

BROMLEAGE

The Journal of the Bromley Borough Local History Society

September 1999

Price 60p Free to members



*One of several lost First World War Memorials
recently re-discovered as a result of the project to record all of
Bromley's War Memorials*

See page 16

The inaugural meeting of the Bromley Borough Local History Society was held, twenty-five years ago, on 20th March 1974 at Stockwell College, now the Civic Centre, when over 100 people attended. The first newsletter went out in May, and the first Bromleage was issued in August 1974.

The Society's aim was, and is, that anyone with an interest in any part of the Borough can meet to exchange information and learn more about its history. History is continually being made and at the same time destroyed, buildings are altered or demolished, memories fade and people pass away, records get destroyed or thrown in the bin. We aim, in co-operation with the local history library, museums and other relevant organisations, to make sure at least some of this history is preserved for future generations.

Meetings are held at 7.45 pm on the first Tuesday of the month, from October to July, in the Methodist Church Hall, North Street, Bromley (there is parking available, bus services nearby and facilities for the disabled).

In addition, daytime meetings are held at 2.30 pm on the second Wednesday of January, March, May, July, September and November in the Methodist Church Hall at the corner of Bromley and Bevington Roads, Beckenham. This is on several bus routes and there is a large public car park nearby.

Members receive Bromleage four times a year.

You are welcome to come along to one of our meetings to see if you would like to join. You will be made very welcome and won't be pressed to join, although non-members are invited to make a donation of £1 towards the costs of the meeting.

However if you wish to join, the subscription rates are £8.50 for an individual, £10 for a husband and wife. Senior Citizens pay a reduced rate of £6 for an individual, £8 for a couple.

Members joining after 30th June pay half these rates, but only receive two journals.

There is also a charge of 50p per member at the Bromley meetings.

Our next Bromley meetings will be:

Tuesday, 5th October	"A History of Customs and Excise"	Fred Carpenter
Tuesday, 2nd November	"Two Local Lads: Artists of the Great War"	David Cohen

The next Beckenham meetings will be:

Wednesday, 8th September	The London River Police	Mr. Joslin
Wednesday, 10th November	To be announced	

EVENTS

Saturday, 25th September at 2.30pm	A Walk around Unknown Plaistow	(see announcement page 15 for details)
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Chairman & Membership Sec. Dr A. Allnutt, Woodside, Old Perry Street, Chislehurst, BR7 6PP

Hon. Sec: Mrs P. Knowlden, 62 Harvest Bank Road, West Wickham, BR4 9DJ (tel. 0181 462 5002)

Editors: Paul & Denise Rason, 1 South Drive, Orpington, BR6 9NG

e-mail Denise@rason.freemove.co.uk

We are always happy to receive articles, large or small, for inclusion in the newsletter. We may not be able to use your article immediately, as we try to maintain a balance between research and reminiscences and articles about different subjects and parts of the borough. Illustrations to accompany the article are always welcome.

The opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editors or of the Society. Each contributor is responsible for the content of their paper.

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EDITORIAL

Our Silver Jubilee Celebration at Foxbury in June was very successful and enjoyed by about 90 members. Once again, we thank Elaine Baker for her excellent organisation of the event. A report by John Clarke follows on page 6.

We have had some response to the queries in the last Bromleage. Richard Taylor has sent an article about the BMJ and the Memorial Seat in Lubbock Road, Chislehurst, which we will be publishing in a later Bromleage.

Jean Wilson says there is more information about the Traill family in a soon to be published history of the church, and Marie Edwards 'phoned to say that the Lowrences of Walters Yard, mentioned in George Hailey's reminiscences were her relatives. Hopefully an article will follow from them both.

We have also received more information, including corrections, about the play by pupils of Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School, shown on the front cover of the Sept. 1998 Bromleage. The letter from the Editor of the Old Sedcopians Association is on page 11.

The Committee is still looking for a Minutes Secretary. The duties are not too onerous, as we only have 4 or 5 committee meetings each year. We are also still looking for a Programme Secretary to replace Elaine and/or someone to look after the refreshments and chairs etc. at the Bromley meetings.

Reference copies of the completed War Memorial project should be available in all of Bromley's libraries by the beginning of November.

As we approach the end of the year/century/millennium, we would like to remind members that
the Millennium is a Christian Festival.

Further to our request in the June Edition for members to help make the December issue of Bromleage reflect the history of the churches in the borough, we have received three articles (two for West Wickham) and promises of 3 others elsewhere in the borough. If you want your area or church to be represented, please send us an article. It can be anything to do with the church, its history, buildings or personalities.

If your church is producing a new history for the Millennium, do send us a review or notice about it.

So it's up to you, the members, to help us produce something fitting for the Millennium.

As always we would welcome accompanying illustrations to brighten up these pages.

Please ensure that the Local Studies library receives copies of any Millennium publications.

CONTENTS

Philip Bates, Crystal Palace Footballer	Peter Wiseman	4
BRLHS Silver Jubilee Celebration & History of Foxbury	John Clarke	6
Book Reviews		7
A Walk around St Peter and St Paul's Churchyard	Paul Rainey	8
A sculpture near you	Patricia Knowlden	10
Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School Concert 1938	William Bray	11
E179 PRO Project		11
Local People 1799-1802 from Rev. Pratt's letters	M.M.English	12
Memories of George Hailey 1896-1986 Part 2	George Hailey	14
What's On		15
More about Bromley's War Memorials	Paul Rason	16

The deadline for the December edition is 8th November 1999
Please note our e-mail address on the page opposite.

PHILIP WILLIAM BATES
One-armed centre half of the 1920's Crystal
Palace Football team.

Philip William Bates came into this world on the 16th November 1897 at number 16 Anerley Road, Penge, a small village in South-East London, in the shadow of the great Crystal Palace. His father, also called Philip, was a builder's labourer and his mother was Emma whose family ran a greengrocery business. By all accounts young Philip enjoyed a happy childhood in Penge and it was here that he developed his love of football.

The Bates family eventually moved to nearby Beckenham and set up home at number 157 Churchfields Road and here Philip - as a young teenager - began to learn his trade with his father who, by now, had opened his own greengrocery business. He had grown into a fine, athletic young man and, by his sixteenth birthday, Philip stood at a fraction over 5'7" and weighed 140 pounds. He had hazel eyes and brown, wavy hair with a fresh complexion, and had developed into a fine footballer. Philip's life was about to change, as did so many others, when war broke out and the call to arms swept the country.

Like so many others, Philip was swept along in the wave of euphoria when the call to arms came. The war would only last six months, said the politicians, and the thought of spending some time in foreign parts excited a generation of young men who hurried down to the enlistment stations to sign up for this great adventure.

It was on 2nd September 1914 that Philip Bates signed his Attestation Paper giving his age as 19 years 9 months when, in fact, he was actually just over 16. He did what so many other young men had done and was accepted. He joined a Colour Sergeant and 117 other ranks in the 6th Battalion Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, and was posted to No.3 Company to begin training at Purfleet. The following months until the beginning of June 1915, when his regiment embarked at Folkestone for France, were spent in training in Purfleet, Sandling and Aldershot.

In March 1916, after nine months at the front, Philip was badly wounded in his right arm and was carried to safety by his cousin, Herbert Curtis. For Private Philip Bates, the war was soon to end. He had his "Blighty" and would soon be

seeing the welcome sight of the White Cliffs of Dover again.

Philip left the Front on 19th March 1916, travelled back to England, and was admitted to the Wharncliffe War Hospital in Sheffield for treatment before his final discharge. His wound consisted of the humerus in his upper right arm being smashed with subsequent arthritis setting in which had made the limb completely useless. He remained at the Wharncliffe until 25th July when he was sent home to Beckenham with the princely sum of £1 to buy a new suit and a pension of 12 shillings and six pence per week.

Arriving home (which was now 163 Churchfields Road), Philip went back to greengrocery. His wound required dressing every day at the local Beckenham Hospital and hampered his work. Nevertheless, he developed his left arm to such an extent that he was able to lift sacks of vegetables one handed.

On 7th December 1916, Philip was notified of his award of the Silver War Badge on account of his being discharged from active service abroad after 4th August 1914, and was given instructions to either wear it on the right breast or lapel of a jacket, but never in Military uniform.

Once the Great War ended in 1918, Philip received his medals. He was awarded the 1914/15 Star due to his service in France and Belgium between 5th August 1914 and 31st December 1915. This was followed in 1919 by the British War Medal 1914 - 1920, having entered a theatre of war between 5th August 1914 and 11th November 1918. At the same time, he received the Victory Medal 1914-1919 which was awarded to all military and civilian personnel who served on the establishment of a unit in an operational theatre.

Now back in the swing of civilian life, Philip - having moved a few doors along to 98 Churchfields Road, - met and fell in love with Elsie Rousseau. She was a local girl from nearby Elmers End, Beckenham, and was two years younger than Philip. Elsie had a French father - Armand - who was a surgical instrument maker. Their courtship blossomed and Philip made a comeback on the football field - despite his wounded arm. The local Crystal Palace Football Club added him to their ranks and he played 25 games for them during the 1919-20 season in the old Southern League in which he scored one goal.

Crystal Palace won promotion to the Football League for the first time and would be playing in the old 3rd Division (South) the following season. Philip and Elsie were married over Easter on 5th April 1920 at St. George's Parish Church in Beckenham. Philip was 22 years old and his bride 20. Their Marriage Certificate was signed in the presence of Armand, Elsie's father, and the Best Man, Mr. Stephen Hill, whose widow Rose celebrates her 100 birthday in August 1999. Rumour has it that Elsie was asked to kick-off one of Palace's Easter matches wearing her wedding dress. Not surprisingly, she refused!

The 1920-21 season saw Philip as ever present at the heart of the Palace defence which won their Division title at the first attempt and were promoted again. Philip played 40 matches that season scoring two vital goals and also played a couple of FA Cup matches. Unfortunately, during the close season, Philip's wound deteriorated to such an extent, that an operation was necessitated in order to save his arm and shoulder. All this meant that Philip had to retire from the game and the Club he loved. The Crystal Palace historian - the Rev. Nigel Sands - speaks fondly of Philip Bates in one of his books.

"Phil Bates would not qualify for inclusion in this book on the strength of a vast number of appearances, or by virtue of being a prolific scorer. He was a superb attacking centre-half of the old school before the 'stopper' idea had been conceived, and he played a major part in Palace's early progress upon joining the Football League in 1920 when we won the Third Division title, being part of one of our best ever defences and scoring a couple of important goals in vital games against promotion rivals towards the end of the season."

Poor Phil Bates was, quite simply, one of the bravest players ever to appear in the League. He had suffered a nasty injury to his right arm whilst on active service during the First World War, and it had become quite useless, hanging limp and withered at his side."

Then, just before the 1921/22 season opened, an operation was urgently required on the arm, and six weeks later, it was announced that Phil could never risk playing again, because a blow on the injured limb could have disastrous results. The Palace club and our fans rallied to their stricken stalwart, and two well-supported benefit matches were subsequently staged for him."

And so, another door closed for Philip. My late grandfather saw him many times in action for Crystal Palace and marvelled at his supreme ball

control and mastery of the sliding tackle. It was amazing how he ever managed to play football again, let alone at Football League level, as a centre-half requires both arms for balance when leaping to head the ball clear!

Life was happy enough for Philip and Elsie. Philip had his greengrocer's shop on one corner of Churchfields Road, and Elsie ran a grocer's on the opposite corner. Elsie's shop still stands today but is now a fancy dress hire shop. Their marriage blossomed and Elsie had a daughter - Joyce - who sadly died as a baby. Son Philip (a very popular Bates family name!) went on to serve with the British Army during the Second World War.

When war broke out again in 1939, Philip, of course, was exempt from duty due to the wound sustained during the Great War. He carried on with his business as usual until a German bomb took away another of his livelihoods by destroying his shop, whereupon he moved across the road to help Elsie run hers. Philip's wounded arm was, by now, encased in a rigid cast that kept it at right angles across his chest. Never one to be beaten, he turned himself into a useful snooker player using his bad arm! He was a popular member of the local West Beckenham Conservative Club where he was often heard to be buying a drink for "my lifesaver" who was, of course, his cousin, Herbert Curtis.

During the War, Philip stubbornly refused to sleep in an air raid shelter during the nightly German bombing raids. He preferred the garage that had been insulated inside with wet rags in case of a gas attack. A local removal contractor used to take him along "for the ride" and Philip also used to like attending sales and auctions where he would happily sit in a supplied armchair and watch the proceedings.

Philip Bates Jnr. duly followed in his father's footsteps and joined the British Army and it was during one of his tours of duty abroad, that he met Heddi - a German girl - and they fell in love. They married and, after a while, Philip began to put aside his hatred of the Germans and worshipped his daughter-in-law and their two subsequent daughters - Jean and Joyce. He loved children and never tired of taking groups to the local park to teach them the basics of football and, even in his 70s, Philip used to take part in an annual football match every Boxing Day although he used to spend a reasonable amount of the game taking a tincture or several on the touchline.

Philip William Bates eventful life finally came to end on 19th January 1974 in Beckenham Hospital from lung cancer. He was survived by Elsie until her death relatively recently. As a young boy, I was privileged to have known him. He was a fine, honest man and I shall remember with great fondness his pet name of "Peter Pickle" for me, and "Mickey Dripping" for my late brother.

Peter Wiseman

Peter Wiseman is a member of Beckenham Cricket Club and the Western Front Association, and a supporter of Crystal Palace Football Club.

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BBLHS Silver Jubilee Celebration at Foxbury Chislehurst

It was a fine evening on Friday 4th June when 95 members and guests started to gather at Foxbury. The committee members were the first to arrive, and quickly toured the house in order to arrange the most interesting route for small groups to follow without too much congestion.

A number of old Foxbury photo albums were provided by the Woolwich Staff for us to browse through, while having a drink and canapés in the Tiarks Room.

The Mayor of Bromley, Councillor Sue Polydorou, arrived and was welcomed by Tony Allnutt. She made a short speech as President of the Society which was followed by a Toast. Other guests included Elizabeth Silverthorne (Bromley Library), John Wagstaff (From the Beckenham Historical Society) and Brenda Rogers of ODAS.

Tony gave a short history of Foxbury as follows :-

Foxbury. Built 1874 for Henry Frederick Tiarks a partner in Schroders. Chislehurst was popular with bankers and merchants and many big homes were being built at this time on land carved out of the older estates in Chislehurst such as Scadbury, Walden and so on. Foxbury was no exception, built on land purchased from the Kemnal estate. It was built by David Brandon in Victorian Gothic style. John Newman in 'The Buildings of England and Wales' says of it 'all in all a poor effort'. We must make up our own minds about that.

Henry Tiarks came to Chislehurst from Balham where his family had outgrown his home there.

Eventually there were 11 children. The Tiarks came originally from Friesland to England in 1820. The mother of Captain Mark Philips was a Tiarks. Probably the best known of the more recent members of the Tiarks family is Henrietta Tiarks who was a newsworthy debutante in the 1950s and who is now the Marchioness of Tavistock and runs Woburn Abbey.

Henry Frederick died in 1911 and his wife in 1923. Frank Tiarks took over the house having previously lived at Foxearth opposite the South Lodge of Foxbury. He made a number of alterations to the house. He also had an observatory in a field on the north side of the house.

Henry Frederick seemed very interested in Technology. He had an electric generator installed in 1890 and had one of the first Telephone systems in the country connecting the house with the stables. He also had a giant vacuum cleaner, made by the Connersville Blower Company of Indiana, installed in the basement of the house. This was connected by hose outlets in each room into which the maids could plug their cleaning tools.

In the mid thirties Frank moved to London and the Church Missionary Society took over in 1938. They sold off the farm stables and lodge. The polo field became the Barts. and Middlesex Hospitals' playing fields.

The CMS used Foxbury as a Training College until 1968 except for the war period when it was used by the ATS.

The house was then refurbished and used for missionaries on leave, conferences and so on. Eventually Foxbury was sold to the Woolwich Building Society who use it for training and conferences.

Committee members then took small groups around the house, garden and lake returning to the Tiarks Room for coffee. This was followed by the cutting of the Silver Jubilee Cake by Mr Fred Whyler, the first secretary of the Bromley Local History Society. The cake was made by Patricia Knowlden who later thanked everybody for coming. The Mayor left followed by guests and members who had all spent a most enjoyable evening.

I hope I make the next Celebration in 2024

John Clarke

BROMLEY'S BUILDING STONES

St. Peter and St Paul's Church and its Churchyard.

Bromley's Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul was bombed on the night of 16th/17th April 1941. Only the 15th century tower remained standing. The replacement church was built between 1948 and 1957 on a more southerly line than the original so leaving the tower to one side.

The tower had been restored in 1924. At that time it was described as being made of "stone, flint and some large lumps of chalk". Decayed ragstone gargoyles and dressings were cut out and replaced with Clipsham Stone.

This walk starts at the tower (1) and moves slowly anticlockwise round the church and through its churchyard.

The flints of the tower, many of them knapped, are obvious, while dressings of Kentish Ragstone are largely covered in lichen. In concave corners blocks of ragstone are flaking and reveal shiny flakes of mica and dark specks of the mineral glauconite. Sharp cornered dressings and window surrounds at high levels are presumably the Clipsham stone as well perhaps as the shelly but very dirty limestone surround to the door on the north side of the tower.

The 1982 extension at the west end of the church has walls faced with flint cobbles. Their well rounded shapes result from wave or river action and are quite different from those of the flint nodules which came directly from the Chalk and may be seen in the tower and other walls of the church. The north west corner of this extension (2) is a good place to see the sawn blocks of limestone used in the 1982 works. It is composed of sand sized spherical particles or ooids of calcite mixed with occasional lenses of shell fragments. The door surround in the north wall (3) is much dirtier and shows occasional dark brown iron and clay rich lenses that are perhaps derived from animal borings. Similar limestones are being deposited today in the shallow seas of the Bahamas and the Arabian Gulf.

The 1914 -1918 War Memorial (4) is formed of large blocks of carved Portland stone revealing many upstanding fossil shells. Look at the carved figures near the top of the pillar and contrast the dirty but well preserved figures on the north and

east sides with the cleaner but more weathered figures on the more exposed south and west sides

Here (5) is a large tomb with a top slab of grey Carboniferous Limestone with occasional small shell fragments. It is much covered in lichen and algae except on edges. A long list of names is difficult to read but two deaths are in 1774 and 1853 suggesting an early date for this tomb.

A vertical sandstone slab (6) to Edward Dunn is of unclear date. It is exfoliating from the base on its west side because of "rising damp".

A vertical tomb (7) to Edward Dunn et al dates from 1829, 1830, 1837, 1823 etc. Its west face is almost completely lichen covered. The polished east face has inscriptions which are flaking off to reveal the underlying limestone.

A vertical slab (8) of white "Carrara" marble to Louisa Dunn et al dates from 1888 and 1909. It is much covered with lichen and streaks of green algae.

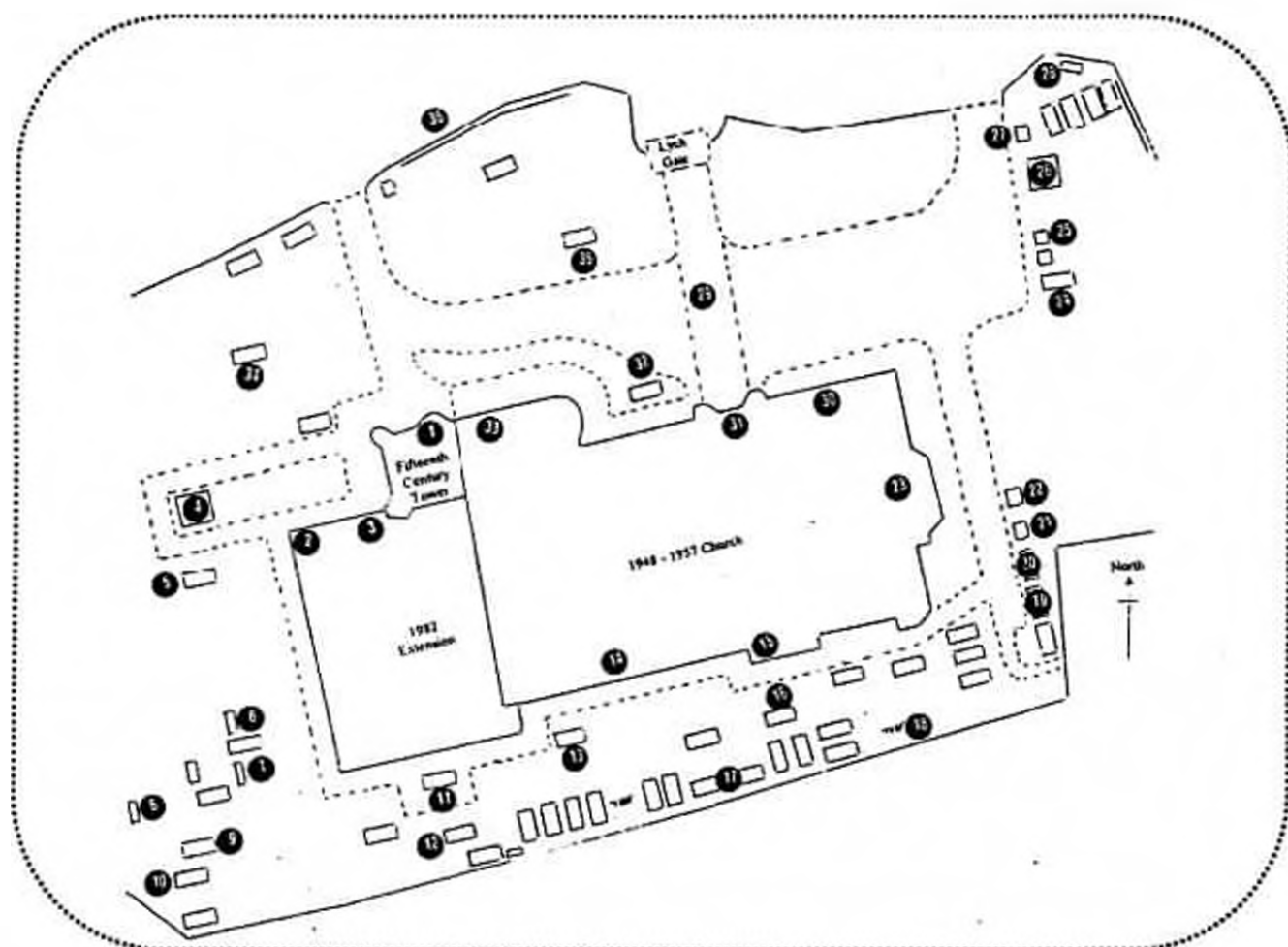
(9) and (10) Two vertical celic crosses of rough hewn, probably S.W. England, granite. One is to Joseph Wilson et al in 1930 and the other to H. Henshaw in 1932.

(11) A large tomb with a flat top slab of grey limestone with a lightly carved crest of the Emmett family and references to deaths in 1730 and 1739. Walls of white shelly limestone show very variable weathering and "lichen" growth.

(12) An elaborate large tomb to Stewart Erskine. Very varied weathering skins make this a good place to see the effects of different degrees of exposure to weathering.

(13) "Geological specimens"

This grave has at its head a cross formed of white marble largely covered by small fist-sized angular rough fragments of many different rocks. These include both pink and pale grey granites, purple and green serpentinites and at least three different limestones, some with fine fossil corals. The geological interest of this child-sized grave is continued by the rounded flint pebbles of its bed and a cut and polished flint nodule marking its toe. A slab of white marble at the grave's head is



just the size of a now lost brass identification plate. A record was printed in 1923 of all the monumental inscriptions in this churchyard. These included that on the grave of two year old William Wallace Allan who died on 24 October 1876. Luckily for us an earlier reader of that record marked the text "geological specimens" at this point. The 1881 census records that young William's 31 year old father came from Sonning, Berkshire and was the domestic butler at the local big house of George Wythes, a wealthy international railway builder. His 32 year old mother was born in Brockhampton, Gloucestershire. Were the pieces of stone decorating the grave an early collection of possible railway ballasts or simply cheap monumental masons waste?

The main south face of the church, from the 1949-1957 reconstruction (14) is dominated by flint nodules, a very few of which are tabular, but also includes a few tiles and many fragments of carved stone recycled from the bombed church or gravestones. The corners to the windows and building are made of a pale yellow grey limestone formed of coarse sand sized shell fragments. This limestone is best seen in the

pillars (15) near the dustbins towards the east end of this south wall.

(16) This upstanding tomb with sides inclined outwards is in memory of Captain Richard Dawes of 1831 and his wife of 1828. It is built of a much weathered shelly oolitic limestone, perhaps from Portland. Overhanging sides give good exposures of shelly limestone. The top is covered in lichens and mosses.

Two vertical slabs (17) of closely similar shelly limestone, one to Elizabeth and Alfred Hall of 1944 and 1945, the other to Charles Payne and his family from 1856 to 1915. Contrast the weathering of the north and south sides.

At the foot of this tree (18) can just be seen a poor exposure of the Blackheath Pebble Beds that form the high ground around Bromley.

A tomb (19) of pink granite on a pale grey granite base to Henry Clarke Lukey et al who died between 1866 and 1896.

A tomb (20) of pale grey coarse granite.

Continued overleaf

Bromley Building Stones continued

(21) A finely carved but very dirty cross of pink granite in memory of James Boume who died in 1883.

A pillar (22) of white marble with dates between 1876 and 1914. Much covered in green algae and lichen.

The dirty, sometimes moss encrusted east wall (23) of the church contrasts markedly with the cleaner, because more exposed, south wall.

(24) Another tomb of coarse pink granite on a pale grey granite base, this time to the Manning Keer family between 1889 and 1906.

(25) A vertical cross of coarse pink granite.

(26) This tall pillar of pale pink probably Peterhead granite has scattered small (c.10mm) black enclaves of fine grained rock. It is in memory of Coles Child who died, aged 59, in 1873 as Lord of the Manor. Its basal steps are of pale grey granite.

(27) A pillar of oolitic limestone to Coles Child of 1929.

(28) A vertical slab of generally even-grained grey biotite granite to William Ward Hunter Davies who died in 1877.

(29) The main approach to the church is paved with various tombstones.

The basal metre or so of the north wall of the church (30) consists of blocks of Kentish Rag while at higher levels it is much like the east wall. The main church entrance (31) is framed in a very shelly limestone whose details are much obscured by dirt and green algae.

(32) Another early tomb, this one to Richard Gratwicke who died in 1674. This too has a grey limestone slab top with shell fragments and crinoid ossicles. Its sides, however, are of a heavily carved white oolite. Differential weathering has left upstanding fossil shells.

The carved church foundation stone (33) from 1949 provides a fine exposure of an even-grained limestone with many shell fragments.

Under the holly trees (34) is a massive tomb of coarse grey biotite granite with white feldspars.

It displays a large dark xenolith that shows rather diffuse margins as it is being absorbed into the main mass of granite. It commemorates the Champion family; with death dates ranging at least between 1774 and 1870. Many algae are growing on it.

(35) A tomb of white "Carrara" marble to Elizabeth Bevins of 1899. There is much lichen growth on it but in contrasting patterns on its north and south sides. Might the stripes be due to metal poisoning?

The churchyard wall (36) is of flint with a brick capping. It is clearly of many generations. The flints are mainly large irregular nodules, often with a white rind, and clearly therefore came directly from the Chalk. Some of the flints have been split and some are whole.

Paul Rainey, March 1999

A "SCULPTURE" NEAR YOU?

Did you know we are part of the East-London Region for the National Recording Project for SCULPTURE?

This is being managed locally by University of East London at Barking/Stratford. They are listing:

village signs and milestones
coal posts
commemorative tablets and sundials
clock-towers and water-towers
drinking fountains
moulded pub-signs and mouldings on buildings, gates
and street furniture 'showing fine stone or iron-work'

ON PUBLIC VIEW

NOT war memorials or church memorials

First Step	make the list
Second Step	record/photograph sites
Third Step	research background

MEMBERS -- do you know of something which could go on this list?

If so what is it? Where?
Could YOU help record / photo / research?
Please think about it, look at a map, explore
Then

Send details to Patricia Knowlden (address on inside front cover) with your name and telephone number and details of your discoveries.

The Old Sedcopians Association of Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar School

Dear Mrs Rason,

I had a letter from Colin Taylor with a copy of the photograph that had graced the Sept. 98 edition of BROMLEAGE. However, I did a bit of research and found that it wasn't Pirates at all. I thought there was something odd about it (all those blacked up faces) and I hadn't heard of G&S productions at the school in those days. I made a scan of the relevant report from the 1938 July Chronicle (the school magazine) Vol. III. No. 14.

SCHOOL CONCERT

"At our 1938 School Concert we attempted, for the first time, a full-length musical comedy. It was 'Once Aboard the Lugger,' an operetta of the type of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas, only not quite so exacting in its musical and acting requirements.

Preceding this two-hour operetta, the audience enjoyed a vocal solo by Pengilly, a violin solo by Wood, and some items by the School Orchestra under the direction of Mr. Taylor, while during the interval Mr. Mortimer entertained on the piano.

To produce the operetta the Musical and Dramatic Societies joined forces, Mr. Banfield being responsible for the singing and, with Mr. and Master Wood, the accompaniment, while Mr. Cook supervised the acting and dancing. The story of the operetta, which concerned catastrophe at sea, castaways, cannibals, and the captain's harmonium, did not matter very much, but in the singing, dancing and clowning all the boys enjoyed themselves; and, what is perhaps even more important, several little birds told us that the audience liked this effort more than most of our previous ones.

The principals were Hall, Bechervaise, Turner, Crumpler (ma.), Crumpler (mi), and Kenyon, and all these boys acquitted themselves well, as also did the chorus and the savages. Mr. Birchenough and his team of carpenters made the scenery for the show; Mr. Gridley produced the programmes and, with his helpers, the lighting; Mr. Parsons was in charge of the seating arrangements."

G.W.C.

The editorial states that this is the last 'Chronicle' from the Station Road [Sidcup] buildings. "When we assemble next term it will be in our new buildings" at Crutall's Corner. So the production was done at Station Road.

It seems it didn't take place in Bromley Borough at all!

Best wishes,

William Bray, Editor

The E179 Project an important source for medieval studies

An article by Brian Cousins in a recent Kent Archaeological Society Newsletter describes new indexes that are being produced to Class E179 records at the Public Record Office. Class E179 are the Records of the King's (or Queen's) Remembrancer and provide evidence for the existence of medieval communities and often for the numbers and names of taxpayers and the sums they paid, or on which they were assessed. They provide a wonderful guide to the relative levels of lay wealth in towns and villages across the country. The present indexing relates to the period from 1188 to 1688.

The existing indexes dating from 1925 are not very helpful, and so a team of researchers, thanks to grants from the Leverhulme Trust and the Economic and Social Research council, and under the guidance of a panel of experts, is undertaking a detailed re-examination of the documents. Because of the size of the task, it is proceeding on a county-by-county basis, and so will take several years to complete for the whole of England and Wales. We are fortunate as Kent is amongst the first of the counties to be done.

The database that has been created includes all places listed in the documents. It comprises 3 sections: taxes, place-names, and document descriptions and can be searched by date, type of document or type of tax. It is possible to produce a listing of all surviving documents in which the town or village in which you are interested appears.

It does not include personal names, but does show to what extent personal names appear in each document, and includes a detailed analytical description of their contents.

The database will soon be accessible in the Kew searchrooms and later via the Internet.

An important accompanying work recently published by PRO Publications is 'Lay taxes in England and Wills 1188 - 1688' by Maureen Jurkowski, Carrie Smith, and David Crook, who have all been involved in the project. The book provides complete details of all the 450 or so known taxes occurring in that period, which include carucages, scutages, tallages, feudal aids, fifteenths and tenths, poll taxes, income taxes, alien taxes, lay subsidies, prerogative taxes, forced loans, ship money, Civil War and Commonwealth taxes, and later Stuart taxes including the Hearth Tax.

Local People 1799 - 1802

At a recent meeting, Mike English, now of Portsmouth, but originally of St. Mary Cray, talked about a series of letters which he is preparing for publication next year.

They are from Henry Pratt, the Vicar of Orpington, to his married daughter (Mary Salmon) and are full of "tittle-tattle" (Henry's words!) of Orpington and St. Mary Cray between 1799 and 1802 (200 years ago).

As well as reading extracts from some of the nineteen letters, Mike showed a list of all the people mentioned in the letters - over 400 mentions. Whilst some are of Henry and his son's contacts in London and Mary's neighbours in Reading, most are assumed to be from Orpington, St. Mary Cray, Bromley and our area. Not surprisingly there are a number of people who are mentioned in many of the letters - the close circle of a Georgian clergyman! These include the Berens family of Kevington (13 different letters), the Dykes of Lullingstone and Crockenhill (12), Sir Richard and Lady Glode of Mayfield Manor, Orpington (9), Dr & Mrs Almack (8) and Rev. & Mrs Nixon of Foots Cray (6).

Mike would like to include a commentary on the letters when they are published and hopes to include a short biography where possible. While some biographical information has been published, many of the names on the list remain unknown. Do you have any information which may relate to these people who were alive around 1800? If so, Mike would very much appreciate any help you can give him.

Please contact him at: Mike English, 3 Idsworth Rd., Cowplain, Waterlooville, Hants., PO8 8BD (e-mail: mike.english@talk21.com).

Aiskell	Mr Mrs Margarette	St. Mary Cray	Clay	Mrs.	
Aldridge	Miss		Coneybearc	Dr.	
Allen	(Bricklayer)		Coryton	Dr	Chelsfield
Allen	Rev.	Cudham	Coventry	Mr	
Almack	Dr?	Orpington?	Coville	Lucy	
Almack	Mrs	Orpington?	Curtis	Mrs.	
Aris	Dame	Orpington?	Douglass	Little Ned	
Baker	Mr & Mrs	Bromley?	Douglass	Miss	
Barker	Mrs.	St. Mary Cray?	Dredge	Mr. William	
Barker	Mr.	St. Mary Cray?	Dyke	Lady	
Beck	Mr.		Dyke	Mrs	East Hall
Benyon	Mr		Dyke	Percival	Crockenhill
Berens	Family	St. Mary Cray	Dyke	Sir John	Lullingstone
Bertout	Mr.		Edwards		Chislehurst
Bethune	Dr. George		Edwards	Betty	Orpington?
Bethune	Miss		Ellot	John	St. Mary Cray?
Biggs	Mr		Everest		
Blackman	Mrs		Fermanagh	Lady	
Boyd	Sir John	Danson Park	Forder	Mrs.	
Bristow		Orpington?	Fowler	Mrs.	Orpington?
Bruce	Mrs		Fowler	Mr.	Orpington?
Bull	Mr.		Gcc	Mr	Priory
Campbell	Widow		Glebe		
Carew	Mr.	Priory	Glode	Lady Martha	Mayfield Manor
Chapman	James	St. Pauls Cray	Glode	Sir Richard	
Chapman	Miss Charlotte	St. Pauls Cray	Hand	Mrs.	
Chapman	Mr. Che		Harenc	Benjamin	Foots Cray
Chemp			Harenc	Miss	Sevenoaks

Local People 1799 - 1802 continued

Harenc	Mrs	St Mary Cray
Harris	Mr	
Harris	Mrs	Chelsfield?
Hockley	Mrs	Orpington?
Hodsoll	Miss	St. Mary Cray
Hodsoll	Mr	St. Mary Cray
Hodsoll	Mrs	St. Mary Cray
Holding	Mrs.	
Horsley	Mr. & Mrs	Bromley
Jackson		Chislehurst
Jenner	Mr. Mrs. Miss	
Jones	Mr.	Farnborough
Jordan	Miss	
Jordan	Mr. Tho.	
Kemble		
Lambert	Mr	Sevenoaks
Langston	Mrs.	Orpington
Langston	Mr.	Orpington
Lee	Mark	Orpington
MacDonald	Mr.	
Mace	Mr.	Chislehurst
Madox	Mr.	
Makepeace	Mr	Bromley
Manshaw	Mr	Crofton
Marines (Warner?)	Dr.	
Mark		Farningham
Midford	Mr.	North Cray
Mighells	Miss	
Minshaw	Young	Crofton
Monk	Alice	Orpington
Moore	Mr.	
Moore	Rev.	Brasted
Mosyer	Mrs	Orpington
Mosyer	Mr.	Orpington
Mosyer	Phil	Orpington
Mullins	Mr.	
Nagle	Lady & Sir Edmund	Chalk Barn
Neale	Mrs	
Nixon	Mr & Mrs	Longlands
Norman	Mr	
Norman	Mrs	
Oldershaw	Mr. & Mrs	
Parkinson		
Pilchard	Mr.	
Pitcairn	Dr and Mrs	
Platt	Mr	Crofton

Pratt	John & Henry	Orpington
Price	Mr & Mrs.	Bromley?
Rablus	Mrs	St. Mary Cray
Randall	Mr.	Hayes
Relf	Gordon	Halstead
Roberts	Mr	Bromley
Salmon	(Curate)	Cudham
Sayer	Mrs	
Seal	Mother	
Shepperd	Sergeant	Bromley
Sherwoods		
Simons	Rev.	
Smith	Dr.	
Snelling	Miss	St. Mary Cray
Stevenhagen	Mr.	
Swindel	Dame	Orpington?
Swindel	Old Master	Orpington?
Sydney	Lord	Footscray
Taggart	Mr.	
Tanner	Mr. & Mrs.	Orpington
Taste		
Taylor	Fred	
Taylor	John	Crofton
Taylor	Son	Broom Hill
The Vans"		
Tibbs	My Lord	Orpington
Tilden's		Orpington
Till	Rev	Hayes
Townsend	Cass	Caney Hall
Townsend		Cudham
Trundle's		St Mary Cray
Tubbs	Mr	Crofton
Udsey	Mr.	
Venner	Mrs.	
Wainhouse	Miss	
Waller		
Walters	Mr	Crayford
Waring	Aunt	
Waring	Mr.	Orpington?
Wellum	Mrs	
Wiffen	George	Cudham
Willis	Mr.	
Wollaston	Rev. Francis	Chislehurst
Wright	Mr. & Mrs.	Leaves Green
Wynne	Sir William	
Youmans	Mr.	Orpington

GEORGE HAILEY

Part 2

*Continuing the memories of George Hailey (1896-1986)
Wheelwright and Coachbuilder of Bromley, from the June
1999 Bromleage.*

It is interesting to note generally how the changes in vehicle repairs took place as between country areas and into towns.

Country workers picked and often felled their own timber for wagon building. Knowledge passed through generations. Shapes for example were tapered for balance, as with wheels and spokes. Of course before Macadam roads, farm tracks and roads became muddy and ruts were made by local wagons, like rails. Therefore the wagon had to be made for an area, often county, to make sure wheels were spaced to go into ruts; if not, one wheel would rut, the other above, turning over cart.

Generally carpenters constructed the bodies and under frames, another man the wheels, whilst the blacksmith produced all the iron work. Then the painter operated, often lining the wagon according to the owner's trade and design.

Of course as the countryside became towns, the systems changed and generally speaking, the workers then became wheelwrights and coachbuilders, with separate painters but the "smithy" was the same. Local councils had large haulage carts. The new services of gas, electricity and telephone needed hand pulled carts, as did the post offices, although the latter used wooden chassis and wicker basket work tops. Then came vans, so the previous carts were changed for lowing. Butchers, bakers, stores and the like used carts or vans and horses. Gradually they changed to motorised vans.

In most wheels the naves were elm - so were axle beds to stand mortising for spokes. This was the only timber to take long term stress. Body framework was ash and oak, panels and flooring of elm. In addition to elm, oak for spokes and ash for felloes. Ash was also for shafts.

Towns also provided markets. The centres had 'coster' barrows and the distribution by carts of

different designs. This included the 'rag and bone men'.

Wheels of course were special. A flat wheel would collapse under weight, so we had to make dished spokes, edge on like a cone. The degree varied anything from two and a half degrees to twelve and a half from right angle.

Most wagons were built so that any part could be replaced. Rarely glue was used.

Tying, metal of course, were made hot in a furnace - in cooling they clamped on the wheel felloes. Circumference was calculated by a traveller, like a map measurer. Inaccuracy would have meant the tyre falling off or wheel buckling. Generally speaking the master wheelwright used throw away timber to build a controlled fire to heat the rim, not having monies for a furnace. Obviously the wheel needed fitting on a platform. The tyre was carried by tongs and lowered to the wheel, banged on by sledges. Only when the tyre had cooled was it known if the calculations were correct.

The wheel building was a matter of experienced use of an auger, buzz and chisel to mortise the naves for spokes, other ends squared or more often rounded for felloes. Two spokes per felloe - dowels to join felloes.

Some tools were unusual - the 'samson' was like a double cramp to draw together the felloes whilst strakes were nailed. Most people know of spoke shaves, but more often a 'jarvis' was used to allow timber waste to go through easier. A buzz was similar to a chisel, but with two right angle shaped blades, to clean out mortices. The 'spoke dog' was used to draw two spokes together to allow the felloe to be fitted over their longest ends.

All coachbuilders had 'short cuts'. I had a tripod stand with a sturdy rod through the apex. The wheel hub was set on the rod. On the workshop wall was a large nail or bolt. The wheel was parallel to the wall and revolved against the nail. If it touched all round the felloes (rim to cone) then it was a true circle.

Paint was mixed, ingredients being purchased at local shops - a penny or twopenny worth of colour - like sienna, ochres, etc. Trials and errors happened. But the result was always tested on workshop wall, compared to the customer's pattern. Obviously in the thirty years of business at Farwig Lane, the paint on the wall became thicker, until quite a bulge occurred - probably three inches. Given more time who is to say when such bulge would have reached the other wall.

The building was built to take vehicles for repairs from the front on to Farwig Lane. A partition wall then divided the remainder used for painting, varnishing and sign writing, about thirty to forty feet overall. There was an approach on the left to the rear. That too had a door for exit. There were sheds used as garages for cars. Then beyond, the remainder of the land forming the garden of 2 Longfield - the entrance by Central Hall London Road, being still in existence. At one time the land on which the Longfield houses, were built, was occupied by the Bromley Gas Works.

As time progressed the work of wheelwright changed. Carts and horses were displaced by vans and lorries, becoming larger. This meant changes in the workshop and the central roof girder had to be lessened. Metal took over from wood. Panels of large vans were often a material called 'Plymnac' - a layered plywood with a layer of aluminium. Floors to take heavier goods needed metal sheets, instead of planked wood. The result was that the old tools were displaced by electric drills, hand and bench. The changes affected paint too. Sprays started and of course, manufacture of prepared paint emerged. But the skill was still needed. Gold leaf was still used in sign writing and the residue collected for return to the makers.

NB. The earlier article referred to a list of the customers extracted from the firm's ledgers, which are lodged in the Archives at the Local Studies library. The list is too long to include here, but will also be deposited in the Local Studies library. If anyone would like a copy and cannot easily get into Bromley, send me a stamped addressed envelope plus 2 extra first class stamps to cover photocopying charges, and I will send you a copy.

Denise Rason

West Wickham Millennium Souvenir Postcards

West Wickham Residents Association has published a souvenir pack of 10 postcards picturing West Wickham c.1900. The 'Millennium Souvenir' packs are available price £3 from shops in West Wickham. Packs of 5 or more can also be collected from Peter Leigh, 29 Woodland Way, West Wickham. Ring 777 9244 to order prior to collection. The profits are for the Coney Hill school for severely disabled children - part of the Shaftesbury Society.

The above has been so successful that a second series will be produced shortly. Details to follow.

Friends of West Wickham Library

The inaugural meeting of the Friends of West Wickham Library will be held on Wednesday, 15th September, 7.30 for 8pm at West Wickham library, of course.

The next meeting after that will be on Wednesday 10th November at 8pm, when Joyce Walker and Joyce Lake will give 'Readings from the Hall Diaries'.

A Walk around Unknown Plaistow

Come and join us for a walk in this interesting area of Bromley led by Patricia Knowlden on Saturday, 25th September at 2.30 pm.

We will meet in the middle of the big roundabout on Plaistow Green edged by College Road and Paxton Road.

It is best to park in Cambridge Road but note there is no entrance from the roundabout and the approach should be from College Road via Crescent Road.

Phone Elaine Baker on 01689 854408 if you wish to be included

Open House Weekend 18 & 19 September

For the first time the London Borough of Bromley is taking part. Listings should be available in all local libraries.

MORE ABOUT BROMLEY WAR MEMORIALS

In the December 1998 edition of Bromleage, I mentioned my quest to discover all the War Memorials in the Borough so they could be included in the national database being created at the Imperial War Museum. I have seen, recorded and 'discovered', sometimes after 'acting on information received' from members and others, many interesting and unusual memorials and at the present count there are 281 on my database. I am particularly pleased to mention that by my research, and often because of my asking 'Where is your memorial?' or 'How are you remembering?' etc., (as so many memorials say 'We shall remember them') a few have resurfaced from cupboards or dusty corners and have been, or are about to, treated with more dignity than has been the case recently.

The cover picture of this edition is such a case. The Congregational Chapel that was once at the junction of Sussex Road and North Street, West Wickham (now a private dwelling) moved to their new premises in The Grove in 1929 and is now called Emmanuel (United Reformed) Church. The First World War Memorial recording 6 local men and church members who had died in the war was transferred to the new building. However when seeking out this plaque in August 1999, I discovered it to be in a cupboard in the vestry of the church, broken in two pieces, and by all accounts had been there for 40, yes forty years or more. I posed the question "It says here 'Lest we forget', What are you going to do with it now?". Well at the time of going to print, I am hopeful that it will soon see the light of day and be on display once again as the elders of the church intended in 1919.

A similar find was at St Barnabas Church, Oakhill Road, Beckenham.



In a back room of the church one Sunday morning a Wooden Grave Marker was shown to me apparently with little idea of its significance. I must admit many would not know what it was and I was equally ignorant until a year

or so ago. Knowing the story and how rare a find this was, I was quite overcome at

actually holding the Marker. The background is worth telling for the benefit of members.

During the Great War, the marking of graves went through three basic changes. In the heat of battle or when battle was still raging close by, the dead were hurriedly buried and a very temporary marker used. A broken rifle or odd piece of wood etc. Later under the War Graves Registration Commission, wooden crosses were placed at the burial place with the name stamped on a metal tab (where known). Later, 1920 onwards, the Imperial (later Commonwealth) War Graves Commission (CWGC) replaced these with the Portland Stone headstones, now accepted as the standard for war cemeteries in the various locations throughout the world where Commonwealth Armed Forces personnel have died on active service, except in climates which require smaller or different grave markers.

At this change-over period, the removal of the wooden markers was discouraged, mainly to ensure no mix up when identifying the known burial places of those who had died and also so as not to increase the distress to relatives back home on seeing these temporary crosses. Eventually however some of these wooden grave markers found their way back to the UK and elsewhere.

(A separate project to create a database listing these is underway, with less than 300 in the UK known of at the present time).

It is pleasing to note that the Grave Marker Cross at St Barnabas', which had been carelessly abandoned behind a cupboard in a back room, now hangs in the Lady Chapel which is a far more dignified way to honour and understand its true cost - 'that of a human life'.

It is the grave marker for Lieutenant Arthur Thomas Cree who died on 12th May 1915 aged 33 and is buried at Bedford House Cemetery, Illebeke, Ieper, Belgium.

The Cree family were great benefactors to this church and there are plaques in memory of his parents in the Lady Chapel and on the Baptismal Font. One of his daughters, Mary, married Mr Knox-Johnston, who was a prominent member of the council and one time Mayor of Beckenham. Their son (i.e. grandson of Lt. Arthur Cree) is Robin Knox-Johnston, the 1968/9 round the world sailor.