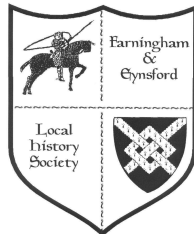


The Farningham & Eynsford Local History Society

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 88 December 2010

Forthcoming Talks and Events

2011	Details	Where
18th Feb	'What is it' - Chris Baker	Farningham
20th May	AGM with buffet	Eynsford
23rd Sept	The Darent Valley Archaeological Project - Paul Cawsey	Eynsford
25th Nov	Invitation to a Vestry Meeting - 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)

With our display at the Local and Family History Fair held in the Sevenoaks Library on Saturday 23rd October the end of a very busy year for the committee and myself comes to an end. Time now to reflect, how did we do?, could we have done better?, could we have done more?. For myself I enjoyed the challenge of each event, the research involved with the different topics and meetings members from other societies. I would like to thank all the members of the committee for their support and a thank you to those members who did manage to visit one or more of the history days. The recent 'Old Time Music Hall' help at Farningham Village Hall was a huge success and my thanks go to Barrie Payne and the singers and also to Jan Wilkes for arranging this event. If you have any ideas for a special evening or talks/speakers that you would like to hear, please contact me or a member of the committee.

PUBLICATIONS REPORT

An idea came to me recently when I was listening to a talk about old houses and the way their owners had made alterations to them. Part of the Farningham and Eynsford exhibitions featured well known people who had lived in these two villages. So why not have a publication 'Who lived in my house'? A lot of the research has already been done so, if you know of a famous person or someone who had an unusual occupation or even someone who had lived a long time in the area who you think

should be remembered then let me know and perhaps together we can compile an interesting history of people who have lived in the houses we now occupy.

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

BBC TV tour round Arthur Mee's house, Eynsford

This was a local news item and can be seen through links on our website on the Noticeboard page.

Names of any from Eynsford who have been killed in combat since the Second World War wanted

Eynsford Parish Council is considering adding those killed in combat since 1918 to the war memorial. We have a list of those from the Second World War, but check with the Parish Council to ensure it has any special person you know of. We have no information about any serviceman or woman who might have been killed during combat after 1945. Please contact me or parish clerk 01322 865320, eynsfordpc@tiscali.co.uk

Cpl. Paul Harman (1950-1977)

I have recently been in touch with Paul's parents to find more about him. His name is commemorated on the prayer desk at St. Botolph's Church, Lullingstone, along with a list of 1st and 2nd World War dead. Paul's father, Kenneth, kindly wrote about his son and sent a photograph of him. Kenneth Harman was in the diplomatic service, but for his retirement bought Old Park Gate Farm, Lullingstone. As an adult Paul lived in a caravan on the farm, while Kenneth and his wife, Rosina, were abroad, but eventually decided to join the 16/5 Queen's Royal Lancers, and at about the same time married, Sally. He next transferred to the Intelligence Corps and served in Germany before being sent to Northern Ireland as member of the 14th Intelligence attached to 39th Brigade. On 14 December 1977, aged 27, 3 or more members of the IRA, blocking his car front and back, ambushed and killed Paul. He was buried with full military honours in a war grave at St. Botolph's Church.

The Visiting Book of Rev. D. Campbell from the 1950s to 1970s

Rev. D. Campbell was vicar of Farningham from the late 1950s to the early 1970s. As part of his ministry he undertook to visit every household in the parish, and this book records the visit in a few summary lines. Farningham parish then included parts of Swanley, so some of the visits were into Swanley and included Parkwood.

I noticed a visit to Mrs Parmenter, 'Billie', widow of our co-founder Paul Parmenter. Billie, now 91 years old, has given permission for me to include her entry here:-

10 August 1960

Mrs Parmenter, Hillside, Here since June, from Brussels where was 5 years, Mr. in Whitbread's. Ian 15, at King's Rochester, Roy 12, Simon 4, Tel. F'ham 3409.

Mrs Diana Alexander has allowed me to include the following:-

Saturday 22 June 1957

James Alexander from Meadow View, Eynsford, called, three months after his father's death. His mother lives in Manor Farm, Eynsford*. Brother William, and sons, James, aged 3, and Robert, aged 18 months. James says he is attending church in Sevenoaks.

* i.e. Home Farm

Although the entries seem routine and matter-of-fact, there might be potentially sensitive information in this Visiting Book, so I think it prudent not to put it out on

public display.

Along the Darent in 1914

Peter Jones brought this to my attention – a copy can be found at <http://thesurreyweald.org> -

Lullingstone's old church with various brasses and sixteenth century monuments, situated on the edge of the beautiful Lullingstone Park, is a capital place from which an admirable walk can be taken by road and footpath over the western hill to Chelsfield and then through a rich bit of orchard country by Crockenhill to Swanley – a new town in the midst of a fruit-growing district....

Returning to the Darent – a large portion of the valley of which is given up to cherry orchards and other fruit growing, we have at Eynsford a small representative of a place at one time of considerable importance owing to its ford

From Eynsford to Farningham the beauty of the orchard is varied by the unbeautifulness, as the children put it, of paper mills. Farningham itself is a village along the road from London to Tonbridge, picturesquely situated in a valley, with the air about it of an old coaching village.

(Highways and Byways in Kent by Walter Jerrold, p.372-373)

Rev. Robert Brown of Lullingstone, 1864

Until 1898 a minister might be installed under the terms of a bond of resignation. Rev Robert Brown was appointed to Lullingstone Church in 1864 on the understanding that he would resign at a month's notice if either of the patron's two sons should be ordained. Luckily for him they did not enter the priesthood, (The Anglican Parochial Clergy by Michael Hinton, published 1994, brought to my attention by Geoffrey Copus)

John Homewood, William Petman, on the parish, 1710

In the C18th if someone fell on hard times and needed parish relief, the question arose as to where the person was officially settled, because the person became that parish's responsibility. Understandably perhaps, parishes resisted taking on extra poor people and the right of settlement was often contested. John Homewood, weaver in Shoreham, in need of poor relief came before the magistrate saying that he had served his full apprenticeship with a linen weaver at Eynsford. He was told to move back to Eynsford or get a certificate saying that Eynsford parish would support him in Shoreham. He went to Eynsford but the poor officers refused to give him the required certificate so they were ordered to appear at the Special Sessions at Sevenoaks to show why John Homewood should not be settled in Eynsford.

William Petham, a labourer in Shoreham, had at first refused to say where he had come from, and then admitted serving William Nash at Farningham as a hired servant for a whole year, and so was sent back to Farningham for poor relief.

Farningham Church records at Lambeth Palace Library

Geoffrey Copus has been doing research at the Library and unearthed some Farningham records from the Church Commissioners for us. Documents are about Parsonage House, 1869-1947; chancel repairs (photocopied), parochial charities, 1870-1873; burial ground, 1871-1874; general file, 1908-1909; QAB/7/6/E4377, 1914. Also 45/19 plan of 1822 for schoolroom on the glebe.

at Christ Church Cathedral Library, Canterbury

Faculty for oak reredos, 1896; for stained glass window in memory of Elizabeth Tudor, 1902; papers concerning removal of galleries, with history of the galleries back to 1790 and 1818, plans of porch and new proposed porch.

Geoffrey has a newspaper cutting of 1876 which mentions that the galleries in Farningham Church 'which disfigured either end of the nave' have been removed.

Family history enquiries

- Sheila said that her mother was at a Church of England Home at Farningham in the 1920s. I felt Sheila was mistaken in the location and name of the institution and on further probing think her mother was in the St Bartholomew's Home for Sick Children in Swanley

Other enquiries

- John wanted to know whether certain names appeared in the 19th (Farningham) Battalion Kent Home Guard booklet.
- 'Darent' engine from the Eynsford Light Railway was on display at the Amberley Railway Gala weekend. The enquirer wanted information about this railway. Can anyone help?
- Wayne wanted information about ponds in Arthur Mee's former house in Hextable. I put him in touch with the Hextable Heritage Centre.
- Murder of Dagmar Petrzywalski in 1946 on Wrotham Hill. The researcher would like to make contact with anyone who remembers the murder and how it affected villagers.
- Proposed interpretation board re Percy Pilcher at Upper Austin Lodge.
- Julie is researching Arbor Day as an MA dissertation. I passed on details of FELHS publication on Till and was expecting her to visit the archive during the summer, but she has made no further contact.
- Lisa requested historical maps of Farningham in connection with her research into Farningham Mill. I gave her copies of the Waring estate map of 1840 and suggested that she visit the map room at the British Library to see 25" to the mile maps and the 1st OS edition of 1" to the mile.
- Brian Boyden is researching the Kent clay tobacco pipe industry can anyone help with any local information about this industry. Call him on 01959 533093 or e-mail: brian.boyden@dsl.pipex.com

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

FELHS Centre

I wondered whether anyone or more would like to catalogue the book collection for the Society. A simple list of author and book would be sufficient, but if you have added expertise all the better. I think we have about 100 books in our collection, so it is a manageable number to catalogue. Contact me if you would like to know more.

Acquisitions

- **from Farningham Parish Council with Lottery Heritage Funding** – a digital sound recorder and data discs to use to record local memories
- **from Lady Ann Reid** – via Hilary Harding – copy of the **Visiting Book** of her father, Revd. D. Campbell of Farningham, which runs to about 100 neatly written pages. (see Research notes above)
- **from Kevin Dixon** – copy on CD of video camera film of **Wood's Foundry** Open Day, 1989, with demonstrations of working machinery and the moulding shop in action
- **Farningham – A Walker's Guide** – via FELHS and Farningham Parish Council
- **from Farningham Parish Council** – book of **Farningham Cattle Screen Restoration Project 2006-2010**; 1924, blue-print plan from South Suburban

Gas Company showing proposed **positions of street lamps**; 1945 cheque book Farningham Parish Council **Victory Celebration Account**; 1935, 21 receipts; 1939, 3 receipts; 1943, **Paper Local Government Reform as it affects parish councils**; 1937 **Superannuation Act** and letters re clerk's pensions.

- **from Diana Beamish and Roger Wilkes** – photographs and DVD of military funeral of Sapper Mark Smith, buried with full military honours at St. Martin's, Eynsford on 19 August 2010, having been killed in Afghanistan.
- **from John Meakins** – photograph of a **Newsham fire engine from the 1740s originally in Lullingstone Castle**, now in the Kent Fire Brigade Museum
- **from Barbara Darby** – **2 CDs of Hynard's Farm Eynsford** from 1930s-1950s, full version and edited version of 1984 shown on Anglia TV.
- **from Brian Philp** – Kent Archaeological Review no.170, Winter 2007, article on the **Lullingstone excavations**.
- **from Brian Hussey** – **Arthur Mee's Dream of England** by Maisie Roberts
- **from Philip Mcgarvey** – Estate agent's prospectus for **Farningham Mill Estate, 2010**
- **from Wilf Duncombe** – papers related to the publication on the **Gibson family**

and finally

For those of you who did not have a chance to see the winning poems....

The River

The rush of water
Trickles down the ledges.
Through the reeds and past the hedges
Nests of sticks and weeds,
On the bank a child reads,
Turns pages one by one,
Underneath the afternoon sun,
The highland cattle wander past,
Only to stop and gobble up grass,
The gentle hum of bumble bees,
The peaceful swaying of the trees,
Passing through the ford came a truck,
Through the reeds and past the ducks,
Gentle breezes gushed by
I think I will stop here again some time!

Ellena Jeffrey

Eynsford

Come to our house way up the hill
And view the pleasant scene below,
The slender spire of Eynsford church
Where just a little while ago
The evening bells rang out as though
To bless the place beneath.

The lights from houses shining out,
The village quite expect a shout
Of laughter from a crowded pub.

The clock chimes out the hour.

The Castle ruins, moonlight lit
Take on an added mystery,
Castle and church between them hold
The heard of Eynsford's history.

And on the quiet river flows
And tells no tales of bygone days,
Of scenes with soldiers, courtly knights
And all; the solid working men -
The millers, farmers, ploughmen who
Farmed the chalk land and made the view
That we love now.

Gwen McIntyre

As I sit here typing this all I can see around me is snow and it is beautiful, and as we move onto the end of 2010 thank you to all of you for your continued support. Please keep yourselves safe and well and have a great Christmas and New Year.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND WE LOOK
FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN 2011**

Jan Wilkes



Editor (865122)

WHAT'S ON 2011

Horton Kirby & South Darenth Local History Society

2011

10th Jan	The Lure of Family History - Peter Shearan
14th March	Hever Castle - Don Williams
9th May	Working Behind the Scenes with National Trust - Andrew McElwee
11th July	Society Member's evening
12th Sept	Mystery Animals of Kent - Neil Arnold
14th Nov	Ceremonial London - Anne Carter

All meetings are held at 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

2011

6th Jan	Twelfth Night Supper A Country House at Christmas - Pat Mortlock
21st Jan	Hopping in Kent - Richard Filmer
18th Feb	The Story of British Broadcasting - Dan Dray
18th March	AGM The History of the RAF at Biggin Hill - Bob Ogley

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 522836) to check that no changes have been made to their programmes (Remember your membership card)

Hextable Heritage Society

2011

13th Jan	What's in the Cupboard - a look at our Society's artefacts
10th Feb	'Ratcatcher' - David Cufley
10th March	Surviving Magic - Monty Parkin
14th April	Passports, Assassins, Traitors and Spies - Martin Lloyd
12th May	AGM including more pictures from John Meakins
9th June	Kentish village life in Victorian times - Helen Allinson
14th July	Visit to St Margaret's Church, Darenth. Promptly 7.15pm at church
11th Aug	Dartford's Historic Acacia Hall - Dr John Trethewey
8th Sept	The Farningham Homes for Little Boys - Barbara & Brian
13th Oct	Pictures of local vintage transport - Adrian Herbert
10th Nov	Reach for the Sky - Chris Baker
Dec	Members 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)