

## KENT HISTORY FEDERATION

Minutes of the quarterly meeting held at 2 pm on Friday 7 September 2018,  
in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Maidstone

Present

Mrs Jackie Grebby (Chairman and Editor), Revd Dr Peter Rowe (President and Reviews Editor), Dr Tim Moreton (Kent Portrait Survey), Mr Richard Linning (KHF Committee and Sandwich), and 21 representatives of affiliated societies.

### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Dr Maurice Raraty (Vice-President and Vice-Chairman), Mr Robin Thomas (Treasurer), Mrs Jenny Blackburn (Member of KHF Executive Committee), Dr John Whyman (Personal Member), Dr John Bulaitis (Canterbury Christ Church University), Dr Sheila Sweetinburgh (Canterbury Christ Church University), Gillian Draper and Susan Lavender (BALH), Jonathan Fryer (Sheppey), Alan Taylor (Folkestone & District LHS)

### **2. Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held on 1 June 2018**

These were approved as drawn and signed by Mrs Grebby

### **3. Matters arising (not dealt with anywhere else in the Agenda)**

None.

### **4. Chairman's Report**

Mrs Jackie Grebby asked representatives to note the suggestion from the committee that the Federation's quarterly meetings could be reduced to half yearly meetings and asked everyone to consider this for discussion under any other business.

The Speakers' List was undergoing a complete revision and would be available by the end of the month. Many speakers had not replied and would need to be chased. There were several who had retired, but there had been some interesting recommendations. The list of guided tours was freely available to anyone visiting the website but the speakers' list would continue to be password protected.

### **5. Secretary's Report**

Mr David McKie had offered to become Hon. Secretary in lieu of there being any other volunteers. Mrs Grebby thanked him and said it would prove beneficial to the Federation if someone could also volunteer to act as minutes' secretary – this could possibly be at just the Federation meetings rather than at both the Federation and committee meetings.

### **6. Treasurer's Report**

In the absence of Robin Thomas, the chairman read out a brief statement of the Federation's financial position. Viz: the balance in the current account is £2,836.54 after paying the recent bill of £1,009 for printing the *Journal*. There is £5,740 in the deposit account. No bills have recently been received from County Hall.

Five societies have still to renew their affiliations.

## **7. Journal of Kent History**

### **7.1 Editor's Report**

The Editor, Mrs Grebby, asked what she was doing wrong as, since she had taken over editing the *Journal* the numbers ordered by societies had reduced by nearly 50%. The print run, once as many as 800 copies, this time was merely 525. This could, possibly, be attributed to the fact that society secretaries are receiving a complimentary copy and passing it amongst their members. The aim in giving out a free copy was to encourage more society subscriptions as, in the past, only approximately half the affiliated societies saw a copy. Now out of the 116 affiliated societies just 28 had purchased extra. It was extremely disappointing.

At the last committee meeting it had been suggested that the complimentary copy would be suspended, but that an online copy could be made available for just a few weeks. Everyone was again asked to consider this for discussion under any other business.

## **7.2 Review Editor's Report**

Peter Rowe, said there were four books available for review. These immediately found reviewers. Faversham had two books, which were passed to Dr Rowe and reviewers found.

## **8. One Day Conferences in 2019 and thereafter**

Nobody present at the meeting had any suggestions, although Tonbridge was again suggested.

## **9. Kent Portrait Survey**

Dr Tim Moreton said he was hopeful that it would soon be possible to find details of collections on the NPG website. He was actively working on contacts and had had a good response. He was undertaking research on memorial screens. Mrs Linning said that Sandwich was currently cataloguing their picture in public ownership and the information would be shared once available.

## **10. Reports**

### **10.1 Kent Archives and Local History Service (KALHS)**

Rob Illingworth summarised his report. The full report is attached.

### **10.2 Medway Archives Centre (MAC)**

Mrs Grebby summarised the report received. The full report is attached

### **10.3 Kent in Greater London**

Mrs Grebby summarised the report received. The full report is attached. [Note: Dr Susan Pittman has since written to say she has received the following from the Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust.

“**Greenwich Heritage Centre** is now closed. Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust are moving the museum and archive collections of the Royal Borough to a new store. As this move will take time to deliver, the Trust plans to continue its public programme and resume the research enquiry service in December 2018. Please see our website for more details

<https://www.greenwichheritage.org/visit/greenwich-heritage-centre.>”]

### **10.4 CPRE Kent Historic Buildings Committee**

No report was received.

### **10.5 University of Kent**

Mrs Grebby summarised the report received. The full report is attached

### **10.6 Canterbury Christ Church University**

Mrs Grebby summarised the report received. The full report is attached.

### **10.7 University of Greenwich**

No report was received

### **10.8 Kent Archaeological Society (KAS)**

Mrs Grebby summarised the report received. The full report is attached

### **10.9 British Association for Local History**

Mrs Grebby summarised the report received. The full report is attached.

### **10.10 Workers' Educational Association**

Mrs Marion Pont summarised her report. The full report is attached.

## **11. Societies' publications**

Mr Charles Turner reminded members that he had passed two publications to Dr Rowe. Viz: *Faversham in the Making* and *Faversham Paper 129 – Sailing Barges*.

## **12. Any other business**

### **12.1 Quarterly meetings**

Following the tea break a full and free discussion considered the future of the quarterly meetings. Eventually a vote was taken, with a narrow majority voting to continue with the quarterly ones. It

was noted that preference would be made to short summaries of reports to allow for presentations at the end of the meetings and/or discussions relating to items of interest to societies.

The Archives Centre had very kindly offered their premises for future meetings free of charge and this was gratefully accepted. It was noted that these meetings would be on a Monday.

Representatives also showed a preference for earlier meetings and it was agreed that from March 2019 meetings would be held on the **first Monday of March, June, September, and December at 1pm at the Kent Archives Centre in James Whatman Way.**

### **12.2 The future of the Journal**

Members present very kindly complimented Mrs Grebby on the production of the *Journal*.

Representatives were in agreement that the free copies to society secretaries would cease with the March 2019 issue. It was suggested that a full list of major articles in past issues could be posted on the website and Mr Charles Turner offered to undertake this project.

It was suggested from the floor that the price of the *Journal* should be increased to societies from £1.50 to £2 (the current cover price) and that postage costs should also reflect the current rates charged for personal subscriptions (£3.75 per issue posted).

### **13. Date of next meeting**

Friday 7 December 2018, in County Hall, Maidstone, at 2pm.

The meeting closed at 4pm

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Date:

Chairman

#### Attachments:

- Minute 10.1 Kent Archives and Local History Service
- Minute 10.2 Medway Archives Centre
- Minute 10.3 Kent in Greater London
- Minute 10.5 School of History, University of Kent Report
- Minute 10.6 Canterbury Christ Church University Report
- Minute 10.8 Kent Archaeological Society
- Minute 10.9 British Association for Local History Report
- Minute 10.10 Workers Educational Association Report

# REPORTS

## 10.1

### **Kent Archives and Local History Service**

#### **Report to the Quarterly Meeting of the Kent History Federation**

7 Sept 2018

#### **Kent Archive Service awarded Archive Accreditation**

KCC's archives service has been awarded Archive Service Accreditation, the UK quality standard which recognises good performance. Our extensive and thorough written application, covered all aspects of the service, including the suitability of the building, management of both physical and intellectual property of the documents, the qualifications of the staff who care for them, accessibility of the documents and the conservation care they receive. The award follows a visit by a panel from the National Archives at Kew, who spent a day examining documentation, discussing aspects of the accreditation application with staff and looking at onsite facilities. The Archive Service Accreditation Panel congratulated the Kent Archive service and said it was "glad to see the real effort to build collections and audiences to meet the needs of a modern Kent."

#### **Digitisation of Kent's Parish Registers with Findmypast**

A joint project between Kent Archives and the popular online genealogy website Findmypast is currently underway to digitise and make available online the parish registers held at the Kent History and Library. The project will cover registers dating from as early as 1538 to 1918, and includes records of baptisms, marriages, banns and burials. It is anticipated that the images will be available to be viewed online at Findmypast from January 2019, and will be free to access in the archive searchroom and across all of Kent's ninety-nine libraries. Once complete, the images will complement the 2.5 million digitised Canterbury Archdeaconry parish records held at Canterbury Cathedral Archives that Findmypast have already released. Kent Archives is creating completely new, high quality, full colour digital images from the original records. The registers are being digitised in house, enabling Kent County Council to retain the intellectual property rights over the digital images. We felt that it was crucial for Kent Archives, and our depositors, that we retain control of all digital surrogates, both now and in the future. Over 2500 registers have been included for digitisation. This is an enormous project, and a first for the archives service. Digitisation projects have been undertaken before, but nothing on this scale. Before any digitisation could start, the finding numbers for all of the parish registers had to be checked by the archivists for consistency, and where necessary, were recatalogued. This was very important, as the image file names would need to include the archive catalogue reference, so they had to be correct. For the project, Kent Archives has recruited two full time digitisation staff: Soniya Lal and Alison Linklater. Although the project has been in the planning stage for some time, the digitisation itself began in late January 2018. Soniya and Alison have proved to be exceptionally dedicated and enthusiastic staff, and have far exceeded project expectations. Two Bookeye 4 Professional overhead book scanners were purchased to undertake the digitisation.

#### **Canterbury Diocese archive transferred to the Kent History and Library Centre**

In accordance with a decision by the Church of England, a large quantity of archival records of the Diocese of Canterbury is being transferred from Canterbury Cathedral Archives to the Kent History and Library Centre. The transfer marks the reunification of this important archive to something like

its original integrity, after being split in recent years between the repositories in Canterbury and Maidstone. It is normally better to keep archival collections together because the internal parts correlate with each other, providing context and meaning. Two parts of the archive deserve particular mention as outstanding examples of their type. First, 'the probate records for Canterbury, in part because of its particular relationship with the archbishop, have a wealth, extent and completeness probably unparalleled in any other diocese' (F. Hull, *Guide to the Kent County Archives Office*, p107). Second, speaking of the Canterbury act and deposition books, the core element of the ecclesiastical court material, eminent canon law historian Charles Donahue Jr. says: 'these books taken as a whole represent the most substantial survivals of records from an English diocesan court' (*The Records of the Medieval Ecclesiastical Courts Part II: England*, p105). In the case of the court material, the archive dates back to the fourteenth century; in the case of a group of literary fragments, the tenth. The older records, some written in abbreviated Latin, can present challenges to those without the necessary skills and experience: rest assured the Archives and Local History Team can help with those! The archive is a rich source for historical investigation. Family and local historians, and anyone interested in the history of parish churches, their clergy, or simply that of the established Church, will find a treasure trove of material. Canterbury Diocese covered between half and two thirds of Kent, from Thanet up to the River Medway. Since Kent Archives already holds the archive of the Diocese of Rochester, the acquisition of the Canterbury Diocese archive consolidates our holdings of ecclesiastical records and completes the picture as far as the records of the two Kent dioceses are concerned.

### **Manorial Documents Register Project Update**

Since last August Liz Finn, Manorial Documents Register Project Officer for Kent has been working on the manorial court rolls at Canterbury Cathedral Archives. The Manorial Documents Register (MDR) for Kent contains 956 entries for records at the Cathedral, representing almost 17% of the total. So she has made 501 entries for Canterbury on the MDR database from 469 documents. Canterbury Cathedral Priory was one of Kent's largest landowners. The Cathedral acquired most of its manors before the Norman Conquest and in 1086 it held one-eighth of all land in the county. The Cathedral's manors were concentrated in East Kent, but they extended as far as Orpington in the west, Cliffe on the Hoo peninsula and Agney on Romney Marsh. When the Cathedral was re-founded in 1540 most of these manors were re-granted to the Dean and Chapter. In 1862 they passed to the Ecclesiastical Commission for England as part of a major re-organisation of the Church of England's assets. The majority of court rolls were moved to the Commission's Westminster offices and by 1906 the earliest had been deposited in the Public Record Office (PRO). The Church Commissioners, the Ecclesiastical Commission's successors, withdrew them from the PRO in the late 1950s and in 1959 returned them to the Cathedral Archives where they became the U15 collection. They date from the 1260s to the 1750s. The courts recorded transfers of land, making sure that all the relevant reliefs, entry fines, and heriots were paid, and enforced the payment of rents, in money and kind, and the performance of labour services. The Cathedral also held courts leet for most of its manors. These dealt with minor breaches of the peace, cases of theft and debt, trading standards legislation (particularly the assizes of bread and ale), and 'nuisances' mainly relating to the obstruction of, or failure to repair, roads and watercourses.

### **Newly Catalogued: W. and R. Balston Papermaking Collection**

James Lloyd, Project Cataloguer – Archives

From the eighteenth to twentieth centuries, papermaking was one of Maidstone's biggest industries. Two of the biggest manufacturers were Whatman and Balston, and Kent Archives holds several collections relating to them. [U289] was acquired between 1951 and 1999 and concerns mainly the Whatman family.

The Kent History and Library Centre acquired a collection of Balston family records [U2161] in 1978. Unfortunately, many Whatman Ltd. records were destroyed in the 1990s, but GE Healthcare offered what remained to the Centre in 2015, and these have now been catalogued. Much of the collection is what one would expect of a company archive, including title deeds, diagrams of machinery, board meeting files, and account books. There are also samples of Balston's products, including their scientific papers, which have proven particularly interesting. Filmed documentaries and programmes relating to Whatman will be transferred to Screen Archive South East at Brighton for specialist preservation. In cataloguing the collection, James Lloyd acknowledges his debt to Stephen Hill, a paper historian who was brought in as a consultant by GE Healthcare in 2011. His research on the history of the Company's properties helped considerably with the preparation of the catalogue. He also devoted much time and energy to sorting the enormous collection of photographs that came with the archive. The W and R Balston collection [U4062] will complement the Whatman, Balston and [U1999] Hollingworth collections that the Centre already holds, as well as providing a valuable resource for local and family historians.

### **Catalogue Transfer Project- update on newly transferred catalogues**

We are now over halfway through our project to add all of our paper catalogues to our online catalogue. The following catalogues have recently been added and will be available on our website soon:

**RD/DA:** Dartford Rural District Council, 1836-1974

**U317:** Deeds of Appledore and Egerton, 1396-1822

**U678:** Warde Manuscripts, 1428-1941

**U713:** Deeds of Gravesend and District, 1292-1892

**U908:** Streatfeild Manuscripts, 13th century-19th century

**U969:** Records of Halstead Place Estate, 1585-1925

**U1087:** Deeds of Boxley Parsonage and other Estate of the Fowle Family, 1587-c1930

**U1185:** Documents relating to Kent Coal Concessions, 1911-1939

**U1194:** Volume of Prints and Drawings of Kent Buildings from the J. Fremlyn Streatfeild Collection, 1858-1882

**U1195:** Title Deeds and Estate Papers, Angley Estate, Cranbrook, 1660-1913

**U1220:** Manorial Document of Aldington, 1555-1952

**U1225:** Manorial and Tithe Records of St Margaret at Cliffe, 1671-1951

**U1229:** Acts of Parliament and Related Documents, 1843-c1930

**U1236:** Deeds, principally of Marden and Minster in Thanet, 1555-1808

**U1383:** Chambers' Family Farm and Fruit Accounts, 1879-1965

**U1396:** Boys Family Documents, 1778-1936

**U1415:** Leases and Estate Papers of Perry Court Farm, Preston next Faversham, 1665-1890

**U1471:** Deeds, principally of the Scott Family of Sundridge Park, Bromley, 1643-1919

**U1545:** Title Deeds of Norton Family Estate, centred on Shadoxhurst, 1683-1923

**U1547:** Pearse Family and Business Papers, 1758-1916

**U1548:** Title Deeds for Kent and other areas, 1597-1902

**U1553:** Deeds mainly of Cranbrook and Ramsgate, 1716-1825

**U1567:** Deeds from various sources, 1673-1923

**U1569:** Title Deeds, principally of Hollingbourne, 1663-1893

**U1612:** Talbot of Falconhurst MSS

- U1772:** Maps and cognate records for east Kent, 1810-1952
- U1783:** Miscellaneous documents, including several of the Lane, Muggeridge and Hassell families of Horton Kirby and Eynsford, 1605-1934
- U1795:** Gravesend Division Conservative Association records, 1923-1971
- U1812:** Deeds of Sittingbourne and nearby parishes, 1653-1964
- U1842:** Title Deeds of Faversham, 1629-1696
- U1843:** Deeds of Matfield and Brenchley, 1598-1881
- U1859:** Various Title Deeds, 1811-1957
- U1866:** Children Family Manuscripts, 1554-1946
- U1867:** Documents relating to the Bradbourne Estate, Sevenoaks (c1817-1921)
- U2539:** Radio Scripts, c1979-1981

### **Activities & Events**

Forthcoming talk at the Kent History & Library Centre:

Thursday 01 November 2018: 6.30- 7.45 PM

Prisoners of War 1914-1918

Mary Kemp draws on family history & her research for the *Culture in Captivity* HLF funded project in her talk about the experiences of POWs and internees during the First World War. The stories of local men will feature. Mary will also play solo violin excerpts of evocative music.

Tickets £5.00

To book ring 03000420673 or email [archives@kent.gov.uk](mailto:archives@kent.gov.uk)

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The Kent Archives and Local History Service has been involved in the programme for the *Shakespeare and His Sisters* research project which also links with The *Dramatizing Penshurst Festival*. The festival brings to life the remarkable literary history of the Sidney family by rehearsing and staging a fully costumed production of Love's Victory (1617), by Lady Mary Wroth, at her home, Penshurst Place. The first professional performance of the play will be introduced by Professor Alison Findlay and directed by Martin Hodgson, of Shakespeare's Globe Education. Ticketed public performances of the play will be presented at 2 pm and 7.30 pm on the 16th September. Tickets are available to purchase for the matinee and evening performances: [tinyurl.com/lovesvictory](http://tinyurl.com/lovesvictory)

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On Saturday 08 September 2018 project volunteers from the Fifth Continent project are visiting the Kent History & Library Centre for a training session on archive research relating to the landscape history of Romney Marsh. This is the second of two group training sessions made by special booking of the Archive search room in the Centre. The training sessions are led by project workers Nicola Bannister, Alan Dickinson, and Lesley Voice with input from the Kent Archives & Local History team members. The Fifth Continent project is a Lottery Heritage Funded project run by Kent Wildlife Trust on Romney Marsh. The project is led by Fifth Continent Heritage Officer Lucie Bolton. The Fifth Continent Landscape Partnership Scheme seeks to deliver a number of exciting projects based around three key themes to Restore, Rediscover and Reclaim Romney Marsh: <https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/get-involved/our-projects/fifth-continent>

Rob Illingworth- Community History Officer

07/09/18

## 10.2

### **Kent History Federation report from Medway Archives Centre**

It has been an interesting summer here at Medway Archives Centre. We celebrated our 1st anniversary here at Bryant Road on 4th July. Our new surroundings are generally thought to be an improvement on the Civic Centre site, but it has not been plain sailing.

We have been without an archivist since April, when Alison Cable left to become archivist to the Rochester Bridge Wardens Trust. We wish her well in her new post.

Our chief concern is to maintain a good level of service for our customers near and far, and all the remaining staff members have worked hard to achieve this. But our current shortages have necessitated a reduction in Saturday hours.

We are participating in several ventures with other Medway Council departments and external partners, providing background information, producing small exhibitions and facilitating art projects. Our current exhibition is In Flanders field the poppies grow: the Men from Medway who gave their lives in 1918. This is the last in a four year series commemorating Medway in the First World War. It has been researched and devised by Elaine Gardner, Chair of FOMA (Friends of Medway Archives) and runs until Saturday December 1st.

Since we moved we have held a series of Saturday events looking at particular locations in Medway. The next of these is on Saturday 6 October and focusses on Hempstead. This October marks the 40th anniversary of the opening of Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre, but the exhibition looks at many aspects of the area.

To find out more about events and exhibitions at MAC please visit our website [www.medway.gov.uk/archives](http://www.medway.gov.uk/archives)