

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 93 March 2012 Annual General Meeting

The AGM will take place at Farningham Village Hall on Friday 18th 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 2012
6. Election of Officers and Committee
7. Any other business

This year we have three people who would like to step down from the committee, Philip McGarvey (Treasurer), Barrie Payne (Secretary) and Stuart Fletcher. These posts will become available at our AGM at Farningham Village Hall on Friday 18th May 2012.

To give a prospective treasurer an idea of the position, apart from making annual returns to Companies House and the Charity Commission, it is little more than simply a case of keeping the books, occasionally banking monies from subscriptions, books sales etc., and raising a few cheques. The bank account is with Barclays for convenience. We do submit a claim for tax refund under the Gift Aid scheme which is circulated on a spread sheet at the moment. All incomes and expenditures are listed in an Excel spread sheet and its automated Excel balance sheet extract is what is presented to members at the AGM (and to board members whenever they should ask)

Forthcoming Talks and Events

2012	Details	Where
14 th April	The Reading Room 11am to 3pm	Olive Seal Hall
28 th April	The Reading Room 11am to 3pm	Olive Seal Hall
18 th May	AGM followed by wine and buffet	Farningham
2 nd June	Jubilee Exhibition (part of Eynsfest)	Olive Seal Hall

3 rd June	Jubilee Exhibition (part of Eynsfest)	Olive Seal Hall
28 th July	Eynsford Walking Quiz	Eynsford Club
15 th Sept	Trip to Whitstable	
21 st Sept	The Architecture of Eynsford and Farningham	Farningham
	Jonathan Fenner (Architect and Blue Badge Guide)	
16 th Nov	What is it? A collection of Intriguing objects To Identify – Chris Baker formerly of Dartford Museum	Eynsford

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)

My goodness how quickly this year is going, we are now approaching another AGM and as you can see from above we have three people wishing to come off the committee. All other members are willing to stand for re-election. We are looking in haste for a treasurer, secretary and someone who would like to take on the challenge of organising evening meetings. Anyone who may be interested please feel free to call me for further information or to discuss any of the above positions.

We are busy at the moment planning for 2012 already we have held our first evening meeting a very interesting talk on the Joyce Green and River Hospitals, I think it brought back many memories for some people in the audience. Also this year we are embarking on a project at the Olive Seal Hall, 'The Reading Room'. Jan Wilkes and Dee Baker will be there on selected Saturdays throughout the summer. They will have old books, magazines and occasionally artefacts for people to look at while they enjoy tea and cake. This will be open to everyone, residents of Eynsford and visitors alike. I wish them luck with this little venture.

Lastly on behalf of the committee we look forward to your support in 2012

PUBLICATIONS REPORT (Barbara Cannell 864253)

Eynsford Station is 150 years old. On 2nd June 1862 the railway line between Swanley and Bat & Ball, Sevenoaks was opened as a single track and Eynsford station opened on 1st July 1862.

To celebrate this occasion I would like to collect together memories of the station, past and present. Events that you remember and any photographs would be very welcome. Does anyone remember the Golden Arrow passing through the station on its way to Folkestone? Did a member of your family work on the line or at the station? Do you remember goods being delivered to the station for use on the farms or to the shops and business in the village or when 11 high explosive bombs fell close to the south of the station on the 17th November 1940? If any of the above jogs a memory please call me.

RESEARCH REPORT (Susan Pittman 669923) website www.felhs.org.uk **The Centre for Kentish Studies closure**

Be warned CKS will be closed until Spring 2012 for the transfer to a brand new purpose-built Centre not far away. During closure access to microfilmed records will

continue at Maidstone Library on St. Faith's Street; the on-line catalogue of almost 600,000 records and 6000 images is available at www.kent.gov.uk/archives; Canterbury Cathedral Archives are also closed for several months; free on-line access to Ancestry.com for censuses, wills etc. is available at all Kent libraries.

New National Heritage List for England

English Heritage has brought together the records and datasets related to England's designated heritage, which formerly had to be searched separately. At www.english-heritage.org.uk for the first time you can search all national designations – buildings (listed buildings), archaeology, landscapes (registered battlefields, parks and gardens) and wreck sites. There are 59 entries for Eynsford, 56 for Farningham, 21 for Crockenhill, 17 for Lullingstone, and 3 for Maplescombe.

Early newspapers go online

UK's national newspaper collection is being digitised over the next ten years. More than one million pages of pre-1900 newspapers, including local London newspapers, are now available online at www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk – you can register to be kept informed when other newspapers are added,

'Chelsfield – in from the cold' by Alan Cheesman

For those of you interested in our near neighbour, Chelsfield, or who would like to explore different local walks, this is the book for you. Alan describes with words, maps and pictures, 8 walks in the Chelsfield area, all starting from points reached by bus or by train, as well as, of course, by car. The book has a sumptuous selection of coloured photographs, and along the route Alan's tit bits of historical interest help the walker to understand what is being seen, as he quotes from Oliver Cromwell 'You see nothing if you don't know what you are looking at.'

Available from Alan at 5 Eton Road, Orpington, Kent BR6 9HD.

Memories of The Denes, 1972-1974

Lorraine and her husband, Graham, from Australia hope to visit Eynsford next year. They lived at The Denes during Graham's transfer from Australia to work in the London office of the Australian Bank. In this period Ross Parker and his wife lived on the middle floor and the Patterson family on the ground floor. Lorraine and Graham 'were privileged' to rent the top floor, formerly the servants' quarters. Soon after their daughter, Heather, was born in a Dartford hospital there was a sugar shortage and talks of petrol rationing. Lorraine was 'honoured' to be able to continue to purchase sugar to add to her daughter's feeds as the village general store held some back for her each week. It would be sold to her wrapped in newspaper and she would then tuck it into the bottom of the pram.

Sir William Hart Dyke and tennis

William Hart Dyke, a pupil at Harrow School in the late 1950s, won the World Rackets Championship, the first champion not to have learned the game in the debtors' prisons. He was very unhappy with the condition of the Rackets courts at Harrow School so he raised £1600 to construct an indoor Rackets court, which is still playable. Later as Sir William Hart Dyke he experimented in the grounds of Lullingstone Castle with the size and shape of Lawn Tennis courts, trying the Hour-Glass shape with a net (a ladder resting on two barrels) in the late 1870s. When the Bexley Lawn Tennis Club was founded in May 1880, Sir William Hart Dyke became Club President. The Club is now the world's third oldest Lawn Tennis Club still on its original site.

(from www.bexleyclub.co.uk/history – Sir William Hart Dyke was also associated

with developing Squash.)

Swanley station

The first train ran on 12 October 1860, but it did not stop at Swanley because there was no station there. A station at Swanley was built in 1864 and was originally named Sevenoaks Junction because a spur line had been built to that town. However, the name confused passengers who often alighted thinking that they had reached Sevenoaks itself. In 1871 the station was renamed Swanley Junction, which survived until 1937 when the present Swanley station was built and just called Swanley. (The Journal of North West Kent Family History Society, September 2011, article by Keith Whitmore pp.303-304.)

The horticultural Cannell family

Barbara Cannell was able to provide Judith (see below) with the link between George Cannell of Loddon, Norfolk, and Henry Cannell, featured in our publication 'Cartwheels and Chrysanthemums'. George, born in 1844, was the illegitimate son of Susannah Cannell, and was brought up by his grandfather, John Cannell. In due time George inherited money from his grandfather and from a bachelor uncle, Charles Cannell, which he used to buy a seed merchant's shop in Loddon. In the meantime Henry Cannell was born in 1834 at Swardstone, Norfolk, and at an early age entered the nursery business, eventually moving to London as an independent nurseryman. He came to Swanley by 1880. At the time, George and Henry Cannell would not have known that they were related, but recent family history research has revealed them to have been 4th cousins.

(See Cartwheels and Chrysanthemums, from p.16 for Wilf Duncombe's research.)

Marianne Farningham

Mike, with local connections, contacted me about Upper Austin Lodge, but also mentioned that as archivist for the Moulton History Society in Northamptonshire, he had been working on the records of the Carey Baptist Church and has recently discovered that when Marianne Farningham's local chapel in College Street was closed its records were passed to the Carey Baptist Church. He has sent photographs of Marianne's house at 12 Watkin's Terrace, Northampton, and copies of her obituary. She died in 1909 at the age of 75 from heart disease, which had been discovered when she had tried to obtain life insurance when she was 21. She was born in Farningham in 1834 and, from the age of 12, after the death of her mother, ran the household of her father and siblings. She studied surreptitiously in her bedroom by candlelight, and once woke up at dawn to find herself in the chair, and the candle burnt to the socket. Her first attempt at verse was an epitaph upon a dead toad, which was buried with much solemnity in a matchbox in her garden. A memorial tablet was placed in the College Street Chapel, with the inscription, 'In loving memory of Marianne Farningham Hearn, for 41 years a member of this church, and for 33 years the much loved leader of the class of young women. Born December 17th, 1834. Died March 16th, 1909.'

Report into education in Farningham in 1841

Farningham had a Sunday school with 49 boys and 29 girls, and a Dame school with 6 boys and 6 girls. There were two private weekday schools, one with 36 children conducted by the Sunday school master, Charles Everest, and the other with 18 children run by Phyllis Beckley. Over 100 children (out of a total population of 701) were receiving some form of education and the report concluded that provision was sufficient.

('Local Government, law and order in a pre-reform English parish, Farningham 1790-

1834' by Shirley Burgoyne Black, pp.44-52)

Francis Booker, a C18th cricketer, from 'Soho Inn', Eynsford

Joanne from New Zealand told me about her greatx3 grandfather, Francis Booker. She had read in 'From Lads to Lords – an account of English Cricket' that Francis Booker (born 8 October 1746 in Eynsford, died 13 October 1806 in Eynsford) was a left-handed batsman, noted as a fine hitter of the ball and a very good outfielder. He began playing in the 1760s and was active until 1790, making 52 known first-class appearances from 1773. He kept the Soho Inn in Eynsford. I was unable to help Joanne over the Soho Inn, but in 'The Pubs of Eynsford' found that in 1829 the first known publican of The Harrow (now the Castle Inn) was Henry Booker, and that the rules of Eynsford Cricket Club from 1844 laid down that club meetings should be held there – so perhaps the earlier name of the establishment was Soho Inn. Francis's eldest son, Francis, emigrated with his wife, Emma Clements, in 1874, and founded Joanne's line there.

Family history enquiries

Booker of Eynsford - Joanne from New Zealand wanted information about Bookers from the early C19th. (see above)

Cannell - Judith from San Francisco, USA, is a horticultural historian researching the history of the chrysanthemum, and wondered whether there was a link between George Cannell of Loddon, Norfolk, and our local, Henry Cannell. See above for the result.

Elliott of Eynsford - Bob from New Zealand who lived in Sutton-at-Hone from 1963 to 1974 had no idea then that his Elliott ancestors had lived in the area. He hopes to visit England next year and visit the local churches, but there are no old Elliott memorials remaining at St. Martin's.

Charles Everest, head teacher in Farningham - Stella Baggaley has forwarded detailed family trees dating back to the 1660s for this family – other surnames include Piggott, Welfare, Penfold, Deadman, Cole, Wicken, Wells, Ingram, Simpson, Roper, Marchant, Lee, Jones, Ramsey, Grossmith, Ridoutt, Clemens, Beattie, Richards, Hird, Henderson and Holland.

Gleave - Gaynor wanted information about Brenda Gleave, who died in 2011. Brenda was related to Gaynor's husband.

Osborne of Crockenhill - Pamela was trying to locate the home of the Osbornes at 74 Moore's cottages, Crockenhill, but I have been unable to help her, never having come across that address in the village before. Walter and Elizabeth Osborne had 2 sons killed in the First World War, but they are not commemorated on the war memorial in the village. As the children were born in Strood I suspect the family moved from the village before the outbreak of the war.

Whitehead - Chris wanted a picture of the memorial to Ronald William Whitehead, killed at Casino, Italy, in 1945, aged 19, so I sent a photo of the prayer desk in St. Botolph's, Lullingstone, which included his relative's name and sent details from FELHS recent publication, 'The Commemoration of Wars in Crockenhill, Eynsford and Lullingstone, Kent'.

Other enquiries

Collection of Darent Valley glass slides, 1900s - David wanted someone to review the collection, which has now been sent to Horton Kirby and South Darent LHS. FELHS will receive copies of images of Eynsford and the Darent Valley.

Darent Valley railways - Andrew thanked the Society for information about these and sent photos of his scale model railway with stations based on Farningham Road and Sole Street stations.

2/3 Lion Cottages, Farningham - Russell is hoping to move into the cottages and is keen to carry out research into their history.

Marianne Farningham - Brian would like to research Marianne's hymn writing.

Upper Austin Lodge - Philip Outred, born in Eynsford in 1840, once lived there. Has anyone got even modern photos of Upper Austin Lodge please?

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

FELHS Centre

Disappointingly, I have now gone through five eye operations, so my activities have been hampered. Hopefully after additional laser treatment, I can get on track again. I am grateful to Anne Cremer and Jackie Clarke who have now taken a winter break from sorting material prior to cataloguing.

Wanted: 'Local Government, law and order in a pre-reform English parish, Farningham 1790-1834' by Shirley Burgoyne Black

Published by Mellen Research University Press, Lampeter, 1992.

This currently retails at £80, so if anyone happens to have a copy that they would like to donate the Society, it would be gratefully received.

Acquisitions

From Michael Austin - copies of obituary and write-ups of Marianne Farningham from The Northampton Independent newspaper, 1909, and photos of her house (see above).

From Diana Beamish - various modern business and events flyers, 'Stockley on the buses' booklet, funeral service for Margaret Chamberlain, former secretary of Eynsford W.I. Diana has also completed another Eynsford scrapbook covering 2009 and 2010.

From John Mullen – 'Farming with steam' by Harold Bonnett, 2 notices about the closure of public footpaths during the foot and mouth outbreak c.2001.

From Michael Penwarden - copy photo of the Eynsford Rat and Sparrow Club from 'Memory Lane - a photographic album of daily life in Britain, 1930-1953'.

From Susan Pittman - 4 DVDs - Kent Past, Kent at War, Rural Life, Kent on Film
Tape BBC 4 'Ramblings - Eynsford to Shoreham' presented by Clare Balding.

From John Drew – 'When war stopped play: a village cricket match at Shoreham, 1940', draft text.

And finally...

Just a couple of other things to tell you about... as well as everything else going on we will be at Eynsford Village Hall on 31st March for the Easter Fair, and as usual at the Farningham Fete on 16th June and Scout Fete on 14th July. We hope you will come and take part in the walking quiz around Eynsford, we are at the moment putting the questions together and as last years' trip to Hythe was successful early booking for the Whitstable trip is advised. (Full details about these two in the June bulletin)

In the meantime just so I don't get bored I am gathering memories from 1952/1953 thoughts and recollections from the time. If any of you have memories from the time of the queens ascension to the throne, how you felt, what happened in your family, did you go to a street party and did you get your first television so you could all watch the celebrations or did you go to London to join in the festivities. Please give me a call or email me at Jan51@btinternet.com. if you would like to be part of our memory wall which will be on display as part of our exhibition on 2nd and 3rd June 2012.

I think it is now time for a lie down! Jan Wilkes (865122)

WHAT'S ON 2012

Horton Kirby & South Darenth Local History Society

2012

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| 14th May | Kent Heroes - Chris McCooey |
| 9th July | Kent Village Life in Victorian Times - Helen Allinson |
| 10th Sept | Bexley Village - Roy Hopper |
| 12th Nov | Historical and Interesting Sites in Dartford - John Rank |

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

2012

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| 16 th March | AGM and The Story of Ladybird books – Caroline Alexander |
| 20 th April | Jane Austen and Sevenoaks School – Clare Graham |
| 18 th May | John Jordon, organist and choir master Shoreham Church
1957 – 1975 – Malcolm Jordon |
| 15 th June | Coming of the railways to the Darent Valley – Ed Thompson |

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 534501) to check that no changes have been made to their programmes (Remember your membership card)

Hextable Heritage Society

2012

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| 12 th April | Art is Long – stories behind the tomb stones – Monty Parkin |
| 10 th May | AGM |
| 14 th June | Meet Charles & Emma Darwin & other Downe Dwellers- Barbara Stevens |
| 12 th July | Visit – Home of the Little Boys, South Darenth |
| 9 th Aug | Local Views from the 1960s – Gerald Cramp |
| 13 th Sept | Joyce Green Hospitals & the River Hospitals – Francine Payne |
| 11 th Oct | What is it? Objects from Dartford Museum to identify – Chris Baker |
| 8 th Nov | The River Thames – a working river – Jerry McCarthy |
| December | 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)

