

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 92 December 2011

Forthcoming Talks and Events

2012	Details	Where
24 th Feb	Joyce Green and the River Hospitals - Francine Payne (Teacher and former librarian at Joyce Green and Darent Valley Hospitals)	Eynsford
18 th May	AGM followed by wine and buffet	Farningham
21 st Sept	The Architecture of Eynsford and Farningham Jonathan Fenner (Architect and Blue Badge Guide)	Farningham
16 th Nov	What is it? A collection of Intriguing objects To Identify – Chris Baker of Dartford Museum	Eynsford

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)

Writing these reports is always a daunting task for me as it takes me many days to decide on a topic. I think of something then a few days later I change my mind and think of something else. After several attempts another idea will flash through my mind and in next to no time report's finished! So after a fortnight of hoping for inspiration for this report I gave up and went on my twice a year visit to Dorset. One evening I was reading an editorial in an old history magazine where the editor asked the question 'What is it that makes a historian'. That made me think – it doesn't matter whether we are keen to know our family history, old buildings, people from the

past or events that have changed our lives, we are all interested in history in one form or another and the way different snippets of information often join together is sometimes quite amazing. I was staying just outside Wareham, an ancient town with a fascinating history, and before I left this time I was determined to visit the old Saxon church. Having collected the key from a nearby shop I let myself into this small church which was full of warmth and sunlight although outside was cold and windy. One beam of sunlight was resting on the feet of the carved, life sized, figure of Lawrence of Arabia, and the reason for my visit. There were memorials to local dignitaries and references to the plight of many inhabitants of the town who had lost their homes and all their possessions in a disastrous fire that swept through the town on Sunday 25th July 1762. Although only a small church many families lived here until new homes could be built for them. The amazing coincidence is that the name of the church was St Martins de Tours and it had two 12th century wall paintings, one showing St Martin as a mounted Roman officer with a naked beggar and a lower painting shows St Martin giving half of his cloak to the beggar. I felt quite sad that these paintings were in Dorset and not in our St Martin de Tours.

PUBLICATIONS REPORT (Barbara Cannell 864253)

So far no one has come forward with any suggestions for a new publication; there must be something interesting that we can put into print!

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

FELHS website

In the six months since April 2011 there were 1385 different visitors to the site, 400 of whom visited more than once. On average each visitor looked at 3 pages and spent just under 2 minutes on the site. 91% were from the UK, 2.4% from the USA, 1.3% from Australia and about half percent each from Canada, New Zealand and the Netherlands – in all visitors from 37 countries used the site.

The Centre for Kentish Studies closure

Be warned CKS will be closed from 11 November 2011 until Spring 2012 for the transfer to a brand new purpose-built Centre not far away. During closure access to microfilmed records will continue at Maidstone Library on St. Faith's Street; the on-line catalogue of almost 600,000 records and 6000 images is available at www.kent.gov.uk/archives; Canterbury Cathedral Archives will remain open until 31 January 2012; free on-line access to Ancestry.com for censuses, wills etc. is available at all Kent libraries.

Free website access to maps

www.findfreemaps.co.uk offers free access to updated Ordnance Survey and Google maps.

1911 Census

A restricted form is freely available at – <http://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/collection/show#uri=http://hr-search-api:8080/searchchapi/search/collection/1921547> – if you manage that congratulate yourself!

Kent in old film

This has been compiled as a 58 minute DVD from cine film over 40 years old, dating back to the 1930s, but most coming from the 1950s and 1960s. The cost is £12.99 plus postage and package, and is available via www.totallyarchive.co.uk – contents

include hop picking, coal mining, county transport, tourist scenes – worth thinking about as a present.

Jorian E.F. Jenks (1899-1963)

Philip is writing a biography of this pioneer of the organic food and farming movement. At the turn of the C20th his parents lived at Hillside, Farningham, and I was able to supply Philip with a photograph of the house before demolition. Jorian's father, Edward Jenks, was an academic authority on the law and worked for the Law Society in London. Jorian's farm, which he gave up in 1939, was at Angmering near Worthing. He was jailed in 1940 as a fascist and on his release in 1941 became the tenant of a farm at Seaford.

Susan Keep's prayer books

In the June Bulletin I mentioned three prayer books inscribed with the name Susan Keep, Mount Cottages, Crockenhill, purchased some years ago by Lynda, who had expressed the wish that these be passed to a member of Susan's family. By coincidence Cathie contacted me about her grandmother, Susan Keep, later Jack, and then Hood, and she was thrilled to receive the prayer books from Lynda.

Public dinner at The Lion in 1852

The public dinner in February 1852 followed the corn market and was particularly splendid, with an appropriate song following every toast. Toasts included one for the health of the chairman, Sir Percival Hart Dyke, who had graced the table with venison from Lullingstone Park.

(p.16, A Farningham Childhood, by Marianne Farningham, edited by Shirley Burgoyne Black)

Local Population figures, 1801-1831

	1801	1811	1821	1831
Eynsford with Crockenhill	841	984	1077	1277
Farningham	397	459	586	701
Lullingstone	33	28	41	40

Reasons given for the increase of population in Farningham – improved life expectancy, fall in infant mortality, higher birth rate, the successful development of two turnpike roads leading to increase in shops and trade, and the establishment of a small boys' boarding school.

(p.12-17, Local Government, law and order in a pre-reform English parish, Farningham 1790-1834 by Shirley Burgoyne Black)

Farningham Horse Fair

Reading further into Shirley Burgoyne Black's book about Farningham from 1790 to 1834, it appears that the Horse Fair owed its inception to the landlord of 'The Lion', Martin Masters, who was invoiced for the advertisements placed in the Maidstone Journal between 1788-1790.

(p.28, Local Government, law and order in a pre-reform English parish, Farningham 1790-1834, by Shirley Burgoyne Black)

Will of Lady Anne Dyke, 6 November 1760

She left her daughter, Mrs Lee, £100 p.a. if she was widowed, all her ornamental china in the house at Queen Square, 2 wooden screens, one of 3 large China blue and white jars at Lullingstone, and either the fine damask suit of linen or the Holland sheets in her drawer. Mrs Jane Say was to have £1000 to use as she wanted and

another £1000 to pass at her death to Miss Ann Lambard, daughter of Thomas Lambard esquire of Sevenoaks. Mrs Jane Say was also to have the rest of the furniture and useful china at Queen Square, and everything in Lady Anne's dressing room and closet in Lullingstone. Lady Anne set aside £100 for a marble monument in memory of her husband, Sir Thomas Dyke, and £100 for a monument in memory of John Bluett of Holcombe Court, Devon, her first husband, both to be erected in Lullingstone church, where they can be seen. The servants that lived in her house were to share £200.

Monks in Christ Church Priory, Canterbury

Two manuscripts record the names of over one thousand monks over 327 years, from 1207 to 1534, of these 5 came from Eynsford and 3 from Farningham. (pp.277-289, Archaeologia Cantiana CXXXI (2011))

Family history enquiries

Devine/ Rogers/ Preskett of Crockenhill – Nick originally contacted me in 2008 about his traction engine ancestors, but I have only recently heard from Edward Wood, whose family has owned Crockenhill Foundry since the 1870s, that he has information for Nick because the Devines used to work for Wood's. Edward has compiled a list of all former employees and of any engine once owned by the company.

Edmonds of Farningham – Reg's great-grandfather was headmaster of Farningham School from 1875 into the C20th. I recommended he purchase Shirley Burgoyne Black's 'The Children of Farningham and their Schools, 1800-1900'.

Everest of Farningham – Geoff's great-great-grandfather, Charles Everest, was also a head teacher in Farningham. Geoff wanted to find Everest gravestones in Farningham Church, but the inscriptions are the only ones in FELHS area that have not been transcribed. I put Geoff in touch with Stella Baggaley, who has done a vast amount of detailed research into the Everest family.

Hood of Crockenhill – Myra was researching Jane Warrener married to Edward Hood in 1843.

Letchford of Eynsford – Terry wanted information about William Letchford born in Eynsford in 1767. I found the family in Crockenhill in the 1840s and hoped Stella might be able to help by searching the parish registers.

Outred of Upper Austin Lodge / Marianne Farningham – Michael wanted photos and information about the farm here in the 1840s/1850s, but I was unable to help. Michael now lives in Northamptonshire and in researching Moulton's Carey Baptist Church learnt that had been given the records of College Street Baptist Church, Northampton, on closure of that church. The significance of this for FELHS is that College Street Baptist Church was associated with Marianne Farningham, and Michael is looking forward to examining the records and contacting us again in due course. In the meantime we have exchanged information, which I will write about in the next Bulletin.

Whitehead of Crockenhill – Simon wanted to know where the huts behind the school were in the 1900s and I sent him a photograph of them.

Other enquiries

Cray Road house history – Rachel needed help in researching the history of her terraced house.

Durlings, Crockenhill – Jane enquired about the history of the house and I was able to supply her photographs of the site as a farmyard and the house newly built in the 1930s.

Village signs – Dave is attempting to acquire photographs of and information about

the history of village signs throughout the country. I sent him information about the Crockenhill sign and suggested he contact Eynsford and Farningham parish councils about their signs.

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

FELHS Centre

I have had two eye operations. The results are mixed – the right eye has worked really well, but the lens inserted into the left eye has rotated, so another operation is required, either to move or replace it. Obviously, this has hampered my activities, but Ann Cremer and Jackie Clarke have continued to sort items into appropriate folders, for which I am most grateful. We now have 3 moveable hanging file trolleys, which are easier to handle than the storage crates, and relieve tabletop space.

Wanted: 'Local Government, law and order in a pre-reform English parish, Farningham 1790-1834' by Shirley Burgoyne Black

Published by Mellen Research University Press, Lampeter, 1992.

This currently retails at £80, so if anyone happens to have a copy that they would like to donate the Society, it would be gratefully received.

Acquisitions

From Epic – DVD of all the photographs taken by members of the exterior and interior of Farningham Mill.

From Ted Needham – Crockenhill Coronation Celebrations Souvenir Programme, May 31 – 6 June 1953.

From Michael Penwarden – Copy of photo with caption of the Eynsford Rat and Sparrow Club in 1939 from a book 'Memory Lane, a photographic album of Daily Life in Britain, 1930-1953' published by J.M. Dent and Sons Ltd.

Date line 'History of the Census' from the Office of National Statistics.

Sale brochure for Little Mote, Eynsford.

Copy of sale brochure of Park Gate estate, 1961 (CKS U1450/E46) – includes Park Gate house, Park Gate farm of 146 acres, Park Gate cottages, 4 other cottages and a small holding of 17 acres with house called Crooked Chimney.

Outing to Hythe on 17th September 2011

The coach arrived on time and everybody arrived on time, we boarded the coach and were greeted by our friendly coach driver. On arrival at Hythe it was raining but there was plenty of eating and drinking places to shelter from the showers. We all met at the Civic centre and were taken upstairs to the Council Chamber for a constructive talk about the town. We then divided into groups of about ten with a guide for each group for a walk around Hythe. Afterwards we all met at St Leonards Church at the top of the hill for a very interesting talk about the construction of the church. Those who wanted to then went into the crypt to view the numerous skulls and bones they have piled up in there. Then we had free time, approximately four hours, some people found the beach despite the weather, some went all the way to Dungeness on the miniature railway and others found drinking establishments or went shopping. There were a few strange objects bought onto the coach by some people

As we all boarded the coach for the journey home everyone passed remarks that they had had a good day with thanks to Barrie and Jan (*and Mick*) for organising the trip and they were looking forward to the next one. (*Details of Whitstable trip will follow shortly*) A collection was made for the coach driver.

Mick Martin

Family History Day Experience for Groups

The Society of Genealogists is proud to launch its Family History Day Experience for groups. We have been asked if we would like to take advantage of this offer and take a group up to London for a visit to the Society. This is a free visit and would give those interested in exploring their family history a chance to meet expert staff and also have free access to subscription websites, extensive library, records and documents. If you are interested in the above please give me a call on 01322 865122 or email me at Jan51@btinternet.com. It may be possible if there are enough of us interested that we may be able to hire a mini bus rather than the trial of tackling the trains.

And finally

Thank you to everyone for all your support in 2011 and hopefully your continued support in 2012.

As we look forward to next year, which will be a busy one with the Jubilee and the Olympics. We are planning a walking quiz in Eynsford, trip to Whitstable as well as our evening meetings and a few projects that are bubbling along but have not come to fruition yet. All will be revealed in the fullness of time.

FROM ALL OF US ON THE COMMITTEE



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Jan Wilkes – Editor (865122)

WHAT'S ON 2012

Horton Kirby & South Darenth Local History Society

2012

9 th Jan	Poioneers of Flight in West Kent - Monty Parkin
12 th March	The Country Seat - Martin Heard
14 th May	Kent Heroes - Chris McCooey
9 th July	Kent Village Life in Victorian Times - Helen Allinson
10 th Sept	Bexley Village - Roy Hopper
12 th 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

2012

6 th Jan	Twelfth Night Supper
20 th Jan	The 1911 census and Shoreham – Joy Saynor
17 th Feb	Darwin's Heir, William Hamilton – Dr Mary Bliss
16 th March	AGM and The Story of Ladybird books – Caroline Alexander
20 th April	Jane Austen and Sevenoaks School – Clare Graham

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

2012

12 th Jan	The Hospital Convalescence Home – Parkwood - David Cufley
9 th Feb	Another look at the items in the Society's Archives – Members
8 th March	Life in England 1900-1918, seen through postcards – Helen Allinson
12 th April	Art is Long – stories behind the tomb stones – Monty Parkin
10 th May	AGM
14 th June	Meet Charles & Emma Darwin & other Downe Dwellers- Barbara Stevens
12 th July	Visit – Home of the Little Boys, South Darenth
9 th Aug	Local Views from the 1960s – Gerald Cramp
13 th Sept	Joyce Green Hospitals & the River Hospitals – Francine Payne
11 th Oct	What is it? Objects from Dartford Museum to identify – Chris Baker
8 th Nov	The River Thames – a working river – Jerry McCarthy
December	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)