

BOOK REVIEWS

Drinking in Deal: Beer, Pubs and Temperance in an East Kent Town 1830-1914

By Sargent, A.

London: Bettany Press

2016, Pp.288, £25

ISBN 978-1-908304-20-9

When you read this book you get more than just a history of *Drinking In Deal*, it provides the reader with a potted biography of the town itself. It is a comprehensive account of the development of the town, the expansion of its commerce and the interplay of its people and their moral views. As one would expect from a work of reference, it covers wider events than just the locale of East Kent and Deal.

With my limited knowledge of the town, the dates and events appear to be accurate, and the author relates them with confidence. However, it is easy to follow up many of the facts with the copious references, allowing the reader to research further on specific statements. These

appear as end notes to each chapter and it is interesting that much of the information comes from various local periodicals of the time. To expand that reference base, the bibliography is extensive. There is a

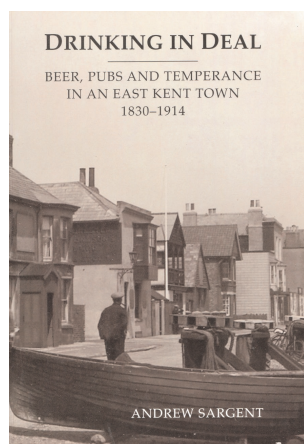
comprehensive index along with a list of pubs covered by the book with their new names where the previous ones have been changed.

The chapters are very detailed and informative. They cover the founding of the town, the development and eventual demise of brewing in the area and the influences of beer production and drinking in the town. The spread of public house ownership, both private and tied, is recorded in detail, showing the impact on both brewery and council. The Andrew Sargent expands on how the ownership and the development of the pubs changed and with it the shape of town life. The story is further enlarged to cover the legal aspect of pub life, both civil and criminal! Many of the failed or stalled local initiatives, some of which had they gone through would have changed Deal completely, are well documented.

The author relates how the clients of the pubs came from all walks of Deal life. Local fishermen, boat men, Pilots and the military, especially the Navy who's ships were never far from the town despite the absence of a harbour. Not forgetting of course the squaddies in Walmer barracks just up the road.

Other users of Deal licensed premises were the clubs and societies that make up the fabric of social life in any town. Some of this were social, some civic and of course there were the various Masonic organisations. The railway arrived in 1847 but it wasn't until the latter part of the 19th century that the day trippers and holiday makers were added to that list. Thus giving the town another opportunity to increase trade.

The impact of the breweries on other aspects of Deal life is also mentioned, for example the founding and expansion of the local fire brigade. We even have biog-



raphies of some of the notable pub owners, and some of the local pub users, both good and bad.

Inevitably as with most stories that are alcohol related, the temperance movement has an influence on the town's story. The legal side of beer wholesaling and retailing is well documented, covering both regulation, licensing and the inevitable complaints for drink disorders. The Sargent uses this to introduce us to both the local police and some of their 'clients'.

The photographs, over 80 in all, are very good, giving an atmospheric flavour to the story. One caption caught my eye. It tells us that the Park Tavern was destroyed during the war by the Germans. Not from bombing but from a shell fired from across the channel!

I would recommend this book to anyone wishing to learn more of this town on the very edge of the British Isles.

Victorian and Edwardian British Industrial Architecture

By Pearson, L.

Ramsbury: Crowood Press

2016, Pp.160, £22.50

ISBN 978-1-78500-189-5

This book is a delightful way of reminding us of the industries, and their buildings, that have all but gone over the years. It is beautifully illustrated with a wealth of excellent photographs, many in colour and some even colourised. The text gives the reader an insight into the way companies went about expanding their premises and the architectural and building techniques used. Many of the sites are long gone but it is refreshing to see that there is still much around to be sought out and enjoyed, even if it no longer serves the same purpose it did when it was built. This gives a positive view that in a number of cases the builders of the present day don't just demolish, they adapt. The book gives the reader a wide range of factories, now business units, houses or flats, to enjoy from the outside and even, if invited, from the inside.

My initial reaction to the book was to look through it and enjoy the images presented. Whilst appreciating the

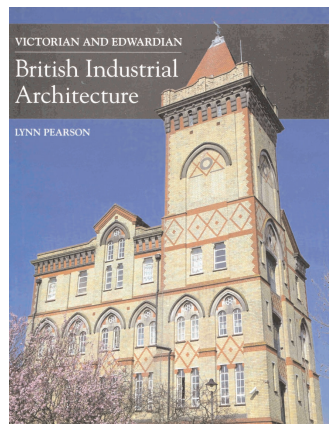
buildings I could not help being surprised by the sheer size of some of the sites. Take for example Coats in Paisley or Burroughs & Wellcome in Dartford - they were huge! I expect that having connections to the ever increasing rail network created the need for more space, but nevertheless, some of these sites were enormous. When the image shows the sheer size of a building, the author has carefully chosen those images that where possible contain human beings to provide a sense of scale.

The text gives introductions to the architects and their techniques, the builders and their methods and the companies themselves who were determined to make a statement to the world at large. The buildings were as much part of the company image as the product itself. These premises must also have induced a huge degree of pride in the workers as they arrived for their shift, even if some of that work was long, dirty and arduous.

The builders of these cathedrals of industry were heavily influenced by fashions of the time, following Gothic, Italianate, Byzantine and Modernism styles. They told the world of the confidence and courage of the owners and, by default, their employees. The cynic of the 21st Century might also add wealth to that list.

The text covers a number of industries; there is even section on chimneys. Breweries and malting are covered and as would be expected of an author of Lynn Pearson's reputation, there is a detailed bibliography, index and notes for further research.

The book is an easy read and an enjoyable view. It reminds us of times gone by and it certainly provides a huge contrast in building design when compared to some of utilitarian industrial build-



ings used today. Reminding us of something lost and something for which we are all the poorer, both economically and aesthetically.

A useful book to start off an interest in the buildings that made Britain the centre of manufacturing for not only the Empire but also the world.

A great tribute to the evolution of the Industrial Revolution.

KEN SMITH