

**FOLKESTONE & DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**
www.folkestonehistory.org

NEWSLETTER No. 60 – Autumn 2014

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT by Alan F Taylor

The June meeting was an informal evening where members were able to view a variety of ephemera including postcards, prints, stereographs and viewer together with maps and newspapers.

Thirty members attended the meeting.

At the July meeting we welcomed back guest speaker Peter Ewart who presented us with his illustrated talk on 'Kent and Sussex War Memorials.' Peter said memorials were taken for granted until the last few years' party because with age had they blended into the background. He went on to say there were memorials built before World War One, but they were for Regiments. Dover has one for the 6th Rifles from the 1850's. Others include Etchingam, East Sussex and Sevenoaks. Ickham near Canterbury have their memorial in the church porch while Biddenden have a Roll Of Honour in the church. Peter said that where were no official lists to whose names should be on war memorials, but now there is a war memorial trust. At Mereworth the WW11 memorial is a stone plaque.

Peter mentioned the WW1 tank on the Durlock's also the one at Ashford which is still there. At Canterbury Cathedral there is the Buffs Book of Life 1914-18 plus one for WW11 and each day at 11 a.m. a page is turned. Until the 1950's it was by a soldier from the Buffs after which it now is somebody from the Buffs Association. At Hythe by the Royal Military Canal is a figure of Motherhood. At Burwash there is a Roll of Honour in the church with Rudyard Kipling's son on it. Peter said Dover and Folkestone war memorials were deliberately erected facing the Battle fields of France. The village of Northiam, Sussex has a wooden memorial. At Lenham on the A2 there is a granite block on the road side with a white cross cut in the chalk bank behind it. In Shoreham, Kent there is a cross cut in the chalk and a memorial at the church. On 5th November 1924 The Archbishop of Canterbury and Sir Roger Keyes unveiled the Dover Patrol Memorial. In the Chichester Hall, Sandgate the memorial has William Cotter on it who won the VC. Peter also showed the flowerbed on the Leas dedicated to William Cotter. He also mentioned the John Brunt VC pub in Deal and the memorials at St George's church, Deal; Barham church porch with an inscription for Lord Kitchener; Yalding; Peasmarsch; Canterbury cricket ground in memory of Colin Bligh; Hearn Hill and Wateringbury. To finish Peter showed an image of the Menin Gate which has 55,000 names on it for those with no names graves.

Forty-seven people attended the meeting two of whom were visitors.

At the August meeting we welcomed guest speaker Rosemary Piddock who gave us her illustrated talk entitled 'In Search of John Clifton - A Soldier of the First World War.' Rosemary said the war started on June 28th 1914 when Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated and Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. August 1st Germany declared war on Russia. August 3rd Germany declared war on France. August 4th the United Kingdom declared war on Germany, after Germany invaded Belgium.

John Edward Clifton was born in Dover. He was Rosemary's great uncle - her father's uncle. Rosemary showed us John's death plaque which she said were sometimes called the 'dead man's penny.' John's family lived in Pembroke Terrace; Dover in 1893. By 1911 they had moved to Hardwick Road, Maxton, Dover. Rosemary then went one to tell us about John's family on his father's and mother's sides. On August 31st 1914 John registered at Dover town hall and joined the Buffs and did some of his training in Canterbury. Rosemary explained about the kit they were issued with and the identity disk which were often referred to as 'meat tickets.'

On July 27th 1915 John left the UK for France, Rosemary explained about the trench system, the food they ate and what the troops did with their leisure time. On June 16th John moved to the front line at the Somme where he was posted at Carnoy. On July 1st there was very heavy bombing and according to the war diaries 19,000 men died on that day including private John Clifton. The troops were encouraged to make a will which John did leaving all his affects to his mother Louisa. John won the 1914 Victory medal, 1915 Star and the British war medal. His name is on the Dover war memorial and he is buried in Dive Copse Military Cemetery in France. John's father and three brothers were also in the war and they all came home. Rosemary finished by telling us about the Buffs chapel in Canterbury Cathedral and the Book of Life in which a page is turned every day of the year. It was done by the Buffs, but since they disbanded it has be done by men in the Buffs Association.

Thirty seven people attended the meeting, two of whom were visitors.

We would like to welcome new members Andrew McClarence, Anita & Brian Gavin and Catriona & Chris Hunter.

Date for your diary:

The annual dinner will be held on Friday 7th November at the Indoor Bowls Club, Cheriton Road, 7pm for 7.30pm.

Menu:

Starters:

(1) Melon Boat with fruit coulis (2) Prawn Cocktail (3) Homemade soup of the day

Main Course:

(1) Breast of Chicken in a white wine & mushroom sauce. (2) Grilled Sea Bass (3) Lamb Shank with Mint Sauce.

Desserts:

(1) Lemon Meringue Pie (2) Apple Crumble (3) Homemade Trifle.

To book call Alan on 01303 252567.

As you know the Folkestone & District Local History Society is a very successful and forward looking Society, both with its monthly meetings, talks and social events. However, in order to

continue in this vein we would like to take this opportunity to invite more members to participate in the management of the society by becoming committee members/officers. The involvement required would be attendance at six committee meetings through the year and occasional assistance at monthly meetings. I know of your continued interest and support, therefore I hope you will consider the above. The A.G.M. is on October 1st at 8pm at Holy Trinity Church Hall. I look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Kind regards,
Alan F Taylor

Battle of Britain Diary Folkestone 1940 continued

September 28th Change of tactics by enemy, large formations crossed coast between Dover and Dungeness, mainly fighters escorting 30 + bombers. Junkers Ju. 88 bomber carried out a 'sneak raid' on Folkestone harbour, dropping several 1,000 lbs. bombs. Two others fell, in Payer's Park, and at entrance to Folkestone Harbour Station, neither of these exploded. All UXB's successfully dealt with by Army Bomb Disposal Squads.

September 29th Several high explosives dropped at New Romney during the morning. A.259 blocked again, one house damaged and one person slightly injured.

September 30th Two major raids making for London came in over Dungeness at 9.00 a.m. and at 10.00 a.m., thirty bombers and sixty fighters in the first and the other consisted of sixty aircraft in all. Neither reached their targets as they were met in force by British fighters. A Spitfire from No. 41 Squadron landed on fire at Hawkinge at 1.40 p.m. and five minutes later a Hurricane from No. 229 Squadron crashed on the beach at Folkestone after combat with Dornier Do. 17's pilot was uninjured. Dornier bombers also shot down a Hurricane from No. 303 (Polish) Squadron which crashed at Lydd at 1.30 p.m., again pilot was O.K. A Bf. 109 was shot down near Dungeness by Spitfires from No. 41 Squadron, pilot was reported as missing.

By the late David Collier.

Sailing Ships Registered at Folkestone

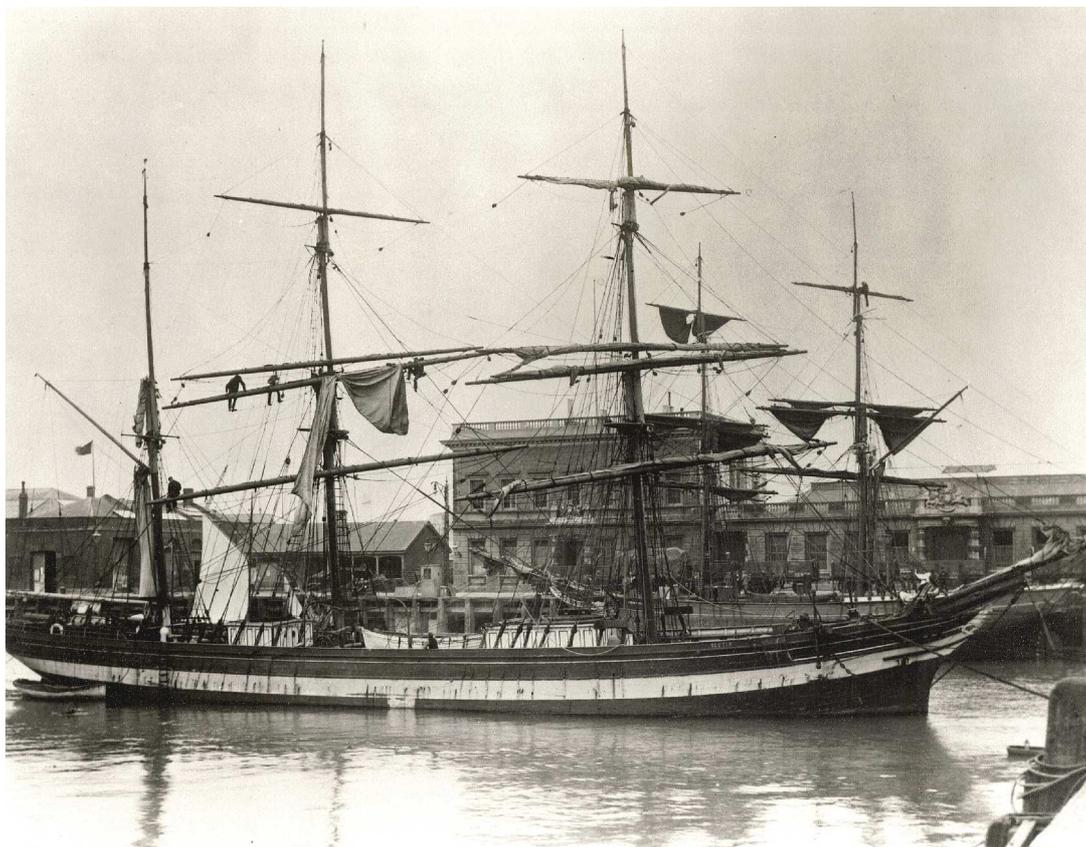
Many of the sailing ships which were registered at Folkestone were owned by local traders or in some cases they had a 24th or 64th share.

The Primrose was the last sailing ship registered at Folkestone to disappear from Lloyd's register in 1920.

Among the Folkestone traders who either owned or had shares in some of the ships are: William Harrison, Kingsbridge Street, (Coal Merchant); Edward Wraith Major, High Street, (Butcher); Thomas Cobb, Bradstone Mill, (Corn Factor); Thomas Henry Franks, The Stade, (Sail Maker); Robert Saunders, 42 Harvey Street, (Shipwright); Richard Court, Tontine Street & 72 Dover Street, (Coal Merchant); Frederick John Jarvis, 6 Tontine Street, (Wine Merchant); Frederick Graves, The Stade, (Shipwright); Stephen Golder, Lower Sandgate Road, (Coal Merchant); James Worsell, 5 High Street, (Butcher); Alfred Noel, 14 South Street, (Potato Dealer); Stokes Bros. 51a, 51b & 51c, Tontine Street & 45 & 47 Bouverie Road West (Fruiterers) also Coal merchants at 105 & 107 Dover Street; John Morford of Sandgate, (Butcher); William Bateman of Sandgate, (Boot maker); Joseph Horton of Hythe, (Miller) and Ernest Elliott, 26 Black Bull Road, (Butcher).

Shares in colliers started for Ernest Elliott when his father-in-law, Mr R. G. Sanders of 20, London Street an owner of some vessels died leaving the vessels in the hands of Mr Elliott who was trustee. Mr Elliott first took a quarter share in the sailing brig 'Primrose' in 1904.

Between 1870 and 1917 there were about 53 vessels trading to Folkestone and unloading their cargoes of coal, timber or ice in the Inner Harbour. Mr Elliott owned shares in 10 of them: the Celerio, Scotia, Emma Crook, Edith, Cumberland Lassie, Catherine, Mary Annie, Minnie Summers, Primrose and Woodside.



The Collier *Scotia* a 'Brigantine' built Kingston, Canada in 1873. Owner: Richard Godden Saunders 20, London Street, Folkestone. The vessel was lost in 1914.



The *Primrose* a 'Snow' built Sunderland in 1864. She was registered at Folkestone in 1883. Owner: Thomas Henry Franks, (Folkestone Sail maker). The vessel was broken up in 1907

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