



Elham
Historical
Society

February 2019

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Chairman's Message

One of the difficulties which beset our volunteer Editor, Dilys, is always the late arrival of the Chairman's Message. My excuse on this occasion was that the dire weather forecast had led me to spend time making soup to see me through the possible period of incarceration. To be honest I don't expect it to be that bad. East Kent winters are not what they were, thank goodness. The Lyminge Historical, of which I was a founder member in 1971, decided in 1984 no longer to meet in January and February, as so many meetings were being cancelled because of snow and ice. Nowadays, if there is any harsh weather, it tends to come as a sting in the tail, and it's the March meeting that is in danger.

Here at the EHS, we had a very interesting meeting in January with Nicholas Reed talking about the local work of Turner and Constable (and Fred Cuming). Gaye Giutini's talk on 22 February about the career of her father Terry Ashwood promises to give us interesting sidelights on momentous events from WW2 onwards, when he worked as a journalist and Pathe News cameraman.

Because we grabbed the opportunity to hear Gaye in February, my own talk on **Elham Women, 1217-1914** has been postponed - another whole year to speculate on why 1217!

DMB

AGM - 12th April

As usual, we will be looking back over the last year's visits and talks, as well as announcing the full programme of events for 2019/20.

The Society is growing and going from strength to strength. New ideas are always welcome and are necessary to keep the Society vibrant. If you have any ideas you would like to share with us please do so - you don't need to be on the Committee (unless of course you'd like that).

Under the Society's Constitution we have to elect all officers to their posts yearly at the AGM. If you would like to have some input into the running of the Society, no matter how small, we would be pleased for you to join us. Please talk to one of the current Committee members if you are interested.

Society Events Over The Past Few Months

27th September – What a lovely treat was in store for us when we visited Minster Abbey on the Isle of Thanet. Here we were shown everything from the old ruins of the Abbey through to the very modern chapel. The nuns have their own gardens and keep a few animals, so are almost self-sufficient. Afternoon tea was followed by a tour of the Parish Church with an impromptu performance by the Church organist which was most enjoyable. Some of us climbed the steep and winding staircase to the belfry and were shown around the various systems of bell ringing they have there. This includes a one-man bell ringing system and computerised changes that can be rung! We were given a chance to try our hands at bell ringing – something that is not as easy as it might first appear – it is very much a team participation.



12th October – Derek gave a talk on Fred Palmer's War. Fred was a local lad who served in Gallipoli, Egypt and Palestine during World War I, where he had chance meetings with other locals. He kept a full diary which contained some amusing anecdotes and comments! Derek had spoken on this before, but has subsequently found a lot more information which warranted an interesting update.

November 9/10/11 – WWI Armistice Exhibition – What a superb weekend this was, with all of the various organisations in the village pulling together to make a memorable few days. The service at the War Memorial was topped off by Toby Dingle leading the parade on his steed in full WWI uniform. The exhibition was very well attended. I cannot believe the throng of visitors that were present after the service at the War Memorial, certainly one of the busiest moments of the weekend. Then, to top it all, the programme of remembrance in the Village Hall was beyond what anyone could have expected., with a full house, and at times there were not many dry eyes in the room. A suitable Remembrance weekend – WELL DONE ELHAM! (See also Andrew Joynes' article on page 4)

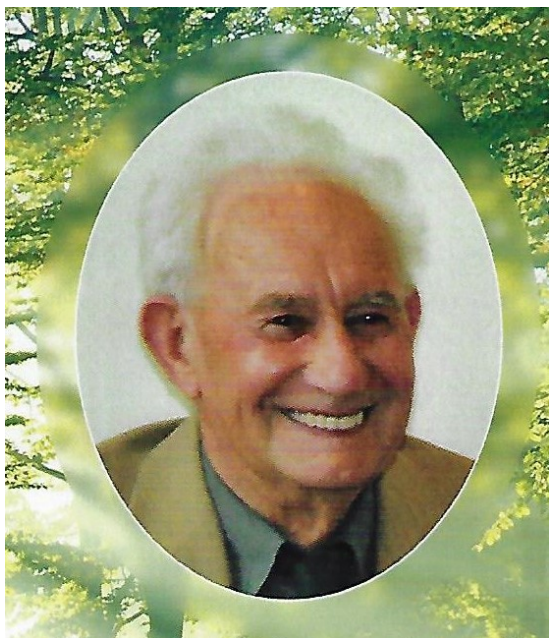


Society Events Over The Past Few Months Cont/..

6th December – EHS Annual Dinner at the Rose & Crown – A lovely evening with 27 members present. Good food and company with the addition of Derek giving us a rendition of comedian Rob Wilton's skit "The Home Guard" which was enjoyed by all.

11th January – Nicholas Reed gave us an entertaining talk on **Turner & Constable in East Kent and Fred Cuming RA**, a well known local artist from Rye . About 60 people turned out on a damp January evening and were thoroughly entertained by his knowledge on the painters and views of Folkestone that will surely make us look at the harbour area in a new light! Many of the paintings he showed are in private collections, so not regularly on show. Fred is ageing well and still living just outside Rye and became a Royal Academician at the tender age of 23, about half the age that most are elected. In his early years he lived in Hythe and was part of the team running the Arts Centre in the Metropole, Folkestone. His later works are semi-impressionistic and are already becoming collectors items. There are several videos of Fred and his work on U-Tube.

Obituary – Ken Beeching



Ken Beeching, who died in October aged 89, was probably unknown to most of our members, having lived in retirement at Hawkinge for many years, but we all owe him a debt of gratitude. He and Margaret were a very young married couple when they moved to Dreals Farm almost seventy years ago, and over the years both made a great contribution to our local community. Ken was a man of many talents, but his ability to find and identify Stone Age implements was legendary, and added immensely to our knowledge of the pre-history of Elham.

Ken was always ready to share his knowledge. Many of his finds were in local museums, but he also retained a large collection, and he was happy for the EHS to borrow examples to display at our meetings. He was also a great support to Anne Beecham as she prepared her excellent lectures on the early history of our species locally.

Above all, Ken was a really lovely man. The large congregation at his funeral was testament to that, where we all heard more of the good things he had done in his quiet unassuming way.

D.B.

A Village Pageant

In the 1930s, in the uneasy interval between the twentieth century's two great wars, there was a vogue in Britain for 'pageants'. These were community enactments full of symbolism and allegory, in which members of the community were dressed as historical figures and placed against a scenic background to evoke the proud events of what a popular history book of the time called 'Our Island Story.' At a time when radio and cinema were the only mass media, these sombre pageants were a means of providing community entertainment. They were also a way of providing solace, a community response to the anxieties of the interwar years, and above all to the terrible and still vivid memories of the Great War.

There was something of this pageant atmosphere about the events of Elham's Armistice Centenary a hundred years after the end of the Great War. Although the Elham generations directly affected by the loss and sorrow had long since passed away, their village successors were concerned not only to 'mark' the centenary event, but also – a more subtle and difficult task - to come to terms with it. They succeeded admirably. The Great War remains a terrible psychic wound in the nation's consciousness; and in the manner of their appraisal of the local consequences of the 1914-18 war, the organisers of the Elham Centenary events did indeed provide a kind of solace for our own anxious times.

The special Centenary events were designed to complement each other, and to fit in with the traditional patterns of Armistice commemorations. A documentary exhibition in the Methodist Hall enabled the people of the Elham Valley who gathered at the War Memorial on Armistice Sunday to familiarise themselves with the names of the dead recorded there. In the exhibition they could read and hear about the circumstances of the soldiers' deaths and the telling details of their foreshortened lives. And on the Sunday afternoon, after the traditional church services, it was these details of individual lives which provided some of the most poignant moments in a Village Hall revue 'The Landscape of Peace.'

There was a tacit parallel between the pageants of the 1930s and Elham's 2018 commemorations. Both took place at a time of profound uncertainty about Britain's future place in the world. More light-heartedly, one might even suggest there was a parallel between the characters and background of the 2018 organisers and the pageant committees of the past. For instance, among today's co-ordinators there was an Historian, keeper of the village's collective memory; a retired Schoolmaster, committed to the enlightenment of the young; a Playwright, versatile in amateur dramatics; an Engineer, who made complex technical things happen; a member of the Village Hall Entertainments Committee, who prepared the venue for the afternoon revue. All of these enthusiastic individuals would be recognized as kindred spirits by their counterparts of yesteryear.

Everyone will have particular memories of the weekend's events. Here are some of mine:

The weekend weather, 'the heavens weeping', tearstorms with sudden benedictions of yellow sunlight ...

Elham's vicar reading 'In Flanders Fields' at early communion on Armistice Sunday... later that morning 'a time out of time', the seemingly endless two-minute silence at the war memorial...a young horseman like a sentinel, dressed in khaki uniform and lowering his lance as wreaths were laid; when the bugle pierced the drawn-out silence, his startled horse was calmed by a bystander, who took hold of its bridle in a gesture as ancient as horsemanship itself...

A visitor to the Methodist Hall muttering a heartbroken 'No!' as the exhibition's video presentation listed the four dead sons of the Ellenders of Ottinge... a child's drawing of a traction engine, kept by a grieving mother in memory of her son... the elegant aesthetic of a bronze medallion on display in the exhibition, which had been presented to the family of a dead soldier...Britannia with her Lion, in a mix of Arts and Crafts and Art Deco...

The hush among the Village Hall audience when one of the revue performers sang 'The Honey-suckle and the Bee', evoking the moment when an actress touring the Western Front sang to a soldier as he died...the shock of realizing that, a hundred years ago, the house in Lime Villas that one passes every day had the blinds drawn down in mourning...the remarkable relevance of the 1960s song 'Where have all the Flowers Gone?' in a revue commemorating the dead of the Great War...

'The Landscape of Peace' was an exercise in allegory, and the overall tone of the Village Hall revue was pitch-perfect. It would have been easy to take a false step, to lurch into jingoism or veer towards mawkishness, but the cast's (and of course the director's) dramatic judgment was precise. The range of generations represented on stage - from those with personal memories of the people who lived through the Great War to the schoolchildren of today – was symbolic, so that every anecdote about the Great War's consequences for the people of Elham carried a resonance far beyond the lovely confines of the Elham Valley.

Andrew Joynes

Obituary – Henry Shackleton



Elham and its many organisations have lost a legend. Henry Shackleton died on the fifth of December at the age of 96.

He was, in many senses, a prime example of living history, having encapsulated in his lifetime so many of the significant events of the twentieth century.

As a boy of seventeen he heard, on the radio, Chamberlain's declaration of war against Germany. He enrolled in the early Home-guard and prepared to defend Rhodes Minnis with a pick-axe handle. Such were the moral values of the time, his mother allowed him to continue his defence of the realm only on condition he promised not to be contaminated by the bad language that accompanied the training.

He joined the RAF as a bomber pilot and was of such calibre that he was seconded to Pilot Training in Canada. After that he was accepted for the most dangerous activity in the air force at the time, the Pathfinder Squadrons, who took only the best pilots and whose task was to guide bombers to their targets. Almost inevitably, his plane was destroyed over Berlin. He survived, with another member of his crew, and spent the rest of the war in Stalag Luft 3 and undertook the forced "Long March" to Berlin and eventual freedom.

Henry's wartime career was, necessarily one of destruction. In peacetime, it was one of total reconstruction. As a structural engineer he built airports, smelting works, dams and factories on a world-wide scale. "In some way, restoring the balance!" As he would say!

He continued this pattern after retirement, making a team with his wife, Bobby, going to South America and Africa with Voluntary Service Overseas.

In total retirement, he gave time and energy to many local institutions and organisations. The Royal British Legion and Hythe Rotary benefited tremendously from his involvement and he rarely missed a meeting of the Elham Historical Society.

So, he had a full and significant life, lived to the very full right to the end.

However, the facts of his life are really the least important memories. What I think most friends will want to remember is the impact of his character. He radiated goodwill and interest in what was going on around him. At a meeting, historical or otherwise, Henry could always be relied upon to open up an interesting line of inquiry.

He kept to the very end a kind of creative curiosity that made him an interesting companion. I remember on a Gardening Society Holiday sharing a pew in Hereford Cathedral and being fascinated by his observations on the skilful design and construction of the roof.

He was, truly, a man of many parts, humble and informative. Organisations and friends in Elham will miss his cheery presence. He leaves a gap impossible to fill.



Henry's last parade

Forthcoming Events

22nd February, 8pm – Terry Ashwood, Pathe News Wartime Cameraman and News Correspondent, an illustrated talk **by his daughter Gaye Giuntini**. This will be an incredible opportunity to look into the personal photographic archives of arguably one of the most important Pathe News cameramen of the Second World War. Don't miss the chance to see Terry's own pictures of meetings with world leaders and celebrities such as Winston Churchill, President Roosevelt, Stalin, Gregory Peck and many more. Terry has spent a considerable amount of time going through the hundreds of photos Gaye has from her father's collection and narrowed it down to what promises to be a spectacular show.



22nd March, 8pm – James Dickinson's talk "The In-laws" is an entertaining and accessible tale about medieval characters with a local slant.....Joan, the fair Maid of Kent, her brother-in-law, John of Gaunt, their respective families and how they connect. Surprising how many local characters have royal connections of one sort or another – another fascinating evening's educational entertainment is in store for us all.

12th April, 8pm – AGM There will be an opportunity to pay your subscription for the year 2019/20, if you haven't already switched to paying by Standing Order. A separate email, with a Standing Order Mandate, is being circulated to all members for two reasons. Firstly, those of you who already pay by Standing Order must complete a new one with a start date of 1st April, as the EHS has changed its bank account to National Westminster. Secondly, as passed at last year's AGM, subscriptions increase to £10 for single membership or £20 for family membership. For the first time membership cards will be issued together with a printed programme of events, showing the whole year's programme up to the next AGM in 2020!!

We will also have out some of our old photos from the archives; can you identify everyone in them? We still don't know the names of some people in them. Also, please look out any of your own old photos of people and places around the Parish to show us – we all love to see them! Please bring them along – if possible, we will scan them and add them to the archive.

Booking arrangements:

All Friday evening talks are at the Village Hall in Elham, starting at 8.00 pm until April but thereafter 7.30pm and places can be reserved by emailing elhamhistorical@gmail.com Members £3.00 and Non-Members £5.00.

Programme of Events for 2019/2020

Friday 12th April 8pm - AGM

Thursday 16th May 2pm - Visit to Roman Museum, Canterbury, followed by afternoon tea at Elham Valley Vineyard

Wednesday 12th June 10.30am - Visit Sandwich Town Historical tour

Tuesday 16th July 10.30am - Visit to Hawthorne Trenches, Elham (2 hours £5)

Monday 12th August 10.30am - Visit Dover's Maison Dieu

Saturday 21st September 2pm - Visit Stelling Church (off Stelling Minnis)

Friday 11th October 7.30pm - Talk by Geoff Doel - Legendary and Ghostly Kent

Friday 15th November 7.30pm - Talk by Imogen Corrigan - The Goose is Getting Fat

Friday 6th December 7.30pm - Christmas Supper and Entertainment by Geoff Hutchinson

Friday 24th January 7.30pm - Talk by Andrew Joynes - Down North on the Labrador - Life and Times of Wilfred Grenfell

Friday 28th February 7.30pm - Talk by Derek Boughton - Elham Women 1217 – 1914

Friday Provisional March talk - Farming Around Elham

Friday 17th April 7.30pm - AGM

Tales from the EHS Database - Sporting connections

John Wenman (1860 -1950) lived at Spruce Lawn after returning from Canada. His grandfather Edward Wenman was the most celebrated member of the famous cricketing family, for no fewer than seven Wenmans appeared at different times in the ranks of the Kent XI. He was, in the opinion of William Martingell, the best all-round cricketer of his day, for he could bat, bowl and keep wicket with equal efficiency. As a wicket-keeper he stood up to the fast bowling of Alfred Mynn without either pads or gloves.

Alard Charles de Bourbel de Montpincon (1866 - 1943) was the vicar of Elham from 1900 until 1935 during which time he had been a most faithful parish priest. His father Augustus Alfred de Bourbel played for the MCC in 1854 scoring 12* and 0*. F.C.Eden, a second cousin to Anthony Eden PM, was the architect for much of the restoration of the church during the early 20th century. He had a connection with Alard through his uncle Henley, who played in the same team as Augustus.



John (Jack) Charlton Hubble (1881 - 1965) Kent CCC & MCC played an important part in Kent's golden years when they won the title four times in eight years. After joining Kent in 1904 he continued to play until 1927 although Les Ames had succeeded him as wicket-keeper in the previous season and was unlucky not to have played international cricket but turned out for the MCC on occasions. He once dismissed ten batsmen in a match in 1923. He often visited and stayed with his brother Lewis at the village shop and after he finished playing he joined forces with former team mate Les Ames setting up a store under the name *Hubble and Ames* in Maidstone.

Leslie Ethelbert George Ames CBE (1905 - 1990) Kent CCC & England, Gillingham FC lived at Chichester House and was a pupil at the Harvey Grammar School in Folkestone. At the time he was playing, he was without a doubt the greatest wicketkeeper-batsman the game had so far produced. Ames was England's first-choice wicketkeeper from 1931 to 1939 - when he virtually gave up the job. For Kent - he was an integral part of their Championship side from 1927 to the first match of 1951. He passed 1000 runs in a season seventeen times - going on to 3000 once and 2000 on five occasions. Unusually for a wicket-keeper - he also bowled - taking 24 first-class wickets. Ames was a Wisden Cricketer of the Year in 1929. He also played five times for Gillingham FC.







Derek Ufton (1928 -) Kent CCC, Charlton FC & England is one of a rare breed of sportsman who was a professional in two different sports. In the winter he captained Charlton FC and in the summer he kept wicket for Kent CCC. His performances at centre-half led him to international recognition in 1953 when he won an England cap at Wembley against a team from the Rest of Europe. The match finished England 4 Rest of Europe 4. The England team included Alf Ramsey, Billy Wright, Stan Matthews and Nat Lofthouse. After a football career that spanned ten seasons he went into coaching before becoming Plymouth Argyle manager in 1965.

Although his transfer policies transformed Argyle's balance sheet their on-field performances did not improve and he left in 1968 and pursued a career in the leisure industry before moving to Elham where he still resides.

Thomas Goatman (1912 - 1975) was born in Elham, the son of newsagent Mr. T. Goatman, and was invited to play for the Kent 2nd XI. The County invitation followed a match between Broadstairs and Kent Club and Ground XI, when young Goatman made 61 not out, the only double-figured score for Broadstairs. He later joined the Ramsgate Police.

Tales from the EHS Database - Sporting connections Cont/...

Frederick Castle (1909 - 1997) Somerset CCC & Crystal Palace FC was born in Elham, the son of tailor Albert and Alice, and lived at Verney's. He played second eleven cricket for Kent and was offered a professional contract but chose to become a schoolmaster in Bath, Somerset where he played first-class cricket for Somerset CCC in the school holidays for the four summers immediately after the Second World War. He also played football for Crystal Palace F.C. and hockey for Kent and Somerset. After learning conjuring from his father he became a member of the Inner Magic Circle and won a special award in America for brilliant close-up magic.

Susan Goatman (1945 -) Kent & England	June Edney (1956 -) Kent & England
 <p>Susan was the daughter of Thomas (see above) and captained St. Margaret's School cricket team in 1961 & 1962 before captaining Kent. She went on to captain England notably at the 1983 World Cup in New Zealand where she was the third highest run scorer in the competition with 374 runs.</p>	 <p>June, granddaughter of Harry & Emma Friend, was the wicketkeeper for the England cricket team between 1984 and 1985. She also played for Kent Women, East of England Women and WCA.</p>
Mark Ealham (1969 -) – Kent CCC & England	Darren Scott (1972 -) Kent CCC
 <p>Mark lived in The Square until 2004 and was a regular in England teams between 1996 & 2001. He had fifteen seasons with Kent CCC where he was known as a hard hitting batsman and medium-fast swing bowler. In 1995 he scored 100 in 42 balls in the SL at Maidstone.</p>	 <p>Darren lived in the High Street and played for Kent CCC from 1998-2000. His appearances as an off-break bowler were limited due to competition from Min Patel and Nigel Llong.</p>

Statistics - Cricket

		Batting				Fielding		Bowling		
		Mat	Runs	HS	Ave	100	Ct	St	Wkts	Ave
Les Ames	Tests	47	2,434	149	40.56	8	74	23		
	First-class	593	37,248	295	43.51	102	703	418	24	33.37
Fred Castle	First-class	23	686	60*	20.78	0	6	0	1	43.00
Mark Ealham	Tests	8	210	53*	21	0	4	0	17	28.70
	ODIs	64	716	45	17.46	0	9	0	67	32.79
	First-class	281	11,349	153*	31.96	13	158	0	643	27.93
June Edney	Tests	8	284	51*	28.4	0	11	2		
	ODIs	6	65	35	13	0	4	1		
Susan Goatman	Tests	3	158	71	31.6	0	3	0		
	ODIs	21	498	83	26.21	0	6	0		
John Hubble	First-class	360	10,939	189	23.57	5	437	221		
Darren Scott	First-class	8	46	17*	23	0	3	0	13	47.15
Derek Ufton	First-class	149	3,919	119*	19.99	1	270	44		

Statistics - Football

		Matches	Goals
Les Ames	Gillingham	5	1
Derek Ufton	Charlton	263	0
	England	1	0

Pathways to the Past Project

Exploring the legacy of Ethelburga – a community project focused on the Anglo-Saxon heritage of Lyminge, a village in the Elham Valley in East Kent.

We are pleased to inform you that the official blog has now been launched. It will be updated from time to time, but things may seem a little slow at first while we seek funding and properly define the projects that we can undertake.

The link is: <http://geopaethas.com/>

One for the Album

This photo was recently found by Pip Hope showing exhibits for the Whit Monday steam engine rally at Elham: the reputed oldest, the Pegden engine of 1881, and Fred Pegden's model of the Aveling traction engine of 1900, built at the scale of 3 inches to the foot.



2019

Who is Who

Chairman

Derek Boughton

Vice Chairman

Barbara Athow

Secretary

Jackie Christian

Treasurer

Richard Athow

Membership Secretary

Richard Athow

Speaker & Visits Co-ordinator

Andree Sladden

**Any of the above can be contacted via:
elhamhistorical@gmail.com**

Postcards

Don't forget our wonderful collection of vintage postcards at a cost of 60p each or £4.00 for a pack of eight. These are always available at our meetings in the Village Hall.



*Keep informed about our latest projects and activities -
www.elhamhistorical.org and www.ehsdatabase.elham.co.uk*

For more information about local events please visit www.elham.co.uk

Follow us on our Facebook page

We now have our own Facebook group where people (EHS members and non members) can upload pictures and make comments about Elham's history. If you are on Facebook then please take a look.

It's your Newsletter!

We've got lots of good "stuff" to tell you about in these newsletters but we hope that you, our members, will also provide contributions.

Everyone will have their own special areas of interest so, to stop us banging on about our own obsessions, send us your thoughts and photos etc. Letters to the Editor are always appreciated!

Please email me:

elhamhistorical@gmail.com