

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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Forthcoming Talks and Events

	Details	Where
2016		
26 th Feb	To Wilhelm with Love – Steve Hookins	EVH
20 th May	AGM	FVH
7 th Sept	Trip to the Kent Battle of Britain Museum and Battle of Britain Monument at Capel le Ferne (full details of the day will follow)	
23 rd Sept	World War One poets – Bob and Fern Ogley	FVH
11 th Nov	The Crystal Palace Story 1854-1936	EVH

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)

I sometimes find it difficult to think of anything to write about for my report but this time I thought it would be nice to share with you something that I did some weeks ago. Not strictly all local history but there is a connection. In 2013 when the country was thinking of ways to commemorate the Great War I made up my mind that I would do something to unite the lives of two people who I never knew. This involved travelling to a small village in Norfolk called Swardeston where a very brave nurse and a well-known horticulturist were born. Edith Cavell born in December 1865 and Henry Cannell born in March 1834, my husband's great grandfather. On Saturday 3rd October I went to St.Mary's Church Swardeston to see a most colourful and beautiful flower festival with the theme "Famous Women". I went on a guided walk through the village looking at the house where Edith was born, and the large vicarage which her father had built to his own specification in 1865, along the main road passed shops and The Dog public house onto the common. Overlooking the common was the oldest house in the village, Garden House, where Henry was born. I was pleased to see that from the front it hadn't altered. An extension built at the back had cleverly

copied the original building. Henry left home to seek his fortune in Kent. His nursery at Swanley was known worldwide and we have him to thank for the house in Eynsford called "Chalkhurst". Just outside the back of the church in the Cavell Room there was an exhibition and memorabilia relating to the life of this remarkable woman. A magnificent exhibition on the men of the village who gave themselves in service of their country in the First World War had been researched by the Old Swardeston local history club. My only disappointment with the day was that I missed meeting my "Cannell" relative. On the Sunday I went to the old village of Mulbarton to look for graves of the Larter family. We know from Joseph Larter's diary that quite a number of the Larter family came to Eynsford to find work, possibly on Cannell's nursery. Monday I went into the centre of Norwich to see the restored Cavell Van which had brought the body of Edith Cavell back to England. Following her execution by firing squad on October 12th 1915 her body was buried in a hastily dug grave with no ceremony; the place was to remain unknown. After war ended her body was recovered and brought home to England in 1919 transported in the Cavell Van from Dover to London. Following a service of remembrance in Westminster Abbey the coffin was taken by train to Norwich. Although Edith had wanted to be buried in Swardeston her family requested her body be laid to rest at Norwich Cathedral. My last destination was to the east end of Norwich Cathedral to a small area outside the Cathedral where the grave of Edith Cavell is a simple memorial for one who didn't want to be remembered as a heroine and a martyr but as a nurse who tried to do her duty. For Edith, in her own words, - "Patriotism is not enough".

MEMBERSHIP

It's that time of year again for membership renewal. Firstly, thank you for all your support throughout 2015 and look forward to seeing you in 2016. Renewal forms are either attached or enclosed. Rick Clayton our new treasurer has set out below the value of gift aiding your subscription if this is something you wish to do. As usual please return your forms to me at 2 Fountain Cottages, Bower Lane, Eynsford, DA4 0AL or drop it through my door. Thank you Jan Wilkes

GIFT AID – MAKE YOUR SUBSCRIPTION GO FURTHER

Gift Aid can significantly help the Society because it leverages your subscription. That is, it makes your subscription even more valuable to FELHS. As the Gov.UK website explains, donating through Gift Aid means charities can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you give. It won't cost you any extra.

How does this work?

It's quite simple. HMRC takes tax off you, but instead of funnelling it to the Treasury or Government to allocate how that tax is spent, it is ear-marked for your designated charity: in this case FELHS. That is, you decide that part of the tax you pay will be refunded to the Society. This costs you nothing. All you pay is your normal subscription.

What difference does it make?

To you personally, as a subscriber, none. But to FELHS the figures currently work like this:

Cost to you for Single Person subscription: £9. Value to FELHS in Gift Aid - £2.25.

Cost to you for Family subscription £14. Value to FELHS in Gift Aid - £3.50.

Cost to you for Single Life Membership £90. Value to FELHS in Gift Aid - £22.50.

Cost to you for Couple Life Membership £140. Value to FELHS in Gift Aid - £35.

What is necessary for us to claim Gift Aid on your subscription?

You must confirm that you have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax for the relevant year (6 April to 5 April) that is equal to the amount of tax FELHS will reclaim. That amount is the amount between the difference in your subscription and the claim thereon shown above.

You have paid, or will pay the amount of tax shown above for the year of your membership; FELHS is entitled to claim Gift Aid on that tax, so it comes to FELHS and not the Treasury.

If you are content to sign a declaration that you have or will pay that tax, all we need is your signature that you consent to the claim and your name and address.

Bureaucracy

The entire claim to Gift Aid by the Society is dealt with by the Membership Secretary and the Treasurer of FELHS. It need not trouble you beyond agreeing that a claim to Gift Aid can be made in respect of your subscription.

Your Committee is aware that the current subscription form is somewhat cumbersome and is looking for ways to streamline it so that we can make it easier for you to pay membership subscriptions, provide details and decide – whether or not – you are happy for us to claim Gift Aid in respect of your subscription.

However, it is important that if you wish us to claim Gift Aid in respect of your subscription, that you complete and sign the relevant part of your subscription form. HMRC takes a very dim view of persons completing forms relating to tax repayments in the names of others and Committee members cannot do this on your behalf, even if it simplifies procedures. Sorry, that's just the way it is.

What's Important?

What matters is that the Society as a whole – and of course you are a key part of it – recognises the importance in its funding and maintenance provided by all members subscribing, whether Gift Aid is claimed or not. Your subscriptions themselves are an important factor in keeping our Society going. More important is that your membership demonstrates support for our common aims and confirms that members wish FELHS to continue to wish to explore and make available the history of our local area.

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

Historic England and The English Heritage Trust

In April this year English Heritage split into two separate organisations.

Historic England champions and protects England's historic environment, from pre-historic remains to post-war buildings.

The English Heritage Trust, a new independent charity, continues to look after the National Heritage Collection on behalf of the nation. The collection comprises 400 historic sites across England (including Eynsford Castle and Lullingstone Roman Villa).

Crockenhill Heritage Trail

This has been produced by Crockenhill Parish Council with information and images supplied by me. It is a figure of eight walk round the village with stopping points of interest along the route. (Equally it can be read without the walk to give an overview of the history of Crockenhill.) On sale for £2 via the clerk, Parish Office, Crockenhill Village Hall, 01322 614674, or from me).

Elizabethan and Jacobean Deer Parks in Kent

My thesis is now on-line on the Kent Archaeological Society website with a link on the home page - <http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk>

From Eynsford Parish Council correspondence, 1947

(KHL C PC271/ACC/A1342/18).

- **Eynsford Mount estate**

Eynsford Parish Council reported on 5 August 1947 that permission had been given to convert the shops into flats.

- **St. John's Ambulance (Farningham) short of drivers, 1947**

There had been a drain on drivers because of those joining the armed forces in the war, from which the service had not recovered. Of 32 members, 25 had joined the armed forces, of which only 7 had returned. In 1947 there were only 12 members, fully employed elsewhere in the day, and 4 nursing members. These volunteers gave up 100 hours weekly on evening, night and weekend duties. In the 21 years of the St. John's Ambulance's existence in Farningham 5000 acute cases had been attended to, and 2500 people from 12 villages taken to and from hospital.

(Letter to Eynsford Parish Council from Superintendent A. Brown, 31/8/1947)

- **Trouble at The Mill (Eynsford Paper Mill)**

A sanitary inspection was made following complaints of dust coming from the mill. The cause was found to be the fuel being fed into the boilers. The low grade fuel was fine coal dust, which was carried straight out of the flues, up the chimney to fall down on the surrounding area. The engineer of the works was concerned that the dust was also entering the building and contaminating the paper. The only solution was the provision of suitable fuel, which was being addressed.

(Report of the Sanitary inspector, 31/12/1947)

- **Businesses in Eynsford**

Arnold & Foster Paper Mill

S.W. Gibson & Son Foundry

Castle Hotel (M. Brewer)

Five Bells (A. Williams)

Malt Shovel (L. Milbourn)

Plough

Boyne Tea Rooms (Miss Gilruith)

Ford Tea Rooms

Working Men's Club (F. Bowers)

PO Stores (Gee & Son)

Bakery (A. Paulas)

Boot repairer (F. Barber)

Butchers (F. Main)

Greengrocers (F. Payne)

Hairdressers (H. Roberts)

Newsagent (J. Inston)

Stores (Mrs Bradshaw)

Stores (Dartford co-op Society)

Stores (S.H. Munn)

Stores (A. Pinkstone)

Accommodation in Farningham 1921

- **Bricks Hotel** (W.T. Jennings) Splendid accommodation for cyclists, beanfeasts and parties. Motor garage. Moderate terms for apartments and board. Near Golf Links.
- **The Chequers** (Herbert W. Ellis) Ales, wines and spirits of the best brands. Beanfeasts and parties catered for. Good stabling and cyclists' accommodation. Spacious Club Room.
- **Lion** (J. Ross King) Family and Residential Hotel. Posting and Livery Stables. Accommodation for Hunting and Shooting gentlemen. Motor garage.

(Bennett's Business Directory, 1921)

Beanfeast = A celebration, a merry time; an employer's annual dinner - beans and bacon being regarded as an indispensable dish. (Concise Oxford Dictionary)

John Bath of Crockenhill & the founding of the Guildhall School of Music

From mid-Victorian times until about 1910 the Bath family ran the main village store, which stood alongside The Chequers in Crockenhill. John Bath (1830-1902) was a skilful musician, his command of the violoncello being remarkable for an amateur. He became a City accountant in the 1860s. As a freeman of the City of London, he took an active part in the Court of Common Council in the 1870s where he pressed for more musical education in the City, becoming the unofficial ambassador for music there. He felt that a School of Music was needed, and drew up detailed plans for one, proposals for which the Court of Common Council agreed in 1880. The new school was to be called The Guildhall School of Music, and was an immediate success, the initial intake of 62 pupils growing to nearly 1500 in two years. This achievement was largely due to John Bath's imagination, initiative and persuasiveness.

(From articles about John Bath by John Nightingale in the Journal of the North West Family History, December 1996 and March 1997)

An extraordinary tithe sale 1883

By way of coincidence I came across a report with striking cartoon about an extraordinary tithe sale at Halstead, which involved another branch of the Bath family. Albert and Edwin Bath of Colegates Farm, Halstead, refused to pay the vicar's tithes of £8/10s, and the vicar arranged for a stack of their prime meadow hay to be auctioned to meet the debt. The unfortunate auctioneer was pelted with apples, bags of soot and other missiles, and when he attempted to mount a cart from which to conduct the sale he was pulled to the ground. In the end after a first bid of one penny, the vicar bought the stack for £2.

Many non-conformists refused to pay tithes which went to the Church of England, the Bath brothers included. When Albert retired to a house near the Vine in Sevenoaks in 1888, he was instrumental in helping to found the Baptist church there.

(Sevenoaks Chronicle Jubilee Supplement of 23 May 1930, & Bath family information from Stephen Archer)

Frederick G. Hodsoll, photographer (1864-1952)

He was born in Farningham where his father, William Hodsoll, was an auctioneer and surveyor. He died in Victoria, British Columbia. In the 1890s he was in south eastern New Mexico; in the early 1900s he worked for The Tatler in London; in the 1920s he had a portrait studio in Victoria, London. This information has been supplied by Virginia, associate librarian at George Eastman House, New York. Virginia first came across Frederick Hodsoll's work when she saw a collection his photographs at the South Eastern New Mexico Historical Society some years ago. His work had an unmistakable style with photographs of small town merchants and cowboys. His later portraits were of politicians and actors. If anyone comes across any Hodsoll photograph do let me know.

C15th Deer Park near Park Farm, Bower Lane, Eynsford

I have long been curious about the origin of the name Park Farm, Bower Lane, implying that there was once a deer park in the area. The 1802 Lullingstone estate map shows field names such as, Upper and Lower Park woods, Park, Upper and Middle Park fields, and Lower Park Croft. Until now I had no documentary evidence

for the park, but it was there in Wilf Duncombe's FELHS publication no. 14 The Boundaries of the Parishes of Eynsford and Farningham. His transcription of an ancient charter in Canterbury Cathedral Library dated 1431 refers to the park of the Lords of Eynsford near Maplescombe, which must be the one from which Park Farm was named. I would love to wander round that area to see if I can find its boundaries.

(CCL Chart.Ant. F21)

Medieval bone comb from Farningham

When I visited the 1215-2015 Magna Carta Rediscovered Exhibition in Maidstone I was surprised to see a bone comb from the C12-C13th which had been found in Farningham, and is housed in Maidstone Museum. I know nothing of the background of the item, such as when and where it was found, and have not attempted to follow this up.

Family history enquiries

Fuller from Tonbridge and Westerham area - Marie wanted details of Thomas Fuller of Farningham who she thought might be linked to her family. She gave no dates. I gave her details of the family from Hilary Harding's book on Farningham Mill, and have heard no more.

Bath of Crockenhill - I was able to put Barbara and Colin in touch with Stephen, an experienced genealogist, who also happens to have Bath blood. They met in my house and had an absorbing time tracing the Bath tree. They also visited the chapel, the churchyard and Darns Hill Old Burying Ground all of which had links with the Bath family.

Dyer, Stockley, Millbourn - Carolyn from California was brought up in Eynsford and would like anyone who knew her to make contact through the Society.

Other enquiries

Morris dancers at the Plough 1964 - A short film shot by Mrs Plaice is to be seen on YouTube <http://youtu.be/kuwgg&8xBkqQ>

Raised area at Harrow Meadow - Malcolm wanted to know what the concrete base was for. I think this was for the swings or other play equipment which stood by the changing rooms.

Victorian photos of Eynsford - Graham sent 7 images to be identified. 6 were scenes of the ford and riverside area, the church, and end of Bower Lane and the High Street beyond. One photo stumped us, however, but in the end it turned out to be a photo of the centre of Ightham, where the war memorial now stands.

F.G. Hodsoll, photographer - Virginia from Rochester, New York, asked whether FELHS had any photographs by him. I could not find any, but sent Virginia a photograph of Hodsoll House in Farningham, the family home. (See above)

First World War items for display - Gillian from the Riverside Players requested display items for an evening of First World War poetry, plays and music. She will be able to choose from the laminated sheets which were produced for 'Our Villages in the Great War' Exhibition.

National Salvage Council poster - Chris wanted more information about the collection of fruit stones and hard nut shells (e.g. horse chestnuts) urgently needed purportedly for the manufacture of anti-gas masks, but in reality to convert into explosives for shells. The poster held in Dartford Library had notes on it written and initialled by MHW or MHM and Chris wondered whether this person could be identified. The hand writing was familiar, and I found a postcard of Eynsford High

Street to Miss Holdich in New York, who is addressed as 'Cos' (presumably cousin), from 1907 with similar writing and initials. I did wonder about Millbourn of the Malt Shovel, but the end initial looking like 'W' on the poster and 'M' on the postcard does not help. Any ideas?

Pilcher monument at Upper Austin Lodge - Eric and others were concerned about the future of the monument which looks as though it will end up within the grounds of the former Clubhouse being sold as a private residence. Discussions are being held about access to it.

ARCHIVE REPORT (Susan Pittman 01322 669923)

FELHS Centre

We owe an immense thanks to the invaluable input of the working parties (comprising Helen, Vikki, Ann, and Alison), who have done a splendid job sorting material at the Centre. All five full-to-the brim drawers of uncatalogued items have been sorted. My next task is to put the uncatalogued folders behind the catalogued folders in the filing cabinets, so at least the entire collection can be searched. We went out for a coffee and cake to celebrate, and then returned and started to sort the photographs! The winter break is now upon us, but hopefully we can reconvene in the Spring. We had hoped that with regular opening some people might pop in to see the Centre, or to offer help, but were disappointed.

A surprise exception in early October was a visit by Carolyn (nee Dyer) from California, who was brought up in the village, and is related to the Stockley and Millbourn families.

Acquisitions

From Eynsford Parochial Parish Council - 3 Minute books 1957-1986* ; Confirmation register*; Vestry minute book 1850-1974*; Parochial Church Council 1907-1963*; various faculties, 1931, 1948, 1954, 1960, 1962, 1966, 1967, 1968*; Service of institution of Revd Denis Sweetman, 1971; Thanksgiving prayer for Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, 1897; Prayers for missionary work; The New Panorama Bible Study Course, 1959; Scheme A & B coloured sketches for the side chapel by JN Lawson, not dated; hiring of Polly Haw Meadow, 1928; agreement of use of Old Church School, 1966; folder with items related to old and new Church Hall (Olive Seal)*; various tithe amendment maps and schedules.*

* = to be deposited in KHLC.

From Helen Goldsworthy - 19 postcards of Farningham; 6 photos of St. John's Ambulance (Farningham); 4 photos (one of Village Market stall); Old Kentish Recipes from Kent Council of Social Service; lecture by Colonel E.W. Goldsworthy 'The story of Farningham Kent in relation to military and defensive work'; letter 2003 re reviving St John's Ambulance Division in Farningham; invoices from local businesses 1928-1935 - James Bentley Laundry, R & G Edwards Haulage, J Lambourne wheelwright, Darenth Valley Battery Service, J Crowhurst electrical engineer, Arthur S Crowhurst carting earth, HC Crooks builder decorator, Drs Lace, Smith and Rogers, A Oxtoby confectioner, Wm Alexander Home Farm, HL Welham footwear, Farningham Service Station; licence for a male servant and dogs 1927, 1929; 3 newspaper cuttings; sketch and plan for proposed addition to Farningham Village Hall, 1967, by JM Albery; illustrated book for sale of Franks, 1929; paperwork in relation to Farningham Exhibitions of 1934 and 1936 (including details of visit by Duke of Kent); printed appeal for funds for Farningham Village Hall; advertisement for Bricklayers Arms with photograph (photocopy).

From Martin Owen - Photo of men by Eynsford war memorial, 1920s.

From Bill Smith - Newspaper cuttings from the Kent Messenger c.1914, and 1953 Coronation concert put on by young people at Eynsford; 5 September 1918 death of John Broad of Eynsford aged 72. His wife's father was the toll-gate keeper at Sparepenny Lane, the toll there being a penny, while a charge of 2d was made on the main road - hence Sparepenny Lane.

and finally..... We have once again had a very busy year. We started off at the seaside in 1913, then later found out about the role of the police during WW2 and finally went to the Battle of Waterloo. In between there were exhibitions, fetes and a very enjoyable outing to the Royal Artillery Museum. Talking of exhibitions in October we held a small display in the library at the Castle Hotel (thank you to Sharron and Gordon) called the Pubs of Eynsford then and now, this was inspired by Alison and together with Susan they scoured the archives to find all the relevant information about our pubs. About 40 people attended and there was plenty of chat about the past. We are hoping to do another of these small displays in 2016 possibly on the Shops.

This year we welcomed two new people to our committee, Alison Bridgeman and Rick Clayton who took on the role of treasurer from Philip McGarvey.

Now it just leaves me to say



and



Jan Wilkes – Editor (865122 email hisarc@btinternet.com)

What's On 2016

Horton Kirby & South Darenth Local History Society

11 th January	Waterloo 200(+1) – Steve Hookins
14 th March	Creepy Kent – Neil Arnold
9 th May	Richard III – Toni Mount
13 th June	Our Thames from Dartford to Grain – Christoph Bull
11 th July	Restoring Reynolds Place – Laurence Hatfield
12 th September	Darent – Rod Shelton
14 th November	AGM

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)

Shoreham History Society

8 th January	Night Celebration – Wilf Lower on ITV The Golden Years
19 th February	The Kentish Iron Industry – Katherine Harding and Denise Baldwin
18 th March	Secrets of the East Bank Lighthouse – Doug Hilton

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)

Hexstable

14 th January	Brighton Pavilion – Sharon Mitchell
11 th February	Hexstable 1943 – Tim Jacobs
10 th March	Crystal Palace – Ian Bevan
14 th April	How Life Changed after 1914 – Anne Carter
12 th May	Victoria Cross – Glen Jones
9 th June	Rowhill Grange – Brian Wates
14 th July	Visit to Rowhill Grange
11 th August	Somme 100 to Wilhelm, with love – Steve Hookins
8 th September	A Sheltered Life – Mike Brown
13 th October	Our Thames from Dartford to Grain – Christoph Bull
10 th November	Keming VAD Hospital a village's response to WWI – Janet Easton
3 rd December	Christmas Party

Meetings are held at the Hextable Heritage Centre. Crawfords, Dawson Drive, College Road, Hextable from 7.30pm. If you require further information please contact Barbara Cannell (01322 864253) (Remember your membership card)

