

The Farningham & Eynsford Local History Society

Founded 1985

*A Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee
No. 5620267 incorporated the 11th November 2005*



Farningham & Eynsford Local History Society established 1985. Registered Charity No. 1047562)

Bulletin No 81 March 2009

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will take place at Eynsford Village Hall on Friday 8th May at 8pm (doors open 7.30pm).

The Agenda is as follows:

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of last AGM/matters arising
4. Adoption of Accounts
5. Setting of the Subscription level for 2010
6. Election of Officers and Committee
7. Any other business

Nominations for officers or committee members should reach the Secretary by 1st May 2009

Forthcoming Talks and Events

2009	Details	Where
24th April	Evening of Magic with Roy Marsh (An entertaining evening with magician Roy Marsh including buffet tickets £10)	Farningham
9th May	AGM (including buffet)	Eynsford
25th Sept	100 Years of Dartford Museum - Chris Baker	Eynsford
16th Oct	Quiz Night (Alan Cremer)	Eynsford
20th Nov	Welcome to the Manorial Hall - Jean Stirk	Farningham

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)

So begins another year, one in which I would like to see both membership to the Society and the sale of publications increase. With your help, by talking to your family and friends about our activities, we might be able to achieve this.

As I write this report at the end of January my diary is beginning to fill up with important events to attend. Not only are there the usual evening meetings but several special evening events are being planned. Please make sure you remember to put these dates in your diaries, it would be good to see more members attending meetings. There are also some local events taking place to which, as a Society, we have been asked to take publications and put together a small display of artefacts appropriate to the occasion. Don't forget to look at the back page of the Bulletin to see what programmes other Societies have arranged for the coming year. I know you would be most welcome to attend and like us, they need all the support we can give in order to survive. Whilst on the subject of programmes if you have any suggestions on a topic or a particular speaker, maybe someone you have heard elsewhere, please tell us and we will try to arrange for this to be included in a future event or evening.

PUBLICATION REPORT (Barbara Cannell)

It's many years since the Eynsford walk-about guide was written and with the passing of time quite a number of changes have taken place in the village. I feel now is the time to rewrite this small visitors guide to the history of Eynsford. Sadly I do not have the computer skills, nor the time, to carry out the work needed to bring this work up to date. I am hoping that there is a member who would be willing to take on this task for the Society. If you are looking for a challenge for the New Year please contact me at the next meeting or give me a call.

SECRETARY'S REPORT (Elaine Ruby 862241)

Due to other commitments I will be standing down as Secretary at the AGM in May but hope to continue as a member of the Committee.

Over the last six years as Secretary there have been a number of developments, especially the change of our status to a charitable company limited by guarantee and the acquisition of the archive centre premises at Riverside, Eynsford. It was a busy period at the time but the post has now settled into a very manageable role.

Most societies find it difficult to enlist new committee members and therefore welcome recruits with open arms. We have a lovely Committee and I hope that someone from the membership would be able to come forward and take over from me as Secretary.

If you are interested please give me a ring and I would be happy to talk through what the post involves

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

New book - Memories of Kentish Watermills (The Rivers Cray and Darent) by Alan Stoyel

This book is based on the author's research and survey of the various watermills largely undertaken 50 years ago. It is Alan's nostalgic look at the watermills of two much-changed rivers and is packed with photographs. He was able to carry out a survey of the mill by Eynsford bridge, but found out less about the mill at Lullingstone and was denied access to the mill at Farningham. However, the book gives a fascinating insight into the mills of the Darent from Westerham to Dartford.

It is available at £9.99 from bookshops or via Landmark Publishing (www.landmarkpublishing.co.uk).

New book – From A Kentish Family Album by John Drew

I have not yet seen this book of poems which John has promised to send in due course. The poems are centred on the idea of Farningham which his parents, Bernard and Mollie Drew, held in their minds when they moved into Farningham and entered into its life in the mid-20th century. Bernard Drew wrote the booklets about Farningham Cricket Club and Farningham's experience in the Second World War.

Copies of A Kentish Family Album available with stamped addressed envelope (66p) from Cambridge Poetry Workshop, 10 Fulbrooke Road, Cambridge CB3 9EE.

New book – Otford the past in pictures

This is published by the Otford and District Historical Society using photographs from Ed Thompson's collection. The photographs are grouped by location with a short background introduction to each section and full captions to the photographs. I am not sure of the price or how to acquire a copy, but enquiries to Otford Parish Council Office should result in success.

Henry Castelayn's will, 4 April 1407, and thoughts about one or two deer parks at Eynsford

(see Acquisitions below)

Although he lived in Bexley and asked to be buried in Bexley church Henry Castelayn left six torches to be distributed to three churches, Crayford (Earde), Bexley and Eynsford. His link with the parish might be as a descendant of Thomas and Agnes Castelayn who in 1298 held 146 acres of land scattered from Crayford, Dartford, Sutton-at-Hone, Orpington, Eynsford and Lullingstone. His brass memorial survives in Bexley church and is unusual in that the central motif shows a hunting horn. The horn represents his job as keeper of the parks, warrens, woods and chases held by the Archbishop of Canterbury. As keeper Henry was responsible for supervising hunting on the Archbishop's estates and before his death was granted lands in Bexley where one of the Archbishop's deer parks was located.

I have often wondered about various park names around Eynsford such as Park House Farm, Park House, Bower Park Farm and Lower Park wood up Bower Lane and wonder whether the Archbishop had a park in Eynsford. The names so closely grouped together cannot be a coincidence. I have found an early reference to a park at Orkesden, now Upper and Lower Austin Lodge, so this park might have stretched northwards and across Bower Lane, but this was land was not part of the Archbishop's estate. It is intriguing and perhaps one day the ancient landscape will reveal its mysteries.

Farningham church wardens not to be found in 1602

The parishioners of Farningham had been assessed to pay 18 shillings and 5 pence (85p

approximately) towards the relief of poor prisoners languishing in Maidstone gaol. However, the churchwardens, Michael Everest and James Fuller, failed to collect and pass over the money by the deadline of September 1602, and in the Quarter Sessions the sheriff reported that the churchwardens could not be found. On 28 September at the Maidstone Quarter Sessions they were accused in their absence of not collecting Farningham's contributions towards maimed soldiers, gaol money, the county stock and the house of correction, and were commanded by writ to attend the next Quarter Sessions to be held at Canterbury in Epiphany 1603 to answer for their contempts. The men were gardeners and a note was appended to the writ explaining that they had no moveable good or chattels that might be confiscated to ensure their attendance.
(Kent at Law 1602 by Louis Knafla, published 1994)

The Fencibles 'Dad's army' at Farningham in the 1790s

When France declared war against Britain in 1793 (a war which was to last 20 years and ended with the Battle of Waterloo against Napoleon in 1815) the standing army was unprepared so Prime Minister William Pitt decided to create a volunteer force of gentry and yeomen to act in case of invasion as a third line of defence behind the regular army and the militia. The aim was for 50 men from each town in Kent to volunteer (in 1798 the Sevenoaks troop consisted of 65 men). They were not paid except when called out. The government paid for their weapons, but the volunteers paid for horses and clothing. By 1797 Farningham was among the communities with mounted troops (others being formed at Sevenoaks, Cobham East and Cobham West, Tonbridge, Chislehurst, Tunbridge Wells and Coxheath.

(From Seal the History of a Parish by Fox, Williams and Mountfield, pp.72-73)

The boulder at Eynsford, was it for Charles Wesley? – further information

Charles Wesley, John's brother, was a more frequent visitor to Shoreham than John so it might have been him who preached at Eynsford.

September 1746 from Damaris Perronet's diary. Her father Revd William Perronet was vicar at Shoreham for 60 years:-

(My father)... will invite Mr. Charles Wesley to preach in our own church here in Shoreham. This will be a glorious day indeed, and the expectation has filled Charles and Edward and myself with joy and excitement, but my mother is fearful and Samson, our groom, whose brother works for Mr Banks at Magpie Bottom, says that there are those in the village, both gentle* and simple*, who will not brook this: there is young Mr Atkins whom my father rebuked for hunting on Sunday and there is Sir William Hart Dyke who thinks Mr Wesley too indulgent to the radicals, and I fear there are many who connive at or even aid the smuggling trade who believe that the Methodists have made my father stricter and more determined against them, though this is not so

(from A Particular Glory by Katharine Moore, p.15-16)

* in this sense of gentle birth = gentlemen, simple = labouring class

Lullingstone Park for public use, 1952, from article of Summer 1952 in Dartford Rural District Council Bulletin by The Hon. W. S. Phillips, representing Lullingstone

(see Acquisitions below)

When first acquired the park was handed over to Dartford Rural District Council and

apart from woodland management little was required except for employing a keeper or trapper to ensure that the park did not become a sanctuary for vermin to the annoyance of surrounding farmers... In the war no doubt a large quantity of lime and other fertilisers had to be applied before the wheat, sugar beet and linseed crops could be grown... In 1951 344 acres were handed back to the Council and grass was sown, but it is now a virtual hayfield and not suitable for the public to walk and picnic on, while the Council is lacking in the necessary equipment and staff... I want it handed back to KCC, but my fellow Councillors do not agree... We need experts to advise which trees must be cut down and also on a re-planting programme. Incidentally, I hope that beeches, oaks and elms will be planted rather than the commercial spruce and larch... The present grass must be cut and unless cattle or sheep are introduced to continue to keep it short, the same problem is going to arise again each year ... This would mean that a certain amount of fencing would have to be erected to stop the cattle wandering out of the park or that part of the park which has been made into a farm... I do not think fencing in any way would inconvenience the public as cattle grids could be put in the road and suitable gates in the paths running through the park... I think the above would produce the best results in the public interest during the time before the Park returns to its previous state and at the same time could be done with little expenditure.

Family history enquiries

- **J. Pocknall c.1860** – the name was written on the back of the painting of Toll Bar Cottage (see under Acquisitions)
- **Stone, Block** - although they came from Middlesex, Robert in Australia has a family photo c.1900 with note on back saying it was taken in Farningham. Robert Ward Stone was a publican so perhaps he was visiting one of the publicans in Farningham.
- **Attaway of Crockenhill**
- **Louis Barley m. Annie Clayson, railway signalman c.1891+ at Eynsford** – Audrey requested photos of the signal box/ station and enquiries into entries in parish registers.

Other enquiries

- **From Botany Bay Family History Society** – request about the extent of our resources and charges to use them.
- **Painting of Mill House, Farningham signed W Grant, dated 1979** – Dave found this when clearing a house in Nottingham and requested information about the artist.
- **Economic engine** – Andrew has a D-Ultra cyclecar produced by Harold Dew at Lullingstone c.1905-1914 so I recommended our publication Miscellany 1 no.17 which has an article by Wilf Duncombe on the subject.
- **Lullingstone dummy airfield** – I recommended Robin acquire Wilf's article in Miscellany 2 no.20.
- **George Webb d.1895** – Kathy is researching George Webb who was school teacher and Baptist minister in Eynsford from about 1850-1870.

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

FELHS Centre

The audio-visual collection has been deposited in the Centre so the Society's entire collection is now in one place for the first time in its history.

Acquisitions

From Geoffrey Copus – Copies of farm maps and surveys for Eynsford, Farningham, Lullingstone and Crockenhill completed in 1941-1942; copies of Valuation Survey maps and surveys for the same area, 1910-1915 (maps also on CD); copy of Beating the Shoreham Boundaries in 1826 and copy of Beating the Orpington Boundaries in 1895; photocopies from The Maidstone Journal of the 1860s to 1870 including accounts of the West Kent Hunt dinners and the Darenth Vale Agricultural Association events.

From Brian Hussey – Copy of funeral invoice, 1887, for Mrs Mary Ann Stradwick; copy of programme for Eynsford Council School's farewell concert for Mr. Woolley, 1914.

From David Shaw – Image of watercolour of Toll Bar Cottage c.1860 by Edward Henry Corbould (1815-1904); DVD of 2006 – Walk from Eynsford Bridge to Shoreham Bridge with a short feature on the history of the villages.

From Roger Pryer - CD with Pryor/Pryer family tree.

From Mike Smith – Oval image of photograph of group of young girls at Riverside c.1900s with bridge and church behind.

From John King – Copy of summer 1952 Dartford Rural District Council Bulletin with article by The Hon. W. S. Phillips, representing Lullingstone, entitled Lullingstone Park for Public Use.

From Peter Jones – Transcripts of the will of Johanna de Cobham, 1369, John Pecche, 1380, Henry Castilayn, 1407 and John Cresset, 1415.

and finally.....

For bulletin 82 Linda Gwyther will try her hand at editing the bulletin, I have been doing this for a number of years now and feel it is time for a break, after which I may be able to come back with some fresh ideas.

We had a great evening the other week with the charming Jim Buttress who helps Tom out at Lullingstone Castle, he gave us a talk on his life in the London Parks, for a man who has hob knobbed with royalty he is very modest. This was a great start to 2009 as the attendance at the meeting was good, please keep it up these speakers are booked for you the members and the evening are always more enjoyable with a good attendance as speakers respond well to full seats not empty ones. If you have not been before please give a meeting a try and let us know what you think.

Tickets are now available for the Magic Evening on Friday 24th April at Farningham Village Hall. The tickets are £10.00 and there will be a buffet washed down with a non-alcoholic punch if you wish or you are welcome to bring your own refreshments. We will be entertained by magician Roy Marsh who will give us a brief talk on the History of Magic followed by a demonstration of mostly magic of the mind. Roy has been a professional magician for many years and has been a member of the Magic Circle for the past 10 years reaching the degree of Member of the Inner Magic Circle with Gold Star. This will be an interesting and highly entertaining evening give me a call to reserve your tickets or send me e-mail Janw@fsmail.net.

I look forward to seeing you all some time during the year.

Jan Wilkes - Editor (865122)

WHAT'S ON 2009/2010

Horton Kirby & South Darenth Local History Society

2009

9th March	The Bevin Boys - Ann Kneif
11th May	Cooling Secret Radio Station - Frank Turner
13th July	A Taste of Roman Britain - Mrs Toni Mount
14th Sept	Kent, an unusual view - Graham Johnson
9th Nov	History of Cobham Hall - Gerry Harris

All meetings are held in the Village Hall, South Darenth from 8pm. If you require further information contact Keith Saunderson (01322 862056) (Remember your membership card)

Shoreham & District Historical Society

2009

No information on future meetings available at this time

Meetings held in the Village Hall Shoreham from 8pm. Members who wish to attend these meetings are advised to contact the Secretary Joy Saynor (01959 522713) to check that no changes have been made to their programmes (Remember your membership card)

Hextable Heritage Society

2009

12th March	Maunsell Forts - Frank Turner
9th April	A History of Otford - Cliff Ward
14th May	AGM and Remembrances of Hextable from newspaper cuttings
11th June	A History of Wilmington - Jean Radford
9th July	Visit (to be arranged)
13th Aug	Life in the Workhouse - Helen Allison
10th Sept	Artists on the North Downs - Monty Parkin
8th Oct	The Royal British Legion - Christine Page
12th Nov	Pipes and Pipe Making - Chris Baker
December	Members Christmas Party (date to be confirmed)

All meetings are held at the Hextable Heritage Centre off College Road. 7.15pm for 7.30pm start. If you require further information please contact Barbara Cannell (01322 864253)

