

DENYS JAMES HATSON COCK

Denys (Den or Dan) Cock was born on 14th March 1906 and died on 28th July 1997. He lived in or very near Birchington most of his life, working at one time for one of the local Bakers. He then worked for the Westgate and Birchington Gas and Water Co. where his father and brother also worked. In the late 1930s he was working on maintenance jobs for the company and living at St Nicholas. One of these jobs entailed lighting a batch of gas lamps each evening, including those on the St Nicholas roundabout. He also would get called out to relight them if they blew out on windy nights.

He travelled widely round the villages on the east side of Thanet on a ancient bicycle, which badly needed updating. When he asked his superiors for a new bike, he was told it would help if he recorded his mileages each day. This he did during the year of 1938. He also included the journeys he had to make towing a trailer with tools etc. The result of his labour at the end of the year was a much newer bicycle, making his life considerably easier.

He wrote the story of his life, and his son has now typed out this record, together with the journeys on the intrepid bicycle. He has donated them to the Museum and is lending us the original copy of those records for a while.



Denys (Den) James Hatson Cock

Incidentally, Den covered 5097 miles during 1938 - so, as his son says, "Little wonders that he got his bike!"