

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)

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March 2014

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will take place at Farningham Village Hall on Friday 23rd May at 8pm (doors open 7.30pm)

The Agenda will be 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 2014
6. Election of Officers and Committee
7. Any other business

The history society committee works very much as a team, if anyone is interested or would like information about becoming part of our committee please call the Chairman Barbara Cannell for further information or to express an interest in putting your name forward for election. Any nominations must be with the Chairman before the AGM commences on the 23rd May 2014,

Forthcoming Talks and Events

2014	Details	Where
23rd May	AGM	FVH
28 th June*	Elizabethan Pageant/Scout Fete	Common Meadow
16 th Aug*	World War I Exhibition	CVH
23 rd Aug*	World War I Exhibition	EBC
30 th Aug*	World War I Exhibition	FVH
6 th Sept*	Trip to Faversham (postponed until 2015)	
26 th Sept	Keep the Home Fires Burning Dartford 1914 to 1918 Chris Baker	FVH
21 st Nov	Edith Cavell – Paul Rason	EVH

Please note * Saturday

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)

Well here we are again at the beginning of another busy year. We have already had several enquiries to give talks about the history of Eynsford and Farningham and invitations to put on displays relating to village life during WWI. From articles in our Bulletin and in Trident you will see that we have quite a full programme of events during the year at various local venues. Although committee members are dwindling we enjoy the challenge with the research and preparation work needed for each event. There are many interesting items of village life hidden away in the archive centre that we would love to bring to light and display to members. So if you would like to discover what village folk did in the past, the work they did, where they lived and what they did with their leisure time why not join us and help us to build up a bigger picture of Eynsford, Farningham, Crockenhill and Maplescombe. Many fingers make light work so the saying goes and it would also be good to have some fresh ideas.

MEMBERSHIP 2014

Thank you to all who have paid their membership for 2014. For those of you who may have overlooked this I have enclosed or attached a membership form. If by any chance you no longer wish to be a member of the Society please let me know and I will remove you from our membership list.

Also as you can see I have taken on the membership temporarily until someone else can be found, if you are that someone please let me know. Ideally it should be someone who is on the committee, but this is not essential as long as you are a member of the society.

Jan Wilkes (hisarc@btinternet.com/01322 865122)
Temporary Membership Secretary

RESEARCH REPORT (Susan Pittman 01322 669923) (www.felhs.org.uk)

Kent History Federation Day at Tenterden, 10 May 2014

Because FELHS is a member, any of our members can go for the day. There are talks about Tenterden in the morning and a choice of visits associated with the talks in the afternoon, e.g. guided walk around Tenterden, visit to the Church and Museum, visit to Town Hall and Unitarian Church. Cost £18 includes Ploughman's lunch, £10 without lunch. Beverages are provided during the breaks. For a booking form, download from Kent History Federation website or contact me.

British Newspaper Library on the move

Some of you might have heard of the Newspaper Library at Collingwood in North London. It is now closed until July 2014 prior to moving to Boston Spa, Yorkshire. Once relocated, the public will be able to order newspapers from Boston Spa to be delivered to a new reading room in the British Library at St. Pancras.

London Poor Law Abstracts, 1581-1899 online

Over 22,400 abstracts are now online at Origins.net – www.origins.net/BritishOrigins/Search/General/LondonPoorLaw/BOSearchLondonPoorLaw.aspx.

The abstracts include names and places plus incidental information such as relationships and occupations.

Early Baptist Meeting Houses

1798 House of Philip Blagden, Crockenhill
1799 House of Edward Hodges, Eynsford
1799 House of Richard Lever, Eynsford
1799 House of Samuel Hodsoll, Eynsford
1801 House of John Staples, Dorcas Mace tenant, Eynsford (Crockenhill names)
1806 House of Thomas Fearn, Eynsford
1806 Brick building lately erected by John Rogers of Eynsford
1817 House of William Simmons, Eynsford (Crockenhill name)
(Lambeth Palace Library – Register of Certificates of Dissenting Meeting Houses, 1790-1825)

Walter Morgan, seaman of Eynsford during the Crimean War

Walter was born 3 November 1836, and entered the Navy aged 17, of ruddy complexion, brown hair, grey eyed and 5 foot 2 inches tall. He had volunteered for 10 years after reaching his 18th birthday, and served on 6 ships during the period. Perhaps most noteworthy was his first ship HMS Rodney, launched in 1833 and serving in the Black Sea during the Crimean War (1853-1856), which was when Walter joined the ship.

(Peter Jones has researched this naval ancestor. He used online information from the National Archives: ADM/139/146)

Slavery Compensation payments, 1838

In 1838 when slavery was ended in some of Britain's colonies, owners could apply for compensation for losing free labour. In our part of Kent two local landowners were major beneficiaries – Charles Marsham, Earl of Romney (who owned the Petham Court Estate) received £7,269, and John Edward Tarleton of Chelsfield £6,526. The freed men, women and children received nothing, except the loss of their slave status. (Marika Sherwood, Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London, taken from 'The Journal of Kent History', September 2013, p.15)

Nuisances at Eynsford river front

Persistent playing of a steam organ, 1897

Mr Till led a ratepayers' protest against the playing of the 'steam fiend' in the centre of the village every night except on Sunday. F. Kimber, the tenant of the premises at the time, was the Chairman of the Parish Council, and was not sympathetic to the protest, so 16 leading ratepayers signed a petition expressing their great annoyance – the list including the Vicar, Robert Cannell, Sidney W. Gibson, J.H. Munn, P.J. Arnold – appealing to Kent County Council instead.

A 'third-rate fairground', 1947

The Kentish Times, 15 August 1947, reported an Eynsford Parish Council meeting at which Lady Fountain objected to a shrimp and shellfish van parked on the road by the river. Mr Penwarden was appalled that on Sunday evenings he had to break through the crowd when driving his car along Riverside. He suggested fencing off the river with barbed wire. Mrs Inston (Anne Cremer's mother) felt it was selfish to think of putting up barriers to people from south London who wanted to enjoy the countryside, when villagers had the enjoyment of the riverside during the weekdays. Mr Wellard said that plenty of visitors must be expected, especially as Arthur Mee had well-advertised the village. A majority of councillors voted to ask KCC to see what steps could be taken to prevent the nuisance and control of hawkers.

Dornier Bomber raid, Sunday 8 September 1940

About 100 Dorniers accompanied by Messerschmitt fighters set out to raid the London Docks, but some of them were engaged in the triangle Sevenoaks-Farningham-Maidstone, and 3 Dorniers and a Messerschmitt were shot down. The Messerschmitt crashed at Seal. One Dornier came down at Leeds, near Maidstone, while the other two crashed near Farningham Road station. 5/KG2 Dornier Do 17Z-3(2668) was severely damaged by ack-ack fire and crashed at 12.45 pm. The crew managed to bale out and were captured wounded. 5/KG2-2(1130) suffered a direct hit and exploded over the station, killing 3 crewmen with one captured injured. (Sevenoaks Chronicle, 13 September 1990)

Hop picking at Maplescombe

Jill Hussey (nee Wood) recalled her memories at a recent meeting of the Society. Her grandparents, Arthur Ernest and Amelia Wood, lived with their sons in Maplescombe Farm House from the early to mid-C20th. During hop picking season her grandfather worked in the oast house all night in order to keep the fires drying the hops alight and to turn over the layers of hops. Her grandmother worked as a booker, going round the hop gardens with the measurer and his bushel basket. She noted the number of bushels picked by the hop-pickers. The hop-pickers from the East End stayed in tents or huts on the farm, cooking meals outside. If they needed money they would go to the back door of the farm, where her grandmother would give them a 'sub' and deduct the amount from their pickers' books.

Grand Prix Cricket Match at Farningham in 1964

In 1964, cricketers at the Hartley Country Club were invited to join with Farningham Cricket Club to raise money for OXFAM. Ken Baker, a Scout Leader at the time, recalls going round with the collection tins. The programme for the match explains that an "Oxfam Grand Prix Drivers XI played against a combined Farningham and Hartley Country Club XI". Four of Hartley's second eleven played with members from Farningham against a Formula 1 Drivers team from Brands Hatch on Sunday 12th June. These well-known drivers, including Graham Hill, John Surtees, Mike Hailwood, had already taken part in the Grand Prix which had taken place on the preceding day, Saturday 11th June 1964, at Brands Hatch. The year, 1964 was the first year of Grand Prix racing at Brands Hatch, which continued every two years until 1986. The match took place at Farningham Cricket Ground. The Farningham players were Arthur Page, PT teacher at Dartford Grammar School, George Gunner, who lived in Oliver Crescent, Peter Woolley from South Hall, John Richards, who now lives in Eynsford and has not yet been contacted, Anthony Quinnell, whose mother kept score. The players from Hartley comprised John Gladdish, Douglas Waugh, Mike Mahon and Paul Barlow, who was chairman of the Country Club. Arthur Lush and Ian Gibbons went along to support the Hartley players. It has not been established which village team R. Baker and R. Harper came from. The result of the match is still to be researched.

House deeds

42 St. Martin's Drive, Eynsford.

The main deed is a 32-page abstract of title, which begins with the will in 1845 of Sir Percival Hart Dyke. Much of the Lullingstone estate was tied up in complicated marriage settlements, annuities and mortgages raised with property as co-lateral. There are several coloured plans of the 267-acre block of land in Eynsford from the station to Bower Lane and from Station Road up to Chalkhurst Wood, which was involved with these deeds.

3 July 1934, Sir William Hart Dyke's successors sold 5369 acres of the Lullingstone estate to Kemp Town Brewery of Brighton.

3 December 1934, the 267-acre block of land was sold to four joint vendors for £26,700. The idea was to develop a housing estate (Eynsford Mount Estate) over the entirety, but instead some land was sold off piecemeal, and only some houses were built.

22 December 1947, Jacob Goff and Louis Sydney Woolf sold to Frederick John Boulton for £566 the plot on which no.42 now stands, fronting the new road intending to be called St. Martin's Drive. There were stipulations about the new house, which was not to be built for less than £800.

25 August 1955, another developer, K.W.G. (Kent) Builders Ltd., bought the land and built the house.

24 August 1957 Mr and Mrs Syddique purchased and moved into the new house.

Sparepenny Cottage, Sparepenny Lane

These deeds are simpler. In 1929 Mary Fels, owner of the land, sold to Freda Louis Morgan, with right to build one detached house, of a design approved by the vendor. Frederick Sheldon bought the house in 1962, and then James Winter in 1968, before Elizabeth and Rodney Burton paid £12,750 for the property in 1970. Rodney allowed me to copy the deeds before a new owner took over.

Family History enquiries

Kingsland – John from Canada has traced his family history from his grandfather, George Kingsland, born in Eynsford in 1866, back to Thomas Kingsland born there in 1562. I gave him what information I could including Wilf's work on Yeomen of the Darent Valley, which included the will of Richard Kingsland, 1663.

Other enquiries

Lambourne Ltd. – Ellis, the current managing director, is piecing together the Company's history now that it has moved to Crayford. The Centre has an album compiled by the family, an early photograph, and a short history written by Mervyn Lambourne, and I am awaiting a visit from Ellis to view them.

Lullingstone Hunt poem – After the 'Dickens of a Christmas', the speaker mentioned a poem of 1830, of which he had an incomplete version. I was able to provide him with the whole poem from my collection, which he hopes to set to music.

Tithe wars – John is researching the tithe wars of the 1930s, when farmers objected to paying these to the Church, and launched a non-payment campaign. More farmers in Kent were summoned to County Courts for non-payment than in any other county.

KCC First World War timeline – Robert asked for local incidents, which might go on the timeline in the Kent History and Library Centre. I gave information about the Zeppelin raid on Crockenhill, 23/24 September 1916.

Fort Farningham – Mark, who lives near, has just discovered the fort and wanted to know more.

ARCHIVE REPORT (Susan Pittman 01322 669923) (archives@felhs.org.uk)

FELHS Centre

I was worried about the Centre during the December/January floods, with water rising from three directions – up the Cricket ground, along Riverside, and over Furlongers' farmyard, but the water level never rose enough to threaten the Centre. Thank you to the person who placed new sandbags at the side of the Centre. They are handy to have nearby, although they were so heavy that I could not pull them across the doors! During the summer the Parish Council had the front gully along the parking apron cleared so run-off from the road could drain away, and that seemed to have worked well. Lastly, new draught excluders under the doors have eliminated most of the

damp seepage. All this is very reassuring, but vigilance is required, and nothing of vital importance has been stored on any of the lower shelves in the Centre.

I have had the cassette tape of Anthony Roper School BBC recording made into a CD, but it is disappointing in that the Anthony Roper contingent was among 1000 children at St. Paul's Cathedral, and most of the recording was taken up with a story narrated by Johnnie Morris.

Acquisitions

From Michael Austin - Publication of his research into Marianne Farningham – more in next Bulletin.

From Diana Beamish – Photos of noteworthy events in Eynsford during 2012-2013.

From Philip McGarvey – CD set Kent 1841 Census; CD Lullingstone Castle grounds and newspaper cuttings of Farningham; Eynsford Conservation Area Appraisal Supplementary Planning Guidance, 2003; Wealden Times, April 2011, includes article 'Making History' with lavish photographs based on a tour round Lullingstone Castle; book 'Who do you think you are?'; various booklets and historical journals.

From Ivor Turner – Copy photo of his father, Harry Turner, born 1912, by a delivery bicycle with sign 'H.L. Welham, Boot Stores, Farningham'.

And finally.....

As I look out of the window today it looks like spring has arrived, the sky is blue and the snow drops and daffodils in my garden look stunning.

Our first evening meeting was enjoyable, an interesting talk from Dr Ann Kneif about Kent Coastal resorts up to 1914, because as you can imagine once the war started everything changed.

Things are gearing up for the WWI exhibitions, there is a lot of work to do and Susan is probably scouring the archive centre as we speak to find interesting information about our villages in 1914 and beyond.

Barbara and I are off to the World War I Fair at Sevenoaks Library on 22nd March and then on Saturday 5th April we will take the same display to the Dartford Branch of the North West Kent Family History Society

Busy times ahead for all of us and then in May we have the AGM at Farningham Village Hall. It would be good to see as many members as possible because the AGM is a chance for members to air their views and hear our plans for the future. Then after the formal part of the evening enjoy with us your committee a glass of wine and finger buffet.

Jan Wilkes – Editor (865122)



WHAT'S ON 2014?

Horton Kirby & South Darenth Local History Society

2014

12 th May	VI and V2 rockets – Frank Turner
9 th June	The Great Floods of Jan/Feb 1953 – Bronwen Sadler
14 th July	A day in the life of a JP – Derrick Fulford
8 th Sept	Trafalgar – Bronwen Sadler
10 th Nov	AGM

All meetings are held at the Village Hall, South Darenth from 8pm. If you require further information contact Barbara Cannell (01322 864253) (Remember your membership card)

Shoreham & District Historical Society

2014

25 th April	The Story of Ightham – David Williams
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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 525312) to check that no changes have been made to their programmes (Remember your membership card)

Hextable Heritage Society

2014

10 th April	Farningham Mill, behind the street scene – Barbara Cannell
8 th May	AGM & Ghosts over North West Kent - Chris Bull
12 th June	Chatham built Submarines – Frank Turner
10 th July	Otford Heritage Centre (Evening visit details to be advised later)
14 th Aug	Keep the home fires burning, Dartford 1914-18 – Chris Baker
11 th Sept	Biggin on the bump, early aviation – Bob Ogle
9 th Oct	Talk on the Royal British Legion
13 th Nov	Crayford's unknown Warrior, a WWI soldier – Dyanne Jarrett
5 th Dec	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)

