

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 96 December 2012

Forthcoming Talks and Events

2013	Details	Where
22 nd Feb	The Story of Ladybird books – Caroline Alexander	FVH
24 th May	AGM – Back to School, display of photographs and a brief talk by Jill Hussey about her days in an Eynsford school. Followed by a buffet	EVH
14 th Sept	Trip to the Isle of Sheppey £15.00 (included entrance to Blue Town Heritage Centre and guided tour)	EVH
26 th Sept	Hop and hop picking – Richard Filmer	EVH
29 th Nov	A Dickens of a Christmas – Tonbridge Mummers	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

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Barbara Cannell 864253)

This bulletin brings to a close another busy year for myself and members of the committee. Taking displays of our local history to a variety of venues has been both interesting and educational. It is always rewarding to be able to use items from the archives that have been given to the society. Matching our local history to worldwide events makes me realise how important it is for us to preserve our photographs and newspaper cuttings collected over the years by families in our villages. Please think carefully about what happens to them because remembering anniversaries of what we did in the past is becoming a popular theme for what we do today.

I am looking forward to next year and the opportunities and challenges that I am certain will make us dig deeper into our archive collection of memorabilia.

My heartfelt thanks go not only to the committee members but to those members who

have given their time during the year to work behind the scenes to keep the society 'ticking over'! I send my best wishes for whatever way you may be celebrating Christmas and I hope you will be joining us in the New Year for our new programme of events.

MEMBERSHIP OF FELHS

As you may or may not be aware Stella Baggeley stepped down as our membership secretary earlier this year. The task has fallen to me to fill that gap for the time being, I have finally got a list of members together and with this bulletin there will be a membership renewal slip, which if you could return to me as quickly as possible would be appreciated, so I can issue membership cards to everyone who wishes to remain a member of the society. (This does not apply to life members and members who joined recently; they will be sent cards, in the case of Life Members to replace the previous card issued) In the event that you no longer wish to be a member could you also please let me know? Thank you to Brian West for creating the new cards.

Please accept our apologies that the administration of the memberships has slipped from our grasp recently, but things come up in life that we cannot account for which means jobs don't get done as well as perhaps they should be, we are now going to endeavour to get things back on an even keel. If you have any queries about the society or your own membership please contact me on 01322 865122, email Jan51@btinternet.com or drop me a line 2 Fountain Cottages, Bower Lane, Eynsford, Kent, DA4 0AL.

Jan Wilkes

Temporary Membership Secretary

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

'Do It Yourself House History' courses

These are running from 10am to noon, every other Tuesday for 5 weeks at the Unitarian Meeting House, Bessels Green, TN13 2PX. The first, from 15 January 2013, is 'Acquiring the Tools', and the second 'Practical Application' runs from 22 January (so there are 10 meetings on consecutive Tuesdays if you attend both courses). The courses are run by the Workers' Educational Association.

Tutor - Deborah Cole: fee £39.50: Contact – Susan Gidman, 01732 454222, email - sevenoakswea@hotmail.co.uk

The National Archives Discovery catalogue

This can be browsed at discovery@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk and is designed to be more user-friendly for those wishing to search the catalogue.

Wills

- ♦ Peter Jones tells me that the will of Christopher Heywood, yeoman of Eynsford, 1750, and two Glover of Eynsford wills can be found at www.hartley-kent.org.uk/history/wills.
- ♦ There is a new on-line database of Kent wills in the Research section of www.kentarchaeology.org.uk – there are two indexes, one for names and the other for locations.
- ♦ 300,000 soldiers' wills have been discovered covering the Crimean and 1st and 2nd World Wars and will come on-line next year.

The Buildings of England, Kent: West and The Weald by John Newman

This is an expanded and fully revised edition of John Newman's classic survey

published in 1969, as part of Sir Nikolaus Pevsner's series. Crockenhill church, vicarage and almshouses have been included. As well as the expected buildings in Eynsford, Anthony Roper School of 1971-1973 is mentioned. There are four pages covering Farningham with the comment that the village deserves detailed examination, coloured plates are 81 and 82. Lullingstone also takes up four pages, with frequent references also in the introductory chapters, coloured plates are 42, 50 and 73.

Published by Yale University Press, 2012, price £35.

Dendrochronological analysis of oaks at Lullingstone Park

This was undertaken by Dr Andy Moir of Tree-Ring Services in 2012. Although many trees are hollow, it was possible to cross-match thirteen samples with previously established oak reference chronologies. The large oak, with 9.55cm girth, by the clubhouse is said to have germinated in 1490, and so is 521 years old. The huge tree of 11.14cm girth, by the workmen's enclosure, is estimated to have germinated in 997 and to be 1014 years old. What a marvellous legacy of veteran trees we have in the park.

John Wellard of Eynsford and the Strict Baptist Chapel at Dartford

More information about this is given in 'The Book of Dartford' by Geoff Porteus (1979) p.48. Geoff said the building was still being used by the Strict Baptists in 1979. The National School used the building from 1821 to 1826.

Early registration of motor vehicles in Kent

The earliest registrations were allocated by Kent County Council from 1903 and the registration number started with DD1. In 1903 the earliest vehicle registered in our area was D354, red Wolseley of 7½ horse power, owned by Herbert John Ward of Mill House, Farningham. Thomas Wood, whose business was located in Crockenhill, owned Kent Jam Co. Ltd. at Swanley Junction, and for that factory registered a 2-ton Milnes-Daimler 8 horse power petrol lorry (D602), painted red with the name of the firm in yellow letters. In 1908 W.H. Wood of Darenth Cottage, Eynsford, was allocated number plate D1420 for his 6 horse power Delahaye, which had a white body and red wheels. This was a second hand car, having first been registered in 1904 in Surrey.

Kent History and Library Centre (KHLC) C/FI. 1/1 and C/FI. 1/2

Kent War Agricultural Committee, 1918

Three pamphlets survive in KHLC. To overcome the acute labour shortage for the harvest of 1918 six school-boy camps were set up during August and September, which were very successful 'when the boys were under the strict supervision of their masters or some other person of authority'. One of the camps for twenty boys was located at Lullingstone. Bower and Park House Farms, Eynsford, covering 509 acres, were taken over from Sir William Hart Dyke, and put under the supervision of Mr W. Millar, who farmed Upper Austin Lodge. The accounts for the year ending September 1918 showed a loss, but this might be explained because the farms were being used as a training centre for disabled ex-service men. It would be very interesting to discover more about the camp and the farm.

KHLC CC/R/46 and CC/R/46/1

'Motoring and the British Countryside'

Rural History (2010) 21, 'Motoring and the British Countryside', by David Jeremiah, pp.241-242

The article in 'Rural History' discusses the benefits of owning a car in the interwar

period, especially focussing on the impact of the motorcar in generating a new economy for rural Britain, with new services, buildings and roads that changed the landscape and made the countryside more accessible. In this context the new garage at Farningham is highlighted as an example of the contradictory concepts of housing modern equipment in the architecture of 'Old England' which was then in vogue. The house and service station at Farningham from 1926 was 'conceived as a sixteenth-century timber-framed Tudor gate house, but fitted with all the latest garage equipment including a ramp for inspecting the cars.' A photograph of the garage from 'Building' September 1926, p.265, showed petrol, air, water, and oil lined up ready for service, while a breakdown lorry was parked ready to go to rescue the stranded motorist. 'Constructed of solid oak that had been treated to give the appearance of grey bleached weathering, old stone and brick had been used in the plinth and old Sussex stone slates for the roof. Finished off with a weathervane and rain-barrel it was old-world for modern life.'

Tennis in 1938 at Lullingstone

Diana Beamish tells me that a short clip of a film made in 1938 of tennis at Lullingstone can be seen on the British Pathe website (www.britishpathe.com). There are films of the silk farm at Lullingstone on the same site.

Scrapbooks in the Kent Archaeological Society Library, Maidstone Museum

I promised to cover Lullingstone this time. Apart from the interview about early tennis, which I featured before, there is a cutting from the Kent Messenger, 11 July 1933, about Sir William Hart Dyke's funeral. He was the oldest ex-minister of the Crown living. From 1868 to 1874 he served as Conservative Whip under Disraeli, from 1874 to 1880 as Secretary to the Treasury, and, as Vice-President of the Council on Education, was responsible for carrying through the Act, which established free education. An unnamed paper of August/ September 1933 reported the death of Lady Emily Hart Dyke a month after her husband's death. She was considered one of the finest amateur drummers in the country, and the previous year had played the drums at a special concert in aid of Mrs Stanley Baldwin's effort to raise £40,000 to provide maternity hospitals with anaesthetics for mothers. The couple's oldest son, Percival died in 1922, leaving the second son, Sir Oliver Hart Dyke, as heir, and three daughters, Mrs Scott-Gatty, the Hon. Mrs Matthew Bell, and Miss Sydney Hart Dyke. Also in the scrap book were photographs of the family in 1930 celebrating Sir William and Lady Emily's diamond wedding; the Jubilee arbor apple tree planted by Sydney in the walled garden; and five prints.

Family history enquiries

- ◆ **Crooks** – Barbara Cannell would like to know if anyone remembers this family, members of whom belonged to the Eynsford Allotment Holders and Gardeners Association.
- ◆ **Brenda Gleave** – Gaynor was enquiring about Brenda, and via Anne Cremer I was able to put her in touch with Morag, a friend of Brenda.
- ◆ **Godfrey** – Beryl's father was born in Crockenhill in 1915, but was sent with his brother to The Farningham Home for Little Boys, after the death of their mother. Beryl asked for information about the records for the home.
- ◆ **Larter** – Karen wanted information about her great grandparent's line, Daniel and Susanna Larter, who married in Eynsford in 1888 and had 11 children. Perhaps there are local descendants of Karen.

- ◆ **Openshaw** – Thomas Openshaw (1828-1898) came from Bolton to work in a paper mill in the Dartford area in the 1860s. Rebecca was trying to locate which mill he worked for.
- ◆ **Honora Sullivan / William George Woodbridge** – Laura wanted to know where Lee's yard in Crockenhill was located.
- ◆ **Webb / Gibson of Crockenhill** – I searched parish registers and the censuses for Sarah, and offered copies of photographs, but received no reply.

Other enquiries

- ◆ **Wesleyan Chapel, top of London Road, Farningham** – This was built in 1850 by William Moore and later became the headquarters of the Farningham Division of St. John Ambulance. Does anyone know the dates of closure of both?
- ◆ **Farningham Hobby Horse photos** – I have not yet received Franny's digital photographic record of these.
- ◆ **Priory** – David, a visitor to Eynsford, wanted to know whether there was ever a priory at Eynsford. I thought that 'Priory Lane' etc. was so called because Canterbury Priory once owned land in Eynsford. Does anyone know anything different?
- ◆ **3 Pictures of Eynsford** – Bella's grandfather, Thomas Benstead, was the village policeman and a friend of Arthur Mee. He cycled round the village checking everyone was in air raid shelters just before a bombing raid in the Second World War. I accepted Bella's offer to donate the pictures to the Society, but have not heard further from her.
- ◆ **Wikipedia name search** – Eric Syddique has found that his potted biography appears in Wikipedia. It was put in without his knowledge, with some inaccurate information, which seems impossible to correct. He wonders whether anyone has had a similar experience.
- ◆ **Conveyance of land in Crockenhill from the Lullingstone estate** – I was able to find Robert a copy of sale of land in Green Court Road, Crockenhill, to see what covenants applied to it.
- ◆ **Engineering drawings of Eynsford viaduct** – Steve looked at the 1991 drawing from FELHS archives.
- ◆ **Photographs of Crockenhill in the 1950s** – Holly wanted pictures as a gift for a relative who used to live in the village.
- ◆ **The Fruiterers' Arms, Crockenhill** – Brian wanted its history and photographs to give to the departing licensees.
- ◆ **Location of 2nd World War bombs in Farningham** - I suggested Derek consult Bernard Drew's book 'Farningham against Hitler'.
- ◆ **Books on the Darent Valley and information on Eynsford High Street** – Rod, who is researching the valley, asked about these.

ARCHIVE REPORT (Susan Pittman 01322 669923) (archives@felhs.org.uk)

FELHS Centre

Anne Cremer and Jackie Clarke have continued sorting the uncatalogued items and would much appreciate any help offered, even for a one-off or occasional session.

Wanted 'Trident' for JANUARY AND NOVEMBER 1982 (This was the first year of 'Trident' so I am not sure whether there were issues for these months). I am making an index of births, baptisms, confirmations, marriages and blessings, anniversaries, deaths and funerals from the duplicate copies.

Acquisitions

From Diana Beamish – Photographs and programmes of Eynfest, June 2012, Scouts' Centenary Fete, July 2012, Paralympics road closures, September 2012; photographs / programme of Eynsford Garden Safari, 10 June 2012; various flyers / pamphlets; article from *Rural History* (2010) 21, 'Motoring and the British Countryside', (see above); funeral service Elizabeth Yvonne Burton; copies of Eynsford Parish Council News (Spring, Summer, 2012).

From Geoffrey Copus – 2 display boards of the Waring family of Farningham Hill estate, and 1904 alterations to Farningham church.

From Sally Costin – Disc of 40+ photographs c.1914 copied from albums of the Rowe family who lived at Park House, Bower Lane - includes Elizabethan Fayre of June 1914, various photos of Park House and vicinity, Darent at Lullingstone, viaduct, Riverside, Ightham Mote and George Inn, Shoreham.

From Anne Cremer - Eynsford Castle Ticket Office planning brochure, 1983.

From Sylvia Crosby – Items related to the Crowhurst family, including 5 large photos, 3 photos of Charton Farm, the communal kitchen, 1917, 3 of Missionary Sale of Work by Eynsford Baptist Church, 1917; 1947 poster for intended members of the Farningham and Eynsford Golf Club.

From John Gee – 3 volumes of Eynsford Allotment Holders Association minutes, 1943-1953, 1953-1962, 1978-2000.

From Peter Gower via Jan Wilkes – Letter from Canada with 2 photographs of Lullingstone Roman villa excavation, 1958.

From Anthony Roper School – Further work from all age groups produced for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, letters to the Queen, artwork.

From Jan Wilkes – collection of memories from the 1950s from members of the Tuesday Club and Diana Beamish; copies of original photos from Jo Williams and Peggy Lever of 1953 coronation celebrations, Saddlers Park; folder of newspaper items, 1950s – 1980s; copies of photos of excavation of Lullingstone Roman villa, and cover over it being erected.

And finally....

That time of year once more and the time of year to give a big thank you to everyone who has supported us during 2012. I have had a great year, with attendance numbers up at the evening meeting, membership numbers rising, a great day out in Whitstable and the Titanic Evening. Onward now to 2013 and let's see what it brings.....

HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND HAVE A GREAT NEW YEAR



FROM US ALL

philipmorris

Jan Wilkes – Editor

Telephone 865122 email Jan51@btinternet.com

WHAT'S ON 2013

Horton Kirby & South Darenth Local History Society

2013

14 th Jan	The Best of Kent – Kev Reynolds
11 th March	Royal Visit to Kent (Series 11) – Colin Breed
13 th May	WWII Air Raid Warning System – Gordon Dennington
8 th July	Change to National Trust in SE – Pat Mortlock
9 th Sept	The Hall houses of Southfleet – Dr Ann Kneif
11 th Nov	Customs & Excise – Gerald Fiddler

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

2012/2013

7 th Dec	Christmas Social Celebrating St Nicholas
18 th Jan	Ightham at the Crossroads – Jean Stirk
15 th Feb	Halstead, Otford and Shoreham Historical connections – Geoffrey Kitchener
15 th March	AGM followed by The History of the RAF at Biggin Hill – Bob Ogley
19 th April	Scadbury Manor and Park – Roy Hopper

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

2012/2013

December	Members Christmas Party
10 th Jan	Calico Printing, the Cray, Wandle and Lea Migration Triangle – David Cufley
14 th Feb	Lavender at the Hop Shop, Castle Farm – Caroline Alexander
14 th March	Port Sunlight and the soap makers – David Williams
11 th April	Ancient Parishes of Gravesham – Chris Bull
9 th May	AGM followed by a short talk about Ightham Mote by Tim Jacobs
13 th June	Crime in Victorian Kent – Helen Allinson
11 th July	Evening Visit – Historic Buildings of Dartford High Street – Sharon Mitchell (details of time to follow)
8 th Aug	The Bevin Boys – Dr Ann Kneif
12 th Sept	A Dartford Miscellany – Adrian Herbert
10 th Oct	Hextable from old photographs – Dennis Molyneux
14 th Nov	Christmas on the Home Front – Mike Brown
5 th 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)