



THE SITTINGBOURNE HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWSLETTER - May 2019

Registered Charity No: 1070698

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Forthcoming Event:

The Battle of Kohima



by Chris Jupp

Tuesday 21st May 2019

at 8pm

Phoenix House, Central Avenue

Preceded by the Museum's **AGM** at
7.30pm

Entrance £3 to non-members,
£1 to members (unless pre-paid).
Proof of membership required.

Museum History Group

For some months now the group have been investigating sickness and health in Sittingbourne and area from 1900-1948 with the aid of old copies of the East Kent Gazette. We have been struck by how differently everything was funded and organised. Ambulances are a good example:

In 1931 a ceremony was held to mark the handing over to the council of the new motor ambulance acquired by the Sittingbourne Milton and District Ambulance committee (Chairman Councillor Handcock JP). The ambulance was parked outside the Town Hall to be admired by local dignitaries. It was to be cared for by the local fire brigade. The vicar of Sittingbourne offered a dedicatory prayer and then tea was served in the Town Hall.

The first ambulance had been given by Mr & Mrs Dean and had travelled a total of 80,000 miles. Then came the ambulance bought in 1925 which was now out-dated. In the past three years it had averaged 1,000 miles a month. Hedley Peters retired as Chief Fire Officer and Ambulance officer that March. And was thanked for all he and his family had done over the years. In fact he or other members of his family had attended all calls day or night since the days of the old horse ambulance.

Membership Subscriptions 2019 are now due - you can now pay by bank transfer

Your annual subscriptions **help us to keep the museum running**. Your membership supports the existence of a museum in Sittingbourne. So please do fill in the accompanying form to renew your membership and encourage your friends to join us. You can pay online too by bank transfer or Paypal too - see the form and our website for details. Annual subscription rates remain at £10 for a retired couple., £12.50 for employed.

Thank you to all those who have already paid now - we will not acknowledge this individually but a big thank you to you all!

Please encourage others to join us and we will send them our monthly newsletter and quarterly journal of local history essays too!

**St Dunstan's Church Frinsted
OPEN DAY
Sunday 19th May**

To celebrate the completion of repairs to the tower, helped by a generous grant from the friends of Kent Churches, the Church will be open to visitors free of charge from 10am to 1pm. There will be a display of documents and memorabilia.

The John Briggs Lecture, sponsored by the Friends of Kent Churches: Victorian Church Wall Paintings: A New Perspective, given by Dr Elizabeth Woolley, MA (Cantab) ACR (Cost £10) will take place in the church at 2.30 followed by tea in the village hall. Apply to: Briggs Lecture, Torry Hill, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 0SP, incl a cheque payable to Frinsted PCC with your name and address or email lady.kingsdown@btinternet.com

Shirley Mannouch

All our best wishes go to Shirley who is recovering from surgery. She is a tireless and enthusiastic worker and researcher who leaves a big gap to fill. Get well soon Shirley!

**Forthcoming Event:
The Fair Maid of Kent
James Dickinson
Wednesday 12th June 2019
at 7pm
Phoenix House, Central Avenue**

James' talk will feature Joan the Fair Maid of Kent, said to have been the most beautiful woman in England, and her family and how that family overlapped in a significant way with another branch of the English Royal family.

Entrance £3 to non-members,
£1 to members (unless pre-paid).
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**Sunny Jim
Shirley Mannouch**

One of the toys we have in the museum was created in America as an advertising gimmick for a breakfast cereal called Force Wheat Flakes. Did any of our members own a Sunny Jim? To receive one you could send two Force packet tops and a shilling postal order or you could make your own from pre-printed material.



Jim was invented by Minnie Hanff, a New York advertising lady, in 1901 and became a celebrated example of a commercial that was more famous than the product. The expression "Sunny Jim" comes straight from the jingle, one example of which is:

*High o'er the fence leaps Sunny Jim,
Force is the food that raises him*

Within a couple of years 'Force' was on sale in Britain and here too people took to Sunny Jim (in spite of his ugly appearance). The peak popularity of the product here was 1930.

*Do you have any old toys from long ago?
The museum would be happy to give them
a home where they could be appreciated by
generations to come.*

Thanks to Jerry Cooley

Well done and thank you Jerry for stepping in with only a few hours notice to replace our speaker last month. Your insight into that part of Gallipoli and into Doughty-Wylie's VC action was most interesting.

Visit our website at:

www.sittingbourne-museum.co.uk

Allen Whitnell - Chairman & "temporary" editor - any volunteers ?

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