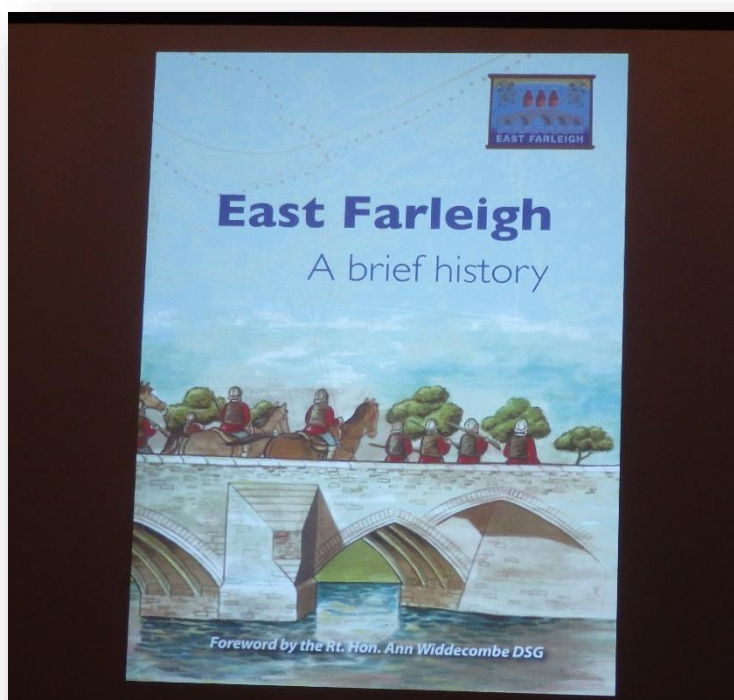


East Farleigh Booklet Launched



A crisply attired cllr John Wilson opened a presentation evening at the East Farleigh Working Mens' Club, to introduce the launch of East Farleigh's booklet.

John first introduced the ever-delightful Right Honourable Anne Widdecombe as the first guest speaker as she had written the foreword to the booklet.

In her short talk to the guests, Anne reflected on her association with the parish and how she would canvass drivers stuck on East Farleigh bridge! "A captive audience" she quipped. Anne went on to acknowledge that a lot of research had gone into the booklet and the history of it had been brought right up to date.

This was a case where there *should* be a book became there *is* a book.

Anne kindly remained after speaking to sign copies of the booklet, copies of which were on sale.



The next speaker was the fascinating and incredibly well-informed Dr Simon Elliot, the main historical contributor to the booklet. Now, anyone who knows Simon will tell you a quick talk is a blizzard of information! It's like shaking a can of drink then popping it open – a torrent gushes forth.

Having said that, he covers a lot of ground very quickly. Pay attention and he will, in a few minutes take you from showing you archaeological finds going back 450,000 years to the recent Neolithic times.

A lot of East Farleigh's history is tied to the Romans who quarried ragstone from the area to build structures in London. The route was the river which, in the day had locks from Teston to the Thames.

The quarry in Dean Street was the largest hole in Briton until more recent times, and tap slag found in the area attests to the relatively large scale production of iron.

Simon indicated the sites of many significant Roman dwellings and other structures along the river including the once-magnificent East Farleigh villa, which ironically, were demolished after the Romans left, to construct new buildings and churches. One example being the tufa arch in All Saints' church in West Farleigh which would have been the monumental entrance to East Farleigh villa.

The talk was attended by about 40 guests from East and West Farleigh who enjoyed a glass of wine and some tasty nibbles for their duty!



A fully illustrated Power Point account of this period entitled The History of East Farleigh is available to view on Simon Elliot's website, details of which will be posted

as soon as possible. Believe me, it will be well worth a visit if you have any interest in the history of the Farleighs.



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The main author and editor of the booklet was the charming and modest David Hussein, who said a big “Thanks for making it happen” to the many contributors of photos, maps, anecdotes, facts and information.

He also spoke about the Sparrow and Rat Club which was an effort to kill as many sparrows and rats which were both considered destructive vermin. How times have changed! This topic was covered in an article on the Farleighs.com website.