



CHARING & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

www.charinghistory.co.uk

CDLHS In Our Historic Times edition 9 September 2020 Hands, Face, Space

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Hello again,

Where does (did!) the time go? Apologies for this issue being late.

In addition to our regular series, this month we have pictures of harvesting in Charing circa 1900, which are a reminder of how labour intensive and time consuming such work was at the time. To 'put us even more in the picture' we've included extracts about farming life, from the CDLHS 'Harry Ward' booklet. We hope photos and extracts like these will be regulars in future.

Also, we begin the first of a series of articles about the 'Barwicks in Charing'.

Hope you enjoy this month's mix with the seasonal look, and that you enjoy the good weather ahead.
Please keep in touch!

Valerie

Looking Back

Since last time We are grateful to Alan Witt for his informative 'Papermaking in Kent' e-talk. Some 'meaty' topics really lend themselves to longer, comprehensive articles, so we hope to continue with e-talks as well as the monthly newsletter. We have a couple 'lined up'!

We were able to have a 'socially distanced garden committee meeting' to talk about the 2020-2021 programme. More news on that to come.

Also, three pieces of good news. As the weather continued to be kind, and at the time the virus infection risk was low, we were able to accept an offer to record an Evacuation Memory. Peter Kent managed to record a fascinating account for the CDLHS OH Archive in a garden. Hopefully more on that in future issues also, and hopefully we'll have more memories to record.

Secondly, we are really pleased that Margaret Stocker, an "ex-Charing resident", now living in Gloucester (an active member of CLDHS when here) got in touch, to respond and pass on a surprising account, for 'The History of Charing Roads.' *Please see next page.*

Finally, Harold Trill, one of our revered Vice-Presidents was 90 last month!

Congratulations and Many Happy Returns Harold!

Valerie

Answers to Quiz 8

1a The Plantagenet king thought to be connected to Faversham was King Stephen, 1135–1154, grandson of William the Conqueror. He died in Dover and was believed to have been buried in the Cluniac Abbey, Faversham, along with his wife Queen Matilda (Matilda of Boulogne) and son Eustace. However, when the archaeologists excavated the ruins of the abbey in 1965, they were unable to locate the vaults.



1b It is now believed that the burial vaults are under the playing fields of Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School.



2 Catherine Parr had more husbands than any other of Henry VIII's wives. She has a special place in history as she was the most married queen of England, having had four husbands in all. Henry VIII was her third husband, she had been widowed twice before marrying him. After Henry's death, she married Thomas Seymour, uncle of Edward VI of England. (It is believed they'd had a romantic attachment prior to Catherine's 'dutiful' marriage with Henry.)



3a This man is Dr John Wallis.

3b His connection to Ashford is that he was born in College Court in 1616; his father was the Vicar of St. Mary's.

3c He was a clergyman-mathematician. Significant because he served as chief cryptographer for parliament, deciphering Royalist codes during the civil war. Then for King William III's (William of Orange) royal court in 1689.

He is credited with introducing the symbol for infinity (∞)

Today, in Ashford, he is remembered through the John Wallis pub in Middle Row, Ashford is named after him, as well as The John Wallis Academy.



E-mail responding to issue 8 'Monks Walk' entry

Additional information,



" You say there is "no record of monks in Charing". Well, I was always told that the monks who inhabited Palace Farm when it was an Archbishop's Palace, walked right through "Monks Walk" to get to the "Stews"* , the fishponds which lay in the fields behind the High Street, where the school playing fields now are.

In fact, I once saw a map which had them marked right where the A20 came through in 1926, which completely obliterated them. The route came across the High Street – such as it was – the Mace building may have been there but the cottages just further down did not exist, and were on their route, and behind was just land.

The land called "Monks Walk" yes, was named by the developers, I remember when it was garden and land behind Peirce House. But I think what prompted them to call it that was based on SOMETHING that is basically correct.

(* I think these stews were small ponds with channels linking them, some are being restored in this country now; they were used for breeding fish so may have covered quite an area.)

*
ponds
maybe 2 remaining
'stew ponds'



* Footpath

extract from 1908-09 map
as easier to see,
but shown on 1876 map
the first to show such details

and adding a **GHOST** story

Also what they or anyone else would not know, is that the late Joan Ball, was once visiting her son and d.in.law one dark winter afternoon, when they were living at that time at the back of Marjorie Machin's house, (back of what's now Romney House next to Wady & Brett) right in line with the "monks walk". Joan stepped out of the back door and saw a gentleman dressed in an important religious gown, (bishop?) with tall hat on, cross in front of her. The thing she noticed most was that his feet were missing and he seemed to be moving along lower than ground level. He then disappeared. She always told everyone she was not drunk, which I am sure is the truth, but it backs up the impression I have always had, that the route from Palace Farm to the fishponds (in fact the Palace owned all that land) was a regular one and there were indeed monks in Charing."



Margaret Stocker

'The History Behind Charing Road Names and Places': 'P' (1)

Many thanks to all those who have contributed.



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Pett Lane: We know from a historic map, that in the 1730s it was known as 'Thye Ashford Road.' From about the C14 it had replaced the track running from the Market Place past the church as the main route from Charing to Ashford. In the C18 it became a toll road with the Ashford and Maidstone turnpike trust, with a tollgate house standing on the bank on the left hand corner. Harry Ward mentions that the winter in 1881 was particularly fierce, and he described the tollhouse as being completely snowed in, with only the chimney showing. They had to dig the tollkeeper out three times, and try keep the toll gate open.

It may have been renamed 'Pett Lane' (as the lane led to Pett Place) when it became a minor road and the route of the A20 the main one. (The A20 was classified in 1922). In the 1793 it was part of the

It's also possible that 'Pet' took its name from Old English word for 'pit', 'Pytte' meaning dip in the ground, or sometimes a pond.

Pig Alley: is the name for the pathway that connected Burleigh Road to the bottom of Clewards / Old Ashford Road. The pathway has now been split in two by the A20. It was so called because pigs were driven along there to the slaughter house in the Market Place.



*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

Laugh or Groan?

Apparently the best Victorian humour ...

Could they possibly fall into the category of 'so bad it's good' ?

Q If William Penn's aunts kept a pastry shop, what would be the prices of their pies?

A The pie-rates of Penn's Aunts.

Pawnbrokers prefer customers without any redeeming qualities.

Moving in unfashionable circles: wearing a crinoline.

Q Why should the number 288 never be mentioned in company?

A Because it is two gross.



People of Charing part 4

Mr Granville Wheler 1929-2004

Descended from Charles Wheler of Charing, a royalist loyal to Charles I, Mr Granville Wheler died, without an heir, in 2004. He left his considerable fortune to his charity, 'The Wheler Foundation', which he'd established in 1992.

Mr Granville Wheler was born at Syndale House, Ospringe, (near Faversham) a third family property, on November 6th, 1929; a peal of bells was rung at Ospringe Church to mark the event.

As a child, though the family spent the year split between Kent and Yorkshire, the majority was spent at Otterbourne, and the family are interred in St Lawrence church in the grounds. Granville Wheler inherited the estate at 19 and spent most of his adult life there, only visiting Ledston, their inherited estate in Yorks, for a few weeks a year.

He attended Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he read law. After university he joined the army, there learning surveying skills which he later used when working on his estates.



As a wealthy bachelor, he was able to devote his time to his interests. Those chiefly, appear to have been forestry, railways and horses. He combined all three, as well as applying his surveying skills, to maintain the woodlands on the estate to a high standard, though in a rather ingenious and idiosyncratic way.

In the 1950s he designed, and had laid, a railway track to transport the felled timber by horse-drawn wagon. The railway had five enormous wagons, three of which, even when empty, seemed very heavy for horses to pull. The Otterden & Boardfield Railway, as he called it, also included loading bays, level crossing and loco shed. Apparently, it ran 40 years until about 1990. An extension line including a rope-hauled section to manage an incline had been planned and begun, but never finished.

He had a keen sense of his family history and viewed his ownership of his estates as one of stewardship; maintaining and improving them for those who followed.

In his life, he supported many individuals and groups, including the Wheler's Own, Scout group, founded by his father, who were allowed to regularly use the grounds for their activities. He was known to have a love of history, and had a full and thorough knowledge of his ancestors and estates, and was believed to have given talks to the Castleford Historic Society and others. The local paper reported that St Lawrence chapel 'was packed' for his funeral, by mourners from Yorkshire and Kent. Mark Granger, land agent to both estates gave an address, saying that Granville Wheler had been passionate about both estates and the people who lived and worked them.

Next issue: Granville Wheler's Legacy

Valerie Yeeles



Syndale House (lostheritage.org.uk)

After a fire in 1961 only the west wing remained. From 1963 renovated to become a hotel. (KCC)



*Railway track, overgrown in 2012
Photo; John Baker, Geograph*

for



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.

Poverty was evident:

May 12th 1876: Boy absent “through having no shoes.”

Sometimes children were sent home.

April 23rd 1875: .2 sisters (orphans) sent home for not being clean.

March 10th 1876: Brother and sister sent home until arrears of school pence paid. (It was paid the same day). (*Education was not free until 1891.*)

The situation was clearly frustrating for the Headmaster.

Children were sometimes reported to the attendance officer.

July 27th 1894. “Although reported 6 or 7 times since Christmas, these families do not improve their attendance at all. They laugh at compulsory education.”



*Photo 1895 with Mr Darlington headmaster, back right
Photos from CDLHS archive,*

Dorothy Burdick

Henry Ward

1864—1940

Who was he?



Henry Ward (later known as Harry) was born in Charing and lived here all his life. Age 6 he lived with his grandparents in the Market Place. He left school age 10, and for 2 of those years he only attended half the time as he was needed to work half the week to earn an income for the family. As an adult he lived with his wife, Sophia, and family in the cottage next to Peckwater House. He was employed for 56 years as a ‘Gardener Domestic Servant’.

He led an interesting and full life, taking an active and long standing part in so many village activities; church choir, bell ringing, the Fire Brigade, Parish Council and Special Constabulary. He was also secretary to the ‘Ancient Order of Foresters’ Lodge’, a member of The Gardeners’ Society and of St John Ambulance.

In 1933, after a short spell in hospital, he was confined to bed, so his daughter in law encouraged him to spend the time writing his early memories of Charing. He died in 1940 age 77.

He wrote as he remembered, and it is his original text that was published in the CDLHS booklet. That original turn of phrase brings his account ‘alive’.

Information taken from preface of ‘My Early Recollections of Charing’ Harry Ward, CDLHS

Harvesting in Charing circa 1900



Cutting hay at Wickens

CDLHS archive



Cutting hay at Wickens

CDLHS archive



Haymaking

CDLHS archive

Farming Recollections

Excerpts from Harry Ward 's Early Recollections of Charing (CDLHS)

“In those days the greater part was arable, not a lot of pastures as now. From Pett Lane and Barn Lane was all arable land, no pasture, also on the Maidstone Road where stands the Garage Brenchleys, there was one field pasture, the others were the Gorze Banks and Summerhouse Field. Where the water works stand were the only fields for pasture between the village and Hart Hill Road, even under Round Wood and Coal Wood were all arable. “

“I will give briefly their hours of work, the waggoner and second man went out into the stable at 4:00 am. to feed his or their horses, then at 6:00 am. the mate and second boy took over their duties to feed, dress their horses and clean out the stable, all out of the stable at 7:00 am. onto the land to plough etc. till 2:00 pm, then waggoner and 2nd man to feed again till 6:00 pm. mate and second boy going in at 8:00 pm till 10:00 pm to feed and litter down. In those days it was not allowed to fill the manger, only a little at each feed. This principle now quite altered, as thought now quite unnecessary as thought now gives horses more time to take their rest which may be the best. I cannot say as I'm no horseman myself, I only give the old principle to the present system, as those old times was done on the rule of thumb system.”

Harvesting in Charing circa 1900

"All farmers in those days brewed their own beer. Each employee was allowed so much each day."

"There were no reaping machines, it was either done by bagging hook, or scythe; a man to cut, a woman to take out and make the sheaf, after a boy or a girl made the bond for it."



'Toil of the Day', 1902
CDLHS archive



Home bound after harvesting, 1902
CDLHS archive

"There were many that lived in the village were employed on the Farms around, even at a long distance their journeys to and from work must have been tiring after a hard day's work which was from 6a.m. to 6p.m. at not more than 13/6 per week and at that loss of time through rain, snow etc." Harry Ward



Threshing wheat, Wickens Manor Field
CDLHS archive

It is thought some of these photos may have been taken by Harry Ward. He was a keen photographer.



Quiz

- 1 Where is this?
- 2 What is commemorated?

3 The now demolished Saracen's Head coaching inn was once the assembly halls in Ashford.

Which famous writer is believed to have visited there ?



Meet The Barwicks

Many artists visit Charing to record its picturesque character especially the remains of the Archbishop's Palace, and artist **Horace Barwick** who grew up in the village in the first half of the 19th century was one of the most prolific. He was an amateur yet aspiring artist who produced numerous sketches of Charing and the surrounding countryside. He travelled around on his pony to capture scenes of village life: people working in the fields, churches, cottages and even the scene of the gruesome murder near Otterden. His surviving work has been digitised and catalogued by CDLHS who will possibly organise an exhibition in the future.



Horace Barwick in profile

Silhouette - an art form that was very fashionable in the early part of the 19th century. This one is remarkable in its fine detail and delicate use of bronzing. Possibly by John Field In this likeness Can you picture a Mr Darcy from Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice ?

Horace Barwick (1799-1845) of Charing, Kent was the eldest of four children of the Reverend John Barwick and Frances Anne (née) Marshall. His wife's father, The Reverend Edmund Marshall (1730-1797) had been Vicar of Charing for 30 years and held the lease of The Parsonage (aka The Moat) from the Dean and Chapter of St Pauls. After his death, his son-law, was fortunate to gain the position of vicar with a living in 1799, after the interim vicar had resigned.

Horace's birth occurred at that time –Monday 16th December 1799, although it was 6 weeks before he was baptised in the church of St Peter and St Paul, presumably by his father. His subsequent siblings were baptised immediately after their birth. Two brothers George Marshall and John Edmund were born in 1801 and 1802, respectively, In 1805 a sister Cassandra Isabella was born, and she grew up to be an admired beauty. Her pastel portrait by Sir Thomas Lawrence is in the Fitzwilliam Museum Cambridge.

Cassandra Isabella Barwick as a young lady by Sir Thomas Lawrence. He was a close friend of her aunts and would visit them at The Parsonage.



Continued on next page

Meet The Barwicks *continued*

While living at The Parsonage the four children attended the village school where they duly contracted measles, mumps, whooping cough and cowpox, all of which were recorded in the Family Bible by Cassandra in copperplate writing. We know they were bravely inoculated for smallpox, with the new vaccine developed by Edward Jenner in 1796. Cassandra had a bad reaction to it and was very ill for days. Horace and his youngest brother John went up to Cambridge following their father's example, although it appears that Horace did not graduate. From his portraits we can picture him as a fashionable man almost a dandy emulating the Regency style of "Beau" Brummell a contemporary, and pursuing a gentleman's cultural interests which included sketching.



John Barwick became Vicar of Charing in 1799.

He and his family lived in The Parsonage, known as The Moat
Horace made sketches of his home, as well as designs for its renovation.

*Pencil drawing of **The Parsonage Charing** in May 1832*

In the years before photography became widely available, his sketches, paintings and prints provide us with a unique record of two decades in the early 19th century, as they depict village life, rather than the grand vistas of more famous contemporary artists. Reproductions of Horace's work may be found in several homes in our area. Indeed, there may well be originals hitherto undiscovered which CDLHS would be very keen to know about. Much of Barwick's work is unsigned and undated although he did use his initial HB on some pieces.

More than a hundred items are known to exist. Many originals are kept in the Kent History Archive in Maidstone, and some with private owners, Copies of his output are kept by CDLHS.

A framed oil painting portraying Horace Barwick and his pony is currently being restored by the Courtauld Institute of Art for CDLHS. *(Please see photo on p 12)*

In future issues more details about:

Life with the Barwick's in Regency Charing,

Who or what lies in a vault?

Famous friends and visitors

H.E.W

1970

50 years ago – remember the ten bob note?

For any juveniles below the age of 60 reading this it was the same as a 50p piece but much more satisfying to own if you were a child and it was your first folding money.



It didn't have a long history. The first 10/- note was issued on 22 Nov 1928. The 'series C' note first issued on 12th Oct 1961 was the first to carry a portrait of the Queen. As with other denominations it did not show a historical figure on the reverse. A new 'series D' note had been planned for 1971 to include Sir Walter Raleigh on the back. This would have been converted to 50p following

decimalisation, but in the end due to its short lifespan (around 5 months on average), the ten bob note was scrapped in favour of the 50p coin, which appeared in 1969 and ran in tandem with the note until the note ceased to be legal tender on 20th Nov 1970.

50p in 1970 would have been the equivalent of £7.79 now.

Back then it would have bought you a fish and chip supper, a packet of cigarettes and a drink in the pub with enough change for the bus fare home.

But who or what was 'bob'?

Nobody knows!

The first odd thing about the bob was that no matter how many you had, it was always expressed as singular, eg 'ten bob', not 'ten bobs'.

The first recorded instances of its use came from the late C18. For instance, A 'bobstick' was a shilling's worth of gin (sounds like quite a lot!). Possibilities for 'bob' include that it comes from 'bawbee'; a C16-19 term for halfpenny. Bawbee itself might either come from the French 'bas -billon', for a low value coin (but the shilling was not then low value), or from the Laird of Sillabawby, a C16 mint master.

Both 'shilling' and 'penny' have been around since well before the end of the first millennium and have clear links to coinage in various European countries based on old Germanic words 'skilling' and 'pfenning'. One possible meaning for 'scilling' as it was called by around 900 was 'ring' or 'sound'. This definition could connect it with a 'bob' – the name for a set of changes rung in church bells (sounds a bit convoluted).

Then there's Robert Walpole, who among other titles was 'Paymaster to the Force'. He paid the King's shilling to new recruits. However, he was in power till 1742, and we only know of the term 'bob' from the late C18. On the other hand, if it did appear earlier, in the reign of George II, that would link it to the derivation of 'tanner'.

The old 6d (2.5p) coin, fondly called the 'tanner' was easier. Although there is no certainty it is likely to have come from the name of the Chief Engraver of the Royal Mint under George II, who designed the sixpence: John Sigismund Tanner. It wouldn't have been the first sixpence, they had been minted more or less continuously since 1551, and despite their odd post decimalisation value of 2.5p they remained legal tender until 1980.

1970 *continued*

50 years ago – The Godless florin

Half crowns (12.5p), which had been around since Henry VIII's reign, ceased to be legal tender from 1/1/70. They had been under threat in the Victorian age. The florin had not existed until 1849, although there had been a previous short-lived gold coin worth 6/- in the reign of Edward II, named after an earlier Florentine coin. After a few months Edward's florins were abandoned and melted down.

There had been a movement towards decimalisation since 1682: this became quite strong in the Victorian era following the conversion of French and other European currencies. The government decided to test the waters by minting a coin worth one tenth of a pound (2/-, or 10p). To promote acceptance of the new coin no half crowns were struck between 1850 and 1874. However, after that they were struck again by popular demand. The movement towards decimalisation was not pursued.

However, the 1849 florin caused a shock. The letters DG (Dei Grazia: by the Grace of God) did not appear next to Queen Victoria's name. 'FD' was also omitted (Fidei Defensor: defender of the Faith). It became known as the Godless florin. Conspiracy theorists pointed to the Master of the Mint, Richard Lalor Sheil, an Irishman and a Catholic. However, the inscription had been designed by Prince Albert, and it was agreed to have been a mistake.



The Godless florin without the inscriptions 'DG' or 'FD'. It was also the first coin for 200 years to show the monarch wearing a crown. Its value is stated as 'one tenth of a pound'.

In recent years there has been a movement away from cash. This has been exacerbated by Covid 19 which has forced us to use cards almost exclusively. To what extent will we go back to coins and notes? Will their demise come sooner than anticipated? We have been using decimal coins for 50 years, and as yet we have no pet names for them. (Well some people call £2 coins 'beer tokens'). If we lose them, will anyone feel as nostalgic for the 50p coin as for that nice old russet brown note?

Kate Mclver

Meet The Barwicks *continued from p 10*



Horace Barwick

This is a photo of the framed oil painting of Horace Barwick that is being restored for CDLHS .

(Charing church and village nestle beneath the horse.)

References

Wheler

Faverham local paper

<https://handedon.wordpress.com/2012/10/04/otterden-place-kent-ledston-hall-yorkshire/>

<http://anyflip.com/ymvy/qhhe/basic/51-58>

Other

Harry Ward My Early Recollections of Charing (CDLHS)

About Charing (CDLHS)

Photos CDLHS archive

Postscript Thoughts

Reading a comment from one of Margaret's emails, about "how much stuff we have on Charing", as well as my dabbling (researching) for newsletters, it has made me appreciate just how lucky we are to have so much historical information about Charing. Thanks to all those who collected compiled and preserved it.

Thank you Dorothy, Kate, Hilary and Sylvia and Steve, not forgetting Margaret Stocker, for your contributions to this newsletter.

Memories, thoughts, articles

Long, short, light, deep.

All needed please.

All gratefully received.

Please contact me

newsletter@charinghistory.co.uk

Noticeboard

Worth a look?

Smarden Heritage Centre has a new film on its YouTube channel SMARDEN HISTORY.

The title is "**Germany is in Smarden**" subtitled is "**So is North America**".



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.

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