



CHARING & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

www.charinghistory.co.uk

CDLHS In Our Historic Times

edition 10 October 2020

Running into a 'Headwind'?

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Hello, it's a bumper issue this month. We continue with our long running series, with the final of our series on the Wheler family, 'The Wheler Foundation', and the page-turner 'Murder at Otterden'. The new feature this month is 'Hop Picking', which includes extracts from a fictional account set in 1945, alongside the first hand account of Harry Ward, (Charing resident from 1864 to 1940) and CDLHS photos.

Hope you enjoy browsing, and enjoy the mixture. Keep well. Stay positive.

Valerie

Update

The Committee trust that you are all continuing to stay 'safe and well' as these troubled times persist, and are currently getting no easier.

Regrettably with the policy that prohibits more than 6 people meeting together, it is unlikely that we'll be able to hold any form of Christmas Social Evening this year, which is a great shame. Equally, being able to hold any of our planned Talks is also questionable.

But - wouldn't it be wonderful if restrictions can be relaxed in some way so that families can enjoy Christmas together.....we'll all wait in hope!

Keith Oram

(Chair CDLHS)

Good news for those who haven't yet been able to buy one of our Peter Holman map tea towels, yet



We have ordered another batch!

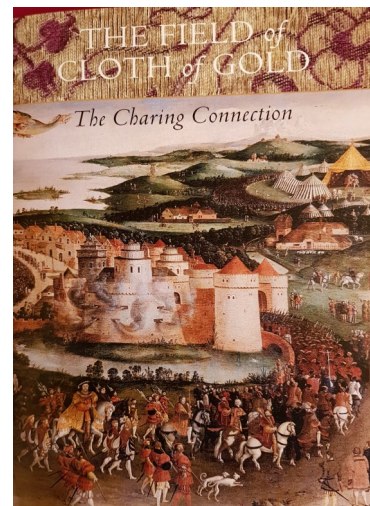
If you would like to buy one (£8) please contact
Keith Oram (chairman@charinghistory.co.uk)

The Field of Cloth of Gold- the Charing Connection

by Celia Jennings

We also have copies of our beautifully illustrated booklet,
giving details of the spectacular meeting between Henry VIII
and Francis I of France. £5

*“Two weeks of feasting, jousting, drinking, singing, dancing
and dressing up in marvellous clothes encrusted with jewels,
set against a backdrop of spectacular temporary buildings
filled with works of art, made this the most enormous,
dazzling European party of all time....”*



Copies can be ordered (or reserved) directly from Celia (celia.jennings1@btinternet.com)

Answers to Quiz 9



1. This plaque is on the wall outside ASK Italian restaurant, 31 Earl Street, Maidstone.

2. This was the home of Andrew Broughton who was not only mayor of Maidstone and clerk to the High Court of Justice, but who oversaw, or was judge, at the trial of King Charles I and was one of the signatories on the death warrant. After the king was beheaded, he tried to enter All Saints Church, but was turned away at the door and told that as a murderer, he was no longer welcome. He never set foot in the church again, even though he served in parliament under Cromwell until 1653.

After the restoration of the monarchy, Broughton was not exempted from his crime – as some were – and he, with another clerk, John Phelps, fled abroad. They ended up in Lausanne, Switzerland having left Hamburg in fear of his life as assassins were picking off some of the other members of the regicide. He finally received sanctuary in Berne and died in 1687 in Vevey where he is buried in the church.



3. Jane was a frequent visitor to the assembly balls at the Saracen's Head coaching inn, in Ashford, with her brother Edward who lived in nearby Godmersham Park.



Wildlife in Charing in the 16th and 17th Centuries The Tudor Vermin Acts By Celia Jennings



Celia's thorough research gave an unusual insight into life in Charing in the 17th century, and the information on the wildlife of the vermin lists gave so many surprising facts.

Monks in Charing? Actually, there weren't any.

I sought Sarah Pearson's advice and I'm very grateful for her email reply.

"Before the Conquest the church at Canterbury owned estates in Charing and Westwell. Pre-Conquest the archbishop of Canterbury was also the prior of Christ - Church Priory in Canterbury. In the 11th century, formalised after the Conquest under Archbishop Lanfranc, but possibly originating somewhat earlier, the Priory's estates were split between the archbishop and the priory, by then ruled by their a completely separate prior. Westwell was given to the Priory, Charing remained with the archbishop, so it has always been archbishop property. Lenham I think actually belonged to St Augustine's Abbey in Canterbury, so was monastic but in a different line of descent altogether."

"The only way that monks ever had any connection with Charing was in pre-Conquest times before Christchurch Priory Canterbury was separated from the archbishop's lands. And even then, and even if there was a monastic bailiff or reeve to oversee the estate there was never a monastic community here." Sarah Pearson

So, just an idea of the developer.

'The History Behind Charing Road Names and Places': 'P' (2)

Many thanks to all those who have contributed.

Pilgrim's Court This small development lies behind 21, 23 and 25 The High Street, formally listed in Hist. England as 'The Bakery', only closing about 30 years ago, and so thought to have been built in the 1990s. Named by the developer, presumably through its proximity to the 'Pilgrims Road', further north. (On the 1888 –1913 series of map the footpath that runs alongside Monks Walk and behind Pilgrims Court to the A20 clearly connects to it. <https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=17&lat=51.21145&lon=0.79566&layers=168&b=7>)



*Couchman's Bakery
c1920 CDLHS*

Pilgrim's Way The impression is this is the route from the C12 that many thousands of pilgrims took over several hundred years to visit the shrine of St Thomas a Becket in Canterbury. However, the original path along the southern slopes of the North Downs, has been dated to about 1,600 years before those pilgrims. In fact to 500 B.C. It only became known as 'Pilgrims Road' in Victorian times, prior to that in 1736, it was known as 'The Downs Road'. The pilgrims route, as with the ancient trackway, would have varied with the weather and seasons, as well as the individuals. What can be said is that thousands of pilgrims would have passed through, or within a quarter of a mile of Charing.

Pluckley Road This road leads to Pluckley from Charing. Before this it seems it was named from the opposite direction, from Pluckley, as in 1736 it was called 'Town Road', when Charing was a Town.

Poppyfields built in 2016 –2017. The name was suggested by Charing School in 2014 for the planned development. Their studies of WW1 for the centenary made a strong impression on the children. The school contributed with art and drama to the CDLHS WW1 exhibition.

If you have more information, or ideas, or you've noticed any errors or omissions in the above, I'd be grateful if you'd let us know, then we can keep our information updated and correct.

Many thanks,

Valerie (newsletter@charinghistory.co.uk)

Laugh or Groan?

Q. How did you do in your history exam?

A What other notable figures have done in the past -I went down in history!

Q. Why do bees have sticky hairs?

A Because they use honeycombs.



A Roman soldier walked into a bar and asked for a martinus.

"You mean a martini?" the barman asked.

The Roman replied, "If I wanted a double I'd have asked for it!"



Charing C of E Primary School.

Extracts from The Headmaster's Log Book

Jan 1873 to Oct 1905

The Log Book was used to record matters which the Headmaster considered noteworthy. Some entries are very striking to a modern reader. Rather than select extracts at random, I have grouped related ones together.

Children still found time to get into mischief.

Misdemeanours mentioned include birdnesting, throwing stones, using catapults, destroying hedges and swearing as well as truanting.

April 20th 1877. A boy's father came to see the Headmaster, at the head's request because "the boy appears to prefer green fields and freedom to second standard work."

The school certainly satisfied the inspectors:
1901. Government Report. "This continues a remarkably good village school. The tone is excellent and the instruction throughout is suitable and intelligent."



*Snowballing behind the school
in Piquets Meadow
Note the Eton collars
From CDLHS archive*



*Fund raising for the Relief of Mafeking 1900
From CDLHS archive*

The Log Book closes with a summary by the Headmaster of the changes during the 32 years of the Log Book. This includes the abolition of school fees, abolition of set annual exams and substitution of inspection without notice.

Inside the school there were 2 museums, a library, pictures, objects for lessons and a billiard table. All of these were acquired by holding children's concerts.

Dorothy Burdick

The Legacy of Granville Wheler: The Wheler Foundation



After Granville Wheler's death, his land agent Mr James Hare, wrote in 2005 printed in the local parish magazines for Otterden and Ledston;

" The Trust deed was set up carefully (in May 2004) so that the Trustees in essence, whilst being a body of individuals, have the power to make decisions on their land and assets as an individual who owned the property and assets outright would have. This is governed and 'policed' by the Charity Commission."

"There are four specific objectives mentioned within the Wheler Foundation:

- The maintenance and preservation of lands of historical educational landscape value or natural beauty, for the benefit of the public, whether or not educational.*
- The maintenance and preservation of historical buildings and works of art for the benefit of the public, whether or not educational.*
- Encouragement and assistance to agriculture, forestry and rural industry, for the benefit of the public, whether or not educational.*
- The making of gifts or donations to charitable bodies where, in the opinion of the Board of Trustees, such gifts or donations will be conducive to the promotion of the objectives of the Trust or any of them."*

Granville Wheler's assets in 2004 were reported as £41 million. Today, the Foundation's last entry for The Charity Commission states that The Wheler Foundation had a total income of £1,024,844 in 2019. They reported that pre-arranged school visits and educational days are held on both of the Foundation's Estates. Their immediate priority expenditure appears to be Ledston, where the aim is to "bring it out of dereliction" and restore it for a mix of uses that will make it self-sustaining". It is designated "at risk". Otterden is reported to be vacant, having had a long standing tenant, and "in need of substantial upgrade and renovation".

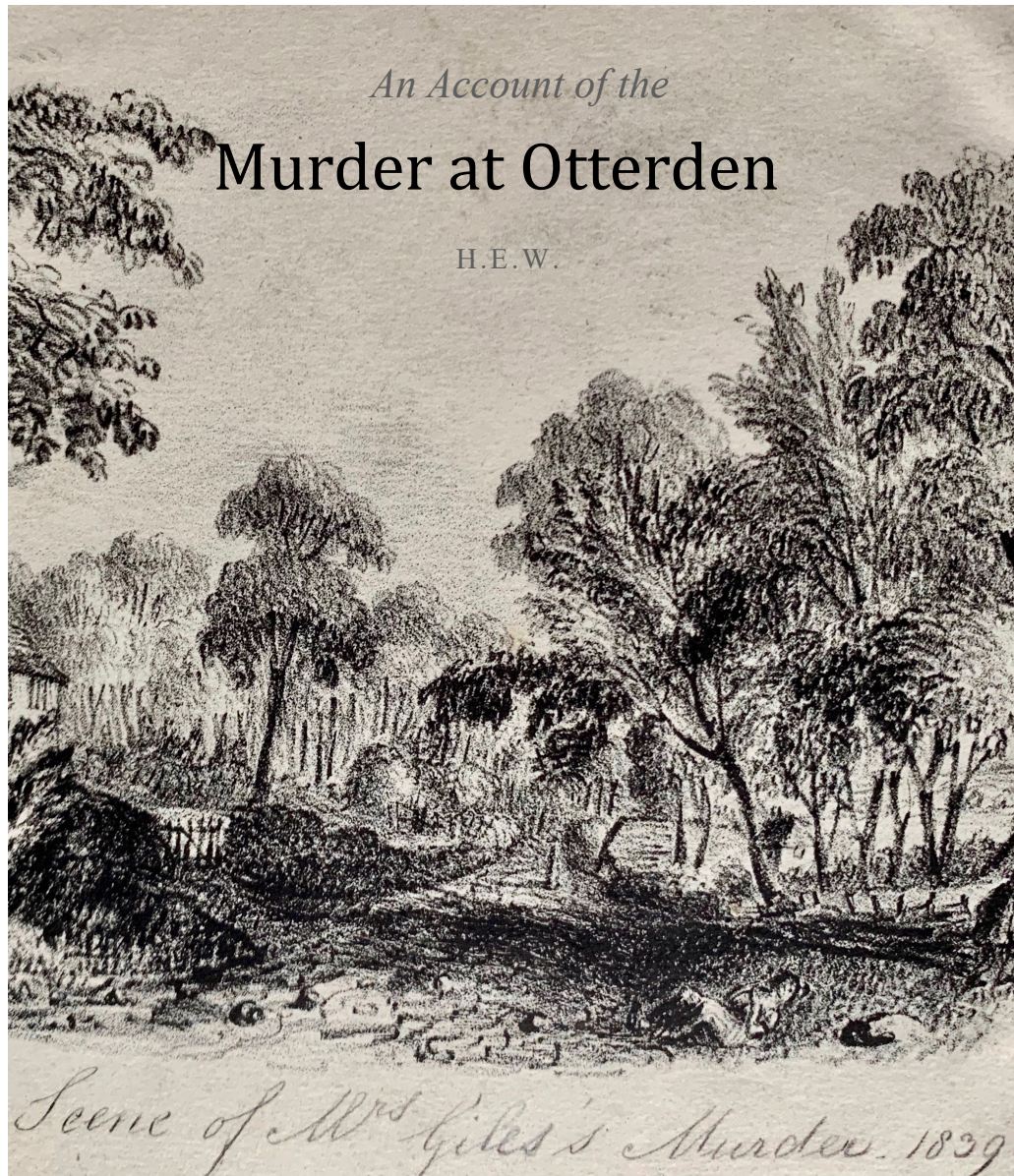
In 2017 Charing Parish Council wrote an open letter to Wheler Trustees, when their Chair, who is an executive for Carter Jonas Property Consultants represented Gladman Developments in their plans to build 245 houses in an extension to Charing. "It is inconceivable that he (Granville Wheler) would have approved of such a large and unsuitable development in Charing, the village his family lived in and was associated with for centuries. "He would be incandescent that the foundation he funded, and which bears his name was proposing to do this." The letter went on to point out a challenge of interest if there was financial gain.

Currently, according to the case study on the Carter Jonas website, "The Wheler Foundation owns the Otterden Estate, which comprises around 735 hectares on the North Downs, including land on the western edge of Charing village. It continues:

"Carter Jonas manages the estate on behalf of the Foundation. Our masterplanning team were appointed to prepare a masterplan which explored the development potential of the site and demonstrated how a comprehensive extension to this part of the village might be delivered. The work is currently ongoing."

It does seem rather paradoxical that Granville Wheler should have chosen to be represented by Carter Jonas, a company who have acted for Gladman, land developers, with a number of projects for several years; whose very being is to seek to change and to develop the land. In his life he respected history, and loved and maintained his country estates. His foundation's stated objectives after his death were clear. They were to protect and maintain the landscape and historical buildings. It is sad that both estates are now described in the Wheler Foundation's own words, as either "derelict," or "dilapidated".

Valerie Yeeles



A True Crime

Kentish Gazette 19 March 1839

MURDER AT OTTERDEN

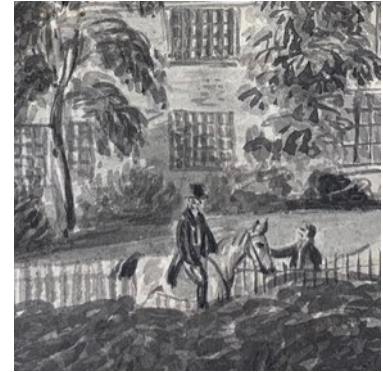
Samuel Seager, aged 28 years, was charged with the wilful murder of Hannah Giles, of Otterden, on the 2nd of February, 1839, by striking, cutting, and penetrating the throat of the deceased with a razor, thereby causing her death.”

Murder at Otterden *continued*

High up on the North Downs where lime kilns burnt the chalk, a scattering of folk living in thatched cottages and small farmsteads were stunned to find a gruesome murder had been committed in their midst.

Early in February 1839 snow lay deep on the maze of lanes and trackways between Charing Hill, Stalisfield and Otterden, so footprints and traces of blood were easily visible to those seeking the perpetrator.

As soon as the shocking news reached Horace Barwick down at The Parsonage in Charing, he set off on his pony with sketchbook and pencil along a route he knew well from visiting friends at Otterden Place.



On reaching the gruesome scene midway between the Giles' cottage and Mr Jenkins' farm, (if indeed he actually did see the poor deceased woman before her body was removed to the bakehouse) we can be thankful his eye for detail was more imaginative than graphic. He did however, draw up a plan of "movements and measures of what transpired," to scale, for presentation at the trial, as well as a sketch of the row of cottages, in one of which Stephen and Hannah Giles dwelt with their four children; two boys and two older girls. There may even have been a little book that described the events? Certainly the newspapers of the day were filled with egregious details.



Four Cottages in 1839 recorded by Horace Barwick

Elizabeth Roberts - Stephen and Hannah Giles - Jacob Spillett - William Jenkins

*The end two cottages right still stand as one dwelling today.
The shared Bakehouse was in the lean-to on the right.*

Murder at Otterden *continued*

After the Coroner's inquest on 5th February held at nearby Halls Place, (the witnesses were required to view the deceased's remains laying in the bath-house) it was declared a murder *had* taken place, so the hunt for the perpetrator, Samuel Seager began. It was another four weeks before he came to trial.

The trial of Samuel Seager of Stalisfield aged 28 was held in the Maidstone Courthouse before a Grand Jury. The court area was:

“crowded to excess, and contained a very great number of females, who seemed to take the deepest interest in this dreadful case. On the prisoner being brought up for arraignment, he appeared much altered for the worse in personal appearance. His eyes had become more sunken, his cheeks more pale, and his lips, which he frequently moistened with his tongue, wan and apparently parched”

From newspaper accounts and the testimony of a dozen or so witnesses we can piece together the events:

Stephen Giles, the local Rat-catcher, kept dogs and ferrets and was frequently working away from home. His wife Hannah, aged 41 mother of four, was going to babysit that night for her neighbour farmer Henry Jenkins, as he and his wife were to attend a wedding party. Hannah would usually take her sewing with her.

Elizabeth Roberts, a close neighbour suggested that ‘Sam’ was a ‘visitor’ whenever the husband was away and would check with her for information if the coast was clear which indeed he had done that very morning.

Meanwhile, that same afternoon half a mile away shoemaker Samuel Seager was in his workshop in Stalisfield where he lived with his parents and two young children. He was seen melting lead in a spoon which he then poured into a hole gouged in a potato to make a round shot. His mother and a neighbouring girl, Ann Harris witnessed this activity and pleaded with him to stop, his mother on her knees begged and prayed for him to give her the pistol - in vain.

He had bought the pistol from Bensted the Blacksmith of Stalisfield, who had also put big new studs in his boots. Seager set off in the snow in the direction of Charing Hill at about 2.00pm where he drank cold tea with a Mr Russell. Seager was later seen wandering towards Stonestile and something seemed to be sticking out of his pocket! At 4.15 he was seen crossing the meadow to Warren Street past the lime kilns towards the back of the Giles's house.

Murder at Otterden *continued*

After Hannah Giles had left home for the Jenkins's cottage to do her baby-sitting, two of her boys Stephen and James went to the nearby shop and on their return heard a shot, a scream and saw a flash from the direction of Mrs Luckhurst's cottage at about 6.30pm.

When Hannah Giles failed to arrive at Jenkins's cottage, thirteen year old son, Henry Jenkins, who had also heard a shot and a 'halloo', opened the door to a strange smell.

He told the court:

"It was dark. There was snow on the ground. After passing Mrs. Luckhurst's I saw some thing lying in the road, and went within half a rod* of it. It appeared like a man, and it had got fire on its bosom, I was frightened, and went back home."

He afterwards accompanied his father to the spot. It was then moonlight, well after midnight.

Evidence found beside the deceased's body was shown to the court: a razor case, a pistol and some fragments of her shawl and sewing. The rusty razor itself was later found in a shaw (thicket) 13 rods (65 meters) distant from the scene of the crime.

The testimony of Charles Wilkes:

"I am a surgeon at Charing, and knew Hannah Giles. I examined her body after death. Her throat was cut about five inches long and down the vertebrae, the windpipe, gullet, carotid artery, all the other muscles, and nerves on the right side of the neck, were divided. Her body was much burned; the burnt part extending upwards from the thighs, abdomen, breast, and the arms. I observed gunshot wound the front of the left thigh, and another similar wound lower and on the inner part of the same limb. There was similar wound on the right thigh opposite to that of the left. The shot seemed have passed through both thighs. A finger on each hand was cut. One finger on the left hand cut to the joint. The wound on the throat was sufficient to cause instantaneous death. I do not think that the gun-shot wound was sufficient to have caused death. I examined the clothes of the deceased, which had been burned. They seemed have been ignited from the pistol shot. The wound on the throat appeared to have been made by a cutting instrument, such as a razor. The cut must have been given from behind the deceased. The gun-shot wound was given first".

Seager fled towards London, leaving a boot print trail in the snow. Following a countrywide notice in the Police Gazette, 'Hue and Cry' he was recognised and apprehended in Coleshill, Warwickshire and on 19 February brought to Maidstone Gaol. There he was visited by the Prison Chaplain and Lord Marsham, Maidstone MP, to whom he eventually confessed his crime.

Murder at Otterden *continued*



Scene of Mrs Giles's Murder depicted by Horace Barwick - on the left is Luckhurst's cottage, on the right a hatted figure can be seen running away from the body.

Three witnesses had attested to his good character: Dr Wilkes stating that he was a 'humane and inoffensive man'.

After twenty five minutes the Jury were "reluctantly compelled to return a verdict of guilty of murder".

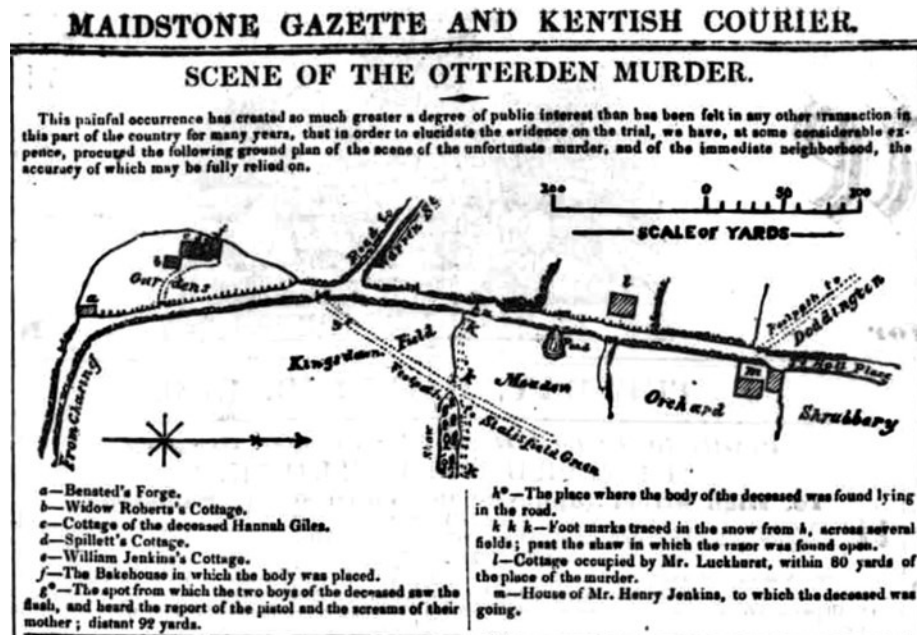
The prisoner had remained standing for ten hours saying not a word and evinced no emotion at the passing of the sentence by Mr Deedes the Judge having donned his black cap.

Large crowds flocked early to Maidstone; families with children, country labourers, the well-to-do including Horace Barwick - no doubt, to get a good view of the gallows. Some bought with them baskets of provisions and bottles of ginger beer. It was estimated that a crowd over eight thousand waited outside Maidstone Gaol for the hanging. Stephen Giles, widower of the victim, was observed standing as close to the gallows as possible. Then Calcraft, the executioner appeared, Psalm 39 was read. Seager appeared and the burial service was read. Calcraft adjusted the noose, the clock struck 12.00 and the bolt holding the floor was withdrawn. Two minutes - it was all over.

Seager was hanged on Thursday, March 28th, 1839, outside Maidstone Prison and buried inside.

Hannah Giles was buried at Otterden, Church of St Lawrence on 10th February 1839.

Murder at Otterden *continued*



Notes

*From 1837-1861 a total of 350 people were hanged in public. During this 32 year period 318 men and 32 women. were executed.

Public execution ended in 1868

Hanging was abolished in 1969

Measures: 1 rod or perch = 5.0292 metres

*Many cottages mentioned still stand today although they have different names. The Giles's cottage fell into ruin a long time ago.

*A full account of the Otterden Murder (and other crimes) with maps of the scene, was written by Mark Mullins in 'Old Ashford Borough Murders Book 2 1562 -1911' published in 2002. Available secondhand or to read in Kent libraries local studies.

Acknowledgements:

'Scene of murder' and 'Four cottages' by Horace Barwick from the Mary Norwood Album by kind permission of the owner.

Horace Barwick on his pony, detail from a drawing of Pett Place courtesy of CDLHS.

Next Time:

Horace Barwick and the Reverend Thomas Rackett

HEW

Hop Picking 1910 /1946

For a greater understanding of hop picking in the past, this article is a mixture of photos from our CDLHS collection (some by Harry Ward) together with some of his recollections circa 1910. Both are supplemented by extracts from a well researched book, "A Spoonful of Jam", by Michelle Magorian. Set just after WW2, it has chapters on a family from London hop picking near Hothfield..

Michelle Magorian is a children's writer of historical family drama, and is renowned for her thorough research. She is perhaps, most famous as the writer of "Goodnight Mr Tom".

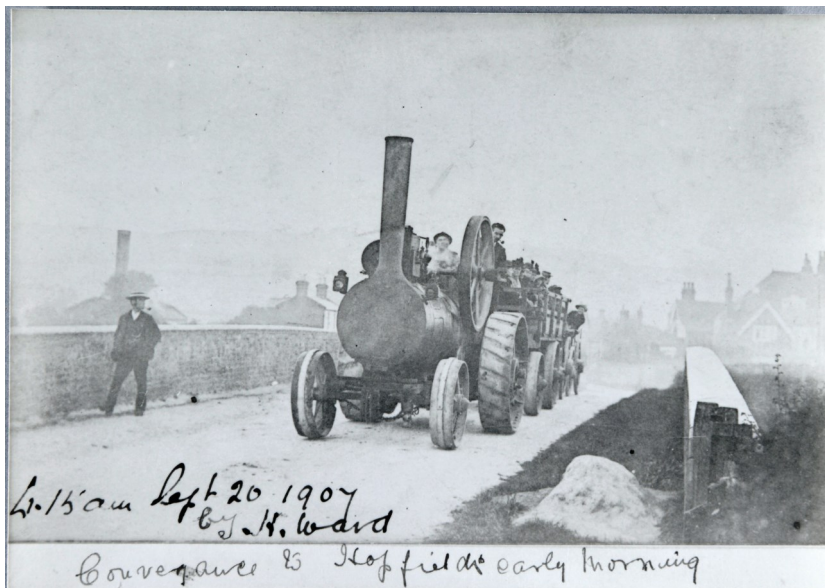
Which extracts are which will be denoted by "HW" or "Jam"

"Hops were grown on the Palace Farm, Hook Farm, Burleigh Farm this latter the latest grown."

"Hop picking in those days used to last six or seven weeks then being no restriction on the quantity of hops grown and the earnings came in very useful to say to us up for clothes and boots for the winter." HW

'It was early in the morning before all the usual trains ran. They had run off from London Bridge railway station in the dark at 3 o'clock, on one of the special trains for hoppers. The carriage was packed with women, two or three children or babies squeezed on their laps, when they weren't clustered at the windows. The smallest children were now wedged onto the luggage racks. Once the ticket inspector had been and gone, they were able to crawl out of their hiding places under the seats. Everyone in the carriage was done up in their Sunday best. The chatter in the carriage was almost deafening, but by the time the train pulled into the county of Kent, she was leaning out of the window with the other children, in spite of the warnings from their mothers that they would have their heads chopped off by a passing train.'

'It was the same hop farm they had visited since she could remember. Hopping was like a family reunion every summer.' Jam



*Conveyance to Hop fields,
early morning (4.15 am)
Harry Ward
CDLHS collection*

This looks as if it's taken in Station Road, by the railway bridge, looking towards Burleigh Road.

Hop Picking 1910 /1946 *continued*

'The farmer had delivered faggots and bales of straw..... The water for all the huts was from a tap at the end of the field. Elsie and her brother would carry a long pole with several tin buckets hanging from it, fill them with water and stagger back with them.'

'From the outside the hut was a dull, grey, corrugated iron. Inside, it was a palace. Gran's dresser was by one wall with all her best china on it. She would never have dared leave it in London in case someone nicked it. And there were bits of lace draped everywhere to make up for there being no windows, even lace round the gap above the door. There were framed pictures on the papered walls and carpets had been spread on the linoleum which had been laid on the hard floor, although only she could only just see it underneath the faggots. On the dresser was a canary in a cage and a stuffed bird in a domed glass case, an oil lamp, books and a large clock. Just by the door as you entered, a large tea chest was covered in a fancy tablecloth. Grans bed was like a shelf which came out of the wall. Everyone else had slept underneath her.' Jam

"In those days work started seven am. by a horn or whistle, leaving off at five pm. so meant early rising especially if working in distance at Pluckley or Chart Court starting at six am. by horsed wagons or by traction engine." HW

'Outside it was freezing and the mist hung heavily over the huts. The dew was so heavy, it was as though there had been a downpour. Her mother made sandwiches and poured tea into two lemonade bottles to take with them to the hop garden. They had to be there by 7.00. Time was money, as everyone knew. Slack pickers were not welcomed by farmers.'

'They were walking towards the hop gardens in the mist with crowds of women and children, older boys and a few men alongside them pushing large black prams with children heaped into them. And then they were there. And the smell of hops, wet from the dew, was overpowering, bitter and lovely.'



Hop picking
CDLHS collection

'The thick bands of hops were trained to grow upwards, up wires. They were four times Elsie's height and in rows of long alleys. A man was calling out bin numbers and family names. The bins looked nothing like dustbins. They were long, baggy, deep hessian stretchers, which the pickers had to fill with hops. All the people in their field were Londoners. The hop pickers in the field next to them, were 'home-dwellers,' the local people. "Pull down the bind!" was called. The pole-pullers cut down the vines from their high stilts. Within seconds Elsie was absolutely soaked. "You'll dry," said her mother. "When the sun comes up." They'd laid the cold sodden binds across their bin and started the finicky job of removing the leaves from around each hop.' Jam

Hop Picking 1910 /1946 *continued*

“In those days all poles used not string as today, each set had its pole puller using a longhand cutter or knife and a (Dog) a tool the to pull the poles out of the ground and placed by the pickers’ bin or basket.” HW



Hop picking
CDLHS collection

‘Some hops were the pear shaped, depending on what kind of beer would eventually be made from them, but their hops, hidden under the leaves, were bulbous, like feather-like brussel sprouts. The prickliness was scouring her hands, and soon insects were crawling out of the bind and over her fingers. At least that kept her mind off being wet and freezing. The hoppers on the other side of them were three sisters. A baby sat in a fruit box and a toddler was tied to their hop bin by a piece of string. Five children who all looked younger than Elsie were flinging hops into an upturned umbrella.’

‘Someone blew a whistle. Everyone stopped immediately. If they didn't, the others would shout at them. It was time for a slice and tea. A slice was just a piece of bread, but it broke the morning up and it was breakfast. The tally man came with his basket.

‘After the break, the sun broke through, and then suddenly someone began singing. Within minutes the hop garden was filled with voices, all singing out of time, echoing and reverberating along the alleys. Elsie’s spirits were lifted, even though her bare arms were stinging from the juices that were homing in on every nick and scratch on her skin. When the whistle blew for lunch, the hop garden was bubbling with chat and laughter.’ Jam

“Vendors of sweets and buns used to visit the hop gardens to sell their wares. It was a promise, if you worked well, some sweets. Alternatively, the bine, a piece of hop bine about 18 inches long, generally tied on the mother’s bin or basket, so if slack, might find its weight across one’s back, not a nice feeling especially if a little weight behind it. “ HW

Hop Picking 1910 /1946 *continued*

'Unless it rained, everyone cooked their meals outside. And then the air was filled with the smell of every variety of stew. After supper, the women washed clothes and hung them on the lines behind the huts and began bathing their small children in zinc tubs and washing their own hair and putting it in curlers ready for the menfolk coming the next day.' Jam

"I must tell you an old custom now gone, if a lady or ladies came into the hop garden when picking was in progress, one or more of the pickers would take a bunch of hops and wipe the visitor's boots or shoes, at the same time presenting her or them with a bunch of nice hops, of course a silver coin was expected in return. " HW



*In the Oast House
CDLHS collection*

"I have spent many evening hours in the Oast house at Palace Farm, prigg potatoes from someone's garden and takes them to the Oast to bake, old Billy Waters was drier at palace for years.

All hops were trod into the pockets in those days by press. We boys used to help tread them sometimes ,fun to us but a row after we had undressed for bed a beastly mess of hops then and hop dust all over the bedroom.

And if a boy came into Oast and would not tread the hops, he was carried and dropped into the pocket and a cloud of hops scooped on top of him, he had to go through it. " HW



Finish for the Year 1907 - Howard

*Finish for the End of the Year
Harry Ward
CDLHS collection*

This was taken looking towards Hitherfields, with gas wok chimney visible. The house is believed to be 'Gas House'. Chimney and house now demolished.

1970

50 years ago - and the Oscar went to ...



The clear winner in the 1971 **Oscars**, awarding films made in 1970, was *Patton*, which was nominated for 10 Oscars; winning 7, including best film, best director, and best actor (George C Scott). Glenda Jackson won best actress for *Women in Love*; maybe they didn't have many big roles for women in *Patton*.

Over here, the 1971 **Baftas** were dominated by *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* (actually released at the end of 1969). It won 9 **Baftas**

including best film, best director, best actor (Robert Redford) and best actress (Katharine Ross). Both Paul Newman and Robert Redford were nominated for best actor. Furthermore, Redford was also nominated for roles in 2 other films; *Tell Them Willie Boy is Here*, and *Downhill Racer*. The film also won 4 **Oscars** including best song 'Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head'.



The Sundance Kid was the role that projected Redford to superstardom. Five years later the film was re-released and became an enormous box-office success for the second time after Redford and Newman reprised their pairing as lovable anti-heroes in *The Sting*.

Sundance (Redford) and Butch (Newman)

Ryan's Daughter was nominated for 10 **Baftas**, despite being critically panned: winning none. It did win 2 **Oscars**, one for John Mills as best supporting actor, and the other for Cinematography. It was, however, highly successful at the box office. It was filmed on David Lean's usual epic scale, against superb settings in Counties Clare and Kerry and lasted 3 hours and 18 minutes, even after Lean was forced to cut 17 minutes.

Unfortunately, the story (based loosely around *Madame Bovary*) was felt to be too slight. Of the BFI's list of the top 100 British films of the 20th Century,* David Lean had directed 3 of the top 5. Critics regarded *Ryan's Daughter* as being below his usual standard.

In his drive for perfection Lean waited a whole year for a suitably spectacular storm to film on Ireland's West coast. If he'd been filming in Autumn 2020 he'd have had no such problem!

1970 *continued*

Late 1969 and 1970 gave us some memorable films. One of these was the Ken Loach film, *Kes*, which won 2 **Baftas** and has been placed 7th in the BFI's top 100. Three others from 1970 made it into their list: *Performance* (48), *The Go-Between* (57) and *The Railway Children* (66).



David Bradley as Billy, in *Kes*.

Bradley was awarded the **Bafta** for the 'most promising newcomer', beating Sally Thomsett from *The Railway Children*.

Other **Oscar/Bafta** nominated films included *MASH*, *Catch-22*, *They Shoot Horses Don't They*, *There's a Girl in my Soup*, *Anne of the Thousand Days***, *Five Easy Pieces*, *Airport*, and *Love Story*.

Alfred Hitchcock received a **BAFTA** fellowship award.

*Since you ask, the top 5 20th Century British films in the BFI list were:

The Third Man

Brief Encounter

Lawrence of Arabia

The 39 Steps

Great Expectations

** Yes! In the year when we should have been celebrating the anniversary of the Field of the Cloth of Gold did you see that we snuck in an oblique reference to Henry VIII, through a film about his second wife, Anne ?

Kate McIver

Quiz

1. Kent has the motto "Invicta," meaning "Unconquered". Why?
2. What did Fordwich have to do with Canterbury Cathedral?



3. Where is this and who lived here?

4. This is Baroness Angela Burdett-Coutts. Who was she?
What did she do?



References

Wheler

Charity Commission website

case study Carter Jonas 'Masterplanning' at Charing, for their client the Wheler Foundation

<https://www.carterjonas.co.uk/case-studies/planning-and-development/charing-ashford-district>

Charing CPC article

<https://www.pressreader.com/uk/kentish-express-ashford-district/20170525/281754154266563>

Otterden Estate area plan link

<https://www.whelerfoundation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/otterdenplan.pdf>

CPRE briefing – How 'land promoters' exploit legal loopholes at the expense of communities and the countryside

<https://www.cpre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/LandZpromotersZbriefingZ2018.pdf>

Hop Picking

Harry Ward My Early Recollections of Charing (CDLHS)

A Spoonful of Jam by Michelle Magorian, published by Egmont

If you have any reactions to this newsletter, if you have an idea, or suggestion for future newsletters, please let me know.

Thanks

to Valerie newsletter@charinghistory.co.uk

Thank you

Thank you Dorothy, Kate, Hilary, Sarah, Sylvia and Steve, for your contributions to this newsletter, and to Celia for her e-talk.

Noticeboard

Worth a look

Charing Parish Council website is kept up to date, so it's worth keeping a check to find out current information. At the time of writing; flu jabs, Charing phone box, road closures and how to join CPC virtual meetings are there.



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

