

The Farningham & Eynsford Local History Society

Founded 1985

A Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee

No. 5620267 incorporated the 11th November 2005 Registered Charity 1113765



(Original Society founded 1985 Registered Charity no 1047562)

Bulletin No 106

June 2015

Forthcoming Talks and Events

| 2015 | Details | Where |
|-----------------------|---|-------|
| 18 th Sept | The Gentlemen at War – Roy Ingleton | EVH |
| 23 rd Oct | Unexplained Mysteries and Cover-ups – Andy Thomas (Ticketed evening including buffet supper) | FVH |
| 27 th Nov | Waterloo 200 – Steve Hookins | FVH |

Unless otherwise stated all Meetings are held on a Friday evening from 730pm, talk commencing 8pm. (Note: front row seats can be reserved for members with hearing or eyesight difficulties and hearing loops are now available on request)

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Barbara Cannell 864253)

Our Annual General Meeting held at Eynsford Village Hall on 27th May was also the Society's 30th Birthday so it was rather disappointing that so few members attended to reflect on the activities of the past year and to enjoy nibbles with a glass of wine or fruit juice together with a slice of birthday cake. The AGM is the one meeting in the year when members get the opportunity to ask questions on any queries that they may have relating to the society and we would always welcome suggestions on how we might be able to improve our evening meetings and events. If you have heard a speaker with an interesting local subject or there is anything within the local area or anyone who you would like to know more about please let us know. Likewise if there is anywhere that you think would be suitable for an outing please talk to us. We really would like some new ideas.

I have recently been looking through some old copies of Trident and I have found two references to businesses in Farningham that I am wondering if any member can remember. Going back to 1991 the Old Parsonage Works in the High Street (just recently demolished) was advertising a 'Junior Jeep' a handmade toy and in 1994 Mrs. White wife of the owner of the Bull Stores was making hand-made pottery. It would be absolutely marvellous if one of these toys and some of this pottery could be found.

THANKYOU

From myself and the Committee I would like to thank Philip McGarvey for all the support he has given the Society over 13 years as our Treasurer. We wish him every success in everything he will do in the future

Barbara Cannell (Chairman)

OUR NEW TREASURER

I was elected to the post Treasurer at the AGM in May and I am grateful to my predecessor for his assistance in helping an orderly transition of office. My wife Lisa and I moved to Eynsford from Chelsfield in 1998. Since my student days I have been keen on history and travel and during periods when Lisa and I lived in Egypt we were supporters of the British Council and the Egypt Exploration Society's activities there. I have recently retired from the Civil Service and look forward to supporting FELHS Rick Clayton (Treasurer)

MEMBERSHIP (Jan Wilkes)

The membership of the Society is healthy and as with all Societies on an annual basis the membership numbers fluctuate, but I would like to thank all our members, they are very loyal and year after year we receive payments from people who no longer live in the local area but like to keep the connection.

We have managed to keep the fees down for the past couple of years being £9.00 for one person and £14.00 for two, also life memberships are available £99.00 single and £140.00 for a couple. Within the membership any children and grandchildren under 18 are welcome to come to any of our meetings.

Membership is very important to us as it enables us to book speakers for our evening meetings, produce four bulletins a year, purchase archive pockets and cabinets necessary to safely store archival materials and over the years put together more than 40 publications on varying local subjects.

We have on occasion put on special evenings, one very successful one a few years ago about the Titanic and we have also organised four coach trips to places of interest in Kent. We prefer not to see these as fundraising exercises in an endeavour to keep the cost to our members as reasonable as possible.

In the past Barbara and I have attended fetes in both Eynsford and Farningham and various conferences in the Kent area, this enables us to meet people from other Societies and show some of the things that are of interest in our own villages. Another facet to your membership is that we are affiliated with Shoreham, Horton Kirby and Hextable History Societies which means that providing you take your card access to their meetings are free and following on from that there is free access for members to our archives for local research.

The Society is now 30 years old, hopefully we can look forward to more successful years.

RESEARCH REPORT (Susan Pittman 01322 669923) (www.felhs.org.uk)

'Our Villages in the Great War' Exhibition display sheets on-line

All the display sheets are now on our website (www.felhs.org.uk); go to the left hand column of the home page click on WW1 for access - a chance to catch up if you missed the Exhibition or to take a more leisurely look.

News Shopper (Dartford and Swanley)

If you have this delivered please consider saving the copy for our Scrapbooks. Sevenoaks Chronicle and Dartford Kent Messenger no longer advertise many local properties for sale, but News Shopper does. Let me know if you can save your copies so that arrangements can be made to pass them over. Thank you.

Kent Agriculture in 1954

A summary of the Survey into agriculture in Kent was given in Kent Farmer, January 1955, by G.H. Garrad, who worked at the East Malling Research Station. Kent contained a larger proportion of good and medium quality land than other home counties, but also had much poor land. Owing to its contrasting geology, soil varied more frequently and abruptly than in any other county of similar size. No other county had so many different types of farming, with market gardening and glasshouses round Swanley, being one area singled out. Although only ninth in size, Kent employed more agricultural workers than any other county in England and Wales, on account of the intensive labour required for growing fruit, hops, market gardening and glasshouse crops. Fruit farms employed three times as much labour per acre, and market gardening four times as much labour as mixed farming. Kent produced a quarter of all fruit grown in England and Wales.

Memories of Lullingstone Silk Farm

(by Christine Rayner, Bygone Kent, volume 35, no.6 - November/December 2014)

Christine recounted that Mick Jagger of the Rolling Stones visited Lullingstone as a schoolboy and found the smell of the silkworms 'awful'. Another young visitor at the time of the coronation in 1953 recalled women wearing turban-style headscarves splashing water on the cocoons in a very noisy room. 'I was surprised to find two gas masks at the entrance to the house - I was desperate to try one on. They had been put out in case anyone couldn't stand the smell of the silkworms. The smell was quite terrible!'

East Malling Research Station

This was founded in 1912, and I recently used its library to look up its annual reports. Several local farmers were members, and A.T. Miller of Wested Farm became a governing member in 1936. In 1933 J. Langlands' raspberry plantation at Franks Farm, Farningham, was used for preliminary experiments into the control of the raspberry short moth, and in 1934 apple and pear orchards at Caleb Lee and Sons farm in Crockenhill were used in experimental trials for the control of chlorosis.

Graham Sutherland O.M. (1903-1980)

Several people have mentioned that Graham Sutherland lived in Eynsford for a time, in Willow Cottage. His biography, written by Roger Berthoud, gives the following information. After his marriage to Kathleen Barry in 1927, the couple took lodgings in White House, Farningham. In April 1929 Graham and Kathleen had a son, who died aged 3 months, and the couple had no more children. In 1931 the rent for White House was increased, so they moved to Willow Cottage in Eynsford. They were there from 1931 to 1933, but when the rent of that cottage increased, moved to a converted stable at Sutton Place, Sutton-at-Hone, where they stayed until 1937, when they were given notice to quit. They drove around Kent and discovered Trottescliffe where they rented another house called The White House, which they bought after the war, and stayed there for the rest of their lives.

Early petrol pumps

I recently sent Eric Syddique an article about early garages, and he replied by telling me that his father's first enterprise was an garage in Archery Road, Eltham, which had lock-up garages for the cars belonging to residents on the Corbett estate. Later, after setting up the Danson Park garage, his parent went to India and set up a garage in Calcutta. He said that all petrol pumps originally came from the U.S.A. with three manufacturers Bowser, Wayne and Averill Hardy. His father bought electric Bowser pumps, but had to switch to the inferior Wayne after the Second World War, because the importation of spares for the Bowser pumps was stopped due to dollar restrictions.

Cafe frequented by cyclists in the 1930s, Eynsford

Following my appeal about a tea room in a wood building in a garden used by the Sydenham Wheelers in the 1930s, I have had two replies. Gloria suggested the Gaston Tearooms at Hillcroft in Station Road. She emailed me an image of Hillcroft postmarked 1911. She added that Peter Gee's Auntie Elsie, who ran a taxi service, used the petrol pump near the driveway, leaving Peter some money to get his hair cut. Gloria tried to start a playgroup in the tearooms, but was turned down because of the danger to children crossing the road. Barrie confirmed the site of the tearooms and mentioned the petrol pump. He wrote that in the 1970s Mr Burt converted the house into bedsits, but did not run the tearoom, though for some years people used to knock on the door asking if it was still running. In the early 2000s the garden was divided, the tearoom demolished, and 'Old Garden Cottage' now stands on the site. I have passed all this on to David who made the enquiry.

Remonstrances about nuisances in Eynsford, 1897

F. Kimber, chairman of the Parish Council, wrote to KCC about -

- The quantity of smoke coming from the bake-house chimney of Mr J Holdich, baker and provision dealer.
- The manure heap close to the bake-house of Mr J H Munn. The whole premises ought to be connected to the main sewer.
- The factory, workshop and foundry furnace of Mr S W Gibson does not consume its own smoke, this being a nuisance and injurious to health.

Whether or not in retaliation to the above, Mr E D Till collected 16 signatures from principal ratepayers about the extreme annoyance of a steam organ in the centre of the village, which could be heard miles distant and was being played every night except Sundays. The Brewers were permitting the nuisance on the premises, the tenant of which was (unfortunately) the chairman of the Parish Council, F. Kimber.

KCC forwarded the complaints to Dartford Rural District Council, which replied that DRDC did not consider the circumstances warranted their interference.

(KHLC C/A3/4G/1)

Sale of a freehold estate with a manor, 1804

The twenty lots were sold by auction at Garraway's Coffee House, London. They included several lots occupied by Mr John Fellows - a house in Farningham, a hop garden in Eynsford, and land in Farningham. The auction also sold - Petham Court Farm tenanted by John Colyer; Cold Harbour Farm (partly in Farningham); Park House Farm and Eynsford Church Farm, Eynsford, tenanted by Boetius Prior; Longland's Wood, Farningham; 11 cottages in Eynsford including a shoemaker's shop occupied by William Adkinson, and a blacksmith's shop occupied by Thomas Baker. The particulars describe some of the properties in detail.

The poll for the Knights of the Shire to represent Kent, 1754

The candidates were The Hon. Robert Fairfax, The Hon. Lewis Watson, and Sir Edward Dering. Eynsford had 20 voters, Farningham 13 and Lullingstone 4. Of interest is that the list of voters gives the place of their freehold property (only freeholders of property worth £10 were qualified to vote), the parish the freehold lay in, and the tenants of property rented out, e.g. John Simmonds of Eynsford had the house he lived in; Philip Mosyer rented his Eynsford house to Edward Simmonds; in Farningham, Edward Hampton lived in his house, while John Pratt rented his property to William Player; at Lullingstone two members of the Dyke family were voters, and Thomas Pingle let his house to George Gambell.

Foreigners in our villages in the later Middle Ages

Having read an article about foreigners in England, 1330-1550, in *The Historian* no.124, I looked up the references to see if any had settled locally. There were nine in Eynsford and eleven in Farningham. Surnames in Eynsford were Freman, French, Jakette, Newenton, Shereward, and 'Jacobus' = James, a servant to William Borwhas. 'French' is still a common surname locally, so I wonder whether the family goes back to the immigrant William French who paid alien tax in 1440. In Farningham the surnames were Tevys, Labourer, Hakette, Frenchman, Dyker, John servant to John Porter, and John a chaplain. The 20 aliens, over the age of 12, who had to pay tax in Eynsford and Farningham in 1440, were among 14,500 named individual aliens in England, at a time when the population was just over two million.

Useful websites

British History online

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk> - Core printed primary and secondary sources for the history of the British Isles. It includes historic maps from the Ordnance Survey.

Survey of English Place-names series

<http://nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/epns/survey.aspx> - This includes published survey volumes arranged by historic counties.

Family history enquiries

Alderton of Crockenhill - Sue's great-grandfather ran 'The Village Store' in Crockenhill, and she wanted to know its location and whether there was a photo of it. I was able to help and in return Sue filled a gap in the shop's history. The Alderton family ran the shop from 1911-1919, but before that the Bath family had run it for decades. Later Mr and Mrs Kingsnorth took over and when the premises were demolished in the 1960s the maisonettes built on the site were called 'Kingsnorth', located next to The Chequers pub. Sue sent a photo of the Alderton family, 4 boys all in uniform from the 1st World War, and 3 girls.

Reeves at Pedham Place - Alec was trying to identify family photos left by his great-uncle, Norman Spencer. Norman's mother, Emily Sarah Reeves, was born in Pedham Place in 1848. Alec wondered whether the house still existed, and sent a photo of a grand house on the off-chance it was Pedham Place. I could not recall seeing a photo of Pedham Place, but believe it to be one of several farmhouses on the Lullingstone estate which were remodelled in the C18th, all being of the same style, e.g. Home Farm, Eynsford; Wested Farm; Cockerhurst Farm. If that was the case the Gothic looking building was definitely not Pedham Place. I sent Alec part of the 1910 OS map showing Pedham Place on Farningham Hill, and suspect it became a victim of various road improvements. Can anyone cast any light on this, or does anyone have a photograph of the building? The Reeves family were at Pedham Place in the 1841 Census, but had left the area by the 1851 Census, by 1861 they lived at Sutton-at-Hone, Henry Reeves being described as a 'farmer out of business'.

Stockley family and the 1st World War photo in Eynsford Village Hall - Carolyn was happy to read of the restoration of the servicemen's photo in Eynsford Village Hall, and wrote that she thought 4 of her uncles were included. Frank died not long after the war, falling from unstable scaffolding on a building site. Robert 'Bob' Stockley lived in Farningham, William 'Bill' in Institute Cottage, Eynsford, and Thomas 'Tom' in Bexley. The fifth was Henry 'Harry' Stockley, the artist. They were the children of William Stockley and Frances nee Millbourn, of the Malt Shovel family. Carolyn knew all her uncles, brothers of her mother, Jessie Stockley, and when she comes to England (from San Diego) she usually pays homage by looking at the photograph.

Other enquiries

Darns Hill Old Burying Ground, Crockenhill - This Burying Ground was founded by the Baptists, with the earliest record dating back to 1694, a century and a half before Crockenhill had its own church. It is now owned by the Parish Council and I manage it. Gillian and her husband visited the site where her ancestor, John Clements, was buried in 1829. She has traced common ancestry with the Clements of Gosenhill, and has left me an extensive family tree dating back to James Clements who lived at the turn of the C18th.

Silver vervel - Geoff found a small ring which was once attached to a falcon's jessy (leather thongs fitted to the bird's feet) while metal detecting in a field at Horton Kirby. It is shield shaped with the inscription 'Sr Percivall Harte of Lullingstone in the com (county) of Kent'. Geoff asked whether I could date it. There were three with the name Sir Percivall Hart; I, c.1537-1580; II died c.1641; III, died c.1700. The style of writing would make me hazard a guess at the last being the owner, but that is as far as I can go. What an exciting find!

Impact of Roman London on land-use and settlement in Lower Thames riverine landscape - Grahame was undertaking a dissertation on the subject, and asked whether FELHS held any relevant information. I directed him to various publications, and to Dr Brian Philp, who produced most of them.

Farningham Peace Medal - Timothy found one of these in mud on an old footpath near the little village of Nash, near Coney Hall, West Wickham. I gave him details of the medal, and we both wondered how it had come to be there!

Watercolour of 'The Vale of Eynsford' - Jim wanted to sell a Victorian watercolour, which he said had the title 'The Vale of Eynsford'. The image he sent bore no resemblance to the landscape of the Darent Valley, and further questioning revealed that he had read the title about 20 years ago before reframing, so I think he misread it in the first place.

Watercolour of Eynsford Bridge, 1890, by Bosworth - Stephen bought this in Essex in 1982. He wondered whether the artist was local. I looked up Bosworth in an Art Encyclopaedia, and came up with Philip A. Bosworth, landscape painter, who exhibited in London from 1867-1878, somewhat earlier than the Eynsford painting, and could take the enquiry no further.

ARCHIVE REPORT (Susan Pittman 01322 669923) (archives@felhs.org.uk)

FELHS Centre

The new filing cabinets set up in the back room have expanded storage space for the archives. One 3-drawer cabinet was removed, and the two new ones just fitted in.

In January, I was alarmed to find a hole in the forecourt next to the inspection manhole cover, and although on the surface it looked quite innocuous, probes into the

hole revealed it to be nearly 2 foot deep and undercutting the tarmac by that much at least. I suspect the earth under the forecourt had been washed away during the months of water leakage during the summer of 2013. Eynsford Parish clerk alerted Thames Water, and the hole has been filled, the inspection cover removed, and replaced with a smaller stopcock cover.

Working parties to sort uncatalogued items into categories have begun, with Vikki and Veronica from Farningham, and Alison, Helen and Ann from Eynsford. I plan to be at the Centre on Mondays (not Bank Holidays) between 9.30 and 12.30 a.m. so if you think you could spare an occasional morning, do get in touch. You don't need to make a regular commitment, you can drop in as and when, but just in case unforeseen circumstances mean no-one will be there, check with me or Alison (01322 863805).

Acquisitions

From Brenda Burcham - The Old Burying Ground, Crockenhill by S. Burgoyne Black; Archaeological excavations in the Darent Valley by B & E Philp.

From Diana Cavendish - C18th print of Lullingstone Castle by Samuel and Nathaniel Buck, dedicated to Sir Thomas Dyke, died 1756.

From Audrey and Kevin Dixon - 2014 calendar 'Hunt the Famous Eynsford Sausage' by Norman's Butchers.

From Jo Easter - Certificates Britain in Bloom - 1993 Transmanche in Bloom Premier Prix, 1993 'Eynsford National Finalist of the Large Village Trophy', 1996 Finalist Transmanche in Bloom, 2005 Joint Runner-up Business Category, 2009 Highly commended, 2010, 2011 & 2012 Silver Gilt; Lullingstone Roman Villa Guidebook 8th impression 1978.

From Susan Featherstone - CD photographs of war memorials in our area, 2014 and 2015.

From John Gee - A plastic shopping bag with VG logo. Gloria tells me that it dates from the early 1970s with VG standing for Voluntary Group, after that Gee's stores became Happy Shopper.

From Helen Goldsworthy - Darent River Preservation Society News Flow, no.2 Autumn 1990; letter 1904 W. Hodson (Auction and Estate Agency Offices, Farningham) to General Goldsworthy, Yaldham Manor, Kemsing, re grassland under the Crowhursts at Charton and Darent Light Railway Syndicate short of funds to float a company, but have vacancies for directors with capital.

and finally

At the AGM we welcomed Rick Clayton as our new treasurer and said goodbye to Philip McGarvey. Our president Wilf Duncombe was given an Honorary Membership as a thank you for all his years' service and he did us the honour of cutting the cake.

We had a successful trip to the Firepower Museum in Woolwich and we were so lucky we had a beautiful sunny day. If you did not have a chance to come on the trip with us I recommend a visit very soon as this museum is closing and the collection will be either put in storage or broken up and sent to another museum, but I must add that nothing is certain at the moment as this museum has been threatened before.

I love making connections in history and while taking our tour of the museum with Paul, he told us about the Prince Imperial Louis Napoleon son of Napoleon Third of France and Empress Eugenie. Who following his time at the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich was commissioned into the Royal Artillery? He went out to Africa to

take part in the Zulu wars, he was there as an observer, but he did not do as he was told and put himself in mortal danger and was killed suffering a very brutal death being attacked by Zulus wielding assegais. As he was royalty his body was brought back to Woolwich where his poor mother had to come and identify him. The connection to this being that he and his parents were exiled to Camden House is Chislehurst and Empress Eugenie's wedding veil is on display in Lullingstone Castle.

We are taking a little break now and our next evening meeting is in September and our final meeting for 2015 is about The Battle of Waterloo, the talk is being given by Steve Hookins, who works at the Firepower Museum. Also please take note of our special evening with Andy Thomas on 23rd October, I guarantee you will go away very thoughtful after an amazing evening. See the poster attached or enclosed for details.

Jan Wilkes Editor (865122 or hisarc@btinternet.com)



WHAT'S ON 2015

Horton Kirby & South Darenth Local History Society

2015

2nd July Keep the Homes Fires Burning, Dartford 1914-1918 –
Chris Baker

14th September The Edith Cavell Story – Paul Rason

9th November AGM followed by a talk and Cheese and wine

All meetings are held on Monday at the Village Hall, South Darent from 8pm. If you require further information contact Barbara Cannell (01322 864253) (Remember your membership card) NOTE: The July meeting will be on a Thursday

Shoreham & District Historical Society**2015**

19th June Pilgrims Way in Kent – Doug Chapman

18th July Strawberry Tea

September TBA

16th October Women's Land Army – Dr Ann Kneif

Meetings held in the Village Hall Shoreham from 8pm. Members who wish to attend these meetings are advised to contact the Secretary Lynda Alleeson (01959 525312) to check that no changes have been made to their programmes (Remember your membership card)

Hextable Heritage Society**2015**

9th July Walk around Farningham – Barbara Cannell Meet 7.15pm
Farningham Village Hall

13th August Military Medals – Glen Jones

10th September Dickens and Gads Hill – Anne Carter

8th October Edith Cavell – Paul Rason

12th November 5 Wents Hall and the Swanley & Hextable War Memorial Trust

December Christmas Party

All meetings are held at the Hextable Heritage Centre. Crawfords, Dawson Drive, College Road, Hextable 7.30pm start. If you require further information please contact Barbara Cannell (01322 864253) (Remember your membership card)

NOTE Details of the July visit will be announced later

