

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 115

September 2017

Forthcoming Talks and Events

Date	Details	Where
9 th September	Eynsford Shops Exhibition – display of photographs and memorabilia related to local shops over the years (11am – 4pm The Library, Castle Hotel, Eynsford)	
22 nd September	Charles Darwin – Toni Mount	EVH
30 th September	Elliott Downs Till Remembered – A display of photographs and information relating to the life of Elliott Downs Till who died 100 years ago, on 30 th September 1917 (11am – 4pm The Library, Castle Hotel, Eynsford)	
17 th November	George Bernard Shaw, Playing the Clown – Brian Freeland	FVH
2018		
16 th February	Darent Valley, well I never knew that – Rod Shelton	FVH
27 th April	Excavation of a Saxon Palace in Eynsford (full title to be announced) – Brian Philp	
18 th May	AGM – Photographs on display from the FELHS Collection	FVH
21 st September	Kent on Film, old film sequences of rural life in Kent from early 20 th century	EVH
2 nd November	Members evening (details to be announced)	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

CHAIRMANS REPORT – Barbara Cannell

What is history? This thought ‘popped’ into my mind recently. My dictionary says it is an account of past events and developments, knowledge associated with a nation or person, an understanding of more than common interest. To me history is a form of

curiosity and the need for further research into any subject, be it local of family, that has made me want to learn more.

One of my quests for information began over 50 years ago with a wedding in St Martin's church in Eynsford and has taken me to various corners of this country and places in America, Canada and Tasmania. It has included horticulture in England and America, the poor law, police intervention and deportation.

Some of the results of this research will be seen in our display 'Elliott Downs Till Remembered' to be held in the Library of the Castle Hotel on Saturday 30th September beginning at 11am. This is a significant date as Elliott died on the 30th September 1917.

Many of you may have read our publication 'Elliott Downs Till: 1835-1917' written by Wilf Duncombe, our President. This display on the 30th September will show some of the other ways that Elliott became to be known as Friend and Benefactor of Eynsford.

We look forward to seeing you at the Castle

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

Memories of Farningham in the late 1940s/1950s

From Frank Richards:

Hillside: Mary Rivers Eden was Frank's Aunty May. There have always been rumours about the link with Sir Anthony Eden, and Edward Allen Atherton Eden's wife who was in the WRENs during the War was called cousin by Anthony Eden when they met.

Penwarden's garage: There was a table in front of the garage on which stood various sized gleaming polished copper funnels and containers for oil etc. There were tubs of beautiful flowers around the immaculate forecourt.

The Bull Hotel: The clientele dressed for dinner in the evenings - black bow tie for men and women in pretty dresses.

The Coopers at Sandhurst: Their son would hop over the garden wall to play cricket in the orchard with the Richards - Frank's mother was a good bowler.

1942 Visit by the Minister of Agriculture to Eynsford

In September 1942 the Minister of Agriculture, R. S. Hudson, along with representatives of the Governments of the United Nations, came to Eynsford, where Kent farmers were congratulated for increasing production under war conditions. A tour of William Alexander's hop fields at Castle Farm, Shoreham, was followed by a tour of Albert T. Miller's Wested Farm, where lunch was taken in the huge barn there. In the afternoon Home Farm, Eynsford, was used as a venue for a farm demonstration organised by the Agricultural Executive Committee. At the end of the day Mr Hudson addressed more than 500 farmers from all over the county. He thanked farmers for their achievements in more than doubling wheat acreage, nearly doubling acreages of barley, oats and potatoes, considerably increasing acreage of vegetables, particularly beans for stock feeding, and increasing the size of dairy and beef herds. Mr Hudson pointed out that all this had been achieved in spite of the handicaps of military exercises and operations, of the Battle of Britain, and more or less incessant exposure to air attack. The farming community of Kent had set a fine example to the other counties of England.

(Unnamed local newspaper, probably the Kentish Times, 18 September 1942)

Dartford Rural District Council Air Raid Precautions

Several items donated by Helen Goldsworthy related to the Second World War.

On 31 March 1940 wardens were sent on a training exercise. Wardens were to give what assistance they could. If necessary they were to call the First Aid Points and Posts for First Aid Services. If the First Aid Services needed reinforcement they were to contact their HQ, which for the purposes of the exercise was at 'Riseley', Horton Kirby. Ambulances with stretchers were to take casualties to the base hospital - in this case Horton Kirby Village Hall. Cars for sitting cases were to go to either 'Riseley' or Hextable. Fire engines were to be called to the 'supposed' incidents and were to set up the engine and attachments ready to deal with any fire which might be burning. Decontamination squads based at Fire Stations were only to obey calls from ARP Headquarters Control. Rescue parties also would only respond to HQ and not to

11 June 1940 Warden in charge at an incident -

GET HELP - SAVE LIFE - ALLAY PANIC preceded a list of instructions covering fire, casualties, damage to gas mains.

11 November 1944 & 15 November 1944 to All Nominated Women in the Home Guard thanking them for their efforts. 'Yours has not been a spectacular duty, everything that you have been asked to do has been behind the scenes, and for that reason alone the appreciation of the men is all the more sincere.' 'Though you do not appear on parades ... your efforts have been invaluable to the Home Guard.'

2 May 1945 As of today the Civil Defence Services are disbanded. In the time of heaviest attack there were nearly 200,000 whole-time members of the Civil Defence Services and one and quarter million part-time members. There are now only some 35,000 whole-time members and considerably less than a million part-time members. Before the first great attack fell on London in September 1940, no man could say how the Civil Defence organisation would work or how the Service would respond to the calls upon it. Once the attack started the issue was never in doubt.

Properties in Eynsford & Farningham more than 100 feet from a public sewer, 1915

Below is a selection from the list:

82 houses in Crockenhill and Eynsford:

Crockenhill - Middle Farm, Gosenhill Farmhouse, Petham Court Farmhouse, Great Wested Farmhouse, G. Clements corrugated iron dwelling house.

Eynsford - Upper Austin Lodge Farm and cottages, Lower Austin Lodge and cottages, Mill cottages, Station Master's house.

26 houses in Farningham:

Lavender Bank, The Limes (Eynsford Road), Turnpike house (Main Road), Charton Farm.

(RD/Da/AM/1/29 Dartford Rural District Council Minutes, 30 November 1915)

Henry Jarrett (alias Cloud)

Henry has an official war grave in Crockenhill churchyard, although he was accidentally killed by his nephew with a bird-scaring gun while recuperating from injury in the village. (See felhs.org.uk - Home Page left hand column WW1). I have often wondered how it was that Henry was given a full military funeral and buried with an official War Graves Commission headstone. Mick, a descendant, has gone through all the military records in the National Archives and sent copies of these. I have tried to find details of the inquest, but those for North Kent for 1916 have not survived. Apparently, Henry Jarrett had served in the Royal Field Artillery, but did

not like it and so instead of returning to it enlisted into the 1st Lincolnshire Regiment under the name Henry Cloud. His real name only emerged after the accident. (see Family history enquiries below)

Maplescombe Farm new factory, 1916

A new factory had been set up by The Rural Products Co. Ltd. of Twickenham to process farm produce for the armed forces. An inspection in February 1916 found as follows:

We found this factory very dirty and altogether unsatisfactory. They are shredding carrots, to supply them in a dried state for the soldiers' food. The heap of carrots was in a moulding condition and many of them decaying on the surface from overheating and all in a filthy condition, and even when washed the crevices were filled with mud. I produced a sample of the dried shreds, I took a basketful of carrots, which Mr Munns took in a hired vehicle to the nearest magistrate who has condemned them.

(RD/Da/AM/1/29 Dartford Rural District Council Minutes, 22 February 1916)

Dartford Union Minutes, 1842

James Edlow (aged 14) from Farningham was selected for the 55th Regiment. His brother, William aged 13, had greater trouble in getting settled. In 1846, he was apprenticed to shoemaker Edward Cook of Dartford, but had returned to the Workhouse in 1847 having been sent away by his master, who had moved to Ipswich. The Superintendent took William to Ipswich to question Edward Cook, but he had left Ipswich and no one knew where he could be found. The following year Edward Cook had been tracked down and was convicted of breach of indenture of apprenticeship and ordered to return £50 paid to him by the Dartford Union. In the meantime, William had been taken on by another shoemaker, John Cooper of Bexley. A third brother, George Edlow, aged 12, became a trial apprentice to William Walter, shoemaker of Northfleet.

Surgeon Mr Hunt was asked to attend James Clarke, a young man from Eynsford employed by Mr Selby of Seal, who had fractured his thigh. Mr Hunt claimed expenses for board and lodging at Mr Carter's Five Bells at Eynsford for £8/7/0d.

Thomas Fawknor, 64, of Farninham living in Ightham in great poverty and afflicted with rupture was unable to support himself. His wife, 63, was also old and infirm. They wanted to stay in their home where they had a small allotment from which, if aided by outdoor relief, they could raise money. The Revd. Burnside, churchwardens and overseers of Farningham asked for an exception to be made because outdoor relief would cost the parish less. Outdoor relief of 2/6d a week was agreed.

David Dalley employed at Chimhams Farm was homeless. His wife and 3 children sheltered in sheds and farm buildings. He could not get housing because his wife was severely epileptic and landlords feared fire and non-payment of rent. Mrs Dalley was examined by the Medical Officer of Health who considered her safe as she knew when an attack was imminent and had a responsible daughter to give her aid when needed. No aid was given because the husband had not requested any.

(G/Da/AM 5, 6, 7 - Dartford Union Minutes)

Family history enquiries

Francis Booker, the Cricketer - Dee has sent more information about him and wanted to be put in touch with other Booker researchers from previous Bulletins. She sent a transcript of Thomas Booker's will (1706-1777), which mentioned sister Elizabeth Bird and family, nephews and nieces surnamed Redsall, and cousins surnamed Miles. As regards, Francis Booker she has been unable to fit him into the family tree she has and wonders whether there were 2 of that name.

Henry Jarrett - Mick made contact via the website, having seen the display under WW1 Exhibition about Henry Jarrett (alias Cloud) of Crockenhill. I was able to put him into contact with another descendant and relative of Mick who lives in Crockenhill. (See above)

Challis/ Holt/ Sharp/ Sharwood of Farningham - As a follow-up to Hilary's previous request I sent her a photo of the former 'Holt Place' in Farningham.

Price/ Sharwood - I was also able to put Sue in touch with Hilary above and to answer queries about Price monuments in St. Martin's churchyard.

Elizabeth Wood - Ashley enquired about Elizabeth who was born in Farningham in 1879. I found the family in Horton Kirby rather than Farningham. The story in the family is that Ginny and William, 2 of Elizabeth's siblings, walked to South Wales in search of work. They were successful and sent for the rest of the family to join them

Other enquiries

First World War sites - Chris, Council for British Archaeology Home Front Legacy Officer, contacted me after finding the 1914-1918 Exhibition site on the website. Chris is coordinating a UK wide project recording 1st World War sites and had picked up on the searchlight and anti-aircraft gun in Crockenhill. I sent him details of this and the articles by our President, Dr Wilf Duncombe, on Farningham airfield and the Eynsford gun range. There is a map of the sites so far recorded at www.homefrontlegacy.org.uk which can be opened.

Football - Ralph is researching local football in Kent and came to see what photos we had of village teams. He used to play for various Farningham teams.

By coincidence, Tony, also had a football query - the whereabouts of the Darent Valley Football League Shield (later the Darent Football League Shield). The League was set up in 1910 and played until at least 1930. The shield was presented by the Hart-Dyke family.

Hillside, Farningham - Frank used to visit Hillside when the Eden family was living there in the late 1940s. I sent him a photo of Hillside from the archives and he shared some memories of Farningham. (See above)

History of the Eynsford Paper Mill site development - Frances has now compiled an album to show to the judges of Eynsford in Bloom competition. She was amazed at what we had in the collection.

Eynsford viaduct - John made contact via the website and wanted to know the date of Eynsford viaduct (c.1860-1862).

John Wood lorry - Barry has a photo of the 1st World War lorry of John Wood and hoped that one of the men shown in it might be a Divall relative. Although I have the photo in my collection it does not name the people. I would guess one might be his relative for the photo to be in his family.

Bob Pain - Mike was trying to trace Bob for a reunion of the Kent Police Cadets of 1967. Bob's parents lived in Eynsford. I suggested he ask Eynsford Parish Council to look up the electoral register for any Pain.

Farningham Home for Little Boys - Anne's husband spent some time there in the Second World War and wanted information. I directed her to FELHS Noticeboard on the website for contact as the Home lay in the parish of Horton Kirby and South Darenth.

ARCHIVE REPORT (Susan Pittman (01322 6699233 www.felhs.org.uk)

FELHS Centre

The Centre opened for the season on Monday mornings in April and will continue to be open from 9.30 a.m. to noon until November. We were able to put out a varied transport display at the AGM, which was well received. Preparations for the 'Shops in Eynsford' exhibition are progressing to plan, although the date has had to be re-scheduled for 9 September because of kitchen alterations in The Castle Hotel.

The team of Ann, Alison, Helen, Veronica, and Vikki has been kept busy with the events above and with generally sorting out the collection.

We have had 3 visitors, Keith whose grandparents had a shop in Eynsford; Sue who had travelled from Somerset in quest of her family history (Price, Sharwood); and Frances from Old Mill Close.

Diana Beamish has completed two more Scrapbooks with cuttings and flyers etc. about Eynsford 2014-2016.

Acquisitions

Diana Beamish - A series of photographs she had taken around Eynsford in 2016. They included changes to houses in St. Martin's Drive and Eynsford Rise, the Queen's 90th Birthday events, special trains through Eynsford station.

Helen Goldsworthy - A photograph of Eynsford bridge and ford with a horse and cart crossing the river; children in garden with 2 women; 19th Battalion Kent Home Guard history book; photo 1946 of the Battalion, many names on back; 1940 Beating the Invader, and New Year's Messages; 1941, ARP Training pamphlet no.3 'Advising the Public in the event of Invasion'; 1941 Chart of War Gases; ARP 1938 'What you can do'; several typed communications from Dartford Rural District ARP, 1940, 1944, 1945; Leaflet Bolshevism Exposed; Letter 1866 from Charles Colyer re Beesfield and Eglantine farms; 1934 cutting re Farningham bypass; 4 engineering plans for M20, April 1972.

Caroline Gould - Her father's (A. G. Guthrie) Certificate of Thanks for his service as Special Constable in the Second World War.

Simon Fisher - Eynsford by Curnow signed for Simon by Hilda Curnow.

Peter Jones - Peter is very good in sending me website connections which contain local material. I will reserve the latest for next time, but they included the first Ordnance Survey map

www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/onlineex/ordsurvdraw/e/zoomify82428.html; several local newspaper articles back in the 1890s downloaded; The Story of Chelsfield Grange with references to the Dalton family, after whom Daltons Road, Crockenhill, is named, because their farm was located in what is now Highcroft Hall. Abraham Dalton is buried in Eynsford Baptist Churchyard.

Joan Lowe - a photo of Paul Parmenter, one of the founders of FELHS.

Irene Whittaker - A copy of FELHS founding members of 1986, which I believe was the first-year subscriptions were taken. There were 96 members with 7 family memberships. About 20 members are still around.

and finally.....

As we lurch into Autumn I hope you all feel we have some interesting events coming up throughout the next few months and into 2018. The first of these being The Shops of Eynsford. The idea was put forward by Alison Bridgeman and is now coming to fruition, following some hard work put in by Alison, with the help of Susan Pittman searching our archives for relevant material. Below is a note from Alison.

I am looking forward to seeing you all on Saturday 9th September from 11am to 4pm in the Library, Castle Hotel, for an exhibition of Eynsford shops and Tea Rooms from the early 20th Century and beyond.

Showing an array of [places to purchase your daily needs – The Butchers, The Bakers, and possibly the Candle Stick Makers, finishing off with a cup of Rosie Lee, in one of the several cafes.

Alison Bridgeman

Jan Wilkes – Editor (865122)

What's On 2017

Horton Kirby & South Darent Local History Society

11th September Queens Victoria – Anne Carter

13th November AGM and short talk by Malcolm Scott followed by Cheese and Wine.

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

15th September Rat Catching – David Cuffley

20th October A Schoolgirl's War – Mary Smith

17th November Changing life at Castle Farm – William Alexander

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

14th September Paddle Steamer Medway Queens – Mark Bathurst

12th October Kent in the age of Pocahontas 1580-1650 – Christoph Bull

9th November Wandering in Flanders Field – Melanie Gibson-Barton

December Members 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)