

The Farningham & Eynsford Local History Society

(Original Society founded 1985 Registered Charity no 1047562)

A Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee

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



Bulletin No 118 Summer 2018

Forthcoming Talks and Events

2018 **Doors open at 7.30 pm for talks at 8.00 pm. There are displays of items from the FELHS collection and light refreshments. (Helen Smith 01322 864234)**

21 September **Eynsford Village Hall**
Film by Fred Penwarden **Eynsford (& Farningham) in the 2nd World War**; and, if time films by Sidney Crouch of a **hunt meeting at The Lion, Farningham**, in 1971, and the 1968 **floods at Shoreham, Eynsford, & Farningham**.

2 November **Farningham Village Hall**
Peace and the aftermath - Eynsford and Farningham after the Great War by Susan Pittman showing aspects of life into the 1920s.
To be confirmed - Display by Jan Wilkes & Barbara Cannell following the lives of some of Eynsford's ex-servicemen after the war.

3 NOVEMBER **EXHIBITION - FARNINGHAM SHOPS & SHOPPING**
Shand Hall, Farningham Churchyard - 11 am to 4 pm

2019

15 February **Eynsford Village Hall**
The history and origins of Nursery Rhymes talk and short quiz by Dr John Reuther (counting songs, nonsense rhymes, historical lampoons, lullabies)

March to be arranged

26 April **Farningham Village Hall**
Some Kent ghosts by Dennis Chambers (learn how Kent is at the top of the league of the most haunted counties)

31 May **Eynsford Village Hall**
AGM - details to be announced

20 September **Farningham Village Hall**
Dirty Dartford by Christoph Bull (discover how Dartford has shaped the very world in which we live)

October to be arranged

8 November **Eynsford Village Hall**
Creep, pull, push - workers on the move by Dr Jean Stirk (the willing or unwilling motives behind the moves and how to trace moving families)

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Veronica Sheppard)

I have been a member of FELHS for the last 10 years helping with all sorts of tasks - mostly caring for the artefacts, catering for social functions, as well as being one of the Monday morning task force. I have lived in Farningham for the last 40 years working in London in a small Toy Museum.

Sadly, we say goodbye, but also an enormous thank-you, to Barbara Cannell (chairman), Jan Wilkes (editor of the Bulletin) and Rick Clayton (treasurer), who have stood down from the Committee after many years of hard work and a huge contribution to FELHS.

However, we welcome Vikki Saunders from Farningham as our new treasurer and John Mullen, who hails from Crockenhill, as our new secretary. We still have many unfilled posts and volunteering opportunities listed below. None of them are onerous and you would have a jolly group to work with.

If the Society closes, the Villages will lose many assets and knowledge about the local area. We have talks and exhibitions throughout the year and they are well attended. The talk and slides on the newly discovered Saxon Palace at Eynsford by Dr Brian Philp was very informative, and the Roman artefacts from FELHS collection, shown for the first time, kept us all enthralled for the evening. As Barbara said the Archive Centre in Eynsford is the best and only resource of history in the area covering Eynsford, Farningham, Lullingstone, Crockenhill and Maplescombe. Please help us to continue gathering and preserving the history of our Villages.

Sadly one of our oldest members Peggy Wood, born in November 1920, passed away on 4th June. She was a very keen member of the Society for many years. The Woods came to live in Sparepenny Lane in 1953 and then in the High Street where she entertained us all, usually with a G & T - she will be missed.

As you can see from the first page, our varied list of events covers up to the end of 2019, and we hope you will be able to support at least some of them. We are trying to add meetings, with monthly meetings from September to November, and another set of monthly meetings from February to May - so having a winter and a summer break. We like to make each meeting a social occasion with the chance to chat to others while looking at the display of items from the collection, or over a cup of tea or coffee after the talk.

Volunteering opportunities: (contact details for Helen Smith or Susan Pittman in Bulletin)

We act as a team and would help/welcome newcomers - all offers gratefully received

Meetings secretary (to help run the current programme & plan for the future)

Bulletin editor (to compile the Bulletin - computer skills required)

Publications manager (sending out FELHS publications on request)

We also need more casual help

- with the Farningham Shops Exhibition in November
- with refreshments and setting up venue for meetings
- with distribution of the Bulletin
- inputting Trident index onto computer
- with keeping the Farningham Scrap Book up to date (newspaper cuttings provided)
- joining the Monday morning team at the Centre

FELHS Data Protection policy

The General Data Protection Regulation came into force on 25 May 2018 and applies to FELHS as a not-for-profit organisation which collects, stores and uses personal data, in particular the names, addresses, e-mails and phone numbers of members. Under 'legitimate interest' existing members will continue to receive Bulletins and any essential mailings.

FELHS only use your data for specified purposes and legitimate interest in ways that you would reasonably expect:-

(a) to cover membership subscriptions.

(b) to send out the Bulletin or other circulars related to FELHS.

(c) to support our claims for Gift Aid payments from H.M.R.C.

FELHS takes data protection very seriously and will take every practical step to ensure the information is safe and accurate. You have the right to access your personal data and to correct any inaccuracies in that information, or to ask for it to be removed at any time.

Your data will be deleted on resignation of membership after Gift Aid claims have been completed. We do not use your data for purposes other than those specified. We never share/sell your data with third parties, unless we ask specific individual permission, e.g. when dealing with research queries.

FELHS policy can also be found on the website - www.felhs.org.uk

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

Anniversaries

150 years since the first traffic lights - the first traffic signal was invented by **J P Knight**, a railway signalling engineer. It was installed outside the Houses of Parliament in 1868 and looked like any railway signal of the time, with waving semaphore arms and red-green lamps, operated by gas, for night use. Unfortunately it exploded, killing a policeman.

(This reminded me of our local links with road safety through Leslie Hore Belisha of Bower House, Eynsford, who, as Transport Minister, introduced Belisha beacons in the Road Traffic Act of 1934.)

100 years since First World War Armistice - We will be covering this at our November meeting.

100 years since women (some of them) got the vote - To date I have found nothing locally about the impact of this, or whether any women here joined the Suffragettes or Suffragists.

90 years since Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin.

70 years since the founding of the National Health Service.

NEW BOOK ABOUT LULLINGSTONE - Unravelling the Yarn by Claire Weiss

This is for sale at £10 from Lullingstone Castle. Claire lived in the same house in Leyton, Essex, where Zoe Hart Dyke (nee Bond) was born and grew up. It had an ancient mulberry tree in the garden. Claire has traced Zoe's fascination with silk from that childhood garden. The book covers Zoe's life and especially its connection with the production of silk, culminating in the establishment of the Silk Farm at Lullingstone. After her divorce from Sir Oliver Hart Dyke, Zoe Lady Hart Dyke moved the Silk Farm to Ayot House, Hertfordshire. This very readable book tells a fascinating story and in doing so shows the influence Zoe had on fashion, and how she used her social connections and flair to find sponsors to keep the Silk Farm going.

Queen Victoria's train passes through Swanley 11 March 1899

In the last Bulletin I referred to a photo of the Royal train passing close to Crockenhill near a path over the tracks (which has been replaced by a pedestrian bridge to the west of Swanley). I inaccurately gave the date as 1896 and the destination as Dover. After amazing research by real experts in the field, such as Richard Peirce and Jim Greaves, we have a detailed account of the whole journey. Jim Greaves' article about the journey has been published in *Invicta* no. 90, Spring 2018, and the editor, Geoff Lines, was kind enough to send me a copy. Jim's article highlights the detailed preparation required by the Railway Company along the route of the Royal train. The engine used was unusual in that it was a GWR (Great Western Railway) locomotive, rather than a South Eastern Railway one which would normally run on the SER line. The Queen was on her way to the French Riviera for a holiday, and all preparations were made for 9 March. However, stormy seas and fog led to a two day postponement. We even know that the photo was taken at 11.45 am because a minute by minute schedule from Windsor to Folkestone was produced, as well as all the alterations to other train journeys to clear the line. At Folkestone the royal party boarded PS *Calais Douvres* which was escorted to Boulogne by eight torpedo boat destroyers and the Trinity yacht

Irene. This was probably the last overseas trip the Queen made, so it is to be hoped that she enjoyed her holiday in Nice.

Cycle Rides along the Darent 1899

This is an extract from a recent Swanley History Group Newsletter (February 2018).

The valley of the Darent here is very beautiful, and the river expands into the likeness of a great lake at Shoreham. Here is a choice of routes: direct, beside the valley, to Eynesford (sic), or through Shoreham to Eynesford by way of Shoreham Castle and Lullingstone. There is little to choose, either way, because the 'castle' at Shoreham exists no longer*, and Lullingstone Park is forbidden to cyclists. Let us reserve our enthusiasm for Eynesford, an old English village of truly Elizabethan spaciousness, set down in its valley beside the Darent, with an ancient, eminently sketchable and paintable old bridge spanning the ford; with a highly interesting Norman and Early English Church, with lofty spire, dominating the scene; and with a ruined castle tucked away in a builder's yard. Little stress need be laid upon Eynesford Castle, because it is now, in short, only a little piece of rubble wall, and therefore to be taken very largely on trust. But the village is a very beautiful and aesthetically satisfying fact.

Farningham to which we come after Eynesford, is only moderately interesting. Also, for the benefit of those who may follow in these tracks, it may be noted that it is in a hop-growing district, and when the hop-pickers are let loose upon it the society is not of the choicest.

Pall Mall Gazette 5 September 1899

* The remains of Shoreham Castle are at Castle Farm.

Dartford Union Settlement Records 1885-1900

Loose papers, not individually catalogued:

- **Rosina or Rosa Brazier alias Osborne alias Ouzman**

16/5/1888 Guardians of Rochford, Essex, to Dartford

Settlement is Farningham

Last place of settlement was Farningham

Pauper was in Rochford

Lived in cottages on Franks Farm and in Button Street, 1882-1888

Reputed wife of Henry Osborn al Ouzman who lived in the cottages for the same period.

- **Johanna Bowers, aged 30
children Thomas (6), Mary (5), Kate (illegitimate) 4 months or so**

20/11/1891 Now in Lewisham

Settlement is Eynsford

Widow of Thomas Bowers of Crockenhill in January 1889.

Resided there May 1885-January 1889, and not acquired subsequent settlement.

- **William Malpress (68) and wife Rebecca (68)**

Now in Lewisham

Place of settlement Farningham

For more than 3 years from 1876 to about 1891 lived in Farningham without relief at Farningham Hill and 4 Elizabeth Place

KHLC G/Da/AS/1

Kent in 1776 by Charles Seymour

The two most wealthy classes of people consist of the Gentry and the Yeomanry ... The Gentry have affluent fortunes, and live according to the luxury of the times. The influx of wealth in the vicinity of the Metropolis has brought into the West Parts of Kent new families of Courtiers, Lawyers, Agents to the Army, and Contractors for Government, and Merchants, who have of late years made considerable purchases of land, and settled there. Their estates yield them great profit ... The Yeomen of Kent are pleased with their happy and independent

conditions ... The farmers are cheerful and hospitable, finding in their diligence and industry a decent maintenance of their families, with an increase in their wealth.
This is part of an idealised description from '*A New Topographical, Historical, and Commercial Survey of the Cities, Towns and Villages of the County of Kent arranged in alphabetical order.*'

General enquiries

Women farm workers in the First World War - Hilary, the Old Chalk New Downs Project Outreach Officer, wanted information and pictures of the Women's Land Army in the First World War. I could not find any local references because women were already working on the land, so did longer hours and children, a few months before reaching 14, were allowed to leave school early to work on the land; and seasonal workers came from London.

Sevenoaks Railway - Swanley Junction to Bat and Ball - Steve is researching the construction and socio-economic effects of its completion. He wanted to know what our collection held on the subject. I supplied him with the railway section of our catalogue and suggested he contact Ed Thompson, who has long undertaken research on local railways.

John Whitfield Hetherington (1881-1959), headmaster of Farningham Church of England School - Dave from the Aliens Rugby Club in Liverpool, of which John Hetherington was a founder member, wanted to know whether he had served in the First World War. As I had come across John Hetherington during my research for The Great War at Home Exhibition I was able to send evidence that he did not serve in the War, but was transferred from headship of Farningham School to the headship of Sutton-at-Hone Boys School during the duration. I could find no evidence that he was linked with Rugby locally, although an article on his retirement in 1940 stated that he had been secretary of Farningham Tennis Club and Farningham Cricket Club. Dave sent us a copy of his Teacher's Registration form and a photograph of Hetherington.

Family history enquiries

Humm / Knott - Alison is interested in these families, and has borrowed 'A History of The Homes for Boys in Hextable 1883-1956' as she had relatives resident there.

Smith - Alison's father, Henry James (1932-1990) was fostered in 1935. Before being fostered his last known local address was Mr Dunmall's house at 49 High Street, Farningham. I was unable to trace the family locally, but did send her a photo of the house.

Hume and The Beacons, Farningham - Rebecca's great grandparents, John and Evelyn Hume, worked there, perhaps in the 1930s/40/50s. Caroline Gould thought she might have remembered the family because The Beacons backs onto her land, so I suggested Rebecca get in touch with her.

Sharp of Farningham - Alan has put a brief article in the North West Kent Family History Journal (vol.14 no.8) about his wife's links with this family. James Sharp (1758-1758) founded a timber company in Dartford.

More on Francis Booker (1746-1806), the Eynsford cricketer - John recommends -<https://jackoncricket.blogspot.co.uk/2018/01/francis-booker.html> - it gives all the matches Francis Booker played in and the results as well as biography and cricket tales.

Update on previous enquiries

Harber and Brown haulage lorries - Allan's articles on Harber lorries and on Brown's of Bower Lane have been published. He visited the Centre in May to look at items related to Monty Hever.

Peter Warlock podcast - This has now been issued by Classic FM. You can listen to it on the website <http://www.classicfm.com/casenotes> (scroll down the page until you see the black box with a pink play button in it). Classic FM has also included audio from FELHS tapes of interviews of villagers who remembered Warlock - <http://www.classicfm.com/discover-music/who-was-peter-warlock/> where there is a link to the website of the Farningham and Eynsford Local History Society.

ARCHIVE REPORT (Susan Pittman - 01322 6699233 www.felhs.org.uk)

FELHS Centre

I am so pleased to report that having made a big push over winter and into 2018 I have now completed the backlog of cataloguing, so all items in the Centre are accessible through the catalogue. Cataloguing has been a time-consuming and pains-taking task so it is a great relief now only to have to keep up-to-date with new items. Individual photographs are grouped, but need to be itemised - a task for the Monday group (more welcome).

Monday morning sessions are well under way from 9.30 am until noon, but check with me first. Visitors (and potential volunteers) are always welcome for a casual visit to browse and to see what we are doing. The Centre can also be visited by appointment throughout the year.

In the current season so far, Helen and I have been filing the newly catalogued material; Veronica, Helen and I have prepared items to display in the Eynsford Shop and Paper Mill exhibition; Roman artefacts for Dr Brian Philp's talk; and photographs for the AGM. Vikki continues to prepare material for the Farningham Shop exhibition in November. Ann has been updating the Farningham scrapbook in the absence of someone to take over from Lynda. Both she and Alison are concentrating on the photo collection.

Acquisitions

From Diana Beamish - A batch of photos of Eynsford taken during 2017 of various changes, and events around the village.

From Allan Bedford - Vintage Roadscene (May 2018) article 'The Hauling Harbers'; Vintage Roadscene (June 2018) article 'Browns Trnasport, Eynsford'.

From Angela Cook - A wodge of paper watermarked 'Eynsford Paper Mill' given to her by her father Ted Worsdell. A few sheets will go into the collection, but the rest she is willing for members to have.

From Jo Groves - a comprehensive file on all aspects of the production of Camelot by the Riverside Players in 1991. This is an impressive record of the detailed organisation that goes on behind the scenes in order to put on a successful production. Subsections of the file are accounts; auditions and personnel; catering; copyrights; contacts with English Heritage (for the use of Eynsford Castle), Sevenoaks District Council for licences, sponsorship; facilities; general; publicity; technical; wardrobe and props.

From Sarah Hart Dyke - Copy of the Order of Service for the funeral of Oliver Guy Hart Dyke (1928-2018). We were saddened to learn of Guy's death within a week of celebrating his 90th birthday.

From Philip McGarvey - A ring-file of photocopies covering Kent history. (See Kent in 1776 above); revised 1916 OS 25" to the mile of Farningham north of Mill House to Franks Hall.

From Nigel Tattersfield - A watercolour of Eynsford from the ford to The Plough by JFP. He thinks it dates from the 1890s, but has no information about the artist.

From Jan Wilkes - About twenty early to mid- C20th photos of Eynsford and Lullingstone from various unknown sources and of unknown dates. One was of a motorcyclist and it was suggested I contact Eastwood's in Swanley to find out who it was. It turned out to be Brian Stonebridge (1928-1959). He rode in scrambles teams for Matchless (1950-1954), BSA (1954-1957), and Greeves (1957-1959). The photo was of him on a Greeves bike. He was killed, aged 31, in a car crash when a passenger in a car driven by his boss, Bert Greeves. I could find no local links.

FUTURE BULLETINS

In the absence of an Editor it has been decided to issue 3 Bulletins a year: Autumn (to cover subscription/membership details: Spring (to include AGM details): Summer (to include post- AGM information). This cycle will cut administrative work until more help is offered. **THE RESEARCH AND ARCHIVE REPORTS WILL BE LONGER BECAUSE THERE WILL BE A LONGER GAP BETWEEN BULLETINS, so readers will not lose out.**

What's On Elsewhere in 2018

Horton Kirby & South Darenth Local History Society <http://hksdhs.org.uk> (& on Facebook)

- 9 July 1917 - Bombs on Kent – Alex Ferris
- 10 September Development of South Darenth before 1900 – Malcolm Scott
- 12 November AGM + short talk + wine and cheese

Meetings are held on Monday at the Village Hall, South Darenth from 8pm. If you require further information, contact Barbara Cannell (01322 864253)

Shoreham & District Historical Society www.shorehamkenthistorical.org.uk

- 22 June Visit to Isle of Sheppey by coach
- 22 July Strawberry tea
- 21 September Bat and Ball Station - Ed Thompson
- 19 October History of Kent Fire Brigade
- 16 November Brick making - David Cufley

Meetings are 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

Hextable Heritage Society www.hextable-heritage.co.uk (& on Facebook)

- 12 July Evening Visit Firefighting Museum – Woodlands Garden Centre, Ash (time to be confirmed)
- 9 August Alexander Pitcairn – The Body in the Church – Jan Wilkes
- 13 September Pocahontas – without Disney – Christoph Bull
- 11 October Guy Fawkes – Anne Carter
- 8 November South Darenth and Sink the Link – Sarah Lewis
- 6 December Christmas Party – A History of Teddies and Other Bears – Melanie Gibson-Barton

Meetings are held at the Hextable Heritage Centre. Crawfords, Dawson Drive, College Road, Hextable from 7.30pm. If you require further information, please contact Barbara Cannell (01322 864253)