

November 2012

Volume 2, Issue 7

Chairman's Message

Just a few weeks ago I was feeling despondent about the future of our Society. Despite the success of the first two years in research, setting up the much admired Database, and holding well attended meetings, there didn't appear to be much in the pipeline. Then we had a committee meeting, and within days, hours almost, Andrée had come up with the Programme of Forthcoming Events set out on page 2, and I knew we were still on course.

I am particularly pleased that the first talk of 2013 is concerned with natural history, which I included in our inaugural meeting as an essential part of our remit. The "Why is Elham here?" project will, I am sure, emphasise the importance of the ecology to the whole history of our community.

Our committee remains small (better for getting things done); just the four of us: Bryan, who started the whole thing, and remains pivotal to everything we do, Dilys, who manages the funds and edits this Newsletter, always getting the Chairman's thoughts at the eleventh hour, Andrée and me.

However, a great deal of work is done by others. Barry continues to update the Database, Sue heads up the "Elhamers Remember" project, Moira has taken over membership matters, Elaine now deals with family history matters, Loll coordinates our responses to enquiries, and Wendy helps Dilys look after the bar at meetings. The last may seem least, but it contributes significantly to the Society's funds, and makes our evenings more convivial. As Bryan constantly reminds me, running the EHS has to be fun!

Canterbury 1600 To The Present Day: 400 Years Of Change

There is to be a FREE exhibition in the Sidney Cooper Gallery, Canterbury from Friday 16th November to Wednesday 19th December

It will be a unique exhibition that presents an overview of the changing nature of the City of Canterbury from the Tudor era to the present day. Research undertaken in a joint venture between professional historians and community volunteers has resulted in a vibrant exhibition with plenty to see and do for all ages.

The display incorporates twenty giant panels, specially produced books, a time-line, large model aircraft from World War 1 and 2, and loans from Canterbury Museum, Maidstone Museum, Canterbury Archaeological Trust and Kent Costume Trust. In addition there will be an opportunity for people to record their own oral reminiscences of the city and view archive film footage of Canterbury in the 20th Century. Opening hours are 10.30am to 5 pm Tuesdays to Fridays and 11.30 am to 5 pm on Saturdays.

Assistant Archivist

Since starting the Historical Society we have accumulated a wealth of photographs and a selection of artefacts, all of which are in need of scanning, labelling or filing. We invited an archivist with lots of experience with national treasures to come and advise us, and the Committee have made a valiant start, but we have to admit we need more help. One person has volunteered but it will be a lonely task if we leave her to it on her own. If you have an interest in preserving our history, especially the photographic archive, please get in touch – we'd welcome you on board!

Contact Andree Sladden (Secretary) 01303 840336 or asladden@btinternet.com

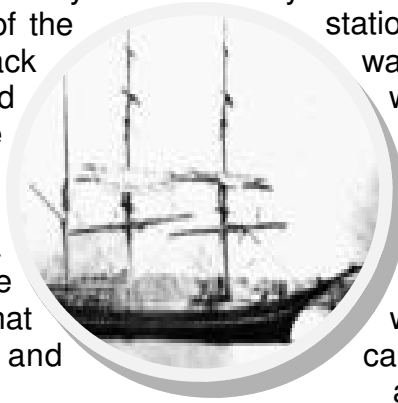
Proposed Forthcoming Events for 2013

11 th January	Elham's Ancient Woodlands and Hedgerows – Peter and Alfred Gay. An illustrated talk.	TALK
26 th January 1.30 p.m.	Maidstone Museum run by Realsocialising – a guided visit behind the scenes. Mini-bus transport being arranged – cost to be advised. Entrance - £2.00 p.p. Max nos. 25.	VISIT
22 nd February	Working with Archaeology – the Good Side of Metal Detecting – Maurice Worsley and members of the Royal Phoenix Detecting Club. A chance to see some of their local finds.	TALK
5th April	AGM – come and hear how our projects have progressed and renew your annual membership. Election of committee.	
3rd May	Talk by Derek – Topic to be announced	TALK
31 st May	Walter “Wally” Harris. In 1940 a young REME engineer Walter “Wally” Harris was stationed here in Elham, during that time he worked on commandeered vehicles in the Elham Service Garage and arrested a German Messerschmitt pilot. Wally was awarded the Military Medal for an act of outstanding bravery in Normandy, so come along and listen to his stories and watch the short film “Above and Beyond – The Craftsman” made in association with Kings College London, which re-enacts how he won the Military Medal. For more info go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=5zvi5aNo_No	TALK
8 th and 9 th June BOOKING REQUIRED BY 25TH NOVEMBER	Weald & Downland Museum and Arundel Castle run by Realsocialising – a fascinating weekend with an overnight stay – see full details Page 8.	VISIT
July	Eltham Palace & The Cutty Sark – a visit arranged by Realsocialising.	VISIT
2 nd August - TBC	Book Launch by Brian Hart – A long awaited new book about the Elham Valley Line	TALK
6 th September	Lyminge Dig – A update on what has been found during this year excavations.	TALK
September	Leas Lift, Folkestone – you heard the talk now see the lift in action for yourself	VISIT
4 th October	The Kichener Camp at Richborough by Prof Clare Ungerson. The year is 1939 and over 4,000 Jewish men languish in a Refugee Camp in Kent.	TALK
End October	Imperial War Museum – newly refurbished for the 2014 centenary celebrations - Realsocialising are arranging a coach trip.	VISIT
1 st November	Medieval Folkestone – an illustrated talk by local author Denis Pepper who will have his latest book on St Boltoph ready to sell.	TALK
End November	Back stage at The Beaney – If you haven't been yet now is your chance to see the fabulous revamped Beaney and its exciting exhibits.	VISIT
6 th December TBC	Derek at the Abbot's Fireside – a cosy evening with our favourite historian – enjoy supper while you listen to his tales.	TALK
To Be Advised	Bourne Park to be run by Realsocialising	VISIT
To Be Advised	Oxford & Merton College to be run by Realsocialising	VISIT

Tales From Our Database - Claysons' Dreams Are Nearly Sunk

There are many examples in the database of families that have left Elham to start new lives in the States, Canada or Australia. The appeal of better working conditions being strong enough to tempt families to move thousands of miles away home. One such journey that could have ended disastrously is of the Clayson family of The Row or Back Street as it was then. Elgar and Frances Clayson decided to take their chance in Australia. The ship that was to take them on a 3½ month journey to Queensland via Tasmania was the migrant ship the Southern Belle, an 1128 ton ship that could hold nearly 500 crew and passengers. Also on board were their six children, Elgar's sister Ann, her husband John Pattison and their three children along with the Lawrence family from Southfleet. William Lawrence was later to marry Ann Clayson. They were in all probability assisted migrants¹.

Voyage The ship set sail on 16th November 1873 and all was going well, until on the 25th February, just nine days from their destination, disaster struck. While 300 miles east of Moreton Island, the wind varied to all points of the compass with heavy squalls. At midnight of that day she lost her maintop-gallant mast, followed by the mainmast which carried with it the mizzen-topmast. About 5 am the foretop-gallant mast went overboard and the foresail and fore topsail blew away. Of seven boats on board, two washed away, two were smashed by falling spars and one of the remaining was only a dingy. The pumps were also broken below the decks and rendered temporarily useless. Captain Carpenter allowed her to drift northward, keeping outside reefs and shoals, until finally reaching a point, on Saturday, within three miles of the bluff northward of Waterpark Creek where he dropped anchor in six fathoms of water. The ship was not in immediate danger although there was only one usable boat but reports that it was taking on



Southern Belle 1875

water were untrue.

Rescue The lifeboat was launched at 7 a.m. on Monday, with the second mate, four seamen, and two passengers. The sea was rather rough and being unable land on the nearby beach, they rowed 37 miles to the Keppel Bay pilot station to get help. The steam tug *Mary* was dispatched - even though the weather had again worsened. The *Mary* hove in sight about 11 am on Wednesday and all of the passengers were reported "to become very excited at the prospect of relief". The guns were got out and several cartridges were fired. On coming alongside, the *Mary* was welcomed by hearty cheers and passengers dancing on deck. The

Southern Belle was then towed to Mud Island and anchored. It was then discovered that the cargo of railway iron had shifted and crushed much of the passengers' cargo, totally destroying most of their belongings.

Summary Amazingly there were no injuries on board although four children and one infant had succumbed during the long arduous voyage. Unfortunately, the infant was John and Ann's son Frederick born the previous January who may have caught whooping cough which was prevalent early in the journey. Frances died in Queensland in 1891 and Elgar died three years later. All of their children settled in Australia while John and Ann went on to have another seven children. After Ann Lawrence died in 1899, William remarried and it is rumoured that he may have returned to England. The *Southern Belle* never sailed to Rockhampton again.

Notes:

¹ *The Australian governments found that if it wanted immigrants it had to subsidise migration. Before federation in 1901, assisted migrants received passage assistance from colonial government funds.*

For more information on the rescue and an eyewitness account go to:

www.ehsdatabase.elham.co.uk/people.aspx?nameid=26125

or search for Elgar Clayson

Elhamers Remember Project

One of the first projects we undertook when we started the Historical Society was the recording of memories of some of Elham's long term residents. Encouraged by visiting oral historians these memories, once transcribed, will form a research archive for current and future generations. This fascinating study into changing lives in a rural community covers everything from childhood to wartime experiences here in Battle of Britain country!

There are, of course, many more interviews to be done, but the team felt it was time to let you have a taste of what they have been gathering.

One of the earliest interviews was with long term resident and farmer, Mr Bob Martin, who has been farming at Standard Hill, North Elham since 1949. Among his many memories of the war, he told us about hearing a doodlebug coming across the field at about eight or ten feet above the ground.

So he lay down on the grass and shouted out 'Doodlebug coming!' Suddenly there was an almighty bang with glass, slates and everything falling. He recalled that every room in the house had been upset and in the bathroom the curtains had been cut off and pinned to the opposite wall by shards of glass. Fortunately no-one in their house had been injured.

People often talk about bad winters in years gone by and Mr Martin mentioned one such time.

He had been up to London for a meeting and came back to the village to find that the roads were impassable. He recalls leaving the car by the pub and stumbling home through the deep, drifted snow accompanied by an unbelievable noise from the wind blowing across the fields. He also related that, in exposed places, he had to lean into the wind to stay upright. After all that he returned home to find there was the inevitable power cut and that his wife had been stranded in her car!



Have you heard of the Rat and Sparrow Club? Mr Martin told us that there used to be such large flocks of sparrows on the crops and that rats were also a real nuisance on the farms. So a group of chaps, who were all keen on catching them, set up the club and used to meet in The Rose and Crown. Look out for a photograph of them which still hangs in the pub.

Some years ago Mr Martin settled down to write a book, "*Ramblings Round*

My Life", which records both happy and sad memories – if you can get hold of a copy it is a fascinating read.

Perhaps you would be interested in joining our team of interviewers, or maybe you would be willing to let us share some of your own memories. We'd be glad of your help, so if you would like to find out more then please contact Sue Winter on 01303 840879 or email winter.123@btinternet.com

Elham House Detective

We thought it might be interesting to look more closely at the historic houses of Elham and maybe tease out some hidden stories, and where better to start than with a pub – and a very old pub indeed!

For those of you with access and time to search the internet these details are readily available, but it's fun to revisit them anyway.

Let's start with the pub we know as "*The Kings Arms*" which faces St Mary's Church in Elham's former market square. Bear in mind that market rights were accorded in 1251 by King Edward I, and that the weekly market and various official and unofficial fairs held throughout the year made Elham the main centre of trade between the city of Canterbury and the port of Hythe, it seems that this ancient Church Ale House, together with the other inns, The Rose and Crown, The Smithies Arms (now the Abbott's Fireside) The Five Bells, The Chequer, The Crown and The New Inn, existed to serve the market trade.

We know that on 9th John Penvold paid £7 for building known as "*the Cock*" (messuagium galli) and it seems pretty was derived from the fighting took place in The building is Grade II with a jettied front which brick and the upper floor framework is thought to and although new modern porch have been added, the carriage entrance and the yard remain intact.



October, 1605, one a stable next to a *sign of the vocatum le signum* certain that the name days when cock premises at the rear.

Listed, post-medieval has been underbuilt in tile hung. The main date from 15th century windows and a

It is recorded that on 16th October 1740, Webb Forman held "*The Cock*" which was formerly owned by Thomas Ruck and before him Daniel Ruck. Webb Forman's will, dated 1749, states that he was a "*beer brewer*" and the premises are a brewhouse and malthouse. This activity took place in the saloon bar and when Webb Forman died the inventory reported 8,712 gallons of beer on the premises!!! (Thirsty lot those ancient Elhamers!!) However, this quantity of beer suggests that this brewhouse supplied other inns and public houses in the area.

Cock fighting was banned during the reign of King William IV and it is recorded in Elham's Vestry Book of 1826 that the Vestry meeting of 31st July took place at "*The Cock*" but the meeting of 11th September was held at "*The Kings Arms*", so it would seem that this was the time that the pub we know and love today changed it's name a few years ahead of the ban!

It would be wonderful to gather personal histories of time spent in "*The Kings Arms*" and I wonder if you have a story to tell. Do you remember when Dot and Stan Baker were landlords, or Ted and Georgie's time?

What about the evenings when Rupert the beagle trotted in for his evening pint – we have pictures of him, but do you have a memory?

Do share it with us – the editor (Dilys Webb) would be delighted to hear from you.

The EHS committee are keen to ensure that your newsletter is living up to members expectations and therefore we have created a short survey to gauge how well the production team are doing. The survey only takes a couple of minutes to do and we would encourage you to give us some feedback. You can either complete the survey online at : <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RR6PLTL> or alternatively print out and complete the questions below.

1. Do you receive the EHS Newsletter (produced in months February, May, August & November)

Yes	No
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2. If No have you raised the problem with a member of the EHS committee

Yes	No
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If No please state why not:

3. Do you enjoy reading the EHS Newsletter

Yes	No
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Comments:

4. Do other members of your family read the EHS Newsletter

Yes	No
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Comments:

5. Are there any articles or fields of interest you would like to read about in the EHS Newsletter

Yes	No
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If Yes please add further details:

6. Do you have any interesting information or photographs that could be included in a future edition of the EHS Newsletter

 Yes No

If Yes please add further details:

7. Please rate your overall opinion of the EHS Newsletter

 Not Very Good Satisfactory Good Very Good

Please give your reasons for this assessment:

8. Do you have any additional comments that you would like to pass on to the EHS Newsletter Editor

 Yes No

Please give further details here:

9. Thank you for completing our survey. Please give your contact details so that we can get back to you:

Name:

Please return printed surveys to Andree Sladden, EHS Secretary, Cherry Cottage, New Rd, Elham, Canterbury, Kent. CT4 6TQ

Weald & Downland Open Air Museum & Arundel Castle – 4* Avisford Park, Hilton Hotel

Saturday, 8th & Sunday 9th June



Weald & Downland; the leading museum of historic buildings in England. Designated by the Government for its outstanding collections of national importance



Day 1: Board at your chosen pick up point for our executive coach travel to Arundel in Sussex. You will have free time to visit the historic town of Arundel and enjoy our group entry to the magnificent Arundel Castle. Late afternoon, we transfer to the 4*Hilton Avisford Park Hotel, with its beautiful garden views and antique-filled décor, the former Georgian manor house is a wonderful place to stay. You can enjoy the facilities at this superb hotel which includes 2 swimming pools, fitness suite and grounds of 89 acres. Dinner is included in your overnight stay, and breakfast the following morning

Day 2: After breakfast, we board our coach for the 30 minute drive to the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum. Here you can wander amongst a fascinating collection of historic buildings dating from the 13th to the 19th century in 40 acres of beautiful Sussex countryside as well as enjoying period gardens, farm animals and woodland walks. We set off for our return journey at around 4pm to arrive back by 6-7pm approx.

Dinner Bed and Breakfast and all entry fees

£109pp based on 2 adults sharing

(Senior £107pp based on 2 sharing – child price TBA)

Single supplement £25 (£25pp dep by 30th Nov)

Prices are based on min of 35 Adults taking part. Prices are current as at 1st November 2012 in line with current government taxation and duty at that date REAL Socialising reserves the right to amend costs with prior consultation and approval by members if suppliers prices increase beyond reasonable control; or reserve the right to withdraw the tour if suppliers are not able to confirm provisional booking.

REAL Socialising, 122 Foord Road, Folkestone CT19 5AB – www.realsocialising.co.uk – info@realsocialising.co.uk

100th Anniversary of the start of the First World War

2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War and the EHS committee feel that we should start planning how we will commemorate this anniversary. We want to involve as many people in Elham as possible and have already made contact with St. Mary's School to discuss some options. Our idea is for people to research those that served during the 1914 – 18 conflict, possibly even individuals that once lived in what is now their home in Elham. We want to have a balanced view and therefore propose to research not only those that sadly died but those who survived and have family still here in Elham today. The results will be displayed at an exhibition, with presentations and a talk at the village hall. There has also been the suggestion of a possible walk around the village to see who lived where, with boards outside the homes to display the story of the family that lived there.

From our own archives we know of 240 men and women who served in the services during those very difficult years and having carried out some early research we have come up with some remarkable stories, facts and photographs. For example the Scott family who lived at Ormdale Lodge (now Morton House), whose son Charles Lyndsay Buchannan Scott was born 18 Feb 1892 in Capetown, South Africa and was working in Ceylon at the outbreak of WW1. He returned to UK and took a commission as 2nd Lieutenant in his father's old regiment and was subsequently promoted to Captain - 3rd Btn. North Staffordshire Regiment serving in France & Flanders. He was wounded at Hill 60 in Apr 1915 and learned to fly whilst recovering from wounds, his aviator's certificate (number 1598) was granted 13 Aug 1915 and he was attached to the Royal Flying Corps undertaking observation flights, he died 15 Feb 1917 killed in aerial action

near Bapaume - Aged 24. He is remembered in Elham Churchyard with a wooden memorial provided by the family.



Until now there was no known photograph of Charles, however recent research by the EHS has found this picture which came from the aviation certification archives.

Sadly Charles' father Lindsay Buchanan Scott was killed on the 14th November 1918 age 54 and is remembered on the Elham War Memorial. For more information on the family and other wartime casualties please take a look at the Elham website pages at http://www.elham.co.uk/Elham/WarMemorial/war_memorial.htm.

More news of our plans will be announced over the coming weeks and if you would like to get involved with this project then do get in touch. You might also be interested in coming along when we visit the Imperial War Museum next year, see the future events section of this newsletter for further details.



*This extract from "The Dover Express" of 1901 is the first of several we will reprint in the newsletter. Bryan Badham recently acquired the original, via the internet, and it does make fascinating reading. Included on the same page as the article on Elham are the Dover Shipping Arrivals and Sailings, an advertisement for the unequalled nourishing and invigorating properties of **van Houten's Cocoa**, and the advice that R.D. and J. B. Fraser, Ltd., will purchase your old false teeth! This extract sets out the history of Elham and future extracts will cover "Elham as it is" "Elham Church, The Vicars of Elham and The Bells of Elham."*

Extract from *The Dover Express and East Kent News* of Friday 6th December 1901

Our Villages – Elham

Elham is a large village, situated on the western slope of the Elham Valley, about seven miles from Folkestone.

Situation and Surroundings.

Elham village is pleasantly situated on the western slope of the ridge of hills that overlooks the valley. The parish of which this village is the centre, is the largest in eastern Kent, extending three and a half miles down the valley, and about five miles in breadth. As a site for a settlement of a community in ancient times, it must have presented many advantages. Then towns and villages on the coast were subject to sea robbers, who infested the shores of these narrow seas, Elham, lying snugly in the hollow of the hills, at some distance away from the narrow pass that leads out to the Folkestone plain, offered a safe refuge, where peaceful employments might be safely pursued. Hence it was that at a very early period there was a large community. We call it a village to-day, but in ancient times it was a town, with a regular weekly market, its fairs, and long before the Conquest it had a church. Its Market Square, and regularly laid out streets, indicate that for many centuries it must have been a centre of commerce and public business. Being the head of a Petty Sessional District and a Poor Law Union, it had its regular Sessions, and Workhouse, and even now the Elham Union and Elham Petty Sessional Division still exist although the business of the former is transferred to the Workhouse at Lyminge and for convenience, the Magisterial business is, for the most part transacted at Hythe. The ancient Manors of this parish are now thriving farmsteads, occupying the uplands, which on each side of the of the road slope up from the valley, and in Elham itself industries of various kinds are pursued; there are numerous shops and stores; carpenters', wheelwrights' and smiths' establishments; tailors, bootmakers, butchers, bakers, millers, surgeons, assurance agents it has its railway station; its inns seem to flourish and a considerable amount of work has been done in boring for coal. This brief review indicates that although Elham, compared with other places that are of modern growth is shorn of some of its ancient importance, it is still a centre of varied interest.

History of Elham

It would be a very long story to recount the history of all the ancient Manors which lie in Elham parish. But before dealing in detail with Elham Manor, the outlying places may be enumerated. There is Shottlesfield on the south-east boundary the inheritance of Thomas le Grubbe in the days of Edward II;

the Manor of Bowick or Boyke in the caster part, that was for many centuries the possession of the Ladd family, earlier written de Ladd; Bladbean, long associated with the Cosentons; Mount Court, a seat of Thomas Papillon; Oxroad, anciently the property of the Countess of Eu; Wingmere, long associated with William Wigmore and his descendants, whose name was preserved by the light of Wigmore, kept burning for centuries in the parish church; and the Manor of Clavertigh, on the north-west, held for some time by Sir James Hales, whose arms are still carved in an ancient house in the High Street. These we must be content with mentioning. The Manor of Elham, at the time of the Domesday Survey, was part of the lands of the Bishop of Bayeux, Earl of Kent, and when his great estate was confiscated and broken up, Elham Manor was granted to William de Albineto, one of the Conqueror's warriors, and it descended to his son, the first who bore the title of Earl of Arundel. The Earl, leaving no male heir, the Earl of Arundel's daughter inherited Elham, and conveyed it by marriage to John, Earl of Eu, of Normandy. That Earl too, had no male heir, his only son having been killed at the siege of Ptolemais A.D. 1217, the Manor went to his daughter, Alice, and she dying in the reign of Henry III, as appears from a deed in the Surrenden library, the property passed to Prince Edward, the King's eldest son. The Prince took great interest in his Elham Manor, and obtained for it the grant of a market, which made Elham a centre of local commerce in the Thirteenth Century. The Prince held the Manor during the long reign of his father, but a few years before he ascended the throne as Edward I, he conveyed the manor to Archbishop Boniface, but he held it only a very short time for his acquisition of great estates aroused the enmity of the nation. The next owner of Elham Manor was Roger de Leybourne and it continued to descent to heirs of the same name till Thomas de Leyborne, dying without a male heir, went to Juliana his daughter, who was called on account of her great wealth, the Infanta of Kent. She married three husbands all of whom she survived, and she dying childless, and without any heir, the Elham Manor went to the Crown in the days of Edward III, where it remained until Richard II gave it as an endowment to St. Stephen's Chapel, Westminster. Elham, therefore, in the Fourteenth Century, had the distinction of being an endowment of the Chapel which become the home of the legislature of the British Empire. Owing to this royal patronage Edward IV granted to Elham the privilege of holding a fair annually, on the Monday after Palm Sunday, which grant, although now of no value, was of great importance to the place in the Fifteenth Century. The Manor of Elham remained in the possession of the Dean and Canon of Westminster about eighty years, and when Edward IV took the collegiate Chapel of St. Stephen's and its possessions into his own hands he granted the Manor of Elham to Lord Clinton and Saye, but the latter re-conveyed it again to the Crown, and a Crown lease of it for eighty years was granted to Sir Edward Wotton, who sold his interest to Alexander Hamon, of Acrise, and from the Hamons' by marriage, it passed to the Lewknors', but the Crown lease falling in, the Manor was sold to Mr John Aelst, and in the 1681, it became the possession of Sir John Williams, who seems to have resided on the Manor, taking a kindly interest in the welfare of the people at Elham, and at his death in the year 1725, he, by his will, left a bequest to found a Charity School to educate and clothe six poor boys, and to provide a sufficient sum to apprentice them to some useful trade. After his death, the ownership of the Manor went to his only child, Penelope, who carried it, by marriage, to a Hertfordshire family named Symonds, who sold it to Sir Henry Oxenden, of Barham. The foregoing recital brings down the history of Elham to the range of modern times.

2012

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www.ehs.elham.co.uk and www.ehsdatabase.elham.co.uk*

Postcards

Don't forget our wonderful collection of vintage postcards are available from The Cosy Tea Rooms or Elham Valley Stores, all in the High Street at a cost of 60p each or £4.50 for a pack of nine.



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: dilyswebb@btinternet.com

Don't Forget EHS now has a Facebook Group

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 at

www.facebook.com/#!/groups/317708811602063/