



## FOLKESTONE & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No. 15 – Summer 2003

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### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT by Alan F. Taylor

It is becoming increasingly difficult to get speakers on local subjects. We are now about halfway through this year's programme and I do hope you have been satisfied with the speakers so far.

Personally I thought Bob Ogley's talk about 'Kent at War' 1939-45 was interesting, entertaining and exquisitely presented. He told us that before he set about writing the book he contacted all the Kent newspapers asking them to publish an appeal for people to contact him if they had any memoirs of WWII. He had over 400 people contact him and his talk was based on the people that he interviewed.

Bob started by telling us he was a journalist for 30 years until leaving the editorship of the Sevenoaks Chronicle in 1989 to become a full-time publisher and author. Bob's fame stemmed from the hurricane of 1987, the consequences of which devastated so many people's lives but was in fact the opposite for him. He lives at Brasted Chart, Westerham, which is one of the highest parts of Kent, and during the night of the hurricane of 16<sup>th</sup> October 1987 his garden was devastated and all his trees, including some very large oaks, were blown down. This inspired him to write the book, *In the Wake of the Hurricane*, which became a national best seller in two editions launching him into publishing in a most dramatic way.

The books to follow were: *Biggin on The Bump*, *The Kent Weather Book & Sussex Weather Book*, *London's Hurricane*, *Eye on the Hurricane*, *The Norfolk & Suffolk Weather Book*, *The Hampshire & Isle of Wight Weather Book*, *The Berkshire Weather Book*, *Kent at War 1939-45*, *Doodlebugs & Rockets*, *Ghosts of Biggin Hill*, and *Kent A Chronicle of the Century* in four volumes. All were published by Bob's Froglet Publications Ltd., Brasted Chart, Westerham, Kent.

This year's annual summer outing, 'A Medway Mosaic' is a sell-out, in fact we have a waiting list, so if you find you cannot go please contact Tom Leftley, I am sure he will be able to fill your place and reimburse your money.

Our annual open day this year will be held on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October at the Seabrook Church Hall (on the Seabrook Road just past the Horn Street junction on the right hand side from Folkestone). "Old Seabrook" is the subject for the photographic display.

I would like to end by extending a warm welcome to the following new member: Richard Hardy.

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You are cordially invited to  
**CHARING IN PICTURES**

Charing and District Local History Society is to stage an exhibition of old photographs and early 19<sup>th</sup> century paintings and sketches in the Gallery at Ashford Library. The launch will be on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2003 from 1-5 o'clock, when complimentary glasses of wine or soft drinks will be served. Thereafter the exhibition will be open during normal library hours until and including Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2003.  
Admission is free.

Extracts from Public Charities of Kent 1819-1837

FOLKESTONE

Sir Eliab Harvey's Charity.

This school was founded by deed dated 28th March 1674, whereby Sir *Eliab Harvey* and *John Prestwood*, conveyed a farm called Combes, in the parish of Lympne, containing about 50 acres, and a schoolhouse in Folkestone; and a piece of ground, on which a tanhouse had then lately been erected, also in Folkestone, to trustees, upon trust, to pay £10 yearly out of the rents of the said farm, to a schoolmaster, "to teach 20 of the poorer sort of people, inhabiting in Folkestone, to write and read English, and (if they be willing) to learn to understand the Latin tongue, taking of them no pay or salary whatsoever for his pains and care therein;" and on further trust, to pay the first and second years rents of the said farm, (deducting £10 as aforesaid, and also £2 allowed annually to the trustees for settling the accounts, and £1 to the treasurer, and other incidental expenses) in buying a fisher boat, to be given to some free or other poor fisherman; and the third year's rent to be paid wholly to the schoolmaster, who was to have the school and schoolhouse without rent, giving bond to the mayor of Folkestone to keep and leave the same in repair, and "in as good plight as they now are, necessary wearing only excepted."

There are other objects of the charity more particularly described in the deed, and abstract of which is therefore given in the Appendix.

The farm called Combes was let for seven years, ending at Michaelmas 1818, to Edward Impett senior and Edward Impett junior, at £125.

From Michaelmas 1818, it has been demised on a fresh lease for seven years, to Edward Impett junior at the reduced rent of £100.

It was let by tender, and the reduction of rent is in consequence of the alteration of the times. The rent is a good one.

The tanpit was not intended to benefit the charity for the school; but if any surplus remains, after the expenses of maintaining it are defrayed, it is carried to the general account. On an average, there has not been 40s. a year in hand, at the end of any one of the last seven years.

The schoolhouse and school, occupied rent-free by the master, are not worth more than £15 a year.

In 1805, a part of the above premises, containing 1A. 1R. 20P. was sold for the purpose of making the Military canal under the authority of an Act of Parliament. The land sold for £211 17s 6d. which was invested in the purchase of £334. 16s. 2d. stock, in the three per cent Consols, now standing in the names of two of the trustees. The dividends, amounting to £10 0s 10d. are carried to the general account of the charity.

The schoolmaster receives annually the £10 given by the deed, and a third of the rent each year, after deducting the incidental expenses. It is thought by the trustees, that this mode of payment is more convenient than that prescribed by the deed.

The master has received, whilst the rent was £125 a year, £45 yearly; but by the reduction of the rent, it will of course be necessary to reduce his salary in proportion. The other part of the rent is applied in the manner directed by the deed. Twenty boys are gratuitously taught reading, writing, cyphering and navigation. The trustees are neighbouring gentlemen of the highest respectability, who take a great interest in the management of this charity.

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## FOLKESTONE

### Sir Eliab Harvey's Charity (Appendix)

By indenture bearing date 28th March 1674, between Sir Eliab Harvey of London, Knt. executor of Eliab Harvey of London, deceased, who was executor of William Harvey, M.D. and John Prestwood, of London, merchant, of the first part; and Sir Edward Dering and others of the second part; reciting, that the said Eliab Harvey, together with the said Sir Eliab Harvey, then Eliab Harvey, Esq., and the said John Prestwood, had therefore purchased "all that messuage or tenement, commonly called or known by the name of Combes, with the barns, stables, outhouses, edifices, buildings, courts, yards, orchards, gardens, places, backsides, and other inclosures thereto belonging; and all those several pieces or parcels of land, arable, meadow, and pasture, and marsh land, containing in all by estimation 50 acres more or less, with the appurtenances to the said messuage belonging, or therewith demised, used, or enjoyed, situate lying and being in the parish of Lympe, in the said county of Kent, and then in the occupation of Anthony Spain or his assigns; to have and to hold the same unto them, with intent to settle the same for some pious and charitable use, for the benefit of the town of Folkestone." (All which premises were then vested in the said Sir Eliab Harvey and John Prestwood) and further reciting, that the said John Prestwood had, by and with the consent and directions of said Sir Eliab Harvey, purchased "all that messuage or tenement, together with the kitchen, backside, and garden or orchard, with the appurtenances to the same belonging, situate lying and being in the town of Folkestone aforesaid, in a certain street there, called Randevoose-street, abutting to the said street towards the west and south, to the lands of the heirs of Thomas Kennett towards the north and west, and late in the occupation of Margaret Pepper, widow, or her assigns; which said last-mentioned messuage was then converted into a free school, together with a school-house for the master thereof, and was bought with intent and purpose to settle the same for a free school for the benefit of the said town of Folkestone and the inhabitants thereof and further reciting, "that the mayor and jurats of the said town and port of Folkestone had thentofore settled and conveyed unto John Prestwood and his heirs, a small piece of void or waste ground, lying near a place called The Stade in Folkestone aforesaid, upon which the said John Prestwood, by the order and directions of the said Sir Eliab Harvey, had lately caused a tan-house, with all implements thereunto belonging, to be built and set up, with intent to settle the same as aforesaid; and that £220, by the advice of the mayor thereof, and of his executors, to the best use of the poor there, was part of the purchase money laid out and expended in and upon the purchase of the premises, and the building and erecting of the said school and tan-house."

The said Sir Eliab Harvey and John Prestwood, for the promoting of the said good and charitable use, and in full satisfaction of the legacy of £200 given by the said Dr. William Harvey, and for other considerations therein mentioned, bargained and sold "the said messuage, farm-house, lands, and premises with the appurtenances, called Combes, and the said school-house and tan-house with their appurtenances," to the trustees therein named, in trust, that they their heirs and assigns, should from time to time "demise and to farm let the said messuage and premises, called Combe farm, for any term of years, in possession, and not in reversion or remainder, not exceeding 21 years, at a full yearly rent, or as much as can conveniently and truly be had and reserved for the same, without reserving any fine upon such lease so to be made; the rent to be paid half-yearly by equal portions, with such usual and fitting covenants, as are usually between landlord and tenant; the said lease from time to time to be by writing, indented and not otherwise; "and that the said mayor should keep a book and enter therein all deeds, &c. and all receipts of rents, &c. and disbursements, for which he shall be allowed 20s. out of Combe farm; all accounts, &c. to be once a year cast up, and allowed by the mayor and two trustees, and 10s. allowed at such time for entertainment, &c. And upon further trust, that every freeman of Folkestone, being a fisherman, may tan their nets in the said tan-house, paying 8d.; out of which sums the tan-house is to be repaired. "And upon this further trust, that the yearly sum of £10 out of the rents and profits of the said Combe farm, shall for ever be paid half-yearly by equal portions, to a school-

master, that shall be elected and chosen by the mayor and jurats of Folkestone aforesaid, for the time being, and so as such schoolmaster be approved by the said trustee or trustees for the time being, or the major part of them; which said schoolmaster shall from time to time teach 20 of the children of the poorer sort of people inhabiting in Folkestone aforesaid, (if so to learn to understand the Latin tongue; such poor children so to be taught, to be from time to time approved of by the mayor and jurats of Folkestone aforesaid for the time being, taking of them no pay or salary whatsoever for his pains or care therein; and the said schoolmaster so chosen into the said place, shall continue in the same so long as he shall well behave himself therein, and be of good liking to the said trustees, or the major part of them. And that the whole of the first year's rent of the said messuage, &c. (deducting the said £13 as aforesaid, and such other incidental charges as shall be bona fide to be paid out thereof,) and the second year's rents, &c. shall be laid out in each of the said two first years in buying and providing a fisher boat, with its tackle, &c. to be given to some free or other poor fisherman; " and the said two years rent and profits of the premises, deducting as aforesaid, being bestowed respectively as aforesaid; the third year's profit said to be chosen and approved; and in that manner the rents and profits of the said messuage and farm of Combes, deducting as aforesaid, to be employed and bestowed alternis vicibus, to wit, two years to such fishermen respectively as aforesaid, and every third year to such schoolmaster as aforesaid for ever." And upon this further trust, "that every such schoolmaster, so as aforesaid to be chosen and approved of, shall from time to time, so long as he shall continue in the said place or office, inhabit and dwell in the said school-house gratis, without any payment of rent, or other recompence; provided such schoolmaster shall and do give bond to the mayor of Folkestone for the time being, well and sufficiently to repair, maintain, uphold and keep repaired the said school-house and school, with the appurtenances, together with the fences of the garden or orchard thereinto belonging, and for the leaving of all such appurtenances as are belonging to the said school and school-house, in as good plight as they now are, necessary wearing only excepted." New trustees to be appointed when the number shall be reduced to seven.

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