



Snodland Historical Society

Newsletter

Volume 21, Issue 3

www.snodlandhistory.org.uk

September 2018

Contacts

Dr Andrew Ashbee (Chairman), 14, Malling Road, Snodland, Kent ME6 5EQ

E-mail: aa0060962@blueyonder.co.uk

Secretary

Ann Pinder has asked to resign from the position of secretary at the 2018 AGM, so we are looking for someone to fill the post. I thank her very much for all her work on our behalf during the past few years. The duties involve preparing notices for the four committee meetings each year and taking the minutes there. The applicant needs to have a basic computer-literacy, but nothing complicated! We would be pleased to hear from anyone willing to do this.

Society Meetings 2018-19

3 October 2018. AGM, followed by a programme of short films of Snodland and district of the 1960s, made by Denis Anstey.

7 November 2018. We are delighted to welcome Dr Gerald Cramp, President of the Kent Archaeological Society, who will give a presentation entitled “Ordnance Survey Maps centered on Snodland from 1801 to WW2” He will first give a presentation on the pre-war 1-inch, 6-inch and 25inch maps of the area and after that we will look at some examples of each, including maps from our own collection in the museum.

5 December 2018. The usual annual look at any new pictures that we have been able to add to our collection.

6 February 2019. David Carder will give another of his excellent talks, this time on ‘Historic Kentish

Industries: cloth, iron, gunpowder, paper

6 March 2019. Jeremy Clarke has kindly accepted our invitation to give his lecture on “Portraits, Prints and the Picturesque: Visual Art from the Guildhall Museum, Rochester” where there is a rich collection of varied material.

3 April 2019. To be arranged

1 May 2019. To be arranged.

Various news items

Our Society has belonged to The Friends of Medway Archives [FOMA] since that group was formed in 2006—we were actually the first society to do so. My initial reason for recommending membership was, that although we are actually outside the Medway Unitary Authority, our parish archives are held there, so it deserved our support. I’m sure too that many of you tracing family history will be enormously grateful for the on-line scans of the church registers, not only of Snodland, but of all the Rochester diocese parishes, which can be viewed via Cityark, and of the wonderful local pictures of the Couchman. Collection. Copies of the quarterly journal *The Clock Tower* are kept at our Museum and this contains a wide variety of articles of local interest. The FOMS web-site is www.foma-lsc.org where there is also a comprehensive index of Medway men involved in the First World War.

In addition FOMA holds four talks during the year at All Saints Parish Hall, Church Green, Frindsbury ME2 3HE; these start at 7-30 pm. I have received the following letter from the

* * * * *

Chairman:

‘Following a point raised at our recent FOMA committee meeting it was confirmed that individual members of societies that have taken out FOMA Society Membership can attend FOMA talks at the reduced rate of £3.00 as paid by FOMA members. However, to help who ever is on the door at our talks, could your members please bring their membership evidence for your society in order to get the reduced rate.’

I can provide a slip confirming your membership of SHS. The FOMA programme for 2018-19 is currently as follows:

Tuesday 11th September

Brian Portway: *Building the Basins*. A look at the work being uncovered by the St Mary’s Island History group as they research the Victorian Dockyard.

Saturday 27th October

Quiz night. Booking required. Tables of 6; our main fundraising event.

Tuesday 13th November: topic to be confirmed

Tuesday 12th March

Elaine Gardner: *Medway’s Remarkable Women*. Hove you heard of Mary Ross? Anne Pratt: Evelyn Dunbar? Find out what they and other Medway women have achieved.

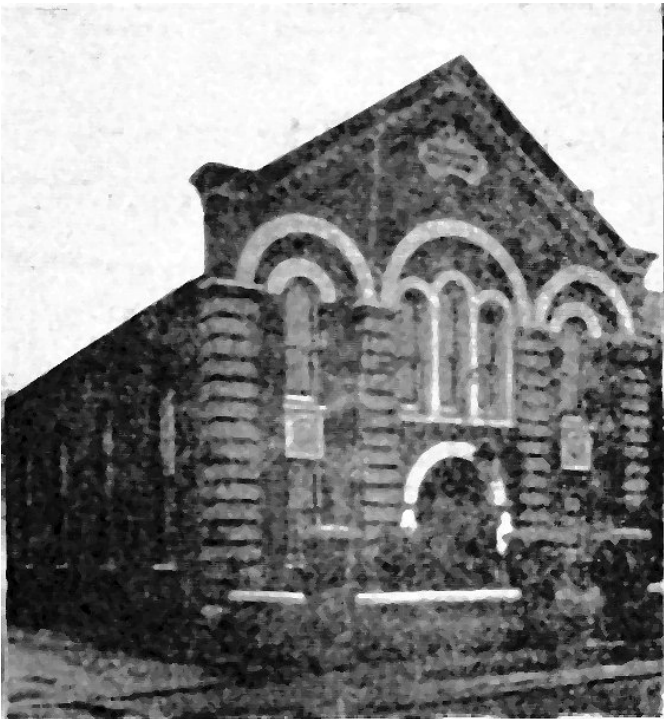
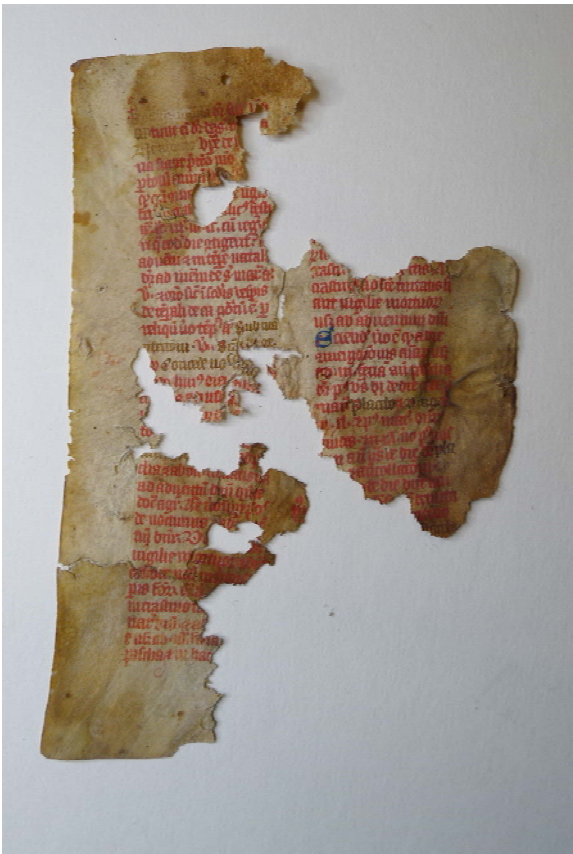
Many thanks to all who have returned the General Data Protection Regulation forms which were issued at our last meeting and which were also sent out to those subscribing via e-mail. I will deliver the remaining forms to those who receive the Newsletters by post or by home delivery as part of the mailing of this issue and the AGM material.

The burned leaf from a 15th century book found at All Saints in November has now been conserved and flattened out. No-one has yet been able to say precisely what it says—the Latin is very abbreviated making it extremely difficult to read the words—but it has been lodged at Rochester Cathedral, which has the facilities to look after it and where it is hoped it can be displayed from time to time.

* * * * *

Although the Inn sign formerly hanging at the front of The Bull seems to have been stolen, the Museum has received the large painted sign formerly on the north side of the building and a long thin one with ‘The Bull’. We happily donated another sign with just text to Alexander, the barber, who now has it as part of his shop display.

By the time you read this you will find that another Snodland landmark is undergoing change. I met Tom Falconer of Claremont Corvette the other day and he told me work on making the



front part of the former Methodist church into four flats was then about to start. It is planned that the left and right upper windows and the two carved roses below them will be restored, which is pleasing to hear, so a little more of the church will be revealed again..

We have an old picture of the church from a 'Circuit Plan' of the Methodist Maidstone circuit of 1936. Quality is not good, but it shows the church better than the only other photo of it I know—made by the WI in 1955.

* * * * *

I extend my warmest thanks to Bob Coomber who has willingly and devotedly manned the museum on most Wednesdays for a great number of years. With his own lengthy experience of life in the town he has been able to help many visitors as they research their own families, or reminisce about how the place was when they were young. I would like to build a small team able to man the museum on Wednesdays, ideally on a rota. Currently Valerie Brown and Veronica Tumber share the duties with me, and I am most grateful to them for doing so. If another couple of people can be added to the list that would be very helpful and would mean we could aim for something like a monthly rota. It is not an arduous task—and visitors are certainly not guaranteed to appear every week—but the Town Council puts a good deal of effort and money into the place and we are very lucky to have it. We have built up a comprehensive collection of material which means we can often help visitors with their queries. Although the museum is open from 2 pm to 5 pm, we usually close around 4 pm on Wednesdays if visitors have come and gone (and I can steward for the last hour if they are still there).

* * * * *

Bob Chown and his wife recently visited us from Canterbury to present us with a fine copy of a book he has written about his father-in-law's service in WWII: *Private Preston's War*. John William Preston (1919-1996) was a Snodland man, first living on Constitution Hill. He worked at Townsend Hook's, but joined a Territorial unit of the Royal West Kent's in 1935 (lying about his age to do so). This met at the Drill Hall in Lee Road and Bob was able to trace some of the activities there in the *Queen's Own Gazette*. When war arrived John

joined up and after a period guarding radio masts on the Hoo peninsula was sent to France with D company of the 6th Battalion. His service there was very short because he was captured on 22 May 1940 and spent the rest of his time as a prisoner of war. Bob gives an excellent account of what it entailed and the book has many interesting photographs of all kinds. He also told me that he has transcribed about 15,000 records of the RWK and these are freely available on-line on the Woodchurch (Kent) Ancestry Group.

* * * * *

I have been looking at the file of 'memories' which various people have given to us and was struck that many of them concern the war years 1939-35. So I will hope to put these all together into a pamphlet, since they provide a very vivid account of Snodland at the time. With a little modification and editing, they will supplement our pamphlet no. 15. There are memories from Mabel Fawcett, Ernie Hawkes (Paddlesworth), Albert and Iris Tobin, John Hayes (Jerry's dad), and Mary Smith (nee Robinson)

* * * * *

Ron Martin of the West Malling Society continues to transcribe and provide helpful information about local people and he has kindly sent us details of early Snodland policemen. Here is William Dossett, policeman in Snodland between 1905 and 1909.





at the maximum rate of 1/- per 1000 Gallons.

3. That the quantity of water to be raised shall not fall below the rate of 20 Gallons per head of the population per day.

The motion was carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mr G. K. Anderson and seconded by Mr T. Hollands

That the consent of this Vestry be and the same is hereby given to the application to the Board of Trade by C. Townsend Hook & Co Limited under the gas and waterworks facilities Act 1870 for the Draft Provisional Order as deposited with the Board of Trade.

And upon being put to the Meeting the motion was carried unanimously

J. A Anderson. Chairman
 T. Hollands
 F. Goldsmith
 T. Lingham
 Thos. Weekes

G. K. Anderson
 H. W. Anderson

The works were constructed by 1890 and initially comprised a Well, Engines, Boiler, Pump and Pump House, and a Reservoir. It was not until 1898 that the Mid Kent Water Act was incorporated, with Royal Assent on 12th August that year. Twelve parishes were now covered: Halling, Addington, Aylesford, Birling, Burham, Ditton, East Malling, Leybourne, Ryarsh, Snodland, West Malling and Wouldham.

The late Ted Gowers, Halling historian, passed several items to our Museum, but a few others reached us later from a Halling lady to whom he had given various items relating to that parish. One of these was the parish Vestry Book 1853-1903, which also includes the names of Halling recipients for John May's Great Coat charity to 1917.. I felt that this should go with the other Halling records at the Medway Archives Centre and so have now taken it there—and they are very pleased to have it, since they had nothing similar for the parish before 1931. I have photographed the document, so we have a copy too. Many of the entries are just concerned with the annual elections of the parish officers, but one interesting item concerns the creation of the Water Company:

At a Vestry Meeting held in the Parish Room of Halling on the 9th day of January 1888

It was moved by Mr Thos Lingham and seconded by Mr Thomas Weekes

That the consent of the Vestry be and is hereby given to the divisional Order now pending before the Board of Trade by which it is proposed to authorize the construction and maintenance of Waterworks and the supply of water in the Parishes or places of Snodland, East Malling, West Malling, Halling, Birling. Ditton, Addington, Leybourne, Ryarsh and Offham in the County of Kent.

And upon being put to the meeting subject to the following conditions, being annexed, viz

1. That provision be made for the supply of water to be always continuous.
2. That the supply of water by meter should be



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I'm very pleased to announce that Mrs Valerie Brown has agreed to become our new Secretary: 6 Studley Crescent, New Barn, Kent DA3 7JL

E-mail: Valerie@valbrown.11.plus.com

Subscriptions

Subscriptions for 2018-19 are now due 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.

Society Meetings 2019

6 February 2019. David Carder will give another of his excellent talks, this time on the Wealden Iron Industry. This is significant for Snodland because the iron was transported here by barge for the 'Cannon Boring Factory' before the finished articles (and cannon balls?) were sent on to the dockyard at Chatham.

6 March 2019. Jeremy Clarke has kindly accepted our invitation to give his lecture on "Portraits, Prints and the Picturesque: Visual Art from the Guildhall Museum, Rochester" where there is a rich collection of varied material.

3 April 2019. I am hoping that Jacob Scott, director of the Rochester Cathedral Research Guild will be able to come to share some of the amazing discoveries that have recently been made about the building. (To be confirmed)

1 May 2019. Having been asked to speak at the Library on the First World War, I have prepared a talk which particularly focusses on the six months September 1918 to February 1919, so will repeat that for the Society

All Saints Church

A conservator has examined the old chest (which is now standing on a new plinth) and has reported that it is generally in good shape, although some repair work is needed for the base. We took the opportunity to enquire about getting a dendrochronological report on the wood, both for this and for the two mediaeval benches, all of which seem to have been made out of earlier doors. The estimated cost is £540, considerably less than I expected, and I think is the kind of sum we could aim to raise if we can also obtain a grant or grants. If dendrochronology is not possible the call-out fee would be £150. This will be explored further.

In September the Diocesan Advisory Committee rejected all three proposals submitted to them regarding our memorials. But it has now been agreed that the War Memorial will move to a position left of the entrance, rather than the present site in the SW corner. They will not allow any nearby copy of the text on Waghorn's memorial to be in resin or a similar ma-

material, but require the actual stone to be re-cut. This would be expensive and so the idea will go into abeyance, at least for now. A suggestion has been made by your committee to paint the text, which we will investigate, but the likelihood is that this would not be allowed on such a historic stone. The



DAC rejected any idea of a memorial to Charles Spackman Barker since they regarded him as relatively ‘unimportant’, but I felt this was untrue, so enlisted the help of friends and colleagues who were experts in the field of organ building and playing. I’m pleased to say that all responded promptly and enthusiastically to my plea, so we have submitted a new application, together with some of their supporting letters. We await a response.

I have asked Medway Archives for permission to photograph the earliest surviving churchwardens’ records (1769-1829), and hope to do this before too long.

Postcards to seek

At the December meeting my survey of the latest postcards we have been able to add to our collection as usual included many by Hambrook. Of the 370 cards by him in the numbered series ‘H Bros S 1001 to 1370 we now lack only the following 59 cards (and of course we don’t know what their subjects are): 1003; 1011; 1015; 1026; 1029-33; 1051; 1055-6; 1058; 1060; 1087; 1095-6; 1119-21; 1125-6; 1128-30; 1138; 1140; 1157; 1160-1; 1164; 1166; 1187; 1204; 1207; 1212; 1218; 1227; 1231; 1234; 1249-51; 1281; 1285; 1287-8; 1292; 1298-9; 1301-2; 1311; 1314; 1320; 1332-3; 1337; 1344; 1346; 1353; 1366; 1368

Another photographer I featured in my show was Archie Lee Jones, a newsagent from Hal-

ling. His pictures all date from the 1920s. The captions are all in capital letters with numbers (that we know of) between 1596 and 1631, some marked ‘Jones Series’.. 1596-1609 are of Halling, 1610-11 of Cuxton, 1612-1626 of Snodland and Paddlesworth, and <1627-1631 of Birling. Please look out for Nos. 1598, 1602, 1604-5, 1608, 1614-15, 1617-8, 1620-1, 1623, 1627-8. Two of these appear in a multiple-image of Snodland (shown here) and are the two at the top, left and right. We have the other three.

Pamphlet about Snodland in the Second World War

I have ‘completed’ a pamphlet about Snodland during the time of the Second World War. This will contain a list of casualties and such photos and details as we have found or been given by relatives, together with numerous memories of that time in the village by some who lived through it. The latter combine a reprint of those which were given to *Town Talk* in 2008-9 and other longer reminiscences which we have at the Museum. As with our World War I pamphlet we will hope to add new material as it is found or acquired.



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April 2019

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Valerie@valbrown.11.plus.com

Meeting

1 May 2019. A repeat of a talk I gave at the Library in November 2018 to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War, It particularly focusses on the six months September 1918 to February 1919.

Link with Halling Historical Society

At the end of January I was contacted by Philip Badman, Secretary of the Halling Historical Society, with a view to establishing better communication between our two societies. This is of course an excellent idea and we will aim to exchange details of our programmes. I will send Philip a copy of our Newsletters and we will hope to publish their activities in those and at meetings. They meet at the Jubilee Hall, Browndens Road, Upper Halling ME2 1JH at 7-30 pm. Visitors £2.50 + 50p refreshments.

Philip Badman, tel. 07754-616210; e-mail:
hallinghistorical@gmail.com

Bob Ratcliffe and Richard Filmer

Members will be saddened to learn of the deaths of two speakers who have given wonderful talks to us in the past. You will probably remember Richard Filmer was suffering from cancer when he last came and it claimed him a few months later. Bob was a member of so many societies in Medway, especially the City of Rochester Society, of which he was president, but his great love was in transport, especially railways. His friend Robert Flood plans to complete Bob's book on the

Railways of Rochester, so we will look forward to that. He was a founder member of the Friends of Medway Archives, and their journal *The Clock Tower* (February 2019) has an obituary and several other tributes to him. A copy is held at the Museum.

World War II pamphlet

I have at last put together a pamphlet about Snodland during the Second World War: *Memorials and Memories of Snodland in World War II (1939-1945)* [A4 size, £3]. It will grow as more information comes to light, but at the moment contains the following sections:

Pp. 1-17 List of casualties with photos and other information (often contributed by family members)

Pp. 18-21. Miscellany including notices of prisoners of war, and contemporary newspaper account of the land mine on the gas works and of George May's George Medal.

Pp. 22-52. Memories of Snodland in WWII. Many of these were printed in *Town Talk* in 2008-9, but other longer ones are kept at the museum.

I was contacted recently by the War Generation Project (www.wargen.org), founded by Dan Snow and James Holland. They write:

We're creating a crowd-sourced online repository of oral-history from the people who lived through World War 2 and we are asking you to help us. We are looking for individuals willing to join our volunteer team as interviewers and to go out into your local communities and record these important stories of a fast disappearing generation or to let us know if they have a family member or friend or even know of someone who they believe would like to have their stories recorded. Please check out the website for the interviews that have already been carried out the length and breadth of the country.

I have sent them a copy of this pamphlet, which they gratefully acknowledged, but if anyone is able

Foundling Hospital

In 2016 the last concert of our Choral Society was devoted to a performance of Handel's *Messiah*, a work which he performed annually to provide money to support the Foundling Hospital in London. The present Foundation, which continues the Hospital's work, seemed to the Choral Society a particularly suitable place to support with the concert proceeds, which it did. I was recently contacted by Gary and Elaine Munday (and they visited the Museum at the beginning of March). Although they live in London now, Gary spent his early years in Snodland (Orchard Way), so knows the place well, and Elaine is a volunteer at the Foundling Museum in London. She has recently begun researching the foundlings which were sent to our area for nursing in the mid-eighteenth century and this promises to be a very exciting project. We have known about some of the Snodland babies, because they sadly died and so appear in the burial register together with their Foundling numbers. However, Elaine is able to search the original records to find the names of the local women who nursed them and other useful information. It is clear that the relatively few register entries with numbers that we have known about are the tip of a substantial iceberg and that in due course it should be possible to build up an extended file of foundlings and families. I had not realised the extent of the enterprise and how it was organised. It seems that parishes nationwide were involved in the scheme and there were local supervisors for each area. Our supervisor was the Rector of Wouldham, Anthony Dennis (1695-1775) - who incidentally was married in All Saints, Snodland, in 1736. So, although we knew names of some foundlings in Snodland and Birling because of the burials, it would appear that many other parishes were also involved and all will have much to contribute to the overall picture.

Barker memorial

As an organist I have of course been particularly keen to pursue the idea of a memorial to Charles Spackman Barker at Snodland, so I apologise if it seems a pet project of no great significance. It is true that his name was unknown to me when I first found it in the All Saints burial register, but the more I have investigated him the more I have come to realise that he is an extremely important figure in

the development of organ building and that it is up to us to ensure that he is commemorated in some way in the church. Our first application to the Diocesan Advisory Committee was rejected out of hand, since in their view too he was not significant. But I was in the fortunate position of knowing some very eminent organists and organ builders who were able to write glowing testimonials on Barker's behalf, and a selection of these was submitted in a new application in November. I am very pleased to say that the DAC has now (March) agreed that a memorial to Barker can be placed in All Saints church. There are still matters to sort out—the DAC is not happy with our using the picture of Barker's organ which he built for the Great Exhibition of 1851, because the instrument is now in France!—but the main hurdle has been jumped and hopefully we will find a way forward. Three splendid articles about Barker have been written by Philippe d'Anchald and published in the *Journal of the British Institute of Organ Studies* (1909, 1917 and 1918) and from his work (and with his approval) I have written a pamphlet about Barker so that there will be something available about him at the church and museum (£2). Barker's importance is that he invented what he called a 'lever' to solve a problem which arose around 1830. Organs were increasing in size, and with keyboards coupled the action had simply become too heavy to play. His device enabled a light touch to be restored and in later years he was also to adapt it further through electrical cables. The most famous French organ builder of his day was Aristide Cavaillé-Coll and he used Barker's 'lever' in all his instruments. I have just been asked to send my pamphlet to the Association Aristide Cavaillé-Coll and if you go to [www.cavaillie-coll.fr/videos/](http://www.cavaillle-coll.fr/videos/) you can see and hear examples of magnificent instruments which were built using Barker's device.

Waghorn

You may remember that after my book about Waghorn was published in 2016 I received an e-mail from Andrew Buttrey saying that he had found a pocket diary belonging to Waghorn whilst clearing out his late father's office. He sent images of all the entries, but now he and his sister Fiona have very kindly presented the diary to us and it is on show in the museum. I am currently also in contact with Brian Waghorn in New Zealand, who

has an intriguing mystery to solve. He writes: 'I (as was my brother-in-law Ted Stock) am still searching to see if my Gt Grandfather (Thomas Waghorn b.1842 Deptford) was given (or bought) TFW log books, glove & sword or was given them as a relative. His Father (Thomas Waghorn) was a seaman from Sheerness and may have passed them on. My Grandmother told me in 1949 that she had seen them when her husband (Thomas Waghorn) took her to meet his father in 1890. I am still struggling to find the relationship between us if any.' Around 2000 the late Ted Stock kindly gave us copies of documents he had found during research, and mentioned this same story, so maybe one day the artefacts will re-emerge.

Dickens burial

I am spending a lot of time researching the choir members of Rochester Cathedral, and in the course of looking for newspaper references to them I came across this account of preparations for the burial of Charles Dickens. I knew his wish to be buried at Rochester had been over-ruled in favour of Westminster Abbey, but had not realised quite how far events at Rochester had progressed. It makes fascinating reading.

The Chatham News and North Kent Spectator, 18 June 1870:

Particulars as to the proposed interment of Charles Dickens at Rochester. We understand that on Saturday [11 June] application was made to the Home Secretary to bury deceased (as had been his express wish) under the Castle Wall, in the St. Nicholas Burial-Ground. Answer was given that no new vault could be made; but the remains might be placed in one already erected; and on Sunday James Edwards, Esq., placed his vault at the disposal of the Dickens' family. On Saturday Archdeacon Grant offered Rochester Cathedral, and was visited by Mr. C. Dickens, jun., at Aylesford, to talk the matter over; and on the following day (late in the evening) the family decided to bury the deceased at Shorne, as they feared he could not be buried privately at Rochester Cathedral; but on the Archdeacon writing to them to assure them that everything should be strictly private, the family on Monday, through Mr. Homan, consented to the burial taking place in the Cathedral at noon on Tuesday. On Sunday night at 11 o'clock the Archdeacon sent for Mr. C. B. Foord, telling him

what had taken place, and desiring him to see Mr. Homan early the next morning, and if Mr. Dickens's family had accepted his offer, he (Mr. Foord) was in the quickest possible time to build a substantial brick grave, paving the bottom with ornamental tiles, &c., and have all ready by Tuesday morning. Mr. Foord, having communicated with Mr. Homan on Monday morning, and finding the offer had been accepted, commenced the work immediately after morning service, Mr. Homan proceeding to London to obtain the consent of the Secretary of State. This could not be obtained; and the family having been pressed to allow the remains of Mr. Dickens to be taken to Westminster Abbey, gave their consent on Monday afternoon. Mr. Homan then telegraphed to Mr. Foord. Upon this Mr. F. communicated with the Archdeacon, who directed that the grave should be completed, still trusting that something might transpire whereby the remains might be brought to this appropriate resting place.. These, we believe, are the simple facts of the case; and Rochester has to lament its loss.

Later in the same newspaper is another account:

The mortal remains of Charles Dickens repose in a fitting resting place—Westminster Abbey. It was reported that the deceased had wished his body to be interred in some place near where he died. But it is now stated that though in his will he required a funeral without any pomp or a vast assembly of people, he did not indicate any particular burial-place for his remains. It was reported that the deceased had expressed a wish to be buried in that part of the St. Nicholas burial-ground, Rochester, immediately beneath Rochester Castle wall. It is said that an application was accordingly made, on Saturday, to the Home Secretary, for permission for the ground in question to be opened to receive the remains of Mr. Dickens, but the Home Secretary regretted he had no power to comply with the application, Mr. Dickens not being a parishioner of St. Nicholas. It is stated that it was then wished that the funeral should take place in Cobham churchyard; but here again a difficulty arose, which resulted in the application being refused, Cobham churchyard being so crowded that there was barely room for the interment of the residents of the parish. Other places have been mentioned as having been proposed for the interment. But this is

certain—that on Monday a grave was dug in St. Mary’s Chapel, Rochester Cathedral, at the east end of the nave, and a vault formed, for the reception of the remains of the illustrious dead. The vault was prepared in the south-west corner of this elegant chapel, which was restored a few years ago: a strong party of workmen in the employ of Messrs. Foord were engaged in executing the work. It is said that there would have been legal difficulties in the way of interring anyone within the cathedral—these might have been overcome; but on Monday afternoon it was decided that the relics of Charles Dickens should be deposited in Westminster Abbey, in compliance with the general wish and the earnest desire of the Dean of Westminster, and on Tuesday morning the vault in Rochester Cathedral was filled up with the earth taken from the grave, and subsequently the pavement was restored, - the bell of the Cathedral was tolling for the funeral of the deceased while the workmen were re-filling the vault.’

A description of the London funeral follows, which shows the family went to great trouble to ensure that it successfully avoided ‘pomp or a vast assembly of people’. Early in the morning they travelled by special train from Higham to Charing Cross, the hearse was ‘plain without trappings or feathers of any kind’ and was followed by three mourning coaches; the mourners ‘were simply in ‘plain deep black.’ and all ‘attracted little attention.’ The service in the Abbey ‘was over before ten, before any visitors were admitted.’

Hambrook postcard

The postcard of Chattenden Barracks, recently bought on e-bay, is one of Hambrook’s earlier productions, I guess 1904-5.

A Papermaking family

I have had e-mail correspondence with Don Rowbottom researching some Snodland Mayger and Stapley ancestors. He has kindly sent information (slightly adapted below) and three pictures of them too.

A sister of George Augustus Mayger Junior (1859-1935) was Clara (1863-1936) who lived with her family at 2 Mill St (1871) She married Frederick Leonard Stapley and had nine children by him. Frederick died in 1898 and in 1901 she is back at Mill St with 6 children (two had died by then and the youngest was living with her parents in Maidstone). By the time of the mill fire on 12th August 1906, she had had twins born in 1902 and a baby born in the summer of 1906 (no father named in either baptism) and her eldest son had left home to get married. She appears anonymously, but clearly identifiable, telling of her terrible losses in the *Kent Messenger* account of the fire. After the fire, she left Snodland and took her family to Rishton in East Lancs where there was a papermill. She emigrated with the younger part of her family from Liverpool to Boston in 1914 and established a home at Holyoke, Massachusetts with her other children. The family worked in the papermills there. It’s an interesting life-story. Clara is an older sister of Florence, the family line I’m actually following.

Chattenden Barracks.





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Meetings

2 October 2019. AGM, followed by a series of short videos, mostly made from drones above Snodland in 2017-18

6 November 2019. In January the Museum was visited by George Meegan, who at the time was in Snodland, looking after animals in May Street for a friend. In the course of conversation he revealed that it was he who had walked the length of the Americas (over seven years) in 1977-83. Although not strictly 'history' I felt this would be a good topic for us to learn of his adventures—with hopefully some historical input on the way. His adventure is well-publicised via the Internet, and he will bring books he has written about the trip.

4 December 2019. The usual mix of pictures of Snodland and district, with festive refreshments.

5 February 2020. We are very pleased to welcome David Carder again, this time to speak about Kentish bridges...

4 March 2020. Jeremy Clarke has kindly agreed to speak to us again. His topic this time will be 'Dickens and North Kent'.

1 April 2020. Jeremy Hayes and Andrew Ashbee: Swedenborg and Snodland. Exploring Swedenborg's beliefs and the Hook family's dedication to his work.

6 May 2020. Catharina Clement, Secretary of the Chatham Historical Society, has agreed to speak to us on the Non-Conformist churches of Chatham. This is of particular relevance because the Independent (Congregational) Church in Snodland was linked to the Ebenezer Church in Chatham.

Roy Penny has asked to retire from the Committee. He was elected in 2000 and has served continually since then. I thank him very much for all he has done for the Society. In the early years he regularly welcomed visitors to the Museum as steward on Wednesdays, and he has also provided many photographs of Snodland life, particularly of the carnivals and also of activities of some of the youth groups. There is therefore a vacancy which we will hope to fill at the AGM.

Cottage Home

A friend in Australia who explores our local history has asked the following: 'I recently acquired a book about workhouses by Peter Higginbotham. There is a section about Scattered Homes. There was one in Snodland that housed 10 children. Where was it?'

In spite of searching, I have not found a 'Scattered Home' labelled here. They were first set up in 1893 in Sheffield. However, there was a 'Cottage Home' in the Groves, which seems to have been the equivalent Snodland institution. It appears in the 1911 census immediately before Groves Farm, so it must have been the last house on the west side (the nearest in the photo). The inhabitants on 2 April 1911 were

- (1) Annie Lawrence, Head, 32, widow, born at East Malling
- (2) Alfred Balcombe, inmate, 11, born West Malling
- (3) Henry Miller, inmate, 7, born West Malling
- (4) Stanley Simmonds, inmate, 6, born West Malling

- (5) George Samuel Jarvis, inmate, 6, born West Malling
 (6) Frederick John Skinner, inmate, 3, born West Malling.

This was a small home and Balcombe, Miller, Simmonds and Jarvis were all 'at school', which we find was the National School in Brook Street. A feature of 'Scattered Homes' was that they encouraged attendance at such 'board' schools rather than using one involving their own private system. More information about the boys is in the admission register, as is that for other inmates who had left by the time of the census. These four were all the sons of single women and were born and baptized at the Malling Union Workhouse.

According to the register Balcombe was born on 29 June 1900, (but Malling Union records have 30 June 1899). His mother was from Burham and had had two other children born at the workhouse before Alfred. He was



admitted to the National School on 1 Mar 1910 and left on 31 July 1913 having 'gone to work at Maidstone.'

Henry Miller, was born at the workhouse on 6 Jan 1904 son of Hetty of Wouldham; at school 15-4-1912 to 29-4-1912, when he 'left the home'.

Stanley Simmons/Simmonds, was born at the workhouse on 19 May 1904, son of Ellen of West Malling; at school 15-4-1912 to 6-7-1914; 'gone to live at T[own] Malling'. Ellen herself was born in 1880 in Snodland, daughter of William and Fanny of Birling Road, but they had all moved elsewhere by 1891. Ellen had two other children at the workhouse: Annie 2 and Ernest 4.

George Samuel Jarvis, born at the workhouse on 26 Oct 1904, son of Louisa of Wouldham; at school 31-10-1914 to 15-5-1914; 'gone to Malling Union'. Sadly Louisa is labelled as 'imbecile', but also as a 'former field worker'

Frederick John Skinner, born 27 Nov 1907, son of

Jane Elizabeth of Ightham

The other children who lived at the Home and attended school here must at some time have lived at the Workhouse because their parents were (perhaps temporarily) impoverished in some way. They are more difficult to trace, but one or two have been found. They are:

(7) Thomas Alfred Wood, born 17 Nov 1897 at Town Malling. He left school on 3-4-1911 'by order of the managers', having reached division IV.

(8-10) Three sons of George, a general labourer, and Elizabeth Pearce: William, b. 5 July 1896; Edward, b. 5 June 1900, and Walter, b. 25 Mar 1901, in 1901 living in a house called 'Battles Cross', Offham. They were born at Perry Hill (Lewisham).

(11) Thomas Rich, born 12 Nov 1900

(12-13) Albert Lavender Morgan, born 19 Nov 1898 and Adam Lavender Morgan, born 11 Jul 1902

(14-15) Walker and Ernest Evenden, both born 27 Oct 1899.

(16-17). Leonard Mildenhall, born Croydon, 12 Mar 1899, and his brother Albert, born at East Peckham 14 Aug 1900. The 1901 census has them at East Ilsley, Berkshire, where their father John, aged 33 and born in the county, was a 'groom at Racing Stables'. But the *Faringdon*

Advertiser and Vale of White Horse Gazette of 20 Aug 1904 records 'It was decided to commence proceedings against John Mildenhall for leaving his two children in the Workhouse [at Faringdon?], chargeable to the common fund.' However, the 1911 census shows both boys in the Workhouse at Stratton St Margaret, Wiltshire. Evidently they all then moved to Snodland and the boys commenced at the National School on 1 Aug 1912 until 30 Jun 1913, when Leonard was 'over 14 years' and Albert had 'gone to live in London.' One wonders whether there were still racing interests at Leybourne Grange, where Sir Joseph Hawley (1814-1875) had been a notable owner—and he was born in Wiltshire.

(18) Rupert Beckett, born 27-10-1899 at East Peckham. He was at school between 25 Sep 1911 and 8 Jan 1912. but then had 'gone to work'. But he was in the Workhouse for the 1911 census, aged 14

and from the evidence set out below, one guesses that his health was poor. He joined the army on 14 Oct 1916 and was attached to the 2/1st Huntingdon Cyclists Battalion as Private 291313. At that time he gave Mrs Constant of Bells Farm, Hadlow as his 'next of kin'; at his death he was described as her foster-son. But on 24 Aug 1917 he was admitted to hospital suffering from bronchitis. The report continues: 'He slowly recovered from the bronchitis, but enteritis developed. His temperature was usually normal in the morning, rose to 98° in the evening. After the development of enteritis the evening temperature rose to 100° to 101°. He states that he was operated on for cataract at Maidstone in July 1912. His sight is still very bad, and there is opacity in the Cornea. He also states that he was in a Sanatorium from which he was discharged in May 1915. He is now suffering from diarrhoea which is slightly controlled by opium. Up to the present he has only vomited once. He is carefully dieted. He is in a very feeble condition. He appears unfit for further military service.' Rupert was discharged from the 4th Northern General Hospital at Lincoln on 16 Oct 1917, but died on 6 June 1918. He is buried in St Michael's churchyard, East Peckham, and his name is on the Roll of Honour for the Great War in the church. The rector noted 'He was a good lad, most patient in his sufferings and very appreciative of the care bestowed on him by his foster mother Mrs. Constant of Bells Farm.'

Cement

At the Museum we have the files compiled by Andrew Hann when writing and researching *The Medway Valley a Kent landscape transformed* for the *England's Part for Everyone* series. So it was good that a student working on her diploma for the Oxford Local History was able to visit and consult the files. She was successful and has kindly allowed me to copy her essay, which adds to our holdings on the local cement industry. It is entitled 'What was the impact of the arrival of the Cement Works on the parish and village of Swanscombe in North Kent?' and it is filed with our other cement material.

At the same time we have received two splendid photographs from around 1910 taken at Henry Batchelor's Works in Halling (later taken over by Rugby Portland Cement). One is of a single engine 'Albert' and its crew, with bottle kilns behind,

while the other is of a posed photograph of around 25 of the workforce, three engines and two horses.

They will be shown at our December meeting.

Choral Society performances

A few years ago, Mrs Brenda Botterill gave me a number of reel-to-reel tapes made by her husband Cyril, so that they could be preserved in the Museum as a record of some past performances by local choirs. Two are of concerts by the West Kent Bach Choir at West Malling and the remainder are by Snodland and District Choral Society. Cyril and Brenda sang in both choirs. I have no machine able to play the tapes, but have recently been able to get some of them transferred to CDs. (The original tapes are preserved too of course.) Those below are labelled, although there may be some surprises—the machine was simply left running until the tape ran out, so not everything is complete..

8 April (1962?): Handel. Saul. Excerpts from Part III. (New Jerusalem Church)

26 March 1969: Handel: Sampson (complete) (New Jerusalem Church)

5 March 1975. Edward German: Merrie England (St Katherine's School)

14 May 1975: Mendelssohn: Elijah (Christ Church)

10 March 1976: Victorian Evening (Holmesdale)

20 April 1978: Edward German: Tom Jones (United Church)

24 May 1978: Mendelssohn: St Paul (Christ Church)

9 May 1979: Haydn: Creation (Christ Church)

2 December 1981: Mendelssohn: Elijah (Christ Church) Memorial concert for C. F. Butcher by Snodland and District Choral Society and West Kent Bach Choir.

All Saints windows

In the spring we had a brief visit from Professor Nigel Morgan and his photographer Hans Fischer. Professor Morgan is the editor of the planned volume about mediaeval stained glass in Kent under the auspices of the *Corpus Vitrearum Medii Aevii* project.

Although Snodland lost virtually all of its ancient glass in 1942, we are very fortunate that we do have a wealth of material about it, including all the

pictures painted by Charles Winston in the 1840s. As ever we must thank Rev Henry Dampier Phelps, Rector 1804-1865, both for encouraging Winston and for himself writing copious notes about the windows. According to Professor Morgan, in spite of the damage and loss, the details provided by Phelps and Winston make All Saints one of the best documented churches of all those he will study. Because of this he aims to write up Snodland first as a test case for his book. It may be by the time you read this he will have sent me a first draft for my comments—he has planned a return visit in August/September. Hans Fischer has very kindly sent me copies of his very high resolution images (with the proviso that they are not to be published for copyright reasons). The *CVMA* website has lower resolution images of the Winston paintings, but he has also sent those he has taken of the jumbled re-instated panes now in the church, which will enable us to work out the origins of the fragments. I had doubts that the re-instated Palmer window had any remaining early glass in it, but Professor Morgan thinks there are a few areas

which might have some. Only a close examination will determine that.

Tudor Snodland

A pamphlet is in preparation about *Tudor Snodland*, not an easy topic to work on, but there is a good deal of information to draw together for a study of this fascinating period.



One of the surviving recordings is of Mendelssohn's 'Elijah', sung by the Choral Society at Christ Church, on 9 May 1975. Soloists were from the Royal Academy of Music: Glynis Marwood, Anne Mason, Peter Crowe, Richard Suart.



Snodland Historical Society

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CORONAVIRUS

In common with all other similar organisations we have had to curtail our 2019-20 programme. The last two talks scheduled for April and May have had to be cancelled, but we hope we will be in a position to hold them in the autumn. If circumstances allow we will include Jerry and Andrew's talk on the Swedenborgian religion and how the Hook family brought it to Snodland following the AGM in October and Catharina Clement has offered to give her talk later in the year—we hope on November 4th.

The Committee has approved a change to the timing of meetings from next season. We can't remember why 8 pm was chosen originally, perhaps because of members travelling back from work in London, but it seems sensible now to make meetings **begin at 7-30 pm**, as generally happens elsewhere now.

The **Museum** has had to be closed for the time being and will re-open as and when we are allowed to do so. Anyone with particular queries is invited to contact me by phone (01634-243001) or e-mail (aa0060962@blueyonder.co.uk) when I will do my best to help. In the meantime, following discussion at a recent SHS Committee meeting, I have put in hand the making of a file entitled 'WHERE IS IT?' which will be held on a computer at the Museum. The aim of this is to transfer information, currently just in my head, to the file to enable anyone to track down where information can be found relating to

individual topics. Each room is numbered 1-4 (plus the Store), with individual cabinets listed as A,B,C, etc. A second related Excel file of CONTENT will list basic topics: e.g. Holmesdale, Church (with an initial for each: AS=All Saints; NJ = New Jerusalem, etc.); People, Photographs. Paper Mill, and so on, with a further column giving more detail for each item. Notice of ownership is also recorded for items on loan.

Holmesdale

I repeat here the letter received from Mr Glenn Prebble, Head of Holmesdale School:

Dear Former Students & ex Members of Staff

The Holmesdale School 90th Anniversary – 19th May 2020

In May 2020, The Holmesdale School will be celebrating its 90th birthday. Snodland Central School, as it was then called, opened its doors to students and staff on 19th May 1930.

The Holmesdale School would love to hear from you so that we can create a display board of all your memories of your time at the school.

Were you a student at Snodland Central School during the war years when 280 evacuees arrived from London and Mr Plowright was the Headmaster? Do you remember in 1961 when the Snodland Central School changed its name to Holmesdale Secondary Modern School and then later in 1965 to Holmesdale Secondary School?

Did you attend in the late 60s and early 70s when a programme of modernisation of the school was undertaken and Mr JB Midgley was the new headmaster?

Were you here in 1980 when Holmesdale celebrated its Golden Anniversary with an event called The Extravaganza or were you a member of The Young Farmers Club in the 80s and 90s?

More recently, were you a student in the 00s when it was known as Holmesdale Technology College and the school was upgraded to its current configuration of buildings?

Do you have a story of an influential teacher or member of staff who inspired you on to your future career path?

If you have any memories or thoughts you wish to share with us regarding your time at The Holmesdale School, please write to us or email office@holmesdale.kent.sch.uk with your stories.

We are looking forward to reading them.

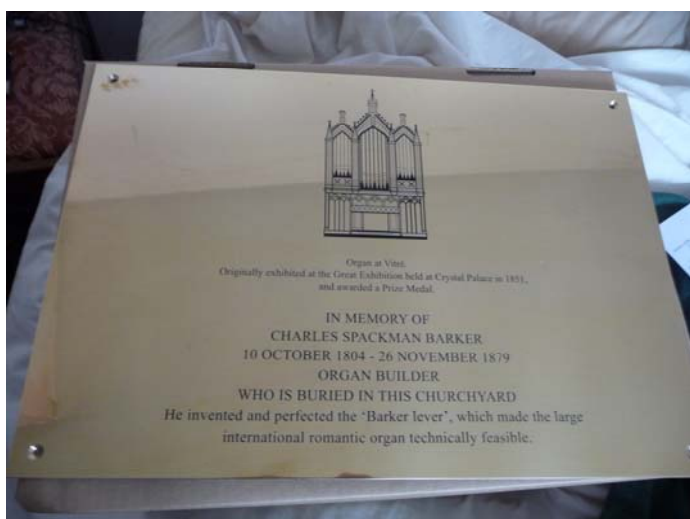
Present circumstances probably mean that the 90th anniversary celebrations in May will have to be postponed or cancelled, but I have no details to hand. I received this message on 3 March:

‘I just wanted to let you know that The Holmesdale School will be celebrating its 90th anniversary during the afternoon of Friday 15th May.

The exact timings and events of the afternoon are still to be confirmed but it would be great if you could save the date and let anyone else who might be interested know too.’

Barker memorial

I’m delighted to say that the fine memorial to Charles Spackman Barker, engraved by Keith Raes, has been received and is now installed at All Saints church. Very many thanks to Norman and Sue Brooks who put it up. The British Institute of Organ Studies had planned to include this news during a presentation at their AGM, but this too will have fallen foul of current circumstances. It is virtually impossible to photograph a brass like this because of the reflections, but this is the best I have achieved. The original is now on the south wall of the chancel to the left of the organ.



Here **Neil Miners** contributes a further look at the football history of Snodland as he continues to research it. He tells me no relevant photographs are known, so if you have one, please let him (or me) know

SNODLAND FOOTBALL CLUB RUN “TWO FIRST TEAMS” IN 1963-64

Despite the worst winter for many years, the 1962-63 football season had proved successful for Snodland FC. The First XI had finished third in the Premier Division of the Maidstone Football League and the Reserves had won the Double by winning Division 3A and the Challenge Cup “C”. Given this success and with 41 registered players Snodland took the bold decision to have “two first teams”. The Division 3A winning-team would enter Division 1 of the Rochester and District League, while the Premier Division team would continue in the Maidstone League.

Writing in the KM (Kent Messenger) on the eve of the 1963-64 Maidstone League season, Barry Hillier noted that Snodland had made some personnel changes. “One stalwart player who will be missing from the Wouldham line-up will be left-back Ivor Cornhill. He has left to join Snodland. Snodland, should be among the leading contenders for the title. They finished third last season, but with a stronger line-up this year they might even finish in the top two.” When the football began, Snodland experienced a mixed set of results. The first game ended in a 3-1 home defeat against Mote Wanderers (14 September). The following Saturday Eccles beat Snodland 5-1, with Snodland finally taking league points from a 3-2 away win at Staplehurst on Saturday 28 September. Next Saturday saw an early exit from the League’s Challenge Cup “A” tournament, with Coombe Estate defeating Snodland 6-1.

Meanwhile the fortunes of Snodland’s Rochester League team were brighter. The first game was a 7-1 win over Eastcourt Reserves, (7 September) followed by an exciting 6-6 draw against Medway United. The Chatham Observer reported: “Medway and Snodland shared 12 goals in this ding-dong Rochester and District League Division 1 game. The two sides were well balanced with the younger and fitter Medway pressing the league newcomers to the full. Snodland scorers were: Gilbert (3), Wells, Cook and Bale.” Snodland then won their next three games: beating Stoke 9-2 (21 September), winning 6-2 away at Elliott’s Reserves (28 September), and defeating BP Kent 5-3 at the Rec (5 October). Hempstead checked the run on Saturday 12 October by beating Snodland 3-0, but a

4-2 win against Frindsbury (2 November) put Snodland in first place in the table.

The unhappy start of Snodland's Maidstone League team was noted by the KM's Barry Hillier. Writing in early October, he reported Snodland "appear to be on the slide. Since their club decided to enter their reserve side in the Rochester League, their Maidstone League side has suffered. Some of last season's Premier Division players are now playing for the Rochester League side. Snodland have shown nothing of last season's form. Tomorrow, Snodland and Wouldham meet in a league encounter – a real test for both sides." The result was a moral boosting 10-4 win for Snodland, who then went on to draw 2-2 with Benenden (19 October). These results saw Snodland enter November in fifth place in the Maidstone Premier League table.

Results continued to be mixed in the run-up to Christmas, with Snodland losing 9-2 against MCI & YMCA (2 November), followed by a 2-1 win against Tovil & Bridge Mills at the Rec. Snodland then lost the last two games of 1963: Snodland 2-12 Coombe Estate (30 November) and Snodland 3-7 East Malling (28 December). This meant Snodland would start the New Year in seventh place in the table with 7 points from 9 games.

Snodland's Rochester League side continued their good form. Palmerston were dispatched 8-0 on Saturday 23 November, and the following week John Fisher were beaten 7-1 in the first round of the Quarter Century Cup "A" (QCCA). An away win against Eastcourt (14 December) took Snodland to second place in Division 1 (Seeboard were leaders). The victories continued in 1964 with a remarkable eleven match winning run (league and cup), that was only ended on Saturday 11 April by Seeboard. Unfortunately, just one league result was recorded in the Chatham Observer: the 11-5 away win against Wingets Reserves (4 January). However, the fixtures along with the league tables were published, allowing the other teams defeated in the eleven matches to be identified. These were: Palmerston (11 January); Upchurch (QCCA, 18 January); Priestfield (25 January and 29 February); Stoke (1 February); Seeboard (QCCA, 8 February); Wingets (22 February); BP Kent (QCCA semi-final, 14 March); Medway United (21 March) and finally Breach Rovers (4 April). Despite these

brilliant results, Seeboard enjoyed an equally fine run of form, remained league leaders throughout and took a decisive step towards winning Division 1 when they ended Snodland's winning run on Saturday 11 April.

Included in the winning run was the QCCA semi-final (14 March). This tie was held at Great Lines on Saturday 14 March, where Snodland faced BP Kent. The Chatham News reported that inclement weather conditions became an "awesome third contender, but both teams refused to let it impair their energy. Incessant, soul-destroying rain reduced the pitch on the Great Lines to a swamp-like morass, but the conditions failed to extract any of the sparkle from this entertaining match."

The Snodland team was: Ray Crow, R Head, Terry Woolmer, Brian Peck, Ivor Cornhill, Bill Kennard, R Manser, A Taylor, M Gilbert, D Steele, Bob Wimsett. Snodland opened the scoring on 15 minutes when "left-winger Wimsett, an audacious path-finder into BP territory from the moment the conflict began, passed the ball in neatly and efficaciously to the waiting Gilbert who netted with equal economy." Further Snodland attacks came close to increasing the lead but the match was not "a one-sided affair. Crow, in Snodland's goal wasn't allowed to become redundant." On 25 minutes BP equalised and then almost took the lead – an accidental handball from a BP player coming to Snodland's rescue. The winner for Snodland came before half-time, when Gilbert scored the decisive goal that took Snodland into the final. Early in the second half Snodland lost Ivor Cornhill through injury and had to play with ten men, "but though inferior in numbers, their strategy, even under adverse conditions was quite the reverse, and BP found it beyond their capabilities to bring about any change in the score." A good news day in the club's history was captured brilliantly by the headline in the Chatham News: "Snodland Succeed".

Snodland took on Wingets Reserves in the final of the Quarter Century Cup on Friday 17 April 1964. This tie was played at the RM Ground, Chatham, where Snodland defeated Wingets to win the trophy. Unfortunately, neither the score nor a match report can be found in the local press. We know Snodland won the final from a report in the Maidstone Gazette, five years later, (February

1969) which gave an excellent summary of Snodland FC's and listed the club's honours.

The decision to play in the Rochester League had clearly been vindicated, and Snodland ended the season as league runners-up behind champions Seeboard, but the situation in the Maidstone League was very different. Snodland made a sluggish start to 1964 in the Maidstone Premier Division. The side played no matches in January, two in February (an unrecorded win and a 2-2 draw with Barming), and two in March (a 6-1 defeat to Wouldham and a 2-2 draw against Tovil & Bridge Mills). It was becoming clear that Snodland were in danger of failing to play 75% of their fixtures (16 games), in which case their league record would be deleted and the club relegated.

April began with Snodland having played 13 matches, reached 11 points and positioned a lowly tenth place in the table. It now looked like the decision to have "two first teams" would cost Snodland its place in Maidstone's Premier Division.

Meanwhile at the top, the title had been decided. Writing in the KM (10 April) Graham Dexter reported, "The Premier Division Championship is already settled, with Eccles champions supreme. They have 33 points from 17 games and cannot be caught. Their victory has crushed the "Wouldham Era" which has reigned for the past three seasons. Most interest in this division is revolving around the relegation struggle for survival between Tovil, Coombe, Snodland and Barming."

At the beginning of May 1964 Snodland had played 14 games, and had arranged two evening games against Coombe Estate on Friday 1 May and Staplehurst the following day. Events conspired against Snodland and Mr Ernie Cook, Snodland's Secretary, told the KM (8 May) that both clubs "let us down". This meant Snodland had failed to play 75% of their league games and – according to League rules – Snodland's points would be deleted and the club relegated to Division 1. But the League Management Committee faced an unusual dilemma. From 14 games Snodland had secured more points than three clubs: Barming, Tovil & Bridge Mills and Wouldham. Another complication involved relegating Wouldham. Their Reserve team were in Division 1 and League rules prevented two sides from the same Club playing in the same

division.

Ahead of the League Committee meeting that was called to resolve the relegation issues, Mr Cook told the KM (8 May): "It's entirely in the hands of the clubs whether they let us stay in the Premier Division." The Snodland FC Secretary explained that the club got into problems after Christmas. "We started the season with 41 players – but 29 have since left. The trouble was that after our Reserves won Division 3A at the end of last season we pulled them out of the Maidstone League, and entered a team in the First Division of the Rochester and District League. We attempted to run two first elevens in the different leagues – but it did not work out. I personally feel that most of the players that left us did so because they thought they should play in the Rochester League team which was having a very good season, and did in fact finish second in the table. They wanted to play on the winning side. But our loyal players stayed with us, and we finished off the season with a staff of 22."

In the same article, Mr G Kellaway, secretary of Wouldham FC, gloomily reported his club's problems: "The reason for our change of fortune was that a lot of our best players joined Aylesford Paper Mills. We were left with virtually our reserves to play in the Premier Division team, and our First Division team was made up to quite a large extent of local schoolboys." A sorry state of affairs for a footballing superpower that had won the Premier Division for the last three seasons.

The League Committee enforced the 75% rule and relegated Snodland to Division 1. However, Snodland left the Maidstone League and would remain in the Rochester League for the next four seasons. It is not clear when Snodland informed the Maidstone League they were withdrawing, as a 1964-65 Division 1 fixtures card for Kimberly-Clark FC lists Snodland away on 19 December and at home on January 16. Neither fixture would be played.

Snodland FC finally re-joined the Maidstone League in September 1968, and spent six years playing in Division 1 before winning promotion to the Premier Division in May 1974. In total Snodland were absent from the highest tier of the Maidstone League for ten seasons. It would take another decade before Snodland won the Premier Division – a feat they achieved in the 1983-84 season.



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Coronavirus

Happily it seems that the local community has so far escaped any major outbreak of the Corona virus, but we intend to proceed with caution. I will set out separately the results of decisions being made (a) by the Policy and Resources Committee meeting of STC (27 Aug) and (b) by the SHS Committee Meeting (2 Sept), regarding the Society's plans and the Museum, but I have proposed the following plan for the latter.

Museum

For the time being I think the only way we can re-open the museum is to have an appointments system. This can be advertised in local newspapers and on web-sites. Numbers of visitors are small and should easily be accommodated in this way. With only one entrance and no means of creating a one-way system, we will have to restrict visitors to one group/person at a time.

So a message something like the following is proposed (and has been agreed by STC):

For the time being Snodland Museum can only be visited by pre-booked appointment on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons 2-5 pm. We will need the name and contact details of an individual, or the person in charge of a group/family. Hand gel will be provided on arrival (and there are hand-washing facilities). Contact Dr. Andrew Ashbee (phone: 01634-243001; e-mail: aa0060962@blueyonder.co.uk)

Three War Stories

I have had three interesting e-mails concerning Snodland and men in the two World Wars.

The first is very much a mystery and concerns a man called Harold. He seems to have had a girlfriend called Annie Gurney, who lived with her parents at Windsor. The only 'evidence' we have (and kindly sent to me) is three postcards: one dated 21 April 1919 sent to her from Corfu, the Greek island, where he was 'very busy', so would write again soon. Another, dated 17 July 1919, is from Taranto, the port in Italy opposite Corfu and in this he says he is still on the way home and hopes to be there within the next few weeks, giving his

address as Nelson Villa, Snodland, Kent. The third card is a photograph of himself, in uniform and taken with ruined buildings in the background, as you can see. Presumably he gave the London Photographic Company the original, which they put on to



their own card backing, with 4516 as the number for further copies. Their premises were at Maidstone and Sittingbourne, so the Kent connection is strengthened. Nelson Villa was (and is) in Bramley Road (formerly no 11, now 23), although the name is no longer visible. In 1911 a family called Smallman lived there, but there is no sign of a Harold in the census names. Maybe the 1921 census will provide some answers—and a surname. Annie never married.

The second e-mail was from a family member of Denis Page, killed on 21 January 1944 aged 20, north-west of Snodland in a Mustang aeroplane and asking if we had any details about the crash. He belonged to the RAF Volunteer Reserve, service number 127990, and operated from Gravesend. We had nothing and there was no mention in the ARP log book meticulously kept by Fred Stone. However, the lady has since been in touch to say that her enquiries had resulted in her receiving an article writ-

was Alexander Charles Digby, born on 7 July 1921 and at the outbreak of war he joined the RAF. His sister Peggie joined the Land Army. Alexander was educated at Brook Street school. But I have not been able to trace his secondary education. George and Mary are both buried at Snodland Cemetery. Alexander was killed, as a Sergeant, over Belgium (De Haan) on 16 April 1942, in a Wellington bomber of 156 Squadron and is buried at Vlissegem Churchyard, some ten kilometres East of Ostend, with the six other crew. He is not commem-



1942/43 RAF FIGHTER SQUADRON No.19
DENIS TOP RIGHT

ten by Ron Underdown, sometime of Halling, which showed that the fatal crash was 'in a field adjacent to the Pilgrim's Way and the sharp bend in Ladd's Lane at Upper Halling'. (An excellent article, incidentally, which I have saved and printed: 'Memories of Halling in the 1940's') Denis was on a training exercise from Gravesend aerodrome and his tail-plane came off while executing a fast dive.; he was killed instantly and is buried in Maidstone cemetery, where there is a CWGC memorial.

The third e-mail is the most significant regarding Snodland and concerns the Digby family who lived at 4 Oxford Street (4th house up from the bottom on the North side). George Joseph Digby was one of a long line of watermen and worked for Lee's cement works. The family barge was called the 'Elizabeth Little'. George's first wife died in 1912 and he then married Mary Maria Digby (her maiden name too) and they had a second family of four children. One



orated on the Snodland War Memorial and I have asked Karen Sowten to see whether his name could be added.

Eleanor of Castille

Among the oldest stained glass windows in All Saints Church, are the remnants of what were two coats of arms: one of England, representing Edward I, and the other of his queen Eleanor of Castile, who died in November 1290—and in whose memory he erected crosses (including Charing Cross) as her body was brought to London for burial. In 1846 they were in the tracery at the top of the east window, but this window was of much later date than the glass heraldry, so they must originally have been somewhere else. They were moved to the central chancel window on the north side when the rector created a new east window. There they were severely damaged by the bomb in 1941, but what is left of them is now in the north window of the west wall. Eleanor 'of Leon and Castile' had two emblems in her coat of arms, both puns: Leon became a lion and Castile became a castle. I have always wondered



why these two windows were at Snodland, but recently a reason has presented itself. I am a volunteer who attends the meetings of the Rochester Cathedral Research Guild, whose leader, Jacob Scott, has led remarkable new research into the building and its history. A few months ago he sent us a set of images, one of which was of part of the crypt ceiling with the following text about it: ‘Although the subject of the scenes within the roundels is unidentified, the heraldic shields above the shafts belong to powerful relatives and allies of King Edward I towards the end of the 13th century. Edward’s first queen Eleanor of Castile died in November 1290, so this may have been a chantry chapel in her honour.’ Jacob alerted the expert on the paintings to my notes on the Snodland windows, who pointed out that Edward I ‘made offerings at the shrines at St William of Perth and SS Ithamar and Paulinus in 1300.’ (at Rochester). We must remember that the Patron of Snodland is the Bishop of Rochester, so it is quite likely that the rector of the time, the notorious Wynand de Dryland (who supposedly poisoned a judge, but was claimed by the Bishop and pardoned), perhaps in gratitude to him, created a chantry chapel at Snodland in memory of Eleanor and that the windows were associated with that.

Polo at Holborough

Another e-mail received asked about whether polo was indeed played at Holborough. This led me to look into that and newspapers of the time provide lots of information. Holborough Court, the grand house built by William Henry Roberts in 1884-6 from money received from a substantial bequest from William Lee, clearly inspired him to move in the highest social circles (including the Prince of Wales, who visited the house). His estate manager, was Matthew Beaumont Parrington, having first

come to Snodland to manage Lee’s cement works, and I suspect he was keen to promote polo at Holborough since he played a major part in its activities. The first announcement was on 15 July 1887 ‘that a Polo club for Kent is just being formed, The meetings will take place at Holborough Court, Snodland, on the grounds of Major Roberts. As Kent is strong in military stations, and military men are the mainstay of polo, we may confidently expect Kent to form a powerful team.’ The first match took place that August (with Parrington one of the Holborough team of four), against Dover Garrison Club, and was won convincingly by 9 goals to nil. Later matches were not always so successful, but the ground was always commended for its quality. Kent County Polo Club became the team’s name. It seems each year there was also a day of races, some quite bizarre, including on 4 August 1890:

The Tom Ducks Hurdle Race, one mile, over five flights of hurdles, for ponies regularly played this season at Holborough. ... entrance £1

A Bare-back race, once round the course, entrance 10s. ‘No clothing of any description to be used in the bare back race’, but otherwise ‘all riders must wear an ordinary race jacket and cap.’

Cigar and umbrella race, once round the course. Each rider must saddle his pony, light his cigar, and put up his umbrella before mounting, and also must dismount and drink a brandy and soda, conveniently placed half-way round. A Japanese umbrella will be provided on the ground. Entrance 10s.

First race at 2-30 sharp. Admission to the ground for non-members 1s each. Carriages 5s. And 1s for each occupant. Members will be admitted free on presentation of members ticket only. Members carriages will be charged 5s each.

The event was fully reported. In the Medway Stakes (7 furlongs) ‘The jockeys were not allowed to mount until told to go and some little amusement was caused by the restiveness of some of the ponies not allowing the riders to mount’ ... ‘Champion and Catch-em-alive were the first away, but Champion on the outside was unable to round the corner near the carriage entrance and Mr Hohler saw that he was bearing right on to two large trees. Just in time he managed to swerve Champion to the right, but the rope of the course caught Champion’s leg and he fell, throwing his rider some twenty yards over his head. Mr Hohler was carried senseless off the field,

but marvellous to say was found to have escaped with severe contusions on the face and head, and before the end of the meeting appeared on the course again amid loud cheers and congratulations.

The Ball race was 'very interesting as each rider had, with a polo club, to take a ball round a post and then through a goal at the starting point. The Cigar and Umbrella Race didn't receive much of a report except that it 'caused much merriment, some of the ponies refusing to be saddled.'

News of the Club vanishes from local newspapers in 1893, but in July 1899 'Holborough' is mentioned as a provincial polo club in a tournament 'at Crystal Palace, so it was still known then.

Holborough Court residents

The polo investigation led me to look again at the residents of Holborough Court, because the Roberts family was absent at the 1891 census. I found William Henry at Northwood, Hampshire, (= Cowes, Isle of Wight) with his son William Lee Henry. Both were 'visitors' at 'A Y S Castle', probably a yacht, or perhaps a hotel, where WLH is described as a cadet at Sandhurst. They may have been there for the yachting. Meanwhile, WH's wife Edith and sister Madeleine were at the Hermitage, West Malling, then the home of Everard Luck. Interestingly Edith is described as sister-in-law to Everard and 'living on own means', while Madeleine, his niece, was a 'domestic servant'. I guess her duties were not too arduous and she later married into the wealthy Streatfield family. The family link to the Lucks is new information. WH married Edith Jerdein (born in Liverpool), at Kensington in 1870 and Everard Luck (whose family had owed Woodlands Farm for much of the nineteenth century) married Gertrude Jerdein in 1874 at the same church..

Maybe the reason that polo disappears from the news after about 1893 is that another family took up residence at Holborough Court for at least the years 1891-1899 and perhaps polo was not of particular interest to them. Matthew Parrington seems to have remained as Estate Manager, but apparently left around 1899 when they did. As Honorary Secretary of the Polo Club, he may have kept it going. Frederick William Woodhouse (1849-1934) and his wife Constance (1853-1936) do not appear in the Snodland censuses of course, and in fact do not appear in the English 1881 and 1891 censuses either. The reason may be connected to the family business,

for the firm had built up a great reputation for Marsala wine imported from Sicily. It appears that a John Woodhouse (1766-1826) was marooned on the island in 1773 and, having drunk it, realised the potential of the local Marsala wine, which he had to fortify with brandy in order to send it to England. The drink was so successful that Lord Nelson recommended it for the navy and several generations of the Woodhouse family imported and distributed it via Liverpool. Frederick William still describes him-



self as a wine merchant in 1901. Again there is no sign of the family in the 1911 census. In 1901 they were living at Newsells 'great house' in Barkway, Hertfordshire (now demolished), but photos show it was similar in size to Holborough Court. The Woodhouse name is still evident in Marsala, where John's original 'baglio' (seen in the photo) is now a historic landmark.

In 1901 the Roberts family were back in residence, at Holborough, although WH was staying at the Esplanade Hotel, Dover, when the census was taken.

Snodland Councillors

Neil Miners has spent a very great deal of time compiling the splendid index of Snodland councillors from 1894 to the present day (attached separately). He asks for information about the Christian names where we only have initials. These can be sent to him at neilminers@gmx.co.uk or 13 Gorham Close. He plans to list also the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen and we will put all the information on to our web-site.



Snodland Historical Society

Newsletter

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www.snodlandhistory.org.uk

#####December 2020

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Museum

For the time being Snodland Museum can only be visited by pre-booked appointment on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons 2-5 pm. We will need the name and contact details of an individual, or the person in charge of a group/family. Hand gel will be provided on arrival (and there are hand-washing facilities). Contact Dr. Andrew Ashbee (phone: 01634-243001; e-mail: ashbeeandrew4@gmail.com)

Report of 'Zoom' AGM on 7 October 2020

Whether by accident or design, just seven members were able to join the Zoom meeting: Andrew and Brenda Ashbee; Avril Castle; Peter Coulls; Jerry Hayes; Neil Miners; June Wright. **Apologies** were received from Denis Anstey, Sue Brooks; Valerie Brown; Iain and Jane Colquhoun; Brian Tansley.

Reports from the Chairman (AGM 2019) and Treasurer (2020) were previously provided;

Acceptance of Chairman's report: proposed Jerry Hayes; seconded June Wright

Acceptance of Treasurer's report: proposed Andrew Ashbee; seconded Neil Miners

Election of Officers:

We were very shocked and saddened to hear that Terri Veal, a long-time member of the Committee, died suddenly on 29 September. Her granddaughter is keen to compile a book of memories of her. These can be set to me to forward to her.

The following are willing to serve in 2020-21 and there being no other nominations are deemed elected: Andrew Ashbee (Chairman); Avril Castle (Vice-chairman); Valerie Brown (Secretary); Jerry Hayes (Treasurer); John Coomber; Neil Miners. There are now four unfilled vacancies, so suggestions/offers of potential Committee members will be gratefully received by the Chairman.

Other topics discussed

Resumption of 'live' meetings. The matter will be kept under review, but the current situation suggests that we are unlikely to resume these until April 2021 at the earliest.

Subscriptions. The idea has been floated that a flat rate of £2.50 (to be due when the first live meeting takes place) could be offered to members. Messages received suggest that members seem willing to pay the full rate as usual

Any Other Business.

Those members who have contacted me are happy that £7,750 of the £10,000 awarded as a grant towards the Museum business rate should be paid to the Town Council. The Council has promised to spend it on improvements to the Museum, particularly replacing the lighting. We might invest in a laptop computer (given that the Museum desktop computers are 20 years old now). This would also be useful for future talks by any of our members.

A suggestion that a land-line be provided for the Museum (by SHS) to enable an Internet connection has led to two comments that wifi would be better. I wonder whether there would be a problem with this, given that I presume that on Sunday afternoons the STC machines, for

instance, would be switched off. More discussion needed.

Geoff.Porter kindly alerted me to the BT map which shows Waghorn Road is currently in the 'least' strong area to receive a signal.

Our Facebook page has provided a contact which may result in our acquiring the lost 'archive' of the New Jerusalem church, for which I have been searching for 20 years. It appears that this was removed by Ray Tobin to his own house when the church was closed in 1990. The house was/is? actually owned by the family of the man who made the Facebook appeal and after Ray died the material was not destroyed. However, it is now scattered in many cardboard boxes (I'm not sure where). The contact lives in the Lake District, but is happy for us to have the material once he can gather it up and deliver it/come to Snodland. I have sent him the list of the archive compiled by Philip Stroud in the 1970s, so he will know what to look for.

School book (see separate entry below)

I am hoping to increase the content of the SHS website. A new section has been added: 'SHS Pamphlets', which will provide copy of some of them. The first seven pamphlets are already there and more will be added. I hope too to include the full texts of the 1800 John May Charity and 1867 Charity Commission documents, since I think they are rather long-winded and tortuous to include complete in the school book. Other sections like the Newsletters need updating. My thanks to Peter Jefferies for all his help in negotiating the Word-Press scheme.

Book on the 'National School': Brook Street and Roberts Road

Recently the Society was approached by Ed Adams, the director of Canterley Publishing, a Kent firm, asking if we would be interested in compiling a book for him. Of the three topics he suggested the one that appealed to me most was a history of the National/Brook Street, later Roberts Road School, whose origins begin c.1763. I contacted the headmistress and she is keen for this to go ahead. I



Parent-Teacher Association in the early 1950s. Standing in the centre at the back is Rev. Speers, Miss McKay, the retiring head-mistress and Mr Ernest Field who was to replace her.

said I was happy to write the early history to c.1950 and Jenny Dance, a staff member for 12 years, has volunteered to help. I have a sample copy of Ed's book on Wittersham School and it is beautifully presented with lots of pictures. Cost will probably be £15, with royalties paid to the school. We will be looking for any memories and pictures from former pupils and their families, so please circulate the news about this. The school has already done so and I have added pleas to our web-site and Facebook pages..

I have worked steadily on the first five chapters up to about 1950, which currently divide as follows:

1. 1763-1836. Beginnings.
2. 1836-1867. The Parish Develops
3. 1867-1882. A New Start: the Hilder Years
4. 1882-1930. Peace and War
5. 1930-1974. Brook Street: the Final Years

We hope there will be two more chapters covering the Roberts Road years up to 2020.

We are fortunate that we hold a great deal of material at the Museum. I had previously photocopied all the logbooks up to 1930 and also the earliest surviving admission registers. However, all the logbooks and registers were sent to the Kent History and Library Centre in 2009, so we may have some difficulties accessing the post-1950 material (for copyright reasons). Names of teachers at a particular time/year would be invaluable. The extensive memories of former pupils we hold have proved invaluable for recording the 1920s and '30s. In some ways it will be more difficult to cover the modern era, which is why we need your memories!

I am currently looking through the newspapers files which Roy Penny laboriously and efficiently compiled: 1999-1911, which are adding some material, together with *Town Talk* and *Downs Mail* and what we have from earlier series like *Grapevine* and *Neighbour*. If anyone has photographs of Roberts Road events/classes we would be very pleased to scan them.

R.A.M.C. Snodland Detachment

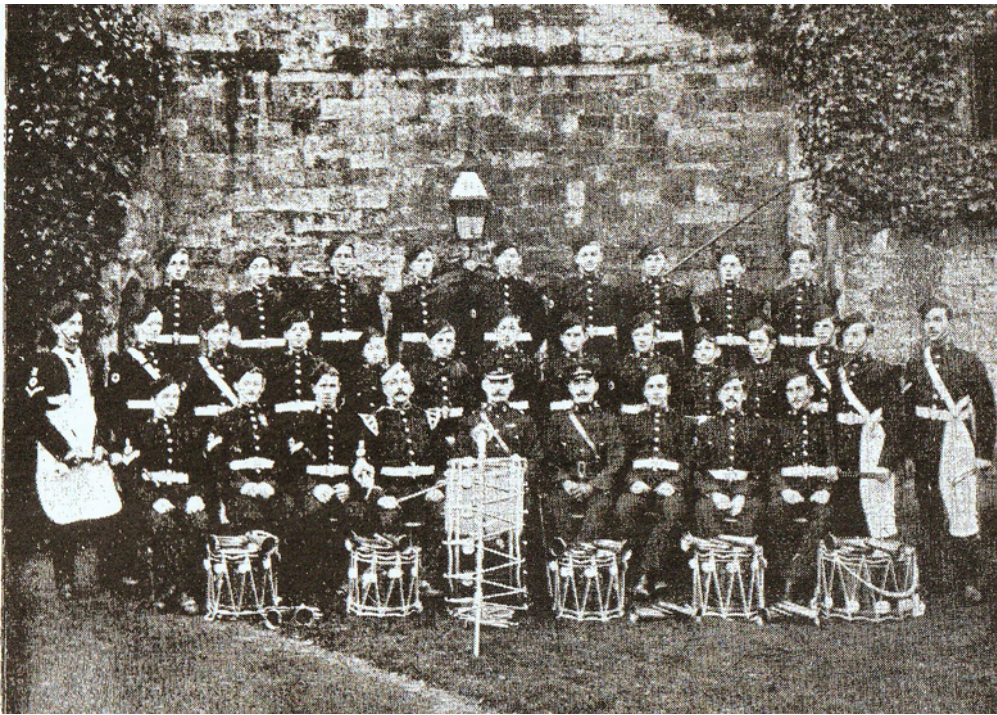
It's amazing what the Internet throws up. I was making one of my periodic checks for Snodland photographs, when I found a picture of 'The Band, 1905', belonging to the R.A.M.C. Maidstone Volunteers. This led me in turn to a book by Frederick J. Wood: *The History of the Maidstone Companies, Royal Army Medical Corps*

(*Volunteers*), published by the "Kent Messenger" Printing Works, 1907. Not only that, but I found the book was available as a reprint and so have bought a copy for the Museum. The Maidstone Company was formed in 1886, but in 1905 a Snodland Detachment was created (and later a Canterbury one too). The Kent Artillery Volunteers which Eustace Hook was heavily involved in had been disbanded in the early 1900s, and men of this new Company were to form the core of those who enlisted at the outbreak of WWI. Wood writes:

'The chief event in 1905 was the formation of a detachment of the Companies at Snodland, the success of which was almost phenomenal. This was not the first attempt to form a detachment of the Corps at Snodland, for in 1889 Surgeon-Major D. H. Monckton. applied for permission to open a drill station there. This, however, was refused, owing to the opposition of the Officer Commanding 3rd Kent Artillery Volunteers, who considered that the district was not populous enough to support more than one corps. This objection did not apply in 1905, as the Artillery detachment had been disbanded, and the required permission was at once granted. A large number of ex-Artillery men joined the detachment. Under the able tuition of Sergeant-Major E. J. Harris the Snodland men have made rapid progress, and now compare favourably in everyway with their comrades at headquarters. A band has been started in connection with the detachment under the direction of Drum-Major A. Hart, of headquarters. The Rev. E. D. Finch-Smith, the Rector of Snodland, has taken the liveliest interest in the formation of the detachment, and has since accepted a commission as Acting-Chaplain, transferring from the 1st Volunteer Battalion (The Queens Own) Royal West Kent Regiment. Staff-sergeant W. Boardman has been appointed staff-sergeant in charge of the detachment. The Mayor of Maidstone, Alderman S. Britt, J.P., presented a silver cup to be competed for in the corps during 1905, which was won by Staff-sergeant W. Boardman.

The *South-Eastern Gazette* (Kent Messenger) included weekly orders for the Volunteers until 1908, so we can track instructions for the Snodland men. Here are some of them.

31-10-1905. A detachment of the Corps having been sanctioned for establishment at Snodland, responsible young men desiring to join should send their names to the Officer Commanding, R.A.M.C.



In 1905 this must be the Maidstone RAMC Band at the Archbishop's Palace. Snodland's would have been similar, and is first mentioned in March 1906.

(Vols.), Old Palace, Maidstone

14-11-1905. Wednesday – 8.10 p.m., Snodland Detachment, plain clothes at the Drill Hall, Snodland. Recruits for the Snodland Detachment will be enrolled at 8 p.m. on Wednesday the 15th November

18-11-1905. Monday 8 pm Swearing in of recruits and measuring for clothing, plain clothes at Snodland Drill Hall.

8-3-1906. Route march to Aylesford, with band, drill order, with side arms.

Several NCO's took turns as Order Corporal for the detachment. Those named are Lance-Corporals Sweetzer, and Shirley; Corporals Wallis and Mayatt.

30-6-1906. Church Parade for Snodland Detachment. Fall in at Rising Sun, Holborough Road, at 10 a.m. on Sunday 1 July, dress, service dress, drill order, all in possession of sidearms will wear them.

Further investigation reveals that the R.A.M.C. Journal from 1903 onwards is completely and freely available online, so more may yet be found, although I think it deals with medical matters rather than with the men.

Two possible Christmas presents

Forwarded with this newsletter are two advertisements which I was asked to bring to your attention. Both are from previous speakers to our Society and I am pleased to do so. Irena's book is published on 18 November 2020 for the first time, whereas Mary's has now reached a second edition—and brings news that another war-time shelter has been found at the school.

Bob Coomber

Members will be very sad to hear that Bob Coomber has

died. He did reach the grand age of 90, which is comforting, but his loss will be keenly felt, not least by me, since he dutifully manned the museum for most Wednesdays for some 15 years. As a lifelong resident of Snodland he was able to remember people and places as they once were and many visitors were gratified when they were able to draw upon those memories in seeking their own family histories. Derek Bright was particularly grateful for his thoughts on the river area when researching the Snodland crossing in his book on the Pilgrims' Way and it is good that these are acknowledged in it. Bob's help went much further, because he was always looking out for ways to display and store the museum material to greatest effect. He was for ever fixing nails and brackets to hang pictures and the like. He also provided many items for the collection, particularly walking round the town taking modern photographs of scenes and houses shown in early images.

Equally sad is the news that Albert Daniels died on 25 November. He was a leading figure in the Maidstone Area Archaeological Group and oversaw the Snodland Roman Villa dig in the 1980s. Before he died he requested that all his writings on the villa should come to the Museum (which he visited in August) and this is in hand.



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SHS MEETINGS

I have asked the Committee for their views and the general feeling is that we would be wise to plan for next season, beginning with the AGM in October 2021. Hopefully we will then be able to have our usual monthly meetings Oct-Dec 2021 and Feb-May 2022

Museum

If there are no changes to official plans, we will open the Museum on Wednesday 19th May, although subject to whatever regulations are imposed.

Halling Historical Society

In January 2021 Halling Historical Society launched its own web-site: www.hallinghistory.co.uk. Here can be found news of the village and its history, with many sections devoted to different aspects and people. The Society will be glad of any reminiscences which people are able to contribute.

Three Adventurous Parishioners

My research into the history of the C of E Primary School has inevitably led me to look for information on the early staff and pupils. Nothing substantial appears before the first log book of 1863 of course, but the Internet does now usefully fill many gaps. William Higgens (sometimes 'Higgins') was headmaster between 1811 and 1836. He was born in Sutton Valence, the son of George and Margaret and baptised there on 6 January 1788. His mother was Margaret Goodhugh

from Birling, sister of John of Birling and Snodland, the grandfather of Waghorn. John bequeathed £25 to William in his will of 1831. It seems likely that William was educated at Sutton Valence School (which had been established in Tudor times) He married Mary Butler at All Saints, Snodland, on 13 May 1809 so was already connected with the village, perhaps assisting the previous headmaster Samuel Maurice Hitchcock, who died in April 1811. Twelve children were born to the couple (although three died in infancy), helping to sustain the school numbers. They are the only school pupils whose names we know from this time: John (1811-1864), William (b.1813), Elizabeth (b.1815), Margaret (b.1816), James (b.1818), George (b.1820), Edward (1824-1901) and Albert (1828-1850), Mary (b.1830). Charles, Henry and Mary all died in infancy. Two of these children stand out because of their subsequent careers.

Waghorn had volunteered to join the East India Company in the Pilot service and sailed to India in January-June 1820. Yet nine months later (28 Feb 1821) he was 'on leave to England', the reason unknown, but one biographer quotes a source (probably among Indian records) that he 'applied for special leave "to proceed to England on account of his private affairs"'. When he returned - Dec 1821 - May 1822 - he took with him his nephew John Higgens. John was born on July 1811 so was not yet ten, although we should remember Waghorn himself was only twelve when he joined the Navy. Waghorn married Elizabeth Bartlett, aged 19, on 11 June 1822, a month after his return and 'John Higgens' was a witness. The pandemic has prevented my use of the fine resources of the India Office at the British Library, although some material is available on-line. Evidently John was intending to follow Waghorn into the Pilot Service and he

was admitted on 27 May 1828. No doubt, like Waghorn, he then had to work his way up the ranks from first being a lowly Volunteer.

On 19 May 1841 John married Elizabeth Baddiley (b.1824) at Chinsurar, Bengal and they had six children between 1841 and 1848. Sadly, she died on 24 Jan 1849 and was buried the next day in Calcutta. By 1845 John is listed as 'Master' in the Pilot Service and became 'Pilot' (the highest rank) by 1858. He re-married at St James, Calcutta, on 3 Dec 1853, his new wife being Mary Ann Elford (1832-1905). Three more children were born to them there in 1854, 1856 and 1858, but the family retired to Bedford, England, where a son Thomas Waghorn Elford Higgins was baptised on 6 May 1860. The use of Waghorn's name is touching and this Thomas became a successful civil engineer. John described himself in the 1861 census as 'Retired commander of Her Maj. [ship] "Bengal", Pilot Service', and he lived with his family at 38 Harpur Street, Bedford. He died on 17 Sep 1864, aged 53, with an estate valued at under £450. The newspaper announcement of his death records him as 'F.R.A.S.' [Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society], as Waghorn had been.#

There is no baptism recorded at All Saints for Edward Thomas, but the memorial on his grave gives his birth on 22 June 1824. He studied at the Church Missionary College, Islington, and on 21 December 1850 he was ordained a deacon by the Bishop of London at the Chapel Royal, Whitehall, and again the next day by no less a person than the Archbishop of Canterbury at Croydon parish church 'for missionary service abroad'. Soon after, on 5 March 1851, he married Amelia Dyke at St Mary Islington. She came from Union Street, Rochester, so they clearly had been childhood friends when both families lived there. At the 1851 census on 30



March the couple were in Deptford 'proceeding to the island of Ceylon' as missionaries. That was to be Edward's life's work for the next fifty years, although he made several visits to England.

We are fortunate that a book by Rev, J. W. Balding, *One Hundred Years in*

Ceylon or The Centenary Volume of the Church Missionary Society of Ceylon 1818-1918 (Madras, 1922) makes a number of references to Edward's work there and even supplies a picture of him. He was particularly keen to work in the villages in the hills east of Colombo near Kandy and the book records: 'Very few Kandyan families resided in the town itself, and the object of this new effort was to convey the Gospel to the Kandyans in their villages. The Rev. E. T. Higgins commenced the work in July, 1853, in the district of Harispattu, as being the most populous for its size of the Kandyan districts. [He] entered on the work single-handed, but in the first year, repeated attacks of jungle-fever compelled him to take a sea voyage to the Cape. On his return he found that his wife had passed away during his absence, but he vigorously resumed his preaching in Harispattu, visiting every village in turn.'

The couple had had a daughter, also Amelia, born in 1853, but the mother died on 9 June 1854, apparently after giving birth, to a son, who died on 9 October following. Both are buried at Holy Trinity churchyard, Kandy. A report by Edward for a year in Kandy Oct 1855 – Sep 1856 survives among the CMS papers. He was in England for his marriage to Anne Catherine Schön at St John, Chatham, on 4 Aug 1858. She was the daughter of another missionary who had worked in South Africa, and was born there. In 1863 Edward moved from Kandy to Cotta, where he had doubts about how Christian his flock was. This may have been the time when he wrote (in Sinhalese) *No Salvation in Buddhism* to discover the true faith of his parishioners. A son Frederick (1867-1954) was born in Colombo, and daughter Edith Catherine (1868-1960) at Gillingham, Kent. In April 1866 he was transferred to Baddegama in the south-west of the country, and during his time there the Church Council system came into operation, with three separate pastorates under a district council. In July 1870 the book records he took charge of the English work at Christ Church, the evangelistic work among the Sinhalese and the management of the Sinhalese schools. In 1876 and 1881 he visited England again, where he is described as assistant general secretary of the CMS.

Balding writes 'For the last few years of his life, before his retirement, he had resided at the Galle Face Mission House [Colombo], undertaking the duties of the Secretariat. But the old love of evangelization remained and constantly he was to be seen in the streets and public places with the catechists, preaching and inviting the heathen to come to Christ.' The CMS has certainly left considerable evidence of its work in Sri Lanka with

present-day Anglican churches and schools. Higgens is credited with helping to establish the prestigious Ladies College founded in 1900 in Colombo. He returned to Rochester and died there on 11 June 1901. An account of his funeral appears in several newspapers:

The funeral took place at St. Nicholas Cemetery, Rochester, on Friday [14th], of the Rev. Edward Thomas Higgens, a missionary of the Church Missionary Society in Ceylon. He had only been home a few months, failing health having compelled his retirement, and before he left he was the recipient of a testimonial in gold. He was held in great affection and veneration by the Tamil and Singhalese congregations, amongst whom he had laboured for many years, as well as by the English.

He is buried in St Nicholas's cemetery, Maidstone Road, Rochester, where there is a flat headstone: 'In loving memory of the Revd Edward Thomas Higgens, born June 22nd 1824, died June 11th 1901, for nearly 50 years ACMS missionary in Ceylon; also of Annie Catherine, beloved wife of the above, born May 10th 1836, died June 14th 1911.

Two daughters became missionaries. Amelia must have been sent home after her mother died because in 1861 she was at the CMS Children's Home at Finsbury. But by 1886 she was teaching in the Punjab as a missionary. Edith had followed her and both continued working in Ceylon, unmarried, visiting England from time to time. They are last recorded returning together from Colombo to England on the *Derbyshire*, arriving 30 March 1921, aged 67 and 52 respectively.

Edward Jupp (1816-1894), son of William and Ann from Birling, had married Susanna Hodshon at Aylesford on 26 December 1844, when he was already described as a schoolmaster living at Snodland. Her residence then was Aylesford, but she was listed as 'schoolmistress' on the marriage certificate, so perhaps she had already been helping Edward at Snodland.

Four Jupp children were baptised at All Saints: Elizabeth (1845), Herbert Hodshon (1847), and Arthur William in 1849. Agnes Ann, baptised in September 1851 shows they were still in Snodland then, but the whole family then disappears from view. The reason is that they emigrated to New Zealand, where newspapers show that they arrived in Wellington on the *Cornwall*, an East-Indiaman sailing ship of 580 tons, on 13 August 1853. Their journey was probably prompted by English efforts

to encourage settlement in the country: particularly the 'Canterbury Association' of 1848, which was created by MPs, Lords and clergymen. The *Cornwall* sailed from London to Wellington, bringing immigrants and the Jupps were among the 112 passengers on the ship's third such journey. On the previous journey a diarist recorded that he had been appointed as 'ship's schoolmaster' so Jupp may have served similarly. There is one extended account of friction with local education officials in 1868, but his name often appears too as an officer involved in regulating elections, highways, land sales and as a churchwarden. At Greytown he had 3 acres as well as the schoolhouse to manage. Education reports show he was paid £100 annually and Susanna received £20. One more child, Edmund, was born in New Zealand in 1854. Perhaps the journey was inspired by a previous one undertaken from Snodland in 1848, when the Godden charity reports a payment of £21 9s. 6d. on 25 April 1848 to 'William Burgess [and his] Wife & 4 Children Expenses to South Australia.' These are very early voyages for the settlers - the first steam ship did not set out until 1852.

A News Miscellany

On 11 March I had an e-mail from Tunbridge Wells Museum, saying they had been given a mammoth tooth, but since it was not connected with their town (it came from excavations at 'Ham Hill'), would we like it? This is the first and probably only time that I have received a mammoth tooth by post, but it is good to be able to add it to the one we already have (and the mammoth tusk), originally given to Tony Warnett and passed on to the Museum by St Katherine's School. There is also an interesting description from the original owner.

ROMAN VILLA

With the sad death of Albert Daniels before he could complete his report on Snodland Roman Villa, the Maidstone Area Archaeological Group has undertaken the task of collecting all his papers on the subject and producing the report. This will be passed to the Kent Archaeological Society when completed and all his papers about the villa will then be deposited at Snodland Museum. Giles Dawkes of South East Archaeology gave a fascinating on-line talk on the Villa on March 26th and he has been in touch with me about visiting the museum soon. He is also helping with the report. The talk is to be put on YouTube/Facebook by the Society and I'll e-mail details when I know them.

For those with Internet access, The Kent

Archaeological Society has recently begun hosting a series of videos, which can be found on their website kentarchaeology.org.uk. Many other videos of this nature are available via the Internet.

The Friends of All Saints was unable to produce a calendar in 2020 because of the pandemic, but a new and attractive one for 2022 has been published. These are of present-day views around the town and especially include examples from three people who sadly died during 2020: Peter Rimmer, Marjorie Penney, and Bob Coomber, as well as from others who submitted photos for consideration. Cost is £2, which will support the maintenance of All Saints, especially important as it gears up for the second part of the major renovation as planned.

From time to time I look on e-bay for local photographs, but it seems rare these days to find new ones of interest. I did buy an original composite picture of Farningham, (Design I in our catalogue,) with the following images: Church, South side, High Street, Lion Hotel & bridge, The Bull Inn, River

Darent. I have found only the church one in Hambrook's numbered series (HM 1353), but I did find and buy (reproduction) copies of the other three unnumbered pictures and then found another: HM1351: High Street, Farningham (a different view).

Jacob Scott is continuing his marvellous work on the fabric of Rochester Cathedral. He has been recreating some vivid images from painted remnants surviving on some of the window frames and other ornaments and carvings around the building. Go to rochestercathedral.org/virtual-tour for the series of guides to each part of the cathedral, narrated by Jools Holland, and 'Open All' in the Model collections section to view several remarkable series of carvings, for instance some of pious monks and others of low caste vagabonds and the like.

