



## **CHARING & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

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

### **CDLHS In Our Historic Times**

**edition 2, April 18th 2020**

**Not Going Out**

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**Hope you're keeping positive.**

**A sincere thank you to those who have given feedback.**

## A PLEA .....

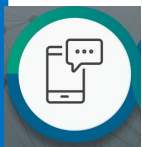
In these unprecedented stay-at-home times, where perhaps dates blur and the days merge, we have all been advised to stay mentally alert, positive and 'stay in touch' (though not literally) with others. These special editions, or bulletins, are our way of keeping in touch with CDLHS members and friends. We hope to make them as frequently as we can over the next few weeks.

It would be really fantastic, and worthwhile, if this could be 2 way. In other words if **YOU** would join in!

With **additions ... amendments ... answers ... articles ... comments ... contributions ... corrections ... discoveries ... explanations ... extensions ... feedback ... ideas ... improvements ... observations ... questions ... reactions ... responses ... suggestions ...**

**ANY**thing along these lines (though no more synonyms please) gratefully received at

**newsletter@charinghistory.co.uk**



Thanks,  
Valerie

## ***Our Magistracy: A Democratic Jewel Beyond Price***

by John Hosking

This new book by CDLHS former President John Hosking reviews some of the most significant changes within and around the criminal justice arena during the last 50 years or so, including reference to the magistrates' court at Ashford, which was closed in 2011.

It draws attention to the consequences for the magistracy of efficiency-driven reforms, and gives examples of the misguided policies which have contributed to its reduced status and usefulness. At the same time, the opportunity is taken to remind readers of the magistracy's under-stated qualities, its convenience and adaptability, its cost-effectiveness, the ignorance of its critics, and the importance for the health of our democracy of continuing popular participation in the justice system.

Reference is also made to the ever-changing social and moral climate in which the modern judiciary has to work, the persistent failure to find more successful methods of crime prevention, punishment and treatment, the threat to the lay sector of increased replacement by expensive district judges, and the undeserved praise given to fallible juries when compared with trained JPs.

*Our Magistracy: A Democratic Jewel Beyond Price*, Waterside Press, March 2020  
ISBN: 9781909976740, £19.95 including UK postage. <http://bit.ly/2HPJOh0>  
Also available in hardback, e-book and kindle.



## Do you remember when .....



there were November 5th celebrations, when 'The King's Head' was open, when there was a bank, when there were fewer houses, more shops open . ....

Please jot down any memories you have of life in Charing, from way back, or from not so long ago; short, or long; written and kept for us 'til later, or email some now - to [newsletter@charinghistory.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@charinghistory.co.uk)  
Memories are worth keeping and make history real. With your help, we can capture and compile a collection of 'Charing Stories'.

## Looking back

### Our first e-talk



### The Story of the Railway to Charing (Part 1)

by

*Steve Beck*

Thank you Steve for your very thorough research and informative e-talk. Packed full of facts.

It is surprising that Charing, like many other railway connections, is the result of the hostility and rivalry between Sir Edward Watkin of the SER, and James Staats Forbes of the LC&DR. 'Each scheming to outwit each other at every point.'

There have been so many changes to London Bridge Station, it now has 15 platforms, as shown in the two pictures. Ignore the Royal train, and at first glance, Charing Station looks very much the same.

### Quiz answers

#### Who was she?



**SHE** was Queen Of Romania



**She was connected** to nearby Eastwell parish, as she was born in 1875 at Eastwell Manor. Daughter of Prince Alfred, granddaughter of Queen Victoria, her memorial statue stands in Elwick Place,

#### One and the same



**She was** Queen Bertha of Kent, she was born around 539 AD and was married to King Aethelbert. **She moved to Canterbury in around 580 AD. and lived there.**

*The right hand photo of her statue was taken by Gordon Griffiths, it stands in front of the entrance gate to the King's School, Canterbury. She had St Martins Church Canterbury built -acknowledged by UNESCO as the oldest church in the English-speaking world where Christian worship has taken place continuously since 580 AD.*

Coming soon

We look forward to ...

our next e-talk by Steve Beck

"The Railway to Charing - Part 2"

Part 2 will complete the story of the line through Charing up to the present day and include why the first electric train from Charing departed 18 years late.



*The station has grown*

Continuing .....

## That word: Corona



Part 2 the potted history of Corona the fizzy drink - with thanks to Wikipedia and other internet articles

In the 1880's William Thomas and William Evans became partners in a grocery business in South Wales. They soon owned a chain of grocery stores and with the growing influence of the temperance movement in Wales they saw the potential for a soft drinks market.

Thomas & Evans' Welsh Hills soft drinks were produced at their first major bottling plant - "Welsh Hills Mineral Water Factory", in Porth in the Rhondda Valley in the 1890's. It had state of the art bottling machinery and the facility to safely clean the glass bottles allowing for them to be reused after being returned by the customer for a small deposit.



Hiram Codd's globe-stopper wire hinged bottles were originally used. Patented in 1872 by the English engineer, the bottle was specifically designed for carbonated drinks.

Who remembers the 'money back on the bottle' system?

Collecting discarded bottles and returning them in to shop and door to door sellers for that extra bit of pocket money.

Thomas and Evans had hoped to become popular in public houses as a non-alcoholic alternative, but this never happened. So, Evans found an alternative market, selling door to door from a horse and cart.

And so the business went from strength to strength and by the 1900's the company had 200 salesmen with horse drawn delivery wagons and two steam driven vehicles. With the company producing much more child friendly flavours such as orangeade, dandelion and burdock, limeade, raspberryade and lemonade.

continued on next page



## THE POTTED HISTORY OF CORONA THE FIZZY DRINK continued

The 1920's saw a change in name to Corona. The logo consisted of seven wire topped bottles fanned to represent a crown over the company's new name. The company continued to flourish and by 1934 they had 4 factories.



By the end of the 1930's one depot alone was operating more than 200 vehicles and over 170 million bottles of Corona pop were being produced each year, most of which was sold by the delivery man who made weekly deliveries to people's doors.

*The delivery lorries recognisable by their red and gold livery and Corona logo.*

World War 2 saw lorries and drivers being commandeered by the Government for war service. This, along with the rationing of petrol saw a brief reintroduction of the horse and wagon delivery service. But normal service resumed soon after 1945 and the Corona man was back on his motorised rounds.

1950 saw the launch of Tango, still a familiar drink today. Whilst retaining its logo and brand, the company was bought by Beecham's in 1958.



The 1960's and 70's saw a growth in television advertisement and a change in shopping habits with the rise in the number of supermarkets so door to door sales dropped. One of Corona's most memorable advertising campaigns was launched in the 1970's under the slogan "Every bubble's passed its FIZZical!"

The Welsh Hills plant was closed and production transferred to Bolton when the company was bought by Britvic in 1987, with the old Corona factory in Porth being used by a music recording studio "The Pop Factory" from 2000 until 2011.

Writing this has stirred up childhood memories of The Pop man deliveries along with the elderly ice cream man who used to arrive outside our house on his bicycle with fully laden basket just after lunch on a Sunday.

Do you have any food or drinks memories from your childhood? Please share.

*Sylvia Beck*

### An 18th century joke ....

One complained all the ale he drank made him fat. "I have seen it make you lean," replied his friend.

"When?"

"Last night--upon the wall."

## Continuing .....

# 1970

## 50 years ago – Politics

On 1st January 1970 the age of majority was reduced to 18. There was a bye election in Bridgwater on 13<sup>th</sup> March where 18 year olds were able to vote. Then on 18<sup>th</sup> June a general election was held, where some of our members may have voted for the first time. The outcome was an unexpected victory by 30 seats for Edward Heath who ousted Harold Wilson.



*Ted  
Harold*

*Heath Prime Minister  
Wilson Prime Minister*



*1970–74*

*1964-70 & 1974-76*

Two movements were coming to the fore. At the start of the year the Women's Liberation held their first conference at Ruskin College, Oxford, and in November the newly established Gay Liberation Front held its first demonstration at Highbury Fields, Islington.

## 50 years ago – fears of food shortages

A State of Emergency was declared by Reginald Maudling, (Home Secretary) in July 1970 as a result of a national dockers' strike. 42,000 dockers were demanding a wage rise from £11 pw to £20 (equivalent of £171.28 - £311.42 now). There were fears of food shortages (imagine!) and the Army, Navy and Air Force were put on standby to assist. As it happened many dockers agreed to handle perishable goods. The strike lasted 3 weeks and was mainly peaceful. Conditions of employment had traditionally been poor and within a few years containerisation was to change the industry completely.

It is not known how the country fared for toilet paper during this period.

*Kate McIver*

Will look at the music scene next time. Have these 1970s articles sparked any of your memories? Please share.

## A 1970s joke from Dave Allen ....

"We spend our lives on the run: we get up by the clock, eat and sleep by the clock, get up again, go to work - and then we retire. And what do they give us? A b..... clock!"

## Continuing .....



### School Life in Charing 150 Years Ago

Extracts from the Headteacher's Logbook

1864-1873

#### School Closures

School was quite frequently closed for a number of reasons.

September 1<sup>st</sup> 1868. "School re-opened today – holidays prolonged a week longer than was intended, owing to the hop-picking not being over."

April 29<sup>th</sup> 1864. "Thin attendance in morning, Charing Fair. Dismissal at 11.30.a.m. Holiday in afternoon."

Monday to Fri day 17<sup>th</sup> May. 1872. "No attendance on Monday, as it was expected the stone would be laid of the New Schools. It being wet, the ceremony did not take place till the Tuesday. Holiday in the afternoon and tea in the Victoria Hall."

#### Detentions

The boys were often kept in after school for various reasons, such as making blots, careless writing, to learn tables, but mainly for arriving late in the morning. The reasons for lateness included "staying too long on the ice," and "as a consequence of a troop of soldiers passing through the village."

*Dorothy Burdick*

a

### QUIZ

There's thought to be a very important person in this photograph.



Who is it?

and

Where is this?

# Family History research 1



Some of you may know that the CDLHS has a very informal family history group. The group gets together every couple of months to talk about things we have found or are problems we are trying to solve, techniques that can help and generally have a drink and a good chat.

Why do we do it and why might you have a go? If you google the question it throws up many reasons. But I think the current Covid 19 problem highlights at least one of the reasons. People have a strong desire to belong and connect. The isolation we are having to practice is not a normal state for the vast majority of people. We hear regularly about the importance of supporting people who are on their own, not just physically but socially. Family history research connects you to past, current and future family of all sorts, gives perspective on lots of different subjects and interesting places. I say family history because it is about looking at individuals, piecing together their stories and looking at them in the wider context of history; not just recording births, marriages and deaths. We can also learn how our ancestors coped with similar and often more trying times and came through. It has been said that this understanding can make us more resilient and selfless.

On the “fun” side if you like a combination of puzzles, jigsaws, detective stories and history then family history has a lot to offer. Apart from your siblings, your story is unique and there is no end to the picture you can build and avenues you can follow. There has been no better time to find information as the amount of online data increases regularly. However, you still need to be accurate so getting a good how-to book or reading a good online guide is a great start. You could also come along to our group. We are a varied lot with different amounts of experience. None of us know it all, we learn from each other and are always happy to help someone get started; so, drop me an email if you are interested. In the meantime, if time is heavy on your hands try to write down notes about what you can remember of your family including stories. They may prove right or wrong but later you will forget what you had originally grown up believing and it’s fun to look back later and see how the story has been confirmed or changed. Also try to make notes about your own life and memories; they are what future history is made of.

If I have whetted your appetite and Valerie lets me have some space in the next newsletter, a few thoughts on co-incidences, connections to Charing (not required) and other history ramblings.



*Kirsten Moon*

( Yes a follow up please, Kirsten!)



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Q. Which historic figure did an Ashford Borough Councillor wish to find out about, when he approached the University of Leicester for DNA help?

Q Who might this have been?

**From last time....**



The Charing character was



Miss Marjorie Machin

1894 – 1978

All about the parrot, the car and the painting to be revealed next time, with much more.

Hopefully the next edition of the newsletter will have WW2 as its focus. If you have any family stories of what it was like during the war, or you have memories of it, please take the time to think about them again, and write them down. However 'scrapy' or however full, we'd love to receive them.

[newsletter@charinghistory.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@charinghistory.co.uk)

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to anyone who you think might be interested in reading it, or joining in.

We recommend the Charing Parish Council website for the latest Charing Coronavirus information.

<https://www.charingkent.org/>

(look for the scrolling 'Latest News' and click on an item to read the details.)



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)

**Final reminder – just in case you've forgotten ....**

**Please do join in, write to us at [newsletter@charinghistory.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@charinghistory.co.uk)**

