



FOLKESTONE & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 5 - JANUARY 2001

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dear Member,

Welcome to our *Newsletter* for January 2001, the second year of publishing.

Most of you will be aware that all the officers were re-elected at the October A.G.M., however we do have two new Committee members, their names are: Mrs Eileen Frankland and Mr Don Gregory. Martin Easdown was co-opted onto the Committee as our Newsletter editor.

The Society has had a very busy year with its photographic displays, all four boards have been in use for practically the whole year.

The Leas Shelter and Leas Cliff Hall photographic display was loaned to the manageress of the Leas Cliff Hall, Jo Barnes, for her to display in the windows, over the Shepway Festival weekend. While on the subject of the Leas Cliff Hall, my thanks go to June and Ken Paine, they have been very busy photographing the different stages of the restoration work, they have built up a good relationship with the manageress who allowed them access to the building while the work was in progress.

Our open day this year was held on October 21st. at St Andrew's Methodist Church Hall, Surrenden Road, Cheriton. The day turned out to be a great success with over 350 people attending, a number of people remarked on the amount of material on display!! The photographic display was on Cheriton Past & Present, put together solely by Peter and Anne Bamford. Folkestone Library had a stand displaying their archival material on Cheriton. There were members' postcard albums on display for people to browse through. We had our book stall which took £74.84, and Mrs Carole Bolton had a stall selling her local paintings etc.

The new video projector, projecting videos onto a large screen, was running for six hours showing videos of old Folkestone, it proved to be very popular. Mary Hunt was looking after the refreshments, she made £18.66 and we received £53.50 in donations.

A number of old photographs of Cheriton and Folkestone were fetched in by the public and subsequently loaned to the Society for copying. This is one of the objectives for holding these open days. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those members who helped on the day.

After the open day two display boards were up in Sandgate library with half the Cheriton Past & Present photographic display. The other two boards were put in the Heritage room, Folkestone library with half the Folkestone Past & Present photographic display.

Since introducing *Newsletters* we have a new member, from Victoria, Australia, I would like to welcome Mrs Heather Tumber to the Society.

Due to June and Ken Paine recently moving to smaller premises they have had to dispose of some of their albums of photographs, which the Society have purchased for £100. There are three volumes on Folkestone, one on Folkestone Pubs and Hotels, one on The Grand Hotel, one on the fire at the Garden House Hotel, one on the Turkish Baths, one on the Wampach Hotel, one on

Folkestone Hotels, three volumes on the fire at the Longford Hotel and one on Memories of Marjorie Sidey. These albums are for the members use and can be obtained from our Secretary, Peter Bamford, who looks after our archives.

The Millennium dinner, held at the Boating Pool Restaurant, Marine Parade, was hailed a great success. Fifty nine members enjoyed a welcome drink before sitting down to a three course dinner. At the end of the evening Mr C. Phillips (senior) gave a vote of thanks to the Officers and Committee, not just for organising such a splendid evening, but for all their dedicated hard work throughout the year. He emphasised how good our programmes were and that he had never seen a bad one, he marvelled on how we managed to keep it up from year to year.

My thanks go to Tom Leftley our Treasurer for organising the dinner a lot of work went into it. Daphne Heaver is standing down as our representative at the Kent History Federation meetings, if anybody is interested in taking on the job, please see the Secretary, Peter Bamford. There are four meetings a year, held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Maidstone. The Society will pay your travel expenses.

A number of members have expressed their concerns that they cannot hear all the speakers and wondered if we could get a microphone. Their wishes have now been fulfilled, we have purchased an amplifier, two speakers, a VHF High Frequency Wireless Receiver and a cordless head microphone. This equipment has been used at the last two meetings and there is a marked improvement.

At our open day in October held in St Andrew's Church hall, Surrenden Road, we were asked if we would repeat it on Saturday the 9th December 10 am to 3 pm, at All Soul's Church, for *Cheriton Day*, which was organised to raise money for Cheriton Xmas lights 2001. Unfortunately the day was not very well attended, but there was quite a lot of interest shown in our large screen videos of Old Folkestone. We were also showing the 1904 Edwardian film of Folkestone, loaned to us by the library. I would like to thank all those members who helped on that day.

On a rather sad note I would like to announce that one of our long standing members and Committee men Leo Town passed away last year after a long fight against cancer. A sympathy card was sent to his wife on behalf of the Society.

May I join the Officers and Committee in wishing all our members a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

FOLKESTONE BUILDER DIES AT 87

From the Folkestone Herald, 24th. April 1965.

Mr John De Lanoy Dunk, well-known builder and company director, of 80 Cooling road, Folkestone, died in a nursing home on Easter Sunday, aged 87.

He was the son of the late Ald. William Dunk.

Born in 1877, Mr Dunk was educated at the Harvey Grammar School. On leaving school he entered his father's business and became one of Folkestone's senior master builders before his retirement from the firm in 1936.

Like his father, Mr Dunk became a director of the Folkestone Water Company, of which his great-grandfather, Mr Daniel Baker, had been the founder.

He was also prominently associated with the Building Society and with the Savings Bank in days when there were purely local societies serving local needs.

Knowledge

Having a life-long interest in both engineering and geology he acquired considerable technical knowledge of the problems of water supply.

He also became chairman of the Folkestone Lift company.

Mr Dunk loved railways, particularly branch-lines and independent companies, and collected timetables, prints and books about them.

He had musical gifts and composed about 40 miscellaneous pieces. These included preludes, marches and songs, some of which he arranged and personally scored for performance by local musical societies, mainly in the period between the two wars.

In addition to enjoying science he published four books in which he expounded theories of a mathematical relationship between degrees of tone and sensation.

Unique

These, in order of publication, were Hyperacoustics, Division 1 (1916), Hyperacoustics, Division 2 (1921), Tonality (1926), and The Structure Of The Musical Scale (1940). Published by J. M. Dent, these books are available in the Folkestone Library..

He was a vice-president of the Folkestone Natural History Society, of which he had been a member for many years.

He had a great love for the countryside, and a unique knowledge of all the byways and footpaths in the neighbourhood. There was not a wood or a farm that he could not instantly locate.

Above all, he loved his native town, and had a remarkably detailed and accurate knowledge of its past, based partly on the recollections of his own long life, but also on those of his forbears back to the early 19th century.

This knowledge was available at all times, and conveyed with humour, kindness, and unfailing generosity.

Volunteer

During the first world war Mr Dunk served in the Royal Engineers, and in the last war he was a warden in Civil Defence. Continuing as a civil defence volunteer after the war, he was presented with a long-service medal by the Mayor of Folkestone in 1962.

In his latter years he attended Holy Trinity Church, until his nephew, the Rev. Alan Gibson, became Vicar of Sandgate, when he became a member of St. Paul's, Sandgate.

He had, since the winter, resided at Sandgate Vicarage with his nephew and family.

He was taken ill with a stroke on April 14.



Book Review

By
Martin Easdown

Francis Frith's Around Folkestone Photographic Memories. Text and Captions supplied by Paul Harris. Published by the Frith Archive, ISBN 1 85937 124 8. 230mm x 190mm paperback, 92 pages, 100 photographs. Price £9.99.

Francis Frith was a prolific Victorian photographer who travelled all around the country to capture his views, many of which were later reproduced on picture postcards. Before his death in 1898, he had greatly expanded the company with the aid of his two sons and by 1890 it was using around 2,000 outlets, including some overseas. By 1970, when the business had ceased, the company's photographic archive contained views of over 7,000 cities, towns and villages, and in the past ten years this has been greatly utilised in reproduction postcards, prints, ceramics, coasters and now books.

For what is basically a book of old photographs, let us mention them first. On the plus side, they have been superbly reproduced straight from the original plate glass negatives and are as clear as a bell. They also appear attractively in different sizes, some nearly double-paged spread, and date from between 1890-1965. Unfortunately, but rather inevitably perhaps as regards the local historian, they nearly all show the same familiar tourist scenes (the Leas etc) we have already seen in other old Folkestone photographic books, though admittedly there are a couple of views that are a bit different. The photographs have been categorised, each with brief introductions, into five main sections: the West End (which includes the seafront), Town Centre, East Cliff and Harbour, Sandgate, and Cheriton and Beyond.

Paul Harris is known to us for his previous books on local ghost stories and the Folkestone Warren, and his introductory chapter on Folkestone is both light and readable. However, it has to be said the captions themselves contain a number of errors (the *Fountain* pub in Sandgate?) and tend to describe the obvious of what's happening in the photographs rather than imparting any historical information on the buildings themselves.

Yet, as a general photographic book on old Folkestone it will find some appeal and there is the added opportunity of sending off for one of six free mounted prints.

**FOLKESTONE LIBRARY
GRACE HILL
SASSOON GALLERY
HERITAGE EVENTS
WINTER 2001**

1901 Census Project

Margaret Brennand, Public Record Office

How the census will be available on the Web,
together with name & street indexes.

Wednesday 10th January 7pm

Admission free

Archaeological discoveries along the Rail Link Route

Helen Glass, Union Railways

Especially the Ashford to Cheriton section.

Wednesday 24th January 7pm

Admission £1.00

A Century of Folkestone & Kent on Film

Frank Gray, South East Film & Video Archive

First public showing of unique local films.

Wednesday 28th February 7 pm

Admission £2.00

Tickets will be available from 1st December 2000

Tel: 01303 850123

Wheelchair access

Hearing loop

Due to popular interest, booking is advisable.

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