

CROCKENHILL PEACE CELEBRATIONS

28 JUNE 1919 ELSIE CLEMENTS' DIARY ENTRIES

Hung out flags at 6 o'clock as we heard a lot of guns firing, so concluded Peace Treaty had been signed.

19 JULY (SATURDAY) 1919 - Put Aleck's handkerchief on Beryl's hat and Union Jack and smaller one on Joyce's. Kathie brought flowers from the farm and wanted more to make bouquet for a competition at the sports. Early dinner. Aleck fetched his mother in bath chair. Races in the meadow. Children sat down to tea opposite Moat House. Scouts having tea on the lawn. Came on to rain. Bernard went and laid down on the bed with toothache. Promised to wake him in time for the bonfire. Lex to the meadow again at 8 o'clock. Got Bernard and Beryl down at 9 o'clock and gave them some supper. Aleck and Lex returned a few minutes later to say bonfire nearly burned out. Been alight nearly 2 hours. Children disappointed. Bernard went up to see remains of fire. Went to Bransell Bank to watch fireworks and fires all round. To bed about 11.30 o'clock.

Edith Masters as Britannia



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The meadow by Moat Farm, Crockenhill, in 1920s, where the Peace Celebrations took place. Dating from 1500, Moat Farm is the oldest house in the village, inset 1996



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The cottage on Crockenhill village green, empty and condemned as unfit for human habitation, was set fire to on 20 July 1919, the day after the Peace Celebrations - perhaps by youths wanting a more impressive bonfire

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Crockenhill Cubs and Scouts seated in lines on the meadow by Moat Farmhouse on 19 July 1919, during the Peace Celebrations

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List of Cubs and Scouts in photograph

Front row from left (Cubs):

Frank Reeves, Bob Reeves, Jack Shepherd, Tom Pert, Mick Highland, George Fitz, Arthur Miller, George Clements, Cecil Pontin, Ron Champion, Bernard Relph, George Jarrett, Jack Lee, Frank Smith, Eric Spice

2nd row from left (Scouts):

Glen Hatten, ---, Laurance Relph, Percy Chipperfield, Wally Wise, 'Tatler' Relph, Jim Wise, Jack Highland, Stan Masters, Mick Varney, Pat Varney, Fred Randall, Harry Fitz, Bern Whiting, ---, Albert Knight, Bob Cutler (with bandage), Bert Jarrett (with hat)

3rd row from left (Scouts):

Bert Smith, Fred Davies, Harold Smith, ---, ---, ---, Jack Page, Bill Bennett, Ted Miller, Joe Kimber (visiting cousin of Ted Miller), Alf Eldridge, Horace Blackwell

4th row from left:

---, ---, ---, Bill Everest, Ron Pontin, George Pontin, Bill Smith, Jack Spice, Charlie Page, Harry Peck, Herbert Champion, Wally Packman

(2 boys squeezed in between 2 rows at back unknown)

CROCKENHILL PEACE MEDAL

This was presented to Crockenhill school children at School on 24 December 1919, although it is dated 19 July when the Peace was celebrated in the village. It is not known who made or who paid for the medal. The apple and pear swags are indicative of the prominence of fruit growing round the village.



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Circular no. 144, August 1919, Kent Education Committee notified the managers of an extra week's holiday to celebrate Peace. This was taken in the last week of September as an extension of the Hop Picking holiday

Holidays The same Circular. Elem. 144. notified Managers of a communication from the Board of Education favoring the granting of an extension of one week's School holiday, in celebration of Peace.

Crockenhill children had already celebrated the Peace in July, but joined in the celebrations at Swanley Junction in mid-August, to the dismay of the head of Crockenhill Council School, who noted on 15 August 1919 the considerable number of children absent from school on Wednesday and Thursday mornings owing to the Peace celebrations at Swanley Junction.