

Wednesday 24 May 2000

THE POOR AND THE NEW BASTILLE

The new Poor Law of 1834 overturned the hitherto purely local approach to helping the impoverished. With an increasingly mobile population it was found necessary to form unions of towns and villages across wider areas to provide the support needed. Most help was given to those in their own homes, but where they could not keep their homes whole families were forcibly removed to the new Workhouses, or Unions where they received scant sympathy for their plight. Anne Neville gives an insight into the lives the inmates lived, where often married couples and their children were separated, and how the system came to form the foundation of the modern Welfare State introduced in 1944.

Barham Village Hall 7.30 pm

Member £1 Non-member £3 Including light refreshments

Saturday 1 July 2000

A SUMMER EVENING AT HIGHAM PARK Celebrating the New Millennium

The Society event of the season, and our contribution to the new millennium celebrations. Everyone from all six villages in the District the Society covers is cordially invited to join us in high summer in the lovely setting of this superb house and gardens, formerly home to Count Zborowski and his amazing racing cars powered by aero engines, and immortalised as Chitty-Chitty-Bang-Bang in Ian Fleming's books. The evening features:

- *Tour of Higham Park House and Gardens*
- *Glass of Sparkling Wine*
- *Grand Summer Buffet*
- *Live Music - Light classical, Jazz and Pop*
- *Competition - Best Twentieth Century Costume*

More information will be sent out to members with tickets in the May editio of the newsletter.

Members £15 Non-members £18 Children (under 14) £8

Written, designed, produced and distributed by Bill Dawson

Photos: Bill Dawson

Bridge & District History Society was formed in 1995 to promote interest in aspects of local history in and around the villages of Barham, Kingston, Bishopshourne, Bridge, Patricbourne and Bekesbourne. County-wide interests are served through membership of the Kent History Federation.

Events are informal and sociable, and transport and/or escorts to and from them can usually be arranged with other members living nearby; the secretary, Bill Dawson, will be pleased to help.

Membership is annual commencing in September. Rates are £5 single, £7.50 double and £2.50 for each additional person, and all at the same address. Newsletters and advance tickets for visits and days out are sent out alternate months

President John Williamson

Committee

Chairman John Bishop

Treasurer Maurice Raraty

Secretary Bill Dawson

Tel 01227 831044

Janet Bishop, Meriel Connor

John Corfield, Jenny Vye

All positions honorary



Cover:

St Martin's Church, Canterbury

This page:

View to Canterbury Cathedral from
St Martin's Church

Visit to St Martin's Church and St
Augustine's Abbey Saturday 26
February 2000

BRIDGE & DISTRICT
HISTORY SOCIETY
1999
PROGRAMME
2000



Tuesday 28 September 1999

MINNIS MEMORIES

Minnis was poor land unwanted by the Lord of the Manor, becoming 'common' land on which villagers could put out their animals to graze. Under the Enclosure Acts of the 18th and 19th centuries many disappeared eg Rhodes Minnis, High Minnis and Swingfield Minnis. When it was decided to buy the old Methodist chapel at Stelling Minnis for use as a village hall David McDine set about researching the history of the area with its windmills, old burial grounds and non-conformist tradition. David's talk is based on his research and the book Minnis Memories that resulted, which includes fascinating anecdotes and pictures from the turn of this century. Signed copies of the book will be on sale, with profits going to the conversion fund. Preceded by a swift Annual General Meeting

Bridge Village Hall 7.30 pm

Members £1 Non-members £3 Including light refreshments

Saturday 16 October 1999

DAY OUT AT ROCHESTER

Enjoy a great day out in historic Rochester known as 'the city on the road to Europe', featuring:

- *Private coach travel*
- *Walking tour organised by Rochester Civic Society*
- *Choice of visiting – Rochester Cathedral, The Charles Dickens Centre or Rochester Castle.*
- *Cream tea.*

Members £10 Non-members £12.50 Children (under 14) £8

Depart Bridge Post Office 9.30 am

Tuesday 23 November 1999

'STEADY, THE BUFFS!'

Formed on the orders of Queen Elizabeth in 1572 The Buffs can trace their origins further back than any other British Infantry Regiment. Historian Peter Ewart will show how the regiment evolved with its loose associations with East Kent until 1870 when it became permanently based at Canterbury, already an important garrison city, and its subsequent development through amalgamations. The Buffs has a fine record of battle honours, regimental traditions and famous actions throughout the world all of which Peter will touch on.

Bridge Village Hall 7.30 pm

Members £1 Non-members £3 Including light refreshments

Saturday 11 December 1999

CHRISTMAS BUFFET

This year held at The White Horse Inn there'll be a mixture of the familiar with some new twists. The popular prize photo quiz will be extended to cover a wider area, and the ingenious general knowledge prize quiz will be presented with a difference. Tickets will include a 'welcome' glass of mulled wine, and the buffet will feature soup, freshly roasted pork rolls and a dessert. And someone will have the lucky ticket number for that extra prize.

White Horse Inn, Bridge High Street 2.45pm for 3.00 pm

Members £7 Non-members £10 Children (under 14) £4

Tuesday 1 February 2000

CRADLE OF THE KINGDOM

The Anglo-Saxons who arrived to settle along the Nailbourne in about 400AD were far from being primitive and uncivilised. David Gilmour will show that from the artefacts recovered from pagan cemeteries excavated in Bekesbourne, Patribourne, Bishopsbourne, Kingston and Barham our predecessors were a wealthy and sophisticated aristocracy with many beautiful and expensive personal possessions, and that from this pagan period evolved the political framework which was to make this area the 'cradle of the kingdom'.

Bridge Village Hall 7.30 pm.

Members £1 Non-members £3 including light refreshments

Saturday 26 February 2000

VISIT TO ST MARTINS CHURCH AND ST AUGUSTINES ABBEY

Built during the Roman occupation of Britain and first recorded in AD 562, St Martins is the oldest parish church in continuous use in the country. In 597 St Augustine arrived in Canterbury heading a mission sent by Pope Gregory to convert the pagan King Ethelbert, and the monks based themselves at the church while building the Abbey. St Augustine's Abbey lasted for 1000 years until the dissolution of the monasteries by King Henry VIII in 1542. Together with Canterbury Cathedral these three sites form a World Heritage Site with the trail starting at the church.

Meet St Martins Lyche Gate 10.30 am

Members £4.25 Non-members £4.75 Children (under 14) £3.25

Tuesday 28 March 2000

WITHOUT LET OR HINDRANCE

In conflict and in peace, in prosperity and crisis, passports tell the hidden human story. Travel through the centuries with Martin Lloyd to discover how passports advanced from wax seals and copperplate to today's digital photo and plastic cover. Martin will reflect on the lives of the travellers, as refugees fleeing oppression, selling to the Empire or merely off on holiday. All of them hoped that their passport would allow them to pass freely across international boundaries 'without let or hindrance'.

Bridge Village Hall 7.30 pm

Members £1, Non-members £3, Including light refreshments

Saturday 29 April 2000

DAY OUT AT WINCHELSEA AND RYE

A Cinque Port, Winchelsea is the smallest town in Britain with a Mayor and Council and boasts a fascinating history, as official guide Jane Fraser Hay will reveal. The original town was destroyed in a series of violent storms and was relocated 1½ miles to its present site around 1300 under Edward I. For a second time the town was destroyed in the 100 years war with the French (1329-1451) and the harbour finally silted up at the end of the 15th century, and since then Winchelsea has remained virtually unchanged. The day features:

- *Private coach travel*
- *Guided tour of Winchelsea*
- *Free time at Rye*
- *Cream tea in Rye*

Members £12 Non-members £14 Children (under 14) £8

Booking closes 15 April.

Saturday 13 May 2000

KHF AT FAVERSHAM

The Kent History Federation's annual day out this year is to Faversham, a town packed with history. Talks on local topics are given in the morning, with a choice of visits to places of interest in the afternoon. Lunches can be pre-arranged.

Full details and booking forms will be sent out to all Society members in the Spring.