



Snodland Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 18, Issue 3

www.snodlandhistory.org.uk

September 2015

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Subscriptions.

Subscriptions for the new season are due from 1 September 2015 and should be paid before February 2016, 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

7 October 2015. AGM. Following the business meeting Denis Anstey will give a talk on old views of the lower Medway and of the communities on its banks, arising from his research for his web-site: lowermedway.org.uk. There are some fine views to be seen there.

4 November 2015. We warmly welcome Richard Filmer again, who will speak on 'The Art of the Cooper'. This of course is particularly relevant to us because of the coopering shops in local cement works. It is difficult to find pictures of them though!

2 December 2015. Andrew Ashbee will present his annual slide show of local and Hambrook pictures which we have acquired for our collection or which have been recorded during the last year.

3 February 2016. I am very pleased that

David Carder has accepted my invitation to speak again—this year his topic is 'Discovery and Innovation in the Stuart Period'.

2 March 2016. Wilf Lower presents 'Life upon the Wicked Stage': 'How the famous (and no so famous!) became entertainers and the reality of life behind the make-up is revealed in this fascinating—and light-hearted insight into a world where happiness and despair frequently sit uneasily side by side.'

6 April 2016. To be arranged.

4 May 2016. We are pleased to welcome Jo. Livingston who will speak on 'George Croydon Marks Forgotten Engineer'. She writes that he was a Victorian engineer who began his career at Woolwich Arsenal, built cliff railways all around the country and founded a patent agency which is still flourishing today. He was a Liberal MP, active in the Sunday School Union, a director of Columbia Pictures and became one of the first Labour MPs at Lord Marks of Woolwich.

New pamphlet in preparation

At the Carnival Helen Orme suggested that a pamphlet on Snodland road names would be useful and I have been working on it. It was surprising to find that a mere list took three pages. I am consulting Town Councillors who I hope will be able to help with some of the personal names which have been allocated. It is good that the practice of using local names continues, even if they might seem strange to newcomers.

One road name in the Holborough Lakes estate is Poynder Drive. I have been trying to sort out something of the family, who were here for some 30 years between about 1819

and 1851 at least, but because of similar forenames it has not proved easy, in spite of their considerable wealth and standing. The Holborough estate of John May (d.1805) was bequeathed to Edward Wickham, who in September 1819 sold it to Thomas Poynder [I] (1751-1837) and William Hobson. This firm had been active for many years. Poynder, son of Thomas of Wootton St. Laurence, Hampshire, deceased, was apprenticed to Edward Wix of the Tylers and Bricklayers Company on 21 January 1765 and married Wix's daughter Mary at St Peter's, Cornhill on 7 November 1775. They traded as Wix and Poynder until the former's death in 1787. Poynder and Hobson, coal and lime-merchants, had premises in Scotland Yard, where a serious fire occurred in 1816. By 1823 Poynder, with his son Thomas [II], and Hobson were trading as lime-merchants and co-partners from buildings in Earl Street, Blackfriars, when a much-reported court case was brought against the elder Poynder for refusing to take the office of overseer of the poor for St Ann's, Blackfriars on the grounds that he was not a householder living at the buildings.

It was Thomas [II], baptised at St Peter's, Cornhill, on 4 April 1779 who came to live at Holborough to manage the lime works. He was the eldest son and second of eight children of Thomas [I] and Mary. He had married Sarah Mariane Cooper at St Mary, Battersea, on 20 June 1808. They lived at Montague Place, Bloomsbury, and the following children were baptised at St George's, Bloomsbury:

Mary Ann	b. 11-9-1809; bap. 11-10-1809
Thomas Henry Allan	b. 29-1-1814; bap. 13-4-1814
Isabella Rebecca	b. 10-2-1816; bap. 2-4-1816
Edward Samuel	b. 13-6-1817; bap. 17-7-1817
William Henry	b. 3-2-1821; bap. 10-4-1821
Sarah Matilda	b. 26-11-1822; bap. 18-3-1822

The family were in Snodland by 1823, living at Holloway Court. A further daughter, Frances Ann, was baptised at All Saints on 2 August 1829 'by the Rector of Imworth, Essex.' It is

interesting to find that Henry Poynder, brother of Thomas [I], had been a curate at Imworth in 1811, although he was not there in 1829. Another brother, William, was also in Holy Orders. In his *Memories of Malling and its valley*, Rev. Fielding records that the second window from the west end in the north aisle of All Saints 'was given to the Church by Miss Mary Ann Poynder, Miss Isabella Rebecca Poynder, Miss Sarah Matilda Poynder, Miss Frances Ann Poynder'. Unfortunately we have no idea of what it was like, or the date it was inserted, although Rev. Phelps tells us it was made by 'Miller', perhaps Joseph Hale Miller (1777-1842). Thomas [I] died at his house at Clapham Common in 1837 and was buried 'in the Poynder vault' at Wootton St Laurence, Hampshire, on 18 May. His estate was valued then at £370,000.

It is not clear when Thomas [II] left Snodland, but in later years he had a home in Wimpole Street, London. It is possible that he spent some time at Northfleet, where the firm had another works, since a Thomas Poynder was there in 1840. The Northfleet works was also managed by Edward Medlicott (d.1850), who had been with the firm in London by the 1820s and who took over after William Hobson had died in 1840. William Lee acquired the Holborough estate in 1843. Thomas [II] died in 1856 and his will includes many bequests. One is for £10 for a mourning ring to 'the Rev. H Dampier Phelps of Snodland' and another for £200 'to my butler and valet William Lutchford commonly called James Lutchford'. This must be William Letchford, baptised at All Saints in 1821, a member of the Holborough family and who clearly was a valued servant. After Thomas [II]'s death he became butler to his son William Henry Poynder (1821-1880). In 1851 William Henry was living in Waghorn's house and the next year an advertisement shows him to be 'Lord of the Manor of Veles, alias Snodland' to whom the rents should be paid on 24 November. In 1857 his lease of Middle [Clements'] Farm expired, and in 1867 as Lord of the Manor he gave the ground to enlarge the churchyard at All

Saints.



Thomas [I] bought the village of Hillmarton, Wiltshire, in 1813, and it descended to his grandson Thomas Henry Allan Poynder (1814-1873), who acquired the Hartham Hall estate. This descended to William Henry after THAP's death and explains why William Letchford was still serving the family in Wiltshire. The 1871 census shows that WHP, unmarried, lived in a small house with just Letchford and a cook as servants. He paid for a major restoration of the church and was buried at Hillmarton on 10 August 1880. There is a memorial window to him and to his sister Isabella.

Hulme School, Leybourne

I realised recently that the damage to the school building in 1908, shown in a postcard, ought to be recorded in the log-book which we have. It is:

‘September 28th. The school was re-opened this morning after the hopping holidays. The walnut tree, in the centre of the playground, was blown



down during a gale on September 1st. The tree, in falling, did some damage to the north wall of the school.’

So the pupils were all away hopping at the time.

Museum

Ted Connell of the Kent Archaeological Society, has temporarily taken away several boxes of Roman pottery in order to try to establish a more precise dating for it. The final report on the dig behind the Queen's Hotel has now been published and we have acquired a copy.

Postcards

Through Ted (and arising from a chance mention of Hambrook in our conversation) he forwarded a query to me from Robert Appleton of Tonbridge concerning a Hambrook postcard of Ash. I was able to identify this as Ash in East Kent and not the nearby village on the North Downs that Robert was interested in. We have since corresponded regularly and he has kindly sent scans of a number of Hambrook postcards to add to our collection. These are mostly of Longfield, Ridley and Cobham and will be shown at the December meeting. We are also turning our attention to a series of postcards printed in the 1920s which have a curly kind of script. Some of these at least would appear to be by Hambrook, but others are not. They are all fairly local. A group of five corresponding to Hambrook Nos. 1074-1078 are of this later type and may have replaced the original numbered pictures. They are 1074: Mausoleum, Cobham Woods; 1075: War memorial, Cobham; 1076: Cobham Hall; 1077: Old Porch, The College, Cobham; 1078: The



College, Cobham. The War memorial must be after 1918, so it is not clear what the original view might have been, although Hambrook did take an opposite view from the other side of the road.

Waghorn

Since we mounted the exhibition to commemorate the bi-centenary of Waghorn's birth in 2000, it has always been my aim to write a proper book about him. The pamphlet (No. 12) has worn surprisingly well, but it lacks any references to the sources for the information. I had completed most of a draft text by around 2010, but felt I needed to see the papers about him in the P&O archive at the National Maritime Museum. Unfortunately the museum was about to be closed for 2-3 years because of work preparing the nearby Olympic site. Furthermore, three days notice were required to produce the documents, so nothing more was done. Once more this year we are expecting Australian visitors who are descendants of the family and this prompted me to begin work again on the book. I visited the very new and sparkling library at the National Maritime Museum, only to find that the file I had waited so long to see was of no interest. It comprised a well-known book on Waghorn by Marjorie Sankey (which we already have) and a number of modern items—nothing from Waghorn's time, which I had hoped for and expected.

Nevertheless the delay has had some advantages. The Internet continues to expand and more and more newspapers are being digitalised. When I began, only the *Times* was available in this form, but now the British Library is adding more and more material, including papers like *The Morning Chronicle* and *Morning Post* which also reported on Waghorn's career with interest. Several papers from the major cities like Liverpool, Manchester and Glasgow are equally helpful, as are other regional issues. Many Australian newspapers can be seen on the *Trove* web-site and are a rich source. Waghorn appears in many documents catalogued by The National Archives of India in Delhi.

Some years ago I showed a CD called 'The Waghorn Story' which was made by a South African philatelist who collected material relating to him.

I have been in touch with various philatelic societies in the hope of tracking down the present whereabouts of some interesting documents shown in the CD and which seem to have passed from collector to collector over the years. Of particular interest is a portrait of Waghorn which appears to be the daguerreotype photograph taken in 1847 and which was bequeathed by Harriet Waghorn to her executors. (There may have been more than one copy of course.) One of our Australian visitors told me of a portrait of Waghorn which used to hang in her house and which was sold at Sotheby's in 1979. The firm catalogued it as by Sir George Hayter (who painted the well-known portrait), but it turns out to be by Charles Baxter; an engraving of it was also produced at the time (see the National Portrait Gallery website). It would be good to know where the painting is now.

The memorial

Waghorn's headstone has become almost illegible over the years and I would like to get the inscription re-cut. I have approached two local firms for estimates, but the final figure will depend very much on whether the stone is sufficiently strong to withstand the work, or whether an entirely new stone would need to be made. If the present stone can be retained the cost would be in the region of £1000, but if a new stone is needed this will rise to c.£3,400.





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6 April 2016. Eric Baldock will give an illustrated talk on ‘Buses on Old Kent Postcards’. Eric is an expert on the history of buses and it is good to welcome him for this talk.

4 May 2016. We are pleased to welcome Jo. Livingston who will speak on ‘George Croydon Marks Forgotten Engineer’. She writes

that he was a Victorian engineer who began his career at Woolwich Arsenal, built cliff railways all around the country and founded a patent agency which is still flourishing today. He was a Liberal MP, active in the Sunday School Union, a director of Columbia Pictures and became one of the first Labour MPs at Lord Marks of Woolwich.

New pamphlet ready

At the Carnival Helen Orme suggested that a pamphlet on Snodland road names would be useful and I have completed one, which will be on sale from December 2015, at £2. I am sure revisions will be needed from time to time as new roads are created in the Holborough Lakes estate, but I have included all those currently in use.

The Red Lion

It was a shock to see just what the ‘partial demolition’ presented in the planning application actually meant. For the record I have made a file of the correspondence in which I was involved and quote here my original letter to Tonbridge and Malling Council, dated 2 April 2014:

‘I note from the public notice the major alterations proposed for the Red Lion, High Street, Snodland. I write as a local historian.

This is one of the oldest remaining buildings in the town and it is sad that its leading role in what was once the core of the old village has declined. The reason for this e-mail is not to approve or oppose the plans, which I’m sure will be done by the Town Council and others, but to urge and plead that a photographic record is made of any internal his-

toric features which may remain, before the alterations are carried out. The formation of the roof timbers is likely to be of particular interest. Some years ago nephews of a former publican (1980s?), Mrs Lamb (maybe Ford), visited Snodland Museum and told me that she had an interest in the history of the building and had had photographs made of its internal structure. Although they were promised to us, they never came, and I think she has since died. Attempts have been made in the past to get the building listed, but no documentary evidence is known before about 1730, slightly too late for automatic listing. I do know there was a house on this site from the wills of Simon and Margery Spayn of 1467 and 1472, but presume nothing of this house remains internally? We have a continuous list of innkeepers from 1728 and the exterior of the building looks as though it dates from the 18th century. I do hope a proper historical record can be made of what survives.



TMBC kindly put me in touch with the architect, to whom I added the following:

I am not a buildings expert (although I can gain contact with some who are) and I have never been inside the *Red Lion* (even as a pub). We have a number of external pictures of course, but only one c.1950 of the bar area (when Clarence Smith was publican). Mrs Lamb's interest extended to commissioning a written 'history' of the pub, but unfortunately whoever did it produced a complete fabrication, which so far as I can see, mostly concerns another *Red Lion*, probably the one once in Rochester High Street. Nothing in her 'history' from the 1400s to the mid-nineteenth century relates to our building. There are literally half-a-dozen buildings re-

maining in Snodland which date from before 1800, so I am anxious not to lose any information we can glean about any of them. The document trail for the *Red Lion* runs cold before 1738 since I can find no trace of the then owner Samuel Duke, surgeon, of Maidstone. Before 1846 the old market cross was sited just outside the pub so clearly it played an important part in village life. I realise that the building is currently in a poor state, but I would be happy to meet and perhaps photograph what I can – if that is any help.

The architect promised co-operation and eventually gave me a contact name at the Builders. Unfortunately no response was obtained from him and the building suddenly vanished. The original application was to retain the front and side walls, but really they would be a sorry reminder of the old building and it is probably best that they have now gone too. Two friends of mine looked at the pile of materials before it too vanished and reported 'we did notice that some of the timbers were of a fairly sizeable cross-section and at least one of them had a tenon joint and had a peg-hole in it which would indicate a fairly early construction.'

We can only hope that the photographs come to light at some time.



What is the earliest evidence of the *Red Lion* we have? The document dated 18 October 1738 records the purchase by John May senior (d.1761) from Samuel Duke of Maidstone, surgeon, and his wife Mary. The previous occupants were named as 'Hester Cox, late of John Goffe, then of Fallick, widow.' All we know of Hester Cox is that she mar-

ried Richard Waghorn of Snodland on 3 November 1728. John Goffe is more of a problem to identify since not only were there three men of that name, but one was victualler at the Bull. The first may have been the John Goffe of St Margaret's, Rochester, who married Susanna Everest at Snodland on 19 November 1691, but a John Goffe senior transferred his property to John Goffe junior on 6 October 1715. One John Goffe was buried in 1769 and another in 1772. Elisha Fallick was buried on 11 April 1729, having appeared in the manorial records since 1718. His widow Anne was buried at Cuxton on 27 November 1748, but the pub had already passed to Richard Hales from Dymchurch in 1743. From that point on we have a continual record of the innkeepers.

Acquisition for the Museum

I recently acquired a document (via e-bay) related to another former pub in the village. This is a license to enable Edmund Gilder 'to keep a common Alehouse or Victualling House in the parish of Snodland' for one year from 29 September 1763, and relates to *The Cock*, which we now know as Mill Stream Cottage at Holborough. Gilder was born and married in East Malling, but was in Snodland by 1741 and probably considerably earlier than this, since he was already appointed as churchwarden in 1742. His daughter married John Fletcher, great grandfather of Waghorn, from whom he gained his middle name. After Edmund's death in 1770 the property descended to his son John (d.1783) and then was split into two parts, one of which was the home of a cordwainer (shoemaker) Thomas Hubble (d.1797).

The 1911 Project

At the suggestion of Val Brown we have begun a project to find and copy illustrations of the people who appear on the 1911 Snodland census. Over 4700 persons are listed, as we are also including residents of the houses at Ham Hill. (Horne Street is also covered, but Legge Lane is not.) All ages are relevant, from infants to the elderly.

We have photographs of many people, but their names are often unknown and it is hoped that by compiling such a list we may be able to

identify some of them. Photographs may be from earlier or later times of course. We know that many families have photographs which will include family members who were alive in 1911 and that copying these will be the best way to build the photographic record. We will be pleased to scan (or receive scans) of such photographs at the Museum, or e-mail them to me at the address shown at the beginning of this newsletter. (Telephone 01634-243001 to make other arrangements.)

I am currently working through the men shown in two group photographs from the paper mill, fortuitously taken around 1911. We have a complete list of the 35 men in the 'Engineers' photo, but only 25 names for the 'Papermakers', many without Christian names or initials. Thanks go to the late John Hayes who rescued these from a skip many years ago!

We shall compile a folder or folders, numbering each person according to their place in the census and grouping them by house.

A sample: (a) 3 Roman Villas, [now No. 20] Church Fields has persons nos. 33-36. 33 is George Mayger, aged 51 (1859-1935), furnace stoker at the paper mill:



34 is his wife Emily, aged 54 (1855-1933)

35 is his daughter Ella, aged 24 (1897-?)

36 is a boarder, Herbert Albion, aged 24, electrical engineer.

We currently have no pictures of 34-36.

It is hoped that we will be able to create links between this series and some of the other information we hold, none of which

is complete, but which adds to our knowledge of our history.

(a) There is a summary of occupants of 3 Roman Villas from the censuses:

SCFE08 20 Church Fields [3 Roman Villas]

1891 William Chantler, stone mason + 1; Florence Feaver, 16 [8 CF]

1901 Ethel Chantler, 63, widow; Percy Washam, 20; George Bean, 19; Michael Shea, 46

1911 George Mayger, 51, furnace stoker + 2 + Herbert Albion, 24



(b) There is an entry describing what we know about the building, set out in an Access database form devised to record the details. This is based on work we did during the England's Past for Everyone Project. It is too large to show here (although I have added it to the e-mail copy), but includes as much information as we can glean from various sources. Photographs past and present are invaluable when these exist.

So the former Roman Villas were originally of London (yellow) brick (some now rendered over), and had terracotta mouldings above the door/skylight and upper windows [type S 1 in the EPE list], a bay window on the ground floor, three rows of bricks between upper and lower storeys (some now hidden) and two chimneys—one at the rear of an L-shape plan. Unlike other houses in the terrace No. 3 does not have a dormer. The roof was originally slate, but now is concrete tile. The original brick and iron front fence survives. We note 5 houses in the ter-

race, all of two storeys. No 3 is numbered SCFE08 according to the EPE scheme: S=Snodland; CF=Church Fields; E=East side; 08 in the sequence.

Most of the village has yet to be covered in this way, but 232 houses are currently in the database, all from the High Street or those running off it.

(c) Further notes and memories can be added as known. So we have:

George Augustus Mayger; bap. All Saints, 8 May 1859, son of George Augustus and Harriet. George [I] was a straw boiler/labourer at the paper mill, but the family later moved to Tovil Mill.

George [II] was a sheet boy at the paper mill (1871 census); served in the navy on the *Northampton* (1881 census); mill worker (1891) and stationary engine driver (1901)

Buried at Snodland Cemetery, aged 77, 11-10-1935, grave 1276 [no memorial] with wife Emily: buried 27-09-1933, aged 78.

Addresses: 2 Church Terrace (1859); 2 Mill Street; East Street (1901) 3 Roman Villas (1911); Queen's Avenue

Two daughters: Winifred Mary, bap. All Saints 04-02-1885; married Flint Frank Adkins All Saints 20-04-1908
Ella, born 1887

It is intended that a copy will be kept at the Museum for all to see.

input no SHS no GPS

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no in terrace no of storeys no of bays cellar

walls

doors windows

terracotta

roof

chimneys chimney pots

archive material

photographs

photograph owner

notes



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Museum

A considerable number of items have been presented to the museum in the last few months. Linda Goodman, a former councillor, has given a number of programmes of Holmesdale events and some newspaper cuttings, together with a silver spoon which was presented to Snodland schoolchildren at the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977. Particularly interesting are a children's ticket for 'Snodland Fete' on Easter Monday 5 April 1915 and a paper warning from Malling Rural District Council about flu: Spanish Flu was a deadly event at this time. Both items were found under the floor of a house in Holborough Road.

Halling documents

The late Ted Gowers passed a number of items to us before he died and we have now received some

more of them from a Halling resident who is moving away and felt that the Museum would be the best place for them.

They comprise:

Parish/Church magazines (each a four-page unit) for 1891-1894, 1907-9.

A Book of Valuation published in 1660, giving the values of all the church rectories in England.

The Halling Vestry and Charity Book 1853-1898 recording the annual Vestry meetings. The earliest entries simply note the parish officers appointed for the coming year: churchwardens, overseers, waywardens, guardian and marsh-keepers, but later ones are more diverse. The book also includes annual lists of the Halling parishioners who were given greatcoats from the John May Charity from 1853 to 1919. Jerry Hayes tells me that these Halling grants ceased then.

A photocopy of the Ordnance Survey map of Upper Halling (1860s), two photos of the church choir and one of the Mothers Union.

There are many Snodland references in these documents of course. I was particularly interested to see a report of the death of 'Dr. Minchinton, the cheery and devoted medical attendant of many in Halling. He had gone to Bournemouth to recover from Influenza and died there on June 4th' (1891). This led me to research something of Minchinton's life, since he had made quite a mark here in a short time.

It's amazing what can be found via the Internet these days. Henry James Minchinton was the second son of Mark, a glove manufacturer of Milborne Port, Somerset, who employed 25 people. Henry was born in the summer of 1860. He attended the medical school in Edinburgh and at the time of the 1881 census on 30 April was a medical student at the Middlesex Hospital, lodging at 64 Newman Street, Marylebone. Later that year

(16 September) the Western Gazette reported that he had completed his studies and had been appointed as surgeon on the Royal Mail Steam Packet travelling to Brazil and the West Indies. Evidently he settled in Kingston, Jamaica and on 21 May 1883 there married Laura Agnes Evill, daughter of Henry Evill of Ladbrooke House, Notting Hill. The birth of a son was announced on 12 July 1884, when the family were living in Spanish Town. Another son, Robert Henry, sadly died on 11 April 1887, aged nine months. Perhaps this prompted a return to England and the family sailed to Southampton on 12 May. Henry had 'purchased a practice in Snodland, Kent, where he lived beloved and respected by all.' There are several references to him in newspapers of the time: one an account of him amputating a leg of one of Lee's workmen following an accident, and another in which he supports efforts to get the road to Upper Halling repaired. As the lay representative at the Diocesan Conference he also published a letter to parishioners asking for money for repairs to All Saints church (16 Dec. 1890). With his partner Dr. Palmer he paid for the restoration of the painted walls at the East end of nave and chancel as part of the repairs. The Minchintons lived at 'Lyndale House', now 35 High Street, where Henry Darrel was born on 12 November 1887. He became a soldier, advancing to Major, and died in India in 1927.

'Within three weeks of his death, being in need of rest,' Henry 'went to Bournemouth, but with a naturally delicate constitution he fell a victim to pleurisy, which terminated fatally' on 4 June 1891. He died at 'Tralee', St Michael's Road (now flats) and was buried at Bournemouth cemetery. Dr. Palmer was his sole executor and his estate was valued at £3642. 14s. 3d.

Lead Wool Factory

I have always wondered what precisely happened at the Lead Wool factory in Snodland. A few weeks ago we were visited by a former manager, Mr Hogben from Eastbourne, who brought with him a treasure trove of items from the works. This included a handbook and several loose papers of various kinds, a good many photographs of compressors and machinery, a metal advertisement, and (rather extraordinary as he admitted) a small clothes brush incised 'Lead Wool Ltd. Snodland' - these were apparently given as 'rewards'. Of particular value was

a copy of an article about the company dating from around 1990 and I reproduce some of it here:

'As far back as 1890 lead was shipped up the River Medway to Snodland, near Rochester in Kent. Nowadays, however, whilst the company's site and the production of Lead Wool are still flourishing, the horse-drawn carts have been replaced by eight-wheel trucks bringing the lead into the village.



"Lead-Wool" was the brainchild of four entrepreneurs connected with the Mid Kent Water Company, who realised the need for a medium for jointing pipes. The invention was patented and The Lead Wool Company Limited was formed by F. L. Ball (grandfather to the present Chairman), E. Packham (grandfather to the present Commercial Director), H. Packham and Col. B. T. L. Thomson. The Victorian era saw a fantastic demand for the product, both on the home market and overseas and an average of five tons of Lead Wool a week was crossing the weighbridge at Snodland to various destinations, thus creating the successful and rapid growth of the company.

Pure lead has, of course, been used in many different ways for hundreds of years and it has proved to be a versatile and hardwearing material under all climatic conditions. It is particularly durable when used in underground water pipes and similar applications. [...] It is made up in skeins of approximately 0.5 kg. and each skein consists of a rope of fibres — the rope being uniform in diameter and thus allowing the jointer using the material to ascertain how many skeins per joint are required. Also, supervising engineers are able to check that the recommended quantity of material per joint is being used. The Lead Wool Company Limited instigated the principle of cold caulking for pipe jointing and this method of sealing joints in cast iron, spun iron and steel pipes has been

applied worldwide. The success and efficiency of this application is largely due to the method of manufacture of the Lead Wool, which ensures that the original softness of the virgin pig lead is retained in the finished product, a quality that serves to produce a homogenous joint for many applications, and its ability to be cold-worked enables it be used in emergency situations for the repair to water, gas and sewage mains. This unique material is also used for expansion joints in concrete, closing cracks in reservoirs, sealing off joints in interlocking steel piping and many other applications.

To complement the manufacture of Lead Wool the company also produces complete sets of caulking tools for making Lead Wool joints, cutting out tools, chisels and pipe cutters.

Lead wire and lead tape also form an important part of the company's production. They are both manufactured in a wide range of sizes for pipe and tunnel caulking, jointing steel segments and electrical applications. Pig lead is also supplied for run-lead jointing when preferred to Lead Wool sealing for cavities.

Jute spun yarn (in 15 kg. coils) is supplied to provide a material that will enter the joint without dividing, and thus reduce the overall time spent on making a joint.

Most of these lead products have been manufactured since the inception of the company and have been proven by time. The company is, therefore, justly proud of the Ministry of Defence approval for the manufacture of all its lead products, including balance and ballast weights.

The site at Snodland is now spread across six acres and just under one hundred employees work in the machine shops, fabrication and storage buildings, spray shops, metal powder buildings and chemical works. The offices front the complex where administrative and executive staff are headed by Managing Director, Royston J. Tranah. [Then follow career details of other directors, omitted here]

The Commercial Director, C. W. Pestell is, as mentioned earlier, the grandson of E. Packham, one of the founders. The Financial Director and Company Secretary is L. C. Denyer, A.C.M.A. The 37-year-old Chairman, William F. Ball, is a professional Engineer (C.Eng. M.I.Mech.E.), and a grandson of one of the founders. The Group Sales Manager, Ray S. C. Wilson, is 33 years of age, married with two children and was educated in the Middle East, Switzerland and England.

About 1929 the company produced its first joint tester.

Today, with just 30 litres of water, a joint of up to 1200 m.m. diameter can be tested, a 1300 m.m. diameter pipe taking just 50 litres of water. Prior to the introduction of the Lead Wool joint tester, it had been practically impossible to test the joints of a large main as work progressed. An enormous quantity of water was required for each test with the problems of blanking off and sustaining end thrust. The testing apparatus consists of three pieces of steel, one centre drum and two outer angle steel rings with two specially constructed tyres which, when inflated, form a seal between the pipeline and the apparatus. Various test pumps are manufactured by the company, ranging from single to twin barrel and high pressure plunger pumps for testing pressures up to 1000 lbs. p.s.i. Following extensive field research, The Lead Wool Company Limited is introducing its new flexible internal pipe joint tester which will be available this summer. The company, with over forty years experience, offers a consultancy and advisory service throughout the various stages of a project, from design up to the final testing.

In conjunction with the various lead products manufactured a subsidiary, formed in 1933, The British Steel Wool Company Limited, specialises in the production of various grades of metallic wools, i.e. aluminium, brass, bronze, copper, monel, steel, stainless steel and zinc. The Company is proud that its Steel and Aluminium Wools are purchased by the M.O.D. for all its requirements. A large percentage of the business is experimental and a technical advisory service is available covering the use of metallic wools in:

Exhaust Systems

Filtration Units (air, gas, liquids and solids)

Acoustic Insulation Systems

Reinforcing Materials

Industrial Cleaning —prior to painting or spraying

Dust Extractors

Foundry Uses, and Gold Refining

In addition, in conjunction with the design section and the sheet metalwork department, the company can undertake the complete manufacture of filter frames, dust extractor units, acoustic panels and exhaust systems. It is also prepared to test for new applications which are continually being developed within the chemical, mechanical, civil and general engineering fields.

The Lead Wool Company Limited does not limit its metal production to lead: various grades of zinc

powder are produced — especially the grade for zinc spraying — as well as zinc pellets and shells. Tin powders and granules and copper granules are also manufactured.

The company's products are exported around the world — Australia, North America, Kenya, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Switzerland and Scandinavia, for use in nuclear power lead radiation shielding, power stations and defence, to name but a few destinations and a few functions.

1956 saw the company's expansion into plant hire. The Engineering Division had been building compressors, sludge pumps and pipe testers and, to offer a plant hire service, became an obvious decision. Throughout the 1960s plant hire was very substantial and led to the company buying mobile cranes. Today, from Snodland the plant hire depot operates a fleet of six mobile cranes of 6 to 15 tons, together with other plant.

In 1966 The Lead Wool Company Limited acquired the chemical manufacturing company which was then in Westerham, Kent. Now integrated at Head Office in Snodland, it continues to act as a product leader, manufacturing chemical cleaners. Borite Brite, one of Britain's leading toilet cleansers, cleans, disinfects and removes hard scale. It is packaged in 5-litre containers or 500 ml. bottles with dispenser caps. In 1982 the company was awarded the Gold Seal by The Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene for maintaining a consistently high standard of quality and merit over ten years of production.

The Engineering Division is active in the design and manufacture of engineering plant and equipment. Contracts covering a wide range in civil engineering, cement production and paper mills have been successfully completed. In keeping with today's and with future demands of the engineering industry, a C.N.C. milling machine and modern profile burning equipment have recently been installed.

As a complete diversion from its manufacturing activities, the company is now looking at the leisure industry. Owing in excess of 1000 ft. of river frontage with car parking facilities and workshops, the development of a marina seems a distinct possibility, as well as building barges and river boats using the facilities available in their fabrication and machine shops.

There are few companies which had their heyday in

the Victorian era and which are still manufacturing the same basic product. With their first one hundred years in sight, the company has weathered world wars, recessions and just about every manmade or natural disaster to remain The Lead Wool Company Limited, unique in its products and technology, with world-wide demand growing daily.

The 1911 Project

Good progress has been made with this project and over 160 families now have at least one picture identified as belonging to them. We are fortunate that the late Gerald Edgeler was very keen to put names to some of the group photographs and so we have two early pictures of pupils at the British Schools in Holborough Road where at least two-thirds of the children are named. Add to those two groups of paper mill workers in 1911 (via the late John Hayes), and some sports teams, and the pictures mount up. We were recently visited by current members of the Wilford family and they have kindly sent not only family photographs, but also three school groups - again from the British Schools.

Web-site

Work is currently in hand behind the scenes to re-vamp the web-site. The format has remained unchanged since Denis Anstey first created it in the early days of the Society. It has served us well and is easy to use. Peter Jefferies (who also looks after the Snodland Town Football web-site) is moving all our material to a new host. In future it will be easier for me to add details of forthcoming events and we hope to expand the range of material on show. My thanks to him for all the work he is putting in to effect the change.

This Newsletter is a first attempt to use Scribus, an Open Source programme, rather than Microsoft Publisher.



Snodland Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 19, Issue 3

www.snodlandhistory.org.uk

September 2016

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Meetings 2016-2017

28 SEPTEMBER 2016: AGM. NB: THE DATE HAS HAD TO BE CHANGED FROM OUR USUAL FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH. Following the business meeting Andrew Ashbee will give a talk on the impact of the railway on Snodland

2 November 2016: We welcome the return of Richard Filmer who will talk on 'The Craft of the Cooper'

7 December 2016: Andrew Ashbee will present the annual slide show of pictures relating to Snodland. This year he will include photographs taken by the late Reg Hunt, which his widow Pauline has kindly donated to the Society.

1 February 2017: Following his most interesting talk last year, David Carder is returning to tell us about 'Discovery and Innovation in the Tudor Period.'

1 March 2017: we look forward to hearing again of another of Eric Baldock's enthusiasms, this time about 'Trams in Kent'.

5 April 2017: to be arranged

3 May 2017: Odette Buchanan, a Strood resident and historian: 'Strood - the Land of Used to Be'

Website

Very many thanks to Peter Jefferies who has masterminded the changeover to our new website

which took place in late June. There are still things to do to update the text of some items, but that and the introduction of more new material will continue as time allows. The first new files are of the memorials at All Saints and in the churchyard there, including illustrations, and also transcriptions of the earliest surviving admission registers of the National (Brook Street) School, kindly made by Valerie Brown.

A Wartime Memory

Mr James Partridge recently wrote to me from Bournemouth about his war-time duties when stationed in Snodland during 1944. With his permission I copy the bulk of his letter here, since it adds to the little we have (from the late John Hamilton in particular) regarding the storing of bombs at Holborough.

'To introduce myself I was in the Royal Air Force during world War II as NCO armourer (Guns and Bombs) and Gunnery Instructor. In June 1944, together with another NCO I arrived at the RAF's Maintenance Unit in Snodland in charge of a large team of armourers, on an unknown mission. On arrival the mission was revealed and why it was veiled in secrecy. Stacked in avenues were hundreds of 60lb armour piercing rockets. These were new because I knew that they weren't on an armourer's training course. Our job was to fit another component part in the fusing system. Delicate and fine skill was required, hence the team of highly trained armourers.

An Aside. Germany had swept through Europe with its Panzer Divisions comprising of Tiger Tanks with their 88mm guns. They were unstoppable. The allied fighter aircraft fitted with .303 and 20mm machine guns found that this ammunition as useless against the Tiger Tanks.

The rocket was born, obviously the work of the Boffins. Fitted to the fighter aircraft they were highly successful in destroying the Tiger Tanks, railway engines and railway yards, so vital to the German war effort, so played a major part after D day in the allies successful advance through France, etc.

On the 13th June, the Germans launched their first V1's. These monstrous flying bombs were designed for indeterminate bombing and to create terror.

On the 15th June I was in charge that night of the unit's fire picket and several V1's flew over the unit. Next morning, whilst engaged on the job, I heard the familiar two-stroke engine and a V1 appeared travelling in the direction of Snodland, followed by a Typhoon fighter aircraft. The pilot tipped the wing of the V1 and it began a shallow dive towards the town. I soon lost view, but was informed that the V1 had appeared to go in the direction of the brickyard, pass low over it, and probably exploded in the brickyard. I went to the scene and found that it had landed on what I now know was the Knob; no-one was injured.

Eventually we did the job and returned to our own unit. I would suggest that it was of historical significance that Snodland was one of the first, if not the first, to store the rocket.

I do not know how long a RAF maintenance unit was in Snodland, but if new, or fairly new, I have often wondered how many citizens of Snodland knew of its existence and what it was housing and later realised, that considering the amount of explosives stored in the unit, that Snodland came very close to suffering such a massive explosion that it would have been, in all probability, declared a disaster area.

I am now 96 years of age, but all the events, etc., that I have portrayed are still clear in my memory.'

William Wenham

It was a shock, a week or so after his last visit, to hear that Bill Wenham had died suddenly of a heart attack. He was certainly the most dedicated visitor to the Museum and came several times each year. In the early days he gave us a number of items which are on display, in particular several school certificates and a silver medal of family members attending the school in Brook Street, and some late nineteenth-century baptism certificates for them. His particular interest was in military history since

six brothers all fought in the First World War. Recently I scanned a number of photographs of them, including this one of Charles Wenham (1894-1973), who was in the Buffs. We also have Charles's army ticket from Snodland to Salonica, which never ceases to amaze me. Bill also loaned for copying a number of letters to his grandmother about the death of his great-uncle Thomas, who had emigrated to Canada as a fireman, but who returned to fight on the Western Front and was killed in September 1918. Bill's daughters knew how much the Museum meant to him and have very kindly donated his fine collection of military history books and videos/DVDs for us to keep or sell for the benefit of the Museum. These include the complete 13-volume set of the history of the Great War published 1914-1919 and the history of the Buffs (1922) which belonged to Charles.



Memorial Inscriptions

Updating our records of the memorials in All Saints churchyard for our web-site led me to look particularly at the comforting words of some of them. There are quotations from the Bible, of course, but it is the other verses which I found interesting. Where did they come from and how old are they? An Internet search has given some information.

34. Elizabeth Perryman (15 Feb 1825) aged 40;
Adela F. I. Wray (12 July 1835, aged 3):

*E're sin could blight, or sorrow fade,
Death came with friendly care;
The opening bud to Heaven conveyed,
And bade it blossom there*

This is *Epitaph on an Infant*, by Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834), published in 1794

40. John Fletcher (2 March 1752, aged 67):

*From mortall Life all Mortalls must Remove
The narrow Lodging of a grave to prove
But those who do in Jesus Christ Believe
The Grave shall not confine nor hell Receive*

Interestingly this is earlier than any other copies shown via the Internet, which includes one from Boxley (published in 1819).

44. Stephen Manley (d.1763) and his wife Elizabeth (d. 1 Jan 1769) and four children who pre-deceased them:

*Farewell vain world I know enough of thee
And now am careless what thou sayth of me.
Thy smiles I court not, nor thy frowne I fear
All cares are past, my head lies quiet here.
What faults you know, take care to shun
And look at home – enough there's to be done*

The earliest version I've seen is dated 1726 in Norfolk.

65. Maria Martin (27 Nov 1884, aged 59):

*Afflictions sore long time I bore
Physicians were in Vain
Till God did please to give me ease
And free me from my pain*

A common epitaph; the earliest seen is 1791. Presumably all those remembered had to suffer in the days before pain-relief could be regularly provided.

70. William George Moore (8 April 1888, aged 26)

*Death has taken many a loved one
From our homes and fond embrace
But the hour of joy is coming
When we'll meet them face to face.
Healing balm for wounded spirit
For the hour will soon appear
And within his glorious kingdom
We shall meet our friends so dear*

Appropriate verses for a family mourning a son who they hoped would outlive them. He was a clerk at the paper mill.

90. William Craft (1776); **William Wingate** (1792); **Elizabeth Townsend** (1808).

*O cruel Death that would no longer spare
My tender Husbands and your Fathers dear
Great is the loss to those they left behind
But they, we hope, eternal joys will find*

These verses are probably original in view of the family circumstances. William Craft and Elizabeth Osbourne, both of Snodland, were married on 1 December 1767. Of four children Rhoda was

buried on 19 September 1782, aged 11, and Elizabeth on 5 May 1780, aged 7. 6 December: 'On Saturday se'night, as Mr. William Craft, a bargeman, was returning in the evening down the river Medway from Newhithe, where he had been to deliver nine chaldron of coals, he unhappily fell overboard, and was drowned. Although every possible means have been used to find the body, yet it cannot be found. He had left a widow and three children.' He was eventually buried on 22 December 1776. Elizabeth Craft, widow, married Robert Clemonds [Clements] of Halling, on 11 February 1779. They had two children. Robert was buried at Halling on 19 October 1781. Elizabeth Clemonds then married William Wingate of Snodland, widower, at All Saints on 12 July 1784; their children Richard died aged 2 (1787) and Elizabeth, died at 18 days. Following the death of William Wingate it seems that Elizabeth married into the Townsend family, but the wedding has not been traced.

91. John Brain (1801)

*After a short but sharp Affliction here
I take my leave of Wife and Children dear
Low here I be in this soft Bed of Dun
Waiting for the Resurrection of the Sun.*

These verses are known (with some variants) from 1727. John Brain was 58 when he died. He was a butcher who lived in Prospect Cottage, Holborough Road and his two sons John and William succeeded him.

And now, in looking for information about early football in Snodland, which Neil Miners is researching, I found a newspaper article of 1893, one of a set of 15 of 'Sunday Visits to Kentish Churches' by 'The "Clerical Rover"'. Snodland is No. 8, and the clergyman was also drawn to the verses on the memorials. He provides details of 18, ten of which are now completely lost. I've added details to our web-site.

John Beech

John was a well-known figure in Snodland and for many years led the scouts. As a member of our Society he was interested in local history and presented some framed drawings to the Museum. He died in February, aged 95, but left £100 to the Society in his will. I hoped to put this to some particular use in his memory, and at the Carnival in

July I was offered a copy of the limited edition of the Domesday Book for Kent with its associated studies. This seemed just the right thing and £100 is a little less than the asking price of the few available copies, so it was acquired and is now at the Museum.

Waghorn

My interest in Waghorn was kindled when I worked on the exhibition about him which we created when the Museum opened in 1999. It has taken 18 years, intermittently, but I have finally published a book on his life. The shop price is £15, but we sell it for £10 at the Museum. By a curious chance, at the same time Wetherspoons has opened a restaurant-bar at 14, Railway Street, Chatham, and has called it The Thomas Waghorn, since it is only a few yards away from his statue. Two artists commissioned to supply art-work to decorate the building came to look at our Waghorn collection at the Museum and have used some of the images, including our ink drawing of him purchased some years ago via e-bay. It is particularly appropriate that 14 Railway Street was once the old Post Office, since Waghorn spent his life trying to speed the mail between England, India and the East. For our help Art for Industry has paid £175 to the Society (+ £25 to me for two books and expenses). I also had the privilege of cutting the red ribbon at the opening on 19th July! It was good to meet up again with Clive Bradburn, who came to our 2000 exhibition. He is also working on a book about Waghorn because it is possible that his family is somehow connected with that of the adventurer, although precise evidence has not yet been found.



In July I was contacted by Andrew Buttrey, who told me that in clearing out the office of his late father he had found a small locked document showing a brass clasp: 'Lieut. Waghorn, R.N., 34 Cornhill'. He had a key made for it and found it was a Letts Diary for 1849. There were only thirteen entries - and three pages of largely illegible text on blank pages at the back - so it doesn't add much to the Waghorn story. But almost nothing is documented concerning his last year, so even this small addition is useful and Mr Buttrey has sent me scans of all the relevant pages. I've added them to the Waghorn Collection at the Museum. The bulk of the entries record debts to various people, some apparently French, and they put some clothing on Waghorn's pleas for government help to pay his dues. Around £475 is listed here. His trip to Malta is listed, but without details other than departure and arrival and payment to a hotel. My short account of the find is to be published in *The Clock Tower* (Friends of Medway Archives) in November. It includes a transcription of all the entries.





Snodland Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 20, Issue 1

www.snodlandhistory.org.uk

December 2016

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Subscriptions.

Subscriptions for the new season are due from 1 September 2016 and should be paid before February 2017, 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 at all possible!)

Meetings 2016-2017

7 December 2016: Andrew Ashbee will present the annual slide show of pictures relating to Snodland. This year he will include photographs taken by the late Reg Hunt, which his widow Pauline has kindly donated to the Society.

1 February 2017: Following his most interesting talk last year, David Carder is returning to tell us about 'Discovery and Innovation in the Tudor Period.'

1 March 2017: we look forward to hearing again of another of Eric Baldock's enthusiasms, this time about 'Trams in Kent'.

5 April 2017: to be arranged

3 May 2017: Odette Buchanan, a Strood resident and historian: 'Strood - the Land of Used to Be'

Website

New this year are the pages of memorials (a) within All Saints church and (b) in the churchyard. In the general tidying up of those by the north wall, two new ones have appeared, some fallen stones have been righted and ivy has been stripped away. One or two listed in 1984 are no longer visible, but the inscriptions were recorded then. Some additions have been made to the 1911 Project photographs together with some early cricket, football and school groups. It is intended to add photographs of parishioners who were here in the 19th century, but who are not on the 1911 census.

Two memorials, two clergymen and their families

The Kent Archaeological Society has recently put on-line the images of the Kentish heraldic ledger stones copied by Nicholas E Toke, who published an account of them in 1929 in *Archaeologia Cantiana*. Our Secretary had a considerable hand in copying the images and her excellent introduction to 'Toke's Ledger Stones' can be read at www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/19/000a.htm. Eventually a nationwide survey 'The Ledgerstones of England & Wales' is planned, but at the moment this is confined to those churches in the care of The Churches Conservation Trust. There are no such stones in Paddlesworth, but All Saints has a ledger stone for a former Rector, John Walwyn, which is in the chancel. My first attempts to photograph it were not successful, so I recently look down extra lighting to try again. Part of it is now hidden under the sanctuary, but the whole inscription was copied by John Thorpe in the 18th century

HERE
 Lyeth ye Body of Mr
 JOHN WALWYN
 Rector of this Parish 31
 Yeares Who departed
 this Life ye 8 day of
 [January, 1712/13 aged 59 years and Mary his wife
 who died the 15th of September 1712 aged 53
 years]



Walwyn was Rector of Snodland from his appointment on 16 December 1680 to his death on 8 January 1713. As parishioners who could read and write, clergy were often called upon to witness wills and there is one touching instance when he and his wife were summoned to the deathbed of a widow, Jane Hawes, on 17 May 1689 to hear her nuncupative (spoken) will:

Being sick of hir sickness at her dwelling house scituate in the parish, of the sickness whereof she dyed, being asked by Mr Walwin, Minister of the said parish, how she would dispose of her estate, replied 'I do give whatsoever I have to my Brothers and Sisters children to be equally devided amongst them. And being asked by the said Mr Walwyn (who thought she had no other relacons than the Hump Back Taylor) how many those Children were, answered foure, which words or words to like effect she uttered and declared as and for her last will and Testament in the presence of the parties whose names are under written: John Walwyn; Mary Walwyn.

In another will of 4 November 1710, William

Pound of Groves Farm, also owner of other property, including Mulberry Cottage in the High Street, bequeathed 'To John Walwyn of Snodland, Clerke, one broad peece of Gold for to preach my funeral sermon'



Like many ledger stones Walwyn's has a heraldic coat of arms, now rather worn, but described by John Thorpe in *Registrum Roffense* (1769) as 'a bend ermine, in chief a dog, all within a border, impaling on a chevron three unicorns heads erased, and the crest a dragon holding a spear in his mouth.' My tentative description is: [on the left side] a shield with a diagonal band running from top left to bottom right, the band decorated with an ermine pattern; a dog at the top of the shield; a border round the shield; impalement divides the left and right halves (for arms of husband and wife), so in the right half the chevron (an inverted V) shows the three unicorn heads each with a jagged neckline.

The Walwyn family were established in Herefordshire. Both John's grandfather Richard (1598-1653) and father Robert (c1622-1659) were clergymen. Richard entered Jesus College, Oxford in 1616 and became Rector of Madresfield, Worcester in 1620, but there is no other record of him there. Interestingly a Gabriel Wallweyne was a former Rector in 1595-6. By 1622 Richard seems to have settled in Colwall, Herefordshire, where his son Robert was born and baptised. Little is known about Robert, but in 1640 he was the vicar at Olney, Buckinghamshire, and in 1654 published *A plea for a reproached ministry* as minister of Olney. By 1655 he had become minister at St Lawrence, Towcester, Northamptonshire, and was buried there on 17 June 1659.

John was born about 1654 and matriculated from St Margaret Hall, Oxford, on 14 April 1671, aged 17, proceeding to his B.A. on 24 October 1674. On 27 February 1679 he married Mary Eckins at Westminster Abbey. The Madresfield connection brought the Walwyns into contact with an important family, the Lygons of Madresfield Court. John calls William Lygon 'my honoured friend' in his will and asks him to negotiate the sale of Woodsfield Farm [at Madresfield and only about a mile away] and share the money between his wife and family. Other bequests included one to his eldest son Thomas: 'my whole study of books (excepting 3 or 4 which his mother shall think fit to make choice of) and my silver tobacco box.' The younger son John was to receive 'a large silver tankard with our coat of arms engraven on it.' Among those receiving mourning rings was 'my kinsman Charles Walwyn of Maidstone'. He was the long-serving master of Maidstone Grammar School from 1696 to 1740. Born at Kentchurch, Herefordshire, Charles was a scholar at Eton and was admitted to King's College, Cambridge, in 1688, becoming a Fellow there in 1692. He was ordained as deacon at Lincoln on 12 February 1693 and it was Maidstone Corporation who three years later appointed Rev, Charles Walwyn, M.A. to be the schoolmaster.

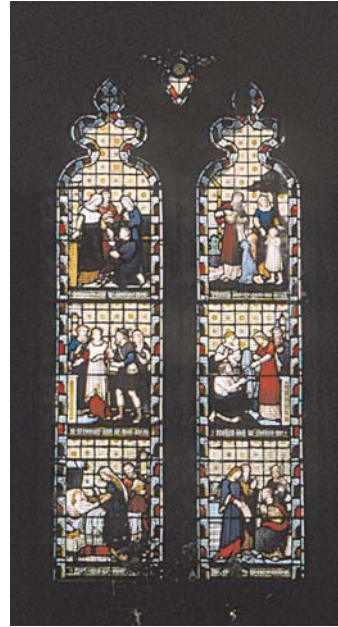
From 1874 to 1880 the Rev, John Walter Parrington was the curate at All Saints. He was born at Cirencester on 26 April 1859, the son of Matthew and Lucy. He attended Marlborough College before being admitted



to Christ's College, Cambridge, in 1870. On leaving in 1874 he was ordained deacon at Rochester, and became the curate at Snodland; he was priested on 19 December 1875. In 1880 John transferred to become curate at 'New Hythe', perhaps Larkfield?, but after a year he was made vicar of East Dean with Friston, Sussex, remaining there until 1900. He married Amabel Margaret Hayward on 17 May 1881 and they had four daughters and two sons. Between 1900 and 1918 he was vicar of St Barthomomew, Chichester, and

then briefly of Burpham, Sussex, where he died on 24 January 1919 and is buried.

Since John had moved from Snodland in 1880, (not far, it is true), it has always been a puzzle why his father Matthew received a commission to design the 'Six Acts of Mercy' stained glass window in memory of Ann Roberts, who died on 18 May 1881.



The window was made by William George Taylor of Berners Street, London and was installed in 1883 to a design by 'the late Canon Parrington', that is the Rev Matthew Parrington (1807-82), Prebendary and Canon Residentiary of Chichester, and sub-dean, vicar of Felpham, and rural

dean, for 20 years principal of Bishop Otter College, Chichester. The solution to the puzzle came from the team names of a cricket match between 'Snodland' and the Royal Engineers on 14 August 1880, for there listed next to each other in the Snodland team were 'Rev. J. W. Parrington' and 'M. B. Parrington'. The venue is not given, but my guess it was at Holborough Court, where the Royal Engineers often came to play polo matches. A further reason is that Matthew Beaumont Parrington had recently become the estate manager and he turns out to be the younger brother of John and the person much more likely to have arranged for the design. His employer was of course William Lee Roberts who presumably commissioned the window to remember his mother Ann. M.B. was born in Chichester on 8 April 1853 and seems to have remained there until taking up his post in Snodland; no doubt his brother had a hand in suggesting or obtaining it. He married Edith Clara Hutton at Bromley in 1882 and they had two sons, both born in Snodland. Censuses describe him as "Manager of Lime & Cement works (1881), living in 'Portland Cottage', Halling, which seems to be near the Snodland boundary, but soon he was perhaps the first resident of what was



called 'Holborough Cottage' in New Road. He was the estate agent, and a farmer; the last directory to name him here is 1895. By 1911 he had become a farmer at Exbury, Hampshire and died at Lambeth in 1918. Incidentally the 1880 Snodland cricket team included the Hon. D. Finch and the Hon. C.

Finch, suggesting that W.H. Roberts had called upon the 7th Earl of Aylesford to boost his team. Charles and Daniel Heneage Finch were sons of the 6th Earl of Aylesford, a noted amateur cricketer, who had played for the MCC. Snodland won.

Membership

For most of its existence Snodland Historical Society has had a membership exceeding 100. But, as was mentioned at the AGM, in the last couple of years or so subscriptions have fallen off considerably and we need to address the problem. Your committee held a lively and useful discussion in November to consider what might be tried and we would be glad to hear of any views and suggestions which you might have. I may compile a questionnaire for any willing to contribute ideas. In the mean time here are some of the points raised at our discussion.

For the record: around 226 people have applied for membership since we started, of which 48 are known to have died subsequently and around 34 are distant members who are unable to attend meetings. Very few have joined recently. Why? It was questioned whether the title 'Snodland Historical Society' would seem too forbidding to some prospective members. The venue is not ideally placed for the whole town and could be dark and inconvenient for some to get to, especially in winter. But both the Community Centre and Christ Church hall have regular groups on Wednesday evenings and even if available would cost more. STC allows us half-price for our meetings and does not charge for the Committee ones. We can keep screen, etc., nearby in the Museum.

Outreach. (1) The chairman will offer a talk on Holborough to the Holborough Lakes Residents

Association, which it is hoped would be a means of notifying them both of the history of the area and of the existence of our Society and the Museum. (2) We are not alone as a Society in having no young members. Perhaps this is unlikely to change, but we will try to establish contact with Holmesdale and hopefully ask the older students for their views on what if anything they would find interesting and useful in the work and aims of SHS. It was also pointed out that they are more likely to be interested in Snodland after 1950 than before, so we should provide more up-to-date material. (3) We have not kept up with the ever-changing technological advances of modern society. Many people now use phones rather than computers to access the internet, etc. We think we should create a Facebook page for the Society which will (a) provide a less formal view of our work and meetings; (b) provide a link with those already using Facebook for Snodland news, and who never seem to access our web-site or our pictures in the Kentphotoarchive. Family history is a prime topic and it would be useful for both groups to pool resources in information and pictures. **We would need a volunteer/leader to monitor this resource.**

Membership. It is proposed that we add an Online membership for those living away from Snodland, who would receive e-mail copies of the Newsletters; suggested fee £5, to be agreed. This could be combined with a section in the Facebook folder for those giving or seeking information on Snodland families. Statistics from the web-site show the USA as by far the greatest visitor after the UK, with Australia third. Currently there is hardly any use by Canada, which is surprising given much emigration from Snodland in the past. Other countries feature little.

Payment. Again habits have changed, so we will provide an application form on our web-site, which can be completed electronically. It is suggested that we set up payments through PayPal in combination with this. We would also make it possible to pay via on-line banking if requested by individual members.

A suggestion for other activities: 'visiting other museums, historical events, places, field digs, etc.' is fine, if someone is prepared to organize such things. Maybe too we should appoint someone to supervise advertising the activities of the Society?



Snodland Historical Society

Newsletter

Volume 20, Issue 2

www.snodlandhistory.org.uk

April 2017

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Meetings 2016-2017

5 April 2017: Len Feist will give a talk on Temple Manor, Strood, and the Templars

3 May 2017: Odette apologizes that poor health has forced her to cancel the talk she was to give us. Denis Anstey is in the process of digitalising old videos he made of Snodland and district in the 1960s and 70s and he has kindly stepped in and will be showing some of these.

On Friday 5th May, Andrew Ashbee has been asked to give a talk as part of the Birling Church Heritage Weekend. This will be entitled 'Birling and Snodland and the bonds between them'. The weekend will principally feature 'a display related to life of John Black who is buried in Birling churchyard and was the editor of the *Morning Chronicle* who first recognised Charles Dickens' potential as a writer.'

Neil Miners has been researching football in Snodland from its beginnings and here gives an account of the early days of Snodland Minors. He would be grateful for any identification of the players on the photographs and can be contacted at neilminers@gmx.co.uk

THE SNODLAND MINORS BECOME

SNODLAND FOOTBALL CLUB 1948-1957

The first written record of "Snodland Minors Boys

Football" is found in the Parish Council minutes from a meeting held on 25 May 1948. Mr John Morhen, secretary of the Minors, had written to the Council to request that the Minors be allowed to play football in the Recreation Ground. This request was granted, and for the first time, organised football was played in the Rec. John Morhen was from Eccles and served in the First World War, by the late 1940s he was living in Portland Place and died in 1969.

Research conducted so far about the early history of the Minors and Snodland Football Club suggests there was no continuity between the Minors and any of the village's teams from before the War. The pre-war Snodland FC became Townsend Hook FC, who continued playing at the pitch behind the Queen's Head Hotel. Sadly, Snodland Invicta and Snodland West End vanish from the Maidstone and District Leagues.

To date, no match results from the Minors era have been discovered, but the Council minutes reveal that the Club was ambitious and wanted to improve the facilities at the Recreation Ground. In December 1948 the minutes record that John Morhen contacted the Council to request permission to erect a hut for changing. But the bye-laws prohibited the erection of any buildings on the Recreation Ground, so the Minors eventually acquired a small piece of land just adjacent to the Rec at the rear of 95 Birling Road. The Club asked for permission to erect a gate from this piece of land onto the Rec in June 1950. "After considering this matter" the minutes record that, Councillor Norman "proposed permission be given, pointing out to the Minors this in no way gives them a right of way onto the Recreation Ground, also that an application must be made annually." The gate was installed and would

become a familiar sight to hundreds of football players over the next four decades. It is unclear when the changing rooms were erected, but they are described as a “dressing room” in the minutes from 1953 and more grandly as “the pavilion” in 1956.

The Minors put a lot of effort into improving the playing facilities. The Council noted at a meeting in June 1949 that the “Boys Football Club had spent considerable time and labour to level their pitch”. The Recreation Ground was purchased by the Parish Council in 1924 and in the 1940s it still resembled an agricultural meadow rather than a sports ground or park. However, the Minors were careful to protect their pitch: when the Summer Fair was granted permission to use the Rec in 1952, Councillor Loader “reported that he had spoken to Mr Morhen regarding the Fair and they were prepared to guard their pitch to see it was not damaged by the Fair vehicles.” By April 1955 further work had been completed by the Minors, and Councillor Pout “asked that a letter be sent to the committee of the managers of the Snodland Minors Football Club about their splendid efforts and work given to making their club a success.” The Council agreed.

In July 1956 John Morhen wrote to the Council requesting permission to use the Rec for League football. This was agreed, along with permission to use the gate into the Rec. The Minors had entered the Maidstone and District Football League Division 3B, and would play their first competitive game as “Snodland Football Club” on Saturday 1 September, 1956.

The league team was a mix of the older boys: “Toddy” Imms, Ken Morhen (son of John), Peter Cook, Keith Allingham, and men: Cyril Bate and Ron Cook. Although there are no written records confirming the club’s colours, everyone who can remember the late 1950s concurs that Snodland always played in distinctive green shirts.

The first competitive league game was away at Collier Street and the Kent Messenger reported that Saturday 1 September started the new season in style; among the new clubs that had a game on Saturday, Snodland began in fine style, handing out a 5-0 thrashing to an off-form Collier Street.” A perfect start to Snodland Football Club’s history:

a convincing win and a clean sheet.

There were thirteen teams in Division 3B in 1956/7. Snodland and Collier Street were joined by: Mereworth, Shepway Colts, Offham, Tilling Stevens Reserves, Frittenden, Marden British Legion Village Reserves, Reeds Corrugated Cases Tovil Reserves, Headcorn Reserves, Staplehurst Reserves, Hunton, and Maidstone Gas Reserves.

No match reports have been found from the 1956/7 season, but luckily some of Snodland’s results are recorded in the Kent Messenger. Snodland won their first five games, and were top of Division 3B by October. Mereworth were second, Shepway Colts third and Collier Street fifth. Snodland played next on Saturday 30 November, winning 9-1 away at Reeds CC Tovil. The result put them third in the table on 12 points. Snodland played two further games in 1956, unfortunately the scores and opposition are unrecorded, but the 100% record ended with a draw, as the first league table of 1957 finds them in third place: played 9 with 8 wins and one draw.

Snodland enjoyed an amazing run of form in the league during February and March 1957. The recorded results are: Snodland 6-3 Shepway Colts; Snodland 9-1 Collier Street; Marden BLV Reserves 1-9 Snodland; Staplehurst Reserves 2-9 Snodland. It is fair to say that a new footballing force was now established in the Maidstone and District League. By the end of March Snodland were second (P16, W15 D1 pts 31) with Shepway in first place (P20 W17 D2 L1 pts 35). With the finish line in sight, the Snodland juggernaut wasn’t about to ease up, and the club won all its remaining games, overtaking Shepway Colts to become Division 3B champions – the club’s first honour, and with no league defeats, the 1956/7 players earned the right to be remembered as “The Invincibles”.

Off the field, the relationship with the Parish Council remained excellent. In June 1957, “after a discussion, Councillor Norman proposed that permission be granted for use of the Recreation Ground and entrance to the pavilion for the 1957-58 season as no complaints had been made during the last season’s play. This was seconded by Councillor Saul”.

The top picture is the 1956/7 team. The date of the lower one is unknown

Following a name change in 2012, the club is still going strong today as Snodland Town Football Club and currently plays in Division 1 of the



Snodland FC would be playing in the next division up, 2A, from September 1957. Ten years of organizing and hard work by John Morhen and the "committee of managers" had established a football club that would continue to rise through the Maidstone and District Football League.

Southern Counties East Football League.

Tales from another memorial

Among the memorials now stacked against the north wall of All Saints churchyard is a sandstone



one with the following inscription: In affectionate remembrance of / JOSIAH GAY / who departed this life / 22nd August 1861 aged 22 years / Also ROZETTA THWAITES / who died 15th December 1878 / aged 29 years / Also WILLIAM HENRY GAY / their beloved father / who died 1. November 1879 / aged 62 years Also DIANA / their darling mother / who died 14th May 1881 / aged 62 years

William Henry Gay (1818-1879) was born in Hackney on 27 May 1818. However, the birth was registered in the Baptist church at Popes Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, as were two brothers: Robert, in 1814 and Charles in 1820. Charles too was born in Westminster, but presumably the family were living in Hertfordshire. On 11 September 1837 William married Diana from Maidstone, daughter of Thomas Busbridge, a paper maker, at St Pancras parish church, Middlesex. Their first son, George Frederick, was born at 'Watford' on 26 April 1838, but the next five children were born at Abbots Langley, Herts, nearby. Abbots Langley had two important paper mills established by John Dickinson (1782-1869) and it seems WHG worked there. But in 1848 Thomas Harris Busbridge and George Frederick Busbridge, brothers of Diana, took over management of the paper mills at East Malling and the family moved there. The last son Charles Robert Gay was born at East Malling in June 1849. Michael Fuller writes 'The Busbridge partnership was not particularly successful and was dissolved at the end of 1853 or the beginning of 1854. In 1857 G. F. Busbridge and Joseph Samuel Hodge entered into a papermaking partnership.' [*The Watermills of the East Malling and Watlingbury Streams* (Maidstone, 1973), p. 40]. This change might have been the reason for the family to move again, since they came to Snodland. The Gays were Non-conformists. Two sons, George and William, became members of the Independent [Congregational] church in February 1858, but in October 1859 William was dismissed for 'immoral conduct' and George for his 'very unchristian manner'.

Nevertheless the Gay family made quite a reputation for themselves as a musical group which

performed throughout the area, helping raise funds for various churches and causes. On 2 April 1860 they returned to East Malling: 'a family of vocalists, including Mr Gay and his seven children, gave a sacred concert at the Wesleyan Chapel in this place. The performances elicited much praise from the audience, and great credit is due to Miss Rosa Gay for the excellent manner she performed her part in "Train up a child". We are sorry to say, however, that the audience was very limited.' The seven children would have included both George (aged 22) and William (aged 14), as well as Josiah (21), Thomas (18), Louisa (16), Rosetta (11) and Charles (10). Sadly Josiah died the following year as the memorial shows. On 17 November 1860 they gave a second concert at East Malling, this time to 'a large and respectable audience' and Rosa [Rosetta] repeated her party piece. 'Too much praise cannot be bestowed on Mr. Gay for the talented manner in which he has trained his family. A vote of thanks was given to Mr. Gay for his gratuitous services. The concert was given for the benefit of the chapel.'

Three days later W. E. Hayman from West Malling lectured on 'Garibaldi and the Italians' to Snodland Mutual Improvement Society, a very topical subject given Garibaldi's victory in the 'Expedition of a Thousand' that year. 'Mr Gay and family enlivened the evening with some appropriate pieces, and the popular piece "Garibaldi" brought the proceedings to a close.'

In 1861 there were concerts in Burham, West Malling, and Borough Green. At the Burham concert on 23 January 'Several solos and duets were sung extremely well by the Misses Gay, also the other selections were rendered in an efficient style. "The Happy Union" was several times encored, and all present were highly gratified with the entertainment. Half of the proceeds were given for the benefit of the chapel.'

Apart from Josiah's untimely death later that year, it is likely that William also left the group since he took up a post assisting a grocer in Gravesend and ten years later had his own grocer's shop in London. George was married around this time (although precise details are unknown); his wife Emma came from Chatham. In 1862 and 1863 the family teamed up with the Birling Band, then making a name for itself under the direction of Mr

Bishop, and three concerts are reported in the newspapers. They proposed another in aid of the impoverished Lancashire cotton employees, following national appeals. Their last known concert was in the British Schoolroom at Snodland on 8 May 1863, in aid of the West Kent Hospital.

In 1861 George and Emma were living in 5 Prospect Place, Holborough Road. He was a paper glazer, working at the mill. But a few years later he blotted his copy book, for the South Eastern Gazette reported that ‘George Frederick Gay, 29, letter carrier, was charged with stealing a post letter containing an order for £1 7s. 6d.; also with stealing a letter containing an order for £2; and further with stealing a letter containing 241 postage stamps, at Birling, on the 14th, 24th, and 29th of September last [1867]. Mr. Rinton, on behalf of the prisoner, said all the money that had been taken was restored, and called the Rev. J. G. Carey, rector of Snodland, who said that he had known the prisoner for two years. He had got him the appointment under the Post-office, and he had known nothing against him. Prisoner was sentenced to 18 months’ hard labour, dating from the time when he was first taken into custody.’

By 1871 the census shows George’s family had moved to 13 Tomlyn’s Cottages in Birling Road and he had become a ‘Tea Dealer’. The census also notes he had lost one arm, but it is not known when and where this happened. It was George’s turn to uphold the law in August that year when a neighbour suffered a theft. ‘Thos. Webb was charged with stealing a quantity of growing onions, value 1s. 6d., the property of James Hills, at Snodland, on the 1st July. George Frederick Gay deposed to seeing the prisoner in Mr. Hills’ garden, and when he saw witness he ran away, and Mr. Hills deposed that he missed 8 onions from his garden. – Fined £1, costs 10s., and 1s. 6d. the value of the onions.’

Maybe his tea-dealing was just a secondary venture, and by 1881 George was employed at the paper mill as a ‘paper finisher’. The family were now living in Malling Road, with two lodgers, one of whom, Richard Beale, was still with them ten years later. George had become a printer and Beale, now aged 18, was one too. We have one example of his work at the Museum: the Snodland Cemetery table of fees and charges and rules and regulations

dated 3 March 1896. We also have a picture of George in late life, as an official with the cricket team in 1902.



George and his wife are buried at the cemetery, grave no. 422: Headstone and kerb. In loving memory / of / GEORGE FREDERICK / the beloved husband of EMMA

GAY / departed this life July 18th 1908 / aged 70 years / *Sleep on beloved* / Also EMMA GAY / beloved wife of the above / who passed peacefully away / May 31st 1911, aged 68 years / *Peace perfect peace*

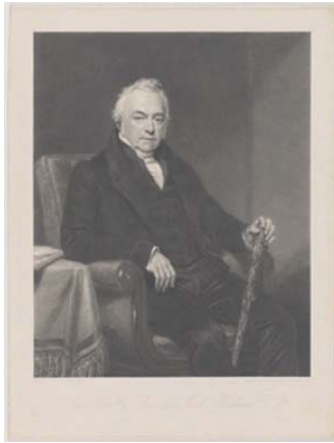
East Window at Christ Church

In the course of research into various links between Birling and Snodland for my forthcoming talk, some interesting discoveries have come to light.

First: I have long pondered who Rev. Jacob Marsham was, the dedicatee of the east window at Christ Church: ‘To the Glory of God & in memory



of the Rev. Jacob Marsham this window was erected by his niece Louisa [i.e. Mrs. Ralph] Nevill & other relations & friends, 1897’. He was the third son of Robert Marsham, 2nd Baron Romney, of the Mote, Maidstone (d.1794) and was born there on 23 February 1759. All of Robert’s farms in Snodland, Halliing, and Birling were sold in 1808: Punish,



Clements, Cox's, Austin's and Holborough. Jacob went to Christ Church, Oxford aged 17, but from 23 June 1783 he was at King's College, Cambridge, gaining his MA in 1783 and DD in 1797. He was granted prebends at Bath and Wells in 1789,

Rochester in 1797, and was made a Canon of Windsor in 1805, all except the first he held until his death. As well as receiving these eminent places (prebends were monies paid to the recipient from cathedral sources), he served as Rector of Wilmington, Kent, 1800-40, Edburton, Sussex, 1800-1840, Kirkby Overblow, Yorks, 1804-40, and Vicar of Wateringbury 1827-40. Presumably he paid curates to serve in his stead.

It is very curious that Louisa is called 'niece' in the wording, because I think she was actually Jacob's grand-daughter. Jacob married Amelia Frances Bullock at St George, Hanover Square, London, on 28 June 1784 and Emily Eleanor Marsham was the sixth of their eight children, born on 10 February 1803. Emily married Charles Fitzroy Maclean at Wateringbury on 10 May 1831, but died on 12 April 1838. Their daughter Louisa Marianne (who became Mrs Ralph Nevill) was born in 1833, so would only have been five when her mother died. Nevertheless she remembered Jacob in this window, created 57 years after he died.

More family connections

Beside the path and near the door into Birling church are three matched gravestones. They are for members of the Summerton family, who lived at



Ham Hill. The central stone commemorates Sophia (1789-1863), who married William Patten Wilson (c.1795-1884), and Wilson himself. For around twenty years between about 1827 and the late 1840s Wilson had a small-holding with an orchard situated between

Covey Hall farm and the Clock Tower. He then became the victualler at the Crispin and Crispianus pub at Strood before a spell in Chatham, but in 1871 he was back at Ham Hill. He died in Maidstone in 1884. What I hadn't realized before pursuing research via the Ancestry web-site, was that William was Sophia's second husband. She had first married Samuel Dove at St James, Westminster, on 3 April 1810. Three children were born to the couple at Bothwell, Lanarkshire, Scotland: Sophia in 1811, Samuel in 1813, and another (name unknown) in 1814. Sophia's husband died in 1820 (details still to be found). I remembered that a Samuel Dove was a coachman to Thomas Fletcher Waghorn and wondered whether he could be the same man, or related. Charles Roach Smith wrote:

The late Mr. Samuel Dove of Rochester—a retired officer of the Customs—worked for Waghorn in his younger days. Mr. Dove was a native of Snodland; later on he left Waghorn's service for the Customs, feeling probably that it was the wiser course before he had broken his neck.

Driving one day to Rochester. they had reached Wickham Hill. This old road has a sharp gradient with a short abrupt curve to the east at its foot. Waghorn was driving with his customary vehemence. Mr. Dove implored him to be careful. "We're all right, 'Sam, hold on tight," he replied. They soon were, for on turning the corner, over went the chaise, up the bank, over the low hedge into the field, the four wheels spinning round in the air. Up jumped Waghorn, "Are you all right, Sam?" "Yes, Sir," replied Sam. "Then help me with the horse and to turn the chaise over!" said Waghorn, and off he went again as if nothing had happened.

The only reference we have to a Samuel Dove in parish records is his marriage to Bertha Wray at Snodland on 10 May 1842. His profession then was already 'Officer in Her Majesty's Customs' and that of his father 'Coachman'. But confirmation that this is indeed Sophia's child is that a witness to the marriage was Emma Sarah Wilson – Samuel's half-sister. Bertha died in Rochester in 1893 and Samuel in Weymouth in 1904.



Snodland Historical Society Newsletter

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Subscriptions.

Subscriptions for the new season are due from 1 September 2017 and should be paid before February 2018, 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 2017-18

4 October 2017 AGM. Following the business part of the meeting Andrew Ashbee will give his talk 'Birling and Snodland and the bonds between them'

1 November 2017 Mary Smith, a former headmistress at Maidstone Grammar School for Girls, will talk on 'A Schoolgirls' War'. The material is gathered from diaries and reminiscences of those who were at the school during WWII, including Daphne Baker from Snodland, whose diary we have at the museum. The art mistress made many illustrations at the time, which will be shown. Mary has published a book on which the talk is based.

6 December 2017 Andrew Ashbee will give another slide show of pictures of the district, including any new ones found in the last year.

7 February 2018. I am very pleased that David Carder has accepted our invitation to speak again—this year his topic is 'Historic Agricultural Buildings'.

7 March 2018. We are delighted to welcome Jeremy Clarke for the first time. He will speak on 'The Medway Prison Hulks'. I heard him give this talk a year or so ago and it is fascinating. Jeremy is the Education Officer based at the Guildhall Museum, Rochester.

4 April 2018. To be arranged.

2 May 2018. To be arranged.

Various news items

The new Medway Archives Centre finally opened on 3 July 2017 in what was the old Strood Library in Bryant Road, having moved from its former site behind the Shopping area. There is still some cataloguing and organising to be finished before things are back to normal, so at the moment it is wise to pre-book to order specific documents.

We have bought two more CDs for the Museum, made by Ron Martin of the Malling Society. The first contains the registers of St James, East Malling, 1570-1900. This is particularly useful in helping trace some of the papermakers who worked both at East Malling and Snodland. I was surprised to find that virtually all the children of George Gay (mentioned in the April 2017 Newsletter) were all baptised at East Malling (although many had been born in Hertfordshire): six on 30 November 1848 and one on 5 January 1850. As well as the Gay family others at both parishes included Robert Wagon/Waghorn, John Plowman (whose two daugh-

ters both became teachers; Sarah is among those at the National School, Snodland, in the 1879 photos), James Weeden and William Jordan.

The other CD records the births and baptisms 1870-1936 and deaths 1870-1914 at the Malling Union Workhouse. These add to names previously on our database, although most of the deaths are known because burials took place at the 'home' parish.

We have begun up-dating the Post-1800 database by adding the information from the National School (Brook Street) registers from



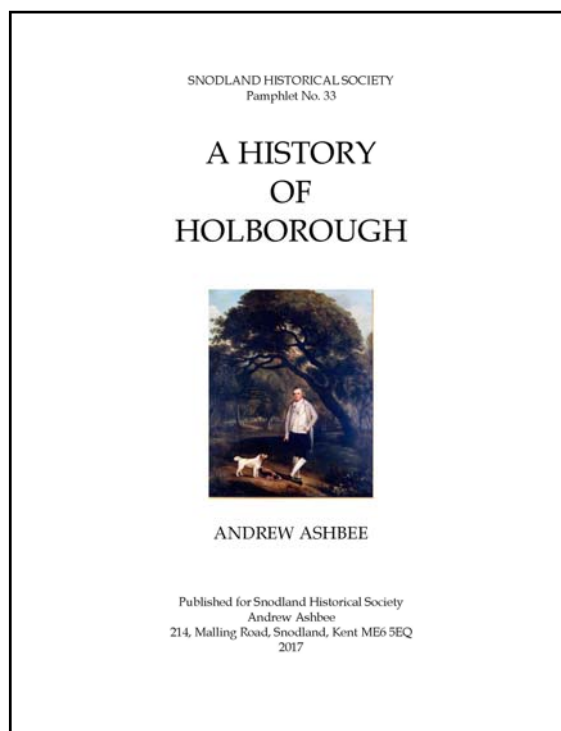
the infants, boys and girls admission registers. These often show where people came from, or went to: former schools are often mentioned and 'left the district', 'removed to Watringbury', and the like is useful to know. A surprising number of pupils came from the 'Cottage Homes' in Snodland, who looked after waifs and strays.

Charles Spackman Barker

In the December 2013 Newsletter I wrote about Charles Spackman Barker, who is buried in All Saints churchyard in an unmarked grave. He is an important figure in the development of organs: the 'Barker-lever' solved

the problem (which had become acute) of ever-larger instrument becoming increasingly difficult to play as the action became heavier. In April-May I corresponded with a Frenchman who is writing a full account of Barker and he suggested that it would be good to have a memorial to Barker at All Saints. Recently I have had further contact with two other organ builders and writers and this idea has taken root. I have spoken to the Rector and the matter has been discussed by your Committee and all are keen for a memorial to be created. The idea is for a brass plaque in the church which would include something like 'In Memory of Charles Spackman Barker 10 October 1804 — 26 November 1879, who is buried in this churchyard' followed by some short statement of his invention and its importance. We would also like to include an engraving of the organ he erected for the Great Exhibition in London in 1851, pictured, and which is now at the church in the very picturesque town of Vitré in Brittany. The organ-loving fraternity will be asked to support the venture and I will consult experts in the hope that someone can write a pamphlet on Barker which can be made available in the church and elsewhere.

A History of Holborough



With the Holborough Lakes development continuing to expand it seemed a good idea to write about Holborough and its long history. In many ways Holborough has as much claim to be the principal settlement of the parish as Snodland itself and indeed the earliest surviving evidence of habitation here is at Holborough with the round-house discovered before the first trenches were dug. Then there were the mid-twentieth century excavations of the two barrows formerly on 'The Knob', one Prehistoric and the other Roman. As part of the Bishop of Rochester's Manor of Halling Holborough is well documented, with the mill being a very important element. When the Tithe map was drawn up in 1842 Holborough then was as large as Snodland, with many old houses, whose occupants mostly served on the estate of Holloway Court. All changed with the coming of lime and cement manufacture in 1817 and that came to dominate the area. Most of the old houses disappeared during the nineteenth century and today just a few remain to show how pretty the hamlet once was. I have traced as much as I can of the early inhabitants: the Canons, the Ushers, the Taylors. and others, and have presented what we know of the history of the properties, many of which are no longer there. At the museum we have a typescript account of the early years of the Holborough Cement Works by a Mr Todd of Halling, and this forms the core of my account of the works and its use of the big house until the latter was demolished in 1932.

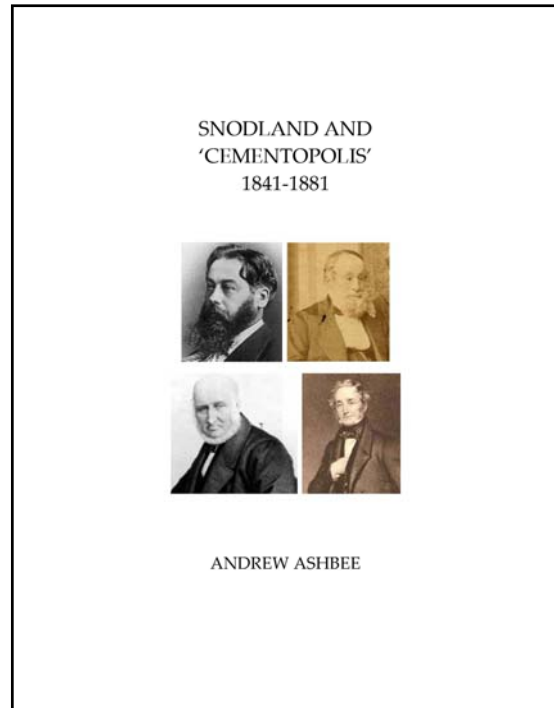
[A4 size, 24 pages, illustrated. £3]

**Snodland and 'Cementopolis'
1841-1881**

For some time I have worked on a study of the development of Snodland and district between 1841 and 1881 and I'm pleased to say that this is now freely available on the Kent Archaeology web-site www.kentarchaeology.ac in the e-books section. It comprises 204 A4 pages.

My introduction begins:

“'Cementopolis' is a word coined by Victorian newspaper writers to describe the group of industrial workings which had grown up on the banks of the Medway, especially in the four parishes of Burham, Halling, Snodland and



Wouldham. Some of the largest lime and cement factories in the country were developed here in what had hitherto been a predominantly rural area and their activities caused some amazement for visitors expecting the delights of the 'Garden of England'".

The book look at the impact on Snodland made by the growth of the cement and paper industries between 1841 and 1881, and also shows links with the neighbouring parishes of Halling, Burham, and Wouldham. Just the population increases between these dates for local parishes show stark differences:

Snodland: 465%
Wouldham: 346%
Burham: 256%
Halling: 195%

Elsewhere:

Aylesford: 102%
Birling: 73%
East Malling: 63%
Cuxton: 5%

Aylesford men often worked at Cubitt's brick and cement works in Burham; the growth of Ham Hill affected the Birling figure; East Malling had its own paper mills; Curiously Cuxton does not seem to

have been affected by the cement works at Whornes Place.

The title is perhaps misleading in that the book is not dominated by cement manufacture. It is rather set out as a series of five essays each focussing on particular aspects of the history: I The Village Grows; II Agriculture, Cement, Paper; III Road, Rail, River; IV Church and School; V The Community. A great deal of use is made of newspapers. Appendices provide statistics (a) from the registers of Snodland, Halling, Burham, Wouldham, Cuxton; (b) summaries of census occupations for the same parishes; (c) comparative population growth for them, and the parishes of Birling, Aylesford, and East Malling. Lists of Snodland cement workers and papermakers 1841-1881. I will keep a paper copy at the museum, where it can also be bought for £10 (+ £3 postage if necessary)

Looking ahead

Anne Moloney was a member of our society for many years and although her busy life prevented her from attending meetings, she often consulted on historical matters. She was keen, for instance, to use local names for new roads, many of which are found in the Holborough Lakes development.. Anne has very kindly bequeathed £1000 to the society. At the same time as we learned of this, a proposal was made for us to consider purchasing a monitor to use in place of the screen, which is cumbersome to erect each time, so the Committee has been investigating this possibility. You will be asked for your opinions on whether to proceed with this at the AGM..

Denis Anstey and I met Karen Sowton to discuss the proposal and Snodland Town Council has agreed that we could go ahead with it. The suggestion is for a 50-inch monitor to be fixed on the West wall of the room, with connections enabling laptops, etc. from visiting speakers to be plugged in. We have obtained an estimate from Holbrook's (at the New Jerusalem church), but find we can obtain the equipment at a lower rate than they offer. Nevertheless it makes sense for them to make the installation, which will have to

be done when the Play School is not in residence. Current figures for you to consider at the AGM are:

Monitor: £686.88 (including VAT)

Wall mounting: £47.52 (including VAT)

VGA and Audio leads: c.£30-£50?

Cable and installation: £24 + £280 (+ 20% VAT)

The equipment would be the property of SHS, but permission could be granted for other groups (e.g. the W.I.) to use it if requested.

Museum Volunteers. For many years Bob Coomber and I have manned the Museum, with occasional help from others. We both feel the time has come when we ought to find others who would be prepared to volunteer to help. The museum holds a growing collection of material and we need more people to know where it is all kept, so as to be able to help visitors with any specific enquiries. It can be a lonely occupation at times—there are some *months* when less than ten visitors come, but there are occasional *days* when we might receive more than a dozen. Around 350 people a year is normal. Many have seen material on our website and come hoping to find more. If you would like to help we would be very pleased to train you!

Pensioners Fair. We have been invited to have a stall at the Pensioners' Fair, to be held at Holmesdale on 27th October, which we will do.

Visitors to meetings. At the AGM I will propose that we increase the visitor's fee for admission to £2 from £1. The £1 fee has been in place since we began in 1997 and is certainly out-of date since we increased our membership fees.



Snodland Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 21, Issue 1

www.snodlandhistory.org.uk

December 2017

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

Subscriptions.

Subscriptions for the new season are due from 1 September 2017 and should be paid before February 2018, 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 2017-18

6 December 2017 Andrew Ashbee will give another slide show of pictures of the district, including any new ones found in the last year.

7 February 2018. I am very pleased that David Carder has accepted our invitation to speak again—this year his topic is ‘Historic Agricultural Buildings’.

7 March 2018. We are delighted to welcome Jeremy Clarke for the first time. He will speak on ‘The Medway Prison Hulks’. I heard him give this talk a year or so ago and it is fascinating. Jeremy is the Education Officer based at the Guildhall Museum, Rochester.

4 April 2018. Irina Fridman, who assists at the Medway archives, will visit us for the first time to give her talk: A Short and Com-

prehensive History of the Jewish Community in Medway from the 1600s to WWI’

2 May 2018. Anne Kneif will make a welcome return to speak on The Women’s Land Army.

Various news items

The Society had a stall at the Pensioners Advice and Information Fair held at Holmesdale on 27 October and organised by our MP Tracey Crouch. It was good to meet several Snodland people living elsewhere in the constituency, two of whom have since visited the museum.

Following agreement by members at the AGM, the Society has purchased a 50” monitor. It has been installed by Holbrook’s and was first used at the meeting in November with great success. Colours were very vibrant and there is no longer any need for trailing electrical leads across the room.

Year 3 from St Katherine’s School are hoping to visit the museum soon, the first time we have had a visit from this school.

Jane Colquhoun has very kindly donated £500 to be spent in some suitable way in memory of her parents Owen and Betty Lambert, who were both founder members of our society. I discussed this with her and we decided on a display cabinet for the museum. This has arrived and may well be installed by the time you read this newsletter. She and her husband Ian have also very kindly donated a Xerox Phaser 6125 colour laser printer for the Museum

Medway Archives is holding an Open Day on 13th December at the new premises in Bryant

Road, Strood. We will have a stall there in the morning.

An exciting find

At the end of October, as repairs at All Saints were nearing completion, the archi-



tect was examining the external wall at the East end of the North aisle. A crevice led into what was formerly a chimney (illustrated in a drawing of the 1840s) and, reaching in, she pulled out a crumpled piece of paper .

Initial thoughts were that it was from a printed book, but it soon became obvious that it was part of a manuscript of undetermined date. Comparisons with photographs of early manuscripts suggested to me that it might date from the 15th century and images of it were sent to English Heritage, where my son Jeremy and an expert, Dr. Michael Carter, agreed that my hunch seemed correct. Exactly what the page is cannot be verified until conservationists are able to unravel it, but they think it is part of

a service book of some kind. I am sure that once the whole surviving text can be read it will become clear what it is.

Why was it where it was and when did it get there? These are difficult questions to answer. It seems most likely that the book was put in the fire formerly under the East window in the aisle and that this page floated up before flames consumed it. But how old is the chimney? We have always assumed that the fireplace was installed for the benefit of the Lord of the Manor, whose pew was in that corner under the Rood screen, but that is only a presumption. In his notes Rev. Phelps suggested that the priest may have used the two spaces above the South and North rooms as his living room and bedroom, but to me this seems rather fanciful, especially when he could have lived more comfortably in the room in the tower. Nevertheless the fact that the East window is apparently distorted by heat from the fire indicates that the latter operated over a long period and was of considerable age.

To return to the page: it is in Latin and clearly would have been used in pre-Reformation times, but would become worthless after that. The upheavals of the Reformation are not well documented in our parish, but Eamon Duffy's wonderful book *The Voices of Morebath* brings the turbulence in parish worship vividly to life in rural Devonshire. Rural Kent was probably less rebellious than Devon, but the long-serving Bishop of Rochester, John Fisher, paid with his life in 1535 when he refused to bow to Henry VIII's decree that he, Henry, would be the supreme head of the Church of England in place of the Pope. However, Snodland's Rector, Robert Truslove, was among the clergy who renounced the Papal Authority in 1534, even though he had been a chaplain to Fisher. Not much is known about him. He was collated to the Free Chapel of St Laurence, Upper Halling, on 15 March 1530 and to Snodland two days later (17th), and was instituted to [High] Halstow on 30 September 1533. He had an M.A. degree, but is not listed in either the Oxford or Cambridge records. His Halstow appointment is something

of a mystery since he does not appear among clergy named there. A Robert Truslove became Rector of Elsworth in Cambridgeshire in 1536, but it is not certain this is the same man, although the name and date make it likely. His name appears as Trisselowe, Trusly, and Tenslowe, which complicates searches. He died at Elsworth in 1559 and is buried there. On 12 April 1547 he received the Prebend of Warthill in York Minster, but lost this and his living at the accession of Queen Elizabeth. This suggests that he had reinstated Catholic rites in his parish when Queen Mary reigned. So Truslove would have been the Snodland Rector when further decrees from Henry VIII were first promulgated. In 1536 many of the Holy Days were abolished on the grounds that they reduced the time people could work on the land, and the maintenance of images of saints and payment for lights to burn before them was prohibited. In 1538 further injunctions provided for Cranmer's 'Great Bible' in English to be put in all churches, for registers of births, marriages and burials to be kept, and for a chest for alms for the poor (with two locks). Duffy shows that in Devon at least parishes were often tardy in acquiring these items – often because they had no money to pay for them – but we do not know of Snodland's circumstances at the time.

The curate Richard Grene is documented in Snodland between at least 1523 and 1540, and indeed appears more often than Truslove in the various wills of the time. He was probably a more familiar figure to parishioners than Truslove, who had to look after Halstow too.

William Hall became Rector of Snodland in



1539 and Grene disappears at this time. In 1563 Hall very helpfully recorded that he had lived in Snodland for 24 years; was then aged 54, and was born in Kings Sutton, Northants. Where Truslove only witnessed one extant will of a Snodland parishioner, Hall witnessed eighteen, including most of the prominent people of the parish. Apparently he was unmarried and his will (1571) shows he led a frugal existence, with just a few pewter utensils and bedding bequeathed. These went to the Kember family, where he may have lodged and where William was his godson. Debts owing to him were probably for rents due from those working his glebe land. In 1547 the 1538 injunctions were tightened and clarified: just two lights were now permitted - on the high altar - and the poor man's box now had to have three locks and a hole in the top. This is the pattern of Snodland's chest and all the indications are that it was knocked up from planks similar to those of the two ancient benches from the priest's room in the tower. These in turn seem to have been made out of redundant doors. It would be good to get some dating from dendrochronology for all three items to ascertain the age of the wood. The first indication of Snodland's chest comes very early on, in the will of Joan Tilghman, dated 1 June 1548: 'I gyve and bequeyth to the pore mens boxe in the pari]she churche of Snodland xxd. [20 pence]' so it seems to have been in place by then. From this time there were no more bequests to maintaining the numerous lights formerly in the church.

Images of Saints were also required to be removed from windows. However, there seem to be questions about Snodland's compliance with all the regulations. Writing in the 1840s the Rector, Henry Phelps, makes some interesting comments. Regarding the windows he says:

About Forty years ago all the Windows of the Church & Chancel had their painted Glass entire: one whole length figure in every division, that is two

figures in each Window in the Church - the whole of which nearly were taken out by the order of a stupid, senseless & tasteless churchwarden & fill[ed] with common white Glass, under pretence of rendering the Church lighter. It was done in downright, honest stupidity, for he did not sell the painted Glass or make any advantage of it. It would be worth at the present day many hundred Pounds. The same hand took down the old screens & did all he could to ruin a most beautiful old church, which had come down thus far, in the same state as it was in at the Reformation.

Elsewhere he notes ‘The only Two Lights retaining Painted Glass I took out, repaired, & put in the East end of the North Aisle.’ Remarkably, much of the Rood Screen also remained in his time:

The remains of the Screen on the South side, which supported the Rooms above, similar to that still remaining on the North, are visible at the West End of the Pew, between the Two Pillars on the South Aisle. Another corresponding in height, existed between the Chancel & the Church, the Doors of which, I have had put up at the entrance into the Church from the Tower, after their having laid about neglected & broken & abused for many years, before I knew the Parish. At the same time, probably the Painted Glass, with which all the Windows were filled, was removed & plain Glass put in, & most likely paid for also, in their room. The only Two Lights retaining Painted Glass I took out, repaired, & put in the East end of the North Aisle.

If such elements of pre-Reformation fabric survived for so long without removal or destruction, what then might have happened to the old books? Did they too moulder in some corner for years until someone decided to burn them. We shall never know.

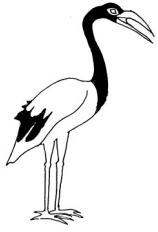
Charles Spackman Barker

The current volume of the *British Institute of Organ Studies Journal* contains the second (of three parts) of Phillipe d’Anchald’s account of Barker’s life and career, and also a separate study of the development of the

‘Barker lever’. I have copied both for the Museum archive. News of the plans for a memorial brass in his memory (with appeals for contributions towards the cost) are being circulated to various organ groups and journals, and the Kent County Organist’s Association is visiting All Saints in February, when I will speak to them about this as well as talking about the present instrument and the history of the church.

I repeat the request of volunteers which was included in the last Newsletter. Peter Rimmer kindly included it in *Downsmail* too, which has brought one encouraging response so far.

Museum Volunteers. For many years Bob Coomber and I have manned the Museum, with occasional help from others. We both feel the time has come when we ought to find others who would be prepared to volunteer to help. The museum holds a growing collection of material and we need more people to know where it is all kept, so as to be able to help visitors with any specific enquiries. It can be a lonely occupation at times—there are some *months* when less than ten visitors come, but there are occasional *days* when we might receive more than a dozen. Around 350 people a year is normal. Many have seen material on our website and come hoping to find more. If you would like to help we would be very pleased to train you!



Snodland Historical Society Newsletter

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Society Meetings 2017-18

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2 May 2018. Anne Kneif will make a welcome return to speak on The Women's Land Army.

General Data Protection Regulation. The *Local History News* of the British Association for Local History has an article alerting societies such as ours to the necessity of complying with GDPR, which comes into effect on 25 May 2018. Apparently we now have to obtain consent from you, the members, for permission to hold such records. We actually have signed forms from members giving names, addresses and telephone numbers (but not e-mails), so I reckon that signified you approved when joining. The forms have been in a box file in my house, but this is now transferred to the Museum. For convenience, I have a list of members' names and addresses on my home computer, but have now added this to the Museum computer at the supervisor's desk. (None of the Museum computers have Internet access.) I also have a computer list of e-mail 'contacts' of those who have stated they would like to receive the Newsletter by e-mail. So I hereby ask for your consent, and will assume I have it unless

I receive a statement in writing refusing permission for us to hold this information. (If you do, I am not sure how we will know that you are a member and wishing to receive details of our activities.)

Schools. In January I wrote a letter to all three primary schools in Snodland asking how we could help them in their local history studies, such as producing publications (paper or electronic) which would be useful. I have received no responses from anyone, except Jenny Dance, curriculum leader at Roberts Road, who had passed on my message to appropriate teachers. So unless they are more forthcoming, there seems no point in pursuing this vigorously at the moment. Instead, I have begun work on a pamphlet looking at Snodland in the time of the Tudors (1485-1601), but this is not aimed at children.

Gerald Cramp, President of the Kent Archaeological Society has made several visits to the Museum recently. Initially this was to work out what the numerous pictures taken of Snodland Roman Villa exactly showed – and we spent a long afternoon comparing views supplied from various sources. He has also copied the 100 or so slides made by Michael Ocock during his excavation of 1967-8 which we hold. Amongst other topics, Gerald is an expert in old maps and has made a quick list of those we have. He has offered to speak to SHS on the subject, so we'll try to fix that next season. At his last visit he brought his collection of Hambrook postcards – particularly of the Longfield, Hartley, Farningham, Kingsdown area (but also Cobham, Rochester and others) – and our collection has taken a great leap forward with around 15 new pictures so far. There are a few more still to see.

A pupil at the British Schools

For a couple of years or so I have been in touch with Madeleine Duffield (now of Whitstable) as she researched the life of her grandmother Elsie Standen (1884-1983). Elsie and her brothers were children of an East Malling baker, but went to school at the British Schools (Clock Tower), Snodland, a journey of 4 miles each way, daily, on foot! Madeleine has now written and published a delightful booklet recording the stories told by Elsie about her schooldays. Madeleine writes 'As my grandparents lived with us they became a regular part of *our* childhood'. She has kindly given a copy to the museum and I have asked her to scan images of Elsie's book prizes and a musical piece 'Britannia and Her Daughters' about the British Empire, since this is a very rare survivor. In the show Elsie was cast as Australia and had four attendants: 'a stockman carrying a whip, a drover with a long stick, a native Australian carrying a boomerang, and his wife whom he calls his "gin". I have learned a speech explaining the riches of the country and we sing songs to show the way of life "down under" then we all sing together "Advance Australia, advance in power and worth, advance Australia in glory on the earth". National costumes were hired and the whole was directed by Mr Clegg, who

Elsie said was 'very interested in music'. We were fortunate to be able to find a class photograph with Elsie (we think: very front row, bottom right) and Mr Clegg (right side of the picture).

Missing Inn Sign

At our (aborted) committee meeting, scheduled for 28 February, Ann Pinder intended to raise the matter of trying to acquire the Bull inn-sign. Matters were taken out of our hands when the sign disappeared on 15 February! Peter Rimmer kindly spoke to the workmen on the site, who said they hadn't realised that it had gone, and in any case they were not allowed to touch it. They gave him a phone number of the firm employed to make the conversion. I tried this, but got no response, so e-mailed them to enquire whether they had removed it, or whether it had been stolen. Again, no response, so we must just hope that something will materialise in due course.

Barker Memorial

We hope soon to apply for permission to install the brass commemorating Charles Spackman Barker at All Saints. Cost is currently £230 and organists have so far contributed £93 towards that. A small metal memorial giving the text on Waghorn's headstone is also being applied for, probably to be placed on the church wall nearby.



Garnsey's shop

I recently received an e-mail from Stephen Loy with details of his grandmother's shop in Holborough Road (beside the Clock Tower). He writes that Sarah Ann Garnsey moved to Snodland from Camberwell in 1928-9 and bought the shop. 'She owned the cottage behind and then built the house around the existing shop and rented out the cottage. She did this on her own as she was widowed in 1929, her husband had been grievously wounded in Salonika and sadly, after many years of pain, he took his own life. Albert Edward Garnsey is buried in Snodland Cemetery. He served in the Royal Field Artillery.' Two early Hambrook pictures of the British Schools show part of the shop when it was a single storey building. One has 'W. Adams' above the door and the other 'E. Lewis'. Elizabeth Lewis had the shop at the time of the 1911 census



Dr Coombe

The British Newspaper Archive throws up surprises from unexpected places. The Scottish 'Mexboro' and Swinton Times' of 10 September 1921 had a fascinating piece about a doctor who became a well-loved figure in Snodland: 'Dr William Coombe, of "Sharrow Lea," Main Street, Mexboro', who has been engaged as assistant to Doctors Hatherley, Gardner and Lee since January of last year, is leaving the district on Monday to take up a partnership at Snodland, near Maidstone, in Kent. His depart-

ture is greatly regretted, for, despite his short period of residence in Mexboro', he has made himself a warm favourite amongst all classes of the community, his genial presence endearing him to the hearts of all with whom he came in contact.



Dr Coombe is a Scotsman, having been born at Bellshill, in Larnarkshire, and he underwent his medical training at Glasgow, qualifying at the beginning of 1915, and receiving the degree of M.B., Ch. B., and B.Sc. He immediately placed his services at the disposal of his country, and was given a commission in the Royal Army Medical Corps., with which he served for 4½ years. As Captain and Adjutant, he was associated with the famous 18th Division in France for over two years. After the Armistice, he remained in the devastated areas of France with his unit, and was demobilized in December 1919.

Dr Coombe is a great sportsman, and since coming to Mexboro' he has associated himself with local sporting organisations with great enthusiasm. In France he played with the 18th Divisional R.A.M.C. football team, which won the championship of the Division. He threw in his lot with the Mexboro' football team at the beginning of the 1920-1921 season. For a time he played with the reserve team, but his abilities in the half-back line were quickly recognised, and he was selected to play with the premier eleven on Oct. 9 last year, in one of the memorable cup-tie encounters with Rotherham Town, which was eventually won by Mexboro' after three vigorously fought battles. He occupied the position of right-half. A few weeks later he had the misfortune to have a rib broken in another cup match with Houghton Main, and was incapacitated until towards the close of the season, when he turned out several times at centre

-half.

His enforced absence from the Mexboro' team was a great disappointment to the local supporters, for they had been quick to appreciate his worth. He threw himself heart and soul into the game, and played with tremendous zeal and enthusiasm, but always scrupulously fair. He was a dangerous man near goal, for he shot with great force. He was a valuable asset to the Mexboro' team, not only for his playing abilities, but for the beneficial moral influence he exercised over the remainder of the team, who recognised in him a gentleman and a thorough sport.

Dr Coombe has also rendered good service to the local cricket team. He is a useful bat, and has contributed many good scores. He also represented Mexboro' at tennis last season. His genial presence will be greatly missed by his numerous friends in Mexboro'. He has made a distinct impression in the town, and he will go to his new sphere of duty with the best wishes of a big circle of admirers in this district.

Why did Dr Coombe leave his native Scotland for a place like Snodland which can not have been known to him, unless there was some kind of link? My guess is that while in France he may have come into contact with Sidney Carter, who became a Snodland doctor at the end of WWI, and whose daughter Sydney (a girl) was baptised at the New Jerusalem Church on 28 October 1917. At that time Sidney was listed as 'In Army RAMC' - the same regiment as William Coombe. Hopefully research may make it possible for us to discover whether the two men did know each other and that this was the reason for their partnership.



1923 Dr Coombe holding the shield