

Medway Archives Centre (MAC)

A report to Kent History Federation 4 March 2019

I apologise for failing to send a report about Medway Archives Centre to the December Meeting of KHF. It does not reflect a lack of support for, or interest in, the Federation, merely a shortage of staff here at Medway Archives Centre and oversight by the Local Studies Librarian.

Despite our reduced staffing; most worryingly we are still without an archivist; staff at MAC are working together to offer a good service to researchers and an interesting and varied programme of exhibitions and events.

We were pleased to participate in Medway Heritage Team's World War 1 Commemorative project, *Soldiers Stories on our Streets*. A digitised downloadable map showing the home locations of Medway men who fought and died has been produced.

https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/file/3746/ww1_map_of_medway_servicemen

Our pre-Christmas talk by Christoph Bull entitled, *Who's who in Hoo* was delivered with characteristic enthusiasm and humour.

Rochester Bridge Trust's excellent Bridgeworks exhibition is currently filling our entrance foyer. The Trust has devised and delivered interactive sessions about the history of the bridge and bridge construction, working with 5 schools. These have been very successful. The exhibition runs until 12 March, and will transfer to Tonbridge Castle from Easter to the end of January 2020.

Our events and exhibitions for the coming months are as follows:

Saturday 9 March, 11.00 – 3.00 A special event marking International Women's Day:
Medway's Women: the infamous, the feted and the forgotten. The contribution made by women to the history of Medway.

Exhibition March 18 – June 11 **Celebrating Medway's Women:** the infamous, the feted and the forgotten. The contribution made by women to the history of Medway.

Half day family history courses by experts from Kent Family History Society for adults April 10, 13, 27 and May 1 (£5.00 per session) and for young researchers (aged 11 – 15) April 17 (free).

Special Saturday event June 8 10.00 – 3.00 **Undiscovered Rochester:** the lesser known parts of a famous city. This includes a free talk by Rob Flood ***Beer, murder and trains and more beer: that part of Rochester that's called Chatham.*** 11.00am

Exhibition June 17 – September 17 **Short Brothers in Kent: the Rochester years:** a celebration of engineering innovation

Talk July 3 **Short Brothers: the Rochester years** by Philip MacDougall 2.30pm

Please contact us to book tickets for talks, for more information about our holdings, our services and our special events. Medway Archives Centre 32 Bryant Road, Strood ME2 3EP

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www.medway.gov.uk/archives

Norma Crowe, Local Studies Librarian

27 February 2019
