

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)

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Forthcoming Talks and Events

2010	Details	Where
19th Feb	The Seal Chart Murder – Monty Parkin	Eynsford
14th May	AGM including buffet	Farningham
24th Sept	Metal Detecting – Des Cook	Farningham
16th Oct	London Pride (Music Hall)	Farningham
26th Nov	The R101 Airship Titanic of the Sky – Brian Hussey	Eynsford

1ST AUGUST TO 31ST AUGUST 2010 - HISTORY MONTH

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)

As I sit writing this report another busy year for myself and committee members is coming to a close. A year that has seen a fall in both society and committee members. It has been agreed by those members still in office to change our committee meetings from a Wednesday morning to a Wednesday evening. These meetings will be held bi-monthly, starting on 27th January 2010, commencing at 7.30pm in The Olive Seal Hall, Eynsford

If our Society is to continue efficiently then some 'new blood' is needed. If you think that you could be the one to make a contribution to help us bring local history to not only the members but also to the local residents please contact either myself or one of the committee members.

2010 is our 25th Anniversary and we are planning an interesting programme of events, so as the saying goes, **WATCH THIS SPACE....**

PUBLICATION REPORT (Barbara Cannell)

Nothing new to report on our publications at the moment.

Brian Philp, who many of you know through his archaeological activities in this area, recently gave me some copies of his latest publication entitled 'Farningham Kent' (Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit, Kent Special Subject Series No 17). This publication describes Roman and Saxon discoveries at Frank's and a medieval riverside site and is A4 size with 36 pages, including plans, drawings of finds and photographs. The cost is £5.00 and Brian is generously giving £1.67 from the sale of each copy to our funds. contact KARC at Roman Painted House, New Street, Dover, CT17 9AJ telephone no 01304 826491

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

Centre for Kentish Studies, Maidstone, New User Session

Monday 15 February, 2010, 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon.

This will provide an introduction to the Centre and give advice on how to discover what is in the collections using the catalogues and various indexes available. It will also be a chance to get guidance from staff on particular research enquiries in an informal way.

To book contact the reception desk 01622 696197 or e-mail archives@kent.gov.uk

Remembering Farningham's Wartime Heroes by Frank Bamping

Memorial inscriptions to members of the armed forces from Farningham who died in the two world wars with biographical details, and stories of the battles in which they fought can be found on the Kent Archaeological website -

www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/Research

Names include Barton, Donnelly, Dunmall, Gordon, Gregory, Hill, Hotchkiss, Moseley, Shearmur, Spier, Turner.

Mr and Mrs Gregory and Mr and Mrs Spier lost two sons each in the First World War and Lt. Col and Mrs Moseley lost a son and a daughter in the Second World War.

Eynsford Baptist Church, 1806-1906 (see Acquisitions below)

Eynsford Baptist church arose from The Particular Baptist Church of Jesus Christ, which had been founded in Wilmington in 1775. The earliest date of a meeting in Eynsford was in 1792. Meetings attracting 6 or 7 were held in Mr Hodges' cottage, but numbers gradually increased, one new member being Mr Floyd, of the Paper Mill. A purpose-built Meeting House was opened in 1806 and this continued in use until it became unsound and was replaced by the present building in 1906.

Building account of Farningham New National School and Master's Residence, 1873 (see Acquisitions below)

The account is in beautiful copperplate handwriting by Revd. William J. Brewer, vicar of Farningham. Unfortunately there was a shortfall of £79 4s 11d, at the end of the project. The total raised was £1487 9s 0d as against costs of £1566 13s 11d. Most money came by subscription, £100 by value of the site from Mr Waring, and local farmers gave free cartage to the value of £115. The architect was Thomas Renton and the builder, Mr Gumbrell. The committee met at The Lion and included the vicar, Mr W. Smith of Chimhams and Mr W.B. Rashleigh. A new school was necessary after the 1870

Education Act, which brought in compulsory elementary education.

Will of John Steward of Lullingstone, 1840

John served Sir Percival Hart Dyke. He bequeathed his watch 'with the appendages' to his great-nephew. He left everything else to his nephews, George Steward, park keeper at Cobham, and Joseph Steward, park keeper at Lullingstone. The nephews were to invest the residue after his affairs had been settled so that they could provide his widow with a pension. On her death, they would inherit whatever was left.

John Marshall, inventor of the dandy roll

In our collection about Eynsford Paper Mill is a dandy roll, so when an article on its inventor appeared in the North West Kent Family History Society magazine, volume 11 no.10 of June 2009, I was immediately interested. John Marshall came from Dartford and in 1801 was apprenticed to Bryan Donkin, who in turn was apprenticed to John Hall of Dartford who designed and constructed equipment used in the local papermaking industry. In 1829 John Marshall was appointed to make moulds for Bank of England notes. The dandy roll put the patterned wire marks, which can be seen in the background of notes, into the paper. He died in 1875 aged 87.

More on the Wesley boulder

I mentioned that the sarsen stone at the side of Sidonio's might be the stone, but Anne Cremer remembers a rounded pudding boulder on the corner of the road in front of the shop. This was covered up when the paving in the front of the shop was altered. (I wonder whether it can be uncovered?) Alan has taken a photo of Anne on the spot for the archive, as well as one of the sarsen stone. By sheer coincidence I happened to look up the Eynsford entry in Arthur Mee's 'Kent' (1937):-

By the bridge, at the corner of a house facing the lychgate, is a huge boulder on which John Wesley stood to preach in the days when he used to visit his old friend at Shoreham rectory and preach at five in the morning, with William Blake fast asleep close by.

Monopoly of making Venetian glasses

In the C17th the monarchs used to hand out monopolies to reward loyal courtiers, until the practice became so unpopular that it was one of the grievances which led to the Civil War in Charles I's reign.

On 3 October 1607 Sir Percival Hart of Lullingstone was granted the monopoly of the making of Venetian glasses. I wonder what profit he made. (Calendar of State Papers Domestic, SP14/28/64)

Family history enquiries

- **Mace of Crockenhill** – I put Jeremy in touch with other Mace researchers.
- **Mason of Eynsford** – Frank came from Croydon to hear the Dartford Museum talk. I was able to help him locate an early Mason headstone in St. Martin's churchyard.
- **Booker of Shoreham and Eynsford** – Peter has some family memorabilia from Eynsford mill.
- **Booker and Spooner of Crockenhill** – I was able to give Jill some information from the censuses.

Other enquiries

- **Farningham Home for Little Boys** – Enquirers often approach the Society, although the Home was not in Farningham. I recently contacted the clerk of Horton Kirby and South Darent parish council, to whom I have previously referred enquirers, who tells me that the place to contact is:-

The Office
Southdown Retirement Village
South Darenth
01322 864279

I will put this on the Noticeboard on the website to help future enquirers. The Office knows the details of the Old Boys network and where information about the boys and the Home is located.

- **Flood relief in Crockenhill** – I expect Eynsford and Farningham readers with obvious threat of flooding from the Darent will be surprised to read that parts of Crockenhill are vulnerable to flash floods because rainwater runs down from the higher parts to the church area and floods properties in Eynsford Road and Seven Acres. Recently I was asked for old maps of the village so that former ponds and old drainage systems could be located. The earliest map I had was the 1802 Lullingstone estate map, which showed all the ponds. As a result a new pond is being dug at Willow Farm to do the work of two previous ponds which have been filled in.
- **Biography of Lt. Col. Geoffrey Meates** – This is being written by Robert who lives in Australia. He particularly wanted a copy of a portrait of Lt. Col. Meates who is closely linked with the excavation of Lullingstone Roman villa.
- Request for copy of **Bernard Drew's book 'Hundred Years of Farningham Cricket Club'**. Clare has now acquired a copy after I put her in contact with specialists in second-hand books about Kent.
- **Black Lion pub to The Lion** – Robin wanted to know when the change of name and why. I suggested he purchase FELHS Publication no.19, The Pubs of Farningham, by Hilary and Wilfrid Harding.
- **Dissertation on the Roman and Saxon sites in the Darent Valley** – Joseph wanted help to find information on these, especially centred on metal detecting. I suggested him Geoffrey Burr as an invaluable contact.

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

FELHS Centre

It is hoped that, by the time you read this, new tambour cupboards will be in place at the Centre to house the audio-visual collection. These cupboards have fronts which slide round to the back of the cupboard so the doors do not open out into the room. These will be ideal in the limited space we have available. Unfortunately, before the cupboards can be installed, two filing cabinets will have to be emptied and moved and other furniture rearranged, for which a working party will be required.

Anne Cremer and her friend, Linda, Jackie Clark and Veronica Sheppard, made excellent inroads into sorting the uncatalogued items, and would welcome any other volunteers. Sessions last for about two hours and are being coordinated by Anne Cremer, who would soon give the little training required. If you would like to join in, even for one session as a trial, please do make contact - Anne Cremer 01322 863732 or myself (details above)

I continue to respond to all enquiries and, if necessary, the Centre can be opened to individuals by appointment.

Acquisitions

From Hilary Harding – A marvellous collection, including original items about the **Farningham Races** - mounted posters for Farningham Races, 1835, and Hop Pole Races of 1843-1846, and one handwritten draft poster; race cards of 1840-1845; race dinner ticket, 1841; Bell's Life in London and Sporting Chronicle newspaper of 11 October 1846, with report of the races, and letter to the newspaper. Local gentlemen such as Thomas Waring organised these and they were called Hop Pole because the Racing Dinner was held in that establishment afterwards. For more about these races see FELHS Publication no.32, Miscellany 5, which contains a paper by Hilary on the subject. Copy of illustrated and coloured **Farningham Parish Map**, with historical and natural history notes. About **50 original photos and postcards of Farningham** places and people, most dated and annotated. Other items include **booklet 1806-1906 Eynsford Baptist Church; souvenir programmes** of Children's Concert, 1901, Farningham through the Ages, 1936, concert for Opening Farningham Village Hall, 1938 and This is Farningham, 1973; **motor fuel ration book**, no date; **newspaper cuttings** mainly from the 1940s; pamphlets on **guidance for parish councils** regarding litter and fire equipment, 1930s; letter requesting **parish charity**, undated; **Farningham New National School and Master's house** building account, 1873; **local invoices** of 1920s and 1930s for grocer's G.T. Arnold, Glen's Library, grocer's Penney Son and Parker, grocer's draper's and ironmonger's Waller Brothers, confectioner A. Oxtoby; **Songes d'Hier for Pianoforte** by A.G. Guthrie signed by the composer, 1923; booklet Further Notes of **Kentish Bee Boles** by V.F. Desborough, 1958.

From Wilf Duncombe – copy of documents relating to a tithe dispute between the vicar of Farningham and the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury, 1838-1840.

From John King – copy of his article 'The Airport that Never was – Lullingstone, a Kentish Story' from The Bump no.13, 2009.

From David Ludlow – copy of late 1890s/early 1900s **photo of Tudor Cottage**, Eynsford, from glass slide.

From Peter Meyer – copy of 'Lubrication and Care of the Wilson pre-selective self-changing gearbox.' Peter had contacted me for help in locating a photo of Wilson, which he eventually tracked down through the Tank Museum at Bovington. See FELHS publication no.22, Walter Gordon Wilson, engineer and tank pioneer, by Wilf Duncombe.

From Michael Penwarden – **Hasted's map, c.1800**, framed and mounted copperplate of the Hundred of Axstane.

FELHS Centre

Family History Lookups

Registers for Eynsford, Farningham and Lullingstone searched, births, marriages and death certificated applied for, cost £7.00. Census searched for named individuals with copies and PCC indexes searched and wills obtained. Prices are dependent on the number of pages.

Donations please to the Society . Contact: **Stella Baggeley 01322 862812**

and finally....

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to

you all

Jan Wilkes - Editor (865122)

WHAT'S ON 2009/2010

Horton Kirby & South Darenth Local History Society 2010

11th Jan	Women at War - Ann Kneif
8th March	Sailing barges in their heyday - Tony Farnham
10th May	Chislehurst Caves - Gordon Dennington
12th July	History of Otford - Cliff Ward
12th Sept	Railways of Kent - Bob Ratcliffe
8th Nov	Kent Villages, signs and Inn signs - Colin Coe

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 2010

8th Jan	British Broadcasting - Dan Dray
12th Feb	Intrigue, Ambition and Respectability at Ightham Mote - Pat Mortlock
6th March	AGM - Darent Delights - Jonathan Fenner

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 2010

14th Jan	Chevening House - Sharon Mitchell
11th Feb	Danson House - Janet Hearn-Gillham
11th March	An Armchair Guide to Swanscombe - Chris Bull
8th April	Cooling Secret Radio Station - Frank Turner
13th May	AGM plus Talk on Kent Ghosts - Dennis Chambers
10th June	History of Fire Fighting in Kent - Roger Mardon
8th July	Visit to St Margaret's Church, Darenth 7.15pm at church
12th Aug	More Cinemas of Yesterday - Andy Garner
9th Sept	Hartley church revisited - Gerald Cramp
14th Oct	If War should Come - Chris Baker
11th Nov	Puppets, Piers and Pantomimes - Alsn Stockwell
Dec	Members Christmas Party

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)

