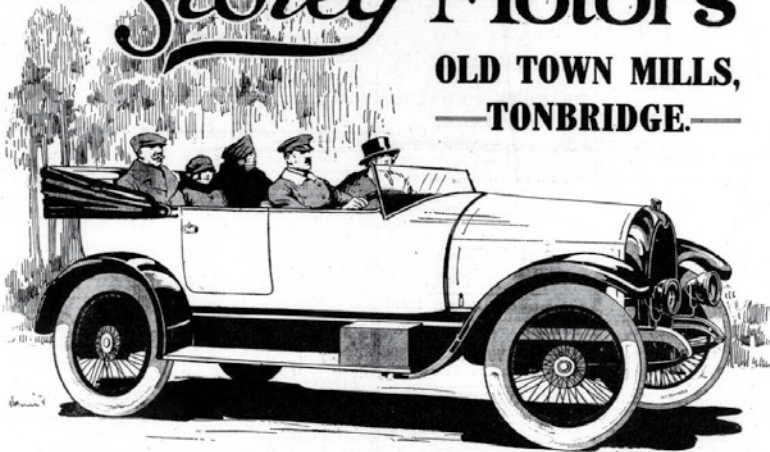


Tonbridge History Autumn 2019

Storey Motors

OLD TOWN MILLS,
—TONBRIDGE.—



THE TOURING CAR OF THE SEASON.

Specification:—"KENT" TOURING MODEL 4/5 SEATER.

14.3 and 20 h.p. Chassis with overhead gravity petrol feed system on 14 h.p. Model and Back Petrol Tank, Autovac Feed on 20 h.p. Model, as specification with the following equipment:— 12 volt electric starter and lighting set, including 2 head lamps, 2 side lamps, 1 rear lamp, 1 oil gauge, 1 electric horn, one-man hood, adjustable wind screen, kit of tools including jack and pump, spare wheel, tyre and tube and pockets to all doors. Finish: All brass fittings, painted and upholstered in standard colours, black, blue, grey, green and nut brown. These models are fitted with tub seats. Driver's seat adjustable only.

14.3 h.p. Chassis, fitted with Body as above Specification, £750 - 20 h.p. £850

Owing to the completion of new and extensive works at the OLD TOWN MILLS, TONBRIDGE, Daily Deliveries are now being made of this superbly-appointed Car and also of the delightful TWO-SEATER MODEL. The enormous demand for these STOREY 1920 MODELS, however, makes it advisable to book your Car NOW.

Specification:—"KENT" TOURING MODEL 2 SEATER.

14.3 h.p. and 20 h.p. Chassis with overhead gravity petrol feed system on 14 h.p. Model, and Back Petrol Tank, Autovac Feed on 20 h.p. Model, as specification with the following equipment:— 12 volt electric starter and lighting set including 2 head lamps, 2 side lamps, 1 rear lamp, 1 oil gauge, 1 electric horn, one-man hood, adjustable wind screen, kit of tools including jack and pump, spare wheel, tyre and tube and pockets to all doors. Finish: All brass fittings, painted and upholstered in standard colours, black, blue, grey, green and nut brown. These models are fitted with tub seats. Driver's seat adjustable only.

14.3 h.p. Chassis, fitted with Body as above Specification, £750 - 20 h.p. £850



The "Storey" RADIATOR is the Hall Mark by which every STOREY CAR may be known.

It is also a sign of the excellence and typical of every Storey Model.

IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT

Is offered to skilled men in any of the following trades:

Cabinet Makers, Body Builders, Panel Beaters, Trimmers, Coach Painters, Coach Smiths, Moulders—Iron, Brass and Aluminium, Turners and Improvers, Chassis Erectors, Fitters and Testers, Sheet Metal Workers, General Engineers.

All enquiries should be addressed to **Mr. WILLIAM STOREY, THE OLD TOWN MILLS, TONBRIDGE.**

Orders for Cars - Please write, 'phone or call

THE STOREY MACHINE TOOL CO., LTD.,
TONBRIDGE - NEW CROSS, or

LONDON SHOWROOMS: 79, KINGSWAY, LONDON, W.C.2.

Telephones: Tonbridge No. 155.

New Cross 83 or 149.

Gerrard 3842.

J.C.P.

When jobs were scarce after WW1 the establishment of a large new car factory promised 'Immediate Employment' for Tonbridge men. So what happened? See pages 6-7.

Society News

From the Chairman

As your new Chairman I welcome you all to another year of interesting and a varied programme of talks. I look forward to meeting you all and working to continue developing the society into the future.

I am extremely proud to have been elected Chairman. I would like to add my personal appreciation for all George's hard work and enthusiasm during his term as Chairman, and especially his support and guidance during this change over period.

A little background about myself: Probably, like most of us my love of history began at school and was further developed during my career in construction working on a range of historical buildings and locations both in the U.K. and abroad. I am interested in all aspects of history, particularly local and the development of buildings.

David Phillips

Recent Meetings

At our March meeting Mary Smith, a former Head of Maidstone Girl's Grammar School gave a fascinating talk about the school during the Second World War. The talk was based on a book of paintings done at the time by the school art mistress, Mary Keen, which showed school life during the Battle of Britain in 1940 and during the V1 attacks in 1944. Mary Smith had also managed to trace 53 'Old Girls' who had been at the school during the war and recorded their memories – including

the experience of having lessons in the school air raid shelter during bombing raids.

In April, following the AGM, Vanessa King gave a talk about 'The Domesday Knights of Canterbury' where she looked at the background to England in 1086 when the Domesday Book was being prepared and in particular at what could be learnt from her detailed research into the records of the knights holding land from the Archbishop of Canterbury.

She has identified more than fifty of these knights some of whom held land in West Kent, including at Maidstone, Wrotham, Otford and Brasted. One of these was Gilbert FitzRichard who had several holdings within his Lowy of Tonbridge.

Lecture Programme 2019-20

All meetings are held in the Riverside Room at the Angel Centre. Tea and coffee are available before the evening meetings.

Thursday 19th September, 7.45 pm

Cabinets of Curiosity

Martin Crowther

A look at the history of 'Cabinets of Curiosity' from the 16th century Kunstkammer of Holy Roman Emperor Rudolf II to Sir Hans Sloane's Museum and Tradescant's Ark, including Canon John Bargrave's cabinets at Canterbury Cathedral and some strange items from around the globe that were included in Canterbury's first museum in 1825.

The speaker has held curatorial, learning and engagement roles at the National Maritime Museum, Imperial

War Museum, Canterbury Museums & Galleries and Canterbury Cathedral. He now has his own heritage learning consultancy.

Thursday 3rd October, 7.45 pm

The Suffrage movement in Tonbridge

Pam Mills

One hundred years ago, in 1919, Tonbridge saw the first woman councillor to be voted in – Mrs Jane Darling. Who was she, who were the women who campaigned for the vote and what impact did it have on our town? A welcome return by Pam Mills, following up last year's well-received talk on Tonbridge 1914-18.

Saturday 9th November, 2.30 pm – Two-session meeting with tea

Booking is essential for this meeting – a form with details of charges is available from the Secretary.

Lees Court Estate – A Forgotten Pre-historic Landscape ... and more

Richard Taylor and Clive Drew

The talks will focus on the exciting findings of an archaeological investigation currently under way at the Lees Court Estate near Faversham under the auspices of Kent Archaeological Society (KAS) and the Lees Court Estate. Since work began in 2017 the investigation has revealed no fewer than five Bronze Age hoards near two Bronze Age barrow mounds, a mid-Neolithic causewayed enclosure and an Iron Age Area of occupation or ritual. One interpretation could be that a previously unknown settlement was located here, at a point where technological and cultural exchange took place between the Continent and the islands of Britain over many thousands of years.

Richard Taylor is a qualified teacher, archaeologist and published writer with experience in a variety of archaeological, teaching and educational management roles. Currently Archaeological Director for a small commercial company, he is also a Member of KAS Council and edits its Newsletter. Clive Drew is chairman of the Lees Court Estate project, and General Secretary and a trustee of KAS.

Thursday 19th December, 7.45 pm

The Medieval Christmas

Toni Mount

A suitably seasonal flavour for our December meeting! Toni Mount is a writer, history teacher and speaker, who brings history alive with her books, courses and talks, based on thirty years of personal and academic study.

Thursday 13th February 2020, 7.45 pm

The Siren Sea

Imogen Corrigan

A welcome return by a popular speaker who has previously told us about the Luttrell Psalter, and Aspects of Mediaeval Life. Her subject this time embraces 'Mediaeval sailors, navigators, shipwrecks and the occasional monster'. Imogen graduated from the University of Kent in Anglo-Saxon and Medieval history and art, and is now a freelance lecturer. Her first book, 'Stone on Stone: the Men who built the Cathedrals' was published in April 2019.

Thursday 12th March 2020, 7.45 pm

The post-Medieval iron industry in the Weald – from Tudor times to the early 19th century

Jeremy Hodgkinson

The speaker is Honorary Research Fellow in Archaeology at the University of Exeter, a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, and a leading authority on the Wealden Iron Industry. He was Chairman of the Wealden Iron Research Group for 24 years and is now its President, and is much in demand as a speaker. He has written two books: The Wealden Iron Industry (2008), and British Cast-Iron Firebricks (2010), a subject he spoke about on a previous visit to our Society.

Thursday 16th April 2020, 7.30 pm

AGM followed by

The Worthies of Tonbridge – Blue Plaques

Pat Mortlock

The speaker needs little introduction, having served over many years as committee member, treasurer, chairman, and now president of our society. She will tell us 'how we made decisions and chose the recipients of the blue plaques who these people were and plans for the next lot to go up. Also who were considered and rejected!'

Forthcoming courses

Details of courses of historical interest can be found on the following websites.

WEA Courses in Tonbridge:

www.wea.org.uk/southern/map-region/tonbridge-branch

Courses at the Adult Education Centre in Avebury Avenue:

www.kentadulthoodeducation.co.uk/

Courses at the University of Kent Tonbridge Centre, Avebury Avenue:

www.kent.ac.uk/tonbridge/short-courses/index.html

Update on Council letter 'Conservation Policy – List of Local Historic Assets'

It was mentioned at our April meeting that the Society had written in March to the council in relation to the conservation issues raised in the Primrose Inn planning application, especially the lack of a 'List of Local Historic Assets' and we were awaiting a reply. We received a reply offering the Society and the Civic Society a meeting to discuss the issues raised.

Since April, the Society's committee has established a sub-committee to develop our response and it has been gathering information both locally, nationally and from historical and archaeological organisations involved in the planning process.

We intend to present a robust case to the council as to the benefits that a List

of Local Historic Assets would bring and its benefits in assisting the Council and other stakeholders in the planning process.

A brief summary: a Locally Listed Historic Asset is a building, park or garden considered to be of special interest, because of its local historic, architectural, design or townscape value. A Locally Listed building is not the same as a Listed Building.

Local listing is a concept that is designed to ensure that the historic and architectural interest of buildings that are of local importance but do not meet the criteria for being nationally listed is taken account of during the planning process.

David Phillips

.....
: A small but informative exhibition
: about the history of bridges over
: the River Medway is now open in
: Tonbridge Castle Gatehouse.

: Titled '**Bridge Works – Crossing
: the River Medway**', it tells the 600
: year story of
: the Rochester
: Bridge Trust,
: and the 1,400
: years of bridge
: history before
: that. The display
: includes infor-
: mation panels
: designed to ap-
: peal to all ages a
: Roman soldier,
: a medieval stonemason, and a number
: of activities for children.



.....
The part played by the Bridge Trust in the rebuilding and widening of Tonbridge's Great Bridge is included.

'Bridge Works' is open from 9 to 5 Monday to Saturday, and 10.30 to 4.30 on Sundays and Bank Holidays, until 21 January 2020.

Admission to the Castle via the Tourist Office is required but can be obtained half-price for a limited period using a voucher which can be downloaded here:

www.rbt.org.uk/

BridgeWorks. Free pre-booked school tours are also offered.

100 years ago – ‘Spanish Flu’

The 1918-20 influenza pandemic, colloquially known as Spanish flu, was an unusually deadly outbreak. It infected 500 million people around the world, including on remote Pacific islands and in the Arctic, and resulted in the deaths of 50 to 100 million (three to five percent of the world’s population), making it one of the deadliest natural disasters in human history. A quarter of the British population were affected and there were 228,000 deaths, including many in Tonbridge.

As the epidemic waned the *Courier* published advertisements, disguised as news items, promoting patent remedies alleged to ward off the after-effects. This one, from March 1919, is an example:

‘The ravages of influenza this winter have had a worldwide effect that is still apparent. ... the best way to guard against after effects of influenza is to build up the blood and there’s no better blood builder than Dr Williams’ pink pills. As soon as this revitalised blood courses through the system you are aware of its healthful influence; steadily colour returns to pale cheeks, appetite returns with power to digest food and you are well on the road to health.

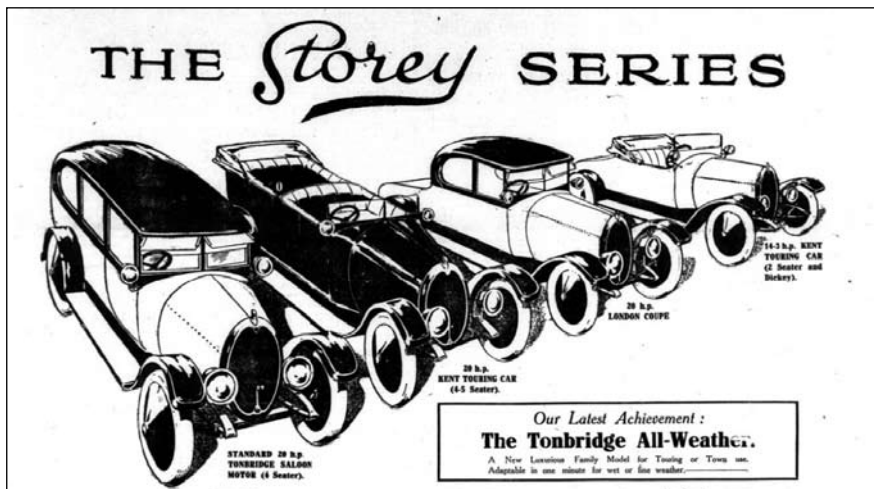
Mrs Jane Fitzpatrick of Halifax gives an account of how she overcame influenza after-effects. ‘When the fever had run its course I was left too weak to even turn in bed without help ... my life was slipping away, often I fainted and any sudden noise made me tremble and breakout in cold perspiration. Doctors did what they could but medicines seemed no help ... a neighbour advised mother to give me Dr Williams’ pink pills. In a short time a sense of hunger grew on me and I needed more substantial food, then I grew stronger and stronger and my blood was richer indeed, and before long I was strong enough to get up and go out. I continue taking Dr Williams’ pink pills regularly and ... I never miss a chance of recommending Dr Williams’ pink pills for they saved my life. The best time to begin Dr Williams’ pink pills is today. Go to any dealer for a supply and say you want Dr Williams’.’



Storey Motors

In 1919 Tonbridge looked all set to become a major centre for the manufacture of motor-cars. A concern called Storey Motors, offshoot of an existing toolmaking business in south London, had plans for a big factory in the vicinity of the Town Mills. In December a *Courier* reporter interviewed the firm’s manager, Mr G S Knott, who explained the extent of the development. The company had purchased fields ‘right down to the Medway bank on the left-hand side of Mill Lane, and also a large stretch of land on the right-hand side’. The Old Mill building was in use as a foundry, and the new factory would have ‘eighteen bays, 440 feet long’. He hoped ‘when the work is in full swing, to employ 3,000 work people’.

At first all seemed to go well. In March 1920 the firm announced, in the advertisement reproduced on page 1, that ‘owing to the conclusion of new and extensive works at the Old Town Mills, Tonbridge, Daily Deliveries are now being



made of this superbly-appointed Car ... The enormous demand for these STOREY 1920 models, however, makes it advisable to book your Car NOW.


Trouble lay ahead however. Soon Storey's were pressing the Council for definite information about when new houses would be available in Tonbridge. Some workers were having to travel down from London daily. The lack of houses was a serious loss and inconvenience. If only there were more houses the company could 'relieve much of the unemployment in Tonbridge'. In July Mr Knott predicted a secure future 'when the 500 houses in Tonbridge had been erected'.

But in December 1920 the first hint of trouble came in an announcement on the Sports pages of the *Courier*. A Charity Cup-Tie between a Storey football team and Paddock Wood had been cancelled at the last minute 'owing to the closing down of works'. By mid-January 1921 Storey's was in receivership and its 'Valuable Machinery and Plant' up for auction.

Storey Motors was the victim not just of a lack of housing in Tonbridge, but also a sudden economic downturn which seriously reduced demand for up-market cars. By then, according to Wikipedia, 1000 Storey cars had been built in Tonbridge. It would be nice to know if any still survive.



Probably the remains of the derelict Storey Motors factory near Cannon Lane, photographed during a flood, with the gasworks behind.

ROYAL VISIT  **TO TONBRIDGE.**

ON the occasion of the Visit of Their Royal Highnesses Prince and Princess Henry of Battenberg on Tuesday the 28th June inst., it is hoped that the Tradesmen and Inhabitants generally will do their best to give the Town an attractive appearance by decorating their premises, and by keeping the Roads and Pathways clear of Boxes, Packing-cases and the like. This is especially desirable in the Streets forming the route of the procession, viz: Barden Road, High Street, Bordyke, East Street, and Bank Street.

FRANK EAST,
Chairman of the Tonbridge Local Board.

TONBRIDGE,
18th June, 1892.

H. S. BRIDGER, MACHINE PRINTER, 68, HIGH STREET, TONBRIDGE.

A poster from the Chairman of the Local Board exhorting the people of Tonbridge to smarten up the town in advance of a visit by Queen Victoria's youngest daughter, Princess Beatrice, and her husband. The response was good, with the town said to be 'elaborately decorated, with triumphal arches erected along the route' on the day of the visit. The princess opened a fête in the Castle Grounds to raise funds for repairing the parish church. (THS archives H/04/009)