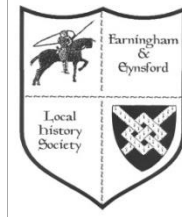


Farningham & Eynsford Local History Society

(Original Society founded 1985 Registered Charity no 1047562)

A Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee

No. 5620267 incorporated 11th November 2005 Registered Charity 1113765



Bulletin No. 131

Autumn/Winter 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 (sort code 20 25 42 account 13275752)
- ✦ by standing order (sort code 20 25 42 account 13275752)

Please let **Mrs Alison Marshall**, Membership Secretary, 83 Hever Avenue, West Kingsdown, TN15 6HQ, Kent (alisondukes@btinternet.com) know that you have paid remotely or send her your cheque.

At the same time please let us know if you wish us to collect Gift Aid for this year and for future years. Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made.



General scene at the Platinum Jubilee Fayre, at which FELHS had a stand, held at Eynsford Castle, 4 June 2022. (photo by Diana Beamish)

2022- 2023 PROGRAMME

We are thinking perhaps having Zoom on the shorter days and live in Spring and Summer.

We will e-mail any changes and have them on the website and Facebook pages.

All will be finalised according to the prevailing conditions.

The programme can also be found on the Diary page of the website.

18 November Farningham VH

Dr Gerald Cramp Journey down the Thames

Gerald will be showing Victorian/Edwardian lantern slides of Thames-side scenes from Oxford to Gravesend.

2023

24 February Eynsford VH

David Cufley Eynsford viaduct and brickfield

David is returning to give a follow-up talk about his research into the Eynsford brickfield and the construction of the viaduct over the Darent valley.

24 March Farningham VH

Dr Gerald Cramp Farningham Roman Villa and its neighbours

Gerald will examine the various Roman sites, their function and remains.

21 April Eynsford VH

Wayne Perkins Graffiti in Lullingstone Castle

Wayne makes a return visit after his unusual talk on graffiti in the local churches.

19 May Eynsford VH - AGM

Ideas have not been finalised

15 September Farningham VH

Alan Williams Doodlebugs

Alan has researched the location of doodlebug explosions in the Darent Valley.

20 October Eynsford VH

Nick Fothergill London Airport at Hulberry

This talk is one Nick gave on Zoom to Otford History Group during the pandemic.

17 November Farningham VH

Geoff Burr Metal detecting locally

Our well-known member, Geoff, will give an insight into his explorations, and hopes to bring along cases of his finds.

FELHS FACEBOOK @felhs.1985 From Vikki and Helen:

FELHS Facebook Page @felhs.1985 where everyone can share items from the archive and other matters that relate to the local history of the area. We have posted photos and articles that are of interest to our followers, or that have arisen from queries. 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

COMMITTEE NEWS

The 2023 Programme is complete and on the website. We are keeping our options open for live or Zoom for the shorter and colder days of the year, but any change from Village Hall to Zoom will be publicised on website, Facebook and by e-mail to members. The autumn/winter season started with a well-attended meeting to learn about the LiDar imaging of the Darent Valley from Dr Anne Sassin. Interpreting the images turns out to be more complex than perhaps one would think, and it was fascinating to learn about the nuances involved. Rod Shelton brought along his splendid model and brought the history of the castle alive with his lively PowerPoint presentation.

Within three months of enjoying the upbeat celebrations for Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee, we had the sad news of her death. Apart from the television coverage, newspapers and magazines produced supplements of the days of mourning and the impeccably organised state funeral. The coronation of Charles III will also loom large on the calendar in several months' time. National events such as these make an impact on our lives and on the communities in which we live. The dilemma for a Local History Society with village-based collections is what memorabilia to keep, especially when space is at a premium. In the past we have been donated national newspapers and supplements featuring royal events such as the death and funeral of George VI and the coronation of Elizabeth II, and these have proved popular display items. I expect Farningham and Eynsford Local History Society will continue to receive national items in the future, and they will be worth keeping because they put local events into the wider context. We just hope we don't get swamped!

RESEARCH REPORT

Susan Pittman, 01322 669923, archives@felhs.org.uk

In the Bulletin I try to balance research items between Eynsford and Farningham, but sometimes find it difficult. This Bulletin is one such instance. As you will see under Acquisitions, the Society has received many items about Farningham, so the Bulletin is heavily weighted in that direction. Often I find I have more to report about Eynsford, but this time I hope non-Farningham residents will enjoy the read, even though it is not about their immediate patch!

Memories of living in The Manse, Eynsford, 1945 into the 1950s

Member Jackie Clark sent in the following after reading about John's research in the last Bulletin:

When my family lived at The Manse it was divided into three units, two in the main house and the third in a single storey. My Aunt and Uncle, William and Joan Dyer, with their daughter, Linda, lived in the single storey. My family, Fred, Dorothy, Jacqueline, Julie and Keith Paine, lived in the middle section, and Mr and Mrs Woodland with Christine, Raymond and a dog in the other. The two families in the main house shared the hallway, stairs, bathroom facilities and garden. All three families moved from The Manse when the Saddlers Park estate was built. The Paines and Dyers moved to Saddlers Park and the Woodland family moved to Swanley.

The local Health Visitor used the garage for her car. I recall her driving skills as limited as she would ask my father to park her car.

I have fond memories of living at The Manse:

- My brother pedalling his tin car down the path
- My strawberry tea birthday party
- Aunty Joan and her chickens
- Access to the river for fishing
- A Sunday afternoon boating trip which ended badly

Less happy was the fear of encountering the neighbour's dog in the hall way when there was a need to visit the bathroom!

Recording monumental inscriptions at St. Peter & St. Paul's Church, Farningham

Having completed his photographic recording of the extant memorials at St. Martin's Church, Eynsford, Stephen Archer has now turned his attention to Farningham.

He and Philip McGarvey are liaising to produce an accurate plan of Farningham churchyard with its memorials, and are making good progress.



Thomas Sibill purchased Chimhams from the Isley family of Sundridge, and was a member of the Sibill family of Little Mote, Eynsford.

Head teachers of Farningham schools

Diana has sent the following revisions to the previous list:

John Whitfield Hetherington	1912 - 1940 (29/11)
Frederick William Everard	1940 (Dec) - 1941 (early) - temporary
Eric Frederick James Edward Marshall	1941(early) - 1944 (May) (reassigned and did not return)
Miss Grace Regan	1944 (1/6) - 1969 (31/8)
Miss Eira M. Thomas	1969 (Sept) - 1973 (April)

It was only after that the school in Farningham village was closed and its pupils were transferred to Anthony Roper School.

Beating the Bounds of Farningham Parish through Farningham Woods, 1828

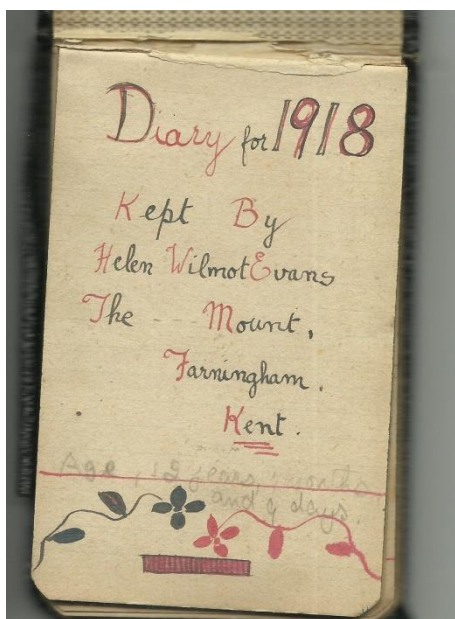
Hilary Harding researched these in association with a LiDar survey done by Cambridge University. She produced a map and a transcript of the route. It is interesting to note that many of the marks were old or prominent trees - an old crooked oak pollard, a large hollow oak, a whitebeam, and two beeches. I wonder whether any are still alive? Some of the route followed banks, one 'hardly visible', features that

might have been picked up by LiDar. I am now curious to examine the images and visit the Woods to see whether I can spot any of the boundary banks and trees. Should FELHS arrange an outing?



(from Farningham Parish Council website)

The diary of Helen Wilmot Evans, aged 12, from The Mount, Farningham, 1918



Helen's mother was a daughter of John and Grace Ward originally from The Mount - John being the Egyptologist featured in previous Bulletins. At this time John and Grace's son, Herbert, lived at Farningham Mill House, and it would appear that his sister and family moved into The Mount at some time after John Ward's death in 1912.

The diary is fifty pages long, and for a few months is well written and kept up daily. Then there is a lapse, but Helen finishes the year with more hastily written pencil entries. Helen and her siblings had a nurse and a governess, but occasionally mixed with other village children. Most of the entries are of the trivia of daily life, which build up a picture of an upper middle class household from a child's perspective.

The war hardly gets a mention, except for two air raids referred to on the 29 and 30 January. (See box below) On 15 June Helen also went to a concert in the Drill Hall at Eynsford and noted many wounded soldiers in the audience.

Elsie Clements, a farmer's wife, at Crockenhill, kept a diary in which she noted Zeppelins and planes flying overhead

28 January Air raid in the evening. 2nd one early morning.

3 Gothas and one giant attacked London, Thanet and Sheerness. 65 killed. Most casualties caused by single bomb from the giant on London. Odhams Printing Works, Covent Garden, struck, basement sheltering 500. 38 killed, 85 seriously hurt. 1st Gotha shot down on land by British planes over Essex.

29 January Air raid after we got to bed. Our gun fired over 40 times.

Raid by 3 giants, one attacked west London, 10 killed. On the return of one it was attacked by a fighter over Gravesend. It was probably just before this that the Crockenhill gun opened fire. It was stationed at Wested Lane.

Helen enjoyed the Peace Celebrations in Farningham and it is worth giving a full transcription of the entries for these:-

Monday 11 November: The Armistice has been signed. We had the flag up and so did everyone else. I went to tea at the Mill House. Afterwards we went to a bonfire at Mrs Wilson's.

Tuesday 12 November: We all had a holiday. We went round with Daddy to get stuff to make a bonfire, and Mrs Waring let us have it on the chalk lump. We got a whole cart-load of rubbish, and a tar barrel. Miss Smith and Nancy and I made a lovely Kaiser. We had a sack for the body, and Nancy and I painted his face, and he wore an old pair of grey trousers and Daddy's red volunteer corps tunic and a helmet. We took him round in a push-chair before tea and then we put boots on him, and a purple cape, and ostrich feathers in his helmet, and he had John's sword. The wheel kept coming off the push-chair! After tea we took off the cloak and boots and feathers and sword, and slung him between two poles, and Mike and Robinson carried him round the village, and we came, and all the small boys, and had a procession. Mrs Smith lent me a drum, and Peggy and John had tambourines, and Daddy the big shell horn from the hall. After a bit Daddy lit a sort of torch that had tar on it, and Miss Smith carried a lantern and it looked lovely. The fire burned beautifully too, and so did the Kaiser. It was simply lovely. Caroline and Aunt Alice were there, and Barney and Bingo, and Mrs Snaith's dog, who wanted to fight Bingo all the time. The boys let off some fire-works. Miss Smith stayed to supper.

General Enquiries

Antiques shop near Farningham Mill - Mike's mother ran an antiques shop from 1950-1952 in the former weather boarded building which was moved during the Mill development. His family lived nearby. He requested photographs of that area.



1920s Harry Welham's shoe repairers. Lad with bicycle Harry Turner, started work at Welham's' aged 14 in 1926.

Gibson manhole/drain covers, Sidcup - Peter noticed eight of these on his mile walk to the bus stop. They carry the initials of Sidcup Urban District Council (1921-1934). He wanted to know more about their manufacture. I suggested Wilf Duncombe's FELHS publication 'Gibson Family of Eynsford and Farningham: Blacksmiths and Ironmongers'. Peter is going to do further research and hopefully will let us know the results.

A Gibson manhole cover with SUDC (Sidcup Urban District Council) initials in Fen Grove, June 2022.



Preston Hill Rifle Range - Freya, Senior Ranger at Lullingstone Country Park, is compiling an interpretation board for Preston Hill, and requested information and photographs. I was able to give a

little help, but suggested she make contact with Shoreham and District Historical Society. If anyone has memories of the Rifle Club or photos please contact me.

Farningham Roman villas - Cornelia is studying ancient history and classics at University, and was interested in the Roman villas in Farningham and wanted to know where to find site reports. I sent the FELHS catalogue which gave her the sources, and invited her to the Centre, but have heard no more.

Census addresses - Julie was hoping to trace an actual house from census entries, but this is rarely possible. Early censuses do not give addresses, and the route taken by the census numerators was not necessarily the same for each census. Houses are added or others demolished. If a family live long term in a house it might be possible to trace the property back from the later censuses which contained more details of the location of properties.

London v. Maidstone Road, West Kingsdown - Kathy was confused by names, but both are the A20. Often roads are named with destination point, e.g. Eynsford Road in Crockenhill, and Crockenhill Lane in Eynsford.

Daren's Bakery - Allan is researching the mills unique loaf-shaped vans from the 1930s and some of the Rank owned post-war fleet. Helen found a photo of a horse-drawn van with 'Daren' side, which we sent even though it did not fit the brief.



Reg Morgan delivering bread for S. Holdich, Eynsford baker, with van outside Lullingstone Castle, 1932. (from James Alexander's collection)

Family History

Booker - Jo's research into Frank Albert Booker, baptised 1888, son of Henry, married Eliza Kingston 1885 progressed and I found her line from Farningham Parish records provided by a previous researcher.

ARCHIVE REPORT

Susan Pittman - 01322 669923, www.felhs.org.uk

We resumes working parties in October and began to tackle the backlog created by lack of activity during the pandemic, and to give the premises a good clean. There will be plenty to do so it is pleasing to report that two more volunteers have offered to help.

Request for recent Tridents

Since the pandemic regular donations of Trident issues has dropped off and so some issues are missing. 2021 - January to July needed

If anyone would like to pass on their copies to FELHS after reading please make contact.

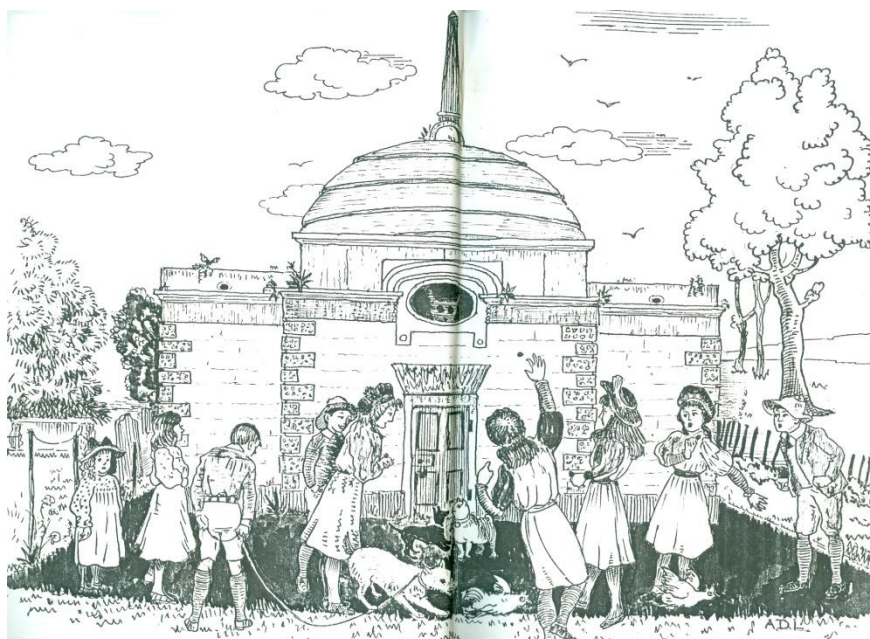
Acquisitions

Diana Beamish - Photos taken round Eynsford during the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

Philip McGarvey - English Heritage listings with details of 3 sites, Farningham Conservation area maps: extensive body of material related to Farningham Woods - various management plans; correspondence on ownership and management issues; Lidar research and images by University of Cambridge 2005; sequence of OS maps showing Farningham Woods from 1867 to recent times; 1828 Parish boundary description with Hilary Harding's map (to match Lidar images with historic evidence) (see above); 4 books of natural history observations.

Jannik Buhr - Jannik sent digital images of the Ward / Evans families (The Mount, Farningham). Jannik's grandfather has recently down-sized and distributed family documents/ photographs to various relatives. However, Jannik has sent us copies of Helen Evans' diary of 1918 (see above), two obituaries for John Ward, the Egyptologist, the biography of Arthur George Evans, and several family photos. Jannik is a great-great grandson to Helen Evans (1905-1982), who married Dennis Clift (1901-1977). Jannik's mother (nee Clift) married Gert Buhr. Helen's mother was John Ward's daughter.

Hilary Harding via Giles Bergne - Research notebooks from Archaologia Cantiana and Kent Archives Office (now Kent History and Library Centre); research on the Nash mausoleum - this is a large body of material and includes copies with transcripts of 15 wills associated with the Nash family and its various branches (Allen, Farrant, Hall, Harman, Loxley, Timbrel, Watson); survey and photos of 1988; mock-up booklet; family trees.



In the early part of the twentieth century, local girls believed that, if you managed to throw a pin through the hole above the inscription, and ran round the structure, you would be able to summon the Devil.

Drawing from Hilary Harding's mock-up booklet. Artists initials ADL

Vol 21 Bygone Kent p.285 Kent Mausoleums by R.B. Parish

Helen Wilmot Evans, aged 12, Resolutions for 1919

- To Write my diary every day
- To get up when I am called
- To Practise as much as I can for the rest of the holidays and all the other holidays of the next year.
- To Be decent to Peggy; To Be decent to John; To Be decent to Nancy; To Be very decent to Mother
- To Be decent to [in code used in the diary for this person]
- To be sensible when I go to school
- To try jolly hard in my music exam
- To Work hard at lessons
- To Try and get my sewing done soon
- To Tidy my drawer and keep it tidy
- To Be quicker in the bathroom
- GOOD BYE

Are there any that you would want to adopt? I had a resolution to keep up my diaries when a schoolgirl, but never did, so in the end gave up making resolutions to avoid a sense of failure!