



CHARING & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

www.charinghistory.co.uk

CDLHS In Our Historic Times edition 11 November 2020 Stay at Home Again

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Hello again,

Thanks to Kate and Hilary for contributing. In this issue we have some exciting news from Celia.

Kate's long running series on the 1970s draws to a close with her article on 'Books'. Over all the months this has been a really enjoyable stroll down 'Memory Lane.'

We're asking you to help with the next issue. ... thinking about memories. We don't yet know what restrictions may, or may not be in place, but we do know it will be different, and I expect likely to become a future memory for us all. We can't meet for a CDLHS social, but perhaps we can share something in writing. We'd like you to cast your minds back, as we're hoping that many, many of you will contribute a few sentences of your own Christmas memories for our December issue; please see p 13.

We don't have any seasonal photos this time, but we do have a little information on Charing at this time of year from Harry Ward and the Oral Histories.

Last, but not least; apologies to Hilary. Last month I inadvertently cut short her article on 'The Account of the Otterden Murder' by mistake. Sorry. The proper ending is at the top of the next page.

Keep positive, stay well, best wishes, Valerie

The important final missing lines from **An Account of the
Murder at Otterden**
A True Crime
H.E.W.

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.

Apologies again



**Imogen Corrigan has kindly agreed to give us our first lecture via Zoom on
Thursday December 3rd at 7.30 p.m.**

entitled

Stone on Stone: the Men who built the Cathedrals

This lecture attempts to answer the question of how on earth ordinary human beings managed to create sky-scraping, dizzyingly high buildings on which even the topmost parts were delicately decorated. In the process we meet the Master Masons who both designed the buildings and ran the sites. They commanded everything, sourcing vast quantities of wood and stone, recruiting the workforce, knowing enough about their various trades to be able to create heaven on earth out of the cacophony of thousands of chisels and hammers.

These men were charismatic leaders, continually held in check by their fellow Master Masons in the interests of making a building as strong as possible - we see only their successes after all. They were real people who got into trouble with the law, who occasionally cheated on contracts, who liked to start a job but not to finish it. Their buildings, however, remain to this day, some breathtakingly beautiful in their exquisite detail, causing us, centuries later, to stand in a nave and wonder.

Instructions for Accessing the Lecture

All members will be receiving an email so that they have the details of how to access the lecture. In case the first email goes astray in your Inbox you will receive another email a day or two before the lecture, which, we hope, will serve to jog your memories.

We would like to encourage as many of you as possible to watch this first of our virtual lectures. You can watch from the comfort of your own home, a glass of wine to hand - and if it's a bottle no one will see.

As you will know Imogen Corrigan is an excellent lecturer and has, since March, given 167 virtual lectures, so we should be in safe hands. We will include her Guidance notes for those of you unfamiliar with Zoom in our forthcoming emails.

Celia Jennings

Answers from last Quiz

1. Kent has the motto "Invicta," meaning "Unconquered".



Legend has it that, possibly on his way to Dover to return to his native Normandy, William was prevented from passing unhindered through East Kent by representatives of the Men of Kent.

Symbolically they are said to have held out a branch or a sword, and told William to choose - treaty or war.

In opting for the branch he is understood to have offered the retention of certain rights and customs, if in return, they would accept him as their King.

(Historians have argued this is why a system for passing on a deceased person's estate to all heirs, known as Gavelkind, continued to be used in Kent when in the rest of the realm all went to the eldest son.)

Q What did Fordwich have to do with Canterbury Cathedral?

A All of the Caen stone used by the Normans to rebuild Canterbury Cathedral in the 12th and 13th centuries was landed at **Fordwich**.

3 This is White Cliffs House, St Margarets Bay. Ian Fleming, the author of James Bond, lived here.



Additional info from Sylvia; the house was believed to have once been owned by Noel Coward.

The house is at the foot of the cliffs, which suffered a bad cliff fall in recent years. Bond's code name, '007', stems from Fleming's experience in Kent. The story goes that while returning home, Ian Fleming was stuck behind an 007 bus, (then, a local bus connecting Canterbury and the coast). Another theory is based on Fleming's background as a Naval Intelligence Officer, and '007' referred to the cracking of a WW1 German code during WW1.



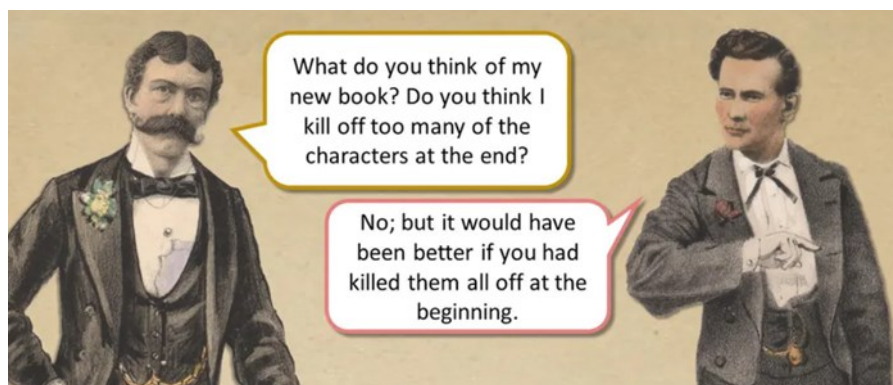
4. This is Baroness Angela Burdett-Coutts. The first woman to have been made a peer.

Burdett-Coutts was made a baroness by Queen Victoria for her work on behalf of the poor. Prevented from working at Coutts Bank despite inheriting her grandfather, 'Thomas Coutts', shares and fortune, she devoted her time to philanthropy. She was a pioneer in social housing, and financed numerous projects, including the redevelopment of East London.

Laugh or Groan?

Q Who succeeded the first President of the USA ?

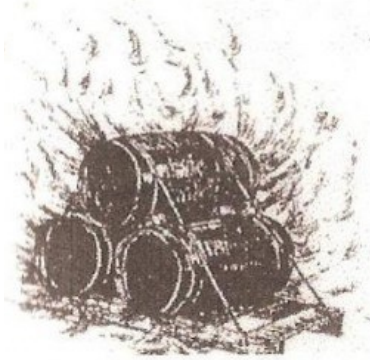
A *The second one!*



Bonfire Night in Charing past

Guy Fawkes seems to have been quite an event in the village

From Harry Ward Recollections



"5th of November used to be a great night here, fires one end of street to the other. Tar barrels etc. rolling everywhere. I remember one very large fire in front of the old Swan, faggots kept coming. Old Mabler Honeysett was helping pile them on, kept saying, "bring 'em boys", but he told a different tale in the morning when he found a faggots fence he had previous made - about 50 of them were the ones he had helped to put on the fire. Old Glazier there was too tight to interfere, he told Mabler served him right.

If one had got anything that would burn, it had to be locked up weeks previously as was got away and hid up for the occasion, I remember helping to sneak part of a barrel of tar from old Johnny Murton's Pett Farm and hiding it in shrubs in vicarage garden. Old R. Harvey always collected a lot of stuff for us as tubs, boxes, straw etc also used to get old Glazier pretty tight as he could not refuse a drink."

From CDLHS Oral Histories

"Guys were brought round, and they' ed beat on your door and say 'penny for the guy^t and these bonfires would burn; and no one minded a fire in a field or in someone' s back garden, but it was a bit tiresome in the street. Especially if your house had just been repainted and it blistered the paint, and it happened on more than one occasion."



"They always lit a bonfire opposite Peckwater House, a bonfire somewhere up opposite Romney house, and one higher up the street. And as the police arrived at one, the firelighters disappeared down to the other, and the shriek was "Coming up! or "Coming down!" Whichever way the police were, going, then they ran round the back way, to the next fire, you see."

"They used to steal faggots to light -bonfires, first in one place then the other, to attract the police, you see. One end of the village to the other.

The story goes that they set alight policemen's tailcoat. They had long sort of coats in those days , —long tail coats.

Then of course they rolled barrels of tar down the hill, they set light to those. I don't know if it's from the top or halfway up. But definitely they did, which is all very frightening when you're a child."

"The vicar always had a bonfire in the glebe." "The choirboys used to go, and I think any other young person."

"Always up there. The whole village went."



M Machin, M Ruglyss, D Anderson M r S

HORACE BARWICK and THOMAS RACKETT - A Regency Renaissance Man

A man of extraordinary knowledge and talents befriended Horace Barwick and became an important influence and mentor. This was **The Reverend Thomas Rackett (1757-1841)**, Rector of Spetisbury and Charlton Marshall in Dorset for sixty years. He was married to Dorothea, née Tattersall and she had relatives in Kent among whom was a niece, Mrs Jane Wheler who although widowed in 1827 kept Otterden Place.

The Reverend Thomas Rackett had a passion for collecting both information and objects. He was a student of all arts and sciences. Two of the great artists of the day were influential; Paul Sandby taught him drawing, and George Romney painted a portrait of him aged fourteen, reciting to the dramatist David Garrick. Romney also painted his father, Thomas Rackett the elder.



The Reverend Thomas Rackett
as a young man
drawn by Dorothea Rackett

Courtesy of R. Solly

A long-lived antiquary, archaeologist, numismatist, geologist, botanist, artist and musician, Rackett's time devoted to his parishioners was less than his Dorset flock expected. Their complaints were debated in Parliament. His absences travelling on his pony, or visiting his house in London to attend lectures were not unusual at this time, when Christianity was almost optional amongst clergy of the Church of England.

Horace Barwick and Thomas Rackett met at Otterden Place in 1829. A letter of gratitude written by Horace to the Racketts, describes his pleasure in having made their acquaintance, while showing unctuous appreciation of the artistic advice he received from Rackett:

...I have been fully occupied in availing myself of the instructions you were kind enough to enclose with the Perspective instrument for the enabling me the more easily to sketch from nature. It answers certainly beyond my most sanguine expectations, but to attain perfection of course requires the labour of years and therefore my sketches compared with your instructions appear very meagre and unsatisfactory in point of talent and beauty, and which by perseverance and industry alone I can expect to overcome. The etchings by P. Sandby of Windsor Castle are quite enchanting studies...

HORACE BARWICK and THOMAS RACKETT - A Regency Renaissance Man

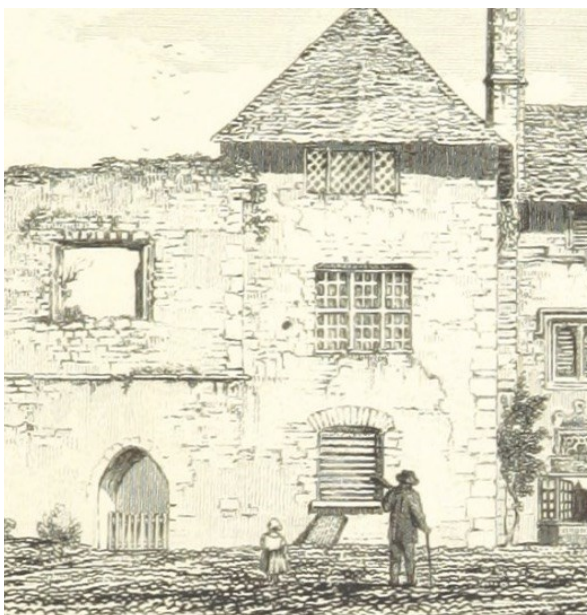
The perspective instrument mentioned may have been a *Camera Lucida*; essentially a portable prism on an adjustable stand that enabled artists to trace what they saw, in daylight, in accurate detail. In the mid 19th century this invention of 1806 was all the rage for amateur and professional artists alike.

Thomas Rackett made subsequent visits to Charing in the following years to research and write; 'A History of Otterden', a treatise on 'Early Experiments in Electricity' conducted at Otterden, and 'The Genealogy of the Wheler family'.

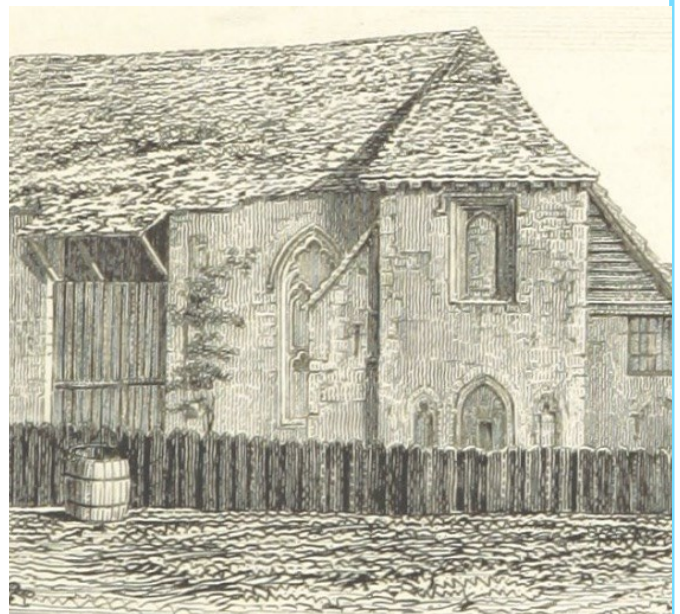
The latter project encouraged Horace Barwick to pursue his own research into his forebears, particularly those on his mother's side reaching back to the Lovelaces and the Barrells of Rochester who, coincidentally, had possession of both The Parsonage and Otterden Place in the 1600s. Horace's genealogical essays and notebook record heraldic devices, monumental inscriptions and a list of 26 ancestral portraits of various Barrells, Kitchels and Lovelaces that in former days were displayed at Otterden Place. They were last glimpsed in 2002 leaning against a wall.

Where are they now?

The Reverend Rackett also wrote 'A description of the Archbishopal Palace at Charing' after detailed examination of the remains. These written undertakings for his niece were illustrated with engravings created by the renowned James Basire from original drawings made by himself and by Horace Barwick. They were considered worthy of a wider audience and subsequently were published in *The Gentleman's Magazine* of 1832. Known locally in Charing as 'The Rackett Book', (now lost), the actual magazine is in the public domain via The British Library online catalogue and may be printed to order there,



Archbishops Palace from south- after H B



Great Hall/Refectory after H. Barwick

HORACE BARWICK and THOMAS RACKETT - A Regency Renaissance Man

or via the actual magazine is in the public domain via The British Library online catalogue and may be printed to order there, or, via a well-known purveyor of via a well known purveyor of books.

Three prints of the Archbishops Palace illustrate the Charing article. Two prints of Otterden Place are also included.

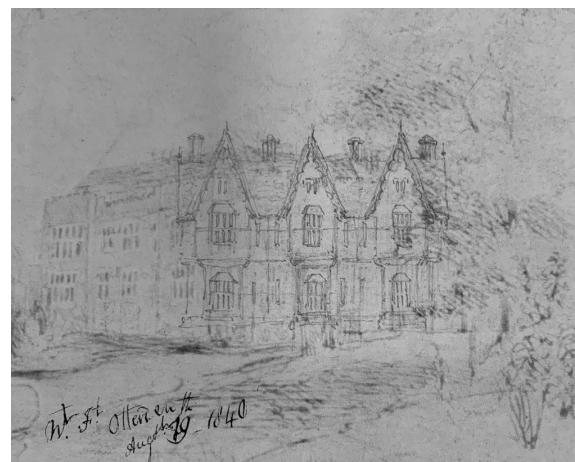


Ruins of the Palace and the Church after Thomas Rackett

The influence of Thomas Rackett can be seen in several of Horace's drawings - they may have sat together sketching? The engravers could work wonders with most drawings. At Otterden Place, Horace drew up designs for structural alterations for the house and for a new chapel, although ultimately other more modern designs appear to have been chosen. He also made grand designs for The Parsonage (Moat) to be renovated.



Otterden 1840



Otterden design 1840

HORACE BARWICK and THOMAS RACKETT - A Regency Renaissance Man

Perhaps influenced by Rackett's drawings of his own archaeological and grave excavations, Horace too illustrated some interred finds; mostly bottles, skulls and clay pots, unearthed in Charing, from vaults within the area of the Archbishops' Palace. In July 1840 he wrote:

"...in excavating some vaults near the chapel, discovered a vast quantity of colossal bones, supposed to belong to some animal either the buffalo, or some conjecture a dromedary, together with the remains of birds such as shrike and fowls".

The whereabouts of these artefacts now ... we can but wonder.

The Reverend Rackett's own grave in Spetisbury is unusual, being an imposing three-sided pyramid, almost 7 feet high. It may have been meant as a symbol of the Holy Trinity. On the other hand given Rackett's antiquarian interests, influenced by the Egyptomania prevalent in England at that time, he may have been hedging his bets with his design for his last resting place, together with Dorothea.



Before his death in 1841 (four years before Horace), Thomas Rackett had become fellow of the Royal Society, the Society of Antiquaries, and the Linnean Society. In his 80's he took up the study of conchology and astronomy. His collection of ancient seals and coins is held in the Dorset County Museum along with drawings, note books, letters and other artefacts. He maintained a prolific correspondence with many prominent people of the time as well as friends and family.

Thomas Rackett's art works are held in the British Museum, the V&A, the Wellcome Library and other collections, public and private. The epitaph on the tombstone of this remarkable man states: *'During near LX years His diligence and eminent talents were not confined to the exercise of Parochial duties...'*

H.E.W.

Acknowledgements

Dorset County Archive and Museum, R. Solly, H. Dodgson, British Museum, CDLHS

Charing School: Beginnings



The new school opened in January 1873. It's thought with 87 children present, 24 in the infants and the rest divided into 4 classes.

John Williams was the head. He took the two older classes: a student for 'pupil teachership' is described as taking the other 2. In 1887 the classes combined.

One year after the school opened, in 1874, 12 lime trees were planted outside the school, (all but one are still standing).

A short background to Education during the period of our 'Charing School Log' series

The National Society had been set up in 1811 to establish elementary schools based on the teachings of the Church of England. Its ambition was to establish a National school in every parish of England and Wales. To achieve this, they needed to be economical, so to this end relied on one teacher being responsible for teaching many children at once (see picture). The whole school of 7 to 12 year olds was often in one room but divided into standards, (groups of similar attainment) and often taught by older or proficient children. Pupil teachers were trained, as Margaret Ruglys described her 12 year old brother's experience at Charing School. He went to school for instruction at 7.30 before breakfast, then teaching in school, after school he also did a lot of homework at night too.

Education was through 'rote learning' and the school received funding through a 'payment by results' system of established in the 1862 Revised Code proposed by Robert Lowe who famously told the House of Commons that he could not promise;

"that this system will be an economical one, and I cannot promise that it will be an efficient one, but I can promise that ... if it is not cheap it shall be efficient; if it is not efficient it shall be cheap" (quoted in Lawson and Silver 1973:290).

"Each child over the age of six was to earn the school an annual grant of 4s, on the basis of attendance; and 8s. 'subject to examination'.

Of the latter 2s. 8d. was forfeited for failure to satisfy the inspector in reading, 2s. 8d. in writing and 2s. 8d. in arithmetic. Children were to be presented in six 'standards', and not a second time in the same or a lower standard. Children under six were exempted from examination only under last-minute pressure (and these earned a grant of 6s. 6d. subject to a general report by the inspector as to the suitability of their education)" (Lawson and Silver 1973:290).

This system, and the pupil teacher ratio meant that lessons consisted of 'the 3 Rs', taught by rote, with needlework often the only practical subject taught. The rooms were cold, the benches uncomfortable, and the windows were either high, or behind the children. All, so there were no distractions.

It's little wonder then that Harry Ward had found school "hard and detestable and playing truant was general", (he left in 1874 age 10, a year after Charing School opened).

A short background to Education during the period of our 'Charing School Log' series

'Home lessons' were set which proved particularly difficult in winter months when candlelight, and later paraffin lamps, were the norm; gas was too expensive for the many. Staying after school and canings were the punishments given if homework was incorrect, or not done. The punishments were often given ...

The **Education Act of 1870** required all children aged between 5 and 13 years to attend school, and the Act of 1876 imposed a legal duty on parents to ensure that their children were educated. But education was not free; in Charing each child of any age, had to pay 2d every Monday for the week. This was quite a strain for many families, it was particularly difficult for poorer families, as often the family income was reliant on their children working. It was doubly difficult for the many large families of the time (six was considered small and some were of sixteen). In 1872, Harry Ward describes being employed from age 8 for 2 and ½ days a week. He was rope making with his brother, which he continued to do for 2 years until he left school age 10.

In 1880, to improve the truancy problem, an act requiring school boards to enforce compulsory attendance from 5 to 10 years was passed. Attendance officers often visited the homes of children who failed to attend school, which as the school log shows, often proved to be ineffective. The act also set a necessary standard for children to reach before they could be employed. Employers of any children who were unable to show their certificate of educational standard were penalised.

It wasn't until 1891 that The Elementary Education Act effectively made primary education free, as it provided for government payment of school fees (up to ten shillings per head).

It was often the norm for Headmasters with their wives assistance, to be in charge of schools, and in Charing those mentioned have been; Mr and Mrs Leonard in 1873, in 1879 Mr Cousins, (no mention of a wife?), in 1884 Mr and Mrs Rous, and in 1886 Mr and Mrs Darlington. The difficulty of the task is reflected I think, in the number of changes of headmaster in a short time.

Incidentally, the term "being in the black book" is believed to have its origin in National Schools. It was a method of discipline which shamed the individual. It also gave the opportunity for reinforcing honourable / Christian principles, as the entries were often read to the entire school, and the faults then explained in moral terms.

Sources

'Harry Ward' and 'About Charing'

<http://www.educationengland.org.uk/history/chapter06.html>

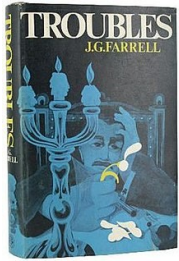
<https://www.raggeduniversity.co.uk/2012/10/31/andrew-bell-1753-1832/>

Wikipedia

Valerie Yeeles

1970

50 years ago – The ‘Lost’ Booker

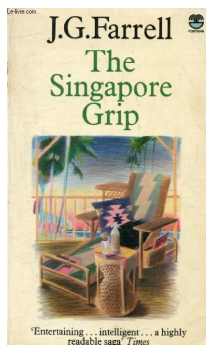


1970 was the year of the ‘lost’ Booker prize. The **Booker Prize** had started in 1969 under the sponsorship of Booker McConnell Ltd, choosing from books published in the previous year. In 1971 it changed to selecting from books published in the same year. This meant that 1970 books missed out. This was redressed 40 years later in 2010 when the ‘Lost Man Booker Prize’ was announced. A shortlist of 5 was put

to a public vote and the winner, streets ahead of the others was JG Farrell’s *Troubles*. Farrell had died in 1980 and his award was collected by his brother. *Troubles* was set in Ireland in 1919 against a background of the Irish War for Independence and the crumbling British Empire. It became the first of a trilogy set at different places and times but on the theme of ‘Empire’.

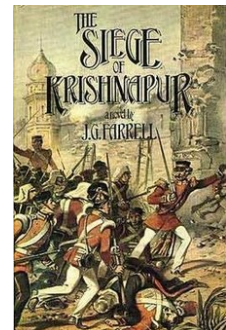


Richard Farrell received the award on behalf of his brother in 2010.

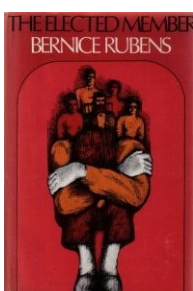


The second one, *The Siege of Krishnapur* won the Booker in 1973, so had he won in 1970/1 Farrell would have beaten Hilary Mantel to the accolade of ‘second Booker’ by decades.

The third book, *The Singapore Grip*, published in 1978, has recently been serialised on ITV, although reviewers felt this did not live up to the book. In 1978, interviewed by The Observer, Farrell said ‘the really interesting thing that’s happened during my lifetime has been the decline of the British Empire’. On accepting the prize for *The Siege of Krishnapur* Farrell was critical of the Booker Group’s business activities in the developing world. They had been heavily involved in the Caribbean sugar trade from the middle of the nineteenth century. So, was it a coincidence that *The Singapore Grip* featured unscrupulous exploitation of local growers by British Colonialists? Although the books are only linked by theme, a key character from *Troubles* turns up in *The Singapore Grip*: the ever-resourceful Major Archer.



Troubles also won the Geoffrey faber Memorial prize, named after the founder of Faber & Faber, awarded to a single volume of poetry or fiction by a United Kingdom, Irish or Commonwealth author aged under 40. Although the Lost Booker was awarded by public vote, *Troubles* has always achieved high critical acclaim.



Back in 1970 the Booker prize was awarded to a 1969 book, *The Elected Member* by Welsh writer Bernice Rubens, who became the first woman to win the prize.

1970 *continued*

50 years ago – Books



The **Nobel Prize** for Literature in 1970 was awarded to **Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn** ‘for the ethical force with which he has pursued the indispensable traditions of Russian *literature*’. He was still living under threat as a ‘non-person’ in the Soviet Union at the time and was unable to receive his award until 1974, after he had been deported to the West. By 1970 his works included *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*; *The First Circle*; and *Cancer Ward*. *The Gulag Archipelago*, his examination of the state prison camp system had been written between 1958 and 1967, but not published until 1973.



Other books published here and abroad in 1970 include:

The Bluest Eye – Toni Morrison (who was to win the Nobel Prize in 1993)

The Female Eunuch – Germaine Greer (What! You didn’t read it? Ok, neither did I)

Accidental Death of an Anarchist – Dario Fo’s play was premiered in December

Soledad Brother – George Jackson’s Prison Letters

Love Story – Erich Segal (you remember – ‘love means never having to say you’re sorry’(!))

Fantastic Mr Fox – Roald Dahl

84 Charing Cross Road – Helene Hanff

Jonathon Livingstone Seagull – Richard Bach

Crow – Ted Hughes, poetry anthology

Kate Mclver

November Quiz



1, Why might Kent claim to be responsible for inventing the first world sport?

2. What does Remembrance Sunday honour? Why was the timing chosen?

3. What is the origin of the phrase “taxation without representation” ? Which words come next?

Noticeboard

CDLHS have been invited to join

Lenham Heritage Society

for their zoom talk about the manorial system

“Of Villains, Slaves and

The Lord of the Manor”

by Julia Hickey

On Monday 23 November at 7.30 pm.

The talk (with some glimpses onto Lenham) is free to attend and financed by LenhamHeritage Funds (donations gratefully received).

However, numbers have to be limited.

So please go to our

website <https://www.heritagelenham.co.uk> to register

or email: lenhamheritage@gmail.com. Zoom details to follow

The next 'In Historic Times' issue (December) needs the help of members and friends

We'd like as many of you as possible to **please** jot down and send just a few lines about a Christmas time memory;-from anywhere; in the recent past to amore distant past. They don't have to be amazingly unusual at all, just a memory you've kept.

The aim is to put them altogether, in no particular order, to make a serendipity of past Christmases. They won't be named.

Send, please to

newsletter@charinghistory.co.uk



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