



## CHARING & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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



### CDLHS In Our Historic Times Cloistered Chronicle May 23rd, 2020 Tudor themed FOCG anniversary edition



Welcome to this May 23rd, Tudor themed, edition of the newsletter, in recognition of Henry's special and historic visit here; see next page!

I hope you enjoy the mix.

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Thank you for the feedback to previous editions, information, opinions, comments and corrections are very gratefully received.

Correction to VE Day edition; Alan Witt kindly checked on an old map and there was not a roundabout as shown pre-1945. I was really pleased to get all the information.

Valerie

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### Quiz

What is this? What does it symbolise?



## King Henry VIII Visits Charing



*A local artist's impression (from 1965)  
of Henry arriving in the Market Place, Charing in 1520.*

Henry VIII visited Charing 500 years ago on May 23rd 1520 on his way to the Field of Cloth of Gold, 8 miles south of Calais in English-held territory, to meet Francis I for two weeks of feasting, jousting and good fellowship. His route took him from Greenwich Palace, via Otford and Maidstone, to Charing where he stayed overnight at the Archbishop's Palace. He was accompanied by 5000 or so men and women, and 3000 horses. Henry himself stayed in the Palace, his knights in other lodgings in the Palace grounds, in the High Street and elsewhere in Charing; the rest pitched their tents, of which there were some 2800, in local fields.

The moment of Henry's arrival in the Market Place was reimagined in the 1960s by a local artist, David Embry, who, at the time, was lodging at the very top of 45 High Street, a house belonging to Marjorie Machin. From his room he had a good view of the Market Place down to the church and the Archbishop's Palace. Climbing out of the top window one day, he perched precariously on the roof, feet wedged in the gutter,

and drew the scene illustrated here; the subsequent watercolour won first prize (£100) in an exhibition, Historic Events in Kent, in 1965.

By 1520 the people of Charing were well used to hosting the monarch as both Henry and his father had visited on several occasions. Henry brought cooks and kitchen staff with him and there would also have been Charing Palace staff in attendance. Much of the food eaten that day was procured locally; they ate poultry - hens, duck and other birds - and, probably, fish from the coast or from the Archbishop's ponds, situated either on what is now Clewards Meadow or the lake in the grounds of the Moat House. Henry and the knights drank wine, the rest beer from the Archbishop's buttery and local hostelries, one of which might have been in the High Street on the site of what is now Elizabethan House, formerly The Swan. Henry's total bill for his overnight stay in Charing amounted to the equivalent of £29,500.

Henry revisited the Archbishop's Palace later on in his reign, finally 'persuading' Archbishop Cranmer to give it to him in 1545. The Palace subsequently remained royal property through the reigns of Elizabeth I and James I, until the royal connection was finally severed in 1635 by Charles I, who sold it to Sir Robert Honynwood of Pett Place, by which time it had probably already become a working farm, as it has continued to be ever since.

*Celia Jennings*

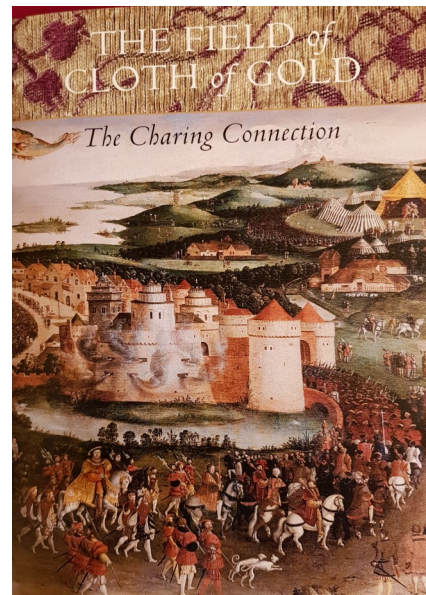


## 500th Anniversary of the 'Field of Cloth of Gold'

The 2020 Village Fete was to have had a Tudor Theme to commemorate the 500th anniversary of Henry VIII visiting Charing on 23 May 1520, during his journey to the 'Field of Cloth of Gold'

Celia Jennings has extensively researched Henry's journey from Greenwich to Calais, & written a lovely booklet '***The Field of Cloth of Gold - The Charing Connection***', specifically for this 500th Anniversary. The overall quality of the publication is really excellent.

With a price of just £5, it is tremendous value, & can be ordered (or reserved) directly from Celia ([celia.jennings1@btinternet.com](mailto:celia.jennings1@btinternet.com))



## Facts of Life

### The 'Sumptuary Laws'

From about 1327 Monarchs were keen to maintain the social balance and effectively 'keep people in their place' not allowing anyone to look better, or live better, than their social superiors. These laws were also used to protect and support national interests, and particular industries.

In Henry's VIII's first such law, "An Act Against Wearing of Costly Apparel". Some examples include "Velvet of crimson or blue is prohibited to any one under the degree of knight of the garter; no person under a knight (excepting sons of lords, judges, those of the king's council and the mayor of London) is to wear velvet in his gown and doublet, or satin or damask in his gown or coat. Also in the lower classes, no serving man is to use above 2 1/2 yards in a short gown or 3 yards in a long one.

Elizabeth seems to have added her own restrictions and rules to the previous ones of her sister and father. She was particularly concerned to promote the use of English fabrics instead of foreign imports!

### Tudor Cutlery



Most people carried their own knife, and so used that for their food too..

Spoons were needed as so many things were difficult, (or impossible e. g. soup or pottage) to eat without one, the rich would have theirs made of pewter and silver, whilst for the poor it would have been wood..



Frequently wealthy people carried their own, with a pricker, which was a small thin knife used to pick up the food.

**QUIZ Can you name the Tudor Monarchs and put them in order of their reigns?**



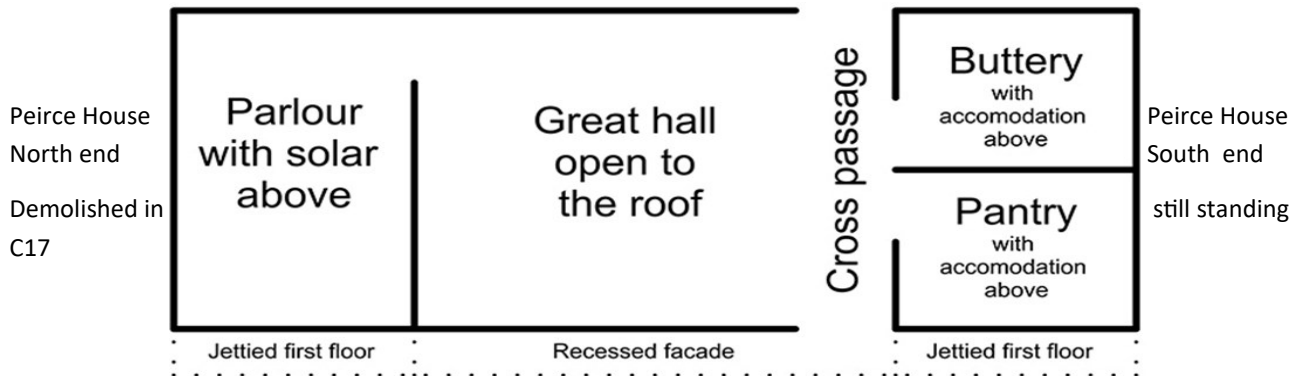
And if you can do that, can you now put them in order of the length of their reigns?

**Charing Houses in Tudor Times**

Many houses in The High Street have a Georgian appearance but their steep roof lines, inside timberwork and layout show that they date from Tudor times.

Many were built as hall houses open to the ceiling. The fire would have been in the centre and the smoke rising to the roof until escaping at the small openings.

Plan of a 15th Century Wealden Hall House, Peirce House was originally built in this plan



From the website British listed buildings it mentions the following date from:

**Earlier than Tudor Charing:** church C12 and C13, The Archbishop's Palace C13 and cottage range C14, and parts of The Old House C13 and C14

**15th Century:** Vicarage Cottage early ,Peirce House early, 47 (now Wady & Brett, 2 & 3 Moat House, 52 & 54 (Hogben's), 1 & 2 Market Place

**15th and 16th Century:** Ridgemount 26 & 28, 44 & 48 (now known as 44), North End Cottage (34 & 36), 19 (formerly Ziggy's),

**16th Century:** 9 (Armada House), Pett Place (extended and re-fronted in C18 (with Norman cellars), Sherborne Hse, and 30 & 32

## Peirce House and The Brent Family in Tudor times



The original house was built in the early 15<sup>th</sup> century, thought to be in similar design to a typical Wealden hall house. Without houses nearby and set back in its own grounds dates it was very prestigious. It belonged to Hugh Brent and his family, all of whom were important benefactors to Charing church, enabling the original wooden tower to be rebuilt in stone, and for the lady chapel to be built. Early in the C16 the house was extended, and some of the visible gable frontage rebuilt, (possibly to celebrate a marriage joining them with the important Neville family).

In 1528 (8 years after Henry VIII's FOCG visit) John Brent (grandson of Hugh Brent) was granted the lease of the Archbishop's manor and lands and this was extended to William (Hugh's great grandson) until 1591. The Brent family lived in Charing for about 150 years and Hugh and his descendants had moved steadily up the ladder making advantageous marriages, amassing lands, wealth and professional appointments.

The north wing was later demolished, probably in the C17 when owned by the Peirce family.

*Valerie Yeeles*

*thanks to 'Peirce House' by Pat Winzar*

### Devastating News from Tudor Charing

The Parish Church of Charing "was burnt upon Tuesday the 4th August 1590 and the bells in the Steeple melted with the extremity of the fire Nothing of the church was left but the bare walls except the floor over the porch and the floor over the turret where the weathercock doth stand. The fire chanced by means of a birding piece discharged by one Mr Dios which fired in the shingels the day being extreem hot and the shingels very dry".

Thus is the calamity recorded by Stahlschmidt in his 'Church Bells of Kent'.

Weever states the birding piece was discharged at a pigeon then upon the church.

The fire accounts for the absence of any Memorials in the church of Mediaeval date and the fire also destroyed the glass windows which contained records of the Brent family in the Lady Chapel. The fire appears further to have burnt the Registers and other records as the existing books start from 14th August 1590.

*From Kent Archaeology KAS*

Interestingly, the parishioners replaced the nave roof in 1592, in just 2 years, whereas it took 28 years for the clergy to replace the chancel.

# Language in Tudor Times

## Proverbs



I was surprised to find how many current proverbs were in use in Tudor times. Whilst the wording and spelling is different, the sense remains, and the message maybe clearer.

John Heywood was a prominent courtier in Tudor England popular at the courts of four monarchs. Well known in his day as a playwright and musician, today he is recognised for his collections of proverbs and witticisms. Here are just a few :

### A friend in need is a friend indeed

*John Heywood's version: "A freende is neuer knowne tyll a man haue nede."*

### Half a loaf is better than no bread

*John Heywood's version: "Throwe no gyft agayne at the giuers head,*

*For better is halfe a lofe then no bread."*

### Make hay while the sun shines

*John Heywood's version: "Whan the sonne shynth make hey, whiche is to saie, Take tyme whan tyme coomth, lest tyme stele awaie."*

### The shoemaker always wears the worst shoes

*John Heywood's version: "But who is wurs shod, than the shoemakers wyfe, With shops full of newe shapen shoes all hir lyfe"*

### You can't have your cake and eat it too

*John Heywood's version: "Wolde ye bothe eate your cake, and haue your cake?"*

### The fat is in the fire

*John Heywood's version: "Than farewell ryches, the fat is in the fyre."*

## Tudor words and phrases

### **In use today: same or similar meaning**

sliver: slice thinly  
crown: to conclude

### **Same word different meaning;**

apprehensive: quick to understand  
teem: to pour out

### **Today used in slang;**

nicked: stolen  
fob off: pass the buck  
knackered: broken  
missus: wife  
sot: drunk

### **Used in slang, but differently**

geek: to look at  
git: fool

### **Fun and apt , sadly not used now;**

tickle brain: strong liquor  
candle wasters: all night partiers  
foxship: mean or cunning  
lifter: thief



## What's in a name?

### Pycots Pycottys Picquets

Pat Winzar in her booklet of research findings on Peirce House mentions a land transfer deed dated 1439/40, which includes identifiable piece of land owned by Hugh in Charing; it is which gives the site of a garden as 'lying next to the land of Hugh Brent called "Pycots"'. She says that it is also recorded as "Pycottys" in a bundle of documents entitled 'Coles juxta Pett in Charing and Westwell 1389—1456, with rental, 1456—57'.8

So, I think there's proof that the name for 'Picquets Meadow' existed, with different spelling, in Tudor times!

## Two prominent People in Tudor Times

### Two Familiar Faces, But Who Are They?



Hint for those with long memories, these were selected from Keith's Christmas Mix and Match Quiz a few years ago. Further hints: she had a connection to Hever Castle. He had a connection with Devon.

## More about 'Sumptuary Laws'

Sumptuary Laws date back to the Romans, from the Latin word which means expenditure.

These laws not only applied to clothes, but also to food. In a further attempt to curb the extravagances of the rich, laws were brought in to limit, not only the expenditure on food (to about 10 per cent of a rich person's capital), but what they ate. The law in 1593, to increase the number of fish days from two a week to three, was said by Archbishop Wolsey to support English coastal towns and importantly English fishermen, who he saw as important protective seafarers, who would later become the Navy. The increase also protected more land from the problem of 'over-grazing', in order to provide more meat.

The law was tolerated, but not very popular. For many it would have meant dried fish, which was "rock hard and had to be first beaten with a wooden hammer and then soaked in warm water for two hours." Poorer people would not have been affected so much, as their diet was mostly vegetables and bread. By today's standards their diet would be considered the healthier.

## Yet more Facts about Tudor Life

Water was unsafe and so everyone drank "small ale" which had a very weak alcohol content. Children were weaned on it. So, the expression "toddler" literally means a small child who "toddles" about after drinking ale! Cider was considered a poor man's drink and wine was an expensive product that was mainly consumed by the wealthy.

## Famous Actors who have played Henry VIII

There are many more portrayals of Henry VIII,  
but which is your favourite?

Sylvia Beck

### **Charles Laughton**



Charles Laughton won the Best Actor Oscar for *The Private Life of Henry VIII* (1933) which followed the king from the annulment of his first marriage in 1533 to his death in 1547.

Apparently, thanks to the famous banquet scene, Laughton was often served whole chickens and no cutlery, by mischievous restaurateurs.

He also portrayed Henry in 1953 film *Young Bess*.

### **Sidney James**

In 1971 the Tudors got the slapstick treatment in *Carry on Henry*, in which Sid James's monarch pursues Barbara Windsor because his eighth wife, "Marie of Normandy" won't stop eating garlic.



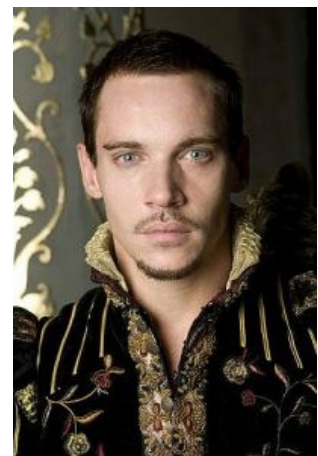
### **Homer Simpson**



Television's cartoon dad appeared as Henry VIII in a 2004 episode of *The Simpsons* called "*Margical History Tour*".

### **Jonathan Rhys Meyers**

Jonathan Rhys Meyers was nominated for a Golden Globe and won an Emmy for his Henry in *The Tudors* which ran for four seasons from 2007 until 2010. His slight physique and whimsical portrayal puzzled those more used to the "larger than life" cliché.





## Rowan Atkinson

Rowan Atkinson, more famous for MR Bean or Edmund Blackadder made a guest appearance as Henry VIII in an episode of CBBC's *Horrible Histories* screened in 2015.



## Damian Lewis

In 2015 Damien Lewis played Henry VIII in *Wolf Hall*, a television adaptation of two of Hilary Mantel's novels.

He portrays Henry as an almost manic ruler who one minute is all smiles and laughter, the next he is threatening to have you executed.



## Robert Shaw

Robert Shaw played a hearty Henry in the 1966 film *A Man For All Seasons*, in which Paul Scofield won the Best Actor Oscar for his portrayal of the martyred Sir Thomas More.



## Richard Burton

Richard Burton reputedly said 'Anne of a Thousand Days', in which he portrayed Henry VIII and was made in 1969, was the worst film he had ever made.



### Keith Mitchell

Keith Mitchell portrayed Henry throughout his entire adult life: from the young idealist to the decrepit tyrant in the 1972 television series - *Henry Eighth and his Six Wives*.

### James Robertson Justice

The film actor James Robertson Justice, is best known in comedies, where he would play the pompous authority-figure. In 1953 he plays Henry in Walt Disney's *The Sword and the Rose*.



### Ray Winstone

Ray Winstone starred as *Henry VIII*, in a two-part movie filmed for the BBC in 2003. This focused on Henry and all six of his wives, ignoring his earlier years, and ending with the culmination of his reign as king.

### Did you know?

**Henry VIII caused the Globe Theatre to burn down.**

The original Globe Theatre in London opened in 1599 and Shakespeare's *Henry VIII* was first performed there in 1613. It was during a performance on June 29, that disaster struck the Globe. As part of the play small cannons were fired. They didn't use cannon balls, but they did use gunpowder held down by wadding. A piece of burning wadding set fire to the thatch. The theatre burned down in about an hour. It was big news. By the next day two different songs had been printed about it. The company built a second Globe on the brick foundations of the first. It was the same size and shape, but was much more extravagantly decorated and it had a tiled roof!

Sylvia Beck





# Charing Tudor May Fayre

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May 1967



Actors from Charing Guild of Players, in the roles of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon, opened the Fayre.



## The Tudor Fayre 1967

53 years ago, Charing held a Tudor Fayre. From the programme, drawn by Peter Holman, (artist of Ashford map on CDLHS tea towel) it looks an ambitious event. The celebrations were held in several places: the school, the school field, Clewards meadow, the High Street, the Market Place, Palace Barn and the Church Barn.



Just look at the crowds and the number of special stalls in The High Street!

The Tudor Fayre was obviously very popular and a great success.

Do you recognise any faces in the photographs?

Does anyone know why it was held in 1967?

**Were you there?**

**We'd love to hear your memories of the event.**





## NEWS

### Charing's Anniversary Celebration..... The situation at the moment

#### FIELD OF CLOTH OF GOLD – HENRY'S JOURNEY

As you all know, our celebrations of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Henry VIII's visit to Charing en route to France for the amazing event known as the Field of Cloth of Gold would have been held in June the same weekend as Charing Fete. Unfortunately, for reasons definitely beyond our control, we have had to postpone them. However, Dr. David Starkey is still willing to come and talk to us, just as soon as he can and the Company of Merrie Folke will still be masterminding the very special Tudor Banquet. (These latter two events were scheduled for the end of May to get us in the mood for the big event in June.)

A lot of time and effort has gone into making and painting things for the Anniversary and it's disappointing for everyone involved that we have to wait. It will still happen (even if we have to wait until next year)! Once we have more information on when people can be in more crowded spaces, we can start to plan and work with the diaries of our guests. So, please watch this space for further information and keep safe!

Elizabeth

#### Quiz answers



This is the 'Tudor Rose'. Created by Henry VII after his marriage to Elizabeth of York. It was a symbol of the new peace between two warring houses; combining the red rose of Lancaster with the white rose of York. Later the Tudor Rose was adopted as the national emblem of England.



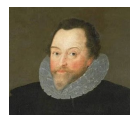
Henry VII, Henry VIII, Edward VI, Lady Jane Grey, Mary I, Elizabeth I

#### Length of Reigns

Lady Jane Grey (9 days) Mary I (5y) Edward VI (6y) Henry VI (24y) Henry VIII (46y) Elizabeth I(45y)



She was Anne Boleyn, (she moved to Hever, aged 3).



He was Sir Francis Drake, (born in Devon).



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