

# Seat crushed by tree

1/2/1990

A HUGE tree crashed down just yards from passing cars in Tenterden High Street, demolishing a seat near the road.

Other roads in the area were blocked. Townsfolk pulled together to help clear the debris.

Homewood School was evacuated after a fir tree came down in the coach park and part of the sixth form study room roof was blown away.

Second master Reg Hughes said: "We were very anxious about other trees coming down, so we abandoned classes and kept everyone indoors."

The storm played havoc with the school's 200-year-old oak tree which split down the middle and now faces the axe.



This tree came down within yards of motorists using Tenterden High Street

Tiles were blown from the roof of the mansion building but the chimney stack which came down in the storm two years ago stood up this time.

A transit van travelling

from High Halden towards Tenterden was caught in a gust and blown over on to a verge on the Ashford Road at St Michael's. The driver and passenger were shaken but only slightly hurt.

A wall between Swaines the outfitters in Tenterden High Street and the Chinese Restaurant was demolished and greenhouses crashed down farther along the street.



TENTERDEN LOST another of its High Street trees during the storm on Thursday last week

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IN ITS heyday the Tenterden and St Michael's Football Club teams featured on postcards, which were sent out from the town all over the country.

The Tenterden Town Band would play before games, and thousands would cheer the players onto the pitch for cup matches.

The glory days are being researched for a centenary book on the club by its present secretary Sam Stevens.

He says: "There is no doubt that the club was the town, and the town was the club up until the council lost its borough status."

"Tenterden borough council was heavily involved with the club. Its town clerks were traditionally its presidents and chairmen."

In the pictorial history of Tenterden by Reg Spelling, he notes: "To play at Tenterden on a Good Friday in the Weald of Kent Charity Cup Final was perhaps like playing at Wembley in the FA Cup Final."

The club was founded in 1890 by Dr R.A. Skinner and the Rev R. Simpson.

The first team played in blue and white stripes, and Hamstreet hauliers G.H. Bromley have sponsored a centenary strip to match.

The FA is hoping to arrange a celebration match with a Select XI.

Sam Stevens says: "I don't know who they have in mind, but if we win the World Cup it could be interesting."

The centenary book is due out this spring, and a gala dinner for all past and present members of the club, will be held later in the year.

He has a photograph of the 1919 team, when Ron Hutchinson, 86, of Tenterden High Street, was in the line-up. Another player now in his eighties, was Bill Holdstock of Castweazle.

Halfway through the season, the club is enjoying considerable success, with all three teams in the running for league and cup wins.

Football historian Jack Gillett is helping to put together facts about the high spots of the past.

One gap they need more information about are the years 1930-37, and particularly who were president, chairman and captain during those years.

One of the first recorded games in 1890 was versus a Kentish Express XI, when the local team lost 6-0!

Tenterden making an early return to league action picked up more invaluable promotion points thanks to a hard earned odd goal in three over Hollington.

Barry Agar was the man who inspired the Dens latest triumph taking star billing and having a hand in both the goals put away by Darren Light and Vic Edgar. The Reserves stay at the top of their Division recording a very handy 6-1 win over Traveaux who were totally outclassed by Bill Jones boys.

There were three goals in each half with Neil Denton firing a superb hat-trick and going on to complete a personal nap hand in a dazzling display of finishing. Darren Moffatt completed the festivities with the Den sixth.

The Dens third team saw their promotion push halted when they were held to a 1-1 draw by Tackelway who were good value for their share of the spoils in an entertaining affair.

Pictured left the Tenterden squad in their new centenary year strip.

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