



## CHARING & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

[www.charinghistory.co.uk](http://www.charinghistory.co.uk)

 @CharingHistory

### CDLHS newsletter: December 2021

#### Key to Colour coding

Current

Looking back;

Looking Forward

Over to our members

Updates



As you know, regrettably we decided it was safest to cancel our Christmas social evening.

Instead we intend to hold it, with the AGM, in May as a 'Thank you' for your support during a difficult year.



Our talks are held on the second Thursday of the month at The Parish Hall, Station Road, TN27 0JA.

Doors open at 7.30 for a complimentary tea, or coffee, and biscuits before each talk, which start at 8.00 pm.

#### Committee News

The 2021-2022 committee currently consists of

**President:** Kevin Moon

**Chairman:** Keith Oram

**Treasurer:** Kate McIver

**Secretary:** Sylvia Beck

**Talks:** Celia Jennings

**Digitisation:** Stephen Beck

**Publicity:** Pete Burton

**Communications:** Valerie Yeeles

At the AGM we said 'goodbye' and grateful 'thank yous' to Dorothy Burdock as Vice Chair, and Tina Winterbottom as Membership Secretary.



## What the committee were doing

The committee had a few meetings.

Meanwhile, Keith continued to write monthly inserts for the Parish magazine, and others.

Sylvia shared and responded to queries.

Steve methodically began to photograph CDLHS archived documents for digitisation.

Kate kept an eye on the bank balance and advised what could and could not be afforded.

Pete efficiently changed the Talks posters around the village.

Valerie contributed to the new website and began to tweet on behalf of CDLHS.

Celia rose to the challenge and arranged 6 interesting Zoom talks and 3 more 'live' ones.

Non committee members have helped too -Kerstin Muller by designing our talks posters and Kevin Yeeles for setting up and maintaining our 'updated' website.

## Background info on 2020- 2021



Usually, a programme of talks is arranged the previous Spring and Summer, but with so much uncertainty about advice and restrictions, ideas were considered, but decisions were not straight forward. So we kept in touch with frequent 'In Historic Times' newsletters, and some 'e' talks. Annual membership fees were waived.

Initially, the committee was mostly unfamiliar with Zoom and uncertain whether members would be prepared to try it. However, Celia, as 'Meeting secretary,' persevered. She found speakers who were happy to use Zoom, and we tried it. Talks successfully 'Zoomed' from December to May. It was great to see familiar faces again, as well as quite a few new ones, and we had average audiences of about 36 to 40.

Resuming live talks in September 2021, membership fees were re-introduced. We were pleased to see many people returning who were glad to meet 'properly,' and an average of about 45 people attended the 3 talks. Then the virulent strain, 'Omicrom' arrived and we felt it wisest to cancel the popular Christmas social.

Currently we have 91 members, which is **brilliant**, particularly in the circumstances !

## Using the CDLHS Website

Screenshot from a laptop view to highlight the links from the front page

The screenshot shows the front page of the Charing & District Local History Society website. The navigation menu includes 'Front Page', 'Explore', 'About Charing', 'About the Society', and 'Publications'. Below the menu is a banner image of a village. A callout box labeled 'Link to Talks' points to a button that says 'Click this button to find out about upcoming talks'. Another callout box labeled 'Twitter link' points to a Twitter icon in the top right corner. A callout box labeled 'News & other information here' points to the main content area. A callout box labeled 'Info on how CDLHS uses Twitter' points to a button that says 'How we use Twitter at CDLHS'. A callout box labeled 'How to see full Tweets' points to a link that says 'To read the full message and view any images click on the message date.' The main content area features a section titled 'Our Twitter Feed' with several tweets displayed.

Please have a browse and explore the website: [charinghistory.co.uk](http://charinghistory.co.uk)

There's lots to see and lots more to come!

**NB.** Our layout will look different depending on the device it's viewed on, and so may not look identical to the one shown above; from a mobile it looks quite different. Please let us know how you get on. If you have any suggestions please email: [communications@charinghistory.co.uk](mailto:communications@charinghistory.co.uk)



## We've started tweeting!

We've tried tweeting, and found it's easy and efficient for us to use and hope it will be for you too, as it's a very quick way for you to see up-to-date society information. To read our tweets, you don't need to open an account, become a member, or write a 'tweet' yourself. Simply type

'[twitter@CharingHistory](https://twitter.com/CharingHistory)' into your search bar and it will be near the top of the list. Click the link and you'll see our most recent tweet.

They're in date order, so just scroll through to find the earlier ones. (CDLHS is not using Twitter as a chat forum, as we couldn't monitor it sufficiently.)

To automatically receive notifications, however, or to tweet yourself, you will need to open an account. That is very straightforward, and there's lots of online guidance if you need it. (Do remember to use 'settings' to restrict notifications from just those you choose.)

You can also read our most recent tweets on the front page of the website; the first lines are automatically sent there, and can be clicked to view the full message on Twitter.

## Things to look forward to

**Our next talk is 13th January 2022**

**'Samuel Pepys and the strange wrecking  
of the Gloucester'**

*by Nigel Pickford*



*Photo credit National Maritime  
Museum Greenwich London*

Maritime historian, Nigel Pickford will explore the sinking of the '*Gloucester*' in 1682, the most controversial and significant shipwreck of the 17th century. Many blamed James Duke of York, the future James II, for the catastrophe, but it was the pilot who ended up in the Marshalsea. Samuel Pepys had also sailed with the fleet and his letters record the muddle of blame and misinformation that followed. Nigel Pickford examines the evidence and finds some intriguing facts.

*\* Nigel has kindly said he will donate his fee, and the profit from any books he sells at the talk, to the 'Charing Alderbed Ash Dieback Fund'. \**

### Other Talks coming up in 2022

<b>10th February</b>	<b>'How to Read Your House'</b> <i>by Richard Goodenough</i>
<b>10th March</b>	<b>'Beckett's Shrine'</b> <i>by David Chance</i>
<b>14th April</b>	<i>Wait and see!</i>
<b>12th May</b>	AGM and 'Thank you' Social

## Over to our members and friends .....

### Out with the old, in with the new....



CDLHS had put up the original plaque on Palace Cottage, commemorating its link to Henry VIII. Over time it had become rather shabby and difficult to read. It had not just deteriorated through age though, or frost damage, but also through some air rifle 'pot shots' finding their mark.



The committee decided to do something about it. There were quite a lot of false starts, as it was not easy to find someone who had the skills and expertise to do a special commission. Eventually Celia found someone who could make the replacement. Then, with thanks to a grant from Charing Parish Council, we were able to have it made. The new plaque was put up recently and looks rather smart.

This new one was made by Aylesford Pottery from stoneware, thrown by Alan Parris, master potter. The writing was added by underglaze transfer. (It is now shown on Aylesford Pottery's website) Hopefully, this one will be more resilient to frost, and the culprits who targeted it in the past, will have grown up.

*Can anyone remember the year plaques were put up around the village? Please let us know*

Aylesford Pottery is in the grounds of 'The Friars', home to Carmelite Friars for nearly 300 years until forced to leave with the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1538. Carmelites returned in 1949.

<https://www.thefriars.org.uk>

<https://www.aylesfordpottery.co.uk>

### Investigating a Dene hole



*John Bakeham  
creative commons*

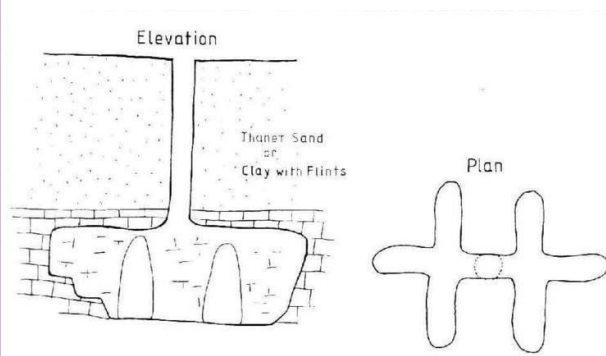
Whilst walking near Boughton Aluph, walkers from CDLHS noticed a farmer looking closely at a 'hole in the ground'. In the following conversation the farmer described it as a 'dene hole' and that Kent Underground Research team intended come to see and date it. He promised to let them know more information after their visit. We look forward to receiving more information.



*Dene hole at Beech Court  
credit Destimap*

## In the meantime, some facts about dene holes, generally

A 'dene hole' is a deep vertical shaft leading to one or more underground caves or 'chambers'.



A TYPICAL DENEHOLE  
This pattern is typical of deneholes  
found in Kent and Essex

*Plan of a Dene hole*  
*Alchetron free social encyclopaedia*

There has been much debate and discussion on their purpose –hiding place, storage place, but now they seem generally accepted to have been made particularly to mine chalk. The chalk was sometimes used as chalk blocks for building, but thought mostly needed for use as a fertiliser, or soil improver, particularly needed for clay soils.

The name is often thought to be a corruption of 'Dane hole', associated with the Danish invasion, or to do with the Anglo Saxon word 'den' meaning either 'hole' or 'valley,' however

Pliny's evidence from AD70 proves that chalk has been mined in England since Roman times, and they may have been described and known simply as 'pits.'

It's thought there are the remains of hundreds, if not thousands, of them on the uplands of Kent.

Once they had reached their limits, dene holes were often capped, filled in with branches and tree stumps, though sometimes bricked. Today, they are not noticeable. Most likely to be visible as shallow depressions, if at all. However if found, dene holes are very dangerous places to explore as many are now in an unstable condition.

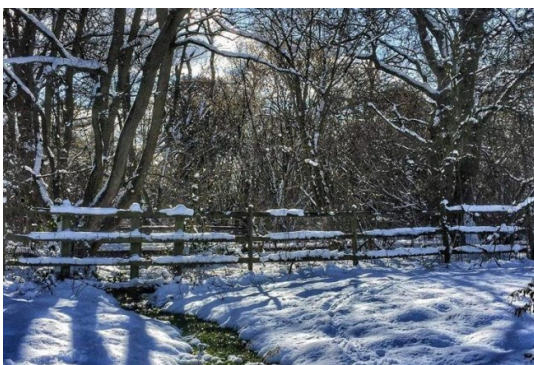
Old local folklore near Chilham has it that they can open up in the night and swallow anyone unlucky enough to be in the area , and that an individual known as 'Clabberknapper' lives in them!

<https://kurg.org.uk/deneholes>

<https://www.subbrit.org.uk/sites/darenth-wood-dene-hole/>

## Update on Saving The Ancient Charing Alderbeds

Read the article 'The History behind Charing Alderbed' at [charinghistory.co.uk/places](http://charinghistory.co.uk/places)



*Snowy photo: Spacehive fund raising page*

Spreading the word has helped raise money to save the Alderbeds. Thanks to fund raising events, (the most recent Lees Court Music Concert, alone raised £873.50). Together with pledges from Charing Parish Council, individuals, businesses, and successful crowd funding, the Alderbed Crisis Appeal has reached its fund raising target in time for Christmas.

Now, 105 new 6-8 ft English native trees will be bought and the careful work of re-planting will begin. The new trees will be carefully nurtured and protected from small mammal damage. It means that The Alderbeds will be safe and should be open for the community before too long. All, thanks to the hard working campaign of the Alderbed crisis committee and the generosity of its supporters.

<https://www.spacehive.com/charingalderbedwoodcrisis>



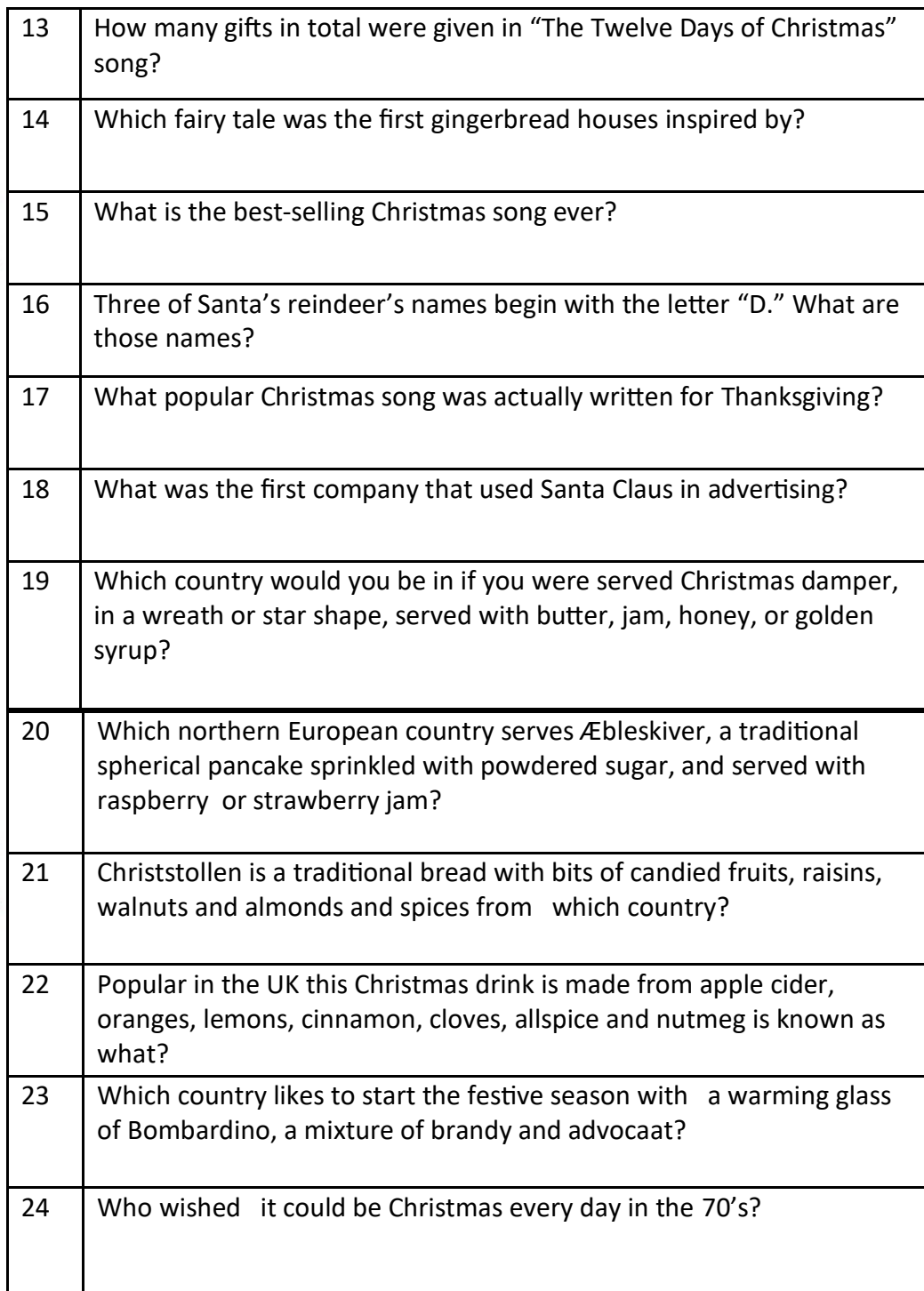
We haven't been able to meet in person to enjoy a quiz this year, but try tackling these light-hearted Christmas focussed questions at home, instead.



*Many thanks to Steve Beck*

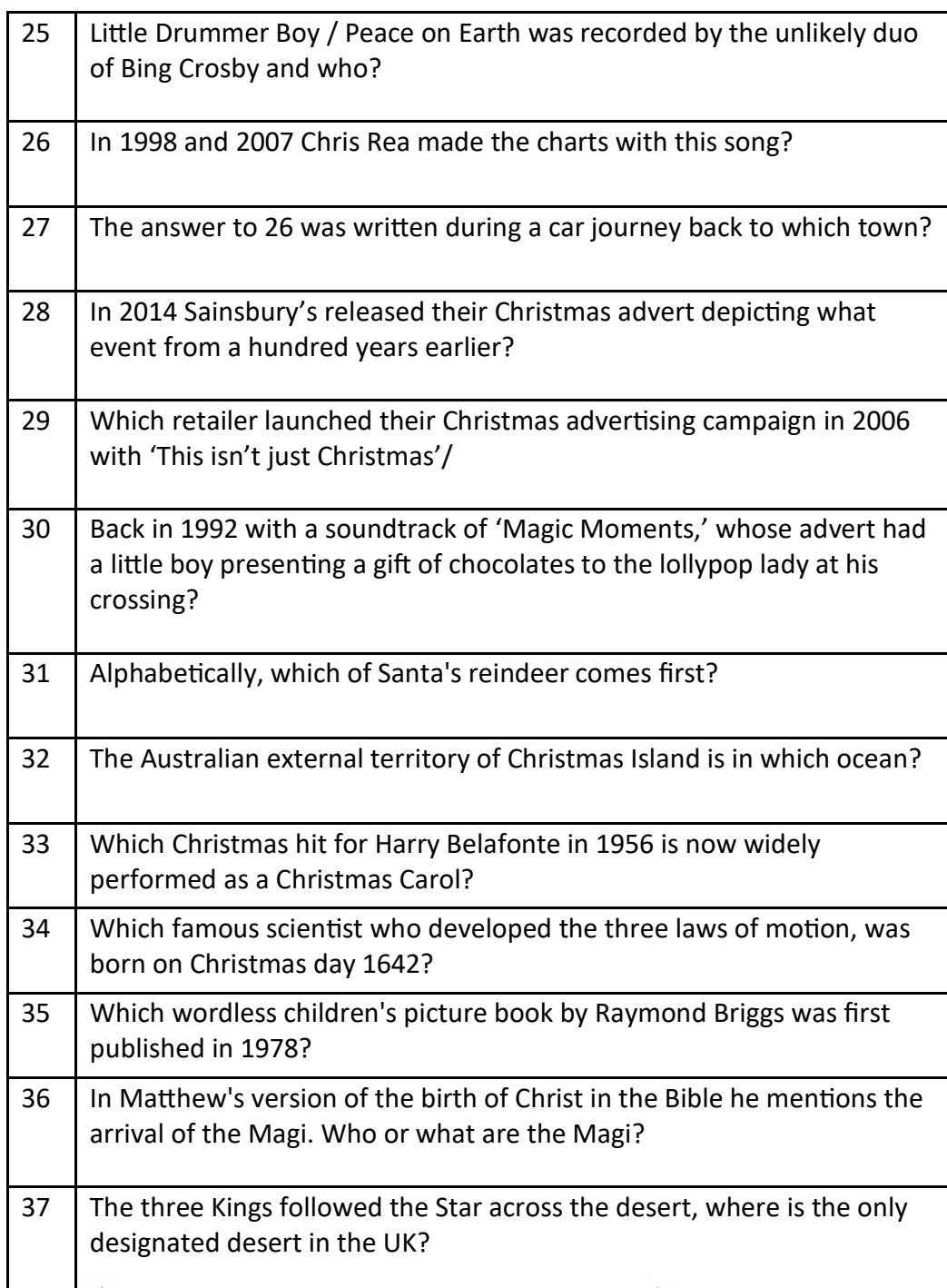
### Christmas Fun Quiz for CDLHS, December 2022

1	What did the other reindeer not let Rudolph do because of his shiny red nose?
2	How many ghosts show up in A Christmas Carol?
3	Elvis isn't going to have a white Christmas he's going to have a .....Christmas
4	In which modern-day country was St. Nicholas born?
5	Which Hollywood actor played six different roles in The Polar Express?
6	In Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, what was the first name of Scrooge?
7	Which country did eggnog come from?
8	What did Frosty The Snowman do when a magic hat was placed on his head?
9	Which Christmas song contains the lyric "Everyone dancing merrily in the new old-fashioned way?"
10	Which country started the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree?
11	According to the song, what did my true love give to me on the eighth day of Christmas?
12	What was the highest-grossing Christmas movie of all time?



13	How many gifts in total were given in “The Twelve Days of Christmas” song?
14	Which fairy tale was the first gingerbread houses inspired by?
15	What is the best-selling Christmas song ever?
16	Three of Santa’s reindeer’s names begin with the letter “D.” What are those names?
17	What popular Christmas song was actually written for Thanksgiving?
18	What was the first company that used Santa Claus in advertising?
19	Which country would you be in if you were served Christmas damper, in a wreath or star shape, served with butter, jam, honey, or golden syrup?
20	Which northern European country serves Æbleskiver, a traditional spherical pancake sprinkled with powdered sugar, and served with raspberry or strawberry jam?
21	Christstollen is a traditional bread with bits of candied fruits, raisins, walnuts and almonds and spices from which country?
22	Popular in the UK this Christmas drink is made from apple cider, oranges, lemons, cinnamon, cloves, allspice and nutmeg is known as what?
23	Which country likes to start the festive season with a warming glass of Bombardino, a mixture of brandy and advocaat?
24	Who wished it could be Christmas every day in the 70’s?





25	Little Drummer Boy / Peace on Earth was recorded by the unlikely duo of Bing Crosby and who?
26	In 1998 and 2007 Chris Rea made the charts with this song?
27	The answer to 26 was written during a car journey back to which town?
28	In 2014 Sainsbury's released their Christmas advert depicting what event from a hundred years earlier?
29	Which retailer launched their Christmas advertising campaign in 2006 with 'This isn't just Christmas'/?
30	Back in 1992 with a soundtrack of 'Magic Moments,' whose advert had a little boy presenting a gift of chocolates to the lollypop lady at his crossing?
31	Alphabetically, which of Santa's reindeer comes first?
32	The Australian external territory of Christmas Island is in which ocean?
33	Which Christmas hit for Harry Belafonte in 1956 is now widely performed as a Christmas Carol?
34	Which famous scientist who developed the three laws of motion, was born on Christmas day 1642?
35	Which wordless children's picture book by Raymond Briggs was first published in 1978?
36	In Matthew's version of the birth of Christ in the Bible he mentions the arrival of the Magi. Who or what are the Magi?
37	The three Kings followed the Star across the desert, where is the only designated desert in the UK?

***We wish you a Merry Christmas,  
and a very Happy New Year!***



# Answers to Quiz



1	Join in any reindeer games
2	Four
3	Blue Christmas
4	Turkey (originally Patara, a city in the ancient district of Lycia, in Asia Minor)
5	Tom Hanks
6	Ebenezer
7	England
8	He began to dance around
9	Rocking Around the Christmas Tree
10	Germany
11	Eight maids a milking
12	Home Alone
13	364
14	Hansel and Gretel
15	White Christmas" by Bing Crosby
16	Dancer, Dasher, and Donner
17	Jingle Bells
18	Coca-Cola
19	Australia
20	Denmark
21	Germany
22	Wassail
23	Italy
24	Wizzard
25	David Bowie
26	Driving Home for Christmas
27	Middlesborough
28	The truce on Christmas Day on the Western Front where opposing soldiers ceased fire and socialised
29	Marks and Spencer
30	Quality Street
31	Blitzen (Blitzer)
32	Indian Ocean
33	Mary's Boy Child
34	Sir Isaac Newton
35	The Snowman
36	The three wise men/kings
37	Dungeness





We hold contact information of members, and interested people, to send them society news and information on local history. We do not share the information with third parties.

If you would rather not receive emails from us in future, please email

**[Hon.Secretary@charinghistory.co.uk](mailto:Hon.Secretary@charinghistory.co.uk)**