

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 104

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Forthcoming Talks and Events

2015	Details	Where
20 th Feb	Farningham & Eynsford in the Great War- Susan Pittman	FVH
22 nd May	AGM with buffet and wine	EVH
18 th Sept	The Gentlemen at War – Roy Ingleton	EVH
23 rd Oct	Unexplained Mysteries and Cover-ups – Andy Thomas (Ticketed evening including buffet supper)	FVH
27 th Nov	Waterloo 200 – Steve Hookins	FVH

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's hard to believe that another year has slipped by and it's time now to reflect on what the Society has achieved during that year and a time to make plans for the year ahead. Details of our future evening meetings together with the ticketed evening meeting with a buffet are listed above. We would also like to arrange at least one local day time visit plus maybe a coffee morning with items brought from the archive centre for members and visitors to look at.

It was in 2005 that the Society acquired the use of the brick building in Eynsford Common Meadow. Converting what had been public toilets into our archive centre took a lot of planning and hard work but we now have cupboards that are well stocked with postcards and photographs, books and albums. Filing cabinets hold many scrap books and folders relating to buildings, events, family and local history. There are boxes of artefacts containing items from shops and businesses that have ceased trading, items from the paper mill and the railway station, the village churches and pieces from archaeological sites around the village. Many of these items have been

given to us from people who would otherwise have disposed of them thus depriving the society the opportunity to record a part of our history for future generations. Although not a large building there is a small working area set aside for personal research by appointment. We are very fortunate to have this wealth of history and we would like to share it with you all

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2015 (Jan Wilkes)

The time has come once more to renew memberships. The relevant form is enclosed or attached if you receive your bulletin on line. Please return to me at 2 Fountain Cottages, Bower Lane, Eynsford, DA4 0AL. If you are a life member your card will be laminated and permanent to save giving you a card year after year, please look after these and if you should lose your card at any time let me know and I will supply a replacement. Should you decide not to renew your membership could you please let me know either by email hisarc@btinternet.com or call 01322 865122...

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

I was gratified by the numbers attending 'Our Villages in the Great War' Exhibition held over three Saturdays in August. The Exhibition attracted over 700 visitors, who were very appreciative of the amount of research which had gone into the display, and of the attractiveness of the layout. I would like to thank all those concerned with contributing to the success of the event. Many of you there might have come across two students, who acted as stewards and welcomed people at the door, as well as helping to set up and dismantle the exhibition three times! They were Andrew Miller and George Tanton from Canterbury Christ Church University, who were not local, but responded to my appeal for volunteers through the University network. They told me how much they had enjoyed the experience, and would like to be involved in other special events we hold.

For those who missed the Exhibition, I am giving a presentation to the Society in February about Eynsford and Farningham's experiences at home in the Great War and to Crockenhill about its role at the Annual Parish Meeting there. I am investigating the possibility of putting most of the display material, with the sources, on our website.

It seems that several of you do take the time to read these research notes, and I have had five feedbacks to report below.

Maplescombe Church

Following the paragraph about Maplescombe Church in the last Bulletin, I received an e-mail from Zena Bamping reminding me that she had written an article about the Church in our publication no.25 'Miscellany of Local History Papers no.3', 1998. I do apologise to Zena for omitting to mention her paper, which was an oversight on my part, because I had failed to remember her important contribution to the subject. She does not think the decline of the Maplescombe church was linked with the Black Death of 1348-1349, but rather to the Reformation. Among supporting evidence for this is the will of Lawrence Pothede (1524/5) requesting to be buried in the Church, and a Church inventory of 1552 citing among other things a chalice and two candlesticks in the Church, and a little brass bell, 'broken with the falling downe oute of the said steple decayed about two years last past.' I recommend Zena's paper and think that those of you with a particular interest in Maplescombe, who have not already done so, should add the publication to your book shelves.

The Poorhouse at Farningham, 1834

Colin Sharp e-mailed me about his interest in the 1834 questionnaire about Farningham's poor because he has been researching the Sharp(e) family of Farningham, whose last member, William Sharp, died in 1889 aged 65, having been Parish Clerk for 44 years. Colin sent the Society copies of documents c.1810/11 relating to the construction of the Poorhouse by Nicholas Sharp, a bricklayer. The final cost of the bricklaying was £141 17s 3d, and for the carpentry £132 11s 8d, carried out by Jeremiah Sharwood, nephew of Nicholas.

Colin has traced the Sharp family in Farningham back to 1670/1 when members were running a coaching inn. Later they became bricklayers, building amongst other houses, The Mount in Sparepenny Lane, Henry Colyer's house adjoining The Mill in 1785/90, and The Bricklayers Arms, named after their occupation. Hilary and Wilfrid Harding traced The Bricklayers Arms back to 1805 (FELHS publication no.19, The Pubs of Farningham, 1996), but when looking up victuallers' licences for Colin I came across a reference to James Sharp of The Bricklayers Arms being licensee in 1793 (KHLC Q/RLv4/3). He had been licenced in Farningham from 1779, but before 1793 pub names were given in the documents. Colin has evidence that the family ran a pub called The Red Lion in Farningham in the C18th, and wanted to know the whereabouts of this establishment. As The Bricklayers Arms was built new, I wonder whether The Red Lion was its direct predecessor on or near the site.

John Ward, the Egyptologist at The Mount, Farningham

Sometimes it takes several years for the request for more information to lead to results, and this is true in this case. Elizabeth from Washington DC, U.S.A., has been researching family history, and sent more background information about John Ward. (John Ward's sister, Letitia Ward Carroll, was Elizabeth's 3x great grandmother.)

John was a successful businessman in Belfast, the son of the famous Marcus Ward, of Marcus Ward & Sons, and the Royal Ulster Works - pioneers in the printing business. Archaeology became John Ward's second career after he retired from the business in 1876. He devoted himself to the study of Egypt, Greece and Sudan, writing several books and amassing a world-class coin/scarab collection (now at the Metropolitan Museum of Art). Percy Casstine, the Hextable photographer, was one of his co-authors and was mentioned frequently in John's book on Sudan, published in 1905. I wonder whether this association led John to become resident in Farningham, where he died on 19 February 1912, in his 80th year.

I forwarded Elizabeth's email to Bryony and Paul, the original enquirers, but have had no response, although they might have contacted Elizabeth directly.

Paper Mill watermarks, BBC Antiques Roadshow, 4 May 2014

Our Chairman, Barbara Cannell, pointed out the misleading heading I had put on this item. The Society does hold a number of pieces of T.H. Saunders special watermarked paper, but T.H.Saunders ran six paper mills, including Darenth Mill in South Darenth and Phoenix Mill in Dartford, not Eynsford Paper Mill as the heading implied.

The paper with the portraits of George V and Queen Mary to commemorate their Silver Jubilee in 1935 does not have the mill name in the watermark, so its origin is uncertain, but T.H. Saunders was especially renowned for its elaborate watermarks.

Lullingstone Station

Following the mention of Lullingstone station, Brian West wrote of his memories in the 1940s passing from Bat and Ball to Bromley.

Ed Thompson provided copies of two plans for Lullingstone station dated March 1939, one had a chimney stack at the end of the long building, and the other had a lever frame at the end of the plan. It is unknown which was actually built.

Ed also had plans of Eynsford station in the 1880s. In the early 1880s the signal box was at the south end of the up platform. About 1900 the platform was lengthened for the first time and the signal box was moved further south to where sidings diverged. In 1932 the signal box was moved to a new built bay window in the booking office, and by 1936 the platforms had been extended the second time. In 1971 the signal box moved to Swanley. This information is a great help when trying to date the various photographs we have of Eynsford station.

Earthquake in Farningham, 1728

According to the famous C18th Kent historian, Hasted:-

In 1728 there was a slight shock felt in parts of Farningham of an earthquake at which time a piece of ground in a meadow in Farningham fell in so as to leave a pit 8 or 10 feet over and near as deep and being on a level with the river it soon filled with water within 3 feet of the top. This piece of ground was so sound before as to bear carriages over it.

Worth the archaeologists looking at Farningham manor house site bearing in mind when they come across unusual depressions!?

William Beadle of Eynsford and family links with the Beadles of Cudham

The North West Family History Society recently purchased 22 property deeds from e-bay featuring the Beadle family property at Cudham, which later the Brasier family bought. One of the documents mentioned William Beadle, yeoman of Eynsford, the son of Joseph and Martha of Cudham. He inherited some Cudham property from his father, but also in 1791 the share of his aunt, Frances Crane, wife of John, a carpenter from Bromley, whose son, Anthony, predeceased her. There is one headstone to the Beadle family in St. Martin's churchyard at Eynsford, just beyond the Remembrance garden. This commemorates William Beadle of Farningham, who died in 1819, and might well be the same individual mentioned in the deeds.

Lullingstone Castle Fire Show, 28-29 June 2014

I attended this on the Saturday to see the C18th Newsham manual fire pump returned to its original home, Lullingstone Castle. I was particularly on the look-out for vehicles and equipment made by Merryweathers of Greenwich. KCC shut down its Kent Fire Brigade Museum, but thanks to the hard work of a group of dedicated enthusiasts its successor, Kent Firefighting Museum, can be visited at The Woodlands Garden Centre, Ash, TN15 7EG. It is open 7 days a week from 10am to 4pm.

Discovering Palmer's Kent, Mascalls Gallery, Paddock Wood

I went to this Exhibition in the summer because it featured etchings by Graham Sutherland and Paul Drury from the 1920s, when as students at Goldsmiths College, in South London, they became strongly influenced and inspired by the etchings of Samuel Palmer. My particular interest was in Paul Drury, who later became an art lecturer at Goldsmiths. In 1957 my parents purchased for me his etching of a boy drawing at a table. This boy turned out to be his son, Jolyon, whom I met at the Exhibition. The local connection is that Graham Sutherland lived at Farningham for a period, and Jolyon showed photographs of the two men at Farningham. He also had a collection of letters sent between them. I am hoping to visit Jolyon before too long to gather his reminiscences of Graham Sutherland, and to help him identify other photos, which might have been taken in Farningham.

Two overlooked 2nd World War Memorials in Eynsford

There is a wall table in the foyer of Eynsford Baptist Church, which was commissioned on 11 November 1955. The incised inscription reads 'In memory of those who fell 1939-1945'. When looking through 'A Guide to Saint Martin' reprinted in 1973, I came across a statement that the lectern was a memorial to those villagers who fell in the war of 1939-1945. I have photographed the Baptist table, but there will be no access to the lectern until the Church alterations have been completed.

Family History enquiries

- **Clements of Crockenhill-** (Not the farming family from Gosenhill, Crockenhill) Gillian enquired about the ancestors of John George Clements (1872-1950) who in 1902 married Florence Butler (1882-1970). I was able to tell her of one branch who worked at Wested Farm, and give her a photograph of , who helped run Miller's steam lorry with the peppermint crop.
- **Smith of Crockenhill** - Those with Smith ancestors might despair, but if they come from Crockenhill linking them to the various branches can be relatively easy, as Christine found with Thomas Smith (1731-1798) of Shoreham, married Dorcas Stone (1757-1793), whose grandchildren included Aaron Smith of Crockenhill.
- **Pryer of Eynsford** - I was able to locate 5 headstones for the Pryer family in St. Martin's churchyard. Lyn wondered whether there are any living descendants locally now.

Other enquiries

- **The Bakery, Farningham** - Wendy has been told her house with baking house dated from the 1600s and 1700s. I suggested possible lines of research, and looked up an estate map of 1828, which did not appear to feature the property.
- **Sepia watercolour of Eynsford bridge area c.1800** - Dai has purchased this watercolour approx. 14x15 inches, and is offering it for sale at £38 + postage and package. The image is not accurate, with the church spire to the left of the bridge, so I have treated its authenticity with caution.
- **Wested farmyard buildings** - Fiona looked at various aerial photographs to ascertain when various post-2nd World War buildings had been erected.
- **Marjorie Mee** - Keith from Australia, who is writing a biography of Arthur Mee, approached the Society again. This time for photographs of Marjorie Mee and photographs of Eynsford c.1913, which I was able to supply.
- **Farningham Home Guard** - John was interested in the book about these, because several Hawkins family members appeared in the group photograph.
- **Eynsford Paper Mill by Wilf Duncombe** - Dirda, Senior Paper Conservator at the National Gallery of Art, Washington DC, U.S.A, requested a copy of this FELHS publication. She writes that the Gallery has a large collection of C20th artists' papers (see NGA/Conservation/Resources/Paper Sample Collection).
- **Farningham Home for Little Boys** - I mentioned last time that I had had an enquiry from BBC 1 'Who do you think you are?' programme, and was curious to see who had a family connection with the Home. It turned out to be the 1960s celebrity model, Twiggy (Lesley Hornby), whose great uncle was sent there when his mother, Elizabeth Meadows, with seven children, was deserted by her husband, William.

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

FELHS Centre

Following the 'Our Villages in the Great War' Exhibition the artefacts and items from the filing cabinets all needed to be sorted and returned to the Centre. Thanks to Veronica Sheppard and Alison Bridgeman the task has been completed, including cataloguing new material related to the subject, which I had found during the research, but not officially added to the collection.

I am pleased to report that Alison and Vikki Saunders have volunteered to help with sorting the uncatalogued items, which fill 4 filing cabinet drawers. Alice thinks she can persuade one or two friends to join her, but more help is needed, because I would like to make a big push to sort everything out.

Acquisitions

William Alexander O.B.E. (17/3/1924 - 28/7/2014) memorial order of service

From Keith Baldwin - Copy cuttings from Maidstone Telegraph, 1862, 1866, featuring cricket matches between the papermakers of Dartford and Darenth and the papermakers of Eynsford and Sundridge. Mrs Brice, of The Five Bells, provided an excellent dinner 'which gave the greatest satisfaction and a most agreeable and social evening was spent.' 1896 Interesting wedding at Tunbridge Wells - Mr Howard Frank to Miss Mabel Arnold (I assume linked to the Arnold family of Eynsford Paper Mill).

From Diana Beamish - Receipts from Eynsford Post Office, 2 Riverside, before its closure in August 2007.

From Sarah Bridger - Sarah, a Masters student in Building History at Cambridge University, has sent a draft copy of her dissertation entitled 'The Country House in World War Two: An Investigation of Wartime Occupation in Kent and Sussex', which included Lullingstone Castle. It was good that she carried out her promise to donate a copy to the Society because often I give help to students and members of the public and never hear from them again. The dissertation is over 100 pages long, but I have printed out the section about Lullingstone. I will put the whole on a CD, and write about it in the next Bulletin.

From Gerald Cramp - Book by him 'Hartley remembers the Great War', published by Hartley Parish Council, 2014.

From Brian Hussey - As well as providing his detailed research on Alfred Gates for 'Our Villages in the Great War' Exhibition, Brian has sent his research into his cousin, Derrick Gigger, a bomber pilot, who died in the Second World War. I will include more about Derrick in the next Bulletin.

From Lynda Jarrett (nee Eggbeer) - Photographs of Sports Day c.1957 at Farningham Hill County Primary School, with a school photograph of herself, and copy school report, 1959.

From Jennifer Kay (nee Jupp) - 'A History of Eynsford School, 1863-1946' written in 1963 when at teachers' training college, when she had access to the Log Books held by Miss Capper, head teacher at the time.

From Michael Peters - CD covering Sevenoaks area, buildings of note which did not make listed status.

From Jan Wilkes - Facsimile copy of the Daily Mail for 23 June 1897 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee

And finally....

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR
MEMBERS FOR THEIR
CONTINUED SUPPORT
WE HOPE YOU HAVE A
WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS AND
NEW YEAR

SEE YOU IN
2015



WHAT'S ON 2015

Horton Kirby & South Darenth Local History Society

2015

- 12th January The Countryside Legacy of Octavia Hill – Kev Reynolds
9th March Kentish Seaside Resorts until World War I – Dr Ann Kneif
11th May Rochester Then & Now and Kentish Villages – Colin Coe
8th June Along the River Cray – Denise Baldwin & Katherine Harding
2nd July Keep the Homes Fires Burning, Dartford 1914-1918 –
Chris Baker
14th September The Edith Cavell Story – Paul Rason
9th November AGM followed by a talk and Cheese and wine

All meetings are held on Monday at the Village Hall, South Darenth from 8pm. If you require further information contact Barbara Cannell (01322 864253) (Remember your membership card) NOTE: The July meeting will be on a Thursday

Shoreham & District Historical Society

2015

- 9th January 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

2015

- 8th January Hextable Manor House (before the Horticultural College) –
David Cuffley
12th February Dad's Letters from the First World War – Tim Jacob
12th March Poets of the First World War – Bob Ogley
9th April Shops we used to know in Dartford – Keith Whitmore
14th May AGM with Halford Lorries of the First World War – Adrian
Herbert
11th June TBA
9th July TBA (Evening visit)
13th August Military Medals – Glen Jones
10th September Dickens and Gadds Hill – Anne Carter
8th October Edith Cavell – Paul Rason
12th November 5 Wents Hall and the Swanley & Hextable War Memorial Trust
December 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)

NOTE Details of the July visit will be announced later

