

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. 141

Spring 2026

FELHS AGM: Friday 22 May 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm
EYNSFORD SCOUT HALL (EDWARDS HALL), Priory Lane, DA4 0AY

FELHS AGM

(formal notices will be sent round at least 21 days before the meeting)

Hall conditions permitting there will be light refreshments and a display of items from FELHS collection on hand.

**NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS URGENTLY REQUIRED FOR
SUCCESSION. PLEASE COME FORWARD AND SEE WHAT
YOU CAN DO TO HELP.**

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL REQUEST for 2026

Please note increased rates for 2026

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.

£12 (individual) / **£20** (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 recent years and for future years. Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made.

PLEASE NOTE: Meetings in Farningham Village Hall, except for AGM in May and the September meeting which will be held in Eynsford Scout Hall (DA4 0AY), so if you have already picked up a programme, note that there are some changes in the 2026 Programme previously circulated.

2026 PROGRAMME

Please note there are some changes in date and venue (noted below) from earlier printed programmes for 2026

The dates are all Fridays. Doors open 7.30 pm for talks at 8.00 pm. The evening includes refreshments and a display of items from FELHS collection.

2026

Friday 27 March

Farningham Village Hall (change of venue)

Edwin Thompson

Rails in the Darent Valley

Ed Thompson, a well-known Otford resident, has a vast collection of photos of Otford, Sevenoaks and surrounding villages, which he has used to produce some fascinating books. He has long been interested in the Swanley to Bat & Ball railway line and has researched it in depth.

Friday 24 April

Farningham Village Hall

Dr Janet Clayton

Scadbury moated manor, Chislehurst

Janet is Chairman of the Orpington and District Archaeological Society (ODAS), which has for many years been conducting a research project at the scheduled site of Scadbury Moated Manor, Chislehurst. The site is within Scadbury Park Country Estate owned by the London Borough of Bromley. She has researched the ancient Hundred of Ruxley - her thesis leading to a doctorate.

Friday 22 May

Eynsford Scout Hall, DA4 0AY

On same site as Eynsford Parish Council Office, Priory Lane. Turn off A225 and take right branch through gates to car park.

FELHS AGM

details to be announced in due course

September 25

Eynsford Scout Hall, DA4 0AY

Dr Anne Sassin

Further digs at Lullingstone Castle

Anne has been keeping us up to date with the community digs in and around Lullingstone organised under the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership, which has now been completed. This final talk will disclose the results of further exploration in the area of the former moat alongside Lullingstone Castle, which takes the history of the manor house back hundreds of years.

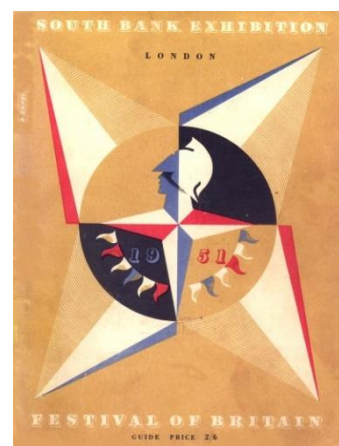
October 23

Farningham Village Hall (change of date & venue)

Alan Williams

The Festival of Britain 1951

Alan lives in Otford and is a Lecturer and a very active member of the 1940s Society in the village. He expressed an interest in the 1951 Festival of Britain - hence the invitation to give this talk on its 75th anniversary. The Festival of Britain was a national celebration held to boost morale after the Second World War and showcase British achievements in science, arts, and design. It aimed to provide a "tonic for the nation" and usher in a new era of modern design and innovation amidst post-war austerity.



November 27

Farningham Village Hall

FELHS film night - details to be announced.

NEWS

We are delighted to have welcomed **Björn Ramell** on to the Committee. He is unable at this stage to take over any responsibilities for running the Society, because of other commitments, especially to Eynsford Millfield Trust, but another input at Committee meetings is invaluable.

Eynsford Village Hall trustees are building up a collection of memories and photographs of the old Village Hall to take over to the new. If you have memories and photographs that you would like to share, e.g. a special or memorable event in the hall or group or activity you enjoyed attending or organising, please make contact with Jo Easter (via FELHS website or Facebook).

FELHS has been sharing its extensive archive and will be putting on a small display of photos and documents related to the history of the Village Hall on 28 March at the Farewell Gathering.

The Society had a stand to promote its activities and to encourage new membership at the annual **Welcome to Eynsford** event which was incorporated into the monthly Coffee and Craft morning at St. Martin's in January. Not many newcomers attended, but extra publicity even to more established residents is never wasted.



Eynsford Village Hall in the snow on winter 1963, sent in by Diana Beamish.

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 - Queries to archives@felhs.org.uk

FELHS CENTRE is now open on Mondays from 9.30 to noon until the end of October. It can also be visited by arrangement - contact Facebook or Website.

RESEARCH REPORT

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

Wilmington Heritage Centre

The Centre was opened in 2014 in Wilmington Memorial Hall. It is open on the first Thursday and second Saturday of every month between 10.00 am and noon. I have been told it is a worthwhile visit. Wilmington Parish Council has also produced a Heritage Trail, with a very informative A4 guide with background to points of interest and many photographs. This is an interesting read without actually doing the walk!

Cade's Rebellion, 1450

This arose from the violence and extortion of Henry VI's officials in Kent. A detachment of royal troops was ambushed at Solefields, south of Sevenoaks, and two royal leaders and 24 of their men were killed in the skirmish. In retaliation a number of the king's household led hundreds of armed men into west Kent in pursuit of the rebels. At Eynsford they were purported to have mustered 2000 men, who proceeded to rob and brutalise the inhabitants. One of these was John Miche, who was robbed of cash, four sheets and a coverlet, and had his right ear cut off. Another victim was Agnes Colton, wife of Richard Colton, whose house was broken into and Agnes raped. The marauders continued to wreak havoc until they reached Tonbridge. The royal justices met to hear complaints against the royal officials, but no action was taken against them.

Dennis Clarke & Anthony Stoyel, *Otford in Kent*, pp.93-95.

Kent Records, *Kent Medieval Society*, V. R. Virgoe, 'Some Ancient Indictments in the King's Bench referring to Kent, 1450-1452', pp.241-242'

Kathleen Stirling Goldsworthy (McAdam) 1899-1949

She was born in New Zealand. She married Everard Walter Goldsworthy and they lived in Charton Manor with their four sons. Between 1939-1945, when her health permitted, she was an active member of St. John's Ambulance Association and the Red Cross Society. She taught book binding in Dartford and took in refugees. Everard was a Knight of St. John Jerusalem. She managed to remain active throughout the 2nd World War, but died in 1949 after a long illness. This information has come from Helen Goldsworthy who married Kathleen and Everard's fourth son, Malcolm.



left: Kathleen S. Goldsworthy in The St. John's Ambulance Association uniform.

above: An Association medallion.
right: Medal from The British Red Cross Society for proficiency in First Aid.

Richard Mullens, Marshal of the King's Bench

Wilf Duncombe researched this colourful character, who had four illegitimate children (Fanny, Richard, William, and John) while his wife was alive, but married their mother, Frances Tabor, shortly before his death. Wilf commented that there was no mention of real estate in his will. In researching the history of Crockenhill I have come across a document of 1759 which involves Frances, then of Greenwich, and three of her children (John had apparently died by then). Fanny had married William James, a stationer of Lombard Street, Richard was a brewer living in Greenwich, and William a haberdasher living in Southwark. The document is complex and seems to have arisen from a Writ of Entry issued by the Court of Chancery following non-payment of mortgage. Basically, Frances Mullens and her children were surrendering a large number of premises, among them the subject of this document - *The Rose and Crown* at Crockenhill. This came with stable, brewhouse, yard, garden, orchard and three acres of land near the village green. The beer house had free use of the well in the adjoining house called 'The Great House'. This document is the only known reference to *The Rose and Crown*, but later a beer house called *The Star* was referred to, but after 1891 *The Anchor and Hope* occupied the site until demolished in the 1970s because of sinkholes in the land nearby. The site is now the triangular green in the centre of the village opposite *The Chequers* one side and the row of shops on the other.



Across the back 'The Great House', Crockenhill, demolished in the 1960s when called Fern House. The line of lime trees remain. To the left *The Anchor and Hope* beer house (site of *The Rose and Crown*). The shops were completed in about 1903. Photo of the 1920s.

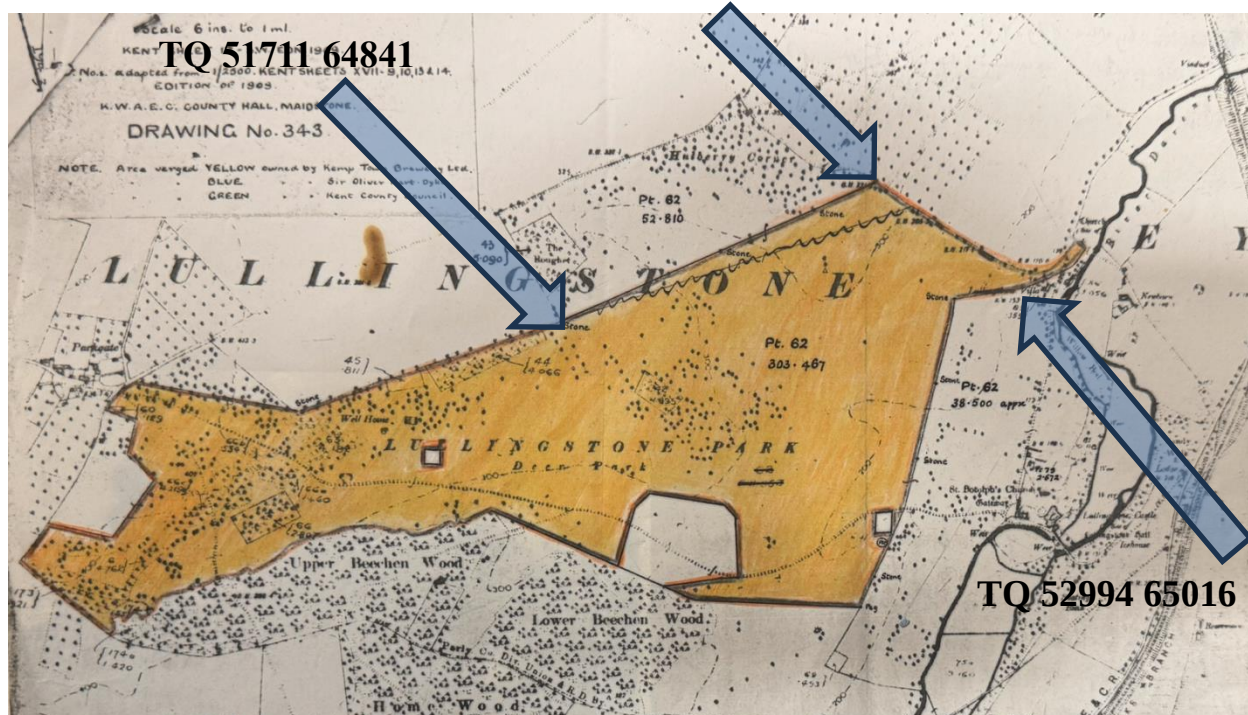
KHLC U36 T938 16/11/1759 Part of Deed to lead to Uses of Recovery
FELHS no.25, Miscellany 3, Wilf Duncombe, *Richard Mullens of Eynsford 1675-1747*, pp.6-16.

Index for Bulletins after 2018 - Volunteer needed to update the Index, which is a useful tool to access the Bulletins on the website. A few hours on the computer would get the job done, and the current Index would serve as a template. This is a task that can be done in the comfort of your home and in your own time - please consider doing it.

Boundary stones from 1943 in Lullingstone Park

Among the maps of Lullingstone from Susan Pittman's collection on display at a recent meeting was the one below of land requisitioned for 'Dig for Victory' by the Department of Agriculture in 1943.

TQ 52491 65253



At several points round the perimeter of the newly requisitioned land (coloured orange) was the word 'stone', which James noticed. He broke off his regular run through the Park at the marked points and found three of these boundary stones, with raised KCC lettering within a recessed lozenge. These have now been reported to Kent Historic Environment Record and they will be added to their records. At the same time I have sent in details of the location of the remains of the dummy airfield buildings (in the small white square on the east edge of the requisitioned area). The other small white square is the location of the air-raid shelter constructed for George Reeves, the gamekeeper, and his family living nearby -



roughly where the workmen's enclosure is now. The bricked up entrance is to be found in the roundel of beech trees. The large polygonal area not included in the requisitioned land was retained by the RAF as part of the dummy airfield's Starfish site on which dummy fuel containers were located. In the event of a night bombing raid, they were to be lit to give the impression that a real target had been hit.

These small features add character to our area and are precious reminders of its past history.

Farningham Roman Villa discovered 100 years ago

The December 2025 issue of the Dartford Historical and Antiquarian Newsletter featured the excavation of the Roman Bath House at Oliver Crescent on its cover. This was discovered prior to the building of the council houses. Traces of Roman foundations were found beneath and behind what became 36, 37 and 38 Oliver Crescent. Arthur Mee of *Children's Encyclopaedia* and *King's England*, county guides series, financed the excavations and some of the finds ended up at his house 'Eynsford Hill', off Crockenhill Lane. These included the large concrete floor of the steam room. The gateway to the bath house can be seen in Central Park, Dartford, where it was re-erected in 1928.

From short article on the cover by Dr Mike Still



For more details of the excavation results see *Transactions of the Dartford District Antiquarian Society no.1 (1931)*

ARCHIVE REPORT

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

The Centre was cleaned and left tidy on the last Monday before the winter closure. The water was also turned off to avoid the catastrophe of burst pipes which set us back in 2023. Opening for 2026 was on Monday 2 March from 9.30 am to noon, and from every Monday thereafter until the end of October. Also open by appointment.

Dramatic Photographs of the Aftermath of the Great Storm 15/16 October 1987 donated by Giles Wolfe - EYNSFORD



Eynsford High Street looking north from the bottom of Bower Lane. Elizabeth Cottages on right.



Poplar (one of a line along the river bank) lying across the ford at Riverside. Oak tree, perhaps the one planted by Marjorie Mee, uprooted taking a litter bin with it.

**Dramatic Photographs of the Aftermath of the Great Storm 15/16 October 1987 -
FARNINGHAM**



Farningham High Street looking north from A225 end, just past Hillside on the right.



Carriage House, Sparepenny Lane, Farningham

Family History Enquiries

Sudds & Newman - Sarah is investigating the marriage of Richard Sudds of Bromley to Sarah Newman of Eynsford in St. Martin's Church in 1777 and wanted confirmation. I sent a copy of the marriage entry in the parish registers.

Herbert Roberts - He was Stewart's great grandfather and a blacksmith in Eynsford, dying in 1912. He lived in Gibson's cottages which was later called Malt Shovel Cottages. I suggested Stewart purchase Wilf Duncombe FELHS publication about the Gibson family and sent a current photo of 2 Malt Shovel Cottages, where his great grandfather had lived.

General Enquiries

Eynsford Village Hall trustees - Were keen to have a record of the demolition of the old hall and the construction of the new, and asked FELHS to take on the project. We passed on details of Orpington Film and Video Makers, who are eager to help.

5 Elizabeth Cottages, Eynsford - Kevin enquired about the history of the house for his son, who has recently moved in. He came to the Centre and browsed among photos, maps and our catalogue to find a useful amount of information.

George Schomberg of Boyne House, Eynsford - Sue is a descendant of one of the lines and wondered whether more information had come to light following the entry in the Bulletin of September 2014. Nothing more has been forthcoming though I did see that the website for Chelsea Football Club, of which he was a founder in 1905, has added to its history section.

Eynsford in the 2nd World War - Moreno was starting to write his second novel, which he wished to set in Eynsford during the Battle of Britain in World War II. I suggested several titles in our Publications list which cover the period (nos. 13, 20, 34, 37, 400).

Acquisitions

Tom Hart Dyke - 'Lullingstone Castle and the World Garden', a lavish new publication, which can also be used as a guide book.

Helen Goldsworthy - Photo of Kathleen Goldsworthy with medals and badges from St. John's Ambulance Brigade. (see above)

James Holman - Project manager and senior consultant with Canterbury Archaeological Trust, has donated a digital copy of the Archaeological Excavation and Post-Excavation Assessment Report of the digs at Harrow Meadow prior to the construction of the new Village Hall.

Chris Lewington - Digital copies of photos taken in Eynsford between 2021 and 2025 of Gardeners' Club shows, Village in Bloom, Repair Shop in Village Hall, Acrostic in Lullingstone Park, works at Harrow Meadow in preparation for new Village Hall.

Giles Wolfe - A collection of black and white photos taken of damage done by the Great Storm of October 1987. (see above)



left: Eynsford Gardeners Club Show, 12/9/2021. above:
New acrostic SAVE THE PLANET in Lullingstone Park,
Arbor Day 2023. Photographs by Chris Lewington