

September is the month when many households in the Old Town decamped to the hop fields. Not only did it supplement the family income but it also was appreciated as a break from the daily routine, almost a holiday.

**New Book
Those were
'Dee-Days'
£10
on sale at
Hastings History
House
In aid of the
MacBean and
Bishop Trust**

This includes a chapter on Dee-Day's hop picking experiences.



I can do no more on John Manwaring's Baines A-Z until I can compare the version I have transcribed with that in Hastings Museum to clarify one or two queries that remain. So during wet days in lock down I have been working on transcribing Coastguard records from Fairlight Station which cover from c1931 to 1970. Some of the volumes are details of items washed ashore and reported to the Receiver of Wrecks, mainly at Rye but during the Second World War there is a volume based at Bexhill or Cooden which reported to Newhaven. There is also a Permanent Station Log Book for the Fairlight Station. I acquired these from a local antique shop and will deposit them in the Fishermen's Museum once transcribed.

Not only are the details of what came ashore of interest but also the various soldiers that reported items in Bexhill during the war and it is interesting to see where the various units were billeted. Names and addresses are given of the finders, many of which are familiar. I have copied below some examples of entries.

Deal Planks various lengths and sizes i.e. 8' to 16 feet in length and 6"x3" total 120 feet mark +J M + in red	9.12.34	Fishmarket to Hastings Pier	Recovering and putting in place of safety	Mr M Mitchell	50 George Street	Sold to Salvor
<i>This was part of a large amount of timber that came ashore all along our stretch of coast at this time and was sold to the various salvors. There would have been many garden sheds benefiting from this cargo.</i>						
Lifebuoy painted red and white marked M.S. Vinemoor	21/4/35	3 miles S W from Rye Harbour light	Recovering lifebuoy & placing in safety	F Williams	Church Sq. Rye	24/5/35 Gassons, Rye
<i>This was one of 2 lifebuoy recovered locally, another was picked up by Frank Edmunds on 26th June off Bulverhythe. M.S. Vinemoor was a cargo ship and was sunk in the Atlantic by u34 ion 26th July 1940. Her 32 crew were all rescued by HMS Clarkia, HMS Enchantress, Hollinside a merchant ship and Loke, a Norwegian ship.</i>						
Small Porpoise mutilated head missing	3 rd May 35	100 yds E from Harbour Light Hastings	Securing porpoise and carrying it to corporation depot	F Martin A Chatfield	11 High Street 7 Woods Row	Hastings Corporation for destruction no charge

Porpoises are often marked as Royal Fish and recorded as being sent to the Natural History Department of the British Museum I guess this one was too badly damaged to be of use.