892. Declaration by Harriet Burgess and Indenture concerning 3 cottages in Mill Row, Snodland
- 1898 Abstract of title of Nathan Peters of 3 Hope Terrace and his mortgagee
Contract for sale £191. 10. 0. [for Court Lodge] [**CP01**]
- 1893 Mortgage of **10 March 1893** between Nathan Peters and Lt Col. Holland for loan of £150 and further sum not exceeding £400; conveyance of **13 Feb 1883** from T.W.Peters to N.Peters: land abutting TWP (rear), High Road (front), the Misses Hook and road to wharf [W] 2 cottages in course of erection. Further sums of £100 (17-04-1883) and £150 (8-6-1883) advanced to NP [**CP02**]
- 1885 **24 July 1885**: further charge of £200 NP and Col. Holland; NP had lately erected a fourth tenement [**CP03**]
- 1898 Supplemental Abstract of Title to mortgage of £500 of 24 July 1885 of **30 Dec 1898** between Col. Trevenan James Holland and Nathan Peters
[**CP04**]
- 1899 27 Jan 1899: conveyance of 1 Church Place from NP to Alfred Edward Weaver [**CP05**]
- 1899 **3 Feb 1899**: mortgage between AEW and Starr-Bowkett Building Society: £520 [**CP06**]
- 1907 **11 June 1907**. Mortgage all paid conveyed to AEW [**CP07**]
- 1907 **14 October 1907**. Conveyance from AEW to E.H.Haymen and H Sherwin Knight of 1-3 Church Place [**CP08**]
- 1906 14-11-1906 between Sarah Elizabeth Hicks and Ebenezer David Silver for £481. 10s. for 6 messuages in Mill Row and 5 called Railway Terrace **xxx**
- 1918 Declaration by George Tomlin that 1-4 Mill Row Cottages are to be sold by Edith Caroline Haymen to C. Townsend Hook 7 Co. Ltd.
- Mill Street: Paper Mill**
- .1847 Paper Mill: extract from conveyance 4 Feb 1847: Charles Drawbridge and others to Henry Atkinson Wildes [and map]
- 1847 Conveyance of land from Drawbridge to Wm Kingsnorth, 17 Feb 1847
- 1862 Paper Mill: extract from conveyance 18

Oct 1862: Henry Atkinson Wildes to C.T,Hook

1883 Will of William Kingsnorth 20 March 1876; proved 1-12-1883

Trustees: wife Sarah (nee Antrum); Edward James Antrum of Loose, miller, (nephew); Henrietta Antrum (niece), dau. of wife's sister Susan Brown

To wife: house I live and and 15 cottages; then cottage (William Bristow) to Mabel, dau of Thomas Burgess; cottage (James West) to Verona Burgess; cottage (John Williams) to Harold Burgess; cottage (William Waterman) to Ethelbert Burgess.

Six cottages occ. William Penny, Henry Beadle, James Wenham, George Chittenden, Walter Hemms [Imms], William Wooding to my niece Sarah Elizabeth Brown, dau of Susan Brown [==11-16 Mill Row]

Five newly-built cottages occ. Thomas Burgess, Thomas Burton, George Atkins, John Mills, John Boorman to niece Harriet Susanna, dau of Susan Brown [= 1-5 Church Place]

Wife to pay to my sister Rebecca, wife of George Mills, 10s weekly

After death of wife: House I now live in to Henrietta Antrum and the four cottages adjoining thereto: Thomas Blunt, Philip Masters, William Dartnall, George Ruck [=17-21 Railway Place]

Estate valued at £597. 14. 11.

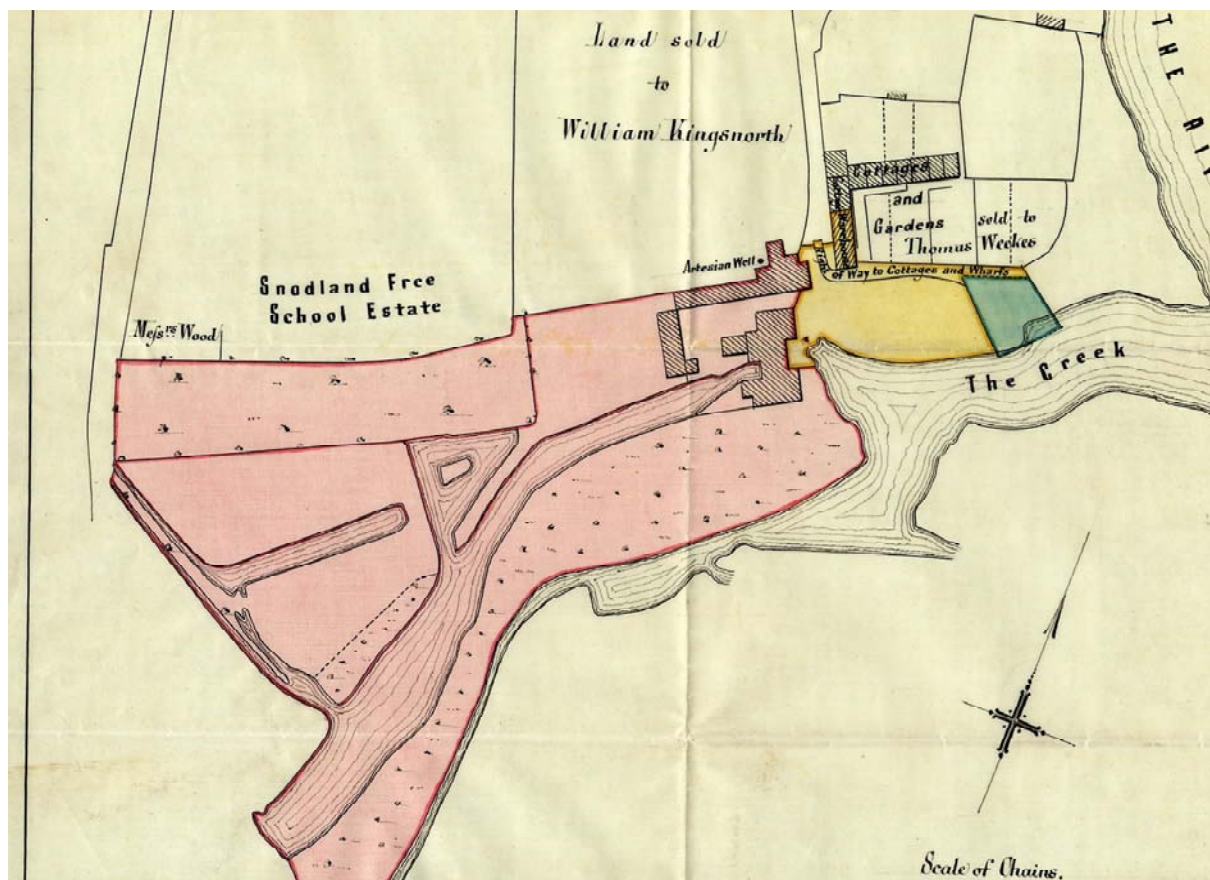
The widow died 21-6-1884

Henrietta Antrum married William James Glover of Snodland, butcher

Delamere and Waghorn Road

1950 H & R.L.Cobb: Sale catalogue 5-10-1950 for Delamere and Rosemary (Waghorn Road) and bundle of documents relating to part of the associated land of various dates

.. 1963 Agreement between A. M. Ashbee and C.T. Hook & Co. Ltd.: rent of two Rectory Glebe meadows, from 26-10-1963



This map shows the paper mill (pink) in 1847, when it was purchased by Henry Wildes. Brook Street is on the left. The school field was sold in 1867 to fund the new buildings. (Green) shows the coal wharf. Thomas Weekes was a cement maker at Burham at this time. William Kingsnorth had retired from being the publican at the Red Lion and built houses on his field. He also received money when the railway passed through it.



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Secretary: Mrs Ann Pinder, 17 Midsummer Road, Snodland, Kent ME6 5RP

Subscriptions.

I forgot to put the usual notice about subscriptions in the September 2014 Newsletter, for which apologies.

Subscriptions for the new season are due from 1 September 2014 and should be paid before February 2015, otherwise membership will lapse. They should be sent to Mrs Brenda Ashbee, 214, Malling Road, Snodland, Kent ME6 5EQ or paid at one of the meetings. Single subscriptions are £7.50 and joint subscriptions £10.00 a year. (I guess it would be helpful if exact money can be tendered if possible!)

Society Meetings 2015

4 February 2015. Richard Filmer: Bricks and Brickwork—an illustrated history. Richard has kindly provided a synopsis: ‘The brick is one of our most overlooked, yet most enduring building materials, especially in the south east. Tracing the remarkable story of the brick, the presentation should be of interest to all those who have as awareness of period and traditional building construction, and who wish to know more about brick styles, techniques and skills used in our local buildings, where some of our brickwork is unsurpassed.’

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Ronnies, Terry & June, Till Death Do Us Part and the Good Life? Dramas like the Forsyte Saga, Pennies from Heaven and When the Boat Comes in; music from Top of the Pops to the Last Night of the Proms; and the pageantry of the Silver Jubilee and the Royal Wedding. These were truly part of television’s ‘Golden Years’, but how these and many other great programmes were made, the situations and ‘characters’ involved. Was often astounding and hilarious. Never has ‘*you wouldn’t believe it*’ been more appropriate!’

1 April 2015. David Carder, this year on ‘Pilgrimage’

6 May 2015. To be arranged. We hope to book a speaker on the subject of the Thames and Medway Canal.

World War I

Sue Brooks and I have been very grateful for items loaned and donated for showing at the recent exhibition—mostly from relatives of former or present Snodland residents. We have been given one or two photographs and other documents and a collection of about 20 postcards sent from England to the front.

Postcards

For a long time there seem to have been few new or unknown postcards of Snodland and district appearing on e-bay and the like. But we were recently loaned a collection of around 80 cards with about a dozen images previously unseen, and others with variant forms of caption to add to our catalogue. The opportunity was also taken to record the dates of postage. These were shown at the December meeting, but for members in distant venues they have been added to the Snodland section of www.kentphotoarchive.org.uk

Holme School Log-Book.

Rev. Edward Holme was Vicar of Birling from 1756 until his death in 1782. In 1774 he opened a school on the Birling-Leybourne boundary (as well as funding others at East Malling and Southborough) and this continued under a Trust until Snodland Central School opened in 1930, when pupils transferred there. Holme's school was for boys aged 10 or more and Margaret Collins gives an account of it in *Birling—A Backward Glance* pp. 83-85 and 137.

Recently a log-book from the school was advertised for auction on e-bay starting at £49.99 and I bid successfully for it at that price. Entries are made by the master, John Charles Thompson, who was already at the school in 1901 (aged 27) and who continued as master until it closed. Margaret Collins records 'Knocker' Thompson as 'remembered kindly by most of his ex-pupils as a strict but very fair man.' The entries run from 22 Feb 1906 to

H[enry] G[eorge]. Chatfield is named as the Attendance Officer throughout. Born in Maresfield, Sussex, he had been a watchmaker at 6 High Street, Snodland, until sometime after 1901, after which he was employed by the KCC. (We have a clock inscribed with his name at the Museum.) He lived on the London Road at Ryarsh and was Chairman of Ryarsh Parish Council Here are some other entries:

3-4-1906: From this afternoon, Cottage Gardening will be taken every Tuesday afternoon from 3-15 to 4-15, by 12 boys from the First Class. Forks, rakes and hoes supplied by Apps Bros.

11-4-1906: Admitted George Boorman, who is nearly eleven years of age. He is very backward indeed.

7-5-1906: Diocesan Inspector's report: I was struck with the senior class in this school. The lads' answers were always ready, thoughtful, and well expressed. Definite Church teaching ably given has been thoroughly comprehended and would seem to have appealed to heart and head. Good work is being done with the juniors. The writing was well done – and the behaviour of the whole school was blameless. (*All the Inspection Reports are glowing.*)

29-5-1906. A Half-holiday was given this afternoon in consideration of Empire Day, about which a lesson was given to the whole school by the master in the morning from 11-30 to 12. (*The succession of outings shown below shows that community events gave the pupils some opportunities for recreation.*)

29-6-1906. Owing to the very wet morning only about half the boys are present. (*A common type of entry reminding us that lack of footwear and of the prospect of sitting in soaking clothes after a considerable walk caused regular problems in attendance. At least one Ham Hill father was taken to court because his children did not attend a Leybourne school when it rained.*)

3-7-1906: The Annual Distribution of prizes took place this afternoon, 13 prizes were given for Secular Work, 12 for Religious Knowledge, and 4 for Gardening. 10 Certificates for Regular Attendance and Good Conduct, and three medals for perfect attendance given by the Kent Education Committee, were also distributed by Mrs Luck.

19-7-1906: The Attendance is rather poor this morning, only 81 per cent of the boys being present. This is probably owing to the rain.

24-7-1906: The afternoon meeting commenced at 1.30 and closed at 3.45, to enable the Leybourne boys to attend their Sunday School Treat.

26-7-1906: The school was closed today to enable the master to accompany the Leybourne Church Choir on their annual outing.

31-7-1906: The last of the lessons was given this afternoon to the Cottage Gardening Class. This makes 20 hours of instruction in this subject and so qualifies for a grant at the rate of 2/- per head.

3-8-1906: The school was closed this morning until Tuesday morning – a half holiday being given for Ryarsh Sunday School Treat, and a day's holiday on Monday for Bank Holiday.

8-8-1906: The attendance is only fair this afternoon. Birling Flower Show is held this afternoon and this no doubt accounts for the attendances being only fair.

14-8-1906: The Birling boys belonging to the Band of Hope have gone for their excursion today. This has affected attendance at the school, nine boys being absent from this cause.

1-10-1906: The Pupil Teacher [Gordon Rabjohn] is attending Maidstone Grammar School.

18-10-1906: Miss Burgess has given notice to the Managers that she intends to resign her position in this school on December 31st of this year.

6-11-1906: Miss Burgess, the Supplementary Teacher, has been called away from school this morning by an urgent telegram. Miss Burgess is absent this afternoon.

7-11-1906: Miss Burgess is again absent this morning and I have heard nothing of her since she left school yesterday morning. Received a note from Miss Burgess this afternoon saying

that she has been called away unexpectedly – she says nothing about returning. (*No telephones!*)

9-11-1906: Miss Burgess has notified her intention of not returning to her duties at the school, to Canon Hawley

26-11-1906: Miss Kathleen Bishop, the newly appointed Supplementary Teacher, commenced her duties this morning.

28-11-1906: Miss Bishop is absent from school this morning in consequence of illness.

3-12-1906: The Rev Canon Hawley produced a doctor's certificate stating that Miss Bishop was unable to resume her duties at the school.

21-1-1907: Miss Elsie Sparks, a Supplementary Teacher, is at work in this school this morning. She has charge of the Junior Division Sts I-III.

14-3-1907: Miss Sparks ... has been successful in passing Part I of the preliminary Certificate Examination held in December of last year.

8-4-1907: Miss Sparks ... is sitting for Part II of the Preliminary Certificate Examination. Gordon Rabjohn, the Pupil Teacher, is at school. He has finished at Maidstone Grammar School and he will spend his time here from now until July 31 of this year – the date on which his apprenticeship terminates.

15-4-1907: Miss Sparks ... returned to her duties this morning. Received notice that the Kent Education Committee consent to her appointment to this school.

12-7-1907: The Ryarsh Choir are having their annual outing today. This makes the attendance bad.

22-7-1907: Gordon Rabjohn ... was at Maidstone last week, sitting for the Cambridge Senior Examination. Miss Sparks ... is absent from school. Reason not known. Gordon Rabjohn is in charge of Standards I-III.

23-7-1907: Miss Sparks is present this morning. Her absence yesterday was due to a bicycle accident.

31-8-1907: The school was closed this afternoon for the usual long vacation to Oct 7th.

24-10-1907: Attendance Medals were presented to Albert Harris and bars to Ernest West and Richard Couchman.

19-11-1907: The Rev Hawley presented sixteen certificates, granted by the Kent Education Committee, for Regular Attendance and Good Conduct.

19-12-1907: Miss Sparks, the Supplementary Teacher, will be absent today and tomorrow. She is being examined at Chatham in Part I of the Preliminary Certificate Examination.

8-1-1908. There is only a fair attendance this morning owing no doubt to the very rough weather.

18-1-1906: Received notice that Examinations for Labour Certificates will be held at the following

places:

National School, Snodland, Feb 8th at 9-30

National School Wrotham, Mar 7th at 10-15

Boys School West Malling, April 4th at 9-45 a.m.

These certificates were granted to pupils over the age of 12 or 13, having produced a birth certificate, that they have 'been shown to the satisfaction of the local education authority ... to be beneficially employed' and they were then exempt from attending school.

28-2-1908: Thomas Harris and Norman Clough are absent on account of their brothers suffering from Scarlet Fever.

2-3-1908: Miss E. Sparks is absent this morning—reason not known.

3-3-1908: A severe cold was the reason of Miss Sparks' absence yesterday

6-3-1908: Owing to very wet morning, the attendance is bad—25 are present out of a possible 39. Miss Sparks is absent—possibly from the same cause. Miss Sparks arrived at 11 o'clock this morning. The very wet morning was the cause of her late arrival.

1-4-1908: This being the first day of the school year, classes were re-arranged and new work commenced.

7-4-1908: Miss Sparks is sitting for Part II of the Preliminary Certificate Examination and will therefore be absent today and the following two days.

9-4-1908: Rec'd notice that John Fremlin passed the examination for Labour Certificate, held at West Malling, on Saturday last.

16-4-1908: The school was closed this afternoon for the usual Easter vacation extending to Ap. 24th.

(To be continued)

Museum

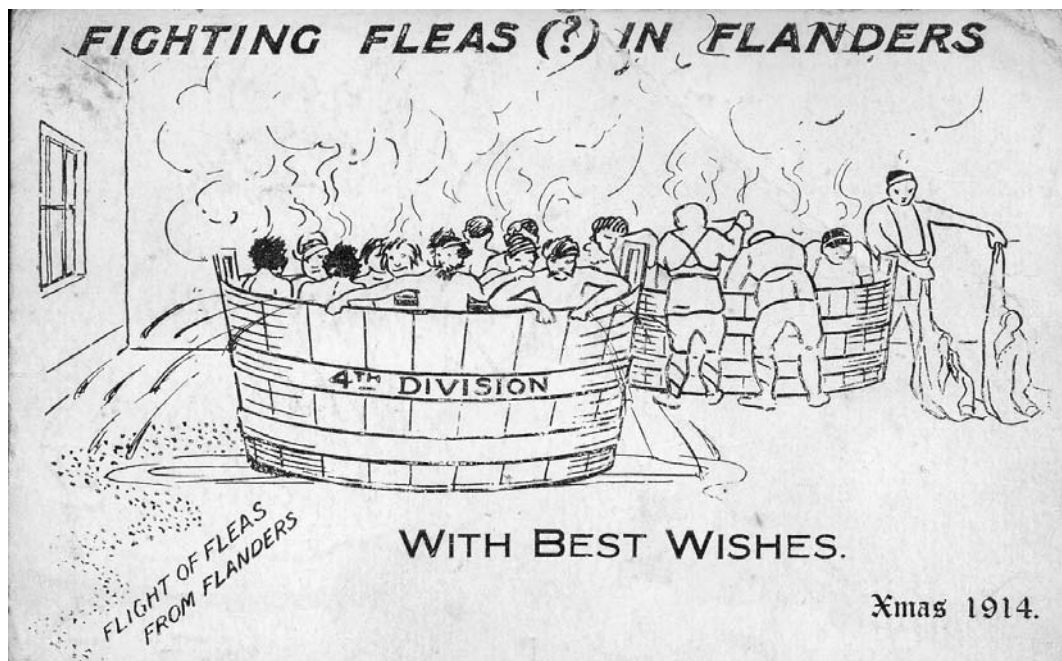
As usual the Museum will be closed over the Christmas period: on and from Wednesday 17th December 2014 and will re-open on Wednesday 7th January 2015.



Four views of the WWI exhibition at Christ Church, 6-11 November 2014. Pat Clements has kindly donated the picture of RAMC men outside the rear of the Bull, postmark 8 September 1915. The more-or-less illegible message on the reverse to Mrs Fairman, Church St, Burham from 'Alf'? [=Alfred, 2nd from left, middle row?]: 'Just a small photo of myself and mess; not up to mark, but will send you a better one. Hoping this will find you all well.'



We have copied several Christmas cards sent from WWI regiments





Snodland Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 18, Issue 2

www.snodlandhistory.org.uk

April 2015

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Meetings

1 April 2015. David Rouse, Chairman of the Thames and Medway Canal Association, will give a talk on the history of the canal and the Association's work to maintain and develop it for use as a multipurpose amenity.

6 May 2015. We welcome David Carder again, this year speaking on 'Mediaeval Pilgrimage'

Other Events

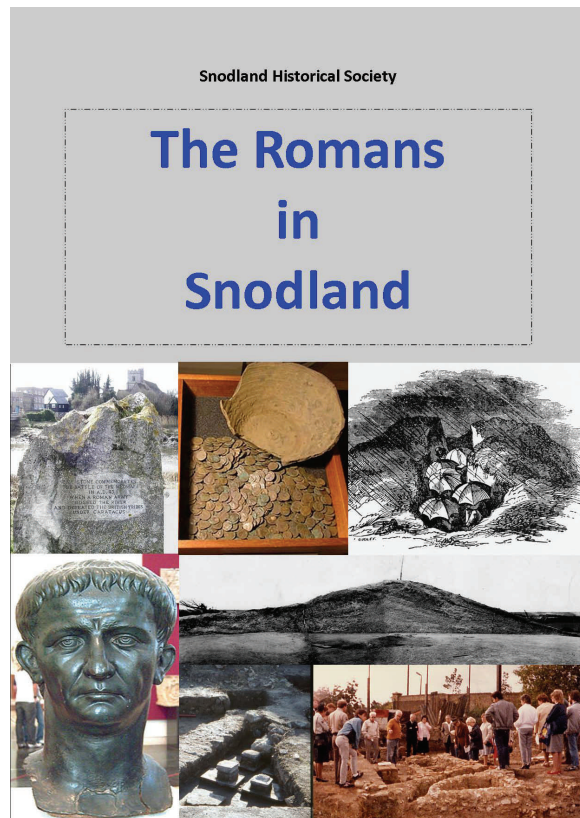
June 13th. Open Day at All Saints church, 2—4-30 pm. Andrew Ashbee will give an illustrated talk: 'All Saints in Times Past' at 2-30 pm. There will be cream teas, stalls, and the opportunity to explore the building.

July 4th. The Society will again have a stall at the Carnival and this year will share a space with the Friends of All Saints.

The Romans in Snodland

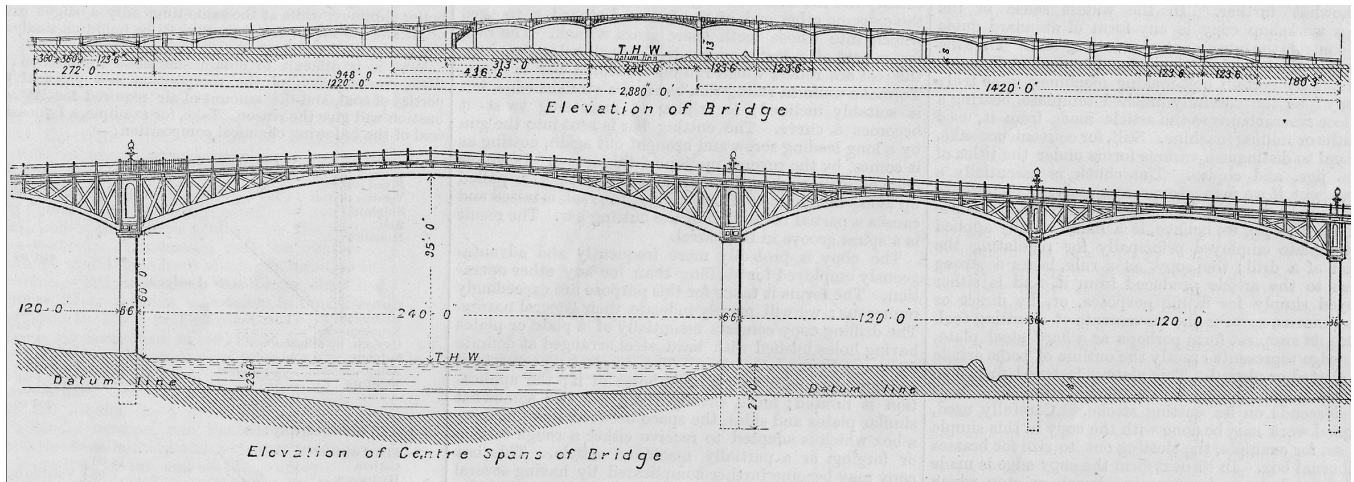
When the William and Edith Oldham Charitable Trust generously made a grant towards the purchase of the Roman coin hoard found in Snodland, Paul (their son) expressed a wish that by exhibiting them we should increase interest in local schools in the Roman history of the parish. (Roman history is one of the key-stage topics which schools can offer.) Christopher Howick, sometime a history teacher at Holmesdale, has compiled a 40-page pack of educational materials for us,

which we intend to distribute (free of charge) to local schools on a CD-ROM. Some pages can be shown via a screen and activity pages can be printed-out as required. We are enormously grateful to Chris for all his work and expertise in devising this material and we hope it will prove very useful to all who use it. There is an additional four-page unit on 'The Battle of the Medway'.



World War I

The *Ancestry* web-site has recently added the service records for sailors serving in the First World War and details are being added to our records. There is one more casualty to add to our list: Frederick Thomas Barnden (who appears in Halling records), was actually born



in Snodland and was baptised at All Saints on 30 November 1884. For a time he was a labourer in the cement works, but joined the Navy on 12 March 1906, re-joining after a three-year gap on 7 August 1914. He was one of those tragically killed when the *Hawke* was torpedoed on 15 October that year. He was a 1st Class Stoker on the ship.

Web-site updates

On our web-site the lists of postcards have been updated, as has our 'Primary Catalogue' of documents.

The bridge that never was

It is well known that between 1875 and 1910 numerous attempts were made to erect a bridge between Snodland and Burham. The Bridge Warden's Trust at Rochester holds some 200 documents and plans relating to the schemes. Via e-bay we recently acquired two pages from a journal called *The Engineer* about one attempt, although I do not know if it is among the Rochester documents. Subsequently I found a report about it in the *Kent Messenger* and our member Malcolm Maclean has kindly referred us to www.kenthistoryforum.co.uk/index.php?topic=16102.0 (where more documents and plans are shown). On 21 January 1896 the *KM* reported a competition "for the most economical and suitable design and estimate"

to construct a high-level vehicular bridge, reached on either side by a viaduct, commencing, on the Snodland side, at Holborough-road, and at the Burham side, at a spot near the church of that parish.' The prize was £50 offered by the combined parish councils of Snodland, Burham, and Birling. Thirteen entries were made 'and the majority of them were found to be of great merit.' The specification required a roadway 18ft wide with two six-foot footpaths; the bridge over the river should be in one span, giving a clear headway of 75 ft above the high water mark. The maximum load to be 15 tons, sufficient for a traction engine. The judge was Mr de Michele of Higham and the winner was Henry Woodhouse of Liverpool. Plans for his bridge were published in *The Engineer* of 21 October 1896 and the account there shows the bridge to be nearly a mile long, with an estimated cost of £33,000 excluding the cost of land. It was hoped the latter would mostly be acquired without charge from the landowners. The Bridge Wardens had promised £12,000 towards the bridge (or an alternative at Halling), and the County Council would be asked for the remainder. A toll was intended to recoup the cost. The *KM* commented 'It must be added that the decision of Mr. de Michele in awarding the premium to Mr. Woodhouse has been adversely criticised by engineers.'

It would appear that there was no firm position for the bridge; the *KM* mentions it crossing 'about 200 yards above the Snodland railway station' with 'two staircases ... for foot passengers, one at Church Fields, and the other at Waghorn Road'. A glance at a map shows Waghorn Road is too short for this to match. (Incidentally this is the earliest use of 'Waghorn Road' yet discovered.)

Perhaps where Queen's Avenue now meets Holborough Road was the intended starting point, since that road had still to be built.

A further newspaper account of 28 August 1900, still advocating a bridge, printed the report of the Kent County Council rejecting the 1896 schemes at Halling and Snodland:

'Your committee have received deputations in support of each of these proposals and have examined the plans of the proposed bridges. They have also considered a careful report from the County Surveyor on the probable public utility of a county bridge at one or other of the proposed sites. In the result your committee have come to the conclusion that they are unable to recommend the Council to take in hand either of the proposed schemes, upon the broad ground that the demand for such a bridge is not sufficiently general in its character to justify the expenditure thereon of any part of the County Fund, and that no bridge at either of the sites in question would be of such general public utility to persons using the main roads and other highways of the district as to warrant the Council in burdening the Special Rate, not merely with a part of the cost of erection, but with the whole cost of maintenance hereafter, a liability of serious and uncertain extent.'

We also learn that proposals had been made in 1876, 1878, 1880, 1881, 1892 and 1895, and that 'a single day's record showed that no less than 781 persons crossed the river in this [ferry] boat, and it is modestly estimated that, on an average, over 600 persons use it every day.' Alas cement workers were not the general public.

School Log-book

A further instalment of entries from 1911 of the Leybourne Hulme school log-book:

10 March 1911: Owing to illness there have been no children in Standards VI and VII since March 3rd

23 March 1911: Received the following telegram this morning from Mrs Norman, the assistant Teacher:- 'Please grant leave remainder of week, too unwell.'

April 3 1911: 10 am The master will be away from school from this hour. His absence is due to the fact of his being an Enumerator in connection with the Census.

1 April. Admitted seven boys from Ham Hill, Snodland. They are very backward indeed.

7 April: The wintry weather this week has had an adverse effect upon the attendance

24 April: admitted five boys from Ham Hill. This makes twelve boys admitted from that district since the beginning of the school year – April 1.

8 May: In recognition of 7 years full attendance made by Ernest West, the Kent Education Committee are prepared to authorise the Manager requisitioning for a Special Reward (article required to be mentioned) for this boy not exceeding half a guinea in value, when he is leaving school.

1 June: For some reason the attendance is very poor this afternoon, only half the boys being present. The following is a copy of the Report of the Singing Examiner in connection with the West Kent Musical Festival (Junior Branch):-

'The Leybourne boys are always good. On a former occasion they achieved the distinction of passing every one present in the individual sight-singing examination, and this year, although the result was not quite so remarkable, they gained quite a high percentage of passes in a similar test. They have the double advantage of being small in number and of being trained by a Head master, Mr.

J.C.Thompson, who is an expert in all pertaining to school singing. The result of the training the scholars receive is seen in their precision in singing difficult two-part tests, in their ready answers to questions in the theory of music, and in their excellent voice production. All these topics were taken in the brief time allowed for the examination and in all of them the boys acquitted themselves well. It is very satisfactory to be able to report this favourably upon the singing. The individual attention that Mr Thompson is able to give to his scholars cannot but have a defining and elevating effect upon their character.'

25 June: The school was closed this afternoon for a week, to celebrate the King's Coronation.

Poor attendances: 5 July (Ryarsh Choir outing); 11 July (the Choir outing); measles (29 June to 21 July); 9 August (Malling Flower Show)

25 September: Admitted three boys, one of whom, although aged eight years of age, does not even know his twice times table, and is quite unable to read.

17 November: Owing to an exceptionally wet and boisterous morning the attendance is very bad indeed, only 21 boys being present out of a total of 51. Mrs Norman, the assistant teacher, [who lived at Chatham] was drenched. I sent her home again as it was quite impossible for her to stay and teach with the wet dripping from her clothes.

Film Studios

Interest in the film studios at the clock tower site has resurfaced again. On 7 April 1998 *The Daily Mail* printed an article following an enquiry: 'What became of the Medway Film Studios I saw being built at Snodland in 1935. Were films made there?' A response reported Snodland films starred Anna May Wong and Ralph Lynn, and another gave 'Old Bill of the River, some shots being taken on the Medway.' It is difficult to separate fact from fiction, so if anyone has memories or news of the activities of the film studio, we would be glad to hear them.

Here are some:

'The Studios, film producers, Holborough road' appears in the 1938 Directory.

The Auckland Star, [Australia] 22 August 1936. A Chinese film, to be written by S. I. Hsiung, author of that enormously successful play, "Lady Precious Stream," is to be produced at Snodland, Kent. The producing company is the Bijou Film Company, of which Mr. Lai Foun, the noted Chinese actor who will star in the picture, is a director. London and China will be the setting for the story which will concern a Chinese artist who, after a success in London, returns to China to marry. The Bijou Film Company has in preparation two other Chinese scenarios. In "Shadow Sweetheart" Mr. Foun will play opposite Diana Wong, and in "Violin Song" he will be partnered by a young Japanese actress, Margaret Kato. Similar accounts, copied from each other, appeared in *The Straights Times* 4 May 1936 [Singapore]; *New York Times* 24 May 1936; *The Evening Post* 2 July 1936 [New Zealand]; *Townsville Daily Bulletin* 14 July 1936 [Australia]; *The Auckland Star* 22 August 1936 [New Zealand].

I recently searched all the film catalogues on the shelves of the British Library but found no reference to any of the proposed Chinese films, or to Snodland film-making.

National School Admission Registers

A few years ago Mrs Hobson allowed me to make copies of the earliest surviving admission registers for the National (now Roberts Road) School before they were to be deposited in the Kent Archives. Recently Valerie Brown has heroically digitalised them and we have added them to a computer at the museum, where they can be searched. She has also transcribed the Cuxton registers 1560-1950, which are also placed there. Many thanks to her for what has been an enormous undertaking on our behalf.

Registers: Boys: 1906-1916; Girls: 1883-1920; Infants: 1909-1916.



Snodland Historical Society Newsletter

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September 2011

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[e-mail: pdoolin@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:pdoolin@tiscali.co.uk)

Subscriptions

Subscriptions for the new season are due from 1 September 2011 and should be paid before February 2012, otherwise membership will lapse. They should be sent to Mrs Brenda Ashbee, 214, Malling Road, Snodland, Kent ME6 5EQ or paid at one of the meetings. Single subscriptions are £7.50 and joint subscriptions £10.00 a year. (I guess it would be helpful if exact money can be tendered if possible!)

Society Meetings 2011

At the Devonshire Rooms, Waghorn Road, Snodland, Wednesdays at 8 pm. Free to members. Visitors £1 per meeting.

5 October 2011. AGM. Following the business meeting we will have another 'Bring and Look' evening at which it is hoped members will bring some artefact of historical interest to them and speak briefly about it. The item does not have to be connected with Snodland. This was a very successful and enjoyable event when we held it two years ago. A repeat success will depend on everyone playing their part!

2 November 2011. John Endicott, who helped create the Police Museum in Chatham Dockyard, will speak on the history of the Kent Police Force.

7 December 2011. The usual Christmas meeting with pictures of Snodland and Hambrook cards including new ones acquired during the year. Mince pies and drinks will conclude the evening.

Some speakers for 2012 have yet to be arranged, depending on which dates they can manage.

1 February 2012

7 March 2012

4 April 2012. Monty Parkin will make a welcome return with a new talk: 'Art is Long' (Life is Short), in which he will talk about some of the artists and musicians buried in nearby churchyards such as as Limpsfield, Shoreham, and Trottscliffe.

2 May 2012.

Other Events

Snodland Library, Friday 4 November 2011, at 2pm. Andrew Ashbee has been asked to give a 45-minute illustrated talk on 'Snodland then and now'. Free admission.

Tuesday, 8 November 7-30 pm. Devonshire Rooms, Waghorn Road. Andrew Ashbee: an illustrated talk: **Vanished Snodland** will focus on places and buildings which have disappeared. This is the final Snodland event for the Valley of Visions project.

Film projectors for the Museum

When the Catholic Church, originally a cinema, was demolished in 2010, the builder Bernard Berry found remnants of two old

film projectors hidden away in the gallery. He has given them to the Museum, together with a 1935 plaque detailing the sound system which was fixed to a door. We got in touch with the South East Film Archive, who kindly sent details of the machines.



They are both by Pathé Freres of Paris (the leading makers) and appear to be the first projectors used from the opening in 1912. The box is the 'lamphouse' and the compli-



cated metal structure is the 'carbon arc adjuster holder' which went inside.

Four film-holders like the one illustrated were also salvaged and these would be set up in front of the projector, with a mechanism to try to protect the film from the heat generated. We hope to renovate one machine, but both are on display at present.

Roman Coins

It is still expected that much of the Roman coin hoard found in 2007 will come to the museum, but all the work involved with the new extension to Maidstone Museum and the re-ordering of exhibits there has had to take priority.

Robert Gerald Sloman

In the last newsletter I wrote about the enquiry into Sergeant Sloman, killed when his Lancaster bomber crashed in Holland on 21 July 1944. On 21 July this year a memorial was unveiled at Kessel, Limburg, in commemoration of the tragedy. Relatives of Robert Sloman were present. The only grave of one of the crew has been tended since the war by a Dutch lady (seen in this picture). Barry Davies who was instrumental in getting the memorial erected, is on the right.





1911 Census

The complete 1911 census was made available by Ancestry.co.uk in June. Since then Andrew Ashbee has been transcribing the Snodland entries. These are now complete, but at the time of writing there is the Ham Hill area to add—another 93 households. All the information has been added to the Society's database too, but it will take some weeks to create new bookmarks for the names before the files can replace those currently on-line.

Details for each household were completed by the Head and give extra information not found in previous censuses. The number of rooms was to be stated, but some householders got into difficulties here with the instruction 'count the kitchen as a room, but do not count scullery, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom; nor warehouse, office, shop.' Marriage particulars required were 'completed years of marriage, total children born alive, children still living, and children who have died.' As well as occupation the 'place of work with which the worker is connected' is extremely useful. So we find that all the watermen and barge men were employed by the cement company, as were virtually all the coopers and hoopmakers and a good smattering of bricklayers and blacksmiths. Employees of the Lead Wool Company, the Paper Bag Factory, the Water Company, the Oil or Turpen-

tine factory are named. What is evident is the enormous amount of employment provided by the cement factories even compared with the paper industry. Unfortunately we are not told whether this was at Lees works or with Peters Brothers over the river., or with others.

There are some interesting new occupations: telephone operator; telegraphist; motor engineer; electrician.

The individual sheets for each household have been photocopied and are held at the museum. It is proposed to make a CD of all the censuses 1841-1911 for Snodland and Ham Hill, which will be on sale shortly.

Miscellany

It is remarkable what is still coming to light in unexpected ways. A gentleman e-mailed to say he had found the cover of a book of invoices from the firm of George Wheatley, Waghorn's right-hand man and successor, on a family bookshelf. He has generously donated it to our Waghorn collection.

Another man e-mailed from Perth Australia to say he had found a picture of Agnes Hook in papers relating to his wife's family history research, but had no idea why it was there since no link between Snodland and the family was known. He kindly sent a scan of front and back. The image has not been seen before and is dated December 1880.



Early in the Spring I was contacted by a Frenchman, William Bertrand, who was researching his family history. His enquiry concerned a Thomas Cook alias Edmeades who worked at the paper mill here. I was able to direct him to the SHS pamphlet on the early Snodland papermakers, where this man is mentioned. It appears that Cook later emigrated to France and set up a succession of paper mills there. William visited us in April and brought with him Thomas Cook's indenture of 1810, which I was able to scan. It confirms William Spong as the owner, but also shows that the next owner Thomas Fielder was already involved with the mill.. What a remarkable find. Research continues, especially in trying to discover why he was 'Cook alias Edmeades'.



E-mails

A computer crash a few months ago led to the loss of many of your e-mail addresses which I held. I would be grateful if those of you who are happy to receive these Newsletters by e-mail would send or re-send your e-mail address to me (mine is on p. 1 above) so that we can save on postage/printing where possible. The Society was formed when e-mails were less used than they are now, and there is no space allowed on our application form either!



Snodland Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 15, Issue 1

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December 2011

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Society Meetings 2011

At the Devonshire Rooms, Waghorn Road, Snodland, Wednesdays at 8 pm. Free to members. Visitors £1 per meeting.

1 February 2012. Michael Fuller will give an illustrated talk: 'Papermaking by hand—with a brief historical introduction.' Michael has spent a lifetime in the industry and has written some excellent historical pieces, including our Pamphlet no. 9 on the mills at Snodland and Holborough, taken from his larger study. He has recently acquired about 130 pictures taken during the building of Reed's paper mill at New Hythe in 1921-2 and has given copies to the museum, which I have put on CD. At some time I'll print them and put them in a folder, but they are available now for viewing on screen.

7 March 2012. David Carder will give his wonderfully illustrated talk on 'Building a Mediaeval Cathedral'.

4 April 2012. Monty Parkin will make a welcome return with a new talk: 'Art is Long' (Life is Short), in which he will talk about some of the artists and musicians buried in nearby churchyards such as as Limpsfield, Shoreham, and Trottscliffe.

2 May 2012. I'm delighted that Giles Guthrie, Collections Manager at Maidstone Museum (his new title), will show us 'The Treasures of Maidstone Museum.' He expects to bring some artefacts too.

Newly Published

A CD-ROM has been made of all the Snodland and Ham Hill censuses from 1841 to 1911 and is available for sale: £5 to members and £7.50 to others. It is in pdf format (although the 1911 lists are provided in Microsoft Excel files as well) and is searchable.

The up-dates of the on-line database of parishioners have progressed well and should all be completed by the end of the year. Most are available on-line now.

Pat Gest has transcribed the Parish Council minutes for the war year 1939-1945 and these are now online on the Society's website.

Future projects

Christopher Howick hopes to write a pamphlet on Snodland's firemen.

The Rector, Hugh Broadbent, is hoping that a DVD can be made in 2012-13 to sell in aid of All Saints Church. If possible it is hoped that local schools can be involved: at primary

level using actors/readers to create little scenes from the past, and at secondary level to harness the technical expertise and equipment of a creative team, which could perhaps be included as part of examination work. Christopher Howick and Andrew Ashbee are currently devising a framework and 'script' for the project.

Roman Coins

I'm pleased to announce that Tonbridge and Malling BC has awarded £1500 towards the purchase of the Roman Coins found in Snodland in 2007, to match the £1000 from the Snodland Partnership and £500 from Snodland Historical Society. At the time of writing a further £2285 remains to be found, which it is hoped will come from grants.

Kent Photo Archive

<http://www.kentphotoarchive.org.uk>

It is thrilling to announce that the bulk of the Society's collection of postcards and pictures held at the Museum will be put on the website of the Kent Photo Archive for anyone to freely view and download. An initial selection of 329 pictures was ready when the Snodland section went 'live' on 25th November, but more have been added and eventually I expect 1000+ images to be available. (567 pictures had been loaded by 6 December.)

For those unfamiliar with the project: it began following a successful appeal to the Heritage Lottery Fund for money to digitalise the collection of over 4000 glass plates and other early images held at Maidstone Museum. It was then arranged to add Medway Archives to the scheme and this is in hand, with a further 800 images currently included. A further 4000 pictures come under the heading 'War and Peace'. These were rescued and bought by Rex Cadman who runs the 'War and Peace' show at Beltring and it appears that the bulk of them were photographs taken by Kent Messenger staff between about 1935 and 1950. There are many non-war pictures

in the group. Now the museums at Ashford and Snodland have joined the scheme, which already has about 10,000 pictures displayed.

The Snodland section is divided into two main parts: 'Snodland Town' and 'Kent elsewhere', both of which are revealed by clicking on 'Thumbnails' or 'Location Lists'. The first images for 'Snodland Town' are mostly street scenes, while those for 'Kent elsewhere' are part of our Hambrook collection.

The Location Lists organize the pictures according to place, sometimes a single building and sometimes a whole street. The same is true for the 'Kent elsewhere' pictures, arranged by town or parish.

Captions are revealed by passing the mouse over the thumbnails or over the 'info' box if the picture is displayed full-size. I have access to be able to make or change these.

Another feature is that place markers for each picture are shown on Google maps, coloured according to type: pubs, churches, river scenes, street scenes, historic buildings, other.

The Paper Mill fire of 1906 is a special group which has its own section; there is also a 'People' button, subdivided into 'schools', 'sport' and 'other'. We do not intend to include the later school class photos.

The present Hambrook pictures come from his 'Kent Series' and the numbered 'H Bros S' series. There are another 200-300 pictures of local parishes and un-numbered Hambrook ones to add to the 'Kent elsewhere' group.

Snodland people, events, churches, industry, sport, and landscape are in hand.

Many thanks to Roy Moore, the web-master, who is loading all the images.



Snodland Historical Society Newsletter

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April 2012

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Society Meeting

**At the Devonshire Rooms, Waghorn Road,
Snodland, Wednesdays at 8 pm. Free to
members. Visitors £1 per meeting.**

2 May 2012. For the last meeting this season, Giles Guthrie, Collections Manager at Maidstone Museum (his new title), will show us 'The Treasures of Maidstone Museum.' He expects to bring some artefacts too.

Giles is also applying for grants to enable the purchase of the Roman coin hoard found in Snodland. I was delighted to receive a letter from Paul Oldham dated 28 March, which offered a grant of £2000 towards the project as a result of an application from Giles. This comes from 'The William and Edith Oldham Charitable Trust'. William Oldham was at one time a teacher at Holmesdale, so Paul was particularly pleased to be able to help the Snodland appeal. In further discussion with him he hoped that some kind of 'project to inform Snodland school children of their Roman past' might be a spin-off in due course and then the Oldham charity would expect to provide a grant to sponsor such a project.

Museum

It has been a fairly quiet time through the winter, but e-mail enquiries continue to arrive regularly. We are giving some thought to

how best to re-arrange the displays and how to keep as much as possible on show.

An interesting recent acquisition is of the two minute books of the 'Snodland and District Chrysanthemum and Floral (later 'Dahlia') Society' which ran from 1948 to 1959. These were kindly donated by Mrs J. Butler, whose husband was the secretary. The Society had a considerable membership and all names and addresses are included in the books.

Kent Photo Archive

Most of our picture collection (pre-1950) is now included (964 images), although more will be added as they are acquired. The Hambrook pictures of Kent are a substantial part of the Snodland section and are a valuable addition to the whole site.

Snodland Roads

The recent furore over the application to re-name Cemetery Road has led me to think again about Snodland's road-names. Until about the 1850s Snodland was such a small place that addresses were not needed. Thomas Waghorn used 'Snodland, Rochester' only, and a letter from Australia in 1865 told the recipient (his sister) to go to Halling or Snodland and at 'either of the parishes someone will know us'. In Mediaeval times Burgate Street (=High Street) and 'North Street' (=Holborough Road), Brook Lane, Birling Road, Paddlesworth Lane were all that were present. The 1841 census shows Paddlesworth Lane, Holborough Street (= the street within the hamlet of Holborough), Holborough Lane (=Holborough Road), Snodland Street (=the street with Snodland in it – the High Street), Snodland Wharf (leading to

the paper mill) and Brook Lane. (Malling Road existed, but was not mentioned because there were no houses and it was then known as the Toll Road.)

The first real changes are seen in the 1861 census: Snodland Street is now called 'High Street', 'Mill Street' is added to Wharf Row, Brook 'Street' replaces Brook 'Lane', Holborough 'Road' leads to Holborough; Birling 'Lane', 'Constitution Road' and 'Constitution Hill' are all mentioned, as is 'Delamere Road', unadopted and leading to Delamere House.

In 1867 May Street and East Street were planned, and by 1881 Church Fields had been added. On the west side of Malling Road (where there were now houses) was the estate of Chapel Road (= 'Bottom Row'), Portland Place and Bull Fields. 'Tanner's Terrace' in 1891 were the first houses in the as yet unnamed Waghorn Road. It was during the 1890s that Bramley Road and Oxford Street were built. Bramley Road took its name from the Coulson family who owned Rookery Farm, since they had originated in Bramley, Yorkshire. The west end was later renamed Recreation Avenue, but it too was only a 'new road' without name in 1891.

With the formation of the parish council in 1894 it became their responsibility to suggest new road names and over the years they have tried to use names with a local historic association – sometimes people, sometimes places and sometimes particular features.

Sharnal Lane has come in for special comment recently. In her book on Birling Margaret Collins says a place-name definition is 'Dung-Spring' or 'place near a dung heap or midden!' I'm not sure she is right to say that the name was adopted once the Toll Road (Malling Road) was built in 1825. In 1433 'land lying at Sharnale in Birling' is mentioned (and appears as 'Shornhill' on the 1838 tithe map). Henry de Sharnhale is mentioned in East Malling in 1334/5 and four other members of the family rented land from Malling Abbey in 1410. Just to confuse the issue the architect's drawings for Christ Church in 1890 call it 'Plantation Lane'.

British Library Newspaper Archive

The British Library has begun the task of digitalising its Newspaper Library, formerly at Collingdale, London. It estimates some 10 million pages will be scanned eventually, of which nearly five million have been done. The bulk of Snodland entries are likely to be found in *The Maidstone and Kentish Gazette* and *The Kent Messenger*, neither of which is yet included. (*The Kent Messenger* is digitalising its own copies too.) However, thanks to the habit of one newspaper copying another, many local stories have already appeared and a sample is given below.

[*Northampton Mercury*, 22 August 1846] A valuable hunter last week met with his death at Snodland, in a very remarkable manner, during the storm of the previous Wednesday. At the time of high water the horse approached the bank of the Medway to drink, and after reeling from side to side was seen to fall headlong into the current. He then plunged to and fro, apparently unconscious of being near the margin of the river. He swam furiously round and round, and maintained this circular movement until nearly exhausted. Boats were pushed across his course, and after various efforts a rope was thrown over his neck, and he was landed on shore, his teeth and mouth bleeding, and his limbs in fearful agitation. The coachman and hunting groom of the owner of "Schoolmaster" were now sent for, and they pronounced the horse to be fast dying. A musket was sent for, and the horse was dispatched. Not a scar, not even a singe to show the effects of lightning, were visible on the poor animal's skin, but its palate and teeth showed the path of the destroyer. The teeth were shattered, the palate distorted, and the hoofs, where annexed to the shoes, appeared also disjointed, or rather as if divided into laminie. Had opportunity allowed, the vertebrae might probably have shown some

strange appearances. Schoolmaster was brought into Kent a few weeks ago. He was well known in the hunt of Sir John Cope, and has therefore often run neck and neck with the Duke of Wellington's horse "Corunna." Our West Kent friends will regret the loss of Schoolmaster, as he was as promising a "sire" as Sir Peter, of old celebrity. He was the property of Mr. Jupp, of Snodland.

[*Edward Jupp was the Master of the National Schools in Brook Street from 1842 to 1854*]

[*Whitstable Times and Herne Bay Herald*, 24 January 1874] An accident, which might have been attended by serious consequences, has all but deprived the village of the services of its medical man. As C. J. White, Esq. M.D., was being driven by Mr. Barker, of the Queen's Hotel, to visit a patient late on Friday night, the gig was encountered by a cart, which had been for some time left standing in the narrowest and darkest part of the main street. In an instant the two were pitched out, and the wheel passed over the doctor's chest, cracking three ribs, and doing other injuries. Mr Barker also was injured. To see a sick person, however, was the travellers' object, and having picked themselves up they went on their way to the hamlet of Pomfrey, an almost inaccessible spot on the outskirts of the parish. As the horse breasted the hill, it was found that the harness was too much shattered to make further use of the conveyance, and now both got out and walked (the doctor in acute pain) over the ploughed lands and trackless waste till they reached the sick woman's cottage door. His humane duty bravely done, the doctor returned home to be bound up and confined to his couch, no mean example of professional zeal and courageous self-sacrifice. But what shall be said of the criminal folly which could so wantonly imperil life, and deprive others of valuable services, for the loss of which no money offered or paid could ever compensate.

Newspapers of the time frequently copied

items of interest published by their rivals and this story first appeared in the *Kent Messenger* of 17 January (as printed in our pamphlet 28). Some interesting points arise: the 'night-soil cart' (*KM*) which caused the accident was the routine way of disposing of sewage in 1874 and was probably standing about where the New Jerusalem church is today. We cannot imagine how dark the village was for it not to have been seen by the driver. Someone must have made their way from Pomfrey to the surgery to summon the doctor, who then called on the landlord of the Queen's Hotel for transport. The half-dozen farm labourers' cottages at Pomfrey were at the extreme limits of the parish, on the hill above Dode and well past Holly Hill house; even today the site is reached by just a dirt path. Praise for Dr. White was well-deserved. His successors were Drs. Palmer and Minchington, both of whom had served together at the Middlesex Hospital. Minchington was born in Somerset and his death was reported there:

[*The Western Gazette*, 12 June 1891]
Milborne Port, Somerset.

The death of Mr. Henry James Minchington, fourth son of the late Mr. Mark Minchington, glove manufacturer, Milborne Port, occurred at Tralee, Bournemouth, on Thursday, June 4th. Deceased was a young medical practitioner of great promise. Having completed a successful career at the Middlesex Hospital, London, he obtained an appointment in Kingston, Jamaica, where he resided for three or four years. Returning to England, he purchased a practice in Snodland, Kent, where he lived beloved and respected by all till within three weeks of his death. Being in need of rest he went to Bournemouth, but with a naturally delicate constitution he fell a victim to pleurisy, which terminated fatally. His remains were interred in the Bournemouth Cemetery. He leaves a widow and a little son and a large circle of sorrowing

friends to mourn his death. Wreaths were sent by the following:- Mrs. Minchington [wife], Mr. W. Minchington (brother), Brixham; Mr. and Mrs. Pooley (sister and brother-in-law), Sherbourne; Mr. and Mrs. ...? (sister and brother-in-law), Hampstead; Messrs. Erill (father and brother-in-law), Lancaster Gate; Dr. Setasy and Mrs. Carpland, Weymouth St, London; Colonel and Miss Elliott, Snodland; Dr. Palmer, Snodland; nine servants at Snodland; teachers of National Schools; members of the Snodland Cricket Club; Mr. and Mrs. Maddock, Tralee; tradesmen of Snodland; and many other friends.

[24 January, *Essex Newsman*, 1874] A most extraordinary robbery from the Bricklane goods station of the Great Eastern Railway at Bethnal-Green has been reported to us, and one of the heaviest sufferers by the robbery is a gentleman residing in Chelmsford. From what we can glean it appears that on the 18th of December last one of the company's street wagons, or lorries, had been loaded with goods of different kinds to be transferred from the Bricklane station to a station belonging to another line—we believe the London, Chatham, and Dover. While the wagon was standing, a man said to have been in the employ of Messrs. Macnamara, the London contractors, entered the yard with a couple of horses, and having presented a forged way-bill, attached them to the lorry and drove off. Nothing was ever seen of him, the wagon, or the goods afterwards. The contents of the lorry included three valuable oil paintings belonging to Captain Way, of Chelmsford, son of the late Rev. C. J. Way. Vicar of Boreham. One of them (valued, we understand, at £1000) was by Vandyke, one by the Brothers Poussain, and one by Willson. [...]

It is suspected that these pictures have been sent out of the country. We may state that the goods in the wagon also included a tombstone for the grave of Police-constable May, the policeman who was murdered some time ago, at

Snodland in Kent. It was on its way from Suffolk to that place. It has been found since the robbery, near Stratford, smashed in pieces.

[*Whitstable Times and Herne Bay Herald*, 30 September, 1899] An Inquest was held on Friday by Mr. R. J. M. Steadman, City Coroner, on the body of George Swan, a shipwright, aged 49, and lodging at Rose Cottage, Malling Road, Snodland. Deceased cut his little finger with a penknife while cutting a rose in his allotment garden on the evening of the 7th inst. He subsequently got some dirt in the wound, and his death resulted from pyaemia. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

[*Tamworth Herald*, 4 April, 1903] The Kent County Coroner on Saturday held an inquest at Ham Hill, Snodland, on the newly-born child of Violet Blanche Edmeades, domestic servant. It was stated that a woman names Sarah Jane Hicks, the keeper of a coffee tavern, with whom Edmeades lived, on being questioned by the police, admitted that Edmeades had given birth to a male child, and stated that it was born dead and that she had buried it in the flower garden, where it was subsequently discovered by the police. Dr. Gash gave evidence that the child was fully developed, and in his opinion was born alive. He thought that death was due to suffocation, caused by pressure on the nose and mouth. Mrs. Hicks who was elected to give evidence, said the child appeared to be dead when born, and as Edmeades had no money to bury it, witness dug a hole and buried it in the garden. The jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against Edmeades and Hicks and the coroner committed both women for trial.

(Sarah Jane Hicks was the wife of George, and was born at Poona, India, in 1852. They and Violet Edmeades were living at the Coffee Tavern, Ham Hill, in 1901. Violet had been in the Malling Union workhouse in 1881, so evidently her family was very poor.)