



# THE SITTINGBOURNE HERITAGE MUSEUM

## NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY

### 2020

Registered Charity No 1070698

## Study group continues its research—special report



The group enjoyed making notes on the rest of the documents in the box concerning the old Crown Inn in Sittingbourne High Street. The documents will now be able to be added to the museum catalogue and an article is being prepared for the March Journal detailing our discoveries. Amongst the many eighteenth century leases for a



year which were repetitive and filled with legal jargon we uncovered little nuggets of fascinating information. Just to give one example: we learned of two brick built oasts which Gabriel Hawker the attorney who lived in the High Street, close beside the Crown Inn, had had built behind his property in the 1740s.

*Meanwhile for more on Gabriel Hawker see our book High Street volume II and for more on the Crown Inn see the third edition of our Inns and Pubs book.*

**The illustrations show the thumbnail seals of Edward and Ann May, who owned the Crown for many years**

### Bygone Kent

## 40 Years of Bygone Kent



For 40 years the Bygone Kent magazine has been delving deep into the rich and varied history of Kent.

From cricketing heroes and distinguished authors, to world war reminiscences and famous events.

Christine Rayner will share some of her favourites with us.

Join us at The Avenue Theatre, Avenue of remembrance on 18th March at 7.00 pm



## Tunstall School Visits Museum

A pleasant, if somewhat hectic morning, was spent last January 10th when the Museum played host to 60 enthusiastic children and their teachers from Tunstall School. Space in the Museum is limited so they were divided into groups of 15 and the other half of each class had time to visit St Michael's Church before swapping around!

The visit began with a brief history of how Sittingbourne has grown and how the Museum was formed. The pupils were polite, well behaved and showed great interest in many of the exhibits, most popular being the technology display showing items they could recognise like early mobile phones and games consoles! Each pupil left with a bundle of leaflets and some postcards of the area.

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## “Go and buy the book from Sittingbourne Heritage Museum”

Following our notice in the January Newsletter about Len Hurst, it was great to read Christine Rayner’s full page article in Sittingbourne News [January 29th, 2020] reviewing the book, the man and his achievements! “It’s a pleasure to tell you more,” writes Christine, “with the proviso that you go and buy the book from the Heritage Museum website, to discover the full story.”

Be sure to join Christine on March 18th at the Avenue Theatre at 7pm for her presentation ‘40 Years of Bygone Kent’. Remember, admission is free to Museum members.



## Small Subscription Rise

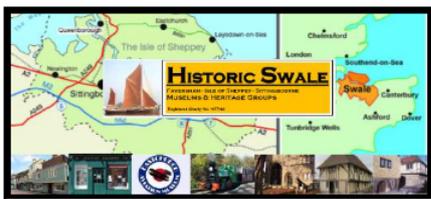


As you know, annual subscriptions in support of the Museum become due in April. To help meet rising costs we will be asking for a 50p increase in most cases. We thank you in advance for your continued support and especially those Members who choose to make an additional donation with their subscription or membership fee.

Full details will be in our Newsletters and also on our website.

Make a note in your diary: The Museum is re-opening for the 2020 season on Saturday March 7th

## Advance Information



TOGETHER WITH SWALE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PRESENT THE

### SWALE HERITAGE FORUM & CONFERENCE

## ‘Our Shared Heritage’

on  
**Saturday 21st March 2020**

At  
**The Appleyard, Avenue of Remembrance, Sittingbourne,  
ME10 4DE**

Registration opens: 9.30 am

Topics during this all-day conference will include all aspects of our local history, from prehistory up to the modern era...

Tickets from: Evenbrite, or at The Heritage Hub, Sittingbourne, Fleur De Lis, Faversham or Blue Town Heritage Centre, Sheppey. Admission is £5 including Refreshments and lunch.

Visit: [www.historicswale.org.uk](http://www.historicswale.org.uk)

## Sittingbourne Society Lectures

### Outline Programme for Spring 2020

**It is worth remembering that admission to these lectures is just £1 for Museum Members.**

Monday February 10th:

AGM, followed by ‘A Schoolgirl’s War’ by Mary Smith

Monday April 6th

‘Trackway to Motorway’ by Mike Bundock

Monday June 8th

‘Hadrian’s Wall’ by Chris Wade

**Each Lecture begins at 7.30pm at Phoenix House,  
Central Avenue, Sittingbourne.**

Visit our website at:

[www.sittingbourne-museum.co.uk](http://www.sittingbourne-museum.co.uk)

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It is worth remembering that from this month all Talks and Lectures will be FREE for members, although a donation will always be welcome! There will be a collection box on the door! Most talks/lectures will take place at the Avenue Theatre.