

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 102

June 2014

Forthcoming Talks and Events

2014	Details	Where
16 th Aug*	World War I Exhibition	CVH
23 rd Aug*	World War I Exhibition	EBC
30 th Aug*	World War I Exhibition	FVH
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)

It was rather unfortunate that our AGM meeting held at Farningham on the 23rd May clashed with a quiz night in Eynsford. Nevertheless following the business of the AGM Geoff Burr, a Society member, keen metal detectorist turned archaeologist, spoke to us about the recent work that he had been doing in the field behind William Alexander's house. Finding some very wide stone walls and with the aid of modern technology the outline of what could be a moat surrounding a collection of buildings. Together with many pieces of ancient pottery he and his colleagues are uncovering the history of what could be a most interesting building and the people who had lived in Farningham many years ago. We then enjoyed a tasty buffet prepared by Veronica

and Dee and were able to look at the various 'finds' that Geoff had on show in display cabinets.

Due to the small number of members attending we were again unable to attract any newcomers to the committee something which is now becoming a serious concern to the few remaining committee members. It is for that reason at the moment no meetings for next year have been arranged although we have several new ideas that we would really like to undertake. Ideas include having more meetings during the year, maybe changing the day of the week, morning or afternoon meetings for those members who find evening meetings difficult to attend. Coffee mornings with a theme or looking at selected items from the archives and organising half day outings visiting places of local interest. As I say, we have many ideas to hopefully keep the Society together but we would also like to hear from you if there is any special topic of family history, your own family or another family in the area, or any event from the past that you would like to know about. Please contact myself or Jan and you never know what can be found in our archives, they are there to be used.

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

Wills of those who fought in the First World War - Before going into combat members of the Armed Forces made out wills, copies of which were kept by the Authorities. Copies of wills of all combatants, dying and surviving, can now be requested at <http://www.gov.uk/probate-search>

1766 Map of proposed turnpike road from Farningham to Shoreham - FELHS was given first refusal of this original map, but at £450 it was beyond our reach. However, James kindly sent a digital copy of part of the map for our collection. If you would like to know more, details are on the Noticeboard page of our website. At Farningham Harvey's Malthouse is marked, but of particular interest to me was that the lower section of Lullingstone Park is labelled 'these two fields were laid into the Park about 20 years since.'

The Swing Riots - The Swing riots of the 1830s were named after a fictional Captain Swing whose name appeared on pamphlets inciting action to be taken against steam threshing engines, which would take work away from farm labourers. The action taken was to burn barns, stacks and farm buildings. One of first incendiary acts occurred on 1 June 1830 against a well-known farming family the Mosyers, who owned land in Crockenhill and Orpington. Following the disturbances the Commissioners enquiring into the Poor Laws in 1834 sent out questionnaires to rural districts asking whether anyone had information about the causes and consequences of the Swing riots. The questionnaire for Farningham was written up by Robert Smith, who responded that the riots, no doubt, were for the purpose of raising the wages: the burning from various causes; some out of spite, some for the sake of making a disturbance.

(Kent Machine Breakers: the story of the 1830 Riots, by Jill Chambers, 2006)

Trial of Steam Ploughs at Farningham, June 1862 - These featured in the Illustrated London News, in which a view of the scene appeared. The ploughs on trial were an Aveling engine, a Fowler engine, and a Howard engine. Other machines on display were a three-tiered cultivator, and stationery windlasses.

Farningham folders in Dartford Library - I found the item above in folders in Dartford Library. There were several folders, some containing original items, but most were copies. I was fascinated by a print of Farningham Church in 1860 showing it with a thatched roof. The Lion and Farningham bridge featured in a print of 1850. But my favourite was of the hunt meet of the Mid-Kent Staghounds at the Lion, Farningham, in 1889, with a lower picture of the riders hesitating at a ditch, with a bolder rider jumping over with hounds at the horses' feet.

Coal posts - You might have noticed short white pyramid topped posts in the Crockenhill/ Orpington area. There are about 6 in Crockenhill and an obelisk on the railway embankment on the approach to Swanley station from London. These are all listed structures. They were erected in the 1850s on the approaches to London to mark parish boundaries, which if crossed with loads of coal had to pay a tax. The money raised was used to build the embankment along the Thames in London under which new sewers were laid. Other infrastructure projects were also funded from the tax. <http://www.wsn.co.uk/coalposts/index.html> has images of those found in the Orpington area. (Thanks to Peter Jones for giving me the website information)

Marianne Farningham and Northampton - It is always pleasing to receive the results of an enquiry to add to FELHS collection. Michael has provided a brief outline of Marianne's life especially in Northampton, along with photos of various buildings associated with her. As archivist of the Moulton History Society he was excited to learn that various items belonging to Marianne Farningham had been handed over to a local preacher, including her note-book or diary, but his expectations were dashed when he learnt that this had since 'disappeared' - such are the vagaries of passing on historical items. However, 2 communion jars that Marianne used at the bedside of sick Baptists were handed over to him, and are now in the William Carey Museum, Moulton.

Scarlet Fever epidemic, 1914-1915 From Dartford Rural District Council Minutes:

22 September 1914 - 24 cases, 2 in Lullingstone, 5 in Eynsford, 1 in Crockenhill. 2 cases from Lullingstone in one family probably caught from being playmates of the 2 families of Eynsford children.

20 October 1914 - 9 scarlet fever cases in Eynsford and Farningham in 5 families. Outbreak from Eynsford Council School, and 4 from one family in Farningham.

15 December 1914 - 6 more cases in Eynsford, adjacent to houses where there were previous cases.

12 January 1915 - 1 case in Eynsford. Schoolmaster lodged with this family. Child in hospital. School closed for 14 days for Christmas holidays.

Recent epidemic somewhat abated. Alterations to sanitary conveniences at Eynsford Council School not yet carried out. Privies at Baptist Sunday School to be cleansed and limed.

9 February 1915 - 1 more case in Eynsford.

23 March 1915 - 1 more case in Crockenhill.

4 May 1915 - Eynsford Council School drainage relayed, better drinking water to be provided.

(KHLC RD/Da/AM/1/28)

Eynsford Church of England School was also closed from 28 September 1914 - 12 October 1914 because of the epidemic. (5th Report of Kent Education Committee)

Belgian Refugees in the First World War - Frans was trying to learn more about his ancestors stay in Britain after they fled from Belgium in the First World. Crockenhill, Eynsford and Farningham all took in Belgian families and the children attended the local schools. I have featured these in the 1st World War Exhibition, so will write more fully in a later Bulletin.

Order of Service for the unveiling of Swanley and District war memorial, 1922 - Looking through this recently, I lingered on the 'and District' and looking through the names realised that several of those commemorated were also named on the Farningham war memorial (6 names) and on the Crockenhill (18 names) war memorial. If anyone is researching the names on the Swanley war memorial the information gathered from Farningham and Crockenhill will provide a head start. The duplication makes one wonder the criteria used for the inclusion of names.

Grand Prix Cricket Match at Farningham in 1964 - Thanks to David the two members whose village team had not been established are now known to have played for Farningham. He believes R. Baker to be Reg Barker, who was Captain of the 2nd Eleven, when David played for Farningham, and he thinks R. Harper might have been fast bowler, Ron Harper. He adds that he believes Arthur Page represented GB in the Olympics, possibly in gymnastics, and that he was a very fine cricketer. George Gunner's son, Trevor, followed his father's love of the game and played for Kent.

Family History enquiries

Colyer - Vince was researching his wife's 4x great grandfather, Thomas Colyer, 1645-1710. I directed him to Hilary Harding's book 'Farningham and its Mill.'

Fellows - Daniel wanted to know more about his 2x great grandfather, Rev. Edward Thomas Fellows, born/baptised Eynsford in 1833. I pointed him in the direction of Wilf Duncombe's FELHS publication on Eynsford Paper Mill, and sent him a family tree provided by another Fellows descendant.

Arthur Mee - Keith, an Australian professor, is completing his book on Arthur Mee and requested photos of Marjorie Mee, and images of Eynsford at the time Arthur Mee resided there. I was able to provide photos, but a couple were under copyright, which I have pointed out to him. He is going to donate a copy of his book to the Society.

Ernest and Clara Kilburn Scott and the Farningham Samoyed Kennels - Jessica and Tim, their grandchildren, were planning a visit to Beesfield Farm, and I provided them with contacts for the present owners. I found one photo of the Farm at Dartford Library, and was waiting for them to contact me again to visit the Centre, but have not heard back.

John Walter - Ken made yet further enquiries about the will of Elizabeth (nee Brasier) married Edward Walter, later married John Hilliam in 1780. I found some

more references to the names for him, namely that a John Walter was a parish constable in 1664, and that the Hair Powder certificates of 1795 show Elizabeth Hilliam to be a housekeeper in Farningham, and John Hilliam in 1780 paid Land Tax on land he leased from Mrs Hayward of Eynsford. Hair Powder certificates were one of the taxes brought in to help finance the Napoleonic Wars - most wig wearers were upper class, but a housekeeper or butler might be expected to wear wigs as part of their uniform in grand households.

Richard Whiffen - John Smith b.1826 of Pimlico is an ancestor of Jane's husband. He was adopted by Peter du Cane, MP for Horsham, whose will of 1832 stated John to be living with Richard Whiffen of Farningham. Using Shirley Burgoyne Black's 'The Children of Farningham and their schools, 1800-1900', I was able to tell Jane that Richard Whiffen ran a 'Gentlemen's Boarding Academy' from 1819-1836, with up to 30 boys. If anyone knows more, or the location of the School, please contact me.

Other Queries

Archaeology of the old Manor House at Market Meadow - Geoffrey Burr was building up his collection of archaeological reports of the site, prior to undertaking further investigations either side of Easter. He will be reporting preliminary findings at the FELHS AGM.

By coincidence I came across U214 E7/19 at KHLC - undated C18th descriptions of the Farningham estate of Sir John Cotton, which described the manor house as 'an ancient house with dove house and other outhouses and two orchards walled in', which had been let for £12 per annum.

Eynsford Rise - Jason has moved into the village and had heard that the maisonettes had originally been planned as shops for the new development. I pointed him to FELHS publication no.32, Miscellany no.5, Eynsford Mount Estate by Diana Beamish.

Farningham Hill School - Rosemary, now in New Zealand, went to this School in the early 1950s (site now under the M25/M20 intersection at Swanley), and wanted a photo of the building. I went to Swanley and Dartford Libraries and to Kent History and Library Centre at Maidstone looking for one, because I also wanted an image for the 1st World War Exhibition, but all in vain. Finally, I contacted Mrs Ball who has an important collection of Swanley photos, and she provided me with a photo of her son on his first day at School in 1966. However, the photo was damaged, and we would all like to see better photos of the School from any period, either the building or of the pupils. If you have any or know of anyone who has, please contact me.

1st World War defensive sites - Victor Smith wanted to know more details about the line of defence around London, and I gave him information about the Farningham airfield site, and the sites of the anti-aircraft gun and the searchlight at Crockenhill. He said my research was 'inspirational!' He recalled playing the B flat bugle in 1962 for the Last Post on Remembrance Sunday at Crockenhill War Memorial.

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

FELHS Centre The Parish Council has repaired a broken roof tile and cut back overhanging tree branches. I have been steadily working my way through cataloguing and have now completed all the folders sorted by Anne Cremer and Jackie Clarke. The last topic is 'People's families', which is extensive and I am just beginning to

tackle that. We will be organising work parties next year to sort uncatalogued items that fill 4 filing cabinet drawers. There might not be time to catalogue these, but the sorted folders would at least make it easier to find items on a particular subject.

Acquisitions

From Diana Beamish – Photos of Eynsford during December 2013 to January 2014 -floods and gales!

From Mr Goldsworthy - Many unidentified photos, some might be of 1946 - perhaps Peace Celebrations and have bunting out, with groups of people by Farningham Village Hall, the Church and Manor Farm - one has names on the back. Hopefully, some of you might be able to throw more light on these. There are also about 20 paper items - Framingham Boys' Club news 1944; 1934 Exhibition questionnaire; programme 'A Pageant of Farningham'; Bricklayers Arms photos + info. re William Thomas Jennings, landlord 1898-1927; local tradesmen's invoices 1920/1930s.

And finally.....

I hope you are all enjoying the beautiful sunshine. I am sorry I missed some of you at the AGM but I was a little poorly, hopefully on the mend now.

Please come to the exhibitions in August, an enormous amount of work has gone into this by Susan Pittman and Veronica Shepherd. They have put together fascinating snippets of life at the time of commencement of World War I. The exhibitions are free to all and there will be refreshments in all three venues. We do need a few volunteers to come and help on the days, if anyone is available and would like to help please give Susan or Veronica a call.

I have a query of my own for any of you. Colin Cripps who is the researcher for the 49 Squadron Association contacted me about Edward Henry Pearson who is named on Eynsford war memorial. From my own limited research it would appear that the family lived in Wilmington, but perhaps there is someone out there who may know the family or indeed Edward himself. Below is the information that Colin gave me

‘I am tracing the families of the crew of my uncles Lancaster ED584, all were killed on the 13th June 1943. I would like to make contact with the family of Mid Upper Gunner, Sgt Edward Henry Pearson 1628361 RAF. My uncle was Sgt Basil Robert Cripps, the Wireless Operator’

If bells are ringing with any members of the Society please let me know and I will pass any information onto Colin

In the meantime have a great summer and see you at the September meeting.

Jan Wilkes – Editor (865122)



COMING IN AUGUST
'OUR VILLAGES IN THE
GREAT WAR'

Portrayal of life for those left at home during the First World War, 1914-1918, in Crockenhill, Eynsford, Farningham and Lullingstone.

There are 3 chances to see how involved in the war effort our communities were –
you will be surprised!

CROCKENHILL VILLAGE HALL
Saturday, AUGUST 16

EYNSFORD BAPTIST CHURCH
Saturday, AUGUST 23

FARNINGHAM VILLAGE HALL
Saturday, AUGUST 30

11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Light refreshments available

FREE ENTRY

WHAT'S ON 2014/2015

Horton Kirby & South Darenth Local History Society

2014

- 14th July A day in the life of a JP – Derrick Fulford
8th Sept Trafalgar – Bronwen Sadler
10th 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

- 20th June East Malling Research Station – Peter Guide
4th July Tour of East Malling Research Station
27th July Members Strawberry tea in Otford
3rd Sept Visit to Waltham Abbey and the Gunpowder Museum
21st Nov Building the Sevenoaks Tunnel – Paul Dunn

2015

- 9th Jan Twelfth Night Social
20th March AGM/Beasts Bishops & Bankers, The Pleasant town of Sevenoaks –
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 525312) to check that no changes have been made to their programmes (Remember your membership card)

Hextable Heritage Society

2014

- 10th July Otford Heritage Centre (Evening visit details to be advised later)
14th Aug Keep the home fires burning, Dartford 1914-18 – Chris Baker
11th Sept Biggin on the bump, early aviation – Bob Ogle
9th Oct Talk on the Royal British Legion
13th Nov Crayford's unknown Warrior, a WWI soldier – Dyanne Jarrett
5th 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)

