

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 100

December 2013

Forthcoming Talks and Events

2014	Details	Where
14 th Feb	The Kentish Seaside Resorts until WW1 – Ann Kneif	EVH
23 rd May	AGM	FVH
28 th June*	Elizabethan Pageant (full details of this will follow In the next bulletin)	EVH
16 th Aug*	World War I Exhibition	CVH
23 rd Aug*	World War I Exhibition	EBC
30 th Aug*	World War I Exhibition	
13 th Sept*	Trip to Faversham (tbc)	
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)

DISCOVER HIDDEN LULLINGSTONE PARK – WEDNESDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2013

WALK LEADER - SUSAN PITTMAN

She will explain various historic features of interest along the way, often going off the beaten track. The walk will be in two separate parts, so can be taken as a whole day with a lunch break, or just morning or afternoon.

Meet Park Gate car park 9.45am for 10am.

First part 10am to 12pm from Park Gate

Lunch 12pm to 1pm at The Lodge, off Park Gate car park.

Second part 1pm to 3pm from Park Gate

To enable lunch to be over within an hour, it will be kept simple. Soup of the Day with baguette and butter (£4.00 approx.) or jacket potato with filling (£5.00 approx.)

order own drinks as required during lunch, or bring your own lunch to eat outside.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Barbara Cannell 864253)

I often wonder as I drive around the countryside whether the people living in the towns and villages that I'm passing through know anything about or even care about the place they call home. Do they know the history of their local church or school, the buildings along the streets that they walk down or the people who once lived and worked on the farms and in the factories and mills that surround their homes. The need to record and preserve events from the past and what happens today are what historians of the future will be looking for when they in their turn write about the past. Individual memories of people, buildings and events written down and given to history societies and libraries will keep alive the way we lived. It is because families kept their family bibles and photograph albums, scrapbooks of newspaper cuttings compiled over many years and given to societies such as our own that we have such a variety of information at our fingertips.

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

C19th Kent newspapers online

www.kentonline.co.uk/kentonline/digitalarchive.aspx

Kent Messenger Group has set up a free online digital archive of 'The South Eastern Gazette', 1852-1912. Once you have registered it is free to anyone living in the UK and pages can be downloaded to your home computer. There are also special interest articles available.

The British Library paid-for (or Findmypast commercial) database has the following available on line – West Kent Guardian 1834-1856, Kentish Gazette 1768-1883, Kentish Chronicle 1859-1867, Kent and Sussex Courier 1834-1856.

1274-1275 Enquiry held by Edward I into various rights and misdeeds

Master Ralph of **Farningham** claimed that Henry III had granted him the right to hunt in Farningham, but could produce no evidence for this. Another complaint against him was that he had obstructed two common ways in Farningham with a wall, built opposite the Church.

As William de Valoyngnes held part of the manor of **Maplescombe**, he was bound to pay one penny as an offering should the king come to Maplescombe church to hear mass.

Warin de Chaucombe and Gregory de Ruxley had taken the barony of Eynsford and other manors of Sir Nicholas de Criol, deceased, and held them for the king.

More about Priory placename in Eynsford

In about 1182 William son of Ralph of Eynsford granted Eynsford Church and land in Eynsford to Canterbury Cathedral Priory when he became a monk there. The income of the church was assigned to the poor, but the Archbishops of Canterbury gave it to their clerks. Eventually William's son and grandson, William III of Eynsford, brought a case before Henry II, and the church and land were given over to the Priory almonry to be used to benefit the poor as was originally intended.

(Canterbury Cathedral Archives CCA-DCc-ChAntE/189A)

Postscript to above - 1225 Farningham Church

When the church of Farningham fell vacant there was uncertainty about whether or not it was a chapel of Eynsford. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Stephen Langton, decreed that Henry, rector of Eynsford, should have all the tithes, and the Priory of Canterbury, which was claiming a share as a chapel of Eynsford, was to have the

tithes of corn and some land, from which to pay the vicar 100 shillings. The rector of Eynsford could propose a new vicar, and the monks would have no other rights afterwards.

The marriage settlement of Revd. Thomas Hart Dyke to Miss Elizabeth Fairfax, 1830

I have recently transcribed this lengthy document, which mentions Petham Court, its 400 acres of land, with all its fields; the tenants of various fields in Eynsford; Parkhouse farm held by Boetius Pryer; Skeet Hill farm of 250 acres; East Hall farm of 300 acres in St Mary Cray and Orpington. Should Elizabeth be widowed she was to receive an annual sum of £400 from the income derived from all these lands.

Butcher's Lane, Eynsford

Barrie Payne sent me some comments following the entry in the last Bulletin. He points to other tracks in Eynsford leading up the valley side to the higher land behind, and wonders whether Butcher's Lane is one of a series. He has heard older residents seeing beef cattle herded through the village to the butchers at Essington House and wonders whether they came from hillside fields down Butcher's Lane. The lane used to be lined with elm trees, hence the naming of Elm Cottages. Lastly, he has found many broken bottles and clay pipes along the edge of the garden next to Butcher's Lane, perhaps discards from passing users. He once dug up a complete stoneware mineral water bottle used by Spendiff's of Dartford.

The Inner Gate by E.H. Carrier, 1937

This regional study of North West Kent before the Second World War is one of the books donated to FELHS by Christopher France. It covers a broad range of topics and gives an insight into what our area was like leading up to the late 1930s.

- Orchard trees abound on the Thanet sand in the neighbourhood of Crockenhill, the Swanleys, Wilmington, Northfleet, Bexley, the Crays and Orpington. Crockenhill is particularly noted for its cherries. The special Kent cherry is cultivated along the borders of the Thames and in the Darent Valley. This fruit is said to have been grown in the district by the Romans, but the best kinds were introduced into Kent from Flanders in 1540. (p.50-51)
- The lime-burning of the regional chalk was revived under the Norman kings, the ruins of whose castles (such as Eynsford) show signs of cement work. (p.56)
- The Darent Valley contains 16.9% of the total paper-makers of the county, according to the 1921 census returns. (p.65)
- There are Saxon burial places at Darenth, Horton Kirby, Eynsford and Lullingstone, and at this latter place Saxon glassware has also been found. (p.88)
- In the C18th a post coach left the Borough (London) daily at 6.20am and 2.00pm for Eltham, Foots Cray, Farningham, Kingsdown, Wrotham and onwards. (p.76)
- Population from 1931 Census – Eynsford (including Crockenhill) 2,353, Farningham 1,529, Lullingstone 118.

Farningham Parish Council Minutes, 1914-1918

In 1914 and 1915 there were lengthy discussions about the provision of fire appliances for the parish, which would have to be bought by the parish. A hose-cart

was purchased from Longfield. A successful appeal for donations to cover £18 worth of equipment meant that 2 helmets, a nozzle and hoses were purchased, but 3 lamps were still required. In 1917 meetings to discuss setting up a joint Fire Brigade with neighbouring parishes were held.

1 August 1916 – An order taking over land for the training area in Farningham for the 67th (Home Counties) Division was read.

6 February 1917 – The Kent Women's Agricultural Committee asked the Parish Council to promote pig-keeping and potato growing, but the Parish Council felt that with the high price of feeding stuff little could be done.

12 March 1917 – The Parish Council was pressed to promote the National Service Scheme, but said that the parishioners were doing all they possibly could and the Parish Council could not see what further could be done.

5 June 1917 – The Superintendent of Police in Dartford was asked that in future warning of the approach of enemy aircraft be given.

5 February 1918 - Miss Mary Watts of Hawkhurst, Beechenlea, Mr Bertram Grey of Dunbrae and the vicar, Rev. F.W. Smith, had given valuable assistance in the recent distribution of food rationing forms.

There was a scarcity of tobacco and cigarettes in the village, due to lack of transport to supply licensed retailers. It was resolved to communicate with the Imperial Tobacco Company to see whether anything could be done.

12 March 1918 – Shrapnel helmets for Special Constables, on night duty, were required since recent experience had shown that during enemy air raids they were quite necessary for the protection of the men.

Some farm labourers were not receiving the minimum wage. The chairman pointed out that Lloyd George had asked agricultural labourers to do all they could to assist farmers in the production of food, but they could not be expected to do so on a starvation wage. He instanced a single man aged 21 receiving 21 shillings a week, when the minimum wage was 25 shillings, from which almost always 2s 3d to 3s 3d rent was deducted.

2 April 1918 – The Board of Agriculture and Fisheries said able-bodied men were entitled to receive not less than 25 shillings a week, inclusive of rent or other allowances.

4 June 1918 – Schemes for the provision of houses for the working classes were being planned after the war. 20 new houses were required in Farningham. Proposed sites included 1½ acres between the footpath leading to Eynsford and the river, also the site of Messrs Cannell's nursery at Swanley Junction.

4 February 1919 – 4 further housing sites were recommended; both sides of Button Street near its junction with Main Road; on the Main Road just above the Bricklayers' Arms Hotel; the Croft Meadow; Upper George Meadow at the back of the National School.

13 May 1919 – A tank was being delivered as a war trophy. It was proposed that it be placed on the green on the Church side in front of the Manor House, with a roof of architectural design.

Other Societies' Publications

I have recently purchased some publications from Shoreham Historical Society for my collection, three of which are relevant to our area, namely, 'The Coming of the Railway to Shoreham', and 'Paper Makers in Shoreham 1690-1921', both of which complement, but which are less detailed than our publications of the same subjects by Wilf Duncombe. The third publication, 'The Coming of the M25 to Shoreham', covers a subject about which a volume could be written for Eynsford!

'Sinking the Link' by John Woodhead is a recent impressive publication from the South Darent and Horton Kirby Local History Society. It is of interest

because of comparisons and contrasts of the campaign against Route 2 of the High Speed Rail Link compared with Eynsford and Crockenhill's campaign against Route 3.

'Sevenoaks – An Historical Dictionary' by David Killigray and Elizabeth Purves, published for the Sevenoaks Historical Society and the Sevenoaks Society, is a fascinating book exploring many facets of the area's history. It can be dipped into subject by subject to reveal many a surprise.

Family history enquiries

- **Elliott MIs** – Bob, from New Zealand, wanted to locate memorials to the Elliott family. He had found a modern one in St. Martin's Churchyard, and an earlier one to George and Jane (nee Dalton) Elliott in Eynsford Baptist Churchyard. I confirmed that these were the only ones to survive in Eynsford, but that the Old Burying Ground at Darns Hill, Crockenhill, contained a third from the 1860s. I also had a plan of the Eynsford Baptist ground in 1863, which showed a row of Elliott headstone alongside the extant one, which seem to have been in the path of the new Baptist Chapel building of the early 1900s. **Bob would like to make contact with any Elliott descendants still living locally.**
- **Bryant** – Rosemary enquired about reference to letters sent by Arthur Bryant to his mother, which she had noticed on the FELHS website. Her grandfather Arthur Bryant b. 1898 moved to Eynsford from Alton with his family, when his father Arthur Henry Bryant found employment in the paper mill. She wrote that his sister, Gertrude, played the organ in the church, and his sister, Barbara, worked at Lullingstone Castle. Rosemary has managed to trace her Bryant family tree back to the early 1700s, and wondered whether the letters were connected to her family. Unfortunately, I had no knowledge of the letters, and could not trace where Rosemary had picked up the reference on the website, and she has not replied to my follow-up email. **Please let me know if you can help.**
- **John Walter** – Ken made a further enquiry about the will of Elizabeth (nee Brasier) married Edward Walter, later married John Hilliam in 1780. In her will she left her estate to her son, John Walter, appointing Sir John Dixon Dyke and Thomas Dyke, of Lullingstone, as trustees and guardians until John reached the age of majority. Ken wanted to know what the connection between Elizabeth and the Dyke family might have been, but I have been unable to find a link.

Other enquiries

- **Housing in Eynsford from 1930s to present** - Faye wanted advice on this research topic for her course at the University of Greenwich. She later thanked me for my guidance. I hope she might donate a copy of her research to FELHS in due course.
- **Oast house, Maplescombe** – Alan and Wendy have recently moved into the property and asked for its history. Unfortunately, Ron Denny, a previous resident, who had a mine of information but never wrote it down for me to hand on. If you can help, please let me know.
A General Plea - Please if you have copies of deeds to your house or background information about it or previous owners, do allow the Society to take copies, or have some done yourself to donate to the Society. It is a shame when the history of your house is lost when you leave it.

- **Brick from Bournemouth brickworks, Crockenhill** – I have been asked to identify whether a yellow handmade stock brick found in Leewood Place, Swanley, came from these works. I have a brick from the brickworks and will be able to make a comparison when David can bring over his brick.
- **Image of shop by Crockenhill Village Green** – I sent Wendy a photograph of the former sweet shop, which she thought Joseph and Sophia (nee Whiffen) Turner had run in the 1850s, but she now thinks they ran a beer shop.
- **Darent Valley publication in preparation** – Rod would like any information on the following properties - Eynsford House, Bower House, Duttons & Russell Garth Cottage, Fountain Cottages & Bridge House (The shop). Please contact him at rodshelton@greenbee.net

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

FELHS Centre

Veronica Sheppard and I have made an extra effort to complete the artefacts catalogue, and were successful. I have made no further progress with cataloguing the filing cabinet items, but instead have started to research daily life in our villages during the 1st World War, to build up material for our exhibition next year. The exhibition will be circulated to venues in Crockenhill, Eynsford and Farningham on 3 consecutive Saturdays in August 2014.

Unfortunately, in mid-July a water leak appeared on the forecourt of our Centre – the water trickling down towards the doors. Colin Wise kindly put sandbags in front of the main door, and the parish council was asked to clear the gully in front of the building to allow the water to drain away more effectively. The Parish Council is responsible for the forecourt and is aware of the problem. It is to be hoped that the leak will be repaired before heavy rainfalls return, but so far no water has penetrated the building.

Acquisitions

From Wilf Duncombe – 3x CDs (tithes apportionment; key names on 1st World War embroidered tablecloth; photos Crockenhill war memorials); photograph of 2nd World War Eynsford servicemen board; 22 (including 3 duplicates) photographs by Jeremy Duncombe, 12 originals from 1974-1980 of Eynsford, Lullingstone and Otford Palace, 8 copies from older photographs, including Tudor Cottage in 1900; folder of notes for publication on E.D. Till; envelope with notes on Floyd and Fellows for Eynsford Paper Mill publication.

From Eynsford Village Society – A framed modernistic work of art by Magnin from the then twinned French community of Breteuil-sur-Iton, presented as a gift to Eynsford on 28 April 1983 after a concert by an 18-strong choir from Eynsford.

From Christopher France – 12 Kent local history books to keep or give away.

From Jo Hudson – 10 mounted photographs of Eynsford church and bridge area taken by her father Dr John N.H. Andrews in 1945, when on a visit with his family.

From Jill Hussey (nee Wood) – Jill gave a talk about life in Eynsford Village School in the 1940s at our AGM, and passed over the text for our collection.

From Barrie Payne – Programmes and tickets for concert in Eynsford Village Hall by Alison Farrant, 17 May 1986; programme of A Festival of Flowers in Saint Martin Eynsford, June 1976; publicity poster for viewing 1937 and 1961 films of Eynsford and of recent flood (likely to be one of 1960s).

From Susan Pittman – 4th Tree Survey of Crockenhill by Susan Pittman; 8 postcards of Eynsford, one postmarked 1904 of castle, with reference to sender staying in Castle House, another of a distant view of the village, postmarked July 24, 1917, referring to

seeing aeroplanes on Sunday morning and going fruit picking.

Conclusions of Questionnaire

I am not a great lover of questionnaires but sometimes they can give you an idea of which way as a Society we should go or the confirmation that we are doing the right thing. Thank you to the 14 members who completed questionnaires, these are their conclusions:

- 13 out of 14 were satisfied with our evening meeting arrangements
- 5 out of 14 would like afternoon weekday/Saturday meetings once in a while
- 10 out of 14 are interested in special evening events
- 10 out of 14 are interested in outings (suggestions Hever Castle, 1/2 day trips to local historic places, Scotney Castle, Pugin's House, Franks Hall, Chartwell and more)
- 5 out of 14 are interested in being involved with a recording memories project (something we are considering for the very near future)
- 8 out of 14 would like easier access to the archive centre
- 5 out of 14 would like the archive centre open on a regular basis

Jan Wilkes

and finally.....

Following on from Barbara's report, communication is a wonderful thing enabling us to contact those we may never have known about, conveying information and photographs from their past. I am on such a journey for a family in the village, following an inquiry to Susan Pittman I contacted the addressee and to date have been passing information between her and a very elderly lady I visit in Eynsford. Both parties have had many memories nudged for them and hopefully they will be able to meet sometime soon in the future. It is such a privilege to be privy to peoples' memories. We must never forget how valuable they are, be it a humble farm worker or a rich land owner.

Talking of memories our next evening meeting is all about hop picking in Kent. Come along and enjoy a piece of hop picker cake and if you have any recollections of that time in our history bring them with you.

I also note that another part of our past has disappeared; The Fruiterers Arms (known also as the Mudhole) in Crockenhill is now no more, demolished and gone without a trace....

Jan Wilkes – Editor (865122)

WHAT'S ON 2013

**Horton Kirby & South Darenth Local History Society
2013**

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
2013**

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
2013**

5th 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)