

When trains ran daily and the Embassy was the place to go

8/3/1990

TENTERDEN has changed a great deal in the last half century.

In the latest Tenterden and District Museum Association newsletter, editor Kenneth Clark who has surveyed the area since 1939, describes the town as it was at the outbreak of the Second World War.

Mr Clark writes that in those days Tenterden was a bustling community, governed by the mayor, Cllr Leslie Chalk, deputy mayor Cllr Edith Adams, aldermen and councillors.

There were three banks and good postal arrangements under postmaster H G Duvall. The Ashford Road post office was open from 8am to 7.30pm each weekday. Letterboxes were cleared frequently, including Sundays.

There were eight places of worship and 19 insurance agents.

Stables

Education needs were met by Miss Hall's private school, Penderel Lodge, the British council school in Ashford Road, and church schools in Church Road and at St Michael's.

No less than nine bus services ran through the town every day. On the railway, there were three trains daily each way between Tenterden and Robertsbridge and Headcorn Junction.

The Tenterden Bowls Club green was in the White Lion Hotel garden, where Tower

by JENNI BALOW

riding stables advertised "nervous riders carefully taught".

The cricket club played at Morghew Park, the mixed Grasshoppers hockey club met on ground at the back of Hales Place and the Junior, Imperial and Constitutional League at The Pebbles — now the library.

Tenterden had a splendid new cinema. The Embassy had opened in 1937 and three different programmes were shown each week.

The Tenterden detachment 15th platoon of the Buffs practised regularly at the drill hall in Church Road.

In the High Street, Nina and Arthur Goldsmith and Tom Masters sold their own bread, cakes and pastries.

Farm produce, tea and fresh roasted coffee were among items sold in the town by Hugh Willsher, Ernest Stanger and H Lindridge. Milk and cream were delivered twice daily.

The most significant general store was Boormans at West Cross, self-styled 'store of the Weald' which sold groceries and fashion goods and dealt with dry cleaning and upholstery.

A corseterie was run by Miss Austen at

Cherry Orchard House, Smallhythe Road and the Misses Baitup also supplied corsets at 11 High Street, where Woolworths now stands.

A dolls' hospital was run by J Bridgland at East Cross, who also sold Meccano, Hornby and Dinky toys.

R and J Bennett were coal and coke merchants and haulage contractors. The archway entrance to Bennett's yard, now Bennett's Mews, can still be seen.

Earlier, Bennett's omnibuses had operated in Headcorn, Rye, Maidstone and Hawkhurst and their horses had often been used to pull the town fire engine.

Benefactor

C H Field, otherwise known as Chopper Charlie, allegedly ran the 'oldest established' hairdressing and shaving salon.

Radios could be rented for two shillings and fourpence weekly from Lindridges.

The auctioneering firms of Hatch and Waterman and H Judge, were run by the mayor and by Harry Judge, one of the town's most noble benefactors, who purchased the freehold of the town hall in 1922 and presented it to the corporation.

The newsletter is available from the museum in Station Road.

20/2/1990

Total smoking ban at town hall rejected

SMOKERS won the day when a vote was taken to totally ban lighting-up in Tenterden's town hall.

Cllr Stuart Brown called for the smoking ban because of the fire hazard at Monday's meeting of the general purposes committee.

Cllr John Link said a Kent fire officer had advised members not to allow smoking in the main assembly room because of its historic original floor.

Cllr Brown said it was dangerous to allow smoking at social functions, which may not be supervised.

But smoker Cllr Sylvia Jeffrey said she objected to a ban during social activities.

It was Cllr Eddie Barrows who six years ago succeeded by one vote in banning smoking during council and committee meetings.

The committee voted to continue the ban during meetings. The public buildings committee will consider a ban on smoking during public functions.

22/3/1990

Brownies' afternoon treat for old folk

A TREAT was in store for 30 elderly folk who were invited to the Tenterden Brownies' divisional tea party on Saturday.

Brownies from Woodchurch, St Michael's, Wittersham, High Halden and the town made sandwiches, sausage rolls and cakes for the tea at the day centre, which was attended by the Mayor and Mayor-ess of Tenterden.

Each pack also put on entertainment and the afternoon was rounded off with games and a singalong.

Eighty people

attended, including Dr Raymond Crawford, chairman of the day centre appeals committee and former division commissioner Elizabeth Wright.

There was a surprise presentation to Shirley Atherton — Brown Owl of the Tenterden unit — who received her assistant division commissioner's badge.

She began her work with the Brownies 15 years ago as a unit helper.

Guest pensioners chosen by the brownies were those who were unable to get out and about and others who help in the community.