

In brief

Football fun raises £5k

KENT: Nearly 50 teams took part in a charity five-a-side football tournament which raised more than £5,000 for Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance last weekend.

The tournament consisted of 48 teams from Kent-based businesses and was held at Cobdown Sports and Social Club in Ditton, Aylesford.

Managing director Rob Pearson said: "It was another great day of football with some great camaraderie and skills being shown off throughout the day."

Comedy club

CANTERBURY: After a sold-out season in 2012, Chatback Comedy Club are back at The Parrot pub in Church Lane with their first show of 2013 to celebrate their third birthday on September 12.

Tickets for the fun, which starts at 8pm (doors open 7pm), cost £8.

For more information, visit www.chatbackcomedy.com

Sing and sign

CANTERBURY: Children and adults from the city are being invited to sign up for a record-breaking attempt for the most people signing and singing on the same day.

Deaf healthcare charity SignHealth will hold the event on February 5, 2014.

Everyone who registers will have access to digital resources, which will be available to download from sign2sing.org.uk from the end of September.

For more information visit www.sign2sing.org.uk or call 01494 687600.

How 1940s police chiefs shaped our modern force

In July RICHARD WEST, from The Chaucer Education Project, shared with Way We Were readers the beginnings of Canterbury police force and the roots of the city council.

This week he takes a look at the first Chief Constable of the amalgamated Kent force, Sir Percy Sillitoe – the man who was to become Director-General of MI5.

ON MARCH 1, 1943, a month before nine borough police forces were to be incorporated into Kent County Constabulary, Sir Percy Sillitoe became Chief Constable of Kent. He had already served 12 years as Chief Constable of the City of Glasgow Police, the oldest police force in the world, established in 1800.

Whilst in Glasgow he introduced the Sillitoe Tartan – the black-and-white chequered hat band still worn by police officers, based on the design of Glengarry bonnet worn by Scottish Army regiments.

He also introduced mandatory retirement after 30 years' police service, civilian support staff, and radio communication between headquarters and vehicles.

Sir Percy Sillitoe was knighted in 1942 and invited to become Chief Constable of the amalgamated Kent force, following the suicide of the

Way we were

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Kent County Constabulary Chief Constable, Captain J A Davison.

Each of the former borough police force chief constables were given the option of transferring to Kent County Constabulary with a subordinated rank, and five did. Four became assistant chief constables and one became a divisional superintendent.

Transfer was an alternative to retirement on an increased pension, which the other former chief constables had accepted.

Folkestone borough Chief Constable R C M Jenkins accepted the position of Assistant Chief Constable of Kent commanding Number Three District, comprising Ashford, Canterbury, Folkestone and Margate divisions.

Dover borough Chief Constable Marshall H Bolt accepted the position of Assistant Chief Constable commanding Number One District, comprising Maidstone, Malling, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge, and Tunbridge divisions.

Rochester borough Chief Constable Kenneth Horwood accepted the position of Assistant Chief Constable commanding

Number Two District, comprising Chatham, Dartford, Swale, Rochester and Gravesend divisions.

Margate borough Chief Constable William Palmer accepted the position of Assistant Chief Constable commanding Number Four District, comprising Wingham, Ramsgate and Dover divisions.

The fifth borough Chief Constable who transferred on amalgamation was possibly Chief Inspector Beslee, who was acting Chief Constable of Maidstone in 1943 and who subsequently commanded Maidstone Division.

The four former borough chief constables who did not transfer over to Kent County Constabulary on amalgamation in 1943 were George T Hall of Canterbury, Samuel Butler of Ramsgate, Keith Webster of Gravesend and Guy Carlton of Tunbridge Wells.

After three years in post and considering retirement, Sir Percy Sillitoe was instead invited to become Director-General of the Security Service, MI5, a position he occupied from 1946 to 1953 – the height of the Cold War between the Western allies and Soviet countries.

Sir Percy Sillitoe's successor as Chief Constable of Kent was Major John Ferguson, who had been appointed Chief Constable of the Sussex Joint Police Force in 1943 on the amalgamation of that county and all of its borough police forces.

On November 1, 1945, Major Ferguson returned to the Metropolitan Police as an assistant commissioner, before being appointed Chief Constable of Kent in July 1946. He was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire in the 1948 Queen's Birthday Honours and was knighted in the 1953 Coronation Honours. On July 1, 1955, he was made an Officer of the Order of St John. The Queen's Police Medal was awarded to him in the 1957 New Year Honours and he retired on October 31, 1958, becoming a Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Kent.

The Police Act 1946 legislation content reflected the 1943 views of the respective chief constables, at the time of the temporary wartime amalgamation of the borough and county police forces.

Sir Percy Sillitoe in Kent wanted to create a permanent amalgamation and fully integrate to provide common standards. Sussex Chief Constable John Ferguson envisaged borough police forces being re-established, following the ending of only a temporary amalgamation.

In 1947, the former Sussex borough police forces were restored and continued to be



POLICE CHIEF TO SPY CHIEF: Sir Percy Sillitoe

Picture: Mitchell Library



SUCCESSOR: Major John Ferguson

Picture: Kent Police Museum

independent police forces until amalgamated by the Police Act 1964 provisions, which reduced the number of police forces and were part of the next significant organisational change to policing



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systems.

Had John Ferguson been appointed Chief Constable of Kent in 1943, it is likely that not only would the borough police forces in Kent have been restored in 1947 but that the County of the City and Borough of Canterbury police force might have continued in existence beyond 1964, at least until the 1974 reorganisation of local government which abolished the smallest and most significant county borough in England.

Several county boroughs have subsequently been restored as unitary authorities under more recent legislation, but not Canterbury.

Ancient manuscripts accessible on screen

RARE and valuable manuscripts which are usually stored in the strongrooms of Canterbury Cathedral's archives have been made more accessible thanks to new technology created by the Universities of Kent and Rouen.

Developed as part of a cross-channel EU Interreg IVa project, the DocExplore software means digitised versions of historical documents can be explored through a touch-screen, simulating, as far as possible, the experience of accessing the physical object itself.

The display celebrating the completion of DocExplore is at

Canterbury Cathedral from now until September 19. It will then travel around Kent and Medway to several venues, including Rochester Cathedral and the Kent History and Library Centre in Maidstone. A similar display will be held in Rouen at the same time.

Both displays will allow visitors to virtually turn the pages of precious manuscripts, and also give them the opportunity to learn about each document through commentaries, and film and sound clips.

In addition, on September 13 and 14, there will be an exhibition of manuscripts from the cathedral

archives, entitled Sharing Histories. This will provide a rare opportunity to see some of the treasures from the Cathedral's manuscript collections, which date back to before the Norman Conquest.

Items on show will include documents from Anglo-Saxon times, an agreement bearing the signature of William the Conqueror known as the Accord of Winchester, documents related to the life and murder of St Thomas Becket, and artefacts from John Bargrave's unique 17th-century museum. This exhibition forms part of the Heritage Open Days scheme.

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