

HOW RENTS WERE PAID IN MEDIAEVAL MARDEN

It's amazing what interesting gems can be found in old documents. The following extracts came from such and involved rent payments in mediaeval Marden. We've all heard of a peppercorn rent but here is the origin of this and they also revealed other spices and even flowers and poultry. It also belies our understanding of peppercorn rent being of little value. Spices in those days were a luxury and of great worth.

1. *Late 13th century* – Thomas, son of Alexander of Marden quitclaims to Hugh of Murzie, clerk, 6 acres of land and marsh, the land a field called 'sutfeld' on Frehinghekest, the marsh in 'bersisbrok'. For an annual payment of a rose on St John the Baptist's altar in Marden church. For this Hugh has also paid 20s as a gersum fine.

2. *Late 12th century* – Adam, son of Osbert Hereward grants and quitclaims to Hamo Crevequer, son of Hamo Crevequer, a tenement that Nicholas le Simer held of Adam, which lies.... Of Pattenden with an annual payment by Nicholas of 6d(?) and 2(?) hens. Hamo to pay 1 clove annually

3. *Mid 13th century* – From William the tailor and his wife Matilda to 'Dominus' Hamo Crevequer, ½ an acre of land in Murzie which Matilda had bought from Roger le Duc. For payment of 3 peppercorns. The priory has paid ½ mark as a gersum fine

4. *1258* – John and his brother Alexander sons of Elnothus and Alexander, son of Bartholomew of Murzie grant to Hamo son of Robert of Crevequer (document damaged, presumably land at Murzie) and including an annual quit-rent payment of 12d and a root of ginger by the heirs of Michael of Marden for his tenement at Murzie. Hamo to pay the grantors 3.3/4d annually....Hamo paid 10s.6d as a gersum fine.

GERSUM: a fine paid by a vassal in feudal England to his superior usually on taking a holding



EUNICE DOSWELL

For detailed information about the village don't forget to visit the Society's very own website at www.mardensociety.org.uk

NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY 26 MARCH

John & Peggy Scott

"Pearly Kings and Queens"

All there is to know about the traditions

The Parish Pump is distributed free to Members of The Marden Society every two months



For details of Membership please contact the Membership Secretary Aileen Hill on 01622 831418

The Parish Pump

THE JOURNAL OF THE MARDEN SOCIETY

March 2014

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE AGM

First I would like to thank the Committee for their help and support over the year. Steve has been our Secretary, Aileen our Membership Secretary, Rob the Treasurer, and Carol, Pamela and Diane invaluable Committee Members. Also thanks to John Pert and John Wright for their help and support. Neither is standing for re-election but I would like to thank them for their time on the Committee. Which leaves us in need of two more Committee Members.

Pamela has been in charge of our raffles at our meetings, which raise just a little bit of extra cash to add to the coffers. We have received many contributions for prizes, and thanks to everyone who has contributed. Edith Davis has continued producing the Parish Pump regularly, and also the membership cards. Thanks to her for that, and to Arthur who I know helps with delivering.

Aileen donated several boxes of strawberries for our strawberries and cream stall at the Picnic in the Park and Pamela helped me find another supplier. Unfortunately we made only a small profit at this Picnic and the Village Fete but I think it is more important to join in and be seen to be joining in than perhaps making a lot of money.

I must say at the Village Fete Diane, Rob, John Wright and I had an amusing day, irrespective of the total at the end. Pleasant company, under the shade of the gazebo, not a bad way to spend a summer's day. Aileen and I had a cold cheerless day at the Picnic, strawberries and cream smacks of hot lazy sunny days, not a cold wind with a threat of rain

Our outing to Brattle Farm in June was attended by a good sized party and our thanks to our hosts, who also provided us with tea and coffee at the end of our tour. A really fascinating place to visit.

Thanks again to Aileen for all her work in preparing and for donating, the food on the table this evening.

We have a full programme planned for this year, which I hope will encourage you to come out and listen . We have several suggestions for a summer outing, which will be e-mailed to many of you, but there are some forms available for you to express an interest. A small cost is involved so we would need a firm commitment and a deposit, probably by April.

If you can complete the forms and return to me it would be helpful.

We have decided to make the November meeting dedicated to local speakers.

You will see that the 2014 Programme has been printed on page 3 of this Pump. This is because the printing costs of individual cards have become prohibitive. Please keep it for future reference.

MAUREEN CLAYTON *Chairman*

GRAHAM'S REMINISCENCES continued

Lastly, in these pieces, coal merchants Botten and Luck. Charlie Luck ran the business when I was a lad along with his son Howard who had just joined his dad on leaving school. Howard, of course, still lives in Marden opposite the primary school. Their coal yard was where Sovereigns Way is now. When that estate was built in the late 1970s, the intention was that the part that had been the coal yard was to be "Lucks Way". The fact that that road is a bit further over was a bureaucratic mix up!

Charlie had two lorries, both ancient green Bedford's, to cope with the business. In the days when virtually all homes were heated by coal or coke there was certainly enough to keep them busy. In the yard was a large gantry-like structure that was used to lift the bodies on and off the lorry chassis. This was because, on Tuesdays in particular, the flat bed would be winched off and a cattle truck bolted on to transport local farmers' livestock to Maidstone market.

My recollection of Charlie is that he was a short and wiry chap, never seen without his flat cap, nor his very small "roll-up" between his lips, and nearly always a smile on his face. Rumour had it that he never carried a wallet but kept all his ready money under that cap! But perhaps Howard can add more to my memories?

Graham Tippen

THE MARDEN HISTORY GROUP

Patron: Sir Nicholas Fenn, GCMG

Affiliated to The Marden
Society

The Annual History Group Talk

The 2014 Talk is to be presented by Graham Tippen on Wednesday 9th April in the Marden Vestry Hall, commencing at 8.00 p.m.

Graham's Talk is entitled 'Transport and Marden' and traces the way the many forms of transport have affected the village and those who have lived here over many generations. The Talk will be illustrated by old postcards, and photographs.

Graham confirms that the Talk will be quite light-hearted and non-technical and so will be of considerable interest to all local residents.

The Talk is sponsored by the Marden History Group and Kent Libraries, Registration and Archives. Everyone with an interest in Marden's history and its residents, past and present, is cordially invited to attend.

Editor's note: As anyone who attended Graham's historic talks on "OLD MARDEN" knows, this is a not-to-be-missed opportunity to hear Graham at his most informative



SPEAKERS LIST - 2014



WEDNESDAY 26 MARCH - John & Peggy Scott

"Pearly Kings and Queens"

All there is to know about the traditions

WEDNESDAY 23 APRIL - Dr Ann Knief

"The Bevin Boys"

How they were conscripted to the coal mines for war service

WEDNESDAY 28 MAY - Kevin Reynolds

"Best of Kent".

A talk on our historic County

WEDNESDAY 25 JUNE - TO BE ARRANGED

Outing to a local place of interest

WEDNESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER - Gillian Ellen

"The Medway Queen"

A talk about this historic "little ship"

WEDNESDAY 22 OCTOBER - Angela and Mike Cartwright

"Being an Olympic Volunteer"

An account of their experience of Volunteering

WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER - Edith Davis

"Sailing in the footsteps of the Ancient Greeks"

An illustrated talk about a cruise in 2004