

Borden Hall

You could be forgiven for being unaware of the existence of Borden Hall, tucked away as it is behind the church and until recent years, hidden behind trees.

According to this extract from 'Borden, The History of a Kentish Parish', the Hall has somewhat of a chequered past.

"Although Borden is a place that one would not readily associate with smuggling, there is a tradition that it was at one time carried on by an occupant of Borden Hall. An act of 1674 made the export of wool a crime and smuggling became rife right round Kent's coast, and remained so throughout the 18th century, with cargoes stored in all manner of places. Horse owners who lived within a few miles of the Kent coast would not



have been surprised to have anonymous notes left at their doors, requesting use of their animals. There is a bedroom window with a beautifully carved frame in Borden Hall, from which Swale and Sheppey can be seen. Tradition

has it that this window was used to place a light to signal to the smugglers boats. In times of no lighting at night this would be a practical possibility. Associated with the tradition that smuggling went on, there is the question of tunnels. Many villages have stories of secret passages but it seems that in Borden there may be some substance to these tales, for I have met someone who as a young man ventured into one of them

and saw the entrance to another. One tunnel is said, as already mentioned, to run from Street Farm Cottage to Borden Hall and then continue into Wises Lane, this is the one that David Weston ventured into in



the 1940's. Another is said to run from the cottages behind Sutton Baron to Street Farm Cottage, a considerable distance and David saw the entrance to this in the cellar of the cottage.

Reproduced with kind permission from Helen Allinson from, 'Borden, A History of a Kentish Parish.

Diary 2012

Saturday 6th October
AGM at 7pm followed by a social evening at 7.45pm.
Film show, display of Victorian clothing, table top sale, refreshments and raffle. All welcome

The committee

Eileen Harrison	Chair
Julie Evans	Treasurer
Elaine Tuck	Secretary
John Hepburn	Archivist
Keith Lainton	Member
Val Skinner	Member

Contact details

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Roll of Honour

Committee Member Keith Lainton is working, with support from Borden Parish Council, to prepare a Roll of names of those who served in the Armed Forces in either the First or Second World War and who survived.

Also, any names of those who served in the Armed Forces in either the First or Second World Wars and who were killed but who are **NOT** listed on the Borden War Memorial please also send, as they will also be added to a separate section of the Roll.

Please include: -

Full Name

Service (e.g. Navy; Army; RAF; Marines)

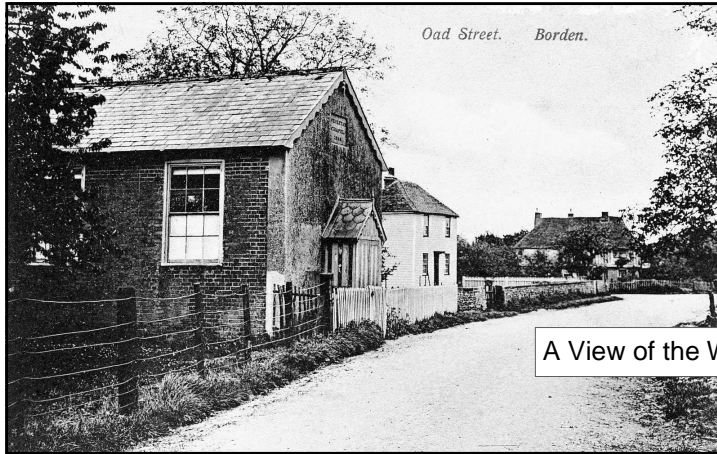
Which war (WW1; WW2)

Confirmation that the person is from BORDEN

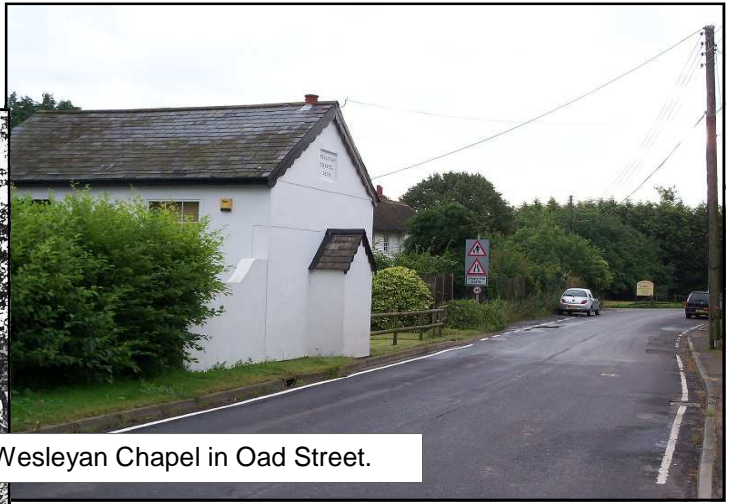
(Any other relevant date e.g. Rank; Regiment; Ship; Theatre of service)

Your help on this project will be much appreciated.

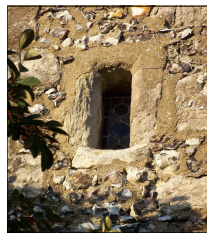
Then and Now



A View of the Wesleyan Chapel in Oad Street.



Do you recognise these Borden 'landmarks'?



The church clock
A window slit on the chrch tower.



Extract from *Archaeologia Cantiana*

Past local inhabitants whose names live on.....

“Edward Homewood, Esq., of Ufton Court, Tunstall, in this county, is the owner of a very picturesque old timber-built house, at Baxon, or Bexon, in the parish of Bredgar. The greater part of this house appears, by the date over the front gable, to have been built about 1617. The date in the principal sitting-room shows that it was not completed till two years later, 1619. The larger timber used at the north end is, no doubt, of an earlier period. Happily the timber has never been subjected to paint, or artificial colouring of any kind; and Mr. Homewood has, with great good taste, merely scraped and cleaned the moss off the building, scrupulously and without regard to expense restoring where renovation was necessary, but without any unwarrantable or fanciful additions.

“The house and the land attached to it are the property mentioned in Hasted, as in his time belonging to the Best family. It was sold by the late Mr. George Best to Mr. Wise, of Borden, from whom it descended to the present Mrs. Homewood, one of Mr. Wise's daughters. It may be worth while to observe, that the initials in connection with the dates both within and without the building, W E G, are irreconcilable with Hasted's statement, that this property for some time both before and after the date in question belonged to a family of the name of Tong.”

Reproduced with kind permission from *Archaeologia Cantiana*

Borden Heritage Trail

All members should have received their copy of the *Borden Heritage Trail Route 1*.

This is the first of a series of 4 routes in and around the parish of Borden. We would like to hear from you if your house or a previous tenant is of historical interest, and you would like it

to be considered for inclusion in the relevant future leaflets.



Borden War Hero

Borden Heritage group has obtained the First World War Medals of C. D. Norrington. His name is commemorated on the Borden War Memorial in the Churchyard and is remembered in the church services remembering those who died in the cause of freedom in the World Wars.

The British War Medal and Victory Medal both have their original silk ribbons and original paper packets. They were obtained, together with a copy of his Medal Index Card showing his entitlement to the medals. Also included is a copy of his service record, which is a rare find as during WW2 about 60% of the service records were destroyed in the blitz.

