

PLOUGHING MATCH 1860

ISLE OF THANET AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION
From the Kentish Chronicle, 1 December, 1860

The ploughing match took place on Friday, in a field in Birchington, belonging to Mr. A Collard. There were 40 ploughs in the field. The judges expressed their opinion that it was the best work they had ever seen.

After the regular match was concluded, a match took place between two amateurs, Mr. A Gillow, St. Nicholas, and Mr. Harnett, Chilton. The judges, as the work was done so equally, decided upon it being considered a "surprise." The match caused no little excitement among some 300 persons present, a large number of them being ploughmen, and it has given rise to a sweep-stake of £1 each, open to gentlemen amateurs in the Isle of Thanet, to plough with four horses, after the usual match, another year, each taking his quarter of an acre.

There will also be a sweepstake of 10s each, open to the Isle of Thanet, for the production of the best mangel wurzel. The prizes were distributed to the successful competitors by S. Swinford Esq., who addressed them in some well chosen remarks.

The judges and some dozen other gentlemen afterwards repaired to the "Powell's Arms," where they partook of an excellent spread. Mr. Palmer occupied the chair, Mr. W Gillow officiating as vice chairman. In noticing the efforts to establish a root show, Mr. Gillow remarked upon the large number exhibited a short time back at the Nonington meeting; he also dwelt upon the great food of such matches as they had witnessed that day.