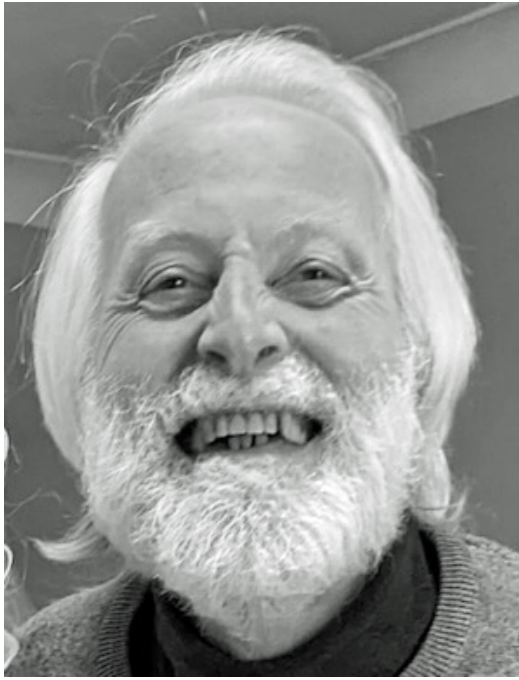


STUDIES
in the
HISTORY of EFFINGHAM



Ralph Frank Wallace is the grandson of Ralph Edgar Street who was the head gardener for many years in Effingham at The Lodge. He was born at the gardener's cottage in the north-western grounds of The Lodge. He studied violin performing at The Royal Academy of Music during 1959-63 and made a career of playing and teaching. He enabled ELHG to make copies of a great number of his unique and absorbing Effingham-related photographs and documents which continue to enrich our day-to-day research.

Two major contributors to the photographic archives of Effingham Local History Group.

above – Ralph Frank Wallace

below – Kathleen Hilda Gwenda Parrish

Kathleen Hilda Gwenda Parrish was also born in Effingham, at 'The Nurseries' in Orestan Lane. She stayed in the village until marrying in her early twenties. During her teenage years she began taking photographs of local people, places and events as well as taking a keen interest in local history. She generously provided us with copies of all her images taken of Effingham – those in the 1960s being especially valuable to us, as few others from that decade have so far turned up – as well as much useful historical information.



STUDIES in the HISTORY of EFFINGHAM

Presenting original research and narratives
relating to the village of Effingham
in the County of Surrey, England

VOLUME 9



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Front Cover: bluebells on Ranmore Common, a favourite walking area for Effingham residents.

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PREFACE

The production of this ninth volume of *Studies in the History of Effingham* has continued the long process of converting into printed form the articles which, up to now, have existed only electronically on ELHG's website. Seven such articles feature in this volume, whilst three other articles present new material.

The volume begins with three oral histories, two of them recording the memories of individuals born over a century ago. Doreen Hemus was born in Effingham at Norwood Farm in 1921 and gave us many valuable insights into the people and places she remembered. She died just four years after we had interviewed her. Michael Waller was not only interviewed but produced for us, on disks, his own recorded memories, together with photographs. He provided an immense wealth of information about the Common and the activities of the Cricket Club, to which he and his brother Maurice had been deeply devoted. The third oral history comes from the late Ivor Gillespie who lived on the Common at Hooke Farm. His narrative contains much of interest about the history and ecology of the Common.

These articles are followed by one on Charles Edward Lambert who made his fortune from the manufacture and marketing of tobacco products. His family occupied Effingham House from the 1880s until 1917. ELHG is in the fortunate position, through the family albums donated to us, of possessing numerous fascinating photographs of Effingham in the 1890s and early 1900s, many of them showing the elegant and luxurious lifestyle that they enjoyed here.

The next article continues the series produced by Jeremy Palmer about the famous actors and artistes who lived in Effingham during the inter-war years, in this case the cellist and comedic entertainer Gwen Farrar. Besides telling the story of her career and partnership with pianist and singer Norah Blaney, the article contains interesting details of her interactions with other Effingham-based artistes.

There follows a new study which examines the adventurous and colourful life of Sydney Hastings Dowse, a daring and dashing RAF pilot in the Second World War. Having been shot down he became a prisoner of war and, with others, took part in amazing escapes from prison camps, culminating in a major one from Stalag Luft III about which the famous film 'The Great Escape' was released in 1963, shortly before Sydney and his second wife came to live in Effingham in Leewood Way. During his time here he became involved in the uproar generated in Effingham over plans by the former owner of his house to develop land between Leewood Way and Orestan Lane, an issue that continues to the present day.

Volume 8 introduced our studies of Commoners' Days, discussing the earliest ones in the period 1980-2002. The next to occur was in 2010, the first year of ELHG's existence, and is described in this present volume. The Group contributed to the displays at that event, of which we took many photographs and videos.

Our studies of the past celebratory events in Effingham are continued here with an account of the way in which Effingham and neighbouring parishes celebrated the Coronation of George VI in 1937. Effingham's activities on the Carn Pit Field (or 'Madge's Field') bore some similarity to those held there just two years previously for the Silver Jubilee of George V, described in Volume 8.

The next article documents the discovery by Sue Morris that Effingham once had its own small tithe barn, on a site in Browns Lane; we had previously had no inkling at all of the site's significance. The discovery was made from a close examination of a contract of sale drawn up in 1803, and parallels another finding by Sue that Effingham once (apparently) had its own windmill, this likewise divined from a single label on an old map; the windmill was discussed in our Volume 2.

We end with an article about a famous popular music group from the 1950s and 1960s, The Avons. This was inspired by the finding that a house in Strathcona Avenue had once borne the name 'Avonsville' together with a chance remark by a former resident that it was so-named because The Avons had lived there in the 1960s. A particularly great pleasure in the development of this article is that it has been co-authored by one of the original artistes in the group, Valerie Murtagh, who went on to have a notable career in composition and artist management.

So, another varied feast of material which, as with all the previous volumes, contains lots of photographs to enliven the text. We hope it will bring much pleasure to our readers.

The Editors

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The Editors invite submissions of original manuscripts to this series of Volumes. These may take the form of research articles, whether long or short, concerning the history of Effingham or of novel collections of relevant material (historic images, for example). The form in which any such submissions, if accepted, appear in the series is at the discretion of the Editorial Board. In all such cases third party copyright must be respected and permissions for use must be obtained by the authors where appropriate.

Enquiries about the series should be directed to Effingham Local History Group either by email as set out on the website (<https://elhg.org.uk/about>) or by writing to

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