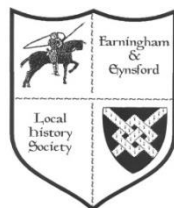


Farningham & Eynsford Local History Society

(Original Society founded 1985 Registered Charity no 1047562)

A Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee

No. 5620267 incorporated 11th November 2005 Registered Charity 1113765



Bulletin No. 134

Autumn/Winter 2023

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL REQUEST for 2024

If you have completed a membership form in the past, you do not need to fill out a new one unless your contact details have changed - then please let us know.

£10 (individual) / **£15** (family) membership

Life Membership: £100 (individual) / **£150** (a couple)

You can pay

- ✦ by cheque payable to **Farningham & Eynsford Local History Society (do not use initials)**
- ✦ by BACS (sort code 20 25 42 account 13275752)
- ✦ by standing order (sort code 20 25 42 account 13275752)

Please let **Mrs Alison Marshall**, Membership Secretary, 83 Hever Avenue, West Kingsdown, TN15 6HQ, Kent (alisondukes@btinternet.com) know that you have paid remotely or send her your cheque.

At the same time please let us know if you wish us to collect Gift Aid for this year and for future years. Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made.

MORE COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE NEEDED FOR SUCCESSION. PLEASE COME FORWARD AND SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP.

FELHS FACEBOOK @felhs.1985 From Vikki and Helen:

FELHS Facebook Page @felhs.1985 where everyone can share items from the archive and other matters that relate to the local history of the area. We have posted photos and articles that are of interest to our followers, or that have arisen from queries. Do search us out and give us a Like. If you have any suggestions on items that you would like to see on the page please email us at info@felhs.org.uk

FELHS WEBSITE www.felhs.org.uk -

Any queries to archives@felhs.org.uk

2024 PROGRAMME

**This programme can also be found on the Diary page of the website.
The dates are all Fridays. Doors open 7.30 pm for talks at 8.00 pm. The evening
includes refreshment and a display of items from FELHS collection.**

2024

23 February

Farningham VH

Nick Rushby

The Archbishop's Palace at Otford

Nick is Secretary of The Archbishop's Palace Conservation Trust which aims to restore and find new usages for the Palace gatehouse. His talk will be about the Archbishop's Palace at Otford and its gatehouse.

22 March

Eynsford VH

John Laidlow

The Old Manse - A House through Time

Since moving into The Old Manse at Eynsford member John has been researching the house and its occupants. Built in 1844, The Old Manse was the Baptist school and minister's residence for Eynsford and Farningham. It later served as a showroom for farm equipment, experienced war tragedies and war heroes, hosted some of Britain's earliest diesel car tests and much more...

19 April

Farningham VH

Dr Anne Sassin

Archaeological Excavations in Lullingstone Castle garden

A return visit from Anne who will give an update on the archaeological digs in the garden at Lullingstone Castle. There have been some exciting finds dating occupation back to Saxon times and earlier.

17 May

Farningham VH

FELHS AGM

We hope to show a film by FELHS of an exhibition it held in about 1987 and a visit to Franks, but difficulties with sound amplification need to be resolved.

20 September

Eynsford VH

Christoph Bull

Dickens in Kent

Christoph's talk is about Charles Dickens in Kent, a county the author knew well from boyhood to old age.

18 October

Farningham VH

Diana Beamish

Education in Eynsford and Farningham in the past

Member Diana will talk about education in Farningham and Eynsford from its early roots to the first 50 years of Anthony Roper Primary School.

15 November

Eynsford VH

Film of Eynsford in the Second World War

We hope to show a Penwarden film of Eynsford in the Second World War. This will be a ticketed event with refreshments to raise money for the new Village Hall at Eynsford.

RESEARCH REPORT

Susan Pittman, 01322 669923, archives@felhs.org.uk

Flying Bombs around and over Eynsford

Despite the undoubted interest of Alan Williams' talk to the Society about flying bombs along the Darent Valley, there was disappointment that Alan's research had not extended north of Shoreham. In the last Bulletin I listed the flying bombs at Farningham. I have now researched the Eynsford ARP books and the incident reports compiled at HQ so have decided to circulate the results at the end of this Bulletin.

Till and Arbor Day - revived Arbor Day 2023

FELHS provided laminated display sheets at Millfield at the gathering after the walk on 30 September 2023 to see the new acrostic. The trees were funded by Eynsford Parish Council as part of the late Queen's Green Canopy to celebrate her Platinum Jubilee. The recent Arbor Day was held to celebrate the acrostic 'SAVE THE PLANET' in the north-west corner of Lullingstone Park.

Sycamore: Alder: Variegated maple: Eucalyptus:

Tulip tree: Hop hornbeam: Elm:

Plane: Lime: Acer: Nothofagus: English oak: Thuya



Elliott Downs Till planting a silver birch at the bottom of Bower Lane during Arbor Day, 1905.

Crash landing of a Hurricane in Lullingstone Park - 1940

On 5 September during the Battle of Britain eight Hurricanes left Croydon to intercept a formation of 60 German bombers with a fighter escort of about 60 planes. The eight Hurricanes attacked and destroyed one Messerschmitt, perhaps two others, and damaged another plane. Flight Sergeant Frank Harry Silk, pilot of one Hurricane, engaged with the enemy without knowing the result because his plane was damaged by enemy fire and he made a forced landing in Lullingstone Park. This information came from the Fighter Command Combat Report. Locally, the crash was recorded in the ARP book, which is held at our Centre. At 11.02 a.m. the duty officer wrote that a plane had come down, and that the Flight RAF Sergeant was suffering from shock and wounds. The duty officer phoned Riseley (a former Maternity Hospital in Horton Kirby, which had become the HQ of the Red Cross) for an ambulance. Lady Zoe Hart Dyke also wrote about the crash, though she referred to the

plane as a Spitfire. "The pilot was very badly burned and with an arm and several ribs broken. He was still conscious, and when she gave him a cigarette, he grinned and whispered: "Hadn't time to let myself down on a bit of thread like one of your ruddy silkworms." I wonder what she would have made of his surname 'Silk' had she known it!

Lady Zoe Hart Dyke *So Spins the Silkworm* (1949) pp.92-93.

The Royalist Rebellion of 1643

Among the lists of those fined in Kent for rising against the Parliamentarians in the English Civil War were Richard Duke of Eynsford - fined £30 (£5700 in today's money), and George Payne of Farningham - fined £5 (£950 in today's money), but George also became the leader of another rebellion in 1645. The highest fine in Kent was £50. There are other surnames which could be local, but whose residence has not been proven.

TNA SP28; list in *The Journal of Kent Local History* no. 34, March 1992, FD Johns, *The Royalist Rebellion of 1643: Fines on Kentish Rebels*.

Building a Smelting Furnace at Dartford, 1578

When Martin Frobisher returned from a voyage of discovery to Canada, he brought back quantities of 'gold', which turned out to be worthless 'fool's gold'. Before the truth became clear a vast smelting furnace was built in Dartford to process the ore. The account book of the construction showed that local building supplies came from:

Crockenhill	Widow Mosyer provided 36,500 roof tiles
Hulberry	From Master Vane, 11 tons & 30 feet of rough elm, great oak plank 19 feet, 7.5m loads of squared elm
Lullingstone	533 feet of squared oak (some from Sevenoaks): 391 feet of squared oak: 602 feet squared oak
Swanley	Lime 21 quarters

TNA E164/35 &36; transcript in Thomas HB Symons (editor), *Meta Incognita: A Discourse of Discovery* (1999) pp.505-521.

Register Book for Gamekeepers, 1711

The register begins with the powers given to a gamekeeper.

The Lord of the Manor appointed the gamekeeper as his deputy. Within the limits of the manor he had full power to search and take away from persons game killed and to take away guns, nets and other engines of destruction, and to bring such game dogs, guns, etc. to the Lord of the Manor or to carry them to a J.P.

Manor of Oxiden in Eynsford -

Thomas Hayward of Eynsford was gamekeeper for Fisher Tench of Low Layton, Essex

Manor of Oston (Austin) Lodge -

John Booker of Rygate, Surrey, was gamekeeper for Fisher Tench of Low Layton, Essex

Manor of Orkesden in Eynsford -

Christopher Hayward of Austen Lodge was gamekeeper for Fisher Tench of Low Layton, Essex

Manor of Franks -

Francis Bathurst Esq. allowed his gamekeeper, Thomas Cook of Horton Kirby, liberty to hunt and fowl upon or within his manor of Highlands, Swanley, in the parish of Sutton-at-Hone, and on all lands commonly known as Calfe Stock and Calfe Stock Woods, and within the grounds, lands and woods of Franks in return for being granted the powers of gamekeeper.

KHLC Q/RSg 1.

Farningham Academy

Farningham Academy was run by Richard Whiffin from 1819 to 1836. It was a boarding school for boys under the age of twelve, but its location within Farningham is unknown. The boys were taught English grammar, writing, arithmetic, geography - list followed by 'etc'. The fees were 25 guineas (1 guinea = 105p), but 28 guineas if instruction in the Classics and French was required. Extra tuition (for 4 guineas extra each) was available for dancing, music, drawing, mathematics and fencing. 'It is expected that each young Gentleman will bring with him a knife and fork, spoon and six towels.'

This information is to be found on an advertising card 4 x 3½ inches. Of interest in itself, but what is fascinating is a small cloud study (image under copyright withheld) thought to be by John Constable (1776-1837) executed in the 1820s on the back of this card. The query was what link there was between the card and John Constable. No definitive answer was found. Constable lived in Hampstead from 1819 to 1837 in various homes. In 1828 his wife Elizabeth died of tuberculosis after giving birth to their seventh child, and Constable was left to raise their seven children alone. Perhaps he acquired the card because he was thinking of sending one of his children to the school.

FARNINGHAM ACADEMY,
S. P.
R. WHIFFIN,

*Young Gentlemen below the age of twelve, are
respectably boarded & diligently instructed, in
English Grammar, Writing, Arithmetic, Geography, &c.*

AD

TWENTY FIVE GUINEAS PER ANNUM:
above that age
TWENTY EIGHT GUINEAS PER ANNUM
*including instruction in the
Classics & French Language.*

No Entrance required

<i>Dancing... £ 4.4.0</i>	EXTRAS	<i>Music..... £ 4.4.0</i>
<i>Drawing..... 4.4.0</i>		<i>Mathematics... 4.4.0</i>
<i>Use of the Globes... 2.2.0</i>		<i>Fencing, &c.</i>

*It is expected that each young Gentleman will bring
with him a Knife & Fork, Spoon and Six Towels.*

Quarter's notice is requested previous to removal.
Accounts to be settled half Yearly.

General Enquiries

Till and Arbor Day - Information requested for the Arbor Day event - see above.

Roman artefacts for loan to Anthony Roper Primary School - A teacher asked if FELHS could provide any Roman artefacts to show in the classroom. Most of the Roman artefacts have been donated by Brian Philp and would not be available, but we have a bag of mosaic pieces from the villa at Farningham, which could be lent out. At the time of the inquiry the Centre was out-of-action, and the teacher did not get back to us.

Crashed Hurricane in Lullingstone Park, pilot Flight Sergeant Frank Harry Silk - Andy wanted to know any local information available about his father's crash landing in Lullingstone Park in 1940 - see above.

Farningham Academy - An advertising card with a cloud study thought to be by John Constable was being conserved by Sarah, who wanted to know the connection between the school and the artist - see above.

Farningham bridge tablets - Rochester Bridge Trust has agreed to grant-aid the restoration of the tablets, and KCC Highways has agreed that work can take place. Farningham Parish Council asked advice about specialist stone masons. Kent Historic Buildings Committee has made suggestions as to who to contact.



An unusual view of the bridge at Farningham showing the tablet on the river side of the bridge, which is less visible than the ones on the road side. It bears the names of Thomas Sharp bricklayer and George Pawley carpenter, 1773. The horse chestnut on the left fell victim to the gale and floods of 5 September 1958 - a replacement was planted in the following year, but it has not survived. (from the collection of Kelvin Tyacke)

Images of Eynsford - Mike wanted pictures of the forge and the school at Bower Lane. We hope that next year 'Eynsford - Past and Present' will be published which will contain over 80 images of Eynsford in the past, alongside present images from the same viewpoint.

Family History

Sarah Robina Leishman (1850-1939) - Sarah died at Eynsford Vicarage in 1939. She was buried in Eynsford Churchyard. She had been Principal of two schools in Bromley. Simon Finch of Bromley Local Studies Library wanted to know the circumstances of her living in the Vicarage, and whether she had links with the vicar, Revd. Thomas H. Groves, (vicar from 1930-1946) who is also buried in the Churchyard. Revd. Groves was buried alongside

Elizabeth Dodds, S.R.N. of Darlington, born Jan 2nd 1891, died at the Vicarage, Eynsford, Sept 19th 1929 - connection between the two unknown. I could find no information about Sarah's connection either, but wondered whether the Vicarage might already have been turned into flats. A letter in the Centre showed that Capt. Turner had the headquarters of the Barrage Balloon Unit there in the War. Please contact me if you have any information.

ARCHIVE REPORT

Susan Pittman - 01322 669923, www.felhs.org.uk



Mark Bradley of 'Brushstrokes' putting finishing touches to redecorating The Centre, 29 August 2023.

Eynsford Parish Council made a successful insurance claim for redecorating the Centre, after the damp and mildew damage resulting from the burst pipe in January. A huge thankyou to Vikki and her father, Barry, Helen and her husband, Barry, and Keith, a newish volunteer, for emptying cupboards and shelves, and moving furniture away from walls and ceilings. Our collection was taken in car-loads to be stored in various locations round the villages. During September into November furniture has been put back in place and contents returned - another round of hard work! The volunteering effort was done calmly and efficiently, so congratulations to all those who undertook the moves out and back. Thank you also to those who offered to help, but whose offers were not followed up. It was reassuring to know that there was back-up available.

Acquisitions

Martin Gee - Eynsford Women's Institute Golden Jubilee Dinner programme 1969.

Peter Heinecke - Numerous local history booklets from Peter's executors.

Wilf Duncombe - Numerous local history books from Wilf's executors.

FLYING BOMBS IN EYNSFORD AND LULLINGSTONE

List of Flying Bombs from www.fieldmaps.info found at Dartford Library (incident numbers in left column below)

Entries from Eynsford ARP (Air Raid Precaution) Books in FELHS Centre

1st flying bombs reported as PAC - pilotless aircraft - then Fly B, FB

- 13/6/1944 1st V1 in area reported in Swanscombe parish (also 1st in Britain)
- 11/9/1944 1st V2 in Kent fell near Crockenhill
- 27/3/1945 Last V2 of War fell in Orpington

1944

15 June

ARP book 4 PACs flying towards London

16 June

ARP book 7 PACs flying towards London. Post told no need to report if flying over 4.25 - PAC exploded just above Lullingstone Park, west of Eynsford Station (could be 1822 below) morning - PAC fell at Hulbury (now spelt Hulberry), blew in windows, crater not large, debris from craft.

18 June

1820

ARP book **Lullingstone Park - Castle and cottages damaged**
PAC brought down not far from Lullingstone Castle, it had exploded. Spitfires brought down PAC which flew over Eynsford came down near Halstead.

21 June

Call Fly B not PAC in future.

22 June

1822

ARP book **¾ west of Lullingstone Castle**
Top end of Lullingstone Park, shot down by machine guns from plane.

27 June

ARP book FB exploded NW direction 1½ away, towards Crockenhill: FB over.

28 June

ARP book FB over: FB over, exploded one minute later - obscured by cloud. Aeroplane shot down FB in direction of Button Street.

1 July

1836

Skeet Hill - fire, 2 serious and 2 minor casualties

1838

ARP book **100 yards west of Austin Lodge Lane**
12.45 Bottom of old Vicker's range. Some damage. Road and communications OK.

1841

ARP book **West of Chalkhurst Wood - barrage balloon damaged**
14.18 Behind Chalkhurst Wood. Damage to Bower House windows.

21 July

1856

ARP book **Parish of Lullingstone - barrage balloon damaged**
FB exploded and fell in Chapel Field off Lullingstone Lane. Pieces collected, damage to crop. Map ref.972848.

22 July

1857

ARP book **Hulbury Farm, damage to property - barrage balloon damaged**
FB fell at Hulbury Farm, no one to send to investigate. No damage, flying glass.

1858

ARP book **Lower Austin Lodge - 'D' damage**
FB on right towards Austin Lodge Valley between Austin Lodge and wood The Birches. Struck a balloon.

26 July

1860

West of Bower Lane - 'D' damage

ARP book FB exploded 400 yards SE of Eynsford Rise - reported by searchlight crew. Clarification - 1½ miles off Bower Lane. Crater 9 feet deep by 20 feet diameter. Slight damage to crop. Eynsford Rise window frames damaged. Also Station Road.

28 July

ARP book FB over

3 August

ARP book FB down in direction of Hulbury.

22 August

1890

ARP Book **Lower Beechen Wood - damage in Shoreham area**
1.05 Searchlight report FB dropped in Lullingstone Park area. Map ref. 961826. Trees on fire, not confirmed. Exploded in air and struck a tree. Damage to buildings in Shoreham area. Map ref. 958826: FB over in Hulbury direction.

23 August

ARP book FBs over.

9 November

1896

Lullingstone Park - exploded in air - warhead continued towards London, Castle, Church, estate buildings damaged
ARP book Reported 19.05 ref.no. 969834. The flying bomb collided into tree and exploded in Lullingstone Park. Damage caused to Castle, Church, farm buildings and cottages, no casualties, roads and communications not affected. 10/11//44 Claims of damage from St Martin's Drive, Eynsford Rise and Station Road posted to Avenue House.

11 November

1898

Top of Bower Lane - exploded in air near Park House slight damage
ARP book Struck a tree and exploded in the air about ½ mile beyond Park House. Road and services OK, casualty one dead rabbit. Map ref. 992.824.

1945

11 February

ARP book Mrs Wells reported a broken window at New Place owing to enemy action on Tuesday (6th).

14 February

ARP book 2.20 Smoke seen mile or two away.
2.30 Lady Fountain reported all the windows broken in her drawing room.
3.55 Mrs Hemphrey reported rocket dropped back of Spindlebank, Sparepenny Lane (Farningham no.1907).

Damage to Lullingstone Gatehouse from V1 of 11/11/1945, here in 1952 before repairs.

