

# The Farningham & Eynsford Local History Society

Founded 1985

*A Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee*

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(Original Society founded 1985 Registered Charity no 1047562)

## Bulletin No 86

June 2010

### Forthcoming Talks and Events

2010	Details	Where
24th Sept	<b>Metal Detecting – Des Cook</b>	Farningham
16th Oct	<b>London Pride (Music Hall)</b>	Farningham
26th Nov	<b>The R101 Airship Titanic of the Sky – Brian Hussey</b>	Eynsford

### **HISTORY MONTH 1st August - 31st August 2010 (see attached)**

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)**

Another AGM. but this one was different. This year we celebrated 25 years since the Society was founded with the cutting of a birthday cake! Membership has remained at about the same level over the years, with many founder members still supporting the Society today, but we will always welcome new members. The aims of the Society are still the same, to record, preserve and publish the researched information for future reference. In 25 years we have produced thirty nine publications. I hope that the Society can continue to uphold these aims. With the arrival of the long awaited archive centre now holding almost all the Society's documents, photographs and artefacts it is much easier to access items relating to the history of the areas that we cover. Although we have a large collection of local information we always welcome additional photographs and family histories.

### **PUBLICATION REPORT (Barbara Cannell)**

How lovely that Wilf Dumcombe's publication on the Gibson Family and their foundry was completed in time for the AGM on Friday 14th May. You may remember that Wilf and I had been searching for manhole covers and drains for many months. It was amazing how far from Eynsford many of them were found. Thank you to those members who gave us the location of some of these manhole covers.

Does your home have a history? Is it an old property or a newly built addition to the village, was it once a shop, public house or ale house, a doctor's surgery or hairdressers, did anyone famous live there? Was the ground it was built upon once an open field, an orchard or used for industry? Answers to any of these questions helps to create a picture of what our villages were like in the past. If you would like to share with us the results of any research you may have done or would like to see if there's any reference to your home in the archives please talk to us.

From a recent experience it's always helpful to know who may have lived in your home. A knock on my front door recently from someone visiting this country from Australia was answered by my daughter. They had traced their great, great grandfather to having lived in my house. Sadly she didn't recognise the name and didn't come indoors to find me., I would have loved to know about their relative and the history of someone who had obviously been part of the history of the house and possibly part of the history of the village. Research and information like this produces interesting and informative publications.

### **RESEARCH REPORT (Susan Pittman 669923) website [www.felhs.org](http://www.felhs.org)**

#### **Open invitation to a 'live dig'**

Members are invited to the Darent Valley Archaeological Project digs. If the weather is suitable there will be a dig every weekend at Filston, near Shoreham. In August a new Roman site near Farningham will be investigated. Two post graduates from Sussex University, researching for their PhD, are leading the digs. For more information or if you would like to visit the dig contact [p.cawsey@btinternet.com](mailto:p.cawsey@btinternet.com) (Paul Cawsey is the contact).

#### **Request for photographs of individual houses from the street**

Diana Beamish has photographed the houses in Eynsford Rise and St. Martin's Drive for the Society. It is an interesting record to have and will be an invaluable record for the future. Perhaps readers might like to take up the challenge and photograph the houses in their neighbourhood, keeping intrusion to the minimum of course.

#### **felhs.org.uk website**

During the year February 2009 to February 2010 the site has had 82,000 visits and 10,000 hits - (I am glad I didn't have to answer 10,000 enquiries!!) Each old Bulletin is added to a section 'Bulletin' on the website after the new Bulletin is distributed, and it is hoped that a search facility might be devised for the growing number of Bulletins now on the website.

#### **New deposits in Bromley Local Studies Library Eldridge collection (1127)**

1127/4 includes leaflet about the effigy of Sir John Peche in Lullingstone church; etching of St. Botolph's, Sunday Times 11 May 1946; Charity Commission re Sir John Peche's Charity, 16 January 1931; Mosyer Charity, 3 March 1905 & 5 June 1935.

1127/10 Coal posts list and maps of sites – there are several in Crockenhill.

### **Mrs E.D. Hart collection (288)**

288/1/3 includes various notes on the Hart family of Lullingstone, 1566-1819, and 20 other items related to Lullingstone..

288/1/4 includes index to wills in the PCC for Orpington, St. Mary Cary, Eynsford, Shoreham, St Paul's Cray, Cudham and Hayes.

### **From 'Remembering Farningham's Wartime Heroes' by Frank Bamping**

Able seaman Gilbert J. Barton (30) served on HMS Cressy and was among 1,400 men killed when the Cressy and two other cruisers, HMS Aboukir and HMS Hogue, were sunk by German submarine U9 on 22 September 1914. The Navy was subsequently criticised for sending the three old, slow cruisers with inexperienced crews on patrol in the North Sea unaccompanied by battleships.

([www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/Research](http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/Research))

### **Even more about the Samoyed dogs in Farningham**

From 1909 – 1913 Mr E. Kilburn Scott, a consultant engineer, had an office at Vale House in Milk Street, off Burnt Ash Lane.

(Bromleag 3, no13, March 2010, p.20, The forgotten house of Milk Street by Simon Finch)

### **The devil in Farningham?**

The mausoleum to Thomas Nash, who died in 1778, has an oval-shaped opening between the inscription and the surmounting dome, which has a devil association. In the late C19th and early C20th a game of dare among the braver Farningham girls involved them trying, one at a time, to throw a pin or a needle through this opening. If they did so, they would run rapidly around the mausoleum and supposedly the Devil would look out of the opening to see who had disturbed him.

(Bygone Kent 3 no.1, January/February 2010, p.24, 'Better the devil you know ...' by Alan Major)

### **George Young, schoolmaster and Baptist Minister**

George Young, born in Kingsdown in 1825, lived in Eynsford from about 1850-1870 where he taught in the National School. After 1870 he moved to Plumstead where there is a memorial fountain to him on Plumstead Heath. Kathy, who is researching George Young, was delighted when Wilf Duncombe forwarded a photograph of George and his wife. George died tragically in 1895 after drinking spirit of salt instead of cough mixture, kept in similar bottles.

### **1873 Lawn tennis at Lullingstone Castle**

The three main participants were involved in the development of the modern rules of tennis. Sir William Hart Dyke and John Heathcote served on the Lords committee that came up with the MCC version of the rules in 1875 and Julian Marshall was on the Wimbledon sub-committee that produced the definitive rules in 1877. John Heathcote and his brother, Charles Heathcote, with Marshall and Jones co-authored the Wimbledon rules in 1877, and in 1880 John Heathcote played a practice game against Herbert

Lawford, which recorded the contrast in stroke play.

### **Farningham tithe dispute, 1838-1840**

Tithes were one-tenth of agricultural produce payable to the church to support the parish clergymen. Some parishes, like Farningham, had a rector and a vicar who would share the tithes between them. The tithes of some produce went to one, and of other items to the other. In this case it seems that the rector in times past had taken the tithe from the hop harvest and so denied this income to the vicar. Various vicars had protested about this, but did not have the funds to put forward a legal challenge. In 1840 there were 15½ acres of hops grown in the parish and the tithe was fixed at £1 an acre. This was the period when tithes in kind were being replaced by fixed monetary amounts, and the arbitration committee found in favour of the vicar who was to receive £15 10 shillings a year for the hops.

### **Will of Thomas Pryer of Eynsford, 5 February 1769**

He left his cousin, William Pryer, his silver watch. He left his housekeeper £5 5 shillings to buy a mourning suit and a deal box to put her clothes in. The rest of his goods and estate he left to his father, Thomas Pryer, who lived at Bowyer or Bower Cottage in Eynsford.

### **Sir John Peche of Lullingstone in Henry VIII's reign**

Sir John Peche, Knight of the Body, was appointed in 1509 as steward of all the lands in Kent that Henry VIII had inherited from his grandmother, Margaret, Countess of Richmond. In 1512 he was appointed steward to three manors in Lee with a salary of forty shillings (£2) a year, and was made joint keeper of the palace of Eltham and the Great and Horn parks there at four pence a day each. He had custody of the manor of Eltham for twenty years at a rent of just under £35.

(Drake's 'Hundred of Blackheath' p.178)

### **Family history enquiries**

- **Herbert Lawford and lawn tennis at Lullingstone** – Nigel requested more information about the 1873 experiments of lawn tennis as background for a profile he is writing. (See research above)
- **Walter, Brasier** – Tessa tells me that Edward Walter, gentleman of Lullingstone married widow Elizabeth Brasier in Eynsford in 1774. Elizabeth's will stated that she was from Farningham and appointed Sir John Dixon Dyke and Thomas Dyke as trustees for her son, John Walter.
- **Papermakers Samuel Tovey (1767) and John Turner (c.1791)** – Steve was seeking information about papermaking in Eynsford.
- **Hollands of Sutton-at-Hone** – Ann wanted to know the origin of the name 'Hollands' farm.

### **Other enquiries**

- **Munn's cottage, Eynsford** – Sally would like information about the cottage and its residents, who included Peter Warlock.
- **Old boundary stone, Darns Hill, Crockenhill** – Barrie remembered this from the 1960s, but it is no longer there. It probably marked a parish boundary between St Mary Cray, Eynsford or Lullingstone.
- **Fort Farningham** – Chris is working on a project relating to C19th and C20th

defensive structures and requested help to locate the owner.

- **Book or publication about Farningham** – Roy Fuller and brother Jim (born c.1927-1930) (sons of Isaac, known as George, of Oliver Crescent, Farningham) are supposed to be mentioned in a book about Farningham, which also contains a photo. Roy Fuller's daughter, Anne, is trying to trace this book – I have looked in Bernard Drew's booklets about Farningham in the Second World War and Farningham Cricket Club, without success and have run out of ideas – help please!

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

#### **FELHS Centre**

The security grill, which has been always been difficult to lock and unlock, has now been serviced and is in full working order. 'Decorating Dad' has carried out minor maintenance work and is a most useful contact to have made.

I continue to respond to all enquiries and, if necessary, the Centre can be opened to individuals by appointment.

#### **Acquisitions**

- **From Diana Beamish – Photographs of St. Martins Drive and Eynsford Rise**, taken between November 2009 and February 2010.
- **From Jane Laird – Copy photograph of The Priory, Priory Lane, Eynsford**, taken before 1886.
- **From Geoffrey Copus – Copies of new catalogues of the Eldridge collection (1127) and Mrs E.D. Hart collection (288)** in Bromley Local Studies Library (see Research).

### **and finally ...**

The AGM was a very pleasant evening and we have now got two new committee members Barrie Payne and Mick Martin both with extensive knowledge of Eynsford and Farningham. A thankyou to Mary Turner for supplying the buffet.

There is still time to enter the poetry competition, entries subject Eynsford, Farningham or Crockenhill any aspect of the village. Send to me at 2 Fountain Cottage, Bower Lane, Eynsford, DA4 0AL or to my e-mail address.

History month details are attached to this bulletin and as an addition there is a chance to get into Lullingstone Castle at a reduce price of £5.00 for FELHS members and a guest and have a tour of the house and church with Philip McGarvey. If you are interested meet at the Castle on Sunday 29th August at 2pm and make yourself known.

Once again I apologise for the delay in getting this bulletin to you but I had some loose ends to tie up. Thank you for your patience.

**Jan Wilkes (865122) (Janw@fsmail.net)**

# FARNINGHAM & EYNSFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

We as a Society would also like to thank everyone in advance for their support and assistance in putting together this programme of events.

## HISTORY MONTH

### August 2010

- Saturday 7th August**      **Exhibition at Farningham Village Hall  
11am to 4pm**  
Including a display of finds from Darent Valley, Geoff Burr. Guided Village walk 2pm (this is an approximate time dependent on weather and numbers) (refreshments available)
- Thursday 12th August**      **Talk by Brian Philp at Lullingstone  
Roman Villa**  
6.30pm talk starts 7pm ( FELHS members free, non Members £5.00) numbers are limited. Contact Jan Wilkes 01322 865122 or e-mail Janw@fsmail.net
- Saturday 14th August**      **Exhibition at Olive Seal Hall 11am to 4pm**  
Including a display of finds from Darent Valley. Geoff Burr. Guided Village walk 2pm (this is an approximate time dependent on weather and numbers)(refreshments available)
- Saturday 21st August**      **Exhibition at Crockenhill Village Hall 11am  
to 4pm**  
Including Guided walks of village, church and foundry commencing 9.30am (this is an approximate time dependent on weather and numbers) (refreshments available)
- 28th, 29th and 30th August**      **Discoveries in the Darent Valley 11am to  
5pm in the Learning Space at Lullingstone  
Roman Villa with Barbara Cannell**
- Monday 30th August**      **Display of all poems submitted to the competition  
and prize giving for the winners. From 11am to 5pm  
in the Learning Space at Lullingstone Roman**

## **Villa**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON ANY OF THE ABOVE CALL JAN  
WILKES 01322 865122 OR E-MAIL Janw@fsmail.net**

### **WHAT'S ON 2010/211**

#### **Horton Kirby & South Darenth Local History Society**

##### **2010**

- 12th July History of Otford - Cliff Ward  
12th Sept Railways of Kent - Bob Ratcliffe  
8th Nov Kent Villages, signs and Inn signs - Colin Coe

##### **2011**

- 10th Jan The Lure of Family History - Peter Shearan  
14th April Hever Castle - Don Williams  
9th May Working Behind the Scenes with National Trust - Andrew McElwee  
11th July Society Member's evening  
12th Sept Mystery Animals of Kent - Neil Arnold  
14th Nov Ceremonial London - Anne Carter

NEW BOOK - The Farningham Home for Boys (this book has plenty of historical information and photographs of members) £6.00 + £1.50 P&P from Keith Saunderson on 01322 862056)

All meetings are held in the Village Hall, South Darenth from 8pm. If you require further information contact Keith Saunderson (01322 862056) (Remember your membership card)

#### **Shoreham & District Historical Society**

##### **2010**

- 11th July July strawberry cream tea at Pebblegate  
10th Sept Dickens, Man of Medway - Thelma Grove  
18th Sept Outing to Rochester and Gad's Hill  
22nd Oct The History of Fort Halstead - Dave Perry  
19th Nov Knole and the Sackvilles - Jill Webber

##### **2011**

- 6th Jan Twelfth Night Supper A Country House at Christmas - Pat Mortlock  
21st Jan Hopping in Kent - Richard Filmer  
18th Feb The Story of British Broadcasting - Dan Dray  
18th March AGM The History of the RAF at Biggin Hill - Bob Ogle

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 522836) to check that no changes have been made to their programmes (Remember your membership card)

#### **Hextable Heritage Society**

##### **2010**

- 8th July Visit to St Margaret's Church, Darenth 7.15pm at church  
12th Aug More Cinemas of Yesterday - Andy Garner  
9th Sept Hartley church revisited - Gerald Cramp  
14th Oct If War should Come - Chris Baker  
11th Nov Puppets, Piers and Pantomimes - Alsn Stockwell  
Dec Members Christmas Party

All meetings are held at the Hextable Heritage Centre off College Road. 7.15pm for 7.30pm start. If you require further information please contact Barbara Cannell (01322 864253)