

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

2011	Details	Where
23rd Sept	The Darent Valley Archaeological Project - Paul Cawsey	Eynsford
25th Nov	Invitation to a Vestry Meeting - Jean Stirk	Farningham
17th Sept	Trip to Hythe	

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)

With the end of the summer activities comes a sigh of relief. Thinking of themes for the different events that the Society attends becomes harder each year as we try not to repeat what has been done in previous years. Although the archive centre is now reaching saturation point as to storage facilities new acquisitions quite often provide the opportunity for research with the possibility for new displays. Postcards and photographs are always welcome especially if places and people are known but please remember when writing information on the back of the item to use a pencil.

PUBLICATIONS REPORT (Barbara Cannell 864253)

Following the completion of "The Commemoration of Wars in Crockenhill, Eynsford & Lullingstone, Kent" I sent a copy to the Imperial War Museum in London. I have received a reply from their Library Development, Department of Collections Access, thanking me for forwarding them a copy and saying that they were delighted to add this item to their collection and were grateful for our consideration of the Museum. At this point in time there are no new publications being researched, please can contact me with any ideas, local people, events, houses with a history even a family history, a small article on any subject which could be put into a miscellany.

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

I have not yet purchased the new cupboard for the books because I am awaiting two eye operations and the delivery date for the cupboard could not be guaranteed. The previous cupboards took 3 months to come, although I had been told 2 weeks! It turned out that the 2 weeks started from their arrival at the warehouse in U.K., rather than their manufacture and dispatch from Turkey!

The Centre for Kentish Studies closure

Be warned CKS will be closed from at least November 2011 to March 2012 for the transfer to a brand new purpose-built Centre not far away. Transferring all the books and archives will be a complex business, but the staff has been working hard for months to make the move as smooth as possible.

The Centre for Kentish Studies now allows photography

If you do go the Centre take your camera, because it is now possible to take photos of documents on purchase of a daily licence of £10. Only documents that have not yet been digitised or microfilmed may be photographed, without flash or tripod.

Researching the history of your house

This 11-page A4 pamphlet has been produced by CKS. If you would like a copy contact Libraries and Archives via the KCC website.

Local parish registers on CD

The facsimile entries of several local parish registers including our own (Crockenhill, Eynsford, Farningham, Lullingstone) have been put on CD/DVD by the North West Kent Family History Society. Farningham Methodist church is included. For prices and other details see www.nwkhfs.org.uk – the full publication list includes North West Kent census records and monumental inscriptions records (all our parishes, including Baptist burial grounds).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission

(www.cwgc.org casualty@enqcwgc.org)

I recently heard a presentation by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, whose website and enquiry service I had used for servicemen who had lost their lives in both World Wars, but was surprised to learn that the Commission also holds records of civilians who lost their lives in bombing raids etc. Four civilians were killed in Crockenhill on 29 August 1941, when a bomb was jettisoned on their houses. Excuse my ignorance, but were there other civilian deaths in our parishes?

Domesday project of 1986

Schools and local groups were encouraged by the BBC to record everyday life in 1986, 900 years after the original Domesday Book. I covered Crockenhill and I believe Eynsford was also done. However, technology overtook the original recording process and the data became inaccessible. The good news is that the data has now been retrieved and can be seen at www.bbc.co.uk/history/domesday/story.

Iron Age Farmstead by the Summer House Knoll, Lullingstone Park

The site was excavated by Graeme Horner in 1963, but his report has only just been published in 'Kent Archaeological Review' no.183 of Spring 2011. When Sevenoaks District Council planted trees up the slope after the Great Storm of 1987 the site was left clear. However, when KCC took back control of the park a couple of years ago, I was disappointed to see that new trees had been planted over the site. After visits by

the County archaeologist these have now been removed, and I have sent a copy of Graeme Horner's report to KCC so no other misunderstanding occurs.

The Derivation of the placename 'Crockenhill'

I had an interesting letter from Steven who has been researching the location of ancient boundary posts and stones. The accepted interpretation for 'Crockenhill' is the pottery oast on the hill (crock = pottery, en (erne) = oast/oven, + hill). As the production of tiles in Crockenhill can be traced to the late C15th and the name was first documented in 1388, the usual interpretation makes sense. However, Steven is following 'crock' as 'crux', crouch or cross, used as a boundary mark. He points to Stones Cross Road in the village and to Crouch Farm on the way to St. Mary Cray. This is fascinating, especially as several parishes (Lullingstone, Lullingstaine, St. Mary Cray, Orpington, Sutton-at-Hone) met at Crockenhill, anciently at the western extreme of Eynsford parish. I wrote to Steven asking him to phone me for a chat, as he only gave me his address, but I have not heard back from him.

The will of Sir Percival Hart of Lullingstone, March 1642

This is a very long, detailed will - a boon to family historians. Sir Percival Hart requested a very quiet, private funeral, with only a black cloth over his hearse and no-one to be invited to the funeral sermon. He left bequests to Lullingstone church and to the almshouses then at Lullingstone. His son, William, was to have all the plate and household stuff as an heirloom to pass down within the family. William's wife was to have the ring with five diamonds; his daughter, Lady Ferby, his table diamond ring; his son's (George) wife his ring with little diamonds. He gave bequests to his servants. His grandchild, Frances, daughter of his deceased son, Henry, was provided for. He listed specific fields that had been handed over to trustees for a dole to be handed to the poor on the Sunday nearest 11 January. (N.B. older residents of Crockenhill remember walking to Lullingstone for the dole in the 1920s). His estate included the manor of Mottingham, the manor house of Lullingstone with Lullingstone Roos, Lullingstone Fawke, Payforer and Cockerhurst, the manor of Southcourt, Great Orpington, Little Orpington, Mayfield, Farnborough Hall and Easthall.

(CKS U55 E65)

Sketch of the Turnpike road through Farningham, 1 February 1828

The plan documents the road from its junction with the present A20 to near the present junction with the A225. It centres on the road, giving the frontages of properties and their owners and occupiers. The top end, near the A20, is dominated by stables and parking for fruit carts and hop waggons. The Bricklayer's Arms, Chequers and Lion public houses are shown, but this copy obscures the name of The Bull, so its presence would need to be confirmed from the original in Dartford Local Studies collection (Farningham Parish Council items).

Farningham Horse Fair

Before the Hobby Horse event earlier this year I was asked about the history of the fair, but was unable to help. Subsequently, by chance, I have come across two sources of information. Shirley Burgoyne Black's 'Local Government, Law and Order in a pre-Reform English Parish, 1790-1834' (published in USA, 1993) pp.63-70, covers the history of the fair from the Overseers' accounts. It began on 15 October 1788, and was so lively in the 1870s and 1880s that the school was closed for the day, because of the danger to the children of horses and cattle running along the roads. Shirley thought that Farningham might have been on the Welsh drovers' route to Romney

Marsh via Maidstone, and that the fair rivalled one held at Maidstone two days later. 'The Maidstone Journal' of 1828 complained that there were few good horses to be sold at Maidstone because the best had been bought at the fair at Farningham. Side shows and entertainments were set up alongside the horse fair, including a menagerie, waxworks exhibition and circus acts. In 'A Farningham Childhood' by Mariaane Farningham (edited by Shirley Burgoyne Black, 1988) p.14, 16, 98-99, mention Wombwell's Circus attending the fair in the 1830s and 1840s and bringing its own musicians, who were often drowned out by the noise of neighbouring side shows. Marianne's family being strict Baptists were not allowed to attend the fair, but on one occasion she and her sister, Rebecca, disobeyed the dictum. They dressed up in their best and had a good time. However, on returning home aglow with pleasure, they were confronted by their father, who had been told of their disobedience by the Baptist minister, who had been watching the fair through his telescope! Their father did not punish them, but the minister, without naming names, featured the episode in his Sunday sermon, and the sisters' faces 'burned with shame.'

Hive enclosures for bee skeps in England

An article by Penelope Walker interested me because she pointed out the large-scale transport of bee skeps to heather moorland for the summer months. Several places were regularly used in Yorkshire and can be located by earthwork boundaries (to keep grazing animals out) and by place names e.g. Bee gardens or garths and Hive gardens. It got me wondering about 'Beesfield Lane'. Was there a field where bee hives were regularly taken for the summer months to gather nectar from the downland flowers? The movement of skeps was quite a complicated exercise. In Hampshire it took 3 days to take 200-300 skeps (containing the bees) 7 miles to Ringwood, according to an undated reprinted account of 1860.

(The Local Historian, vol.41 no.2, May 2011, pp.138-148)

Two photos of Eynsford bridges from Ken Stevens

I thought there was a possibility that one bridge shown was the pedestrian bridge near the bridge at the ford, but Wilf Duncombe has photographed this, confirming that it was not the bridge in the earlier photograph. The location of both bridges remains a mystery.

Unveiling the plaque to Peter Warlock, at Eynsford, 3 May 1969

As anticipated by a London newspaper columnist a few days before, the unveiling was expected to be a 'rollicking affair.' Professor Eric Fenby OBE, chairman of the Composers' Guild of Great Britain, was due to unveil the plaque to Peter Warlock (born Philip Heseltine). The columnist lists Peter Warlock's attributes as songwriter, black magic devotee, expert on Delius, and author (under the pseudo-name of Rab Noolas) of a book on drunks through the ages. Peter Warlock lived in Eynsford from 1925-1928 with composer, E.J. Moeran, and Maori graphic artist, Hall Collins (Te Aku). The plaque was made of Chelsea pottery and placed on the cottage next door to Munn's shop. Its wording was more discreet than an epitaph Peter Warlock wrote for himself :

Here lies P. Warlock, the composer,
Who lived next door to Munn's, the grocer.
He died of drink and copulation,
A sad discredit to our nation.

The article is detailed about the melodious tunes, from lullabies to jovial bucolic songs and the melting harmonies composed by Peter Warlock – a talented and colourful character for Eynsford to claim

Family history enquiries

6Caroline, born Eynsford married George Voller, 1887 – Barbara wanted to find out Caroline's maiden name, c.1853-4. Stella Baggaley found 2 possible Carolines in the parish register, but neither married a Voller in Eynsford, although Voller could have been a second marriage. With the strong Baptist presence in Eynsford it might have been that Barbara's Caroline was not baptised in the church anyway. I advised her to try to find side branches of Caroline's family for firmer evidence of her background.

6Jenks family at Hillside, Farningham – Philip is researching Jorian E.F. Jenks (1899-1963), a pioneer of the organic food and farming movement. The family lived in Farningham for a short time in the early 1900s. I was able to provide Philip with a photograph of 'Hillside' and am hoping for further information about the house in due course. Stella Baggaley looked Jorian Jenks up on Wikipedia and found that he had a farm in Angmering, near Worthing, until 1939. He was jailed in 1940 as a fascist, but resumed farming on his release in 1941.

6Whitehead of Crockenhill – Simon wanted to know about this family, two brothers from which were killed in the 1st World War. I suggested he join the Society in exchange for all the information I have given him.

Other enquiries

6Chalk cottages, Crockenhill – Rachel is researching the history of her house.

6'A Brief History of the life and work of the artist, Herbert Cole, 1867-1931' by J.P. Cole (published 1985). Herbert Cole drew the illustrations for the early C20th 'Village of Eynsford' publication. Has anyone got a copy of this book that I could borrow?

6Harold H. Camburn, photographer – Ed from Thunder Bay, Canada, is researching this photographer, based in Tunbridge Wells, who printed numerous postcards of our area. I put him in touch with Ed Thompson from Otford who is an expert on Camburn.

6Local cookery books or cookery manuscripts – Esther is undertaking a doctorate on Australian food. She has come across reference to 'Kentish cake'. She believes this refers to a local cobnut cake, but she cannot find a recipe in national cookery books. I referred her to the Museum of Kentish Rural Life and CKS, but if anyone out there knows a recipe, contact me

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

FELHS Centre

For several weeks I went to the Centre on Wednesday mornings, when Veronica Sheppard and I began to go through the artefacts, listing items in each box and checking them against the catalogue. However, our holidays did not coincide so there have been several weeks when our diaries did not match. In mid-August I am due for a cataract operation on the right eye, followed a month later by an operation on the left, with the possibility of a third operation after that. Obviously this puts out driving for unknown periods, during which I will be unable to visit the Centre. On the bright side if these operations are effective, I will be able to see better than I have for a long time.

Acquisitions

6From Mr and Mrs Michael Anderson – slides of the Silver Jubilee celebrations, 1977, including the procession of decorated floats through the High Street and the fete

on Common Meadow.

6From Diana Beamish – various current business flyers, election literature for 5 May 2011 District Council elections, Eynsford Parish Council Spring News, 2011.

6From Anne Cremer – lead jetton counter, c.1580-1610, found in garden of Tela, Station Road, Eynsford.

6From Wilf Duncombe – copies of reports on Eynsford and Farningham war memorials sent to the national inventory of war memorials – i.e. in Eynsford at the junction of Bower Lane (both World Wars), the Scout's Hall (2nd World War) and in the church (1st World War); and at Farningham a cross (1st World War) in the churchyard and a plaque (2nd World War) in the church; obituary of Rex Lawrie, February 2011; sketch of the turnpike road through Farningham, 1 February 1828 (see Research above).

6From Brian Hussey – a copy of an article, 'Carey Blyton – at One with the Muse' by Cliff Watkins from The Peter Warlock Society newsletter, Spring 2010 (see Research above).

6From Peter Meyer – a copy of his book 'The Wilson Preselector Gearbox (Armstrong Siddeley type)', as thanks for Wilf Duncombe's and the Society's help with his research. This is a technical, very detailed book written for the mechanical engineer working on such a gearbox.

6From the Commonwealth War Graves Commission – DVD 'A Debt of Honour' outlining the work of the Commission, and a booklet 'Trace your First World War Ancestors'.

6From Susan Pittman – a copy of the Sale Particulars of the Park Gate Estate, Lullingstone, 1961

6From Philip McGarvey – copy of 'Around the World with Tom Hart Dyke' and 'Making History: Lullingstone Castle' in 'Wealden Times,' April 2011

and finally

Stuart Fletcher has now taken on the task of booking the evening meetings and we will bring you our schedule for next year in the October copy of the Trident and the next bulletin. I have a few things up my sleeve, but more of that later....

Our next evening meeting this year is on the 23rd September and is a talk by Paul Cawsey on excavations in the Darent Valley. If you are interested in what is under our feet this is a talk for you.

Thank you to all those who are coming to Hythe, the coach is full. We have now arranged for the coach to stop at the bus stop at Old Mill Close, so if anyone would like to change their pick up point because Old Mill Close is more convenient please call me on 865122 and let me know or email me at Jan51@btinternet.com. I hope we have good weather, there is plenty to do in Hythe and details of the walks will be given to you on the day of the trip. Briefly the walk around Hythe will be in the morning and then you will have the afternoon free to do as you please. As I have said before if anyone does not want to come on the walk the whole day is yours to explore as long as we all meet back at the coach at 4.30pm for the journey home everything will be fine.

I look forward to seeing you all very soon

Jan Wilkes - Editor

WHAT'S ON 2011/2012

Horton Kirby & South Darenth Local History Society

2011

- 12th Sept Mystery Animals of Kent - Neil Arnold
14th Nov Ceremonial London - Anne Carter

2012

- 9th Jan Pioneers of Flight in West Kent - Monty Parkin
12th March The Country Seat - Martin Heard
14th May Kent Heroes - Chris McCooley
9th July Kent Village Life in Victorian Times - Helen Allinson
10th Sept Bexley Village - Roy Hopper
12th Nov Historical and Interesting Sites in Dartford - John Rank

All meetings are held at 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

2011

- 19th Aug Cricket in Shoreham - John Drew
9th Sept History of the Colegates - Ed James
23rd Sept Visit to Ingatestone Hall and Cressing Temple
21st Oct Joseph Prestwich - David Horsley
18th Nov Surviving by Magic - Monty Parkin

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 534501) to check that no changes have been made to their programmes (Remember your membership card)

Hextable Heritage Society

2011

- 8th Sept The Farningham Homes for Little Boys - Barbara & Brian
13th Oct Pictures of local vintage transport - Adrian Herbert
10th Nov Reach for the Sky - Chris Baker
Dec Members 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)

