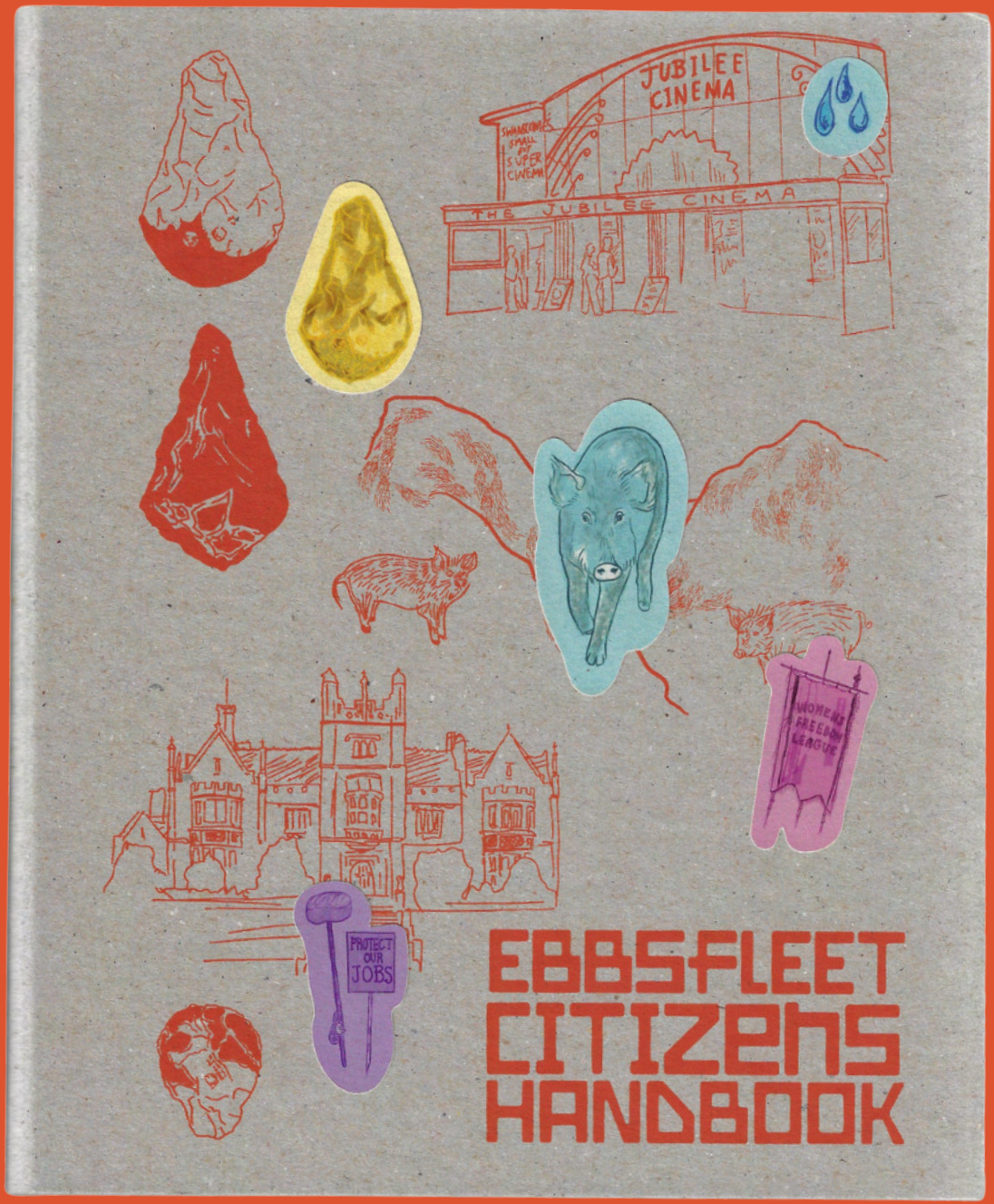

EBBSFLEET CITIZENS HANDBOOK

Digital Publication

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Springhead
Greenhithe
Northfleet
Swanscombe
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Your Timeline
Activities
Community Groups,
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Public Contributions

EBBSFLEET CITIZENS HANDBOOK

THIS HANDBOOK
BELONGS TO:

HELLO

5 GAME B L B BOLD BINGO BD 9337

IT IS AMAZING HOW MANY LOVELY WALKS ONE CAN HAVE IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN WALKING.

THE PEOPLE ARE QUITE ACCOMMODATING AND LIVING IS MADE EASIER

Welcome to our town, people have lived here for thousands of years, I hope you enjoy living here too. ♡

Great area for walks

Welcome to Ebbsfleet, look forward to seeing you at the Blue Bear

The sense of community around our concrete block on the estate, our shared love for the areas past and hope for its future.

Its an area with a lot of history.

GREENHITHE VILLAGE IS A GEM INCLUDING WHERE FRANKLINS WIFE WAVED HIM GOODBYE

& THE DARNLEY MOUSOLEUM.

THIS IS A LOVELY AREA OF KENT IN THE GARDEN OF ENGLAND, IT WOULD BE EVEN NICER IF EVERYONE COULD BE MORE CIVIC MINDED.

THIS AREA IS STEEPED IN HISTORY

Trosley Country Park

Lovely walks with beautiful bluebells in spring.

Thank goodness for Bluewater, Has a Miles ewaitrose, plenty of restaurants and a Cinema.

Get out and about, Look around and explore There is so much to learn

Gordon Promenade Gardens, The tourrt pier, LV21 lightship Guru Nanak Gardwara. The Canal Basin. Anywhere along the river from Greenhite to Gravesend.

Welcome to our Part of This Garden of England.

Welcome to the new community, feel free to reach out to your neighbours if you need any help.

Caldrun Stones near Trottiscliffe Village - Ancient burial site walk down the Downs.

The special Places are the river, and its footpaths Also the cyclepark which is a great facility

We have a whatsapp group with our neighbours to help with forming a Community.

Great Landscape, nature and green Space for the local community.

Look around, explore and research, there is so much to learn and see

Spare a thought for the voulnter litter pickers. Keep Northfleet clean.

Hello,

This book is a tapestry of stories, histories and hopes, to which we invite you to add your own.

Across a year we have gathered contributions from seniors who remember the marshlands and single shops; ex-Londoners who moved here 30 years ago to find quiet space away from the Big Smoke; young children who come from generations of Kent folk; young adults; and those starting a new period of their lives, excited to discover the area, starting school, college, new jobs or to start families.

This book is both a gift to new residents and an opportunity for longstanding residents to see their home with fresh eyes. It has been created by both the hands of residents and myself as an artist. I have been welcomed with open arms across this project, for which I am very grateful.

Thank you so much to Christoph Bull for writing the text for our Histories and Folklore sections and our area introductions, as well as for his wonderful walking tours which I highly recommend; to Leslie and Margaret for welcoming me to their world; the lovely folks at St Mary's Church lunch clubs; Swanscombe Brownies; Ebbsfleet Design Group; North Kent College; Ebbsfleet Academy; Greenhithe & Swanscombe Legion Social Club; Castle Hill Community Centre; Swanscombe History Society; and everyone who's come along to a workshop, not entirely knowing what they were getting themselves into.

This book is for history buffs and for those of us so busy with our lives we have yet to take a pause and consider the history of the land we occupy every day.

This handbook is designed for you to interact with it, add your own photos, notes, letters, thoughts and track the growth of your neighbourhoods with a pull out welcome note from current residents. There is also an A3 poster, sticker pack and activity pages for you to add to throughout the book.

Something that has stood out to me about this part of England's Garden is the community groups who have such a passion for the area, its history and its future. As you discover more of them, you can add their information to your handbook.

I encourage you to take this book apart and make it your own, in hope that in years to come, there will be hundreds of new books documenting future histories of the citizens of Ebbsfleet garden city.

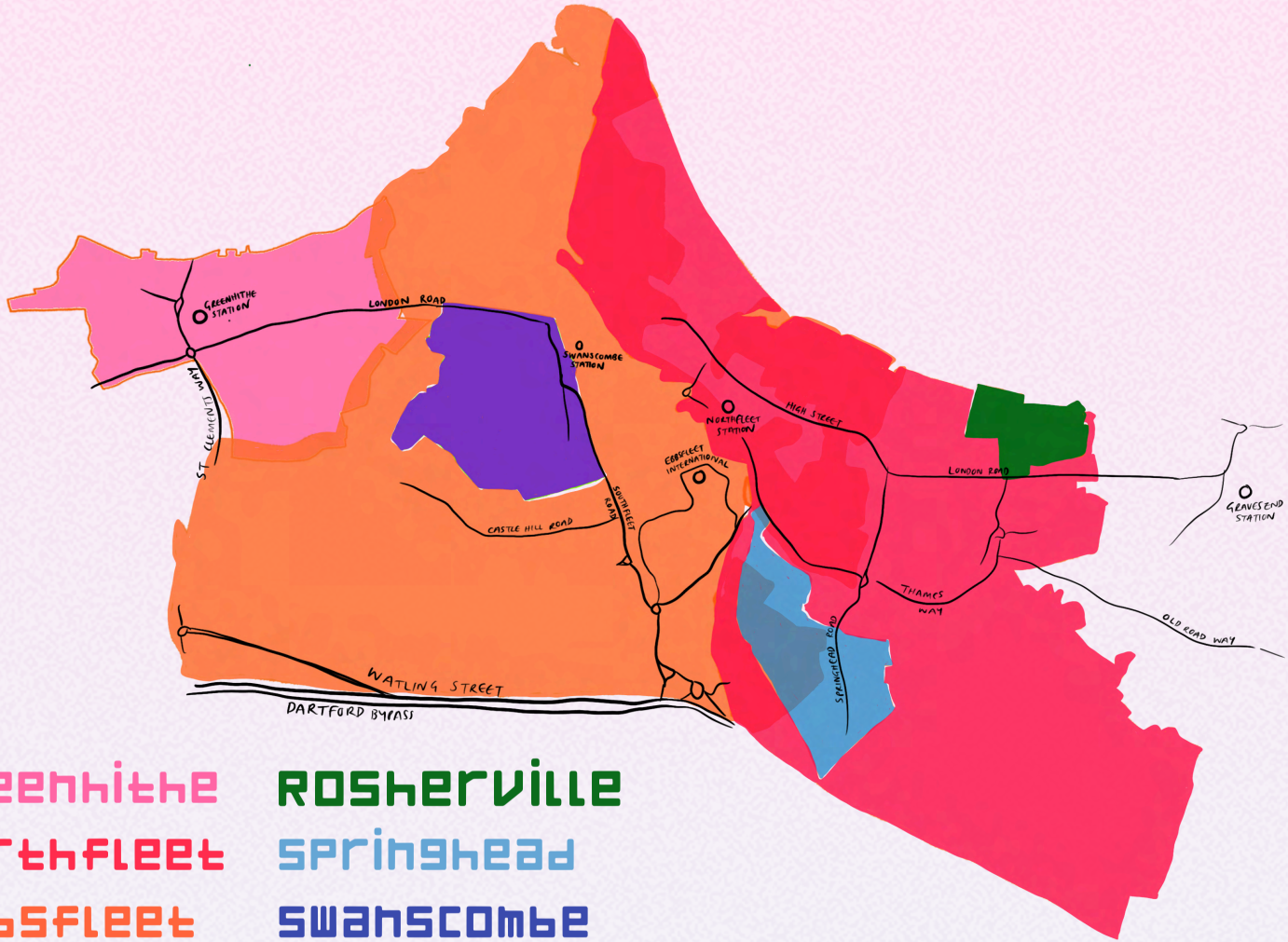
Lu Williams,
Artist and Collaborator
of Ebbsfleet Citizens
Handbook

A new, new town handbook

The New Towns Act of 1946 was a programme which relocated populations in poor or bombed-out housing following the Second World War. These towns were developed in three waves, with the later developments including expanded towns: existing towns which were substantially expanded to accommodate what was called the "overspill" population from densely populated areas. The towns were built with the supervision of development corporations which then handed over to local authorities.

Ebbsfleet garden city will be the first garden city in 100 years; it is being created across 2,500 acres of previously used, brownfield land on the Kent Thames riverside. Championed by the Government and Ebbsfleet Development Corporation, Ebbsfleet brings the traditional garden city principles up to date.

Previously, new towns offered new coming residents' handbooks. They acted as guides to the local area, from where to find local amenities to the best times of the year to plant certain vegetables. Now we have the internet, this kind of information is at our fingertips, but certain knowledge gets lost online or forgotten, so this Citizens Handbook has compiled local residents' knowledge across one year of workshops, walks and talks, bringing you the Ebbsfleet Citizens Handbook.



Greenhithe
Northfleet
Ebbsfleet
Rosherville
Springhead
Swanscombe

Histories

As told by Christoph Bull

Christoph's definition of Ebbsfleet:
Swanscombe and Northfleet are the parents — Ebbsfleet is the child.

Photo: Courtesy of Christoph Bull archive

EBBSFLEET

Ebbsfleet is the name of a small river flowing into the Thames at Northfleet Creek. It's also the name of a major urban development covering parts of Northfleet and Swanscombe that is to become Ebbsfleet garden city.

Bronze Age people, Romans, and Saxons all used the river for transport around the area and to explore the country. We know a watermill already existed near the creek by the time of the Domesday Book in 1086.

Ebbsfleet flowed across open land on the site of what is now Ebbsfleet Football Club's ground, across Stonebridge Road and behind houses in Railway Street. From there, it forms the boundary with Swanscombe, on its way to its source at Springhead. Most of the river is now hidden from the surface, but it was still an open ditch in the 1970s, behind Railway Street. It then passed underground, beneath Stonebridge Hill and the football ground.

In 1634, a new stone bridge was built across the river at the foot of the hill. Within a couple of years, a "saltpetre house" existed nearby – saltpetre is a substance used in gunpowder and the preservation of meat, so the area was already becoming industrialised.

At the bridge in 1648 during the Civil War, the Battle of Northfleet took place. Local Royalists in superior numbers were dislodged and chased by Parliamentarian cavalry, who were on their way to fight the larger Battle of Maidstone.

The Ebbsfleet's route into the creek caused James Parker to create a basic cement factory in 1796 using the existing mill equipment to grind the chalk. Many cement works were built here due to the wealth of natural resources such as water, chalk, and clay.

The industrial estate opposite what is now the football ground was carelessly excavated for clay. As a result it was the scene of several tragedies, such as in January 1887, when three boys were drowned after the ice gave way. Several local men risked their lives trying to save the children. It was only after this tragedy that a fence was built around the mud hole ponds.

Since 1905, the football ground has occupied a meadow which formerly flooded. A pumping station built in 1934 can be seen outside the football ground which helps prevent the area becoming a swamp.
The rear of this area is now covered by industry which developed in the 20th century.

Before the late 1830s, Rosherville did not exist as a place, or even an idea. It was the dream of a Victorian entrepreneur, Jeremiah Rosher (1765-1848) of Crete Hall, Northfleet. He wanted to build a new town (named after himself!) and to create a well-heeled suburb on the Northfleet-Gravesend border.

Building for the new town was started on Pier and Burch Roads and Lansdowne Square, but these were never completed. Rosher had made his fortune excavating chalk, a key ingredient in cement. In 1837, he leased the excavated chalk pits to another local businessman, George Jones, who established the new Rosherville Pleasure Gardens.

George Jones's vision for Rosherville Pleasure Gardens was a romantic, verdant world filled with a theatre, eating places, animals, rare plants and all. It would be immersed in music, dancing and a chance to forget the daily struggles of life - and this fantasy was located in the disused chalk pits. Steam ships brought visitors down from London. Rosherville Gardens (originally Kent Zoological & Botanical Gardens) flourished, allowing tourists the delights of Northfleet to add to those of Gravesend, Southend, etc.

ROSHERVILLE

Rosherville Gardens—from Northfleet end—in 1860.

Photo: Courtesy of Christoph Bull archive

The Rosherville Hotel was built near Rosherville Pier in the late 1830s. It was very luxurious, especially on the ground and first floors – further up the building, there were fewer amenities and it was harder to take up luggage. The gardens became very successful until the 1870s when, despite revivals, a slow decline began which resulted in temporary closure in 1900 and again at the outbreak of the First World War in 1914.

The Rosherville Hotel became a VAD hospital during the 1914-18 war: VAD stands for Voluntary Aid Detachment, and it was a type of hospital where soldiers injured in the conflict could recover before being sent back to the trenches (and almost certain death).

After the Second World War (1939-45), the Rosherville Hotel was eventually turned into run-down flats that were demolished in 1970.

From the late 19th century onwards, the gaps between what had been built for the new town were rapidly filled with terrace and other housing.

The decline of Rosherville Gardens and new town was partly due to easier access by train to the seaside at Margate and the arrival of London's sewage in large amounts off the shore.

There was also the ever growing amount of industry creeping along the banks of the Thames. After 1906, Henley's Works eventually took over the entire site.

Aimee, North Kent College

"More than 50 new parks and open spaces are planned for Ebbsfleet, with 7 city new parks and over 40% of the Ebbsfleet regeneration area dedicated to blue and green space, the equivalent of over 1000 football pitches, or 42 Bluewater Shopping Centres!

A range of park types and sizes are planned across Ebbsfleet. Each park will be designed to support the needs of local residents, and together will form a diverse network of landscapes, and a rich menu of facilities in which to exercise, play, relax, create, engage, celebrate and come together as a community.

The long term ambition is for Ebbsfleet Garden City Trust to own and manage most, if not all, of the public parks and spaces. You can find out more information about the Ebbsfleet Garden City Trust by visiting their website."

egctrust.org.uk

Springhead

Handaxes and flints from the Late Upper Palaeolithic (12,000BC-10,000BC) and the Mesolithic (8,500BC-4,000BC) were unearthed during Wessex Archaeology's excavations at Springhead.

The little river Ebbsfleet runs from Springhead north into Northfleet Creek and then the Thames. The name Ebbsfleet means the stream (floet - or fluss in modern German) where the rose hips grow.

For the majority of its length (but not all of it) the river forms the boundary between the ancient parishes of Northfleet and Swanscombe. The eight springs that feed the Ebbsfleet rise in Southfleet and Northfleet.

This valuable area of freshwater, right on the edge of the Watling Street ancient road, made the whole area very desirable for the Romans, who built their town of Vagniacae. The Roman town was a religious centre as well as having the usual markets and military contents - some 20 temples are believed to have been here,

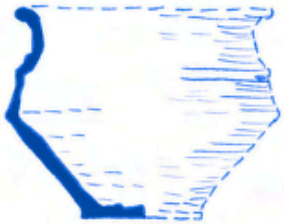
Photo: Courtesy of Christoph Bull archive

more than any other single site in the UK.

The Roman town was abandoned in the first half of the 400s AD and the streams became clogged and flooded the area. This created the perfect conditions for growing watercress and after 1805 Springhead was one of the earliest places to grow this crop commercially.

Springhead Gardens developed by selling watercress but also offering entertainment, food, a small zoo, and displays of the numerous archaeological finds discovered locally.

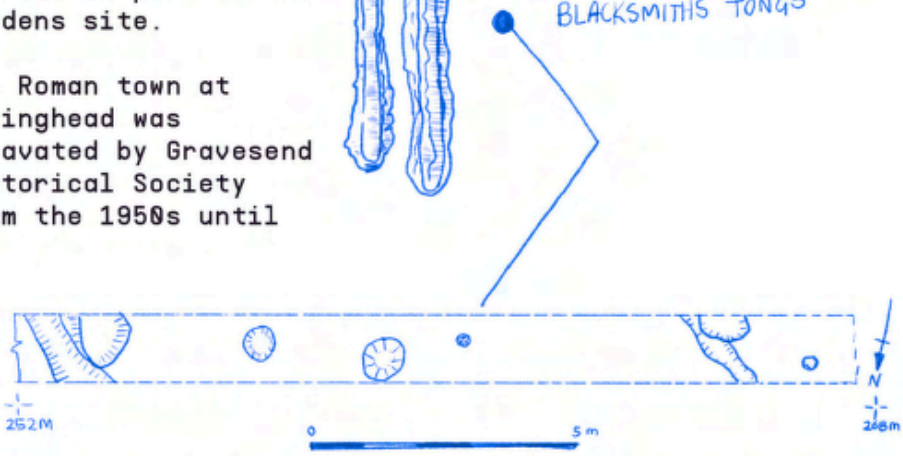
Developed by J Silvester after 1834, Springhead gardens became a great attraction to locals and visitors. The ability to transport the watercress by train to the London markets in the late 1840s helped the business greatly.



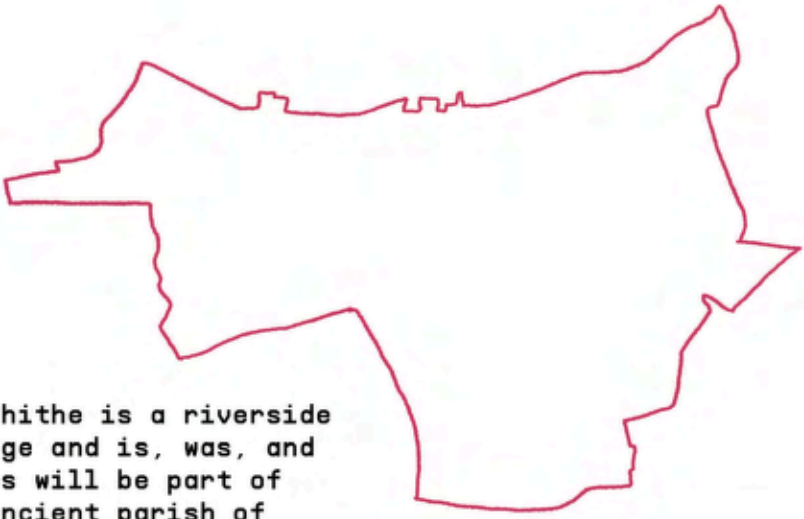
Springhead Gardens declined as a result of lower water levels caused by chalk extraction for the cement industry and the appearance of sewage in the stream in the 1930s. The whole area was often completely overgrown, apart from Springhead Nurseries, which still operate on part of the gardens site.

The Roman town at Springhead was excavated by Gravesend Historical Society from the 1950s until the 1980s. During this period the Watling Street was upgraded, with extra lanes being created through the site in the 1960s.

In the 2000s the Channel Tunnel Rail link blasted through the area, revealing even more treasures, such as the Saxon wooden watermill. Ebbsfleet International Station now sits opposite Springhead on the Swanscombe side of the border.



Info and Images researched from 'Excavations at Springhead Roman Town, Southfleet, Kent', by Angela Boyle and Robert Early, published by © Oxford Archaeological Unit ISBN 0-904220-11-7. Drawings by Lu Williams.



Greenhithe is a riverside village and is, was, and always will be part of the ancient parish of Swanscombe.

Fishing, shipping, and the extraction of chalk have all featured in Greenhithe's history, which was governed by the sea and maritime activities.

Ingress Abbey is a large house now surrounded by housing, but once it had its own large park and gardens.

There have been at least four houses on the site since medieval times, when it belonged to Dartford Priory.

The nuns would rent out the house,with chalk extraction and farming rights, to lime burners and chalk merchants as a source of income for the Priory. The tenant would then employ local people to extract chalk for lime burning, agriculture, and shipping ballast.

Two notable people who lived in Ingress Abbey were Sir Henry Havelock (1795-1857) and James Harmer (1777-1853). General Havelock was involved in much British imperial conquest and is most famous for helping to crush the Indian Mutiny 1857-1858 in a campaign notable for its

Greenhithe

brutality by both sides. James Harmer was a solicitor who fought for working class people and legal reforms. Harmer is supposed to be the basis of Charles Dickens' solicitor, Mr Jaggers, in Great Expectations.

A huge shipping company, F. T. Everard, delivered freight on barges and larger ships and was based in Greenhithe. The company provided many jobs for local people.

But it was also responsible for destroying half of the village, as it purchased anything on the market and promptly demolished it, to use the space for ship repairs and storage. The end of the company in the village came in the 1980s, and shortly afterwards the western part of Greenhithe was redeveloped into housing.

Photo: Courtesy of Christoph Bull archive

Mrs Isabella Beeton lived with her husband and family in Greenhithe (Mounts Road). Mrs Beeton achieved enduring national fame as the author of Mrs Beeton's Book of Household Management, published in 1861.

Greenhithe's flint congregational chapel (which is now private dwellings) was the spiritual home of Reverend Stanley Morgan (who died 1951). The Rev. Morgan was one of Swanscombe and Greenhithe's most accomplished politicians. His style of Christian socialism was driven by what he saw of widespread poverty in Greenhithe at a time when the country was the wealthiest in the world.

Photo: Ingress Abbey by Lu Williams

Northfleet

Northfleet is a large parish of just under 4,000 acres. It stretches from the Thames in the north to include Nash Street and Istead Rise in the south – and from the Broadness peninsula and Ebbsfleet river in the west to include Perry Street and the edges of Singlewell in the east.

St Botolph's church is one of the largest medieval parish churches in the Diocese of Rochester and contains Kent's oldest "rood screen" – an ornate wooden screen that separates the nave (the central part of a church) from the chancel (where the altar is located). The church dates mainly from the 14th century.

An ancient industry in this area (as well as Swanscombe) was lime burning, which was used to produce mortar for cement and for improving the soil in farming.

During the late 17th and throughout the 18th centuries, flint knapping was a major cottage industry, providing flints knapped (or prepared) to be used in firearms and tinder boxes.

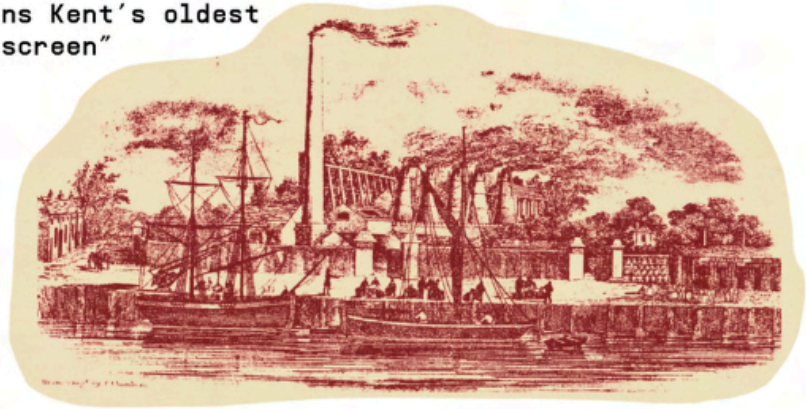


Photo: Courtesy of Christoph Bull archive

Ship building became Northfleet's largest industry after lime burning. Pitcher's Dockyard operated from 1788 until the mid-1860s, churning out ships for all customers – national, international, and commercial.

The ship Northfleet, which was launched in 1853, was involved in a tragedy in 1873 when most of its passengers and crew were drowned in an accident off New Romney. Its passengers had been emigrating to Australia.

By the 1790s cement was becoming the major industry and this transformed Northfleet from a sizable village to a small town. The industry was along the Thames shore from the Creek eastwards towards Rosherville.

In 1878 the Factory Club was built in the High Street which allowed Thomas Bevan (a cement manufacturer and would-be MP) to show to the world what concrete can achieve architecturally – it is one of Kent's most important buildings.

Northfleet was originally based around The Hill, but began spreading east and then southwards in the 1930s, and continuing into the 1960s, creating a large urban area.

The Portland Cement Works, Swanscombe, 1927
Britain from Above

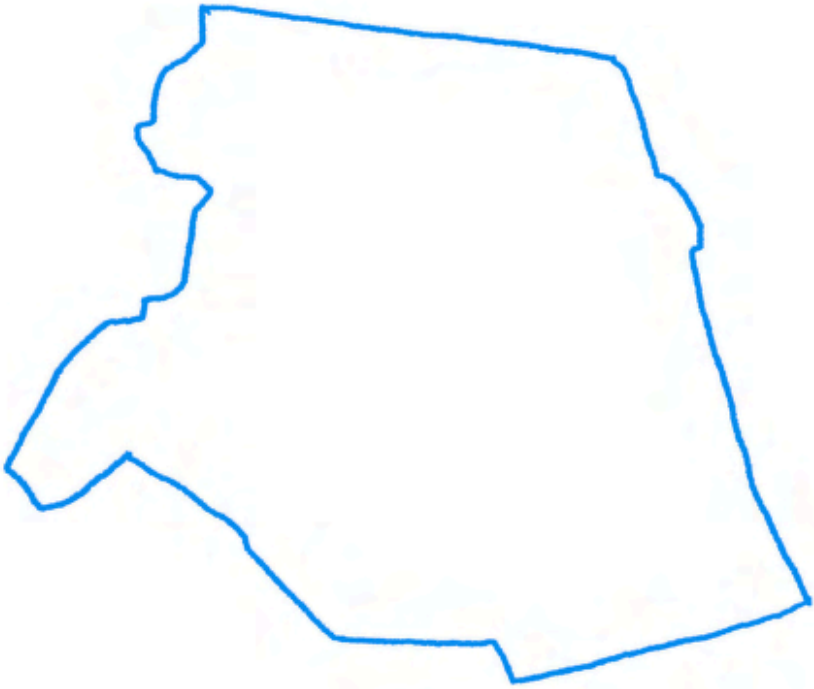
Some great figures from Northfleet's past include:

Sir Arthur Gouge (1890-1962), who invented the Sutherland flying boat. Sir Arthur Gouge by Walter Stoneman, 1948.

Alfred Swaine Taylor (1806-1880), who was a pioneer in forensic science, which transformed the detection of crime.

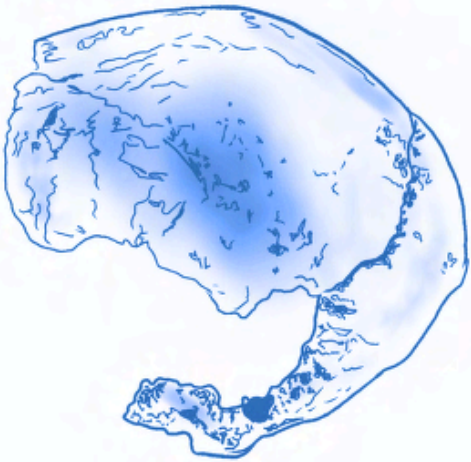
Photo: Alfred Swaine Taylor by Barraud & Jerrard, 1873.

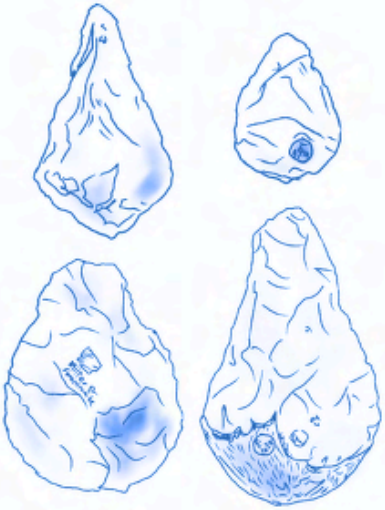
Dr Elizabeth Knight (1869-1933), an important figure in female suffrage (campaigning for votes for women). Photograph of the Women's Freedom League Committee 1914.

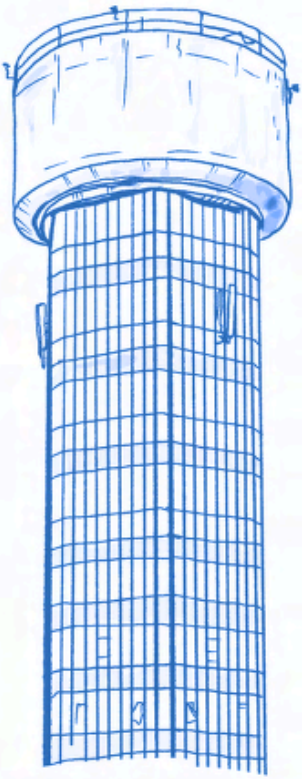


SWANSCOMBE

Swanscombe Parish (which includes Greenhithe) is now a post-industrial town, but is one of the most ancient places known to human history. A female skull was found in three fragments in 1935, 1936, and 1955 and dated as over 400,000 years old. The site of these finds is now the Swanscombe Heritage Park in Craylands Lane.







The town is famous for other matters. Cheap newspaper was developed in the New Northfleet Paper Mill (which was in Swanscombe) by Carl Ekman (1845-1904), a Swedish chemist. The cheaper paper led to a communications revolution during the 1880s by making newspapers affordable for working class people.

Bowater-Scott Paper Mill, Northfleet, Skull and Flint tools drawn by Lu Williams.

The Swanscombe Cement Works, founded in 1825 and operational by about 1826, was another revolution – it was certainly one of the world's oldest purpose-built cement factories.
Its existence at Swanscombe transformed this small village into a town: the population rose by over 900% between 1801 and 1911.

The development of Portland Cement here changed the world we live in.

Marie Stopes (1880-1958), the pioneer of birth control, another kind of revolution, spent her childhood years in Swanscombe exploring the woods, marshes and streams.

Yet another revolution was during the English Civil War (1642-51) and the eventual foundation of Oliver Cromwell's Commonwealth (republic). In Swanscombe, the Lord of the Manor, Sir Anthony Weldon (1583-1648), was the chairman of the Kent County Committee and therefore the ruler of Kent during this period of chaos and violence. His political power extended to all parts of Kentish life from his manor house here in Swanscombe.

Finally, as Swanscombe grew into a town, it became an independent urban district council in 1926. Within three years it had established a branch library in close co-operation with Kent County Library – with paid (not volunteer) staffing. This was a cultural revolution in the area between Dartford and Gravesend, and brought the citizens in touch with thought, culture, and information from around the world.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

SWANSCOMBE LIBRARY

Open: Monday 2·00 - 6·00
Tuesday 2·00 - 6·00
Thursday 2·00 - 6·00
Friday 10·00 - 12·00, 2·00 - 6·00
Saturday 9·30 - 12·30

1950s

Swanscombe coastal path

WHARF COVERED 1953 FLOOD WATER

1900

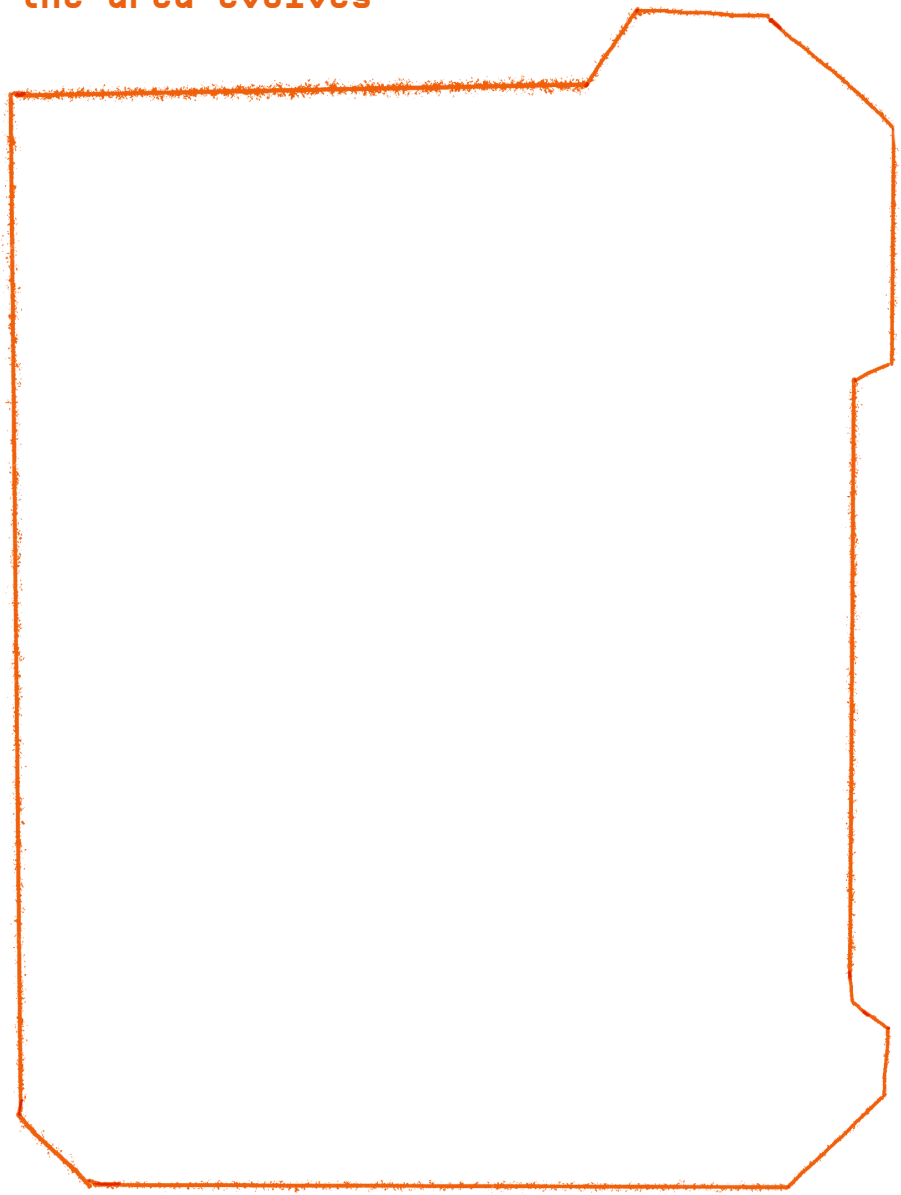
Swanscombe coastal path

BLACK DUCK

BARGE YARD John Hall.

Castle Hill

To be added to, as the area evolves



Alkerden

To be added to, as
the area evolves

As told by Christoph Bull

The floating petticoat

Among the horrors of World War II, there were surreal moments, such as when a V2 bomb destroyed a row of houses in Milton St, Swanscombe. The blast blew one resident's petticoat out of her house and up into the air, completely clean and undamaged, and it floated down the road and into a butcher's shop, astonishing the customers.

The Prussian Prince Who Came To Tea

George Wickenden of Alma Road, Swanscombe, had been a POW in Germany, in a camp run by a commandant who treated his prisoners kindly and was no supporter of the Nazis. In 1949, when Germany was in ruins and people were starving, George invited the commandant - Prinz Waldemar von und zu Hohenlohe-Oehringen - to stay with him and his family in their small cottage. Prinz Waldemar, from a major German aristocratic family, enjoyed six weeks in Swanscombe and was amazed by the hospitality offered to him by local families.

Lena the Pint Swilling Baboon

In 1905, Lena the baboon escaped from Rosherville Gardens in Northfleet and entered the Elephant's Head pub nearby, terrifying the drinking men inside, who fled to the end of the bar. Lena jumped up on the counter and casually consumed all the beers left by the men, before a little girl entered the pub and enticed Lena away with scraps of food back to Rosherville Gardens.

This story is from Lynda Smith's book "The place to spend a happy day: a history of Rosherville Gardens" (2006)

History-making Dr Knight

Dr Elizabeth Knight (1869-1933), born into the wealthy Knight family in Northfleet, campaigned for votes and rights for women. She was also a pioneering female medical doctor. She helped fund the Women's Freedom League, a peaceful suffragist organisation that broke away from the militant Pankhursts. Dr Knight had several spells in prison for her beliefs, which included opposing the First World War.

MR.GUNN'S HUMANITY

In 1919, half-starved German POWs were marched about 8 miles from their camp at Darenth to work at Swanscombe for John Edwin Gunn, the farmer at Manor Farm, next to St Peter & St Paul's church. The men were expected to do heavy labour, including digging ditches for hours, but they were so hungry they began eating weeds and parsnip tops. Mr Gunn gave them half a loaf of bread each and a bottle of Moore Brother's ginger beer. On another occasion he gave them Chinese bacon and potatoes. Someone reported him to the authorities for feeding Germans, and he was taken to Dartford Petty Sessions Court where he was found guilty and fined 40 shillings. Mr Gunn asked how it was that his humanity landed him in court but it remains a mystery.

The Dusty Curtains Protest

In 1874, Mr Umfreville of Ingress Abbey at Greenhithe took legal action to close Swanscombe Cement Works, because he disliked the dust on his carpets and curtains. Facing unemployment and widespread poverty, around 5,000 men met on Rectory Field in Swanscombe. They marched on to Ingress Abbey with a brass band, with loaves of bread on top of tall sticks, symbolising the daily bread their work gave them. The cement works was saved. Mr Umfreville's attempt to close the works failed and Swanscombe became an industrial town over the next 50 years.

The Noisiest Cinema in Town

Electric Cinema (later the Jubilee, and then the Wardona) in Ames Road, Swanscombe was originally opened in 1923. After 1929 and the advent of films with sound, if it rained, nobody could hear anything because of its tin roof! The building was replaced in the 1930s.

The Anchor from Outer Space

One Sunday after church, the residents of Swanscombe came outside and saw a chain coming down from the clouds - on the end was an anchor, which was stuck on a stone in the churchyard. Suddenly, a man climbed down the chain, and tried to free the anchor.

The locals jumped on him and he appeared to drown, even though he was on dry land.

A compiler of stories and folklore, Gervase of Tilbury (1150-1228), describes a legend linked to Swanscombe.

The chain was cut, and whatever unseen vessel was beyond the clouds drifted off, abandoning both the man and the anchor. A local version of the story tells how the abandoned man survived and became the first landlord of the Blue Anchor pub in Swanscombe Street. In both versions, the legend says that the abandoned anchor was melted down and used to make the hinges on the north door of St Peter and St Paul's church.

can you tell these hinges
are made from a melted
down alien anchor?

Add your own stories and anecdotes here.

Add your own stories and anecdotes here.

Your Timeline & Activities

Your Timeline

8th June, 1946

TODAY, AS WE CELEBRATE VICTORY, I send this personal message to you and all other boys and girls at school. For you have shared in the hardships and dangers of a total war and you have shared no less in the triumph of the Allied Nations.

I know you will always feel proud to belong to a country which was capable of such supreme effort; proud, too, of parents and elder brothers and sisters who by their courage, endurance and enterprise brought victory. May these qualities be yours as you grow up and join in the common effort to establish among the nations of the world unity and peace.

George R.I.

Letter to a Huggens College Resident from King George, in celebration of the end of WWII, 8th June 1946.

This timeline is for you to add to.

Perhaps you find out more about your home's history and want to make a note of it.

You could also cut and paste and stick in bits and pieces you find, photos or stickers, documenting your own history.

In 1998 work began on the Channel Tunnel Rail Link through Springhead, a centre of great religious importance in Roman Britain.

It was not only in Roman times that Springhead was important. People have always been drawn to the area because of its natural advantages: as well as the springs, the site is a sheltered valley with good agricultural land and people could sail into the Thames from the River Ebbsfleet nearby.

Wessex Archaeology carried out the work from September 2000 - spring 2003.

Springhead was an archaeologist's dream: every day something new was found - coins, brooches, pottery, sometimes weapons or skeletons.

150,000 artefacts discovered; finds ranging from 300,000 BC to AD1500. Including this Saxon sword.

- Wessex Archaeology, read more at https://www.wessexarch.co.uk/our-work/settling-ebbsfleet-valley

HMS Worcester was a training ship at Greenhithe for the Thames Nautical Training College. This wooden plate was made once it had been decommissioned.

The Secret Society of Northfleet Gardens was established in 2021.

EBBSFLEET CITIZENS HANDBOOK

Working with local people, we are creating the 'Ebbsfleet Citizen Handbook' – an alternative guide to the area that will be shared with incoming residents and those who already live in the area.

We need your help to make this guide! Fill out as much of this sheet as you'd like. We really value your contributions!

Draw or describe your home, or favourite local place

Message to new residents

This could be a welcome message, a bit of advice or something else.

"Welcome! Enjoy your life in this incredible setting"

What feels special about this place you call home?

Could it be a part of nature, your favourite spot to eat, a community group, or something else?
Draw or write your answer – whichever feels easiest to you

It has an atmosphere that makes me feel welcome. It is high-density, but not in a negative way.

In one sentence...

What do you want this area to look like in 10 years?

Rich greenery. Buildings to be maintained. Softening of hard surface.

Rich greenery. Buildings to be maintained. Softening of hard surface.

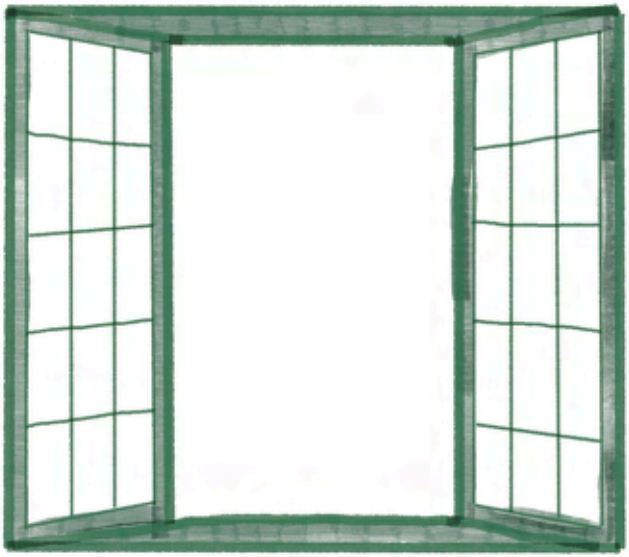
Use the other side of this sheet to collage, draw or continue writing on.

What do you want this area to look like in 10 years?

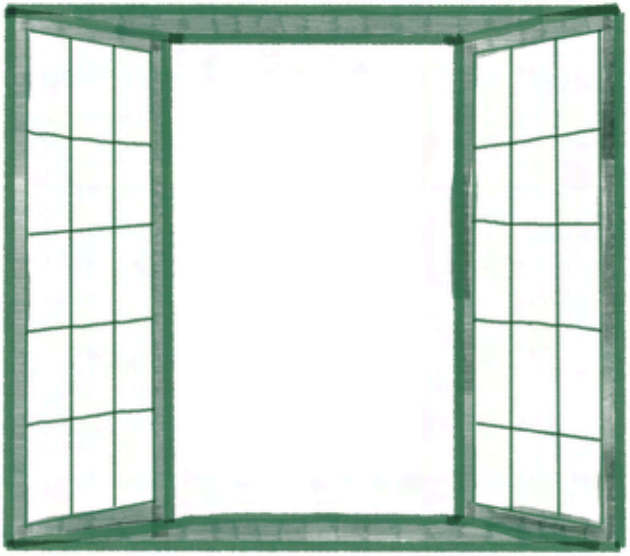
What feels special about this place you call home?

Watch the Garden City grow.
Draw what you see outside
your window.

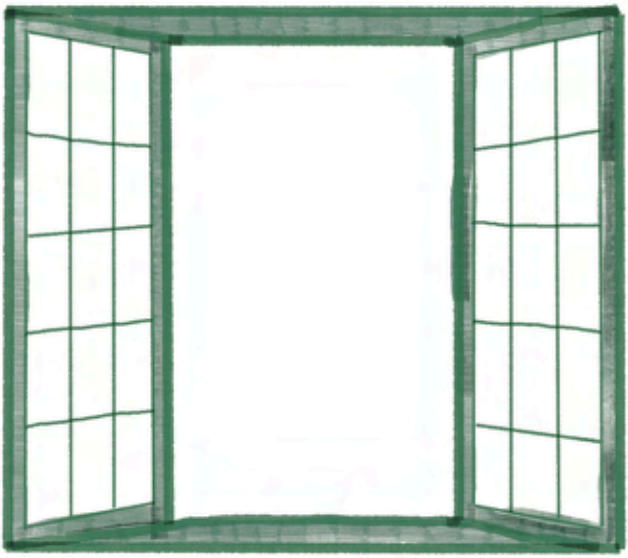
Today:



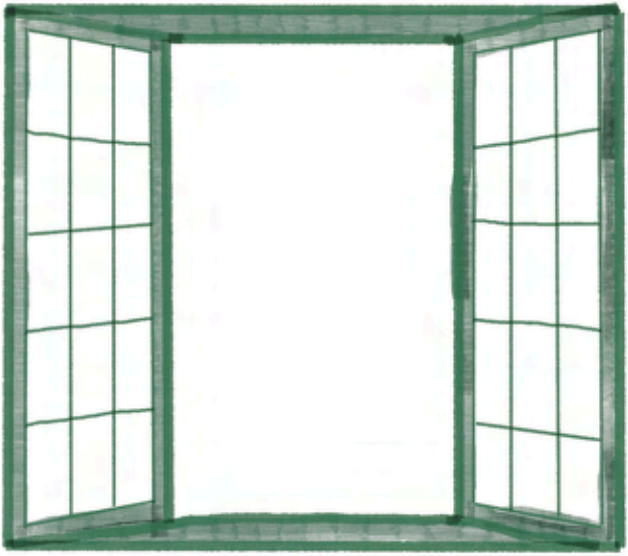
1 year's time:



5 years' time:

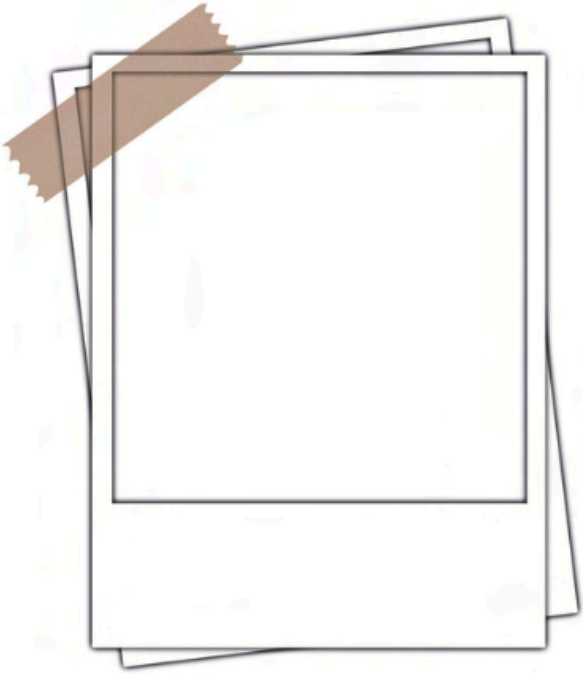


10 years' time:



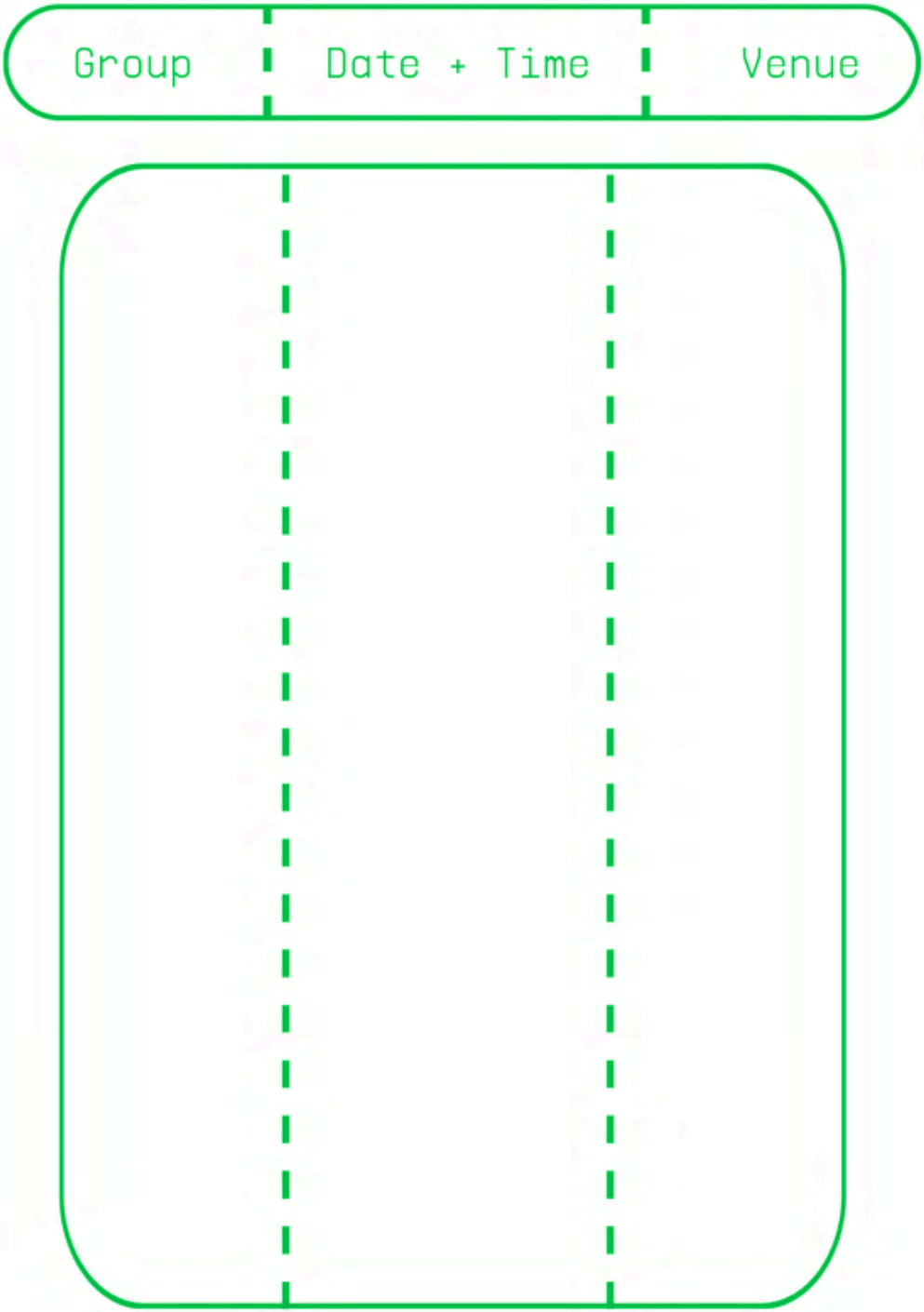
1. Walk around your local area.

2. Add your own photos here or draw what you see.



Local Groups / Clubs / Societies

Group	Date + Time	Venue


Group
Date + Time
Venue

Seniors Afternoon Tea

Every Tuesday at 2 p.m. for 2 hours

Community Cafe

Every Wednesday at 9 a.m. for 4 hours

Both groups meet at St Mary's Church Greenhithe
131 Mounts Road, Greenhithe
DA9 9ND

The community cafe provides hot bacon or sausage rolls,homemade cakes and scones, hot and cold drinks and homemade soup from 11.30am in the winter months.

There are regular visits from Hi Kent, who can help with hearing aid cleaning and replacement batteries and our local Councillor holds a clinic once a month. There is a small area for children to play in.

All food and drinks are on a donation basis and everyone is welcome to attend. Open all year except between Christmas and New Year.

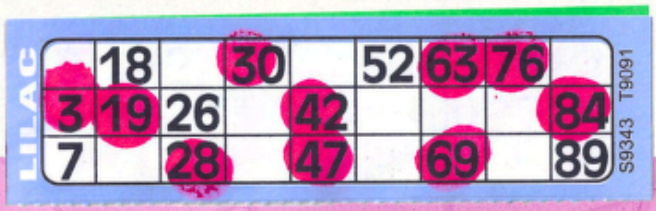
Sticky Fingers

Every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. for 2 hours
No booking needed. Open during term times only.

A toddler group suitable for birth to 4 years. Each week different toys, games and craft items alongside a book corner.Hot drinks and biscuits for parents, a set sit down snack time for the children [fresh fruit, bread sticks and a drink] included in the price of £3 per adult.

Bingo!

Heritage Community Hall
22 Craylands Lane, Swanscombe DA10 0LP
Doors open 7pm
7.30-9pm Every Tuesday
£3 tickets



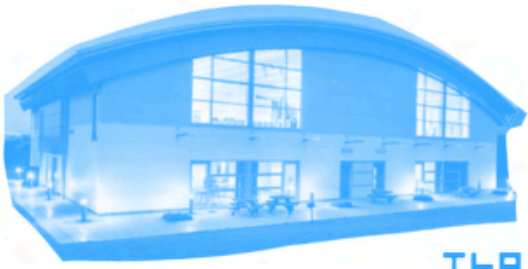
"No Walls Gardens is not just about horticulture. We have a holistic approach to gardening and society, and we believe that by encouraging people to take pride in their environment and pride in themselves we can bring about a real and lasting change. Our projects are planned and designed to engage with our community: to help people away from worklessness, reoffending or relapsing; to give them valuable life and work skills; to encourage them to be a part of something bigger - and to make Northfleet North a nicer place to live."

www.nowallsgardens.org

Coffee mornings

Friday mornings from 10am - 11:30am in the Castle Hill Community Centre, Cherry Orchard Road, Ebbsfleet Valley, Swanscombe

Whether you are a mum with a baby or young children, a grandparent or just someone looking for friendship and community, everyone's welcome.



The Potting Shed

Fourth Tuesday evening of the month
Eastgate Community Centre, 141 Springhead Parkway, Northfleet, Kent, DA11 8AD

A group for gardeners, experienced or aspiring, to swap seeds and chat.

Swanscombe Brownies, Guides and Rainbows

Monday evening 5.30-7pm for Brownies and Rainbow's
7-8.30pm for Guides at Church Road Hall

Special thanks to 2nd Swanscombe Brownies (above).
To register your child for your local group, visit:

https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/what-we-do/

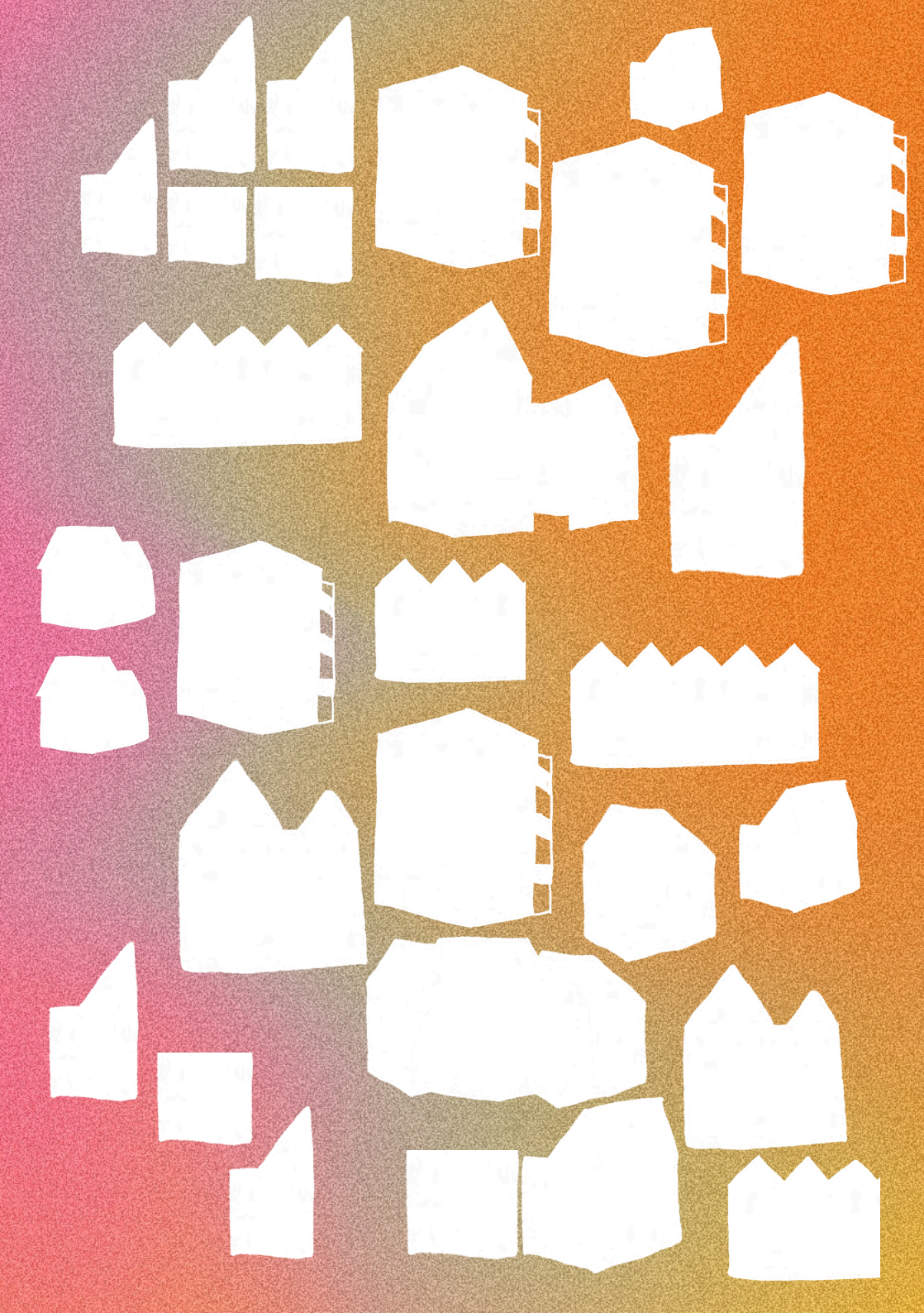
Huggens College Chapel

"The College was founded by John Huggens, a corn merchant of Sittingbourne, in 1844 and officially opened in 1847. The Principal Objective of the Charity is to provide Almshouse accommodation for persons aged at least sixty years old and not in full time employed employment/self-employment, who are of good character, are of limited financial resource, are capable of independent living and recognise that Huggens College is a community with Christian values."

Swanscombe Local History Group

Who hold regular meetings
at St Peters Church Centre
Fridays 7.30-9pm

eg.
Sally at no.9
offered to walk the
dog
As you meet new neighbours, discover your favourite local shops, clubs and societies, or when you've been given a great recommendation, fill this space to keep track of how your own community grows.
HOME



NOTES

NOTES

NOTES

NOTES

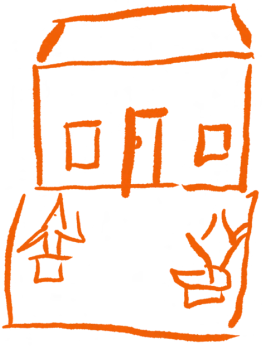
Community Groups, Local Knowledge & Public Contributions

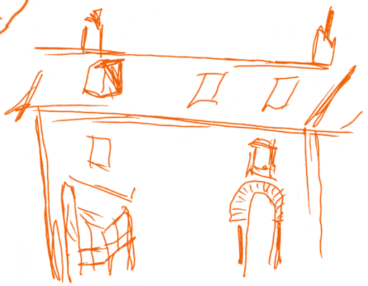
Fusion Festival Fridge Magnet Making Workshop with residents in the Castle Hill Community

Ebbsfleet fridge magnets designed by local families

zines from ebbsfleet academy

Greenhithe & Swanscombe Legion Social Club zine workshop after our history walk with Christophe Bull





Ebbsfleet homes by local residents

Greenhithe circular history walk with Christophe Bull

The George & Dragon sign

Unfortunately closed at the time of writing, this pub is 128-years-old. A former Victorian coaching inn, it has been on the corner of London Road and Swanscombe High Street since 1891.

The 400 kV Thames Crossing

The 400 kV Thames Crossing is an overhead power line crossing of the River Thames, at Greenhithe Marshes in Swanscombe. Its towers are the tallest electricity pylons in the UK.

BBBS FLEET
CITIZENS
HANDBOOK

There has been a Swanscombe as long as humans have lived in this area.

A cement town was full of thirsty workers - hence beer houses and pubs.
The Prince of Wales was closed as there were too many pubs in a small area. Compensation was paid to the landlord. The building was replaced by shopping parade in 1961.

Some Great Figures in Swanscombe's Past:

Swanscombe Woman 400,000 years ago

Sir Antony Welden (d. 1648)

Issac Charles Johnson (1811-1911)
cement manufacturer

Rev Thomas Candy

Marie Stopes

Phylis Bottome (d. 1963)

Rev Stanley Morgan (d. 1951)

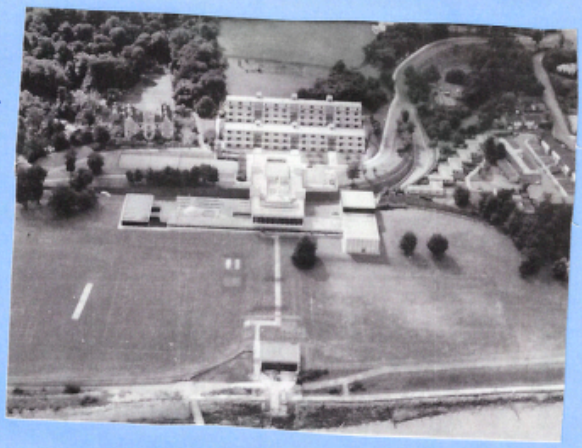
Sir Edwin Arnold (1832-1904)

Bryan Read (1938-2020)

Allotments are managed by Swanscombe & Greenhithe Allotment and Garden Association

Ingress Abbey rebuilt as a Victorian Gothic Mansion

Ingress Abbey used as a merchant navy college, associated with the HMS Worcester. College opened in 1920's.



Lesley Howe

Ingress Abbey in 21st century now surrounded by Ingress Park housing ~~estate~~ estate; the remains of the 18th century landscape long since gone

11 In are

Local area, Thers parks and clubs I go to three clubs Brownies, Swimming and Judo You might go other clubs or None You can go to parks There three.

St Botolph's Church

The magic of your

BELLS

Come and join us!!

God's
garden !
Jean

Doreen

Huggens College Northfleet is

near the River

wildlife, birds and Squirrels.

golden

near the trains
choo choo

John Huggens's idea

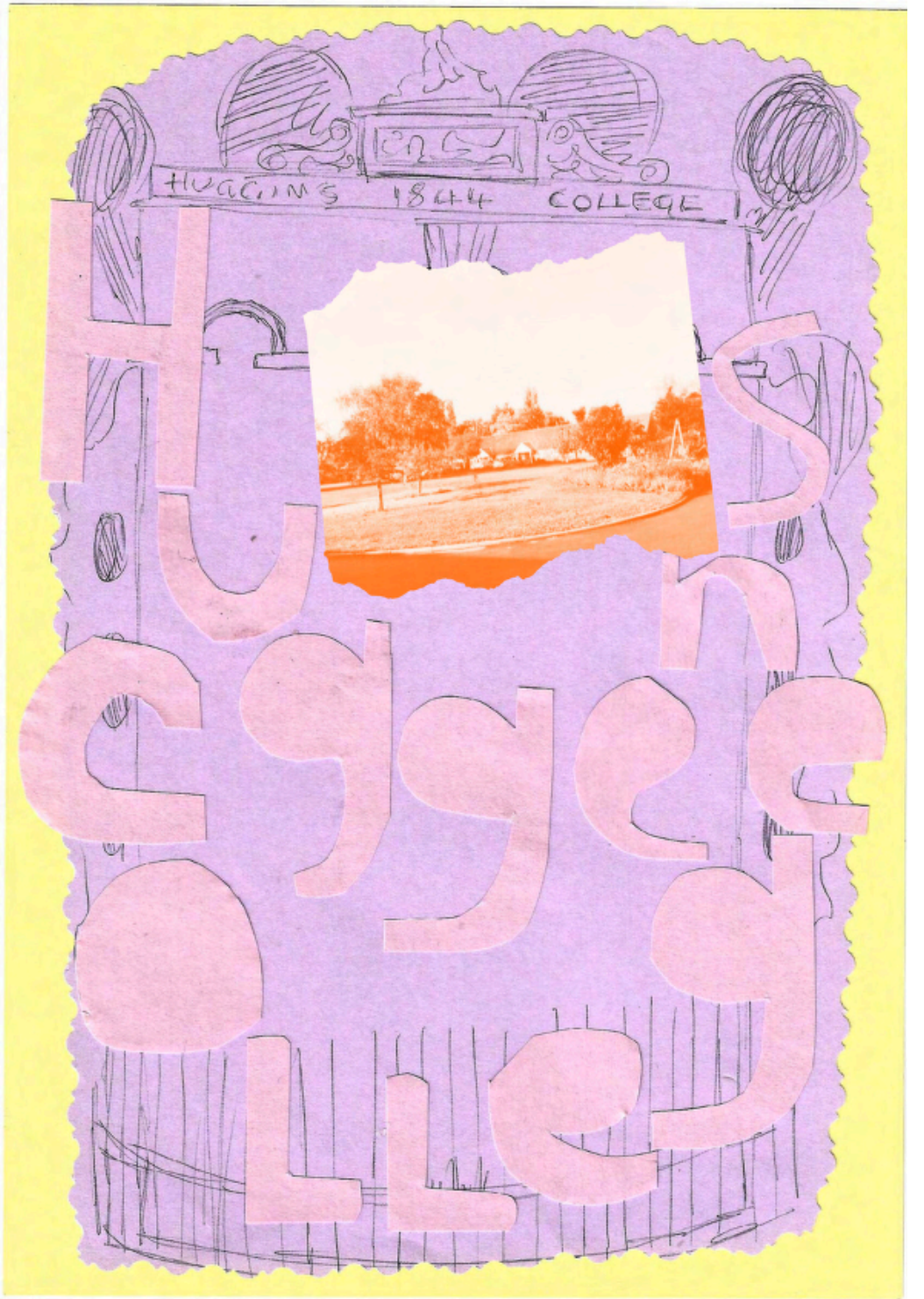
it was

make new friends. Have a cat

The trees and varied Leaves

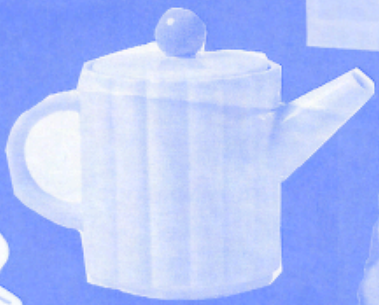
Huggens beautiful chapel

But No Dogs Allowed!


HUGGINS 1844 COLLEGE
Huggins College

Hugged a green and pleasant place

Family activities. Rainbow centre sadly missed



Local cafe - meeting place Time to chat renew.

Pam.

Kay
Tree
Love
Close to
God
Ginko
Peace
Serenity
Hugger

The place is a picture, but underated and under promoted
A little jewel along the Thames.

SPRING HEAD ZINE

PAPER MILLS

Communities of CHALK

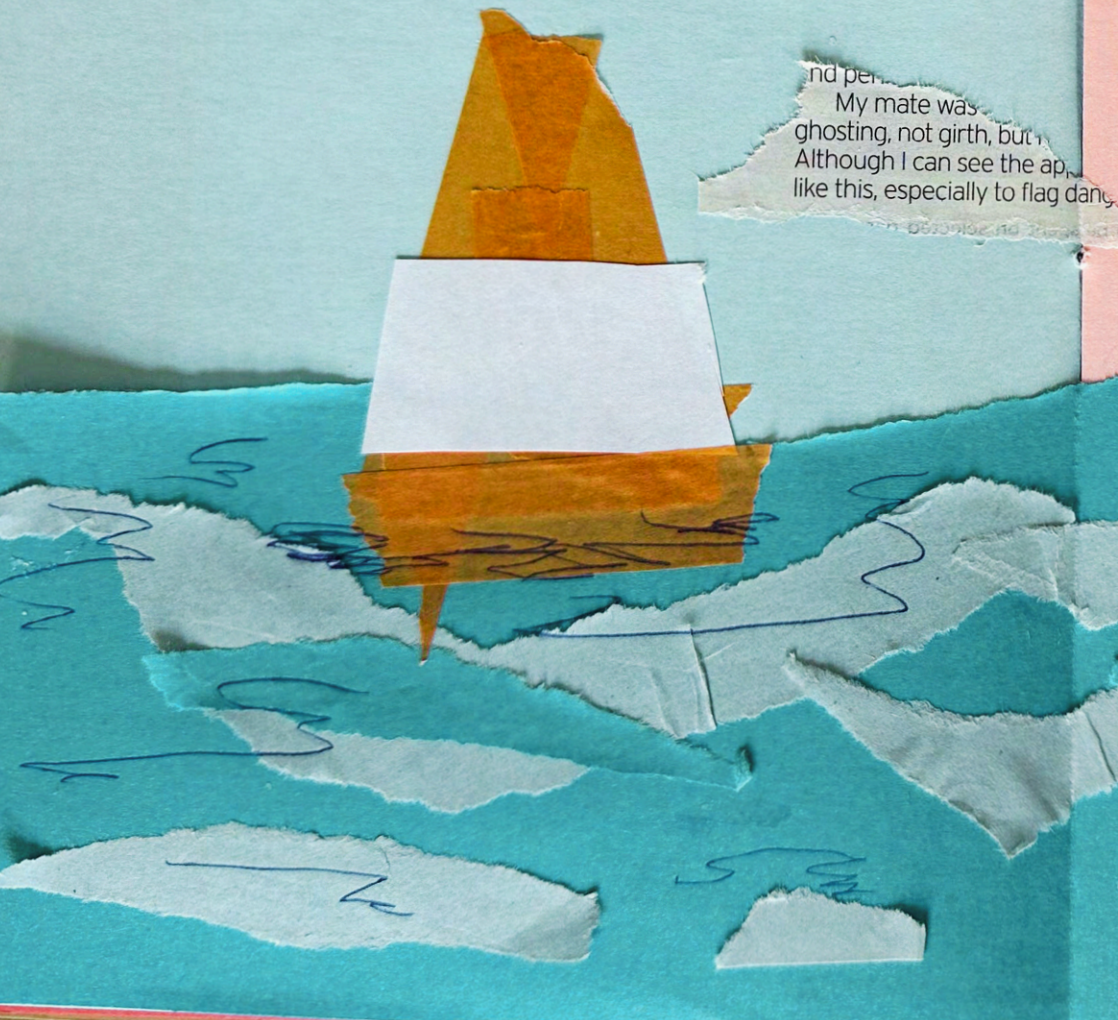
METAL

My favourite story?

The battle of Northfleet by the banks of the ebbsfleet

Which ran in front of Ebbsfleet Stadium. The football team should still be called Gravesend and NORTHFLEET.

THE WORLD'S WORST SCANDI NOIR



nd pe
My mate was
ghosting, not girth, but
Although I can see the ap
like this, especially to flag dan

BOTANY MARSHES

Wind in their hair

I enjoy the fact that there is somewhere close that has been reclaimed by nature.

I don't follow rules.

walking

IT FEELS LIKE YOU ARE AT ONE WITH NATURE: THE SIGHTS, THE SOUNDS, THE SMELLS. AN ABUNDANCE OF WILDLIFE.....

Why not take the path less traveled?

Tess

Down to the marshes no longer the Haunt of the Ague

To enjoy the Creek

Swanscombe High Street less than 100 years ago!

More modern view of Swanscombe

Walking Give

A NEW LEASE OF LIFE

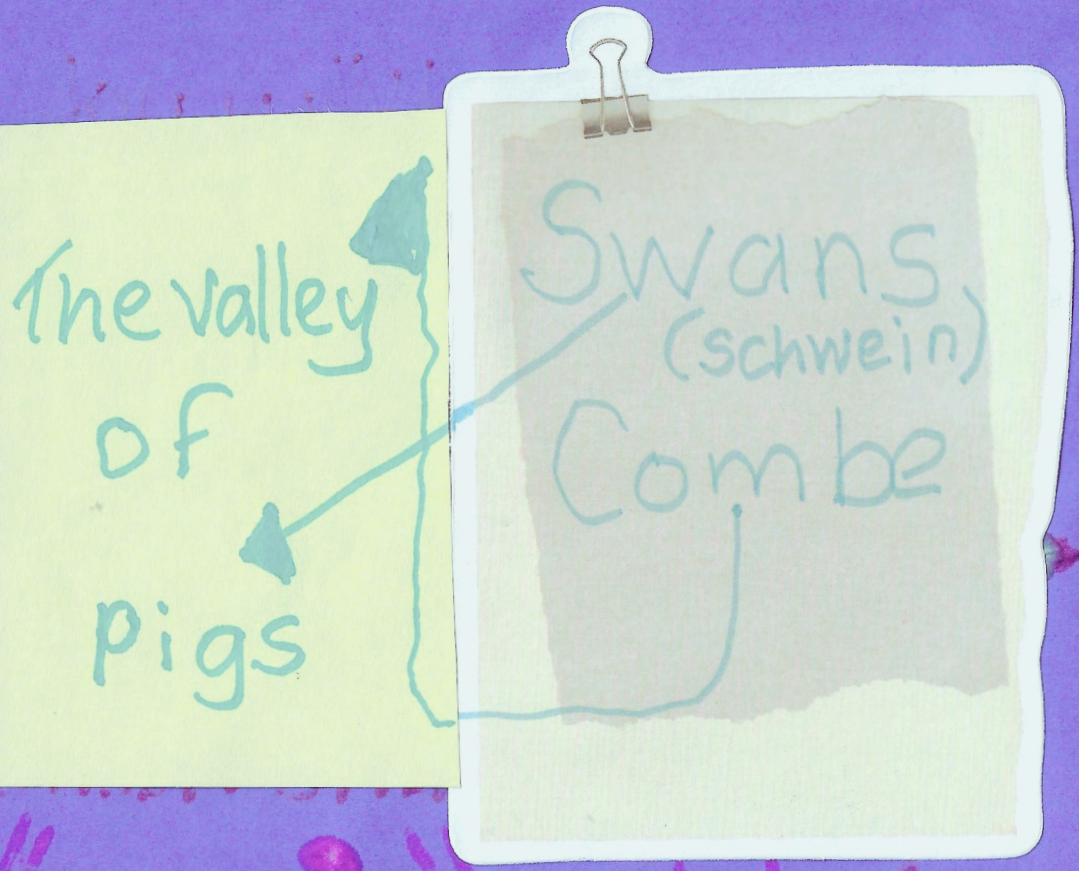
START SMALL AND ACHIEVABLE

There is a fabulous Circular walk from Swanscombe to Northfleet!

Whether you're training hard or going for a stroll in the park, make it FUN!

Go for a dawn walk

"My favourite time of day is early morning, before the kids wake up. It's so peaceful to walk somewhere with a view,



The pigs have gone but maybe — you might see a swan . . .

View of the ships at Swanscombe Creek

The coastal path leading there

deepen your connection to the area

24-9-23

to all,
Had a great day at Swanscombe
Walk ++

Reflecting on the walk

SWANSCOMBE MAIN STREET around ?1910

Sir John fully prepared to die for his cause.

The civil war battle of Northfleet in 1648

What story would you share with a new resident?

A battle passionately participated in by.

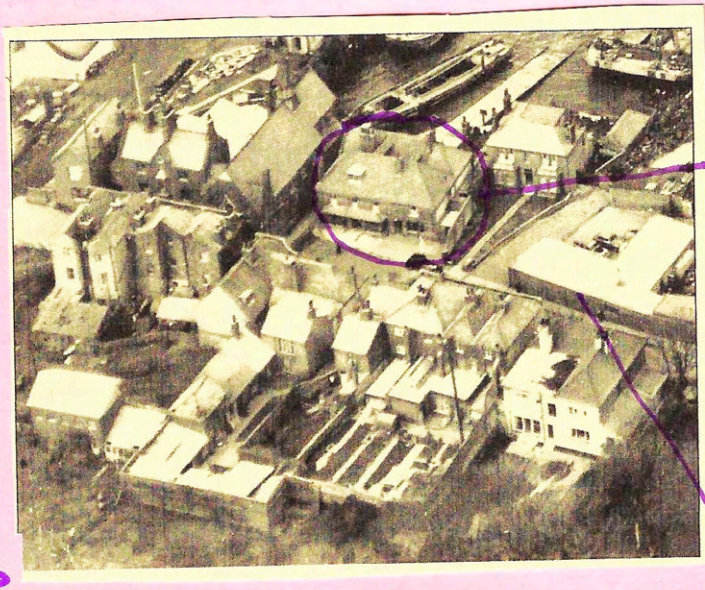
Sir John Welden in his 70's

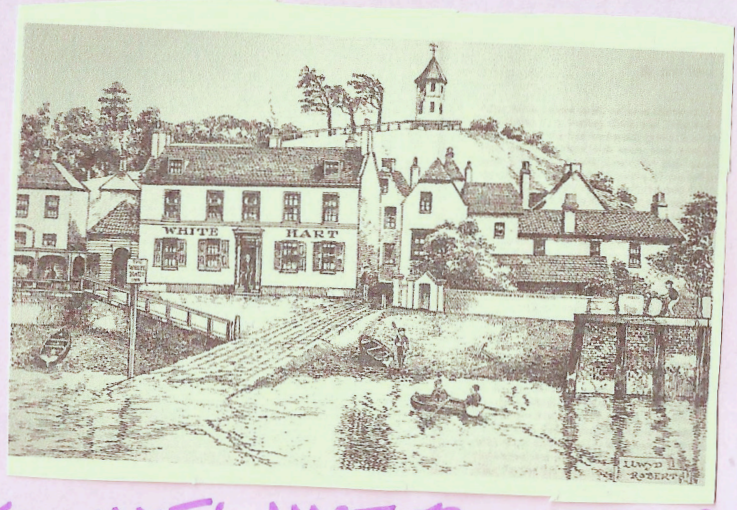
GREEN HITHE

A VILLAGE REVISITED

BY PAM CHILDS-KELLY

17TH SEPTEMBER 2023





PUBLIC HOUSE

↓

THE WHITE HART FROM THE RIVER NOW RENAMED THE SIR JOHN FRANKLIN HE LEFT FROM HERE IN 1845 IN SEARCH OF THE NORTH WEST PASSAGE

BAKERY

↓

A SHOP IN THE HIGH STREET WHERE THE OWNER USED TO LEAVE A BASKET OF BROKEN BISCUITS OUTSIDE FOR POOR CHILDR

MY HISTORY

MY EARLIEST MEMORY OF GREENHITHE, WAS VISITING MY FRIEND'S AUNT'S HOUSE IN CHARLES STREET IN THE 1960's. HER AUNT'S HOUSE WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF A ROW OF ABANDONED HOUSES, THEY MAY EVEN HAVE BEEN SQUATTERS! EVERYWHERE AROUND WAS A BOMB SITE AND THEY MOVED FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE WITH THEIR SIX CHILDREN.

GREENHITHE TODAY IS VERY CHANGED, HOUSES BULLDOZED AND LOTS OF NEW DEVELOPMENT. HOWEVER IT IS NICE TO SEE THAT A LOT OF THE HISTORIC BUILDINGS HAVE BEEN RESTORED AND THE HISTORY TOLD.

HABITATION OF SWANSCOMBE

CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY THAT THESE MAY HAVE MET DURING THEIR TIME ON EARTH

400,000 YEARS AGO

THE LADY COULD ALSO HAVE BEEN A DISTANT RELATIVE

PETER DAY.

My Journey Through Greenhithe 17/09/23

By Steve Kelly

River Thames at NORTHFLEET

MY dad, Dink, went to work on the River Thames aged 14. He drove landing crafts during the war. He spent the rest of his working life on tugs.

Ann

MAP of SWANSCOMBE
September 24th 2023

Sep 24th
2023
Walk!

Gili

Greenhithe - Thameside's Secret Port

Fishing village
to
Victorian
Desire
to
Cement
Town
to
Ghost Town
to
Riverside
Community.

Everard's built barges, had a fleet of maritime ships, repairs, storage which employed many but destroyed much of historical Greenhithe.

FaMiLY

Alice

John

Walter

Marie

Dude

Gary

Bib

Ron

Stuart

Tony

Trevor

Campbell.

Ellen

RIVER THAMES

GREENHITHE

CHRISTOPH BULL (HISTORIAN)

MICHAELA FREEMAN

ARTIST LU WILLIAMS

Sunday 17th September 2023

A SECOND CHANCE

River Walks

Taverns

fresh air!

history

lifestyle

LIFE STORY

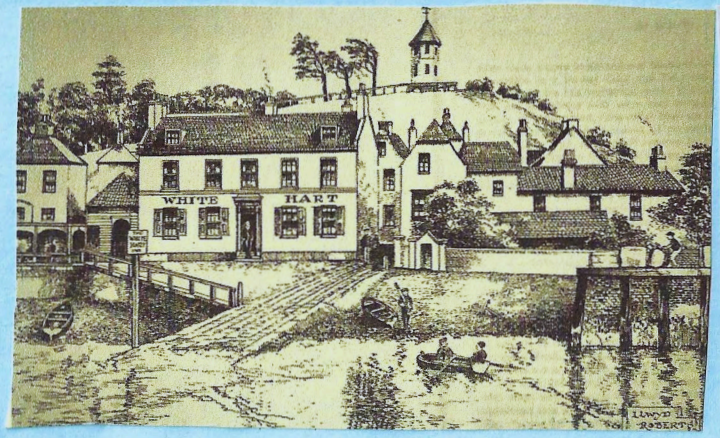
Unleash your inner free spirit

Life in

Ebbsfleet

Citizen

Anisa C.



A NEW PAGE

'I LIVE IN Ebbsfleet

The verdict...

Anisa C.

INSIDE

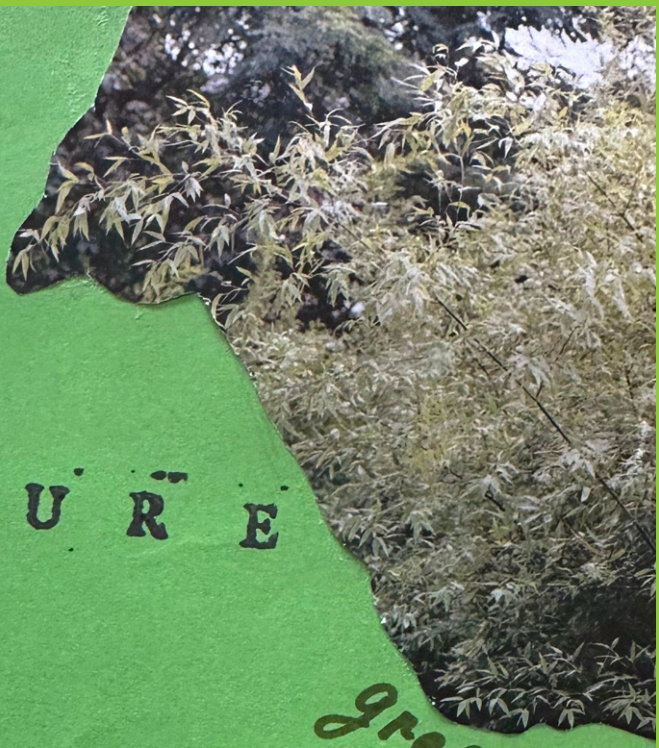
Mandi Knight

Mandi Knight

Mandi Knight

Mandi Knight

ਗਰੀਨ ਹਾਇਥ
GREENHITHE
ਕੈਂਟ
KENT. U.K



NATURE

green...

WE GOT ENGAGED

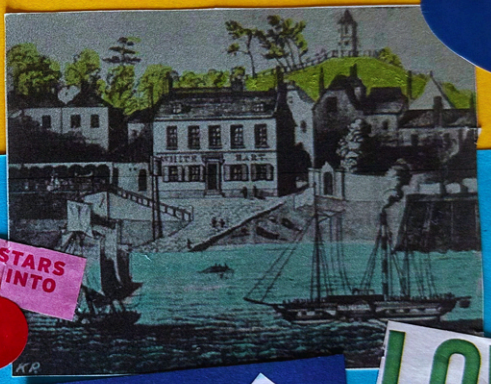
AT

OUR

HAPPY PLACE

GREENHITHE
RIVER FRONT

'I COUNT MY LUCKY STARS
THAT HE CAME
MY LIFE'
INTO



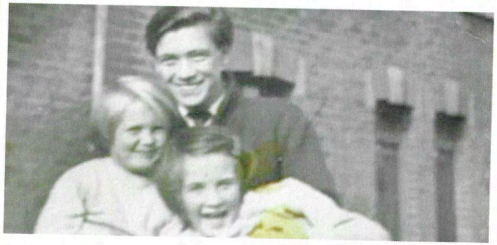
LOVE

College Street

Tree Felling 2022 Harbour Views

Brian Allen 1960

Lawn School 1955-56



Brian Jenny & Me Celia - 41 College Street

Brians car €30 41 College St

Back garden 41 College Street now College Rd. Celia & Jenny

Ingress tavern Trip to Seaside

Mandi Knight

xanthoria

Cobham Hall

Alison Hillman

Bode Church

Alison Hillman

Dode Church

Alison Hillman

Trosley Country Park

Alison Hillman

This must be the place

This must be the place where the sky shows us everything it knows about how a city's systems of empathy can live even in its darkest corners and its wooden benches are sitting places of convivial oases.

This must be the place where there are no dead streets of life hidden away. This is the gentle place where every door knows your name and you can look your neighbour in the eye through your own window.

This must be the welcome place, built for people not pomp, for the soft, small things that come in twos like one hand helping the other, a true place where smiles and handshakes across the divide lead with the heart.

This must be the place where the blank canvas of a new city's symmetry is not left to chance and full of gaps like a teeth missing in a mouth, a metropolis that is still your home even outside the four walls of your house.

This must be the playful place where the laughter of children bounces sunlight off the luminous ripples of Blue Lake, skims and wraps itself around the avenues like a soulful song of community and neighbourhood.

This must be a place where trees breathe their lungs into greener, wilder future spaces, a place where birds wing their flight paths on the curves of dreams and hedgehogs get to play in solar powered mazes.

This must be the new place, a call and response between the generations, cut from the spine of chalk that still remembers the bare bones of its history like that straight-tusked elephant that returns your stare in the train station.

This must be the built place whose theatre of living - its pillars, arches, squares and gardens, its architectural visions and feats of engineering - flows with the landscapes of our bodies like the Thames Estuary winds through its marshland.

This is the place where dreams glitter like sequins conjured in the halo of dawn and the Dartford Crossing on the horizon feels like our bridge for the taking to a place whose libraries shelf its stories, whose streets are all the home we need.

This must be the place we ask for
This must be the place we make together
This must be the place where life is well lived
and exactly the place where we need to be.

Poem by Dzifa Benson, commissioned by Cement Fields for This Must Be the Place programme in Ebbsfleet

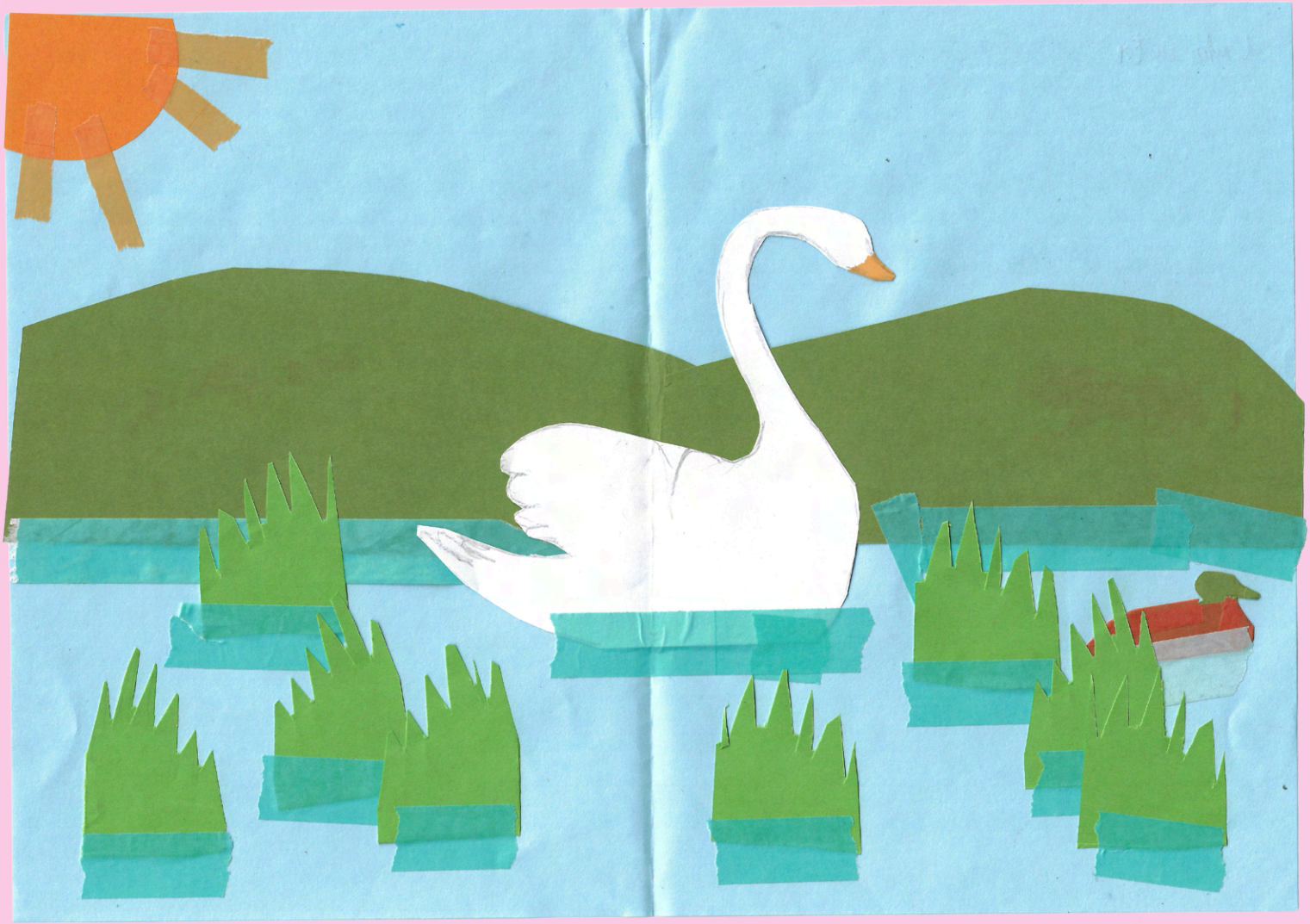
LOVE YOUR
ENVIRONMENT
Athieno
Precious
Kahr

I Love Trees

They are like us
Roots on the ground
and head to the sky

Love is the Water of Life

Love is like wildflowers, it's often found in the most unlikely places



"MY BABY HERE ON EARTH.
SHOWED ME WHAT
MY HEART
WAS WORTH."
BY: winnie.jokes!
lyric by: M4tsk9.

Home :

We came with the river,
The Thames, Our Thames,
The very best, the Nation's pride,
Laying fortunes of the world in our lap,
Our Wealth swollen with the tide,
In and,
In & ; Out
Out out out
Abandoned by King & Country at Riverside,
But tears subside,
Will waters flow again ?
Or will we be chopped up for FIREWOOD, to
fuel London's insatiable furnace —
as they creep at Mile long pace ;
Homes, Hearth and History,
Money but no humanity
What do we tie down to keep dear ?
We cling to Still be here :

@mard.arts.

Creative Journey

georgie madlin

BNGM

As an artist you feel under pressure to create something that looks "amazing" and a piece of work that everone will love, Well, im here to remind you that sometimes its good just to let go and create something that **YOU** love.

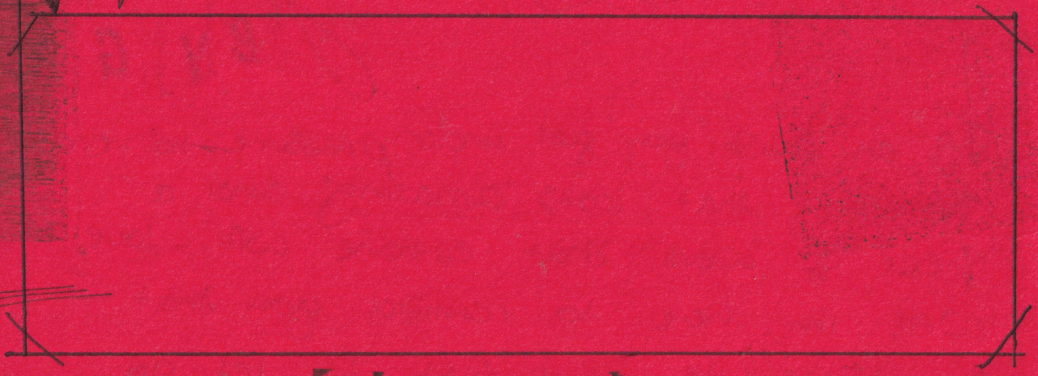
Create for you!

[D][R][A][W] [W][H][A][T]

[I][N][S][P][I][R][E][S]

[Y][O][U] [!]

a quick doodle :)



W[H][A][T] [I][N][S][P][I][R][E][S] [Y][O][U]

[?][?][?]

your pet?

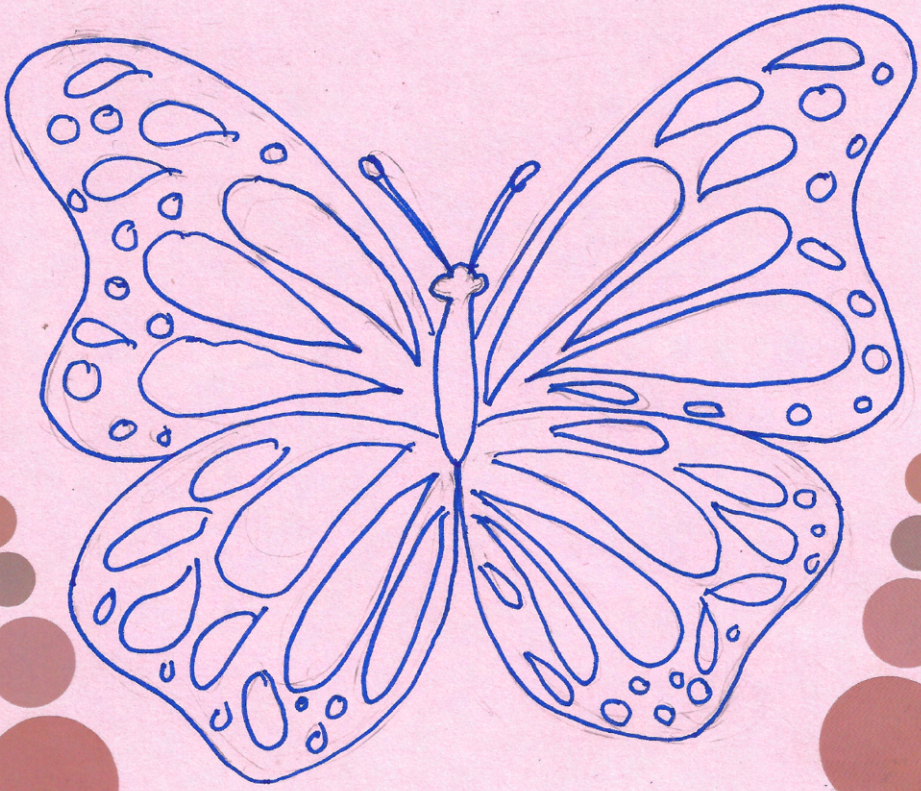
A person?

a place?

an object?

A story?

Creativity Sparks

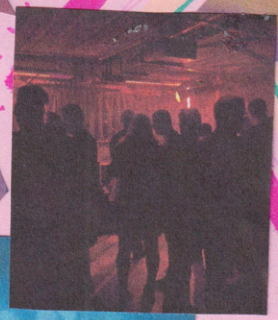


#DON'T WAIT FOR INSPIRATION

Be your own muse

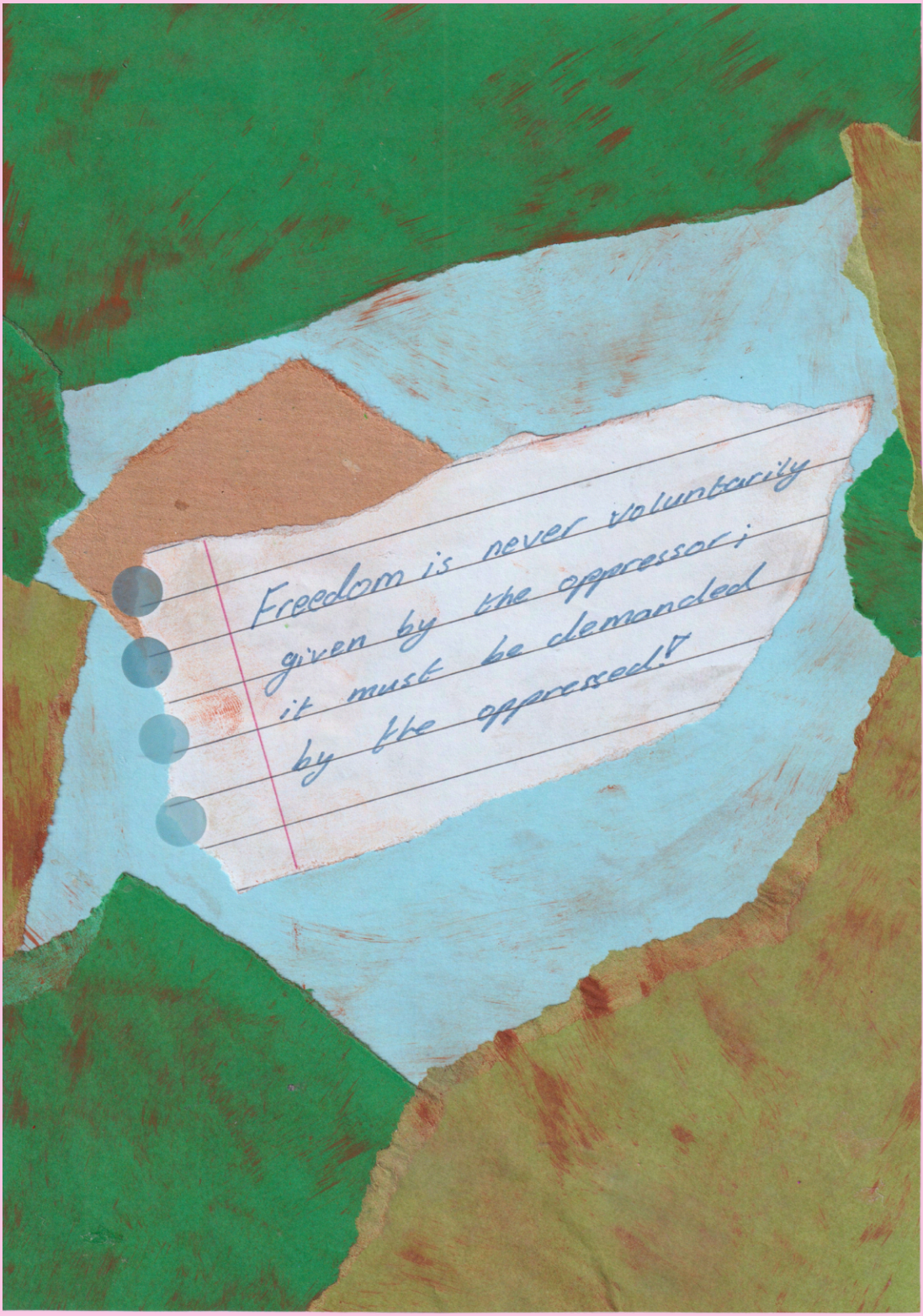
KD

@nolyportfolioo



How can I make it okay?

Concrete Socks


Freedom is never voluntarily
given by the oppressor;
it must be demanded
by the oppressed!"

Local Open Spaces Locally

Snowdrops are a good option, but need slightly more moist soil

Stone Rec - Children's Playground
Worcester Park

DRIVE

BEST SONGS TO LISTEN TO ON A ROAD TRIP

TOP 10

1. Highway to Hell
2. Miles (The Proclaimers)
3. Love Shack
4. Girls Just Wanna Have Fun

5. Don't Stop Me Now

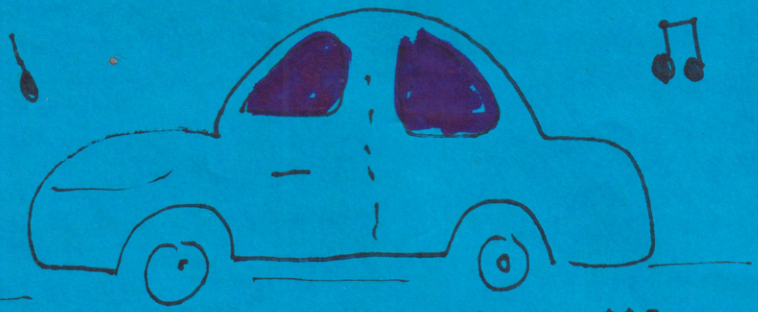
6. Its Raining Men

7. Dancing Queen

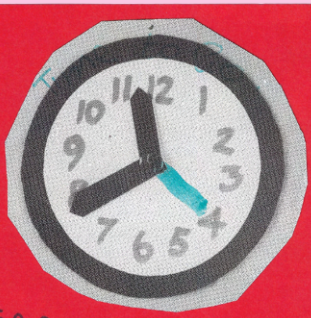
8. Living on a Prayer

9. 9 to 5

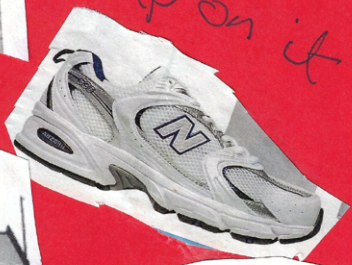
10. Bohemian Rhapsody



Olivia Crowley @wasteofspace885

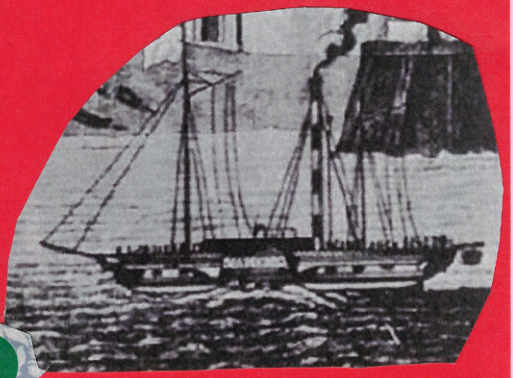


Step on it



HELP WERE'S THE Pub

THIS WAY ONLY



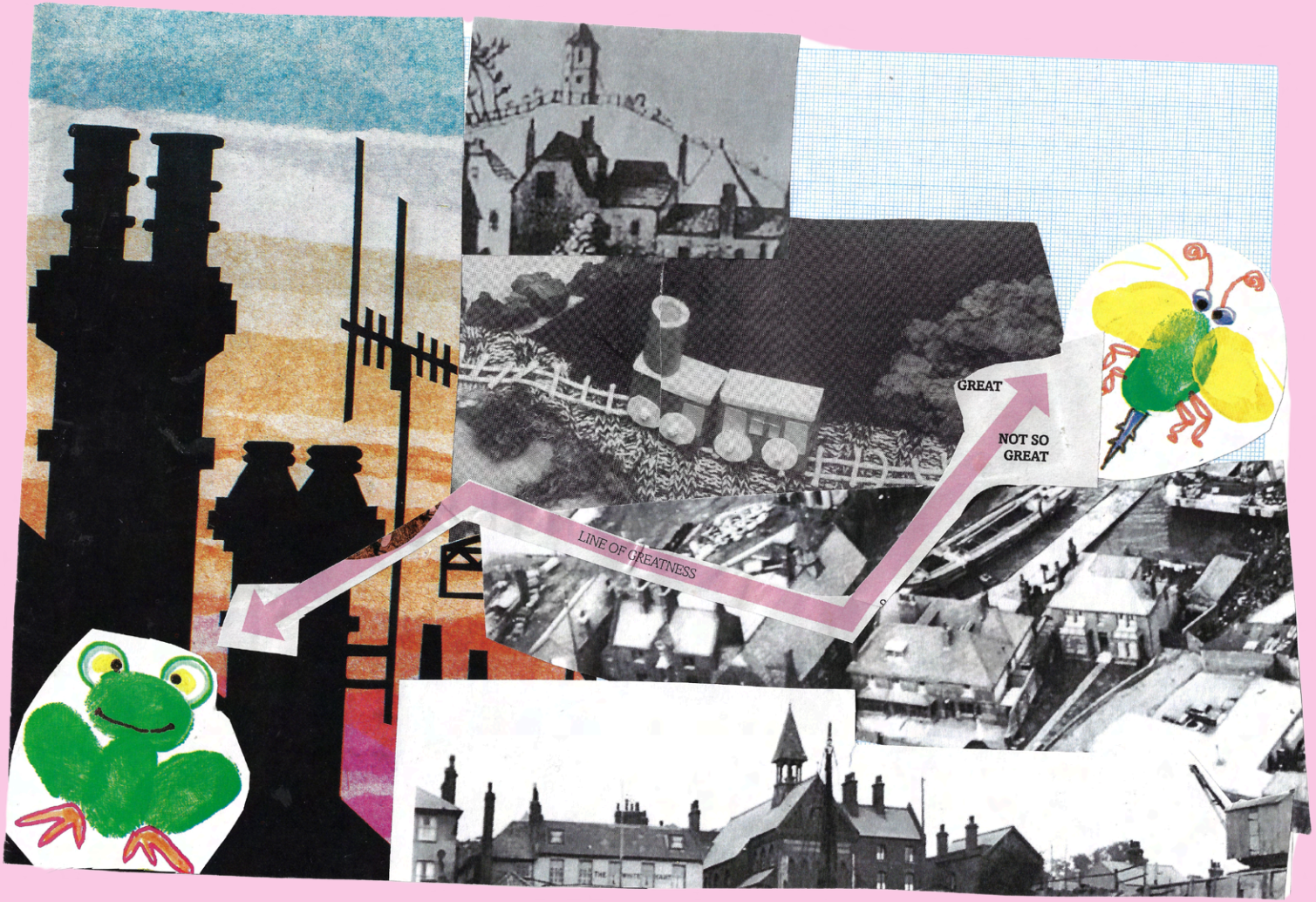
Should of done it

Swanscombe (including Greenhithe) and Northfleet are two Kentish towns who value their identity. Neither is a London Suburb and neither is a Suburb of either Dartford or Gravesend.

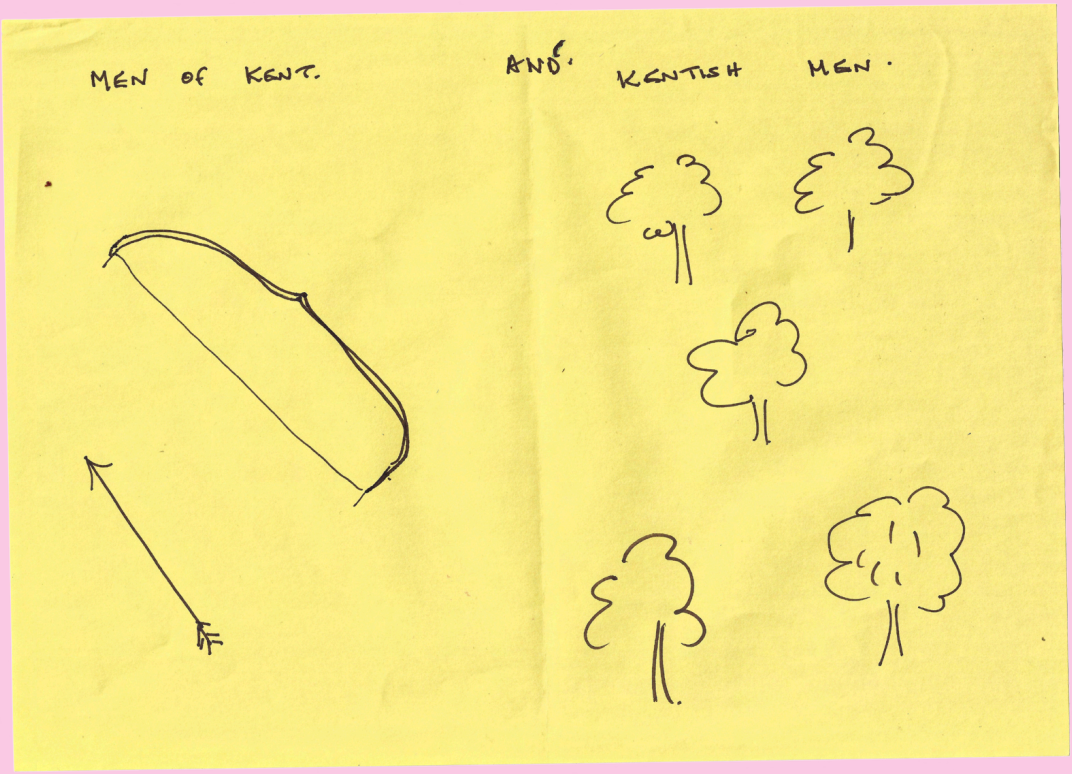
Wir bleiben Frei!

In 1951 I was born in a single storey wooden hut on the south side of Swanscombe Street. It was an ex-prisoner of war hut, from the camp that was built in the 1940s to hold first Italian POWs, then Germans. After the War Swanscombe took them over and converted them to temporary Council houses. They were eventually taken down to make way for the Keary Road estate. At least two of the German prisoners stayed in Swanscombe and Greenhithe and married local girls.

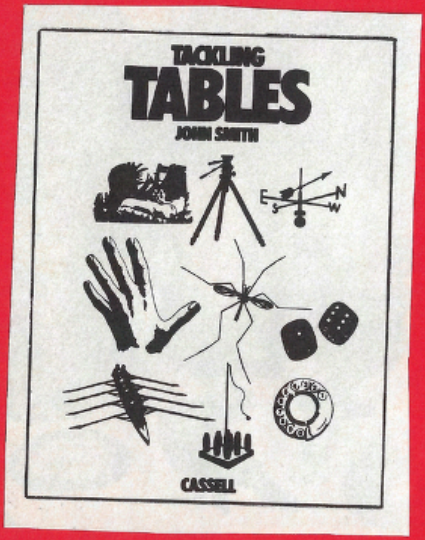
Derek Parris


GREAT
NOT SO GREAT
LINE OF GREATNESS

Cement-based print works by Steve Mace



"Some say that a Man of Kent is a term of high honour while a Kentish Man denotes but an ordinary person. Others contend that men born in Kent east of the River Medway are Men of Kent while those born west of the river are Kentish Men."



IN THE 1950's CHILDREN
WERE TAUGHT ~~THERE~~ THEIR
TIMES TABLE ROOT FASHION
AND RECITED IN TURNS
ON FRIDAY MORNING ASSEMBLY.

1991 THE YEAR CHILDRED OVER THE AGE OF 11 WERE BUSED OUT OF SWANSCOMBE, BECAUSE THE SCHOOL IN SWANSCOMBE WAS CLOSED BULLDOZER WITHIN WEEKS.

Ingress Abbey

In 1831 Ingress Abbey was built for Alderman James Harmer.

It was designed in the Tudor Gothic style.

The abbey is on the banks of the River Thames.

M. McCarthy

Cement Fields is a visual art organisation working collaboratively with artists and communities to create ambitious new art along the Thames Estuary in North Kent. Supported using public funding by Arts Council England, and the University of Kent.
cementfields.org @cementfields

Huge thanks to local historian Christoph Bull for his help throughout the entire project. You can find out more about his future heritage walks here: www.christophbull.co.uk

Ebbsfleet is a 21st century pioneer – the first garden city in 100 years that is being created across 2,500 acres of previously used, brownfield land on the Kent Thames riverside. Ebbsfleet brings together a network of individual neighbourhoods, each with its own carefully designed character, putting high quality homes, wellbeing and community at its core.

Ebbsfleet Development Corporation was established in 2015 to speed up the delivery of up to 15,000 homes (4,000 of which are now complete) and create a 21st-century Garden City in Ebbsfleet, North Kent. Ebbsfleet Development Corporation is sponsored by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. High-quality, well-designed and sustainable housing forms a major part of ambitions, alongside commitments to supporting and nurturing employment opportunities for the local workforce.
ebbsfleetgardencity.org.uk

Ebbsfleet Citizen Handbook was commissioned by Cement Fields as part of Ebbsfleet Citizen Archive, a community-led project capturing and preserving the varied stories and histories of the people and places of Ebbsfleet, Greenhithe, Swanscombe, and Northfleet. Co-created by artists, historians and residents, the archive brings local people together to explore Ebbsfleet's unique historic and contemporary identity through objects, sounds, videos and photographs, collected by and from residents past, present and future.

Ebbsfleet Citizen Archive is made possible with The National Lottery Heritage Fund and supported using public funding by Arts Council England. With additional support from Ebbsfleet Development Corporation, Gravesham Libraries, Dartford Museum and Libraries, and Kent Archives.

See all the collected material on: ebbsfleetcitizenarchive.org or scan this QR code:

LU WILLIAMS
luwilliams.com

COMMISSIONED BY CEMENT FIELDS AS PART OF EBBSFLEET CITIZEN ARCHIVE, 2024.
ebbsfleetcitizenarchive.org

Cement Fields

New Art North Kent

Thanks to National Lottery players

Made possible with Heritage Fund

LOTTERY FUNDED

Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Ebbsfleet DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

EBBSFLEET GARDEN CITY

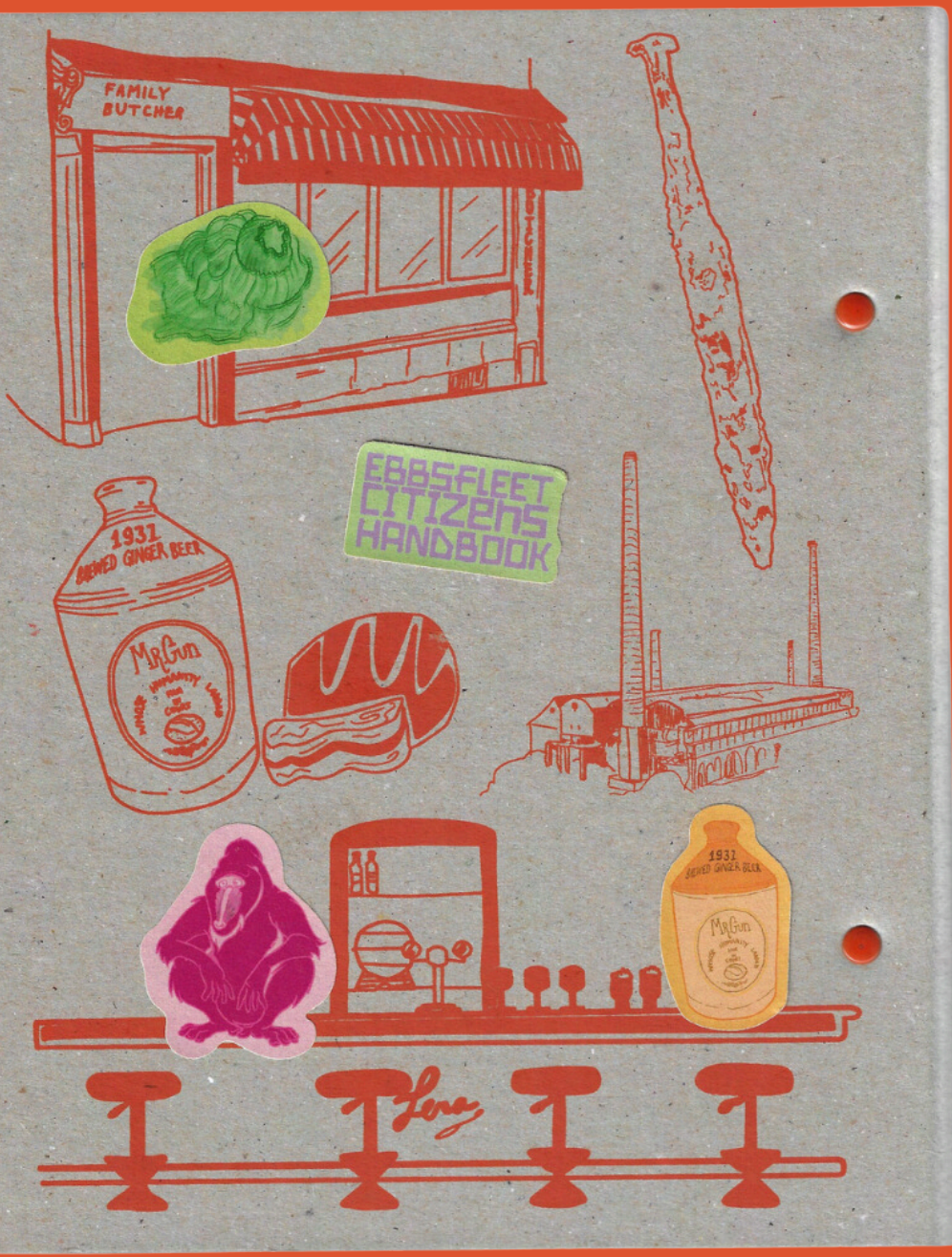
Kent Archives

Kent Libraries

Kent County Council kent.gov.uk

Dartford Museum

THE PIER HOTEL
CHARRINGTONS
ALES
NORTH ELECTRIC


FAMILY
BUTCHER
EBBSFLEET
CITIZENS
HANDBOOK
1931
BREWED GINGER BEER
Mr Gun
1931
BREWED GINGER BEER
Mr Gun