



The next meeting of Effingham Local History Group
will take place on

MONDAY 10 January 2022 at 7.30pm : by Zoom

Following a resumption of ELHG's physical meetings in 2021, new concerns about the continuing prevalence of Covid motivated us in early 2022 to return temporarily to online Zoom meetings only. This arrangement prevailed from January through to April.

On 10 January 2022 the Group 'met' online using Zoom and the following talks were presented:

1. **The 1921 Census** *by Mark Eller*
An explanation of the access and content released in the 1921 Census
2. **Adrian Estler of Leebrook, Effingham Common** *by Martin Smith*
More details and photographs of this fascinating former resident.
3. **A Mysterious 18thC Plan** *by Sue Morris*
A curious plan of a plot of land drawn up in the 18thC, amply labelled but despite this remaining mysterious as to where it was located or what significance it had.



A Zoom meeting had been planned for February 2022 but was cancelled.



The next meeting of Effingham Local History Group
will take place on

MONDAY 14 March 2022 at 7.30pm : by Zoom

Following a resumption of ELHG's physical meetings in 2021, new concerns about the continuing prevalence of Covid motivated us in early 2022 to return temporarily to online Zoom meetings only. This arrangement prevailed from January through to April.

On 14 March 2022 the Group 'met' online using Zoom and the following talks were presented:

1. **A new William Richards postcard** *by Sue Morris*
This old card shows Sole Farm House in Church Road, Bookham.
2. **Effingham Estates Brochure of 1924** *by Jeremy and Kay Palmer and Sue Morris*
This brochure, publicizing the intended sale in 1924 of 750 acres of land in Effingham, was obtained by Jeremy from the archives of Reading University.





The next meeting of Effingham Local History Group
will take place on

MONDAY 11 April 2022 at 7.30pm : by Zoom

Following a resumption of ELHG's physical meetings in 2021, new concerns about the continuing prevalence of Covid motivated us in early 2022 to return temporarily to online Zoom meetings only. This arrangement prevailed from January through to April.

On 11 April 2022 the Group 'met' online using Zoom and the following talks were presented:

1. **More on the Sole Farm House postcard** *by Sue Morris and Cynthia Watson*
Comparison with a modern photograph of the property produced by Cynthia.
2. **The Role of the Coroner and some Effingham Inquests** *by Sue Morris*
3. **A Mysterious Death in Effingham, 1889** *by Jeremy Palmer*
A man with no known local connections, but having associations with Scotland, Canada and London, had died in Effingham in 1889.
(We later learned his name – David George MacNaught.)





The next meeting of Effingham Local History Group
will take place on

MONDAY 9 May 2022 at 8.30pm (following the AGM)

at

The Methodist Church, Effingham

1. Introductions (if required)

2. Members' reports and queries

This is an informal session where anyone can chip in with news of recent or forthcoming events, research questions, website or archive matters, requests for help etc. We also often discuss issues about the Group's progress or developments generally.

3. Two ghosts of central Effingham

We know of a number of buildings in the northern village area Orestan Lane / The Street / Lower Road which have been demolished, and several have been well-researched: Killick's farmhouse, Tyrrell House, the Plough Cottages, Yew Tree Cottages, Yew Tree House and so on. This session in two parts will look at two others ...

(Sue Morris)

A monster structure - previously unseen images of the Ind Coope hangar, formerly on the current Middle Farm Close area

and

(Chris Hogger)

A tiny building he has been researching of which we have previously seen no images and had little information: an Elizabethan cottage on Lower Road.

4. Date and venue of next meeting, at The Methodist Church

Monday 13 June 2022.



West Lane Farm (Killick's Farm) on Orestan Lane before demolition, early 1960s



The next meeting of Effingham Local History Group
will take place

MONDAY 13 JUNE 2022 at 7.30pm
The Methodist Church, Effingham

1. Introductions (if required)

2. Members' reports and queries

This is an informal session where anyone can chip in with news of recent or forthcoming events, research questions, website or archive matters, requests for help etc. We also often discuss issues about the Group's progress or developments generally.

3. International Bomber Command Centre (Anne Vallis)

This is the 'Part 1' for a further 'Part 2' session Anne will give later. She will explain about IBCC and what they do. Part 2 will be about her father, and the vital Groundcrews - without whom the WW2 Aircrews could not operate.

4. Chris has acquired a further photograph new to our eyes, from the 1920s.

Refreshments

5. Slater's 'oaks', the Bishop's grandmother, Mendelssohn, and the croquet lawn ...

Slaters Oak on Effingham Common Road appears in documents as early as 1684. It is one of the four properties on Effingham Common for which the owners managed to establish commoners' rights in 1976. A lot is known about it - at the same time as there are several enigmas. This talk will explore its curious history.

6. Date and venue of next meeting, at The Methodist Church

Monday 11 July.

Subsequently: no meeting in August; then 12 September, 10 October, 14 November, 12 December, 9 January 2023, 13 February, 13 March, 10 April, 8 May (AGM).



The south-facing facade of Slater's Oak, made up entirely of new sections added post 1907.
Behind this, ie out of sight in this view, is an older farmhouse-type building.



The next meeting of Effingham Local History Group
will take place

MONDAY 11 JULY 2022 at 7.30pm
The Methodist Church, Effingham

1. Introductions (if required)

2. Members' reports and queries

This is an informal session where anyone can chip in with news of recent or forthcoming events, research questions, website or archive matters, requests for help etc. We also often discuss issues about the Group's progress or developments generally.

**3. Slater's 'oaks', the Bishop's grandmother, Mendelssohn, and the croquet lawn ...
(Part II) Sue Morris**

Slaters Oak on Effingham Common Road appears in documents as early as 1684. It is one of the four properties on Effingham Common for which the owners managed to establish commoners' rights in 1976. Last month various aspects of its location and changes to the building over time were explored. This time: some clarification following input by Derek Ruffles, and contemplation of the mysteries mentioned in the title.

Refreshments

4. Potato Man unmasked Chris Hogger

Some members will recall that in our lockdown online Newsletter of June 2020 (available to read in the Members' Area of the ELHG website; item on p10), Prof Richard Selley asked whether anyone else remembered a character Richard referred to as 'The Potato Man'. This gentleman resided in the Beech Avenue area and was reputed to live on potatoes from allotments and gardens. Now, in an extraordinary turn-up, who Potato Man actually was has come to light, and Chris will tell us what can now be known about his life.

5. Date and venue of next meeting, at The Methodist Church

No meeting in August; then 12 September, 10 October, 14 November, 12 December, 9 January 2023, 13 February, 13 March, 10 April, 8 May (AGM).

Felix Bartholdy Mendelssohn 1809 - 1847
by Wilhelm Hensel (1847)

Mendelssohn was writing his much-loved *Songs without Words* series of piano pieces between 1829 and 1845. He made ten visits to England, the first in 1829. Were any of the *Songs* written in Effingham?





The Group had now resumed its usual practice of holding no meeting in August.



The next meeting of Effingham Local History Group
will take place

MONDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2022 at 7.30pm

The Methodist Church, Effingham

1. Introductions (if required)

2. Members' reports and queries

This is an informal session where anyone can chip in with news of recent or forthcoming events, research questions, website or archive matters, requests for help etc. We also often discuss issues about the Group's progress or developments generally.

3. Norwood Farm and Ned Kelly *Sue Morris*

What does Norwood Farm have to do with the famous Australian bandit? Following a recent contact with ELHG by a former resident of Norwood Farm, we now have another colourful contribution to the history of the Effingham Common area.

Refreshments

4. Effingham Women's Institute Part II: The Minutes Book 1940-45 *Chris Hogger*

Effingham WI was founded in 1919 and within their various records an enormous amount of village history was captured down the years. Searching for some of the key volumes has been Chris's mission for nearly a decade. In June 2021 in 'Part I' of this talk, Chris explained what has been discovered so far and showed snippets of text and pictures from some of the earlier documents. Part II will look at a particularly fascinating time - the World War II Minutes Book for 1940-45.

5. Date and venue of next meeting, at The Methodist Church

10 October, 14 November, 12 December, 9 January 2023, 13 February, 13 March, 10 April, 8 May (AGM).



One of five photographs of Norwood Farm thought to be pre-WW2, given to the ELHG Archive by Ronald George Burton who lived there for some time during WW2 as a child evacuee from Fulham, London.



The next meeting of Effingham Local History Group
will take place

MONDAY 10 OCTOBER 2022 at 7.30pm
The Methodist Church, Effingham

1. Introductions (if required)

2. Members' reports and queries

This is an informal session where anyone can chip in with news of recent or forthcoming events, research questions, website or archive matters, requests for help etc. We also often discuss issues about the Group's progress or developments generally.

3. The 1987 Hurricane and Beech Avenue *Photos from Cynthia Watson*

The hurricane hit England 35 years ago, during the night of Thursday/Friday 15-16 October 1987. In Effingham, residents were shocked by the damage done to the famous avenue of trees along Beech Avenue, a regional landmark devastated. Cynthia's photos some of which were taken in the immediate aftermath are a valuable historic record, and other members can probably contribute more.

Refreshments

4. The puzzling history of Beech Avenue *Sue Morris*

It seems highly probable that Beech Avenue was not always a public road; was it in fact a private drive until relatively recently? And were the famous trees deliberately planted as an impressive avenue, or self-seeded?

5. Date and venue of next meeting, at The Methodist Church

14 November, 12 December, 9 January 2023, 13 February, 13 March,
10 April, 8 May (AGM).



This postcard with a stamp
franked in 1934 illustrates how
the famous Beech Avenue trees
met overhead, creating an effect
described as like a mile-long
cathedral nave.



The next meeting of Effingham Local History Group
will take place

MONDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2022 at 7.30pm
The Methodist Church, Effingham

1. Introductions (if required)

2. Members' reports and queries

This is an informal session where anyone can chip in with news of recent or forthcoming events, research, website or archive matters, requests for help etc. We also often discuss issues about the Group's progress or developments generally.

3. The Blucher Hotel c. ?1903 *Photos found online by Derek Ruffles*

Derek spotted 3 historic photographs for sale on ebay shortly before the last meeting. Although ELHG was not able to acquire them, we have 'collected' these fascinating images of a group visit. They show the 'Blucher' at its new site on The Street so cannot be before 1903 but they are very early in the century.

4. Building Effingham's railway line and station, 1884-8 *Sue Morris*

Surrey History Centre has a remarkable album of 46 large-format photographs documenting the building of the line from Guildford through Effingham and on up to Cobham. The scale of the engineering works and the lives of the navvies are vividly captured. This talk will show a selection of images from the whole line as well as the ones local to us.

Refreshments

5. What is wrong with Dirtham Lane? *Mark Eller*

Dirtham Lane marks the western boundary of the Effingham Hundred - but where is that, exactly? "A talk which includes a walk in the countryside".

6. Date and venue of next meeting, at The Methodist Church

12 December, 9 January 2023, 13 February, 13 March, 10 April, 8 May (AGM).



This detail shows navvies working with one of the small locomotives that tootled up and down temporary tracks pulling or shunting trucks full of earth, sleepers, rails and other heavy equipment needing to be moved around the works.



The next meeting of Effingham Local History Group
will take place

MONDAY 12 DECEMBER 2022 at 7.30pm

The Methodist Church, Effingham

1. Introductions (if required)

2. Members' reports and queries

This is an informal session where anyone can chip in with news of recent or forthcoming events, research, website or archive matters, requests for help etc. We also often discuss issues about the Group's progress or developments generally.

Note: Jeremy has found a 60 year old turkey at the Golf Club.

3. Looking again at Beech Avenue Sue Morris

To mark the anniversary of the Great Storm of '87, the October meeting looked at the history of the line taken in former years by the track/s that became Beech Avenue, and of the trees. Following further researches by members, an update.

INTERVAL

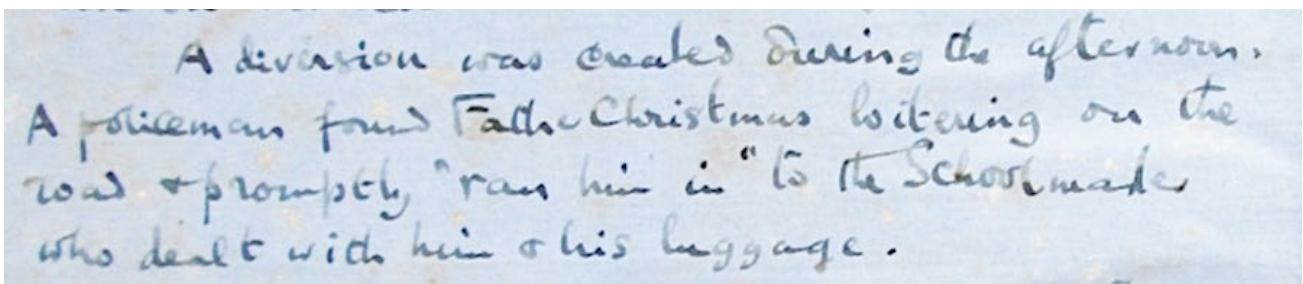
With festive refreshments, slightly more substantial than usual

4. Festive Happenings in Effingham of yore Chris Hogger

To educate and doubtless amuse us, Chris will present a collection of reports about what was happening around Christmas in the Effingham of years gone by. We might have to guess what he means ...

5. Dates of next meetings

9 January 2023, 13 February, 13 March



A hundred Christmases ago ...

On the last day of term in December 1922,
Mr Stewart Adams, Headmaster of the primary school, wrote

"A diversion was created during the afternoon.
A policeman found Father Christmas loitering on the
road & promptly "ran him in" to the Schoolmaster
who dealt with him & his luggage."