

## Village Echoes

Local newspapers have always been a good source of information for tracing events which took place in a particular area and which are now long gone and forgotten about. With the recent on-line digitisation of many newspapers making such items easier to find, this month's Village Echo contains a selection of Goudhurst news during the month of November as reported in previous centuries.

At Cranbrook Petty Sessions in November 1860, one James Brabon pleaded guilty to stealing a quantity of hop-poles belonging to Mr Wickham of Goudhurst. He was sentenced to 21 days' hard labour.

In November 1861 the Goudhurst Rifle Corps Drum and Fife band held their practice sessions in the National School on Clay Hill under the instruction of Sergeant G M Stevens.

In November 1892, it was reported that Guy Fawkes Day had passed off very quietly in the village (was this unusual, one wonders?) and that the Primitive Methodist Chapel in Beresford Road had held a fruit banquet and entertainment, which the reporter considered something of a novelty.

In the same month Alfred James Cullen was appointed Chief Goods Clerk at the newly opened Hope Mill Station, Goudhurst.

In November 1893, five cases of scarlet fever were reported among the families of Clay Hill Mount.

In November 1895 the Cottage Gardeners' Mutual Improvement Society held their autumn show in the Vine Assembly rooms, Goudhurst. Among the exhibits was a vegetable marrow weighing 40lbs.

In November 1904 a whist match took place in the Parish Hall between teams from Goudhurst and Kilndown. Goudhurst won by a very narrow margin of 23 to 22. There were 18 men in each team.

A year later, in November 1905, Dr Sealy promoted a Smoking Concert in the same place, with Mr P T Smith at the piano - this is likely to have been a men-only gathering. During the same month the Providence Chapel at Curtisden Green, which had been built in 1878 by the Rev J J Kendon at a cost of £733, was re-opened. It had cost £350 to enlarge the chapel sufficiently to seat 75 and to install heating apparatus.

Excitement was caused in November 1913 when unfavourable weather conditions forced a Lieutenant Connor of the Army Flying Corps to land in a field on the Combwell estate.

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