

Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre

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DE314

RECORDS OF CHATHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1950-1991

DE314 Deposited on permanent loan to Rochester-upon-Medway City Council by Mr. H. G. B. Coast, President of Chatham Historical Society 15 Nov. 1993

INTRODUCTION

Chatham Historical Society was established largely due to the initiative of Alderman James Presnail of Chatham Borough Council in 1950, following discussion led by him in council meetings in the period 1949-1950. Initially, the organisation was called Chatham and District Historical Society.

Shortly thereafter Presnail became the author of what remains the principal modern local history of Chatham, "Chatham: the Story of a Dockyard Town and the Birthplace of the British Navy" published by the Borough Council in 1952. So it may be seen that the young society had as its founder not only a leading member of the local authority but a committed and enthusiastic local historian.

Perhaps by coincidence, the same period had seen Alderman Richard Brain, himself an avid collector of books and manuscripts and a student of local history and of the Royal Navy and British history generally, bequeath his book and manuscript collection to the neighbouring Rochester City Council, following personal disgruntlement with Borough Council affairs. It is possible that some citizens of Chatham resolved following the Brain episode to strengthen Chatham's hold on its own historical self-expression.

It was clearly intended that the new Historical Society should enjoy the full support and sponsorship of the Borough Council and to this end the Council as Library Authority permitted the society to meet free of charge at the Borough Library in New Road, Chatham. Close contact was also maintained throughout with the Mayor's office to maintain symbolic and no doubt practical municipal interest in the society and to foster good relations between society members and councillors, especially as the society on occasion acquired the character of an advisory body or even pressure group in respect of civic amenities.

The connection with Chatham Borough Library was represented much of the time by the inclusion in the society of the Borough Librarian, initially George Lindsay and then I.G.R. Stacey, who served as the first Hon. Secretaries and whose correspondence one suspects dovetailed with their routine professional work in dealing with council colleagues and the public. Latterly, the office of Hon. Secretary seems to have been assumed by non-Local Authority members of the society.

In no way could Chatham Historical Society have been described as parochial. In the first attempt at formulating their aims and objectives, the society agreed that their primary geographical area of interest should be the "Medway Towns and the immediate surrounding district" (/01 pp.1-2). Similarly, the society invited speakers on a wide variety of subjects not all associated with the Medway towns or Chatham and visited locations further afield in Kent. Also of special interest is the society's correspondence with counterparts in the USA (/15/22-23) and Valenciennes, France (/10/83-84).

Other objects of significance were specifically history and archaeology in relation to their chosen geographical area and the explicit aim of pursuing activities which were both indoor and outdoor (/01/f.2) Compare the objects of Chatham Historical Society with those of the Rochester Book Society, collection 9S at this Centre.

The Collection

The records consist of minute books, financial accounts and secretary's correspondence files, with some photographs.

The collection commends itself to historical research partly by virtue of the coverage of important archaeological, architectural and historical subjects of local and wider relevance and correspondence with well qualified experts in their fields and partly because officers of the society like the Crawshaws provided reputable and sound information based on familiarity with source material or personal knowledge in their correspondence.

The records have been arranged according to obvious record series, some organic overlap occurring however between correspondence and loose financial accounts in the correspondence files.

Apparent overlap between correspondence files probably results from the informal record keeping of successive secretaries. Researchers should take care to cross-refer between different files in case correspondence has been separated.

CONTENTS

<i>Minute Books 1950-1988</i>	1-2
<i>Attendance Register 1950-1971</i>	3
<i>Membership Applications 1950-1957</i>	4
<i>Secretary's Correspondence 1950-1991</i>	5-27
<i>Loose Financial Accounts 1952-1973</i>	28-31
<i>Society's Working Papers [1940] 1951-1982</i>	31A-34
<i>Loose Enclosures 1956-1983</i>	35-37

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY (all sources at this Centre)

For a fuller catalogue please ask staff for access to the computerised library catalogue and manual card index to authors, subjects and places

- The Motor Bus Services of Kent and East Sussex- A Brief History Eric Baldock 1985 qY388.322
- Chatham: the Story of a Dockyard Town and the Birthplace of the British Navy J. Presnail 1952 CHA.942
- Chatham and Gillingham in Old Photographs P. MacDougall 1989 CHA.942 MAC
- Chatham Long Ago and Now! Rev. S.D. Scammell FRGS 1903 CHA.942 SCA
- An Account of the Dreadful Fire at Chatham, 3rd March 1820 W. Jefferys 1821 (CHA.361.46)
- An Account of the Fire at Chatham, 30th June 1800 W. Jefferys 1801 (CHA.361.56)
- Charles Dickens' Childhood M. Allen 1988 (Dickens Collection)
- The Childhood and Youth of Charles Dickens Robert Langton 1912) (Dickens Collection)
- Pamphlets on Chatham and Rochester Philosophical and Literary Institution 1828-1829 (CHA.106)
- Brain Collection : Catalogue available from local studies section at this Centre: Please ask staff
- A Business History of Chatham High Street 1838-1961 Frederick Sanders c.1961 4 volumes (KD50.01. HIG)
- Chatham 100: a Complete Directory of Councillors, Aldermen and Mayors of the Borough of Chatham 1890-1974 R. Foster 1990 CHA.352
- Historic Architecture of Chatham Dockyard 1700-1850 J. Coad CHA.359 COA
- Guide to Chatham c.1900 (2 copies) Anonymous CHA. 914
- The Album of Chatham and Rochester Views c.1900 Anonymous CHA.942.23
- The History of St. Mary's Church, Chatham E. Harris 1978 CHA.942.23HAR
- Official Guides and Handbooks, Borough of Chatham 1930s-1960s CHA.914
- The Pictorial Guide to Chatham: a Handbook for Residents and Visitors Anonymous c.1850 CHA.914

Ask also for the Local Studies Picture File series for Chatham

The Medway Megaliths B. Philp & M. Dutto 1985

The Naval Collection of printed books, periodicals and ephemera previously held at Chatham Library contains material formerly comprising the library of the Crawshaw family who appear in the records listed below.

OTHER ARCHIVAL SOURCES AT THIS CENTRE

Chatham, St. Mary parish records 1568-	P85
Other Chatham parishes in Rochester Rural Deanery- please see manual and computerised parish records listings	P85/B-H
Chatham Local Board of Guardians 1802-1955	LBG
Medway Board of Guardians 1835-1930	G/Me
Chatham Borough Council 1890-1974 Manor of Chatham 1756-1890	CBA CBA/MNR
Pinn family scrapbook 1795-1817	DE284
Best family of Boxley and Chatham, family, estate and brewery business records 1596-1905	U480
Hospital of Sir John Hawkins Kt. in Chatham (1500)1594-1987	CH108
North Aylesford Petty Sessions 1754-1976	PS/NA
Bundle of miscellaneous documents accumulated by Mr. Fordham, librarian at Chatham, 1950s-1970s containing: title deed 1696, numerous domestic letters 18th.-19th. centuries, rent of Hollingbourne Windmill 1833-1834, Chatham parochial administration especially lighting, paving and cleansing 19th. century, timber in Rainham early 19th. century, correspondents inc. Sir R. Peel, Sir G. Grey, Sir J. Beresford, General H. Innes, Lady E. Tufton, Admiral C. Beresford and Lt. Gen. G. Benson; inc. poems	DE411 P85 CBA/MNR

Minute Books

1950-1988

/01 Minute book 1950-1958

Inc. at front, transcription of Chatham Borough Council minutes for 10 Oct. 1949, 6 Feb. 1950 and 1 March 1950 relating to Cllr. J. Presnail's proposal for a Chatham Historical Society, its approval and the authorisation for meetings to be held at Chatham Library at no charge.

Inc. outline of society's objects, (/01/pp.1-3.)

Inc. constitution (/01/pp. 8-10)

Inc. account of visit to St. Mary's Church, Chatham, noting the different epochs of church buildings, the ancient Greek marble slab bearing an effigy of the goddess Euphrosyne c.400BC and talk given by Canon E. E. Maples Earle MA 29 June 1950

(/01) Inc. annual financial statements, passim

Inc. resolution asking Chatham Borough Council to mark historical sites in Chatham 26 April 1951

Inc. list of historical sites in Chatham desired to be marked 30 May 1951 (/01/p.52)

Inc. account of a visit to Grain Church, in which "a few of the adventurous climbed into the belfry whilst others tried ringing the four bells", 28 June 1951 (/01/pp.57-58)

(/01) Inc. report of a talk by A.C. Holliday of Rochester Dickens Fellowship on Charles Dickens' connections with the Medway Towns, 1 Nov. 1951 (/01/pp.73-75)

(/01) [See /35 for removed loose enclosures]

1 vol./ 163pp.

/02 Minute book 1958-1988

Inc. front index, apparently mainly to membership.

Inc. annual financial statements, passim

(/02) Inc. resolution asking Rochester City Council to reconsider proposals to move Dickens' Chalet at Eastgate House Museum, Rochester to the Esplanade, Rochester, as vandalism at latter site is feared, 7 April 1977 (/02/p.112)

(/02) [See /36 for removed loose enclosures]

1 vol./ 191pp. used

Attendance Register

1950-1971

Attendance Register

1950-1971

Ad hoc volume containing in front section signatures of members attending dated meetings, giving also name of meeting and any subjects discussed 1950-1971 and at rear, section of pasted-in newscuttings from local press, reporting society activities also 1950-1971

Inc. cuttings from Chatham Observer and Chatham News reporting John Turner's talk to society on historical Luton, 8 Feb. 1952

(/03) Inc. cuttings reporting death of George S.D. Lindsay, Chatham Borough Librarian from Chatham Observer and Chatham News 13 June 1952

Inc. cuttings reporting death of Sydney K. Turner of 10 Nelson Tce., Luton, discoverer of Upnor Elephant, Chatham Standard and South Eastern Gazette 30 June 1953, Chatham Observer and Chatham News 3 July 1953

Inc. cutting with photograph of James Crawshaw, retiring head of Electrical Engineering Dept., HM Dockyard, Chatham Evening Post 20 July 1970

[See /37 for removed loose enclosures]

1 vol./ c.80pp.

Membership Applications

1950-1957

(/04) Completed membership application forms arranged in alphabetical order by surname, also giving addresses. Some forms at front are out of order.

(/04) 1 folder/c.80pp.

Hon. Secretary's Correspondence Files**1950-1991**

G.S.D. Lindsay's correspondence file as Hon. Secretary, mainly arranging talks, attendance at meetings and joint arrangements with umbrella bodies or other amenity groups.

1950-1951

Inc. agenda passim

Inc. letter from Sydney K. Turner of 10 Nelson Tce., Luton declining an invitation and signing-off with verse:

"Over forty years did I in danger toil
on ships & guns
Now have I reverted to the soil
to end my days and share the spoil" 14 July 1950

Inc. letter from S.T. Ryan of 36 Watling Street, Gillingham declining an invitation due to ill health, describing his length of service at H.M. Dockyard, Chatham and covering two newscuttings containing verses by himself entitled "in silent hours" and "a programme for prospective peregrinators" both about HM Dockyard, Chatham, 14 July 1950

Inc. programme for tour of HM Dockyard, Chatham with accompanying historical remarks by S.T. Ryan and TS transcription of his notes, mentioning Pembroke Gate, Charles Dickens, Old Pembroke Gate, Bascule Bridge, giant crane, numbered docks, Upnor entrance, building slips, smithery, old and new sawmills and HMS Victory, July 1950

Inc. letter from Miss O. Grover, Hon. Secretary Kent Council of Social Service, County Local History Committee inviting affiliation, 31 Aug. 1950

Inc. report of talk given by Cllr. G.W. Pagett MA on "the English school in Dickens" 28 Sep. 1950

Inc. letter from John H. Evans, joint editor, Kent Archaeological Society requesting collaboration in advising the Ministry of Town & Country Planning on preparing a list of buildings of special architectural and historic interest in Chatham and suggesting Ald. J. Presnail's involvement, 24 Jan. 1951

Inc. letter-headed letter from R.A Scott of W. & S. Scott Ltd., timber importers, High Street, Chatham covering W. Woollett's paper on tradesmen's tokens (q.v.) and discussing public footpaths at Rochester Airport and Horsted Farm,

6 Feb. 1951

Inc. report of talk given by Sydney K. Turner on "the story of Upnor" from ancient times to 1913 and the Upnor Elephant, 22 Feb. 1951

(/05) Inc. membership lists passim

1 folder/c.200pp.

/06

Correspondence[1949-]
1951-1952

G.S.D. Lindsay's correspondence as Hon. Secretary and Chatham Borough Librarian, with members, suppliers, Chatham Borough Council and others, discussing members' interests, members' activities and society's group visits and submissions on their views about local amenities.

(/06)

Inc. circular from Kent Council of Social Service, County Local History Committee as distributed to local authority librarians and others, covering list of contact names and addresses for local history and archaeological societies in Kent 22 June 1949 (/06/pp.81-82)

Inc. promotional literature from Charles Sunderland, 35 Ellerman Ave., Twickenham, Middx., for his "Sundex" process for laminating i.e. plasticising paper, to Lindsay, accompanied by sample and scale of prices, 2 Oct. 1950 (/06/pp.78-80)

(/06)

Inc. letter from Chatham Borough Treasurer to Ald. J. Presnail covering list of Chatham Parish Poor Rate books in Borough Treasurer's store 1684-1831 [see also list of Chatham Borough Archives CBA and Chatham Parish records P85/P085] 13 July 1951 (/06/pp.76-77)

Inc. correspondence between secretary and Rowland Newnes, Town Clerk of Chatham, about establishing existing and former Public Rights of Way pursuant to National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 Jan.-June 1951 (/06/pp.65-75 passim)

Inc. winter session events circular, Gillingham and Rainham Local History Group 1951-1952 (/06/p.63)

(/06)

Inc. black and white photograph of group of four men and one woman examining architecture of medieval ribbed vaulted chamber, probably undercroft, possibly in Rochester High Street, much rubble and timber at their feet, c.1951

220mm x 165mm (IS) (10" x 8") Kent Messenger (/06/p.62)

Inc. membership list c.1951 (/06/p.57)

Inc. illustrated printed brochure from Maidstone & District Motor Services advertising private hire service 1952 (/06/item 50)

Inc. correspondence with Rowland Newnes, Clerk of Chatham Town Council, Sir Howard Roberts Clerk of London County Council and Doulton & Co. Ltd., Albert Embankment, London SE1 about plaques for

(/06) historic sites in Chatham May 1951- April 1952
(/06/pp.17-34)

1 folder/84pp./items

/07 Correspondence file of G.S.D. Lindsay, Borough Librarian, as Hon. Secretary, mainly with potential talkers, venues, voluntary bodies, suppliers and others, about excursions and talks. 1951-1952

(07) Inc. agenda, minutes, press reports on outings and talks, statements of account with National Provincial Bank Ltd., Chatham and Maidstone & District Motor Services Ltd. accounts for excursions, passim

1 folder/c.200pp.

/08 Letters from members to I.G.R. Stacey, Hon. Secretary accepting invitations to visit Owletts, Cobham and Cobham College, Cobham July 1952

1 bundle/5 items

/09 Hon. Secretary's file containing letters of apology from members for non-attendance at meetings, correspondence with outside bodies and suppliers arranging excursions and visits, agenda and minutes and press releases describing society's activities 1952-1953

Inc. membership nomination forms passim

Inc. correspondence with Hugh S. Wharton, Dep. Governor of Hawkins' Hospital, Chatham, arranging society visit June 1952, with report of combined visit to St. Bartholomew's Hospital Chapel, Chatham/Rochester and Hawkins' Hospital, 27 June 1952

/09) Inc. black and white postcard photograph of Southsea Pier, Hants., from E.C. Paine, offering apologies 16 Aug. 1952

1 folder/c.75pp.

/10 I.G.R. Stacey's correspondence file as Hon. Secretary, discussing bookings for speakers, society's group visits to locations and general historical enquiries. 1955-1957

Inc. Hon. Secretary's reports passim

10) Inc. letter from Rowland Newnes, Town Clerk of Chatham to Stacey suggesting society should establish contact with Valenciennes Historical Society, 27 Jan. 1956 (/10/133)

Inc. letter from Stacey informing J.A.D. Bootiman, chairman, of Chatham, of Town Clerk's suggestion as above and saying "to what purpose I cannot imagine.....I fail to see why the Town Clerk requires any correspondence to be sent through him. Unless, of course, he intends to amend or re-write our correspondence to suit himself, and, believe me, it would not be the first time that has been done", 31 Jan. 1956 (/10/132)

(/10) Inc. correspondence with Mrs. Marjorie Brain, "Lamorna", 111 Burnt Oak Lane, Sidcup about her edition of the memoirs of her ancestor Charles Newnham in connection with Charles Dickens, Czar Nicholas of Russia, George Stoddard (later Willis') mill in Ordnance Place, Chatham and the Best and Plaw families of Chatham, the latter family of Gibraltar Hotel, Chatham, March-April 1956 (/10/100-109)

Inc. letter in French with translation to M. Paul Lefrancq, President of Cercle Archæologique et Historique de Valenciennes, Valenciennes, France, explaining about the society and offering a warm welcome to their members when in Chatham, 6 June 1956 (/10/83-84)

Inc. correspondence with Sir Alfred C. Bossom Bt., MP attempting to arrange a group visit to his home, "Stoneacre", Otham May-June 1956 (/10/80-82)

(/10) Inc. annual accounts passim

1 folder/140pp./items

/11 Correspondence file of I.G.R. Stacey, Borough Librarian, as Hon. Secretary, chiefly about membership matters, arranging visits and amenities. 1953-1956

Inc. annual society accounts and accounts with Maidstone & District Motor Services, passim

(11) Inc. correspondence with H.D. Peake, Borough Engineer & Surveyor, Chatham Borough Council seeking society's views on improving signposting tourist attractions on behalf of British Travel and Holidays Assoc., culminating in advice by society for St. Bartholomew's Chapel, Chatham/Rochester and Hawkins' Hospital, Chatham as deserving of attention, Aug.-Oct.1953

(11) Inc. printed pamphlets entitled "Digging for History at Holborough: Holborough Cement Works near Snodland, Kent" and "Holborough Works: Holborough, near Snodland, Kent" containing illustrated articles on archaeological excavations, both reprinted from The Blue Circle Magazine Oct. & Jan. 1953 respectively, with covering letter from B. Buxton, General Manager, APCM Ltd., Holborough Works, Snodland to Ald. A. Stanley-Price, "Abertawe", 18 The Ridgeway, Chatham 19 Sep. 1955.

1 folder/c.150pp.

/12 Correspondence file of J.A.D. Bootiman, Chairman and Mrs. D.E. Bootiman, Hon. Secretary of Melita, Cambridge Road, Wigmore 1958

Inc. correspondence with Lt. Col. G.W. Meates FSA, The Lake Flat, Lullingstone Castle, Eynsford arranging (and following-up) visit to Lullingstone Roman villa mentioning Meates' "very successful year in your discoveries at the villa" 26 April and 2 May 1958 (/12/pp.63 & 81)

(12) Inc. correspondence with L.R.A. Grove FSA FRES Curator of Maidstone Museums and Art Gallery, St. Faith's Street, Maidstone arranging a visit. Grove states "the Museum Committee has given us a burglar-and fire- alarm system" and explaining his working arrangements, 19 & 25 April 1958 (/12/pp.66 & 72)

Inc. stencil typescript with pencilled marginalia from unattributed source, comprising anecdotal histories of Chatham and Rochester with covering letter from D.E. Bell, Mayor's Secretary, Chatham Town Hall, 8 May 1958 (pp.39-50) Inc. correspondence with Dr. Felix Hull and Elizabeth Melling of Kent Archives Office, County Hall, Maidstone arranging a group

(12) visit, 1 May, 6 Aug. and 2 Sep. 1958
(/12pp/28-29)

1 folder/88pp./items

- /13 Correspondence file of Mrs. G. Crawshaw, Hon. Secretary, 96 Maidstone Road, Chatham, chiefly with speakers arranging talks, with members on membership matters, suppliers e.g. Maidstone & District Motor Services, voluntary groups, amenity bodies and private individuals enquiring after local historical information. 1966-1973
- Inc. annual accounts passim
- Inc. letter from Michael Syddell, Hon. Secretary, LMARG, of 32 Uplands Close, Strood discussing the photographic recording of Cherry Tree Hall, Chatham, stating "it is nice to hear of a council recording such a building before it is demolished, even if only with photographs!", 5 June 1967 (/13/154)
- (/13) Inc. correspondence with Sir John Best-Shaw, Bt., of Boxley Abbey, arranging a group visit to Boxley Abbey, 1966-1967 (/13/142-152)
- Inc. correspondence with Maj. R.W. Edmeades of Nursted Court, Meopham arranging a group visit to his home, May-July 1967 (/13/135-138)
- Inc. printed, illustrated brochure advertising Cliffe Flower and Music Festival June-July 1968, containing brief history of the church and parish, 1968 (/13/78)
- Inc. winter programme, Gillingham and Rainham Local History Group 1967-1968, 1967 (/13/69)
- (/13) Inc. correspondence with C.E. Cuncer of The Small House, St. Paul's Cray discussing amendments for his revision of the Chatham section in Arthur Mee's book "The King's England: Kent" [new edition fully revised 1969, copy in Local Studies collection ref. Y9142MEE] mentioning Stephen Borough, the ancient Greek inscription and monumental inscriptions in St. Mary's Church, Hawkins' Hospital, Lord Kitchener's statue and the Dickens family homes, Oct.-Nov. 1968 (/13/64-68)
- (/13) Inc. correspondence with M. Chester and I.S. Gibbons of H.M. Borstal Institution, Rochester enquiring after information supportive of their O-Level General Studies course, Chester stating "owing to my present circumstances I am unable to collect information for myself", Sep. 1970 (/13/21-24)
- (/13) Inc. letter from Mrs. Anne Kerr MP, House of Commons, London SW1 inviting Chatham Historical Society to discuss tourism with Rt.Hon.John Silkin, Minister of Public Building and Works, at the Bull Hotel, Rochester on 16 Jan. 1970, 12

Jan. 1970 (/13/15-16)

(13)

1 folder/174pp./items

- /14 Correspondence file of Grace Crawshaw, Hon. Secretary 1959-1960
- Inc. group booking form for exhibition "Transport in Kent" mounted by Kent Archives Office, Kent County Council at Maidstone Museum, June-July 1959, 1959 (/14/62)
- Inc. correspondence with Dr. P.A. Gay, The Nature Conservancy, 19 Belgrave Square, London SW1 arranging group visit Barnfield Pit, Swanscombe Reserve with a talk on site by T. Tester, and discussing flint implements April-June 1959, (/14/56-60)
- (/14) Inc. correspondence with Rev. E.G. Pratt BD AKC of Stone Rectory, Greenhithe arranging group visit to Stone Church, March-April 1959 (/14/32-35, 61)
- 1 folder/74pp./items
inc. envelope
- 15 Correspondence file of Grace Crawshaw, Hon. Secretary 1959-1960
- Inc. correspondence with Miss Elizabeth Pirie MA FSA(Scot) of Maidstone Borough Museum arranging a talk to the society on "Archaeology in Kent". Miss Pirie states "the museum is overrun with workmen, we are without heat, and my hand is green with cold!" 23 Nov. 1959 (/15/35) and discusses her career move to Leeds, Yorks., Nov. 1959- March 1960 (/15/33-36)
- (/15) Inc. letter-headed letter from Lt. Cdr. Lester L. McDowell (US Naval Reserve) of The Chatham Historical Society, 12 Edgehill Ave., Chatham, New Jersey, USA, the letter-heading comprising an engraving of a Chatham (USA) street scene 1845, discussing his own society's role and local history and archaeology, stating "our own nation is so new that we get excited when we find a century old horseshoe" but emphasising local ancient American Indian finds, 1 Dec. 1959 (/15/22-23)
- (15) Inc. report of Miss Pirie's talk on "Archaeology in Kent" and mentioning the "Swanscombe skull" and human activity in the stone, bronze and iron ages, 9 Dec. 1959 (/15/3)
- 15) 1 bundle/83pp./items

/16

Correspondence file of Mrs. Grace Crawshaw, 96 Maidstone Road, Chatham, Hon. Secretary, mainly about talks, activities, relationships with other amenity bodies and voluntary societies and local schemes of historical interest. 1961-1968

Inc. stencil TS notes on and maps of Gun Wharf, Chatham from 1616 onwards [1959] (/16/372)

Inc. circular requesting volunteers for archeological dig at Rowe Place farm, Eccles, initiated by Lower Medway [Archeological] Research Group, 1962 (/16/369)

(/16)

Inc. correspondence with Roy Hill, Town Clerk of Chatham about erection of inscriptions or plaques throughout Chatham at redeveloped sites to indicate historical usage of premises, particularly HM Gun Wharf, Riverside and Watts' Place, Sep. 1961-July 1963 (/16/331-352 passim)

(/16)

Inc. letter-headed circular letter from S. Hubbard, Leonards department store, 104-122 & 144 High Street, Rochester, advising of pending changes to business, Jan. 1962 [on rear of letter dated 25 April 1962] (/16/342 verso)

Inc. correspondence with F. Cull FRICS, 10 Chiltern Road, Pinner, Middx./Navy Works Dept., Admiralty, Chamberlain Way, Pinner, Middx., in which Mrs. Crawshaw states "members of our society are reluctant to see the old title Gun Wharf superseded by that of Riverside", discussing his published work on Gun Wharf, the development of the Royal Dockyard and the distinction between Military Gun Wharf and Admiralty Gun Wharf, Nov. 1961 (/16/254-255)

(/16)

Inc. correspondence with Mr. F.J. Bloomfield, 25 Stafford Street, Gillingham about a watermills excursion in vicinity of Hollingbourne, Leeds, Otham and Chegworth, March-July 1964 with handdrawn map of area and route (/16/232-234)

Inc. circular from Roy Hill, Town Clerk of Chatham advising of new Walderslade Social Hall scheme, Hook Meadow, with accompanying plan of facilities, Nov. 1964 (/16/238-239)

Inc. printed leaflet "National Gardens Scheme 1965: Gardens of Kent" (/16/209)

Inc. letter from Norman Tomlinson, Borough Librarian, Central Library, High Street, Gillingham, advising as to his policy on replying to difficult enquiries about James McCudden VC, 13 April 1965 (/16/214)

Inc. correspondence between Roy Hill, Town Clerk

(16) of Chatham, J.W. Brailsford, Dep. Keeper,
British Museum Dept. of British and Medieval
Antiquities, London WC1 and Mrs. Crawshaw about
two gold bracelets found by Mr. R.E. Bryant in
Dargets Road, Chatham, declared Treasure Trove,
Aug.-Oct. 1965 (/16/61-65)

1 folder/373pp./items

/17 Correspondence with Mrs. J.D. Crawshaw, 96 Maidstone Road, Chatham 1962-1969

Inc. letter from Secretary to Sound Services Film Library, Wilton Crescent, Merton Park, London SW19 enquiring about hire of film "A Woman's World" about domestic appliances through the ages, 20 Feb. 1962 (/17/p.56)

(17) Inc. correspondence with Robert H. Hiscock of Amoy Cottage, 5 Old Road East, Gravesend about newspaper sources for history of tramways in the Medway Towns with particular reference to the Chatham and District Light Railways and the dockyard accident of 1902. The Secretary describes conditions at Rainham Library where she undertook research for Hiscock, Aug.-Oct. 1968 (/17/pp.19-24)

Inc. correspondence with Hiscock as above about the architecture of Chatham Dockyard Church, mentioning Thomas Telford, Mr. Marquand and the Parlby family of dockyard contractors. The Secretary states "Chatham Dockyard Church was started in 1808 and completed in 1811 at a cost of £9000" April 1968 (/17/pp.31-34)

1 folder/56pp./items

/18 Correspondence with Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Crawshaw 1970 MSc

(18) Inc. correspondence with Mrs Jean I. Tennant, Picture Editor, Time Life Books, 76 Oxford Street, London W1 about latter's research into history of naval tattooing for publication of magazines to accompany BBC TV series on British Empire, in which Mr. Crawshaw supplies details of Chatham's tattooist Charlie Bell, The Brook, Chatham who "has just had to move owing to town development" and also recommending an approach to the Chatham reference librarian "who is very good at hunting up references on odd subjects", Nov. 1970 (/18/pp.11-12)

1 folder/26pp.

- /19 Correspondence file of Mrs. J.D. Crawshaw, 1971 [1972]
Secretary chiefly arranging speakers and group visits, also concerning membership matters.
- Inc. membership list as at 1 April 1971
(/19/pp.92-97)
- (19) Inc. list of outings by Society 1959-1972, 1972
(/19/pp.87-88)
- Inc. printed poster advertising talks on the history of Rochester to be given in the Guildhall, subjects comprising water supply in the Medway Towns, theatre in Rochester and Chatham, working and living in Rochester 1918-1939 and the industries of Rochester 1971
(/19/p.82)
- Inc. printed pamphlet advertising The Rainham and Wigmore Community Assoc., 1971 (/19/item 80)
- Inc. correspondence with Mrs. Jenny West of 31 Bridgewood Road, Worcester Park, Surrey about sources for early windmills in Kent leading to the publication of a book on the subject 20-30 May 1971 (/19/pp.78-79)
- (19) Inc. letter to secretary of Tenterden Historical Society about Masters family of Chatham, watchmakers and repairers and Paine family also of Chatham, outfitters 3 Dec. 1971 (/19/p.77)
- Inc. correspondence with Harold Rogers, Manager of BBC Radio Medway, 30 High Street, Chatham about their programme "Personally Speaking" and future publicity for the Society 25-27 July 1971 (/19/pp.73-74)
- (19) Inc. press release reporting on talk given by Mrs. N. Miller on "Tradescant, the Gardener of Kent" mentioning both father and son "who brought back so many fresh plants from the Continent and also North America in the 17th. Century" 5 April 1971 (/19/p.59)
- Inc. promotional material about Dolphin Sailing Barge Museum Trust, Crown Quay Lane, Milton Regis, Sittingbourne with correspondence arranging visit, March-May 1971 (/19/pp.37-41)
- (19) Inc. correspondence with Lawrence E. Jones, Hon. Lecturer to Historic Churches Preservation Trust, of 68 Coleman Street, London EC2 arranging a talk on old churches, with printed flyer advertising his "Book of Old English Churches" in the Observer's series, April-Oct. 1971 (/19/pp.12-21)

1 bundle/98pp./items

- /20 Correspondence of Mrs. Crawshaw as Secretary, 1972
mainly dealing with routine membership, group
visits and meeting business
1 folder/106pp./items
- /21 Correspondence of Mrs. J.D. Crawshaw as Secretary 1972-1973
- Inc. stencil TS circular containing "An
introduction to the Sittingbourne and Kemsley
Light Railway" c.1973 (/21/p.77)
- Inc. press release describing F.J. Bloomfield's
reminiscences of his boyhood in Borstal c.1900,
mentioning prisoners, army manoeuvres, farming
and Sunday School, 23 April (/21/p.46)
- (21) Inc. letter to County Planning Officer pleading
for the retention of 1-12 Ordnance Terrace,
Chatham, including no.2, home of Dickens' family
1817-1821. Mrs. Crawshaw states "the society
note with regret the demolition of most of the
buildings of this date and earlier in Chatham
except in the Royal Dockyard and Gibraltar
Terrace, New Road Chatham" 21 June (/21/p.17)
- Inc. letter from B.J. Lyons, Member for St.
John's Ward, Chatham on Medway District Council,
asking Society for reactions to Maplin Sands,
Essex, development, Deep Water Sea Port at Grain
and oil terminal 21 August (/21/p.9) (see /21/p.7
for holding reply)
- (21) Inc. letter from A.A. Webber, 220 Rochester
Street, Chatham scathingly describing town
planning developments in Chatham and Gillingham.
Author recollects The Paddock, Chatham: "a
fenced in place with high trees and a rookery
also sheep grazing" and complaining "I regret
that Chatham is trying to imitate New York" 4
October (/21/p.6)
- 1 bundle/77pp./items
- /22 Correspondence of Mrs. J.D. Crawshaw as Secretary, 1974; 1977
chiefly arranging talks and group
visits.
- Inc. Meopham Historical Society programme for
1974 (/22/item 74)
- Inc. letter from secretary to a Dr. Nosworthy
thanking him for his demonstration of water
divining at St. Mary's Abbey, West Malling 4

July 1974 (/22/p.24)

[One item only for 1977]

1 folder/77pp/items

/23 Correspondence of Mrs. J.D. Crawshaw as Secretary, partly dealing with membership matters but mainly handling group visit arrangements, historical enquiries and arranging speakers. 1975

(23) Inc. correspondence with Dr. B. Kosmin, Director, Social Research Unit, London Committee, Board of Deputies of British Jews, Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, London WC1 about sources for Victorian Provincial Jewry for the 1975 Conference of the Jewish Historical Society. Mrs. Crawshaw describes briefly the involvement of the Jews in Chatham's history, concentrating on the pawnbroking, outfitting and tailoring businesses serving the dockyard and garrison from 1760, mentioning Hobbes and Chatham News Oct. 1868 as sources, 19-20 Jan. 1975 (/23/pp.3-4)

Inc. letter from Mrs. Crawshaw to Mr. G. Lancaster, 15 Grange Way, Rochester, referring to a previous visit by St. Paul and St. John's Churches, Chatham to Chatham Memorial Synagogue and requesting a similar visit by her Society, 9 April 1975 (/23/p.7)

Inc. circular from Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit soliciting subscriptions to the Friends of the Roman Painted House at Dover, including description of remains and their discovery 1971-1975, c.1975 (/23/p.36)

(23) Inc. circular from Standing Conference for Local History advertising various history text books published by themselves including "Landscapes and Documents" c.1975 (/23/p.40)

1 bundle/47pp./items

/24 Correspondence of Mrs. J.D. Crawshaw as Secretary, mainly comprising however incoming circulars on amenity body events etc. 1975-1976

(24) Inc. letter from K.A.E. Wells, Chairman, The Aylesford Society, 396 London Road, Aylesford, enquiring about sources on Daniel Barnard and his Palace of Varieties, 22 February 1976 (/24/p.8)

1 bundle/14pp.

- /25 File of F.J. Stenning and Mrs. J. D. Crawshaw, [1970]
Hon. Secretaries, containing their working 1976-1980
papers on membership matters including renewal,
arranging group visits to venues including
correspondence with hosts and bus companies.
- Inc. financial statements, agenda and membership
lists passim
- (25) Inc. letter from J.M. Preston of
162 Borstal Road,
Rochester asking Mr. Stenning to draw the
membership's attention to his forthcoming book
"Industrial Medway: an historical survey" to be
published in May 1977, its contents chiefly
relating to cement, brick, barges, engineering
and brewing in the geographical area between
Allington Lock, Maidstone and Garrison Point,
Sheerness during the 19th. century, 9 April 1977
[NB this book is available at this centre, ref.
MED380]
- Inc. explanatory guides or information sheets
describing the history and contents of Eastgate
House Museum, Rochester including The Armoury,
ship models, model sailing barges and model
fishing vessels and the Hoo Hoard, with some
details of Rochester Cathedral Crypt.
- (25) Inc. circular letter from T.J. Hogarth, Director
of Leisure Services, Medway Borough Council,
Council Offices, Frindsbury Hill, Strood
promoting Dickens' Festival 31 May- 2 June 1979,
c.early 1979
- 1 folder/c.100pp.
- /26 File of Mr. F.J. Stenning as Hon. Secretary 1980-1982
containing working papers and correspondence
about membership renewal, arrangements for
society outings and talks and liaison with other
amenity bodies.
- Inc. alphabetical list of members, with names
and addresses (towards rear)
- 1 folder/c.75pp.
- /27 Excursions 1989; 1991
- Hon. Secretary's file of correspondence with
membership, "Boroline" of Maidstone and venues
arranging group visits by society.
- Inc. printed newsletter from Kent Trust for

Nature Conservation entitled "Tyland Barn Update", containing messages from and photographs of HRH Prince of Wales, Sir David Attenborough and Fay Blair, Manager of The Nightingale Project, Nov. 1991

1 folder/c.50pp.

- **Loose Financial Accounts** 1952-1973
- /28 Loose accounts mainly comprising receipts for excursions or society's subscriptions to umbrella bodies and from suppliers for associated services 1966-1973
1 bundle/33pp./items
- /29 Secretary's postage and petty cash book 1952-1976
Entries mainly for speakers, duplicating or printing, suppliers, services and telephone calls etc.
1 vol./c.40pp.
- /30 Loose accounts as (28) above 1953-1976
1 bundle/42 items
- /31 MS membership and subscription notes c.1962
1 bundle/4pp.
- **Society's Working Papers** [1940]
1951-1982
- /31A File of working papers of George Lindsay, Secretary, comprising press reports, copies of circulars to members and at rear circulars from Kent Council of Social Service, County Local History Committee. 1950-1952
Inc. society annual reports, passim
Inc. "list of books on The Medway Towns and District in the Public Libraries of Chatham, Gillingham and Rochester" (2 copies) (/31A/pp.96-103)
- (/31A) Inc. "A Survey of Sources of Local History: First Issue" issued by Gillingham Public Libraries and relating to sources at Kent Archives Office, County Hall, Maidstone and Maidstone Borough Museum (2 copies) (/31A/pp.106-109)

Inc. talk transcripts on history of Luton
(/31A/110-112)

(/31A) Inc. talk transcript entitled "From Chatham
Church to Chatham Council" (/31A/pp.113-117)

1 folder/117pp.

/32 Topical local history file probably maintained by [1940]
the Hon. Secretary, containing literature partly 1951-1953
submitted by speakers, by umbrella bodies or
otherwise acquired by the society in the course
of their business.

Inc. TS copy of poem entitled "Evolution" by
Prof. Lyndon Smith, 14 stanzas (/32/pp.8-19)

Inc. stencil TS copies or draft amendments of
society's constitution, (/32/pp.12-19)

(32) Inc. stencil TS copy of article entitled
"tradesmen's tokens of the Medway Towns during
the seventeenth century 1650-1672 AD: paper read
before the meeting by W. Woollett FRHS"
containing listing of tokens, their issuers and
descriptions, (/32/pp.20-25)

Inc. pencil written talk on the history of Upnor
with ink written poem entitled "The Upnor
Elephant" latter by "Turner o' Luton" Feb. 1940,
both probably by John Turner, pp.26-35, second
stencil TS copy (/32/pp.58-63)

(32) Inc. TS talk with sketch map of downland area in
vicinity of Blue Bell Hill and stencil of talk
entitled : "a brief resume of information
concerning the Medway Megalithic Monuments,
written for the Chatham and District Historical
Society on the occasion of their visit to Kits
Coty House and the Countless Stones on Thursday
27th. September 1951" by John H. Evans
(/32/pp.36-51)

Inc. stencil TS paper on "Chatham Dockyard
School" by J.D. Crawshaw, 1952 (/32/pp.52-57)

(32) Inc. TS poem entitled "the Upnor Elephant 1913",
4 stanzas, "by Morewood Dawsett, Est" [sic] or
rather by "Turner of Luton" Feb. 1940 p.64, MS
and TS poems (different versions) entitled "Ode
to the Upnor Elephant" 4/5 stanzas, by Turner o'
Luton Feb.-March 1940 (/32/pp.65-66)

(32) Inc. TS paper entitled "The Story of Upnor" by
Sydney Turner, discoverer of the Upnor Elephant,
describing the circumstances surrounding his find
(/32/pp.68-73)

1 folder/73pp.

/33 Printed booklet entitled: "The History of Kent- 1966
a select bibliography" Frank W. Jessup

1 booklet/12pp.

/34 Kent Voluntary Service Council: County Local 1975-1982
History Committee

Hon. Secretary's file containing stencil TS circulars comprising lists of available lecturers on historical topics with their addresses, and listings of other member societies' activities, also with contact names.

1 folder/c.75pp.

Loose Enclosures 1956-1983

/35 Loose items removed from /01 comprising annual 1956-1958
 financial statements, circulars and
 hon. secretary's report

Page nos. in original volume from which removed are quoted in square brackets[].

1 bundle/ 4pp.

/36 Loose items removed from /02 comprising agenda 1960-1983
 for meetings, annual financial statements, some loose minutes for 7 April 1983 and historical notes on and diagrams of Gun Wharf, Chatham compiled 1959 (/36/8)

Inc. list of objects of Lower Medway Research Group 1961 (/36/7)

Page nos. in original volume from which removed are quoted in square brackets[].

1 bundle/ 27pp.

/37 Loose items removed from /03 comprising report of 1958-1959
 talk by Mr. P. Gordin on "an eighteenth century election" (1754) 1959 (/37/1-2); copy TS letter from society to Chatham News covering brief notice of talk by Insp. Philcox of Kent County Constabulary on history of law and order 1958 (/37/3); and report of activities as at Nov. 1958 (/37/4)

1 bundle/4pp.

City Archivist

January 1996

Last amended 7 May 1996