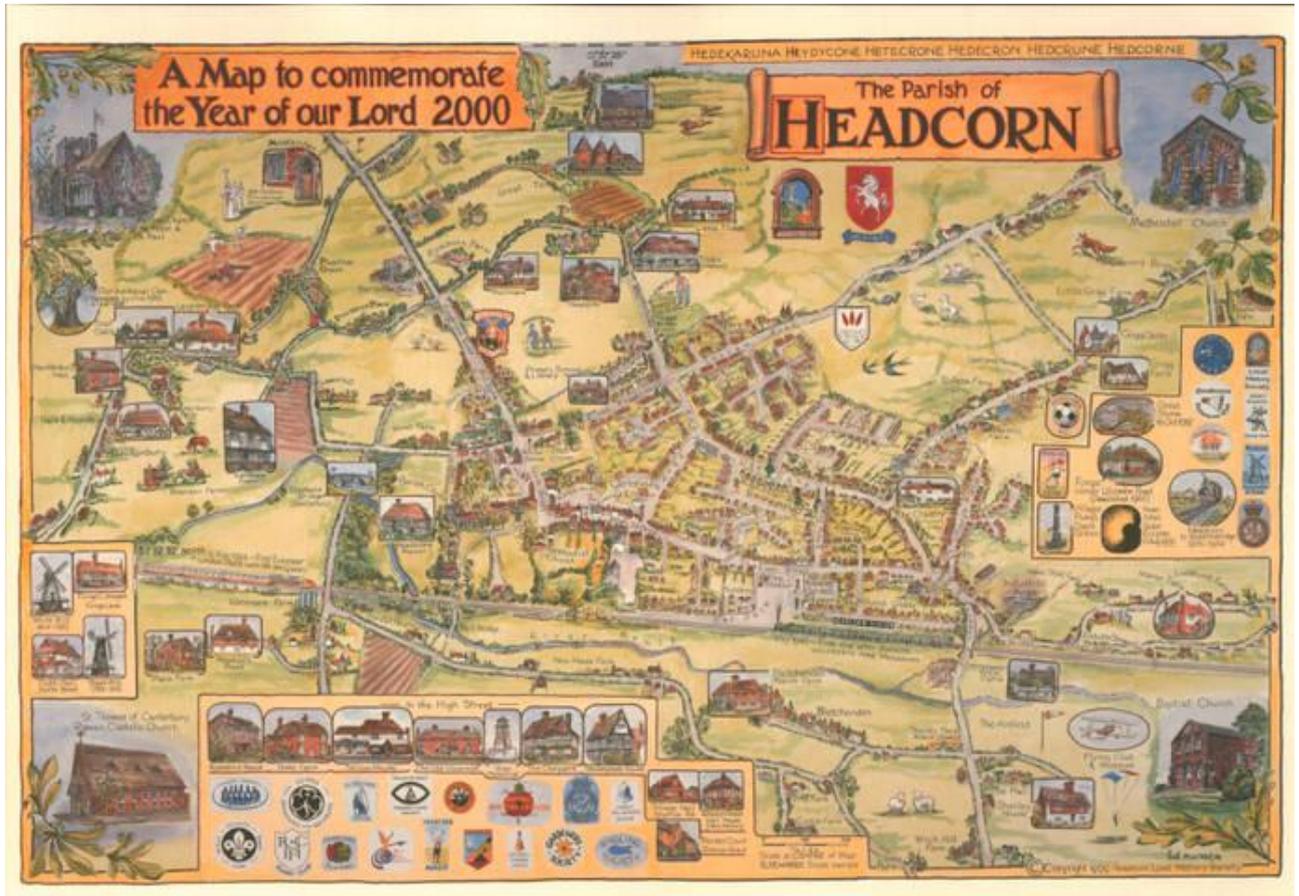


Kent History Federation Annual Conference 2012



Headcorn Map painted by Bob Musker, 2000

“Headcorn – A Window on the Weald”

**Headcorn Village Hall
Saturday 12th May, 2012**

Hosted by
Headcorn Local History Society

“Headcorn- A Window on the Weald”

The earliest written records of life in this area are references in charters of King Wihtried and King Offa, respectively to Wick Farm, 724 and Little Southernden, 785. Although Headcorn does not figure in the Domesday Book of 1086, the Domesday Monachorum, the ecclesiastical survey made at about the same time, records the existence of a Church at Hedekaruna. According to The Oxford Names Companion, the name probably means “tree trunk” (used as a footbridge) of a man called Hydeca. Henry of Ospringe was appointed first Rector in 1222 by King Henry III. However, in 1239 the King gave the den of Headcorn, with rectorial endowments, to the Maison Dieu at Ospringe. Prosperity brought to Headcorn by the cloth industry, established in the reign of King Edward III, is evidenced by the houses built at the time and enlargement of the Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul. The railway arrived in 1842 and continues to influence the development of the village to the present day. At this conference, we aim to bring you a little of the history of Headcorn and the Weald of Kent.

We will enhance your day with photographic exhibitions as well as local visits.

Programme

- 09.15-09.45 Registration and light refreshments
- 09.45-10.00 Welcome by Dr Maurice Raraty, Chairman, Kent History Federation
- 10.00-10.55 *Industry in the Weald of Kent 16th – 17th centuries only* –
Dr Michael Zell
- 10.55-11.25 Tea/Coffee Break
- 11.25-12.10 *Hop Cultivation in Wealden Kent and hop marketing in Southwark, 1744-2000* - Dr Celia Cordle
- 12.10-12.40 *Headcorn at War* – Tim Thomas, Chairman, Headcorn Local History Society
- 12.40-12.45 Closing Address by Dr John Whyman, President, Kent History Federation
- 12.45-14.00 Buffet lunch
- 14.00-16.00 Visits to chosen venues (see opposite for choices)
- 16.00-16.30 Tea at Headcorn Village Hall

Lunch: A prepaid buffet lunch will be provided. Alternatively, delegates may bring along their own picnic lunch, or eat out in one of the catering establishments in Headcorn High Street, close to the village hall.

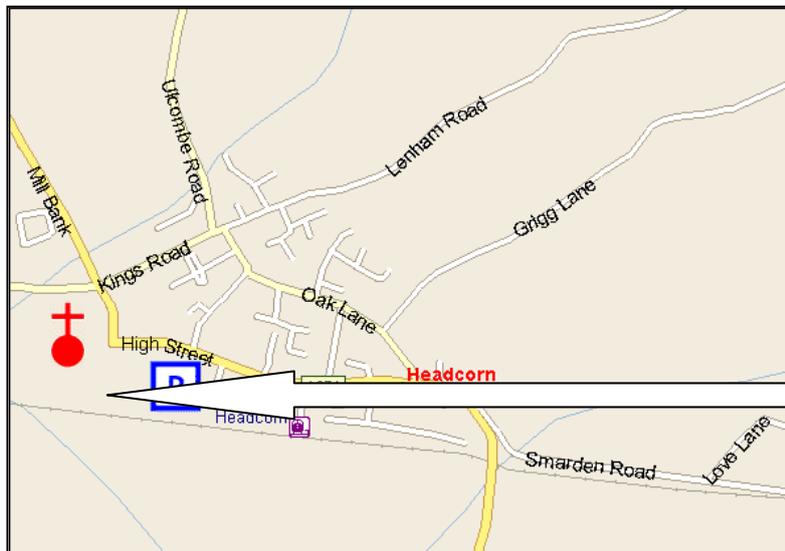
CHOICE OF AFTERNOON VISITS (one per delegate)

There are minimum and maximum numbers for some visits and places will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis. It is hoped that a veteran bus will be provided to take delegates to Headcorn Airfield and Smarden. Please indicate your order of preference on the booking form.

- A. **Guided tour around Headcorn village centre, which will finish at the church of St Peter & St Paul, where a short introduction will be given.**
<http://www.headcorn.org.uk/history.htm>
Travel – Total walking distance about 800 yards.
- B. **Headcorn Aerodrome Battle of Britain Museum.**
The Lashenden Air Warfare Museum is one of the longest established aviation museums in the country, having been formed in 1970. The museum contains a substantial number of exhibits, both inside and outside.
<http://lashendenairwarfremuseum.giving.officelive.com/default.aspx>
Travel – Veteran bus or own transport.
- C. **Smarden Local History Heritage Centre and Smarden village**
Smarden Local History Society has set up a local history archive in the Charter Hall. The archive consists of original and digital historical material relating to Smarden's history. There will be an opportunity to walk through Smarden to its lovely Church.
<http://smardenheritagecentre.synthasite.com/>
Travel – Veteran bus or own transport.
Extra charge - There will be an extra charge of £x paid directly to Smarden Local History Society.
- D. **Boy Court and the 14th Century church of St Peter & St Paul, East Sutton – guided tour by car visiting Boy Court and East Sutton Church.**
Please note numbers are limited to a total of 30 people for Boy Court, early booking desirable.
Travel – Own transport.

HOW TO FIND HEADCORN VILLAGE HALL

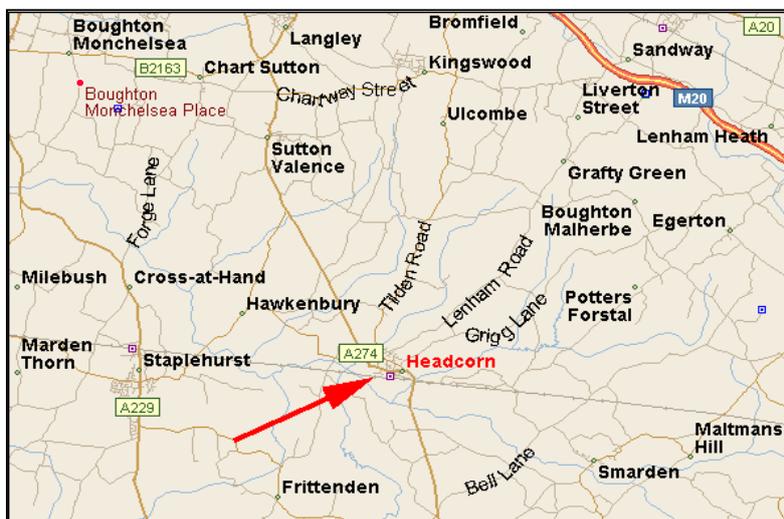
Church Lane, Headcorn, TN27 9NR



When entering Headcorn from the A274 (from Maidstone), turn right between the two churches (at the sharp bend) signposted village hall.

If approaching from Biddenden, go along the High Street, and turn left when facing the church by the sharp bend.

Follow the lane around to the left and the Village Hall will be facing you.



From the railway station turn left and follow main road through the High Street. At top of High Street turn left, go through kissing gate by recycling area, the Village Hall is facing you, or for a paved route go under the lych gate and follow marked route.

Travelling by bus (Arriva service 12), leave bus at the High Street bus stop and walk towards the church following instructions as above.