



Museum News

£1.50

Help to keep admission free
Issue Number 23

www.evmt.org.uk
April 2009

The Eden Valley Museum – everywhere has a story to tell





courtesy of John Topham / TopFoto

At time of publication the Crown had lost its crown.

DIARY DATES

Lord Mayors and Royal Connections

18 March – 27 September

Coffee Morning / Art Exhibition and Lord Mayors Launch

4 April – 2 May

Edenbridge Twinning Association Exhibition

Extended run for 3 weeks

Saturday 9 May - Sunday 7 June

Knickers and Things! Underwear from 1850-1930s: A talk by Jean Bruce

5 June

Half Term Activity

28 May

The Great Migration

27 June – 19 December

Heritage Open Days

12 September

Edenbridge Afternoon WI 90 years

TBC October

Half Term Activity

29 October

Front cover picture: A portrait of Dick Whittington with his cat: coloured aquatint, 1813

Courtesy of Granger Collection NYC / TopFoto

Back cover picture: “Dick Whittington on his Death-Bed, 1423.” From an original document compiled shortly after his death, now in possession of the Worshipful Company of Mercers in London

EVMT WHO'S WHO

President: The Lord Astor of Hever

Executive Committee

Chairman: Alan Smith

Treasurer: Vic Jennings

Secretary: post vacant

Curatorial Adviser: Dr Ian Beavis

Cheryl Bell - *Education*

Michael Cottrell – *Parish Councils*

Phyllis Grainger – *EDHS*

Anna Griffin – *Curatorial Committee Chairman*

Barbara Hale -

Brenda Hillman -

Julie Johnson –

Barry Neville-Robinson - *Edenbridge T. C.*

John Scholey – *Sevenoaks D. C.*

Richard Lewis – *Independent Examiner*

2 vacancies remain

Alan Davies – *Lease Trustee*

Don Garman – *Lease Trustee*

Dennis Leigh – *Lease Trustee*

Rosemary Millen – *Minutes Secretary*

Curatorial Committee

Anna Griffin - *Chair*

Mary Cunnington – *Shop Manager*

Bob Orridge – *Maintenance*

Helen Jackman – *Cataloguing Group Leader*

Cheryl Bell – *Education and Children's Activities*

Peter Lewis – *Publicity Distribution*

Honorary Curator: Jane Higgs

Deputy Hon. Curator: Joan Varley

Behind the scenes:

Cad Cust – *IT*

Pat Crocker – *Membership Secretary*

Stuart Saunders – *Webmaster*

Alan Layland – *H&S and lighting*

Lyn Layland – *Research*

Lesley Martin – *Rota Organiser*

Barbara Hale – *Archives*

Sheila Summers-Asquez – *Collection Monitor*

Michael St. Clair Hannah – *Newsletter Editor*

And our loyal and dedicated team of volunteers, Museum Assistants and the Children's Activities helpers.

FROM THE [NEW] EDITOR

Michael St. Clair Hannah

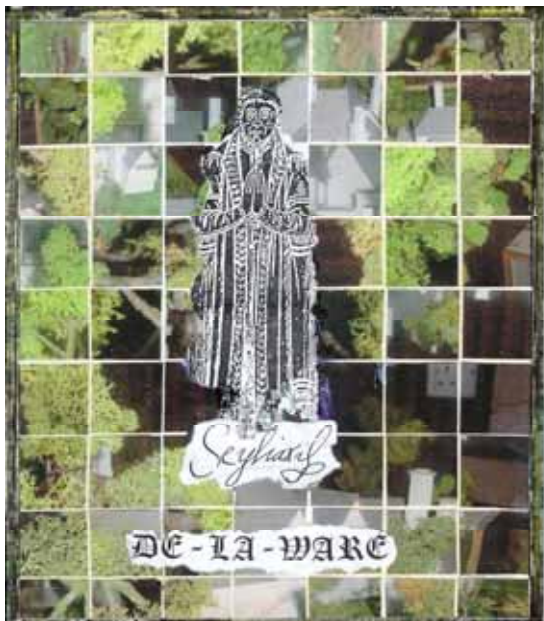
I must confess when I volunteered to edit the EVMT Newsletter I knew very little about the Museum. Like many people my ideas about museums and how they operate were somewhat shallow. The focus was on historical artifacts and their display.

Of course, themed exhibitions are indeed the main public face of any museum, but the value of a small local museum such as ours goes way beyond the exhibition. After just a few weeks into the job I am still learning about all the different aspects of the museum's work and contribution to the local community.

First of all there is the educational function of EVMT; many local schools arrange formal visits where the children can view special exhibitions, particularly where this ties in with on-going curricula. The museum can help either individual children or groups with research assistance for special projects of an historical nature.



The Lost Manor of DE-LA-WARE
Delaware, also called Pawlin, Edenbridge



The booklet is on sale in the museum shop.

There is also an outreach service and volunteers can visit schools to give talks on specialist subjects.

EVMT relies heavily on its team of volunteers, who devote significant time to helping out either administratively or with research. So far as the local community is concerned many newcomers to the area have found the museum to be a mine of useful information about such matters as the history of heritage properties, or in tracing family histories of local names.

The archives are treasure troves of interesting reports, facts and photographs of local events stretching back to Victorian times, and in some cases much earlier. However, we do rely heavily on the local population to provide such sources. So if you have an interesting story to tell (and many of us do), or perhaps some photographs of past events we would love to hear from you. Please write to me at EVMT, and I will be pleased to help you share your stories in future issues.

THE LOST MANOR OF DE-LA-WARE

by Helen Jackman

The search for this lost manor, sited between Edenbridge and Hever, came about when local historian Alan Dell discovered an inventory of 1605 amongst the papers of Gordon Ward in the Sevenoaks Library. Using this as a guide Doug Griffin and Alan used historical precedent, architectural records from the 13th Century and Church registers to build a conjectural picture of how the mansion might have grown over the following 400 years - until it was lost forever in the 18th Century.

The resulting booklet, written and illustrated by Doug, contains a wealth of supporting appendices which provide a comprehensive view of how this manor might have looked during the reign of James I.

ANNE OF CLEVES

by Joan Varley,

Deputy Hon. Curator Eden Valley Museum



courtesy of Hever Castle

The image above is taken from a 16th century portrait of Anne of Cleves after Barthel Bruyn the Elder (German, 1495-1555) which forms part of Hever Castle's collection of Tudor portraits, including all six of Henry VIII's wives. Hever Castle has kindly loaned a copy of this painting to the Eden Valley Museum for the duration of the 'Royal Connections' Exhibition.

Rejected by a Kentishman (Henry VIII) Anne of Cleves became the owner of the Castle and manor of Hever in the Eden Valley in 1540. Hever remained in her ownership for 17 years until her death in 1557.

Anne of Cleves was the fourth wife of Henry VIII and has been much maligned as 'The Flanders mare', yet historians can find no proof that Henry VIII ever called or referred to her in this manner. Indeed in the portraits by Hans Holbein the Younger

(1497 / 1498-1543) (below)¹ and that after Barthel Bruyn the Elder, whilst they show a relatively plain visage, in my opinion they show nothing so terrible or distinctive to warrant the denigrating 'Flanders Mare' nickname.



courtesy of Roger-Viollet / TopFoto

The true causes of his aversion to her is probably more to do with the raising of Henry VIII's expectations about this Princess of Cleves prior to his seeing her face to face; the fact that she spoke little or no English; her limited cultural knowledge and; her own reaction at their initial meeting in Rochester.

So where did Anne come from and what events had conspired to bring her to England and into the bed of Henry VIII?

She was born on 22 September 1515 in the small north German state of Kleve (Cleve), the second daughter of the Duke "Johann von Kleve" and his wife Maria, Duchess of Julich-Berg. Anne's brother, Wilhelm, took over the Duchy in February 1539, the year his father died. In the late 1530s a Cleves marriage suited the foreign and religious policies of Thomas Cromwell (Henry's

trusted advisor) very well. The Duchy of Cleve straddled the lower Rhine and could help to counter-balance England's political isolation from the great European powers. The Duke of Cleves was also allied to the Schmalkaldic League, an alliance formed by Protestant territories of the Holy Roman Empire as a collective defence against attempts to force their return to Catholic practices.

Hans Holbein was commissioned by Henry VIII to go to Cleves and paint a portrait of Anne, and her younger sister Amelia. Cromwell had already told Henry that he had received reports that the Lady Anne of Cleves was very beautiful 'as well for the face as the whole body, above all other ladies excellent' and that she excelled Christina, Duchess of Milan (a previous contender) 'as the golden sun excelleth the silver moon'. Historians debate whether Holbein flattered Anne in his portrait, but this seems highly unlikely as he must have understood the risks of not painting an accurate likeness. He may, however, have endeavoured to make the best of her looks by painting her full face.

In September 1539 the Duke of Cleve's envoys came to London and signed a treaty for the marriage alliance. A question had been raised concerning a previous marriage contract between Anne of Cleves and the Duke of Lorraine's son, the Marquis of Pont-à-Mousson, but the Duke of Cleves assured Henry that there was no pre-contract.

Anne of Cleves arrived in Canterbury on 29 December 1539 and stayed in the manor house that had been erected by the King on the site of the Mission of St. Augustine. She travelled on to the Bishop's Palace at Rochester where her ill-fated first meeting with Henry took place.

Lodging at the Crown Inn, Henry is reported to have gone incognito to have a look at his intended bride. The painting by Holbein, the reports by Cromwell, and the fact that his previous wife had been

dead for two years, had all served to fire his enthusiasm for this new match. Anne, however, spoke no English and lacked the charm and sophistication of the ladies of the English court that Henry was used to. He came away from that first meeting decidedly unimpressed by her physical charms, however it may well be that she was no more enraptured by the bloated personage and fetid smells (due to a weeping leg ulcer) of Henry.

"The physical change [in Henry VIII] can be measured with precision from Henry's various suits of armour. He was 6 foot 2 inches tall; in about 1512 he was a trim 32 inches round the waist, by about 1520 he had filled out to 35 inches and by 1545 was a gross 54 inches" Starkey (2002).

After the meeting, Henry is reported to have said to Cromwell that she was 'nothing fair and have very evil smells about her' ... 'I like her not'. Despite his disappointment in her looks and demeanour, and to avoid a diplomatic uproar, Henry was persuaded to go ahead with the marriage which took place on 6 January 1540 at Greenwich.

The ill portent of the first meeting led to further disappointment on the wedding night. Anne, it seems, had never been versed in the physical requirements of a bride or wife and Henry is reputed to have been dismayed at his new wife's personage and lack of attraction. One suspects, however, that he was still looking for a way out of the marriage having already become enamoured with the charms of one of Anne's Ladies of the Bedchamber, Catherine Howard, cousin to Anne Boleyn.

The marriage was never consummated and Anne was never crowned Queen. Having already become besotted with Catherine Howard, by April the political map of Europe had changed and the need for a strong alliance with the Duke of Cleves had subsided. Henry made his move.

In June 1540 Anne was sent to Richmond Palace, ostensibly 'for her health, open air



courtesy of Roger-Viollet / TopFoto

and pleasure'. The next day a deputation of Councillors came to inform her that her marriage had been found to be invalid – based upon the aforementioned marriage pre-contract with the Marquis of Pont-à-Mousson. Anne, it seems was not about to argue and risk losing her head, so she acquiesced to the King's wish to annul their marriage, was greatly rewarded and subsequently cherished by the King as his 'sister'.

Anne's connection with the Eden Valley came about as her marriage to Henry VIII ended. As part of her settlement she was awarded Hever Castle, the ancestral home of Anne Boleyn, and it is reputed to have been one of her (Anne of Cleves) favourite residences. She often visited and stayed there and was said to be very fond of her home in Kent. Other establishments granted to Anne included Palaces and manors at Richmond, Bletchingley, Weybridge; and properties in Lewes and Ditchling. She also received a generous financial settlement and the right to call herself the King's sister, with precedence over all the ladies in England after the Queen and the King's daughters.

Richmond Palace became her main residence and, following the execution of yet another ill-fated Howard queen (Catherine Howard) Henry became a frequent visitor and she was often invited to court. It was even rumoured that he might re-marry Anne, but it is generally accepted that she was happy with her status as the King's sister and enjoyed a happy retirement travelling around England visiting her various properties. She had no wish to return to Cleves.

She was very fond of Henry's three children and is said to have taught Elizabeth how to do needlework and helped her to design dresses – an interesting development given the disparaging comments made about her Germanic attire by the ladies of the court when she first arrived in England.

Anne outlived Henry. After his death she lived at Chelsea Old Manor with his sixth wife, Catherine Parr. She died on 16 July 1557 and is buried in Westminster Abbey, as befits a former Queen of England.

If you would like to know some more interesting and little known facts about Anne of Cleves, visit the exhibition in the Buttery & Pantry Gallery which opens on Wednesday 18th March 2009.

Notes:1. The original is in the musée du Louvre, Paris.

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THE ROUND HOUSES OF CHIDDINGSTONE

by Lyn Layland,
Research Volunteer, Eden Valley Museum



Sepia Print Postcard by H.H. Camburn, Tunbridge Wells. 1920-30. Made for Ye Olde Shope, Chiddingstone.

I recently received an enquiry asking for information about the Round Houses at Chiddingstone. Along with the enquiry form were pictures of the old houses taken in the 1930's.

Now the interesting part of my job came into play as I delved into our archives to see what information I could find. Unfortunately, I could find very little until I looked at the booklet on Chiddingstone written by Jill Newton in 1985.

The Round Houses were situated on either side of the road from Wellers Town to Chiddingstone Hoath at the crossroads known as Lew Cross and were Gate Keepers Lodges as, running from Chiddingstone to Penshurst, was a very important coach road linking the two villages following the marriage of Henry Streatfeild to Anne Sidney in 1752.

According to Jill Newton, one of the houses was named Battle Oak but old maps identified it as Barrel Oak as an old oak tree was illustrated in the middle of the crossroad, perhaps a hollow tree.

I then found a map from 1870 and it clearly showed the two lodges either side of the road. Turning my attention to the census from the 19th century, with a little help from a colleague at the museum, we could not trace the houses further back than 1881 on the census although they may well have been recorded with a different name.

From the 1881 census I discovered that Sarah Peerles, a widow aged 76 lived in one of the houses and her occupation was Lodge Gatekeeper. By 1891, Ann Gibbs, a widow aged 85 and Mary Burton, a widow aged 70 lived in one of the houses and on the other side lived Anne Jenner, a widow aged 78 and Bertha Longley, her *cont....>*

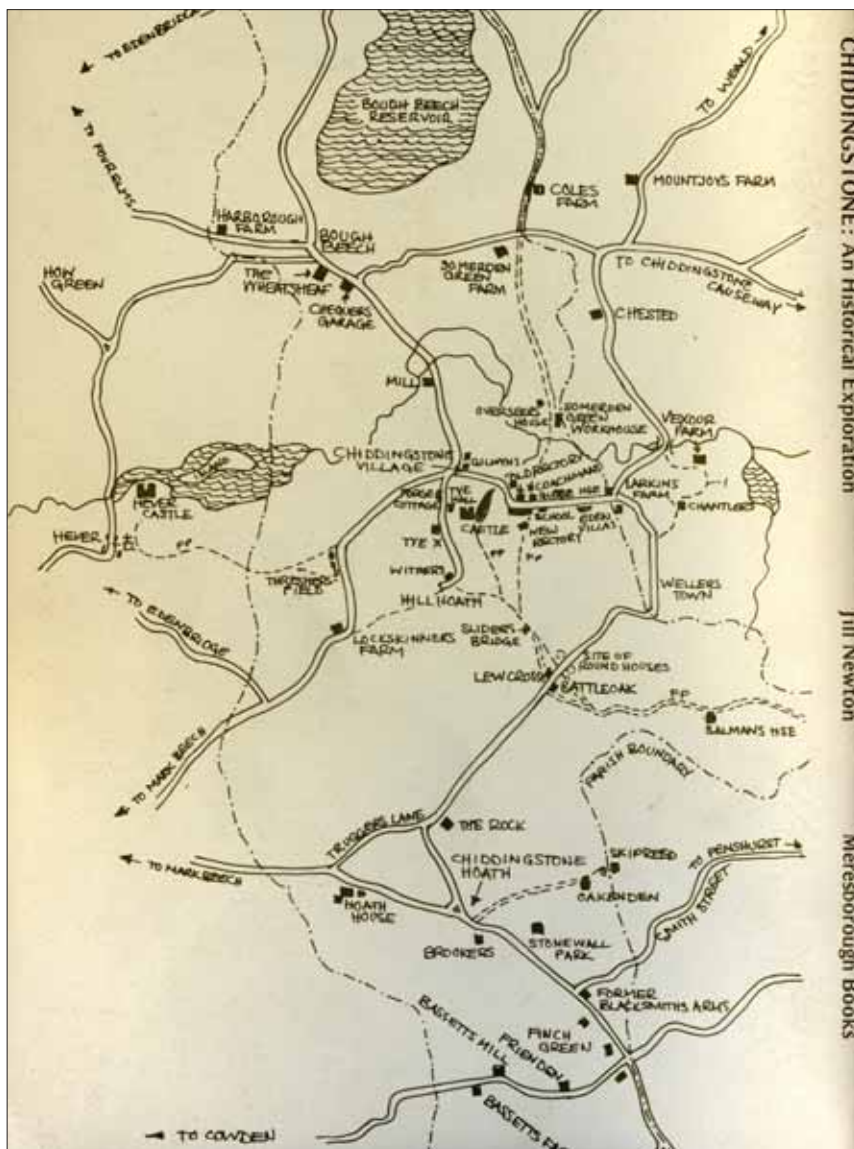
granddaughter, aged 14. In 1901, Elizabeth Smith, another widow aged 68 lived on one side and Edward Colepater aged 66 and his wife Harriet aged 65 lived in the other.

It would suggest that there was not a lot of room in the houses as neither housed more than 2 people in any census and it also seemed that the job of Gatekeeper was favoured by widows.

I could not find any reference giving the date of the demolition of the houses but they were still standing in 1938.

My research now came to an end and it was time for my husband and myself to trace the footsteps of these people who lived and worked in the Round Houses in the past centuries. We set off one day to Chiddingstone and found the footpath that once joined up with the old coach road. The first part of the footpath came within the Eden Valley Walk from Hill Hoath crossing the road from Wellers Town to Chiddingstone Hoath and on to the footpath through Watstock Farm on to Court Green Lane to Penshurst.

We stood on the site of the old Round Houses and although we could not find any traces of the buildings, we both felt the nostalgia and could imagine the busy comings and goings of coaches along the road in its heyday. It was well worth a visit and I would recommend the walk to anyone not yet having set foot on that particular route.



After reading this article, if anyone has any further information on the old Round Houses or indeed remembers them standing, I would be very interested to hear from you.

Sources:

Census, 1881, 1891, 1901

Footpath Map of Edenbridge No 1, Tonbridge and district

Newton, J. 1985. Chiddingstone, Meresborough Books.

www.roughwood.net/postcardalbum/kent/chiddingstone

CURATORS' COLUMNS

“Let your history inform the present and inspire the future”.

2008 was a very busy year indeed. Three well researched exhibitions, the creation of the digital archive with all the work involved in scanning and storing the images; many more group visits, several publicity opportunities, fund raising events and Half Term Activities. Running concurrently with all of this were the enquiries, the requests for copies of photographs and DVDs; the technical maintenance of computers, lighting and environmental equipment; the production of newsletters and publicity material; the monthly reports and committee meetings and anything else that pops up unexpectedly via phone, email, post or personal visit. Last but not least the rota of museum assistants to be organized, volunteers to be trained, plus collection management and archive sorting, object movement and accessioning to keep up with.

With all that going on we still had to keep an eye on the future for fund raising and programme planning and keep abreast of current thinking in the museum world.

Museums, libraries, archives and entertainment are converging. A small museum like ours will not be a centre of academic study but we hope it can be a source of very useful material. We have to entertain as well as teach in order to encourage our audience to make return visits. We have become a hub in the community and aim to continue to reach out to all who live and work in the Eden Valley; working with the local schools and including more about our villages is a priority.

Our 10th birthday falls on Thursday 24 June 2010 and plans to make it a memorable anniversary year will be announced soon.

‘What is history?’

I often ask myself ‘What is history?’ when I am faced with all the material that has come in for an exhibition. I aim for our exhibitions to inform, interest and entertain, but the many threads running through them have to be drawn together to form an understandable whole.

I found this passage from E.H. Carr’s “What is History” (published by Palgrave) helpful.

“History requires the selection and ordering of facts about the past in the light of some principle or norm of objectivity accepted by the historian, which necessarily includes elements of interpretation. Without this, the past dissolves into a jumble of innumerable isolated and insignificant incidents and history cannot be written at all.”

An article by Jonathan Jones which appeared in *The Guardian* (26 Jan. 2007) said “History is an inquiry into the past; memory is a conviction about the past...” I try to bear all this in mind when selecting the material because all sorts of visitors will see our displays, locals old and new, foreign visitors, children and young people, and all of them will receive it in a different way.

From our visitors book it looks as if we are succeeding.

Jane Higgs. Hon. Curator.

From the Deputy Curator

2008 was another eventful and busy year in the life of the museum. We mounted our highest number of exhibitions in one year and received our highest number of visitors in any one year since we opened in 2000. We look forward to breaking this record this year and again when we celebrate our Tenth Anniversary in 2010. We’ve welcomed several new volunteers as museum assistants, town trail guides and as rota organiser; and some of our existing volunteers have taken on new duties. Our thanks to them all – we can’t do it without you.

Joan Varley. Deputy Hon. Curator.

VISITORS

In 2008 we have welcomed visitors from far and wide, including from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, New Zealand, Philippines, Portugal, Slovakia, South Africa, Tanzania and the USA as well as from many parts of the UK and our local community – 4791 in total.

Our Visitors Say It Best

Very interesting and staff so helpful	Mr & Mrs Williams	Torquay, Devon
What an interesting and enlightening set of exhibitions. Lots of information available	Doreen Clark	Edenbridge
Very well displayed and helpful staff. A must to visit again	Tony Trim	Caterham
Great Tudor Exhibition. Thomas Bullen Opera very interesting local story.	Jane Apps	Hever Castle
Fantastic Tudor Exhibition with lots of information. Ladies were very helpful.	Claire and Jonathon Glossop	Edenbridge
A wonderful evocative museum about real people	K & J Hazell	St. Leonards
Wonderful trip down memory lane. We even saw photographs of ourselves	L. Hazard	South Africa
A really interesting Schools Exhibition and a beautifully presented museum. Edenbridge is lucky.	Marian McNay	Witney
Thank you for a lovely visit. Very interesting and a very inviting way to learn history.	Amberg / Bowman Family	Illinois / Oklahoma, USA

HIGHEST NUMBER OF ANNUAL VISITORS SINCE WE OPENED IN 2000

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
January	Closed	50	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	20	Closed
February		257	168	139	121	199	113	430	357
March		134	406	283	103	344	246	271	492
April		428	187	193	59	304	337	337	406
May		234	184	207	166	464	306	409	387
June		229	371	113	139	588	550	356	462
July	446	96	217	59	338	382	340	376	458
August	425	164	174	102	377	750	493	409	617
September	612	612	409	254	291	362	526	506	455
October	330	285	169	126	159	413	305	562	397
November	316	91	81	60	188	200	232	403	463
December	96	317	203	253	300	394	417	504	297
Total	2225	2897	2569	1789	2241	4400	3865	4583	4791

EVENTS REPORTS

Christmas Members' Evening 2008

We were delighted to welcome so many members and their friends to our open evening on 12 December. 76 people attended, with one member coming by train from London specifically to see the Schooldays Exhibition. Barbara Hale and Sheila Summers-Asquez mounted a display in the meeting room on 'How we entertained ourselves before the computer age' and Joan demonstrated the new digital archive in the office. Pauline Garman won the 'Name the Snowman' competition. All the names had not been chosen by the end of the evening so we invited guests at Topfoto and Town Council Christmas drinks to help us finish it.

Bob Ogley Evening - Kent Weather

Another successful evening was a new talk on Kent Weather given by Bob Ogley on Friday 21 November. Slides accompanied his talk and people attending had a private viewing of the recently opened Floods Exhibition.

Outreach

When an exhibition is taken down, it is not the end of its life. New material obtained is integrated into the museum collections or archives, and in some cases utilised as outreach material. This was the case with the Hurricane Exhibition and on Tuesday 25 November. Jane and Betty Milsted took exhibits from the Hurricane Exhibition to the Age Concern meeting at the Leisure Centre.

Group Visits and Town Trails

During 2008 a wide variety of groups visited the museum including the Sevenoaks Branch of the Workers Education Association on 27 April who were treated to a guided walk and a talk on Agriculture, Wealth and Poverty in the Eden Valley

by Barbara Hale. On Friday 25 April we welcomed the Edenbridge Home Workers Group for a private tour of the museum. Kent Archaeological Rescue Group visited on Saturday 7 June and in addition to visiting the museum, two KARS groups were led on guided walks by Joan Varley. For this visit, we set up an extra exhibition in our small meeting room of artefacts retrieved during the renovations of the Mill Leat in 2007 which led to some lively discussions and identification of some mysterious items.

On Wednesday 20 August the Oxted Ladies Tangent Group visited the museum in the evening following a guided walk of the town led by Brenda Hillman. They just managed to get back to the museum before the rain got too heavy. Later in the summer on Saturday 23 August the Uckfield & District Preservation Society visited and were led on guided walks by Barbara Hale and Brenda Hillman.



EVM/T

Training Town Guides

On Wednesday 30th July Don Garman led a group of potential guides on a town trail.



EVM/T

It proved a popular activity on a boiling hot day, and subsequently led to increasing the number of members of the Eden Valley Museum Trust, the number of town trail guides and town trail guide 'sweepers' i.e. the person following on behind to collect stragglers and make sure that nobody is run over as they step back into the road to admire a piece of architecture.

Tudor costumes

Edenbridge Home Workers Group visited the museum again on Thursday 11 September for a tour of the current displays and a photo shoot in Tudor costumes. On the left is a scenario you would never have seen in real life, Henry VIII with all of his six wives!



EVMT

Heritage Open Days saw the first outing for one of our new Town Guides, John Martin and his helper, Julie Thompsett. The bonus for them was a visit to Taylour House, opened especially for Heritage Open Days by the owners Derek and Valerie Roberts.



EVMT

An added attraction at Heritage Open Days was an opportunity for members of the public to try on a Tudor/Period costume. Enticing them to come in was our own Sheila Summers-Asquez (above);



EVMT

and Jodie, Kelly and Beverley Revell (above) and Lucy and Amy Relf (right) really enjoyed their dressing up sessions.



EVMT

2nd Don Garman Training Session

On Friday 3rd October Don Garman once again led a guided walk, but this time around Church House describing the history and architecture of the building for a group of museum assistants. This popular tour will be repeated in 2009.

Senior Citizens Group

On 20th November a senior citizens group from Sevenoaks visited the museum and were taken on a guided walk of the town by another new Town Guide, David Davies and his helper Kay Wilson. They struggled against the noise of the traffic, and members of the group disappearing into shops plus the busy market, but I'm pleased to say that it hasn't put them off. Perhaps Thursday morning guided walks should be avoided in future.

Oast Theatre Programme

The Oast Theatre kindly loaned us costumes for our Tudor Exhibitions and so we are pleased to publicise some of their forthcoming productions.

April 2nd to 4th

Oast Youth Theatre Production

April 25th to May 2nd

Hay Fever by Noel Coward

May 23rd to 30th

Waiting for Godot by Samuel Beckett

June 20th to 27th

1959 Pink Thunderbird (two one-act plays) by James McLure

July 1st to 5th

As You Like It by William Shakespeare

July 18th to 25th

The Disposing of the Body by Hugh Whitmore

For further information please contact:

The Oast Theatre,

London Road,

Tonbridge TN10 3AN

Tel. 01732 350261

www.oast-theatre-tonbridge.co.uk

School Groups

On 17th July we welcomed a group from Hever Primary School and November saw a flurry of group visits by pupils and staff at Edenbridge Primary School. During the autumn several Year 6 classes (from Edenbridge Primary School) engaged in researching the history of various buildings in Edenbridge as part of their social history course work. On Friday 14th, 24 children and 4 adults; Thursday 27th, 18 children and 3 adults in the morning, followed by another group of 17 children with 4 adults supervising them in the afternoon. The last group of 19 children and 4 adults arrived the following morning. Thanks to all the volunteers who gave up their time to help with these visits.

Christmas Visits

On Tuesday 23 December Jane entertained 12 members of staff from TopFoto and 4 members of staff from Edenbridge Town Council for a private view of the current exhibitions and a Christmas drink to thank them for their support during 2008.

Looking Ahead

The Dormansland Women's Institute are planning an evening visit to the museum during this summer and the London Appreciation Society is planning a visit to Edenbridge and the museum in September.

Burns Night Dinner

Very grateful thanks are due to Anna Griffin and her team, and the players from Aardvark Productions for a splendid Burns Night and Murder Mystery Evening on January 24th. When all the sums have been done there will be a healthy donation of nearly £600 towards the museum funds. A special thank you also goes to Val Bantin, Pam Gilchrist and Cheryl Bell who helped in the kitchen, together with Joan (not JV) who stood at the sink washing up all evening. Also thanks to Wilma who performed the ceremony with the Haggis, Brenda Hillman for preparing the 'neeps', David who ran the bar and the two delightful waitresses.

SIX 'LORD' MAYORS AND ONE CAT!

By Joan Varley,

Deputy Hon. Curator, Eden Valley Museum

J Willmsmer, in his article in *Aspects* No. 3, wrote about five Mayors of the City of London who owned land in and around Edenbridge. A forthcoming exhibition at the Eden Valley Museum will explore the lives of six 'Lord' Mayors of London and their respective connections with the Eden Valley.

The eras of our six 'Lord' Mayors span more than four centuries. They have had to contend with the horrors of the Black Death; sit in judgement over the lovers of Catherine Howard; loan copious amounts of money to various monarchs engaged in foreign wars; suffer the ignominy of a spouse being ignored by a Princess of Wales; and in one case having their name live on in history through the story of a pantomime forever inextricably linked with a cat!

The City of London had its first mayor in 1189, but it was not until Tudor times that the honorary title of 'Lord' was bestowed upon them by Henry VIII (1491–1547). The Eden Valley's connection with London's First Citizen begins much earlier, in the 14th century.

John De Pulteney was Mayor of London four times in 1330, 1331, 1333 and 1336. Accounts of his origins vary, but he is thought to have been the son of a minor landowner in Leicestershire. By 1316, however, he was established in London, becoming a prosperous merchant and a member of the Drapers Company. He, like most Mayors, loaned money to the reigning monarch, at that time Edward III who in 1337 was embarking upon the Hundred Years War. Pulteney was rewarded with a knighthood along with an annuity of 100 marks.

In 1338 Pulteney purchased Penshurst Place. It is thought that he wanted a country establishment within a day's ride of the

city, where he could hunt and entertain on a grand scale. Three years after purchasing Penshurst he received licence to crenellate, or embattle, its walls.

Although by this time the English manor-house had departed from the idea of the castle, and defence was now a secondary consideration, nevertheless, the state of the times made it necessary to retain some sort of moat and battlemented gateway, as well as one or two strong turrets. Permission to build these had to be sought from the Crown.

Pulteney was frequently employed by the Crown, overseeing financial dealings relating to trade and taxation. For Pulteney, whilst such close links to the crown had brought many benefits, they would also prove to be a drawback. In 1341 he was arrested and imprisoned whilst his conduct was investigated for corruption and mismanagement. He was eventually released in 1343.

Pulteney died on 8 June 1349 during the Black Death, although the cause of his death is not known. His last resting place, like his place of birth is a subject for debate. It seems he may have been buried at St. Lawrence Pountney, the church he founded in Candlewick Street as he requested in his Will, or in the chantry chapel he endowed at St. Paul's Cathedral.

Richard Whittington was also Mayor of London four times. In 1397 he was imposed upon the City by Richard II, following the death of the incumbent Mayor. Later that year he was elected to serve by the people and went on to be Mayor again in 1406 and 1419.

The life of Richard Whittington is nowadays remembered mostly through the pantomime he inspired, Dick Whittington. Richard, however, was not the penniless urchin who travelled with his cat to London to seek his fortune. He was in fact the second son of Sir William Whittington of Pauntley, Gloucestershire, sent to the City to learn the trade of mercer.



courtesy of The Granger Collection, NYC / TopFoto

Dick Whittington

His connection with the Eden Valley is through Broxham Manor sited to the north east of Edenbridge. In 1400 Sir Bernard Brocas of Broxham was executed for his part in the attempt to murder Henry IV and restore Richard II to the throne. However he had previously, very sensibly, entrusted Broxham Manor, with its fine deerpark and moat, to the care of 'six worthy citizens of London'. Thus Richard Whittington became one of those responsible for Broxham Manor from 1408 until his death 15 years later.

Broxham Manor burned down twice and was subsequently rebuilt in the 18th century to the right of the original site which, perhaps quite understandably, was believed to be unlucky. Today the medieval moat of Broxham Manor is intact, but the building has not survived.

Richard Whittington died in 1423 leaving no heirs. Like the pantomime hero, he had made his fortune in London and in his Will he asked for his great wealth to be used for the benefit of the city. The Whittington Charity still exists today, administering almshouses at Whittington College in Felbridge, Surrey and at Stepney, London.

Geoffrey Bullen was Mayor of London in 1457. He came from a relatively poor

Norfolk family. Despite such humble beginnings and pursuing a career in trade, he married Anne, the daughter and co-heiress of Lord Hoo and Hastings, and rose to become Master of the Mercers' Company.

He was Sheriff of London during the Wars of the Roses, became Mayor of London in 1457 and was knighted. With his social position secured by hard work, by a good marriage and a self-made fortune, Geoffrey purchased Blickling Hall in Norfolk and the Manor and Castle of Hever in Kent in 1462.

Geoffrey Bullen died in 1464. In his Will he left £1,000 to the poor householders of London, and £2,000 to the poor householders in Norfolk (his native county), besides large legacies to the London prisons, lazar houses, and hospitals. Bullen's legacy, however, was more than financial. After his death his estate at Hever passed to his eldest son, Sir William Bullen, who married Margaret, daughter and co-heir to Thomas Butler, Earl of Ormond. The son of this marriage was Thomas Bullen. Thomas held various positions at Court including Ambassador to France 1518/1519, and was married to Elizabeth Howard, the eldest daughter of the Duke of Norfolk. They resided chiefly at Hever. Thomas and Elizabeth had three surviving children from their union, Mary, Anne and George.

Mary married William Carey, Gentleman of the Privy Chamber and Esquire of the Body of King Henry VIII. Her descendants include Lord Horatio Nelson. Anne, as is well recorded, became queen to Henry VIII and mother of Elizabeth I.

William Taylour was Mayor of London from 1468 to 1469 during the reign of Henry VI. He was our 'local boy made good'. The Taylours were a local family and William was born and bred in Edenbridge. Born in 1406, he was christened in Edenbridge Church.

Records show that he was admitted to the Worshipful Company of Grocers between 1428 and 1432, he was Warden from 1452

to 1454 and Master and Alderman 1458 to 1459. He was Master again in 1467. In 1471, Edward IV seized the throne from Henry VI at Barnet and on 21 May that year, William Taylour was knighted. By 1475 he is recorded as Master and Knight and he was Master again from 1483 to 1484. William Taylour died c. August 1483.

Taylour House is located in Edenbridge High Street opposite Ye Olde Crown Inn. It is thought that William had it built in the same year that he became Mayor of London. Today the building appears to be 'back to front'. It was built facing the church with nothing but green space between them. In Tudor times it became the Griffin Inn. The building is now in private ownership. Evidence of the original owner still remains however and if you examine the spandrels above the side (north) entrance to Taylour House, on the left are the cloves and chevron of the Grocers' Company and on the right are the eagles from William Taylour's coat of arms.

John Gresham was Lord Mayor of London from 1547 to 1548 during the reign of Henry VIII. He was born in 1492 at Holt, Norfolk,



John Gresham

courtesy of Gresham College

the youngest son of John Gresham and his wife, Alice. In 1510 he was apprenticed to the London mercer John Middleton, and he was admitted as a member of the Worshipful Company of Mercers in 1517. In December 1519 he was elected to the livery of the company along with his elder brother, William.

In his early years, he was closely associated with his brother, Richard, in the textile trade in the Low Countries. He acted as an agent both for Cardinal Wolsey and Thomas Cromwell. He was Sheriff of London and Middlesex from 1537 to 1538 and was knighted that same year.

Gresham attended the first meeting between Henry VIII and his new bride, Anne of Cleves in January 1540. In December 1541 he was one of the jurors who tried Thomas Culpepper and Francis Dereham for High Treason. Their crime was criminal intimacy with Queen Catherine Howard. Both were condemned and executed.

In 1546 he lent £40,000 to the King and in 1547 he became Lord Mayor of London. He revived the costly tradition of the marching of the watch on the eve of St. John the Baptist, which had been suspended in 1524 by Henry VIII on the grounds that it was too costly. In 1547 he obtained from Henry VIII the hospital of St. Mary Bethlehem (Bedlam) as an asylum for lunatics. In 1555 he founded the Russian Company, which possibly explains how the painting of him, reproduced above, is now residing in the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts in Moscow.

John Gresham's connection with the Eden Valley is through the manor of Stangrave or Edenbridge. In 1540 he was granted the 'manors of Westerham and Edenbridge' for the princely sum of £1,441 19s 7d. He died of a malignant fever in London on 23 October 1556 and is buried at the Church of St. Michael's Bassishaw, London. In his Will he left the 'Mannor of Etonbridge alias Edolnebridge, and the parsonage of the same' to his son William. At that time, the Manor and Rectory of Edenbridge were

valued at £16. Gresham's name lives on in Edenbridge with Greshams Way being named for him.

William Humphreys was Lord Mayor of London from 1714 to 1715. A member of the Ironmongers' Company (formerly called Ferroners), he began his career as an oilman (a person who sold the oil for lamps) and drysalter (a dealer in pickles, dried meats, and sauces) in the appropriately named area of the City called Poultry. He was Sheriff in 1704 and knighted on 26 October that year by Queen Anne. A member of the Ironmongers' Company, he served as Master in 1705 then moved on to become Director of the East India Company from 1711 to 1714. He became Lord Mayor of London in 1714 under George I, the first of five Hanoverian monarchs, was made a baronet and officiated as chief butler at the coronation. From 1715–1722 he was a member of parliament for Marlborough, and he served as Director of the Bank of England at various times between 1719 and 1730.

It was William Humphrey's mayoress who was affronted by the lack of courtesy afforded her by the Princess of Wales, but that is a tale too long and convoluted to include here.

In 1715 William Humphreys purchased Hever Castle from James, 2nd Baron Waldegrave. He died on 26 October 1735 and was buried at St. Mildred in the Poultry. Sir William's son Orlando married his step-sister Ellen Lancashire and inherited the baronetcy and the Hever estate.

What was Whittington's Longhouse? What was the cause of the Black Death? Which Lord Mayor was an ancestor of Admiral Lord Nelson? How did the Princess of Wales upset a Lady Mayoress? And did Richard Whittington really own a cat? Visit the exhibition to find the answers to these questions and many more interesting and amusing facts about the lives and times of our six 'Lord' Mayors.



Greshams Way in Edenbridge

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COMMONWORK

Tell us a Story! Appeal for Local Memories...

Commonwork at Bore Place, near Chiddingstone, has been awarded a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to conduct a project into the heritage of Bore Place with a focus on food, farming and energy use. The project aims to explore and share the history of the site, involving local communities and schools in celebrating the past and looking to the future.

We would like to invite anyone with memories of Bore Place to share them with us and visitors to the site. We would be delighted to hear from anyone, young or old with memories of the house, the farm and immediate surroundings.

Does your family have connections with the site? Are you researching these? Perhaps you visited the farm when at school or maybe you have relations who worked on or visited the farm during the earlier years of the last century?

We would like to hear from anyone with a story to tell, no matter how long or short, or with any other information relating to the past history of the site - photographs, documents, letters etc.

Naturally, all information will be treated in strictest confidence, until agreed otherwise.

For further information about the project or to join us in our memory recall, please contact:
Sue Potter or Nancy Bertenshaw on 01732 463255 x212; suep@commonwork.org

Don't be shy! We look forward to hearing from you.

www.commonwork.org Commonwork, Bore Place, Chiddingstone, Edenbridge Kent TN8 7AR
Reg. charity number 275151



Bore Place Farm House, Nr Chiddingstone, Edenbridge, Kent.



A STONEWALL PARK ADVENTURE

by Richard and Julie Johnson

On a glorious Sunday in May (arguably one of the best days of our rather damp summer) we attended the Museum fundraising lunch at Stonewall Park by kind invitation of Mr & Mrs Valentine Fleming. We must confess to having been rather nervous of the date, being so early in May and having experienced several wet open-air fundraisers for the Museum. How wrong we were. The grounds were at their best with banks of azaleas and rhododendrons inviting exploration of the lake area and wonderful views over distant vistas. As we strolled around with a glass of Pimms we were persuaded by Don Garman to partake in his garden trail competition, there was a prize we were told. Oh dear.....what a mistake!

From our leisurely wanderings things became more frantic, we were due on the gate at a set time, had to partake of Helen and Anna's delicious lunch - and complete the trail.

We must admit to having learnt a little about the grounds whilst following Don's trail, although his left and right left a bit to be desired! All was fine whilst following the trail around the park and formal gardens but once we ventured down into the valley, by a route last used by mountain goats, and fought our way through undergrowth occasionally hearing other people but very rarely meeting up with them, it was a different matter. Yes, we found the caves and answered some of the other questions which escape us now, finally climbing out of the valley via an even steeper route that would probably have felt at home on Ben Nevis! Bear in mind that it was about 80 in the shade during our route march and we felt more like a very large gin and tonic at this stage.

By some amazing fluke we won second prize for the trail, but if you can think of any members that you last saw at the lunch it may be that they are still trying to find their way back to civilization!



EJMT

COWDEN AND THE WEALDEN IRON INDUSTRY

By Michael St Clair Hannah, Editor

One of the more exciting aspects of History is the evidence it provides of times past which, today, is almost hidden. The Iron Industry of the Sussex Weald is a classic example. In the 15th and 16th centuries this industry reached its peak, and most of the cannons and balls, critical to the defeat of the great Spanish Armada, and the Elizabethan voyages of discovery, were forged in this area.

Today the Weald presents a picture of tranquillity, and any industry to be found centres on rural pursuits. Yet 500 years ago a very different picture was presented “a landscape shorn of most of its timber, and blackened by charcoal, clinker and ashes, illumined at night by a fierce red glare, and rendered hazy by day; of the ceaseless roar of the blast, the clanking of iron, the thud and tremor of mighty hammers, and the

nameless noises of many arduous toilers” [1].

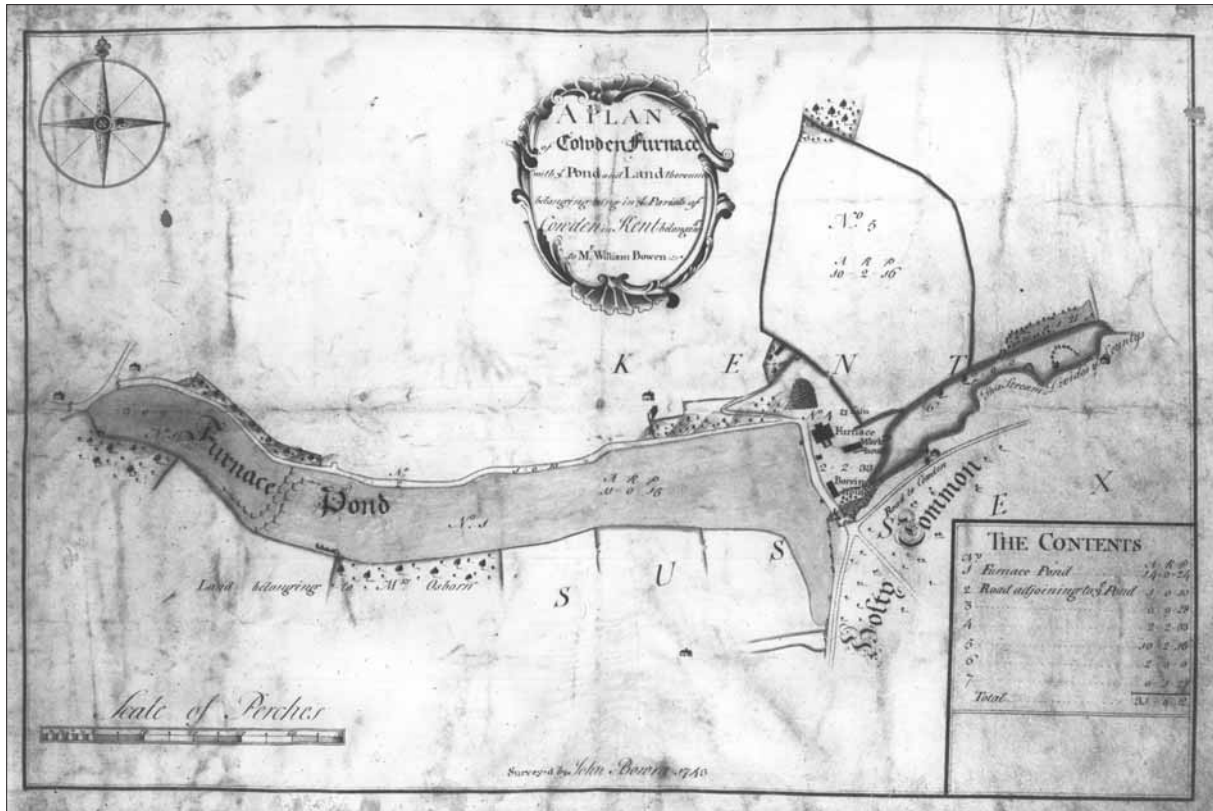
The evidence today of this activity is mainly to be found in place names. For example, Furnace Mill and Furnace Lane in Cowden, and Cansiron Lane and Hammerwood at Holtye. There are also many man-made lakes, mills and caves used in the process.

So how did this massive and important (to the times) industry come to be located in the Sussex Weald? Two key factors were the discovery of large deposits of iron ore, together with an almost inexhaustible supply of wood (charcoal) used in the smelting process. The industry can be traced back to the Stone Age, but reached its peak between 1500 and 1650 when new techniques, developed on the Continent were introduced which used water power to work the bellows, increase the heat of the forges, and ensure a higher percentage of iron ore was smelted. Previously, clay ovens (or ‘bloomeries’) were used to generate the heat for smelting, but these were relatively inefficient and more ‘slag’ was left over during the process.



Cannon forged at Furnace Mill in Cowden now to be found at Crippenden Manor

courtesy of Kate and Neville Darby



courtesy of William Bowen

A Plan of Cowden Furnace kindly supplied by Kate and Neville Darby, current owners of Furnace Mill

The original ironworks at Furnace Mill in Cowden are typical of those to be found in the Wealden area. The following map shows its location and most of the key features defining an ironworks. The map is one of the earliest of its kind, produced by a local surveyor named John Bowers. The measurements shown are in Acres [A], Rods [R] and Perches [P], which may take many of our readers back to their school-days.

Furnace Mill was originally owned by the Tichbourne family now of Crippenden manor, who were well-known Iron masters during the 16th and 17th centuries. The water supply to power the mill was mainly supplied by the Kent stream which formed the border between Sussex and Kent. The river was dammed at Scarlett's Mill and Furnace Mill, and the iron masters houses and hammerponds are still there.

The decline of the Wealden iron industry started when coal was discovered and harnessed in the Midlands, Wales and north of England. Just prior to this, statutes were

introduced to limit deforestation. The last Sussex furnace was in Ashburnam, and closed in 1828.

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WILLIAM BOWEN Map of Furnace at Cowden, Kent Archives Office, Maidstone

KATE AND NEVILLE DARBY Several photographs and references

FROM A WOODEN SPOON TO A FOSSIL SEA URCHIN.

by Helen Jackman

A varied selection of artifacts depicting the rich community life of our town and villages have been added to the collection during the past year, with temporary exhibitions a particularly rich source. Following the Sports Exhibition we were given a number of items of interest to sports enthusiasts. The largest contribution followed the closure of Edenbridge Bowling Club and included memorabilia, uniform and badges worn by the members and a large book of photographs and newspaper cuttings tracing the history of the club from 1921 to 2006. Amongst this 'haul' was a long handled wooden spoon with inscribed brass plates, the trophy for the Ladies v Gents matches held in the 1980's – one can imagine the discussion which must have taken place in committee when they decided what would be a suitable trophy for this annual event!

Minute books and ledgers yield a wealth of information about local activities and characters. A 1930's ledger of sales and purchases at Tonbridge Market, carried out by Fox and Manwaring, supplies an interesting reminder of those farming locally at the time. A leather bound minute book from Four Elms Chapel includes the programme for their 150th anniversary in 1981 and a note signed by Clementine Churchill on the death of Sir Winston. Yet another ledger relates to farms and land owned by Boons Park, Four Elms.

The area which continues to grow most rapidly is the photographic archive with its



scenes of the Eden Valley and local people at work and leisure. A studio photograph of Mrs Hastie-Kennedy provided a valuable link with the ledger from Boons Park and her memory has been revived by research undertaken by Sheila Summers-Asquez.

Born Theresa Stanfield Williams, daughter of John and Mary Stanfield Williams of Eaton Square, London and Boons Park she was a benefactor to the villages of Four Elms and Toys Hill throughout her life. Buried at Four Elms Parish Church in January 1939 (aged 89) she left money to the Four Elms Clothing Fund and for the local children to receive a Christmas gift of an orange, a bun and sixpence. This custom was carried on until the 1960's. She also

bequeathed nineteen acres to the National Trust; one and a half acres of land for a recreation ground and money for Mansion House (now called Dunmore) to be built as a holiday home for the clergy with an endowment of £400,000. Although it was the idea of Mr Faudel-Phillips to build a village hall in Four Elms Mrs Hastie-Kennedy helped with securing the land and with furnishing the building. Not surprisingly at her funeral the vicar referred to her as 'Lady Bountiful' and on her tomb it reads 'A woman of good deeds'.

And finally not all our donations are unearthed by humans! We were happy to receive the fossil of a sea urchin, which was found by the donor's dog in a field bordering the River Eden. This will now join our archaeological specimens in the Buttery.



all images by EVM

Changes at MLA

MLA South East has now closed to be replaced with a new national MLA which will be setting up a new integrated regional team with staff appointed to cover the South East. The new South East regional team will be led by Sam Bestwick, Director of Engagement (East). There will be two Regional Managers in the South East and two Area Engagement Advisors covering the South East, East Midlands and East of England. Museums in the region will still be able to call on the Museums Development Service for grants.

New Rota Organiser

In November 2008 we welcomed Lesley Martin as a new member of the Eden Valley Museum Trust and as a new volunteer taking on the role of Rota Organiser. Joan breathed a sigh of relief when handing this task over. Lesley's contact details are:

Tel. 01732 862761;

Email: lesleyjmartin@tiscali.co.uk

Publicity

Close collaboration and sharing of archival material with Hever Castle has raised our public profile and increased the number of visitor referrals at both sites. We have also developed a good relationship with many members of the local press who kindly include details of our exhibitions and events in their publications. Also Parish Magazine editors, whose support is invaluable in spreading the word about museum activities and events. We also advertise on the internet, and in November 2008 Sandy Hopper kindly agreed to take on the task of uploading details of museum activities to the various sites that provide online forms. We are always interested to add to our avenues for publicity, so if you know of a publication or website that you think we should be including, please send the details to:

curator@evmt.org.uk

Raise money for the museum when you search or shop online

Don't forget that you can raise money for the museum when you search or shop online by registering for free with the

www.easyfundraising.org.uk

website and nominating the Eden Valley Museum Trust as the charity you wish to support. Every time you search or buy something online the museum will receive a donation from the advertisers or suppliers at no cost to you.

New Research Tool

Edenbridge – An Index of People and Places 1200 – 1851.

DVD Researched and Compiled by Lionel Cole. Published by the North West Kent Family History Society. Available from the museum. Price £10.

Situation (STILL) Vacant

Rosemary Millen, a long-serving museum volunteer has kindly taken on the role of Minute Secretary to the Executive Board, but we still need someone to take on the other responsibilities of:

Secretary to the Executive Comm.

The secretary is one of the three elected officers on the Executive and a charity trustee, so has the opportunity to get fully involved with the success of the museum by contributing to its leadership, policies and activities.

The position requires attendance at 5/6 evening meetings per year and a time commitment of about 8 -10 hours per month. The commitment is for a year with renewal at the AGM, but co-option can take place at any time.

This is an important, but not very time-consuming role. Please contact Helen Jackman 01732 862064 to learn more about the duties.

DIGITAL ARCHIVE PROJECT

Throughout the spring and summer of 2008 Joan Varley, Lyn Layland, Rosemary Millen and Jan Lewis were engaged in the Digital Archive Project, scanning c.2500 images from the museum collections. The project, made possible through a Museum Development Fund (MDF) Grant facilitated by MLA – Museums, Libraries and Archives South East, was officially completed on 30th September, but the scanning of photographs is a never-ending story. As fast as we were scanning the existing collection, hundreds more photographs were being donated to the museum collections. Therefore the scanning and storing of images on DVD and off-site backups will continue to be another ongoing task undertaken by museum staff and volunteers.



MG1-036 - Loaned by Ken Cooper

Rose Steer with her sister Hilda, or a friend, walking up Four Elms Road towards Skinners Lane. c1920s

A FEW GEMS FROM THE ARCHIVES:



Black and white postcard showing the cottages on the road leading to Cowden Station, c. 1900-1905. The postcard is addressed to: Miss Ethel Bliss, Ealing,

EDEVT P2001.1.72 - Donated by Alan Dell



Black and white postcard showing Edenbridge High Street looking north from the Crown, c.1907.

EDEVT P2001.1.9 - Donated by Alan Dell



Black and white postcard showing The Square, Edenbridge including Weavers General Store and the King & Queen Public House. You can see the old gas lamps outside the shop on the right, c.1911. Addressed to Miss Newich, Swaylands, Lower Farm, Penshurst.

EDEVT P2001.1.11 - Donated by Alan Dell

MORE GEMS FROM THE ARCHIVES:



Left:
Sepia print of John Leigh in the vegetable garden at Stonelake Cottages, Chiddingstone Causeway. Taken sometime between 1870 and 1900.

EDEVT P2003.736 - Donated by Mrs M. Grant, Edenbridge.

Right:
Black and white print of Winnie and Lily Watson, the daughters of Harry Watson, hoop maker. Linnets were kept in the cages in the photo. Water for these cottages was collected from the pond opposite. Photograph taken at The Row, Marlpit Hill in about 1890.



Facing Page:
Black and white photograph of Mr Blackman's sweet shop in Edenbridge with horse and cart outside (now the NatWest Bank) Mr & Mrs Blackman standing in the doorway, c.1908.

EDEVT P2003.736 - Donated by Mrs B. Milsted, Edenbridge



EDEVT P2003.786 - Donated by Mrs L Leslie, Marchamlifern,
Boston, Lincs

EXHIBITIONS 2008

March saw the opening of Joan's first exhibition, 'A Tudor Drama',

It was great for Jane to have someone else to take the lead. Originally intended to tell



EYMT

the story of the Tudor era through text and images, we were fortunate to be able to borrow theatrical costumes and mannequins from the Oast Theatre in Tonbridge which brought the characters of Henry VIII and his six wives to life; Tudor coins from the Tunbridge Wells Museum and Joan's mother loaned us two historical models she had made of Henry VIII and Elizabeth I based on a book of historical patterns published in Tunbridge Wells. The exhibition proved a great success and although we had to return the dummies to the Oast Theatre before Heritage Open Days we were able to keep the costumes for dressing up sessions. As time permits, this exhibition is being reformatted for an outreach folder.

Schooldays

The major exhibition in 2008 was 'Schooldays' an idea which came from and was put together by the Research Group. Rightly or wrongly I chose to include all the schools we knew about in the area. Rightly; because there was interest in every one of them and wrongly because I ended up with so much material to display, much of it coming in at the last minute that it took a further six weeks of work to display it all satisfactorily and to fulfil the aim to be all inclusive.

Schooldays charted the history of local

schools past and present, both state and private and was spread over two galleries on the first floor. Items loaned for display included arts and crafts, sports cups, uniforms and lots and lots of photographs of individuals, groups and school performances. The steel drum used in the Eden Valley Steel Band proved very popular with children and adults, and some 'interesting' messages were left on the 'toy' chalk board. The exhibition ran until we closed in December and now begins the task of dismantling it and returning all of the items loaned. It will be made available in book form in the High Street Bedroom.



EYMT

‘Our River’

October saw the launch of the ‘Our River’ exhibition, looking back at the floods of 1958 and 1968. This replaced the Tudor Drama Exhibition in the Buttery & Pantry. Stephen Coates, Claire Donithorn and artist Ann Smith worked with Jane on this exhibition. Hever Castle mounted a short exhibition about the floods and we received a very quick mention on BBC South East News at the end of an item publicising their displays. We had many referrals from Hever to visit our exhibition and they from ours. Two of the most funny or scary stories caused some concerns during a school visit, prior to which we had to remove images of spiders, having been pre-warned that one of the children was an arachnophobe. Two visitors from the Environment Agency were very impressed and are keen to have copies of some of the photos and the Floods DVD, kindly loaned by P. Winchester. This has proved very popular with visitors and Mr



EYMT

Winchester has kindly allowed us to make further copies for sale.

Exhibitions Costs and Resources

New material for mounting exhibitions does have to be purchased where necessary but recycled paper, card, foam board and timber from former displays is used whenever possible. The quality of the displays is also enhanced by being able to print the photographs at Topfoto for which we have not been charged. Backing material has also been donated which keeps costs as low as possible.

In an attempt to keep down postal costs, Joan uses email and the Internet whenever possible to send out publicity notices and to communicate with members. For those members not on email, some post is delivered by hand, but often it is quicker and cheaper than using petrol to pop these notices in the post.

Jane and Joan are both contracted to work 10 hours per week, however even without exhibitions this would be insufficient time to run the museum efficiently. Add on the additional hours needed to research and prepare exhibitions and, even with the help of our many willing volunteers, Jane and Joan consistently contribute at least as many hours again on a voluntary basis as they are paid to work.

DONATIONS IN KIND

We should like to acknowledge the generosity of a Weybridge company who have very kindly donated computers for use in the galleries and the office.

Also many thanks to the following for their support and donations throughout 2008

Chiddingstone P C

Churchill Trust

Cowden P C

Edenbridge Bonfire Society

Gough-Cooper Charitable Trust

Great Stone Bridge Trust

Mrs Harrington

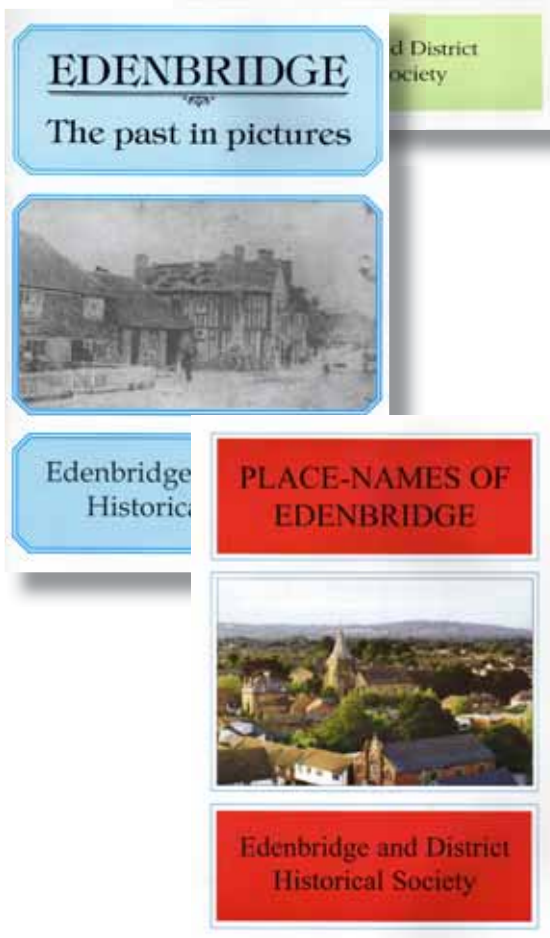
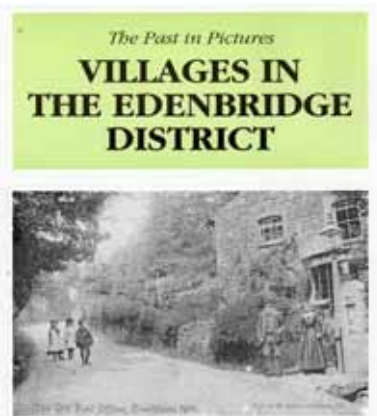
Hever P C

Patrons at the Royal Oak, Crockham Hill

Stonewall Park Trust

REPRINTS FROM THE EDENBRIDGE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NOW AVAILABLE IN THE
MUSEUM SHOP



2009 EXHIBITIONS AND DISPLAYS

**Edenbridge Twinning Association
Exhibition, in the Courtyard
Bedroom**

**Extended run for 3 weeks from
Saturday 9 May - Sunday 7 June
for visiting “Twinners” from
France.**



When the opportunity was mentioned by Jane of showing its activities to visitors to the Museum it seemed most appropriate and the

New Year timing fitted well to announce the Twinning events of 2009.

The Association has been in place for over 35 years now and still making regular visits to France and receiving guests to the local area. As with all groups we welcome new interest in our activities and living in the Edenbridge and District, Mont St. Aignan in Normandy is your Twin Town. No membership fees are required.

Although I have been joining in the Twinning Association's activities for the over ten years and increasingly over the past few years, it came as quite a revelation when researching the material for the Exhibition, to find just how inventive and numerous were the events which have taken place.

Were you around to see the Pram Race from Edenbridge to Mont St. Aignan in France? Did you know that on the 50th Anniversary of D Day, the French of Mont St. Aignan gave a large plaque full of signatures thanking the English for their wartime help?

Enquiries to Jean Cust (Hon. Sec. EDTA) at 01342 850249 or visit www.edta.org.uk

LONDON CONNECTIONS

London Connections is the overall theme of three exhibitions at the Eden Valley Museum during 2009. March 18 will see the opening of 'Royal Connections' and 'Lord Mayors'.

Royal Connections will explore the lives of Anne Boleyn and Anne of Cleves, both of whom are connected to the Eden Valley through Hever Castle; Elizabeth I, daughter of Anne Boleyn and a frequent visitor to Penshurst Place; and the Hon. Patrick Bowes-Lyon, the uncle of the late Queen Mother, Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon and the Great-uncle of Queen Elizabeth II, who lived at Skeynes Park from 1896 to abt.1918.

Lord Mayors will explore the connections between six 'Lord' Mayors of London and the Eden Valley including, John de Pulteney, Richard (Dick) Whittington, Geoffrey Bullen (Boleyn), William Taylour, John Gresham and William Humphreys. Edenbridge Library will be preparing a display about the 'Lord' Mayors to coincide with the first month that the exhibition is running.

'The Great Migration'

June will see the opening of the summer exhibition entitled 'The Great Migration' – this is the great migration into Edenbridge that began in the late 1950s with the building of Stangrove Estate and 10 years later the Spitals Cross Estate.

*Aerial view of Edenbridge industrial estate, bottom left is the new development of the town while the agricultural land beyond is untouched.
15 September 1962*

Photo by: John Topham / TopFoto



Art Exhibition and Competition Sponsored by The Edenbridge Book Shop

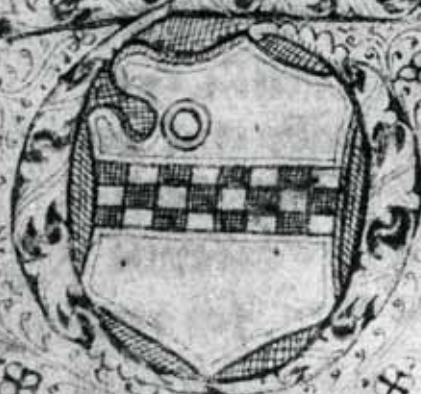
Wed. 4 April – Sat. 2 May

Closing date for entries: Sat 28 March.

The subject chosen for this year's competition is 'My Home, to go with the exhibition planned for June 2009 – The Great Migration. Anything goes – be creative! Paintings, pastels, drawings and sculpture are all included. All of the children's work will be displayed during a special event in Rickards Hall on Saturday 4 April for which there will be a 50p entry charge, and refreshments will be available. Winners from the Children's competition will be displayed in the museum along with the adult entries for a month. Adult entries will be judged by Visitor Vote and children's entries by a panel of judges.

2010 Plans

Plans are already in place to celebrate the museum's 10th birthday plus a display on the social history of Doggetts Farm latterly known as Church House.



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