

CHARING & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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CDLHS Newsletter: June 2022

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Summer 2022 a celebratory time-in more ways than one



Pic: wikicommons

After the last two years, many of us are pleased to be able to relax a bit. As you probably know celebrations to mark the 500th anniversary of Henry VIII's visit to Charing had to be postponed until this summer. So far, just the planned mock Tudor Feast has successfully taken place (only 502 years and 2 days after the original feast on the 23rd May, 1520). Therefore we have the rest to look forward to next weekend. The special Tudor themed fete has been extended over to Sunday, when there will be re-enactments and falconry displays. It looks as if it will be well worth returning to Clewards both days. Thank you to Elizabeth Tweed for 'whetting our appetites'.

Looking back to our AGM

About 40 people came for our AGM and Social. The AGM business was taken care of very efficiently, and with the earlier start, it left plenty of time for the social.



The sandwiches, nibbles, wine and soft drinks went down well, making it a lovely evening; everyone seemed to be having a pleasant time. Steve's 1952-3 quiz gave rise to some good discussions. (We've included the quiz at the end for those who couldn't make it to the AGM.)

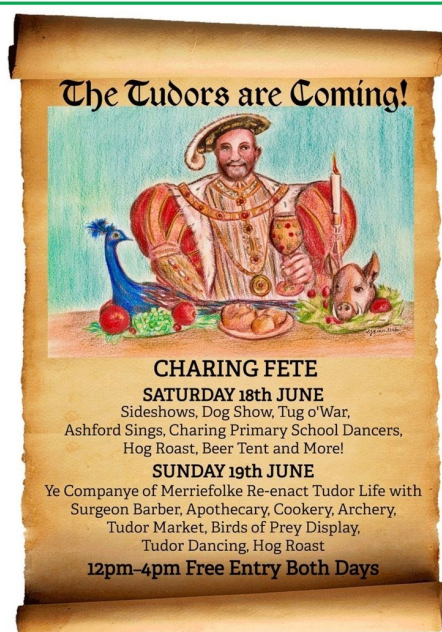
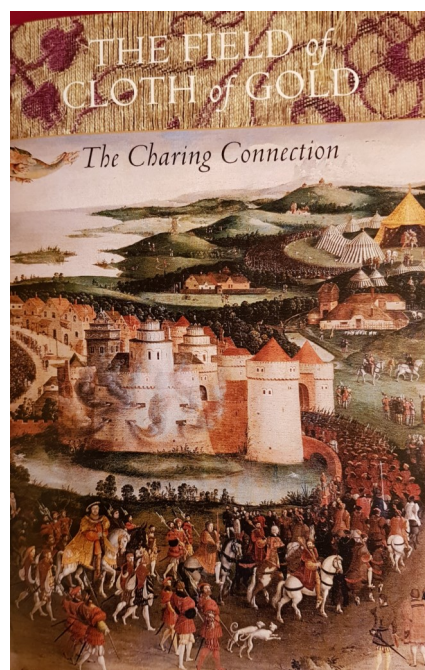
The 'Field of Cloth of Gold'

Henry VIII (with a very large entourage) stayed overnight in Charing, whilst on a long and significant journey. He was on his way to the two week long spectacular event; the 'Field of the Cloth of Gold', which was held near Calais, on what was then English territory.

To mark the 500th anniversary, Celia Jennings extensively researched Henry's journey from Greenwich to Calais, and has written a very informative and beautifully illustrated booklet, '*The Field of Cloth of Gold - The Charing Connection*' £5.

The quality is excellent and it's well worth reading!

The booklet can be bought from the CDLHS stand at the fete on Saturday, or ordered directly from Celia (celia.jennings1@btinternet.com).



See you there!

CDLHS will be at Charing fete on Saturday 18th June, at Clewards Meadow TN27 OLR, from 12-4

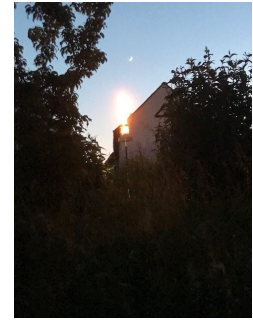


Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee



Charing looks very cheerful with the High Street bunting.

Celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee bank holiday began dusk June 2nd, with beacons being lit throughout the UK. Our small beacon in the Sundial Garden was lit at 9pm and about 200 people gathered in Clewards to watch it and have a celebratory drink.



at

On Sunday a precession of brave crowned people, young and old, processed down the High Street and led the way to the Playing Field. Many people braved the chilly drizzle to picnic together. Harold Trill opened the occasion by "Raising three cheers for Her Majesty!"

Photos: Keith Oram

THE TUDORS ARE COMING!!!



*Two very important guests
Photo E. Tweed*

In fact, they paid a short first visit on the evening of Saturday 21st May and feasted with over 50 Charing residents in the barn. King Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon sat with their closest courtiers at the High Board, with others at tables down the length of the barn. After the first remove, or course, consisting of "Sodde eggs"* , Urchins and "A salat ydrest"* there was the procession of the boar's head.



*Pic: Feast c
1545
Weald &
Downland
Museum
Tony Jones
Flickr*

The second remove offered "Tartes of divers cheeses, Fartes of Herbes, Sausage of game in a Saracen sauce." So the feast progressed until the fifth remove, which was also the Banquet! In Tudor times, the Feast was the meal for the Court, but the Banquet was the last remove, to which the King invited his favourite courtiers, retiring to a chamber where they enjoyed such dishes as "Subtleties of marchpane, Apricocks and prunes ystufft, Gingerbread endore and Sugared Almondes." *

During the Feast, we were entertained by the Court Jester, juggling knives over the body of a "willing" volunteer, also plate spinning and all kinds of merriment. This has been an excellent taste of things to come at the Village Fete and 500th Anniversary of Henry VIII staying in Charing en route to the Field of Cloth of Gold. The events start on Friday 17th June when the King will unveil the commemorative mosaic at Charing Primary School. Every child in the school has contributed some pieces to the mosaic, which will be on an outer wall for all to see.

*These are the spellings used at the time!

Elizabeth Tweed

THE TUDORS ARE COMING!!!



Photo: E Tweed

On Saturday 18th June “King Henry VIII and Queen Catherine of Aragon” will arrive with their Courtiers on Clewards Meadow at 12.00 to declare the Fete open. ‘Ye Companye of Merriefolke’, who provided the Feast, will be present demonstrating aspects of Tudor life, and the Gardening Society are creating a Tudor arbour in their marquee with typical plants of the period. As well as sideshows, there will be the stocks and hog roast, as well as tea tent, beer tent and burgers.



The Court will retire after the Grand Draw at 4pm to be ready for Sunday’s activities, which commence at



Photos: The Companie of Merrie Folke

12.00 and include Tudor dancing, Birds of Prey displays, re-enactments by Ye ‘Companye of Merrie folke’, including archery, the skills of the Surgeon Barber, Apothecary and cook. They are often seen at Kentwell Hall in Suffolk and also Hever Castle, and we are very lucky to have them here for this special celebration.

Elizabeth Tweed

The CDLHS In Historic Times Newsletter; ‘Cloistered Chronicle’ from 2020, has some more info on Henry’s stay Charing in Tudor times and some Tudor facts; You can read it [here](#)

More articles on Henry VIII, and on the Tudor period, are planned for the website.

Henry VIII and Barbers

Most people know later portraits of Henry VIII depict him as stout, and many know that Henry VIII became seriously obese, (by the age of 44 Henry VIII was so overweight that he needed a hoist to mount his horse). But did you know that one of his interests was medicine?

At the beginning of Henry VIII's reign little knowledge, and no training, was required for practitioners to give treatment, or perform operations, even including amputations. Henry founded the Royal College of Physicians of London in 1518 to provide proper training for doctors, and 5 years later an Act of Parliament regulated medical practices throughout the country. His later amendments to the act continued to be effective and lasted for 300 years.



Photo: Duncan Harris from Nottingham, UK, CC BY 2.0 Wikimedia Commons

The barber shop symbol of red and white stripes twirling around a pole, originates from the amalgamation of barbers and surgeons to form the 'Company of Barber-Surgeons' by Henry VIII in 1540.



pic: Thomas Rowlandson's caricature 1891: A barber's shop, Alresford National Maritime Museum, Greenwich



Henry VIII and the Barber Surgeons : commemorating the Charter Henry VIII awarded to the Company of Barber-Surgeons

By Hans Hobein Wikicommons

Tudors accepted, as people had since the Ancient Egyptians, that too much blood was bad for the body and caused illnesses. Therefore, they believed that releasing the blood by using leeches, or cutting a vein, would provide a cure. Barbers had traditionally been responsible for this task, and advertised their work by leaving a bowl of blood in the front window, or by hanging blood-soaked bandages on a pole outside. A law in 1307 London decreed that blood should no longer be displayed, but disposed of in the River Thames. It is thought that from that time a painted pole was used as Barbers' sign . Red paint representing the previous blood, and white the bandages: the twirling effect apparently representing the twisting of the bandages in the wind. There are different theories about using a pole, rather than a sign. One idea is the pole represents the pole that patients gripped while their blood was let, in order to make their veins stand out. Another is it represents the pole on which the washed bandages were hung to dry.

Some poles are red white in and blue. The blue could be there to remember the amalgamation of barbers and surgeons in 1540. The differences in their work was represented by the different colour poles: surgeons used red and barbers blue. (see Rowlandson's sketch above, drawn 350 years later.

To Look Forward To

Our 2022 –2023 Programme begins this Autumn!

Dates to keep, more details to follow



*Photo credit National Maritime
Museum Greenwich London*

Our talk from January had unfortunately to be postponed, so we're now pleased to have this as the first talk of our new season on September 8th.

Title: Samuel Pepys and the Strange Wrecking of the Gloucester.

Speaker: Nigel Pickford

and;

October 13th 2022 at 8.00 p.m.

Title: Before Windrush: the presence of black people in Britain.

Speaker: David Killingray

November 10th 2022 at 8.00 p.m.

Title: The History and Restoration of the Paddle Steamer 'Medway Queen', the heroine of Dunkirk.

Speakers: Mark & Pam Bathurst

Have you Time?

We're keen to add some new members to our committee, as that will help to keep our thriving society fresh and interesting. (The committee meets once a month from Sept to June.)

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Would you like to rekindle, or have you already, an interest in history? Have you wondered, or have you followed up a line of research? We always welcome articles, long and short, for our seasonal newsletters, and website.

Come and talk to us at the fete, or via email contact address [here](#)

CDLHS 2022 AGM Quiz – based on 1952 / 53 and the Queen’s Accession

1 On what date did Princess Elizabeth succeed to the throne on the death of her father King George VI

2 Where was King George VI when he died

3 Where was Princess Elizabeth at the time her father died



4 How old was Princess Elizabeth at the time

5 What was the date of the Queen’s coronation



6 What “first” was achieved during the coronation

7 What was the cost of a 1952 Murphy 12" television



8 Where did the Coronation take place

9 How many previous sovereigns had been crowned there

10 Who designed the Queen’s coronation dress



11 One of the foreign newspaper reporters present would later become a US First Lady (President's wife) who was she

12 How many British & Commonwealth services personnel took either part in, or lined the processional route



13 What dish was specially created for the official celebrations, regularly still used as a sandwich filling today

14 What major feat happened on 2 June 1953



15 On the way back to Buckingham Palace, The Queen wore the newly-made silk Purple Robe of Estate. What was the Kent connection

16 Who was the Prime Minister at the time

17 Which English seaside town was devastated by floods on August 16 1952, resulting in 34 fatalities



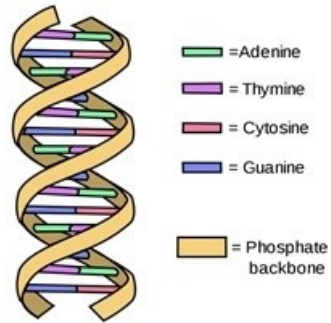
18 On November 25 1952 what play first opened at the Ambassadors Theatre in London

19 On January 20 1953 who was sworn in as the 34th President of the United States



20 Between January 31 and February 1 1953 what natural disaster befell South East England, and Kent in

21 In 1953, James Watson and Francis Crick of the University of Cambridge announced their discovery of what



22 On April 13 1953, Ian Fleming published his first James Bond novel, which one was it

23 What ended on September 26 1953

24 How much was a **GALLON** of petrol in 1952



25 How much was the average house price in 1952

26 How much was a 1952 Ford Anglia car



Many thanks to Steve Beck for compiling the quiz!

Q	Question	Answers
1	On what date did Princess Elizabeth succeed to the throne on the death of King George VI ?	6 February, 1952
2	Where was King George VI when he died ?	Sandringham
3	Where was Princess Elizabeth at the time ?	On a stop off in Kenya, en route to a tour of Australia
4	How old was Princess Elizabeth at the time ?	25
5	What was the date of the Queen's coronation ?	2 June 1953
6	What "first" was achieved during the coronation ?	The first ever to be televised, it was watched by 27 million people in the UK alone, an average of 17 people watching each TV set
7	What was the cost of a 1952 Murphy 12" television	£72 10s (£72.50) £2,200 today
8	Where did the Coronation take place ?	Westminster Abbey
9	How many previous sovereigns had been crowned there ?	38
10	Who designed the Queen's coronation dress ?	Norman Hartnell
11	One of the foreign newspaper reporters present would later become a US First Lady (President's wife) who was she ?	Jacqueline Bouvier (later, Jackie Kennedy)
12	How many British & Commonwealth services personnel took either part in, or lined the processional route ?	A staggering 45,000.
13	What dish was specially created for the official celebrations, regularly still used as a sandwich filling ?	Coronation Chicken, invented by Constance Spry. Cold chicken in a curry cream sauce with a well-seasoned dressed salad of rice, green peas and mixed herbs.
14	What major feat happened on 2 June 1953	Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay had made it to the summit of Mount Everest.
15	On the way back to Buckingham Palace, The Queen wore the newly-made silk Purple Robe of Estate. What was the Kent connection ?	The silk farm in Lullingstone, Kent. It took a total of 3,500 hours to complete by a team of 12 seamstresses from the Royal School of Needlework.
16	Who was the Prime Minister at the time	Winston Churchill
17	Which English seaside town was devastated by floods on August 16, resulting in 34 fatalities ?	Lynmouth, North Devon
18	On November 25 1952 what first opened at the Ambassadors Theatre in London ?	Agatha Christie's murder-mystery play The Mousetrap
19	On January 20 1953 who was sworn in as the 34th President of the United States	Dwight D. Eisenhower
20	Between January 31 and February 1 what natural disaster befell South East England, and Kent in particular ?	North Sea flood of 1953 killing 307 in the UK
21	In 1953, James Watson and Francis Crick of the University of Cambridge announce their discovery of what ?	The structure of the DNA molecule.
22	On April 13 1953, Ian Fleming published his first James Bond novel, which one was it ?	Casino Royal.
23	What ended on September 26 1953 ?	Rationing of sugar
24	How much was a gallon of petrol in 1952 ?	4s 3d (21p), £7.20 today
25	How much was the average house price in 1952	£1,891 equ to only £57,000 today
26	How much was a 1952 Ford Anglia car	£313 10s, equ £9,500 today