

BIRCHINGTON HERITAGE TRUST



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2002

Welcome to the first Birchington Heritage Trust Newsletter

We hope you will not mind us sending only one copy per household to save on expenses. If any member would like an individual copy, please let one of the committee know. The newsletter will be published quarterly and we would welcome any contributions in the form of articles, photographs, quizzes or other items for possible inclusion. Alan Kay and Jenny Burgess have agreed to publish the newsletter. We look forward to a good read.

HERITAGE TRUST'S NEW LOGO

The committee warmly thank one of our members, Edward Tranter, for providing an excellent corporate image for the Heritage Trust.

The logo, shown above, depicts waves for our association with the sea; a wooden hull to show

Cinque Ports, as a limb of Dover in the thirteenth century and an open book to illustrate our Trust's store of knowledge and heritage research.

These are topped by a birch tree giving the derivation of the village name.

We hope you all like it!

GENERAL MEETING

The next general meeting of The Birchington Trust is:

7.30, Friday

September 20th

at

The Village Centre

All are welcome.

A GENTLE REMINDER TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

Membership fees for the year 2002-2003 are now due and we should be very grateful for £5 per person. Cheques should be made payable to **The Birchington Heritage Trust** and paid to Tom Tindle at the September meeting or at 126a Alpha Road. Membership forms from Pat Orpwood, 77 Alpha Road.

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SEPTEMBER HERITAGE NOTICEBOARD

TRUSTEES CHOSEN

The following trustees were agreed at the first general meeting of The Birchington Heritage Trust on Friday 31st May, 2002:

Jennie Burgess Roselynde Cossey
Derek Raven Neville Hudson

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The first committee meeting was held on June, followed by a second on 8th August. Items discussed included the setting up of working groups, this newsletter, our future exhibition and fund-raising.

WORKING GROUPS

Three working groups are currently being set up: In Living Memory, Schools and Transport. This does not rule out other choices. Contact a committee member. John Dodd has agreed to train and consolidate groups.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following committee members were elected at the first general meeting of The Birchington Trust on Friday 31st May, 2002. Officers were elected at the first meeting:

Tom Tindle - Treasurer	George Teasdale
Pat Orpwood - Secretary	Beth Thomson
Colin Gordine	John Harrison
Alan Kay	John Dodd

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

The committee would be pleased to hear from anyone with computer skills who would be willing to offer advice as needed. Also more photographers are needed to record the village

NEW CHAIRMAN

Derek Raven has kindly agreed to act as Chairman of the committee for the first

DO YOU REMEMBER 1953? What were you doing here in Birchington on Coronation Day?

We are planning an exhibition and other events to coincide with the fiftieth anniversary in June 2003. If you have any photographs or memorabilia you would be willing to lend us for an exhibition, we should be very grateful. The David Burley Gallery is booked from 2nd to 7th

BIRCHINGTON TRIVIA

From our Files

By Alan Kay

In 1894 Bishop Randolph was hooted by the villagers for "cycling on a Sunday" as

Neames Barns in Margate Road were where the present fish and chip shop is. The barns were part of the extensive Neame's Farm. The present Smugglers

In a rare Birchington document which had to be signed by all men of the village over 18, 171 signed, but of these 129 made their marks because they were unable to write their names. All who signed agreed to assist the forces raised by Parliament against King Charles 1.

In 1921 Birchington sold its water cart used to water the dry earth and stone

A notice was sent out by Birchington Fire Brigade in 1875:
"...in view of the difficulty in obtaining Fire Brigade charges, it has been decided that in case of fire the Brigade will proceed to the premises immediately, but unless the property owner will sign a guarantee for the expenses incurred, the

In 1674 there were 230 hearths in 79 houses in Birchington that had to pay the

Observance of the Sabbath was very strict in the 17th century. In 1630, the wife of Robert Barnes was charged with "pulling hemp on a Sunday". With great remorse she confessed to "binding up a small quantity of hemp which otherwise would have spoilt in the wet weather" and asked for forgiveness.

The 1871 census showed 234 households in Birchington, about 1137 persons. Epple Bay appeared to be a separate community with a coastguard station and a few dwellings. The census listed just 26 people there. Visitors were reported as being "very genteel". While

NOTICE OF THE GENERAL MEETING

The second general meeting of The Birchington Heritage Trust will be held in Birchington Village Centre on Friday 20th September at 7.30.

1. Ratification and amendment (if necessary) of the
2. Suggested working groups.
3. Statement of Accounts.
4. Birchington and the 50th anniversary of the 1953
5. Date of next meeting.
6. Any other Business.

SOME NOTES ON THE MEETING

If you are interested in one of the three working groups currently identified, or in any other, please contact John Dodd or any other committee member.

Also if anyone is interested in contributing articles or items to the quarterly newsletters, please see Dr Alan Kay or Jennie Burgess.

The intention is to invite guest speakers to our quarterly meetings. However, in view of the short notice, it is felt better to have an "Any Questions" on Birchington Heritage to be answered (if possible!) by appropriate members of the Committee. Please think up some useful questions.

ANY ENQUIRIES?

All enquiries and requests for membership application forms to our secretary:
Mrs Pat Orpwood, 77, Alpha Road, Birchington, CT7 9ED. Telephone: 847843

We look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting!