

**ELSENHAM VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY**

**MINUTES OF MEETING 13<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2019**

**MEMORIAL HALL ELSENHAM**

**Those Present:**

Ray Franklin Chairman	Paul Salvidge	David Verlander
Heather Salvidge Campbell Dunn	Mike Rea Margaret Rea	Chris Bush Diane Bush
Tony Bailey Peter Clear	Jackie Bailey Therese Clear	Vic Dowsett Nigel Lusby
Vicki Thomson Jean Platt	Sandra Ruff Jill Hathaway	Caryl Benner Tony Eatson
Ian Jackson Roger Clark	Moyra Jackson Phyllis Clark	Gloria Eatson Tricia Holyomes
Ray Gaubert Jean Beeston	Nina Gaubert Ian Beeston	Jill Hunt Anne Player
Christine Hall Margaret Shaw	Valerie Austin Carol Wylde	Brian Tulley Sue Johnson

**Apologies:**

Helen Mudge Kevin Wood	Jill French Tim Snow	Linda Dunn
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We welcome Nigel Lusby as a new member and Jill and Keith Hunt as returning members.

1. The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those present and Mr Roger Barrett, our guest speaker for the evening.

**2. Minutes of the Last Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### 4. Annual General Meeting

The Secretary opened the Annual General Meeting.

- I. Invitations were extended for nominations for the posts of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary.

There were no nominations for these posts so the incumbents agreed to serve for another year

- II. Invitations were extended for nominations for Committee members. It was noted that Anne White had stepped down from the Committee.

There were no nominations so the existing members will serve for another year.

Secretary's Note: To remind members, Officers and Committee members are as follows

Gordon Barker – President  
Ray Franklin – Chairman  
Paul Salvidge – Treasurer  
Mike Rea – Secretary

Jean Beeston – Committee  
Chris Bush – Committee and Webmaster  
Heather Salvidge – Committee

plus Committee vacancy

- III. The Chairman presented a review of the Society's activities over the past year.
- IV. The Treasurer presented the Society accounts for the last year.
- V. David Verlander was, with the agreement of members present, asked to serve as the Society's representative to the ECA.

Secretary's Note: Copies of the Chairman's Remarks and the Society Accounts will be distributed with these minutes.

There being no other matters raised by the members present the Annual General Meeting was closed and business reverted to the main agenda.

## 5. Guest Speaker Mr Roger Barrett

Roger introduced himself by saying he was Programme Organiser for the Stansted History Society. After taking early retirement he became interested in coin collecting and one day came across an auction selling coins that were once the property of the Fuller-Maitland family of Stansted. This piqued his interest and he set out to learn more about the family.

Ebenezer Maitland was born in 1752 and in later life became a director of the Bank of England. He married Mary Winter and had one son, also Ebenezer. Mary was said to be a strong woman with fixed views. When they lived on Clapham Common she became enamoured of the butcher's horse, a large beast used to deliver the meat. On acquiring the animal, she was dismayed to find that it would only move when it had a loaded basket on its back so in order to be able to ride the horse she had a heavy basket made to fool the horse into thinking it was on its delivery round.

The young Ebenezer married Mary Winter, the granddaughter of William Fuller the banker, reputedly at the time the richest man in England. Because she was just 19 the wedding had to be by Royal warrant. William Fuller was a strict Calvinist and set up several almshouses in Hoxton before moving them to Stansted, "for the air" it was said. On his death in 1800, his entire fortune – some £600,000 - went to his granddaughter Mary and Ebenezer.

In 1807 they changed their name to Fuller-Maitland in accordance with the wishes of Mary's unmarried aunt, Sarah Fuller, who left them her fortune.

They had twelve children of which four daughters and four sons married. Their eldest son William inherited in 1867 on Ebenezer's death and Caroline Fuller-Maitland became her mother's companion. It is thought that Caroline was the subject of *Portrait of a Lady* by Sir Francis Grant.

William who was a great collector of art of all kinds took up residence in Stansted House while looking for somewhere to house his large collection. The collection had many notable works including Millais' *Ophelia*, *St John On The Island of Paphos* by Hieronymous-Bosch and the only signed Botticelli painting, *The Mystical Nativity*. Millais was a friend of William and went on to paint his *Daughter Mary* aged 8. As well as paintings, William had a large number of books and coins in his collection. William lent a large number of works from his collection to the Manchester Art Exhibition of 1857. He commissioned the rebuilding of Stansted Hall to house his collection but died in 1874 just before he was due to move in.

The younger William inherited but spent much of his time playing Cricket for Oxford and the MCC. He married Evelyn Gardner, daughter of the third Lord Gardner and had three sons who were destined to be the last of the line; he died in 1932.

Of his sons, Robert died in 1912 at Lake Baringo in Kenya, William died in 1914 during the Mons offensive and Richard was badly injured at the Somme in 1916. He later married but died without issue in 1953.

Stansted Hall was sold by William in 1922 and at the time comprised some 5560 acres of land, 30 Arable and Dairy Farms, 3 Nurseries and around 375 acres of woodland.

Following the talk, Roger answered questions from the floor and presented a small display of artefacts associated with the Fuller-Maitland family.

## **6. Open Forum and Any Other Business**

### **6.1 Telephone Box Update**

A display was put together and mounted in the phone box to commemorate the Armistice in November last year. Since then the Parish Council have formally adopted the box and we are organising repairs and the provision of a lock. As well as the mounting of occasional display from ourselves, it is intended that other Village organisations should use the box to publicise their own activities.

### **6.2 Elsenham and Henham District Nursing Association**

We were recently donated a framed hand drawn certificate of donations to the Elsenham and Henham District Nursing Association by a Mr Askew of Ipswich.

Of the people listed on it, John Bourne could be the gentleman who was Headmaster at the Primary School between 1874 and 1897. William Ormrod was a Vicar at Henham Church and Thomas and Emma Perry were father and daughter who lived at the Friend's meeting House in Stansted.

District Nursing Associations were provident organisations set up across the country to provide nursing care to people at home prior to the formation of the NHS. They recruited nurses and paid them from subscriptions, typically a penny or two a week per patient, and donations. In 1938 Nurse Cumming was the resident for our two villages and she was shown as living at the Nurses Bungalow in High St Elsenham.

My thanks go to committee members and Ray & Nina Gaubert for the above information but we would really like to know more so if you can help please get in touch.

**7. Thank You**

Our thanks go to Jean and Ian Beeston for preparing the teas and coffees this evening.

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 12th June. Our speaker for the evening will be Lee Player, Master Thatcher who will be speaking about the History and Practice of Thatching. This will be illustrated with photographs of Lee's work, many examples of which can be seen around the village.

**ENDS**

Minutes Agreed: ..... June 2018

**See Below For The Chairman's AGM Report**

## **A.G.M. Chairman's Report March 2019**

Firstly, I feel I must apologise in advance if I fail to mention an event or fail to acknowledge by name, the work of a Committee Member or indeed any member of the Society.

As your Chairman I feel that this group is lucky to have so many who contribute much of their time and work hard for the Society. I begin by thanking you all.

I have attempted to record just some of the last 12 months in the history of our Group.

The Committee as elected at the last A.G.M. has continued to work unchanged throughout the last year. That is with the exception of Avril Braidwood who sadly passed away.

We welcomed Ann White onto the Committee: she is aware that Avril will be a hard act to follow.

It is probably correct to note that our main channel of Communication has become our Web-Site. It has recorded something in the region of 35,000 "Hits." Much Hard work goes into the updating and adding of additional material. Amongst other things on the site we now include an account of the life of the late Dorothy Pagett. There is also additional Material by our President, Gordon Barker and his wife, Heather. We are also in receipt of photos presented to club from the late Gerald Sewell's collection. The Web Site is maintained by Chris Bush.

Thanks Chris for your work on the site and for the other many things you do for our Society.

Our publications continue to sell. Others are in the planning stage. If not produced in "Print version" others may appear on our Web site and can be downloaded.

On July 24<sup>th</sup> 24 members of the E.V.H.S. visited Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome.

We had an Exhibition stall, manned by myself and Mike Rae, our Secretary at, "What Elsenham Offers 2" on 23<sup>rd</sup> of September. Having mentioned his name I would like to record a special thanks to Mike for not only that day but for all the many hours of work in your role as our Secretary. For organising the excellent Speakers enjoyed at meetings throughout the year. Also for keeping us in order (or attempting so to do) at Committee Meetings. Thanks to your wife for the Coffee and Biscuits and your hospitality.

In November I had a conversation with one of our members, Teri Williams. She had seen a photo display in a redundant Phone Box. My attempts to "adopt" the phone box in New road were initially met by resistance by Uttleford district Council.

B.T. turned a "Blind Eye" to my exhibition of the fallen which I put up in November. Thankfully common sense finally prevailed and Elsenham parish council became the owners of that Kiosk. We hope to mount other displays and advertise our society.

The E.V.H.S contributed to the “Tommy Silhouette” in the War Memorial gardens I was pleased that our President, Gordon Barker was well enough to lay a Wreath on behalf of the Society.

I thank Jean Beeston for organising the Society’s Xmas tree for the Xmas tree Festival in Elsenham church.

Finally, it would be remiss of me if I did not mention my thanks to Paul Salvidge as your Treasurer. Over the years we have become quite an active group. This must be reflected in the work load. I thank-you Paul for keeping our Finances in order.

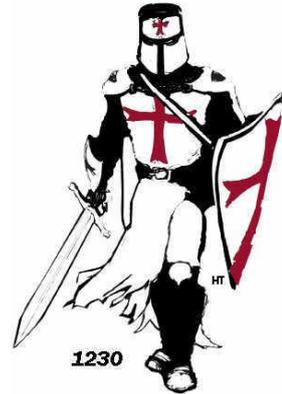
I began by thanking you all. I would like to finish by thanking you all again. It is a privilege to be your Chairman.

Ray Franklin – Chairman

**See Below For A Review of 2018**

# Elsenham Village History Society

Formed: 2010



## Annual General Meeting 13 March 2019 – Review of The Year 2018

- Over the course of the year, new members have balanced out non renewals and membership has stayed stable at 54.
  - Speakers -
    - March – Dr Herbert Eiden gave us his take on “Holidaying at the Seaside”
    - June – Richard Priestley returned to give an account of the history of Wimpole Hall from building to the present day
    - September – Terry Ward presented Station to Station, an illustrated trip down the railway from Cambridge to Bishop’s Stortford
    - November – Alan Taylor returned with his third talk about the Great War, this one entitled “The Last Battle – November 2018 and Beyond”.
  - Visits
    - Twenty three members of the Society and their guests had a very successful visit to Stow Maries

Great War Aerodrome. The cream tea was much enjoyed!

- We have held four committee meetings
- The Society had a stand at “What Elsenham Offers II” event and was able to provide a snapshot of Elsenham’s history for would –be and new residents
- The 8mm film given to the society by Jean Reay of life on Ugley Hall Farm in the 1950’s was presented to a meeting of the East Herts National Trust Supporters Group
- A history of Park Road has been written for the residents of that road and a redacted version will be published on our website
- Our Chairman has further refined his talk on the Elsenham Jam Factory based on a talk given by John Hurwitz in the early days of the Society. This was presented to our neighbours at the Stansted History Society where it was well received
- In November we mounted a display to commemorate the Armistice. This was held in the redundant phone box on New Road that has now been adopted by the Parish Council
- The Society website has continued to grow over the year as more new material has been added. It is clear from the usage statistics that the number of visitors are accelerating
- In June we had our usual stall and display at the village fete
- For the first time this year we laid a wreath at the Village Memorial Service
- Our entry for this year’s St Mary’s Christmas Tree Festival celebrated 70 years of the NHS
- We have renewed our membership of the Recorders of Uttlesford History
- We have continued to add to our photo archive
- The sound recording of reminiscences of village residents continues as does transcription to make these available to a wider audience
- Work continues to progress on the directory of village place names and their origins

Mike Rea

Secretary EVHS

<http://www.elsenham-history.co.uk>