

# Farningham & Eynsford Local History Society

(Original Society founded 1985 Registered Charity no 1047562)

*A Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee*

*No. 5620267 incorporated 11<sup>th</sup> November 2005 Registered Charity 1113765*



## Bulletin No. 128

Autumn/Winter 2021-2022

### MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL REQUEST

**If you have completed a membership form in the past, you do not need to fill out a new one unless your contact details have changed - then please let us know.**

**£10 (individual) / £15 (family) membership**

**Life Membership: £100 (individual) / £150 (a couple)**

You can pay

- ✦ by cheque payable to **Farningham & Eynsford Local History Society (do not use initials)**
  - ✦ by BACS to sort code 20 25 42 account 13275752
  - ✦ by standing order from 1 January 2022 (sort code 20 25 42 account 13275752)
- THIS IS A NEW FACILITY**

Please let **Mrs Alison Marshall**, Membership Secretary, 83 Hever Avenue, West Kingsdown, DA4 0AE, Kent ([alisondukes@btinternet.com](mailto:alisondukes@btinternet.com)) know that you have paid remotely or send her your cheque. **PLEASE NOTE THAT ALISON HAS MOVED SO DO NOT PUT THROUGH FORMER RIVERSIDE ADDRESS.**

At the same time please let us know if you wish us to collect Gift Aid for this year and for future years.



## **2022 - PROGRAMME**

**We are going to try to go live for some of 2022, though speakers have agreed to give talks, whether live or Zoom. We are thinking for Zoom on the shorter days and live in Spring and Summer. All will be finalised according to the prevailing conditions**

**11 February ZOOM**

**Martin Stoneham**

**The Bailey bridge**

Martin is former Chairman of the Friends of The Royal Engineers Museum, Chatham, and has researched the story behind the erection of the Bailey bridge at Lullingstone Roman villa.

**11 March**

**Farningham VH**

**Dr Anne Sassin**

**Recent digs at Lullingstone**

Anne is working for the Darent Valley Landscape Project as its resident archaeologist, and will report on community digs near Lullingstone Roman Villa.

**8 April**

**Eynsford VH**

**Sophie Leathart**

**Finding Constance Spry**

Sophie is a professional florist and has been influenced by the innovative ideas of Constance Spry, the celebrity florist of the 1930s to 1950s, who lived at Park Gate House, Lullingstone, for part of this period.

**13 May**

**Farningham VH**

**AGM**

After the business of the meeting, it is hoped to show images of Farningham past.

**9 September**

**Farningham VH**

**Dr Anne Sassin**

**LiDAR images of the Darent Valley**

Anne will return to explain another aspect of her work for the Darent Valley Landscape Project, and reveal what has been learnt from the aerial imaging.

**14 October**

**Eynsford VH**

**Rod Shelton**

**From Cardboard to Castle**

Rod, author of *Darent: The History and Stories of a River and its Communities*, is also an expert model maker, whose scale model of Eynsford Castle is currently on display at Lullingstone Castle. He will explain the skills of model making and the research into Eynsford Castle undertaken to achieve accuracy.

**November**

**to be arranged**

### **FELHS FACEBOOK @felhs.1985**

From Vikki and Helen:

We have set up a Facebook Page @felhs.1985 because we wanted to share with everyone items that are in our archive and other matters that relate to the local history of the area. We hope to post photos and articles that will be of interest to our followers. Do search us out and give us a Like. If you have any suggestions of items that you would like to see on the page please email us at [info@felhs.org.uk](mailto:info@felhs.org.uk)

### **FARNINGHAM & EYNSFORD LOCAL HISTORY CENTRE**

On application individual researchers can now be given access, following whatever regulations are relevant at the time.... Otherwise ...

### **ENQUIRIES CAN STILL BE MADE & ANSWERED**

Enquiries via [archives@felhs.org.uk](mailto:archives@felhs.org.uk) website: [www.felhs.org.uk](http://www.felhs.org.uk) Facebook: @felhs.1985

## **COMMITTEE NEWS**

By the time you receive this Bulletin the third of our Autumn talks will have been given. Talks by Zoom are attracting reasonable audiences, both members and guests. It has been pleasing to see members, who might find access to live evening meetings difficult, being able to join us. There has been a certain amount of 'feeling our way', but the team work is becoming much slicker. We have Vikki Saunders to thank for setting up the Zoom meetings; John Mullen for sending round e-mail reminders in the week prior to the meeting and the Zoom link a few days before the meeting; Susan Pittman for front of house hosting. We have a core of loyal members who Zoom in to most talks, and others who join those which particularly interest them.

For the 2022 season we are planning for most meetings to be in the Village Halls again, but February and perhaps November will be on Zoom. Do contact Facebook (@felhs.1985) or website (archives@felhs.org.uk), or phone me (details further on) if you have an opinion or ideas on the subject.

We still need a new Meetings Secretary. We have contacted speakers to slot into a 2022 programme, so the task will not be onerous, and we would welcome a new Committee member (or more than one come to that!)

## **RESEARCH REPORT**

**Susan Pittman, 01322 669923, [archives@felhs.org.uk](mailto:archives@felhs.org.uk)**

### **The Red Lyon and The Harrow, Eynsford, 1752**

A lease dated 6 March 1752 from Charles Bosville to Benjamin Harvey, maltster, mentioned the mansion of Little Mote, with yard, garden and orchard, along with Mintfield, Osier bed and two meadows. Little Mote had been owned by the Bosvile family for centuries, but Charles Bosvile was living in Staffordshire, and so was an absentee landowner. The lease also included the messuage called the Harrow, outhouses, orchard and the croft adjacent to the orchard 'lying by the red lyon'. Neither of these properties was called an 'inn' or 'beer house', but Harvey being a maltster makes it likely that they were. This document, depending on its interpretation, would push back the history of The Harrow (now The Castle Hotel) from 1829 into the eighteenth century, and leads to a re-think of the location of The Red Lion, which has been tentatively located along Priory Lane, but which might have been much closer to The Harrow.

(Extract deed via Rex Lance; *The Pubs of Eynsford*, Dr Wilf Duncombe, FELHS publication)



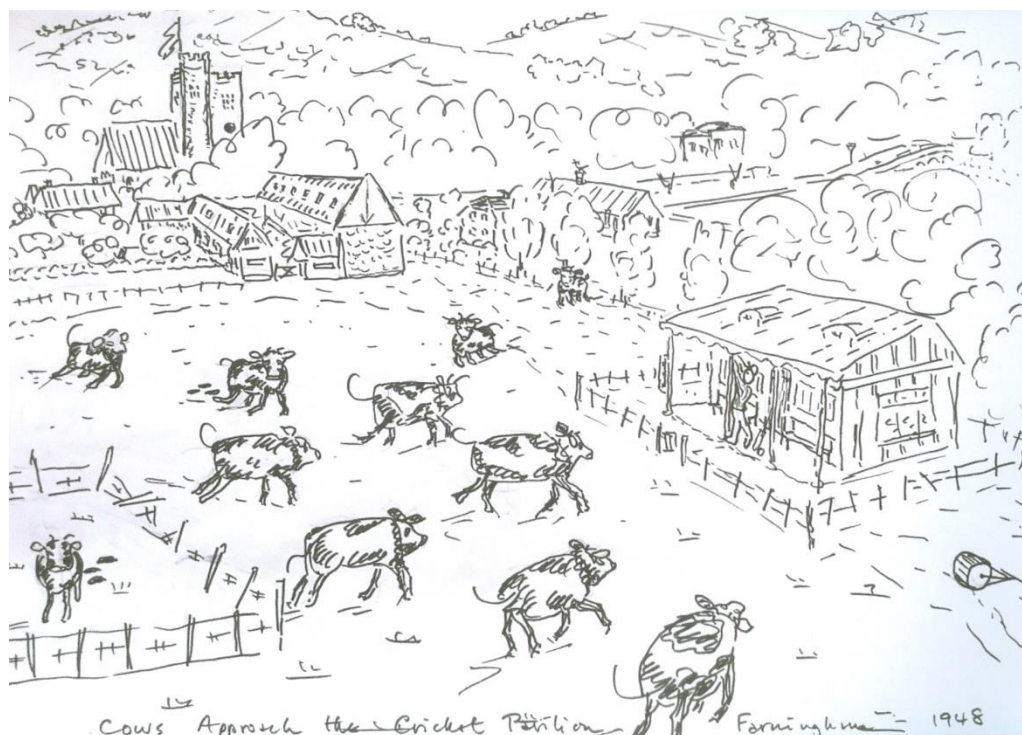
The houses alongside Ford House which were demolished to make way for the car park. In 1818 Ford House and buildings behind it were referred to as the Soho Inn.



### **Farningham Cricket Club**

Farningham Cricket Club was established by 1857, but might have existed earlier because in 1855 a Farningham team had challenged a team from Cobham for a barrel of beer. Even then its ground was on George Meadow - a field shared with cows, as John Drew's cartoon below illustrates. His father, Bernard, wrote the history of the Club based on documents held by the Hodsoll family of Hodsoll House whose family included a legendary fast bowler, William Hodsoll. William Hodsoll (1718-1776) was a fast (underarm) bowler and a useful batsman who played for Kent against All-England in 1744, and whose description appeared in 'Cricket, An Heroic Poem' (1745) by James Love. His family came from Ash, with a branch of surveyors settling in Hodsoll House, Farningham.

*(John Drew 'Getting 'em in Singles' by Twelfth Man)*

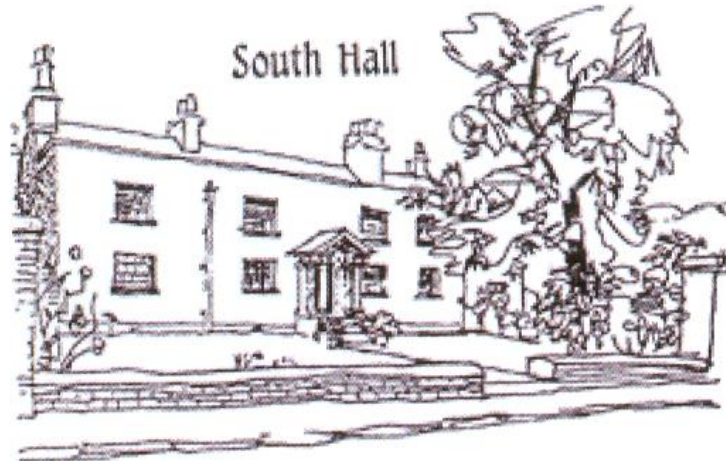


Cows approach the Cricket Pavilion - Farningham 1948 by John Drew.

N.B. Compare with the controversy over traveller horses being taken on to Eynsford Cricket ground this summer.

### **Child's Visit to Farningham 1938/39**

Pat Annett (Bryant) was born in 1922 and recalled visits to her relatives, the Woolley family, who lived at the White House before moving to South Hall, where Pat lived for a couple of years. Both William and Harold Woolley and their families lived in South Hall, but it was so large there was room for everyone to live under one roof, but separately. Pat was living at South Hall when war broke out and, shortly afterwards, nine evacuees were billeted there. Straw mattresses were placed in the very large sun room at the back of the house, and trestle tables were put up for meals. The children had the full run of the beautiful garden with flower gardens, rose gardens, lawns and a meadow where chickens were kept. There was a large walnut tree from which hung a swing. A tenth child came to South Hall, but did not settle, and was sent to live on his own with another villager. Harold Woolley was church choirmaster and his wife, Barbara, the organist. Occasionally, Pat would be expected to pump the bellows which provided power to the organ, but when she tired the 'delightful' hymn music faded away.



FELHS has no photographs of South Hall, Farningham, and would be grateful if any could be found to copy - even modern photos would help to fill the gap in the archives.

### **Rita Turner's work at Eynsford Paper Mill, 1945**

Rita started at the Paper Mill after leaving school aged fourteen. Her first job there was sorting machine-made paper. She saw all the sheets as white, but others would tell her that some had a pink tinge, so she was soon removed from that machine. Next she was put on a big heated felt machine that used to go up and down and round rollers. A man at one end would put pulp in and shake it in a sieve, before tipping it out onto the rollers. Rita was at the far end piling up the product which was used for hand-made paper. She had five jobs in the first year and was paid six pence (2-3 p) an hour, and when she was offered overtime it was at the same rate.



Aerial view of Eynsford Paper Mill in 1948 from north (bottom of photo) to south. River Darent down right hand side, A225 down left side. The row of houses in Bower Lane is located in the top left corner.



## The Nash Mausoleum, Farningham Churchyard



A rare view of the sarcophagus inside the Nash mausoleum taken by Christoph Bull on an open day when the public were allowed to peep inside.

The inscription on the tablet over the doorway reads:

This Mausoleum was begun by Thomas Nash Esq Merchant Citizen of London and one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the Counties of Kent and Surrey, who died at Paris 7th April 1778 and whose remains are here deposited and finished by his Executors for a burying place for himself and family

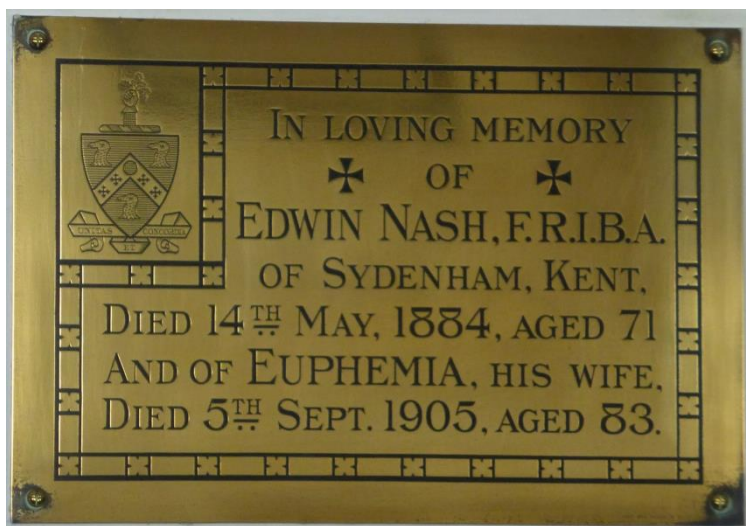
Inside the entrance a plaque records:

|           |                                                               |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| William   | Father of John Nash, Doctor in Physic, died Oct 1720 about 48 |
| Elizabeth | Mother, died March 1753, about 74                             |
| Thomas    | Son, died January 1778, aged 27                               |
| Susanna   | Wife                                                          |
| Anne      | Daughter                                                      |
| Elizabeth | Daughter, died September 1783, aged 26                        |

Another tablet reads:

John Nash, Doctor of Physic / Born 14 June 1708 / Married Sus'a (= Susanna) Blackman Feb 2nd 1750 / Died 8 June 1783 in the 75th Year of his Age.

He was a very successful practitioner in physic and surgery above 50 years in the town of Sevenoaks and its neighbourhood. He was also a commissioner for the peace in the County of Surrey.



(*Bygone Kent* article by R. B. Parish, 'Kent's Mausoleums (Part Two: Farningham and Chiddingstone', pp.283-286)

A later generation of the Nash family remembered on a brass tablet in Farningham Church. Edwin Nash designed Crockenhill Church in 1850.

### **Headboard memorial, Farningham Churchyard**

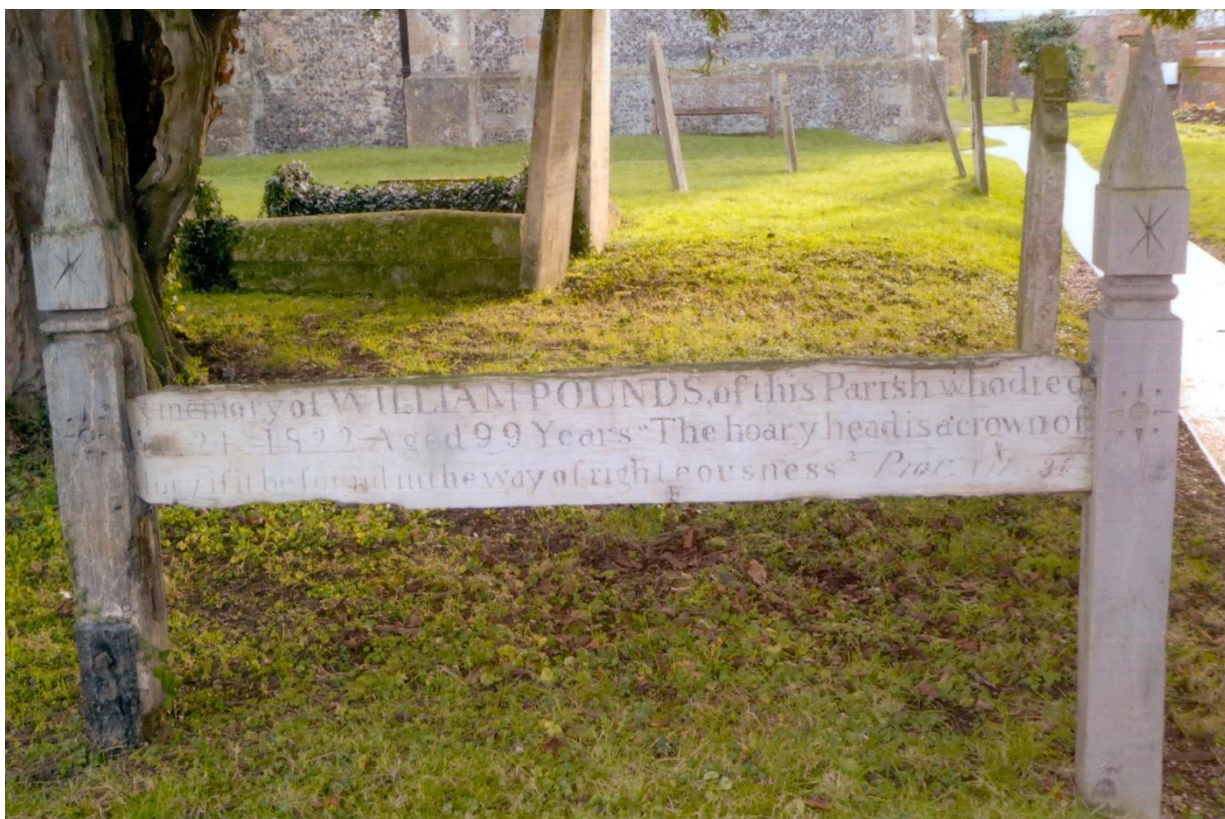
While on the subject of unusual memorials have you noticed this 'headboard' monument just inside the lych-gate of the churchyard, sheltered under a yew tree? The shape of this wooden monument, and others like it, gave it the nickname 'headboard'. They were common centuries ago because they were cheaper than a stone headstone, but the wooden supports rotted over time and most have disappeared. The yew tree has probably helped to preserve this one. The tree roots have drawn moisture from the ground, making it very dry, and the dense yew foliage has prevented drenching from rain.

'In memory of WILLIAM POUNDS of this Parish who died/ Oct 24 1822 Aged 99 Years "The hoary head is a crown of/ glory if it be found in the way of righteousness" Prov. XII 36.'

The surviving headboard memorial was not erected for one of the village's well-to-do. It turns out that William Pounds was among the poorer folk of Farningham. He was doing quite well up to the death of his wife in 1788, but was then left with a family of girls to look after. To support them he often received money from the parish. For many years he received a pension and was boarded out by the parish in return for some work, probably as a hedger. When the poorhouse was built in 1810 he became one of its first occupants. In the summer of 1814, when well into his eighties, he was still expected to work on the parish roads.

Perhaps one of his daughters did well enough to erect the memorial, which will be 200 years old next year.

(Shirley Burgoyne Black *Local Government, Law and Order in a pre-reform English Parish 1790-1834* (Farningham) 1992)





## The roots of lawn tennis at Lullingstone



Rear of Lullingstone Castle gate-house, c. 1920 from Church Album, copy original in album at Kent Archaeological Society library. This shows two of Hart Dyke's cars and a tennis net stretched across the lawn.

Lullingstone is associated with the early development of lawn tennis. In 1873 while enjoying a gathering at Lullingstone, Sir William Hart Dyke, a keen croquet player, John Heathcote and Julian Marshall discussed the possibility of transferring real tennis, which was an indoor game, to the outdoors. Apparently, Sir William Hart Dyke, was so excited by the prospect that he encouraged the group to go outside and set up a makeshift court on the Castle lawn. Two barrels were placed twelve strides apart to support a ladder across. Side-lines and base-lines were pegged at each corner twelve strides each. Later a net replaced the ladder and additional side-lines introduced to narrow the court for singles. Two years later the three men became members of an M.C.C. (Marylebone Cricket Club) sub-committee whose brief was to frame the first official code of rules for lawn tennis. The same year lawn tennis was added to sports at the All England Croquet Club at Wimbledon. In 1877 the first tennis championships were held there and Wimbledon became established as the home of lawn tennis.

There are two cars in the photograph. The earliest registrations in Kent for the family cars are:

|        |                      |                    |                     |                     |
|--------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| KT179  | Lady Emily Hart Dyke | ?JAB(18-24hp)      | 6-seat dark blue    | registered 4/7/1913 |
| KT367  | Oliver Hart Dyke     | DEW(8hp)           | cyclecar grey       | " 1/8/1913          |
| KE1448 | Lady Emily Hart Dyke | Wolseley (16-20hp) | dark blue limousine | " 15/11/1920        |

I cannot find anything about the make (JAB) of Lady Emily's first car, but Oliver's cyclecar was made by his own company, which produced early cars in the former saw-mill located in what is now the car park for Lullingstone Roman Villa.

*(Lawn Tennis: How it all started across a ladder on a Castle lawn by C. J. H. Trounce.*  
KHLV Vehicle registration records C/FL/1/1/7 - D8541-KT372 - October 1912 - August 1913;  
C/FL/1/1/14 - KN3339-KE1739 - June 1920 - December 1920.)



## **Ideas for Christmas**

### **New publication: Maritime Kent through the Ages**

The book examines the varied coastline and waters of Kent, showing the changes brought about by coastal erosion and sediment deposition over the centuries. It covers the strategic role of Kent in the defence of the country; coastal industries along with national and international trading; diverse coastal communities and the adjustments they have had to make through generations.

Hardcover copies (£50) are available, and an e-book version (£19.99) will be released later. website <https://boydellandbrewer.com/9781783276257/maritime-kent-through-the-ages/>

### **New publication: Crockenhill Past and Present**

#### ***Crockenhill: Past and Present***

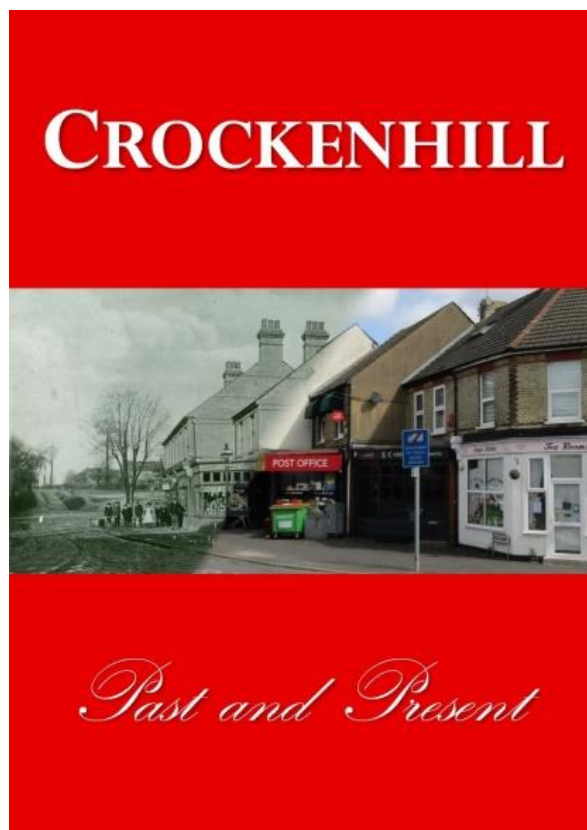
**Susan Pittman**

**£10 plus £1.50 p&p**

Paperback, 240x170mm, 88 pages

*Crockenhill: Past and Present* contains historical views of the parish of Crockenhill alongside their modern equivalents, taken where possible on the same spot, and with historical commentary highlighting both the change and the continuity in the view.

Now available from the author (01322 669923, 27 Old Chapel Road, BR8 8LL) or order online at **[www.canterley.co.uk](http://www.canterley.co.uk)** or call **01580 766428** (9 am-5 pm, Mon-Fri) to discuss other payment options.



### General Enquiries

**Eynsford Paper Mill** - Graham, a hand printer, is interested in the Arnold & Foster phase of the mill, and hopes to visit the Centre to study our collection when he has completed his current publication on paper making.

**Digital map of Farningham churchyard / updating lists of burials** - Philip is undertaking this formidable task, which has been contemplated by others before but never executed.

**Col. Meates' collection in Dartford Museum** - James wondered whether it contained anything on Shoreham Roman villa (so-called), but it did not.

**Lullingstone proposed Airport & dummy airfield** - Nick gave a talk about these to Otford Zoom History and Heritage Group. He spent several hours at the Centre where there is a wealth of information on both topics, including the paper on the Dummy airfield by Wilf Duncombe (FELHS no. 20 Miscellany - Brief Local History Papers issue 2). Nick gave the Centre high praise.

### Family History

**Frederick Thacker (1813-1890)** - Andrew was seeking information about this Farningham miller. Frederick is mentioned in *Farningham and its Mill* by Hilary Harding, and I recommended that Andrew purchase a copy.

**James Alphonsus Blake died 1983** - Christine is researching this stableman whom she found in the 1939 Register living at South Terrace, Farningham. I looked in the 1918 & 1919 register of absent voters without finding a relevant Blake family. She wondered who his employer was, but as every farm had horses at the time I was unable to help.

## ARCHIVE REPORT

**Susan Pittman - 01322 669923, [www.felhs.org.uk](http://www.felhs.org.uk)**

We still have not met for working parties, but have been busy on various projects. Vikki prepared a display for the Farningham event in early September, and Helen and Alison are putting together an assortment of Eynsford photographs with a possibility of publication. A kissing gate and fence have been installed alongside the Centre, meaning that we no longer have unimpeded outside access from front to back of the building. We were disappointed not to have been consulted over the siting of this, because it would have been better placed clear of the building.

### Acquisitions

**Wilf Duncombe** - Various photos; notes for Court Rolls publication; folder containing drafts of several people's personal memories of Eynsford and Farningham (Farningham - Bailey c.1940s, Doreen Bowles born 1930, Donnelly c.1900, Hissy c.1917, Lowrie c.1914, Woolley c.1940s; Eynsford - Rita Turner (Baldock) born 1931); CD/DVD Eynsford tithe map, Pubs of Eynsford 2nd edition, Eynsford/Farningham/Lullingstone parish registers; index Archaeologia Cantiana; Origins of FELHS, agenda of inaugural meeting to set up FELHS, 1st constitution; Minimum/maximum temperature graphs 2005-2015 for 17 Pollyhaugh.

**Rex Lance** - 5 digital extracts (4 about Nott, Mosyer & Cox properties in Crockenhill in C17th, one for Eynsford C18th - see above) from Canon Brade-Birks collection (50 years Vicar of Godmersham) now deposited in KHLC.

The M25 under construction in the winter of 1983. This is the line of the motorway looking south from Wested Lane. The wood on the left is Horncross Shaw. The motorway dissected farmland of Wested farm which was afterwards only linked by two underpasses.

From *Crockenhill: Past and Present*

