



The Hamlet

Issue 172

The Golden Green Association Newsletter

October 2013

Hartlake Bridge Disaster Anniversary



Anne Hughes writes: 'This month sees the 160th anniversary of the terrible accident at Hartlake Bridge, when 30 hop-pickers were drowned in the Medway river when the side of the wooden bridge (shown here in a Victorian print) gave way as they were crossing in a horsedrawn cart.'

The cries of the unfortunate victims could be heard in The Bell, which was used as a makeshift morgue and for the subsequent inquest, where

one witness recounted: 'When we got nearly over, the hind horse slipped and the driver tried to pull his head round to the other side of the road but before he could do so or get round to turn it, one wheel came against the side of the bridge and broke it and we were tipped into the water.'

Local historian Anne continues: 'Twelve of the dead were Irish, many of them young girls. The rest were Romany gypsies, most related, including four small children. All are buried in St Mary's churchyard, Hadlow with a memorial designed to resemble an oasthouse.' The tragedy shocked the nation at the time.

The Romany Traveller & History Society are marking the anniversary with an **Open Day** on **Saturday 19 October** from 11am-4pm in the Old School Hall, Hadlow. There will be displays on the incident and on hop-picking in general, plus records relating to various Romany families and a book stall. Anyone interested will be welcome – nominal charge £1 to cover refreshments. For further information, contact Anne Hughes on 850214.

There will also be a **Commemorative Dinner** on **Thursday 17 October** in The Bell, £9.95 per head; tables of 2, 4, 6 or 8 can be booked with Ray at The Bell (851748) by 15 October please.

The novella *The Green Silk Dress* by local author Marie Cross, a fictionalised account of the Hartlake disaster (and a good read) is being reprinted for the anniversary. A contemporary folk song, *The Hartlake Bridge Tragedy*, can be heard at <http://edandwill.bandcamp.com/track/the-hartlake-bridge-tragedy>.

Left: Memorial, St Mary's; *centre & right:* plaques at the new Hartlake Bridge.



The Bell Football News

The Bell FC made a bright start to our league campaign with a 4-3 victory at the Flying Dutchman. We raced into a 3-0 lead, only to see a comeback from the home side but a late own goal secured the points. The following week saw an entertaining 3-3 draw against Green St Blues at home, a late goal denying us all 3 points. Nick Capon scored a fantastic hat-trick for The Bell and there were strong performances from Matt Marle and Martin Hibbs. We suffered our first defeat at the hands of Goudhurst Reserves. Despite fighting back from 4-1 down to get the score to 4-4, we came up short against a Goudhurst team that had several first team players (as their game was cancelled), and the final score was 6-4. Jake and Kane Fairweather were very impressive despite the defeat. The Bell had a mixed start but we can take encouragement in the way we played. There is a good possibility of a strong league finish and hopefully a good cup run.

Chris Newhouse, Team Manager

The Bell FC sponsored by The Pool People

GG Autumn Quiz

Saturday 12 October Mission Hall

7pm for prompt 7.30 start

£6 per person, fish & chip supper

Owing to the popularity of the New Year Village Quiz, an extra seasonal challenge is taking place this month. Put together a team of 6-8 or join one on the night. Fish 'n chips delivered in the interval (or ask for alternative to fish when booking). Bring your own drinks and nibbles, a raffle prize and some scissors for fine cutting (one or two pairs per table).

Contact **Howard (850329)** to book a place *now* as space is limited.

Golden Green Committee Contacts

Chair Alec Peimore 850739 Secretary Howard Rogers 850329 Treasurer Gabrielle Lear 851252 Hall Bookings Val Nobes, 850768. Newsletter Anne Waddingham 850048
 Committee John Allen 851462, Chris Blackburn 850812, Ed Bright 850590, Nick Collins 850968, Linda Daker 851969, Andrew & Judith Deckers 850039, Stan Ellis, Graham Hargrave Smith 851576, Pete Hilborn 850278, Jo Ivell 850291, Michael Nobes 850768, Terry Parris 850725, Jane Rogers 850329, Rob Seall 850664, Pat Simmons 850257, June Thomas 850842, Sean Waddingham 850048, Ray Warren 851748, Ali Williams Walker

GG Women's Institute Report by Iris Wilson

Congratulations were due to Pearl on last month's interesting tour of Golden Green and to Doreen for her cream teas.

One of our members, Valerie, has asked for donations of everyday toiletry items including pens, pencils etc. for the Link to Hope charity. Shoe boxes are filled with the items that make life a little easier for poor families in eastern Europe.

We had some welcome visitors who came along to listen to our guest speaker, Roger Smith, who gave us a tour of Kent village signs. Did you know there are 174 village signs in Kent? We covered about



70, including Mayfield, Barming and Biggin Hill (photo), which has a Spitfire and a Hurricane commemorating the Battle of

Britain, a church, a cedar tree (one of the Great Trees of London), and a badger and a fox representing wildlife.

Pembury's Bo-Peep Corner has a sign depicting the nursery rhyme character, although the name has nothing to do with the poem. The village of Ruckinge has three signs, pertaining to the local industry in days gone by, etc. Several signs have been funded by the local WIs, such as those at East Peckham and Crockenhill, and can be identified by the WI logo on the post.

Not every village has its sign but the list includes East Farleigh, Loose, Birchington and Biddenden to name just a few. And not forgetting Golden Green! Roger asked us for more information about ours to include in his future talks.

Next month's speaker is Kay East who will talk about the charity Associated Country Women of the World, the association to which our pennies are sent.

For more details of Golden Green WI, please contact President Rosemary Blackburn on 850812.

What's On in Golden Green?

More info:

Mondays	Zoe's Pilates	Hall	10-11am	771747
Tuesdays	Coffee Morning	Hall	10am	850768
Tuesdays	Mobile Library	Vic. Rd	5-5.15pm	0300 333 6022
Wednesdays	Gentle Exercise	Hall	10.30am	850768
Thursdays	Bat and Trap	The Bell	7.30pm	851748
OCTOBER				
Monday 7 Oct	Bell Quiz Night	The Bell	8.45pm	851748
Saturday 12 Oct	GGA Village Quiz	Hall	7 for 7.30pm	850329
Wednesday 16 Oct	WI meeting	Hall	7.45pm	850812
Thursday 17 Oct	Hartlake Anniv Dinner	The Bell	7 for 7.30pm	851748
Monday 21 Oct	Bingo!	Hall	8pm	850768
NOVEMBER				
Monday 4 Nov	Bell Quiz Night	Bell	8.45pm	851748

Poppy Appeal 2015

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal needs house-to-house collectors in GG, Hadlow and Plaxtol. Can you spare an hour or two? We also need someone to sit in Poulton Wood clubhouse reception. Contact Sean on 850048 or email gghamlet@hotmail.co.uk if you can help.

Hamlet Snippets

*** The closure of Victoria Road** and the southern footpath has been postponed to 28 Oct, because harvest traffic needs to use the road. The work will last up to 22 weeks while the culvert is being rebuilt.

*** The date for the GG carol service** has been changed to Sunday 22 December *not* 15th.

Parish Council Contacts

Parish Office Tel: 851878
 Email: clerk@hadlowpc.co.uk
 Open Tue & Thu 9.30am-12 noon
 Website www.hadlowpc-kent.org.uk
 Golden Green Councillors:
 Nick Collins: 850968
 nicolins@btinternet.com
 Ed Bright: 850590
 ed.bright@talk21.com

Bulky refuse and WEEE lorry: Victoria Road cul-de-sac Saturday 19 October 9.30-10.30 am.

GGA Lottery Results 2013

September 2013
 £25 Tim Winter
 £25 Williams Walker
 £10 Neville Summers

Please hand in items for inclusion in the next issue to Anne Waddingham at 13 Sherenden Park or email gghamlet@hotmail.co.uk by 25 October