



September 2021

Volume 11 Issue 1

Chairman's Message

Well, we're stuttering back to normality, after nearly two years of disruption from COVID.

The joint meeting with the Village Hall Association on 20th August went really well, with Jane Priston's inspiring talk on the life and death of Amy Johnson, and Bryan's related exhibition of Cinque Ports Flying Club memorabilia. And a good number of us went up to the Kent Battle of Britain Museum at Hawkinge to view their ever expanding collection. By the time you read this, I will have delivered "The Women of Elham, part 2", which we hope will be the first of an uninterrupted series of lectures.

No Society Christmas Party this year (Elham's catering facilities are still in flux), but let's all take the opportunity that regular meetings provide to renew social contact. The bar will be open to assist.

D.M.B.

Forthcoming Events

We are so looking forward to restarting our Village Hall talks and seeing all our members again. Unfortunately our talk for September, which was to have been about Fashionable Folkestone by Hilary Tolputt had to be postponed and rearranged because of a local outbreak of Covid.

Derek Boughton will have presented the second part of his talk on "Elham Women" by the time this newsletter is printed and we hope you will have been able to attend.

These are our planned future events – can I remind you that we now start at 7.30 pm

Members entrance fee will be £3.00 per head and guests will be £5.00.

November 5th

Imogen Corrigan – The Bayeux Tapestry and its 'local' connection.

December 10th

Hilary Tolputt – Fashionable Folkestone

January 28th 2022

Colin Varrell – The History and Work of the Walmer Lifeboat

Snippets from Our Archive



*Elham in
Olden Time.*

Photo by the late Vicar, Rev. Walter Wodehouse.

View towards St. Mary's Church from the Chris Francis Collection



East Kent Hunt hounds outside the Methodist Church from the Yvonne Goldup Collection

Aerial Survey Project

The EHS Committee have been working on a new aerial survey project with Elham resident Richard Motley who is the Managing Director of ASI.

Richard has kindly volunteered to use his drone, computing equipment and skills to carryout 3D surveys of Elham's historic buildings. The Manor House and Manor House Cottage have already been surveyed, with a 3D computer image produced as shown here.



Once produced the 3D image can then be positioned and overlaid onto an online satellite view of the village, thus giving an accurate record of the property for future examination.

Plans are already in place to survey St. Mary's Church and The Cottage. If you own a historic property in and around Elham and would like to be included in this project then please get in touch with Bryan by email to -

bryan.badham@btinternet.com

Covid Diaries

As the Chinese proverb says we “live in interesting times,” but how will future generations look back and attempt to understand the huge changes we are facing today and our reactions to them?

At the start of the Covid outbreak previous 'plagues' were recalled and the reactions of the historic populations were studied. Hardly aware of what tumultuous changes we were going to be facing it was reassuring to discover how other communities in the past had managed with far less medical knowledge or the resources that are now at our disposal. For instance we can study the huge effects on all aspects of Medieval life that were brought about by the Black Death.

Obviously there is far less documentation about earlier pandemics, so we thought recording how our own community has coped, setting down individual thoughts and feelings, might be an interesting resource for future generations living in our village and studying the past, rather in the way that the diaries of Mary Smith recorded that eventful year, 1940, in the Elham Valley.

Have you kept a diary of the past 18 months? Would you be prepared to allow us to transcribe some or all of it to keep in our archives? Maybe you have made notes of your reactions to all the changes we have faced or your shock as the daily figures rocketed. Perhaps you have faced the loss of a loved one or the agony of being kept apart from a family member. Perhaps you suffered from Covid and are glad of the recovery you have made. If you would like your experience recorded as part of a wider social record for the future, we would be keen to create a document that included as many people's reactions as possible.

Please contact me in the first instance and we can discuss how your contribution could help.
Andree Sladden – asladden@btinternet or 01303 840336. Thank you.

Two Country Life adverts from 1955 Spotted on eBay

COUNTRY LIFE—SEPTEMBER 15, 1955 SUPPLEMENT—23

**ASHFORD,
KENT
(Tel. 1294-8)**

BURROWS, CLEMENTS, WINCH & SONS

and at
Cranbrook

KENT—6 miles from Folkestone and about 450 feet above sea level

A WELL-KNOWN RESIDENTIAL, SPORTING AND AGRICULTURAL ESTATE

FOR OCCUPATION AND INVESTMENT. ABOUT 800 ACRES. GOOD PHEASANT SHOOT

HENBURY, ELHAM

**BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED
MODERN RESIDENCE**

Lounge hall, 4 delightful reception rooms,
6 principal bed and dressing rooms, 2 bath-
rooms, staff quarters, well-equipped offices.

Main water and electricity.

GARAGES FOR 4

STABLING. COTTAGE.

Charming grounds, parkland, arable, pasture
and sporting woodland, in all about 58 acres.

WITH POSSESSION



ENTRANCE LODGE. 3 COTTAGES.

FOUR GOOD FARMS

DREALS, STANDARD HILL,
LADWOOD AND RAKESHOLE,
all let to excellent tenants and yielding

£1,480 PER ANNUM

Affording a sound investment.

Particulars from Messrs. BURROWS, CLEMENTS, WINCH & SONS, 39-41, Bank Street, Ashford, Kent.

ELHAM—6 MILES NORTH OF FOLKESTONE



FASCINATING 16th-CENTURY COTTAGE in the centre of the charming village.

Recently modernised and converted by a specialist.

4 bedrooms, modern bathroom, lounge, dining recess, morning room, kitchen with stainless steel sink unit. All electric. Large garage. Small garden.

FREEHOLD £3,500

Immediate inspection recommended.

MAPLE & CO. LTD. HYDe Park 4685

Monk's Cottage in Culling's Hill is at core a timber-framed building, much altered over the years. However, when this advert appeared in *Country Life* in 1955, the beams which adorned its frontage were essentially Mock Tudor, having been applied during the recent modernisation to which the advert refers. It was rumoured at the time that the house had been bought by Jean Simmons, star of many J. Arthur Rank films, but if that was true, she certainly never took up residence there.

In 1955 it had only recently ceased to be a shop, which had been its role for over a hundred years. Of its earlier history little is known, but there is a tantalising clue in the bedroom on the right of the building. A painted cartouche on the wall bears the inscription "T+H+J+K 1772". It must be possible to find out to whom those initials refer, but I have not so far succeeded.

By the 1840s it was owned by Ephraim Coleman, who lived next door, and his tenant in 1841 was Frederick Hobday, a plumber. He was still there in 1845 when the Tithe Apportionment was recorded, but must have moved on shortly afterwards. By 1846 Joseph and Bridget Huxstep were there, and were to remain until her death in 1879. In the former year Bridget's family suffered a terrible tragedy when her brother, Sharrock Rudd Bragg, committed suicide after killing his wife and young daughter. Bridget was called to the scene at Ann's Cottage, and she took the surviving child, the four month old Sharrock Rudd junior, and she and Joseph gave him a home throughout his sadly short life.

At the 1861 census, still only fourteen years of age, Sharrock is described as "Photographer", so some of the earliest images of Elham may have been taken by him. It is likely that he had been set up in the profession by Elham's vicar, Walker Wodehouse, who was a pioneer in the field. Sharrock continued to live with the Huxsteps, but died at the age of twenty-two.

Joseph Huxstep was a cordwainer; his successor at the property was William Chandler, an ironmonger, and by 1901 George Swain junior, a pork butcher, known as "Poke". He was related to the Swains who ran the bakery in The Square. He may have still been in business there when this photograph was taken in 1912.



There are several signs on the front of the building, but it is not possible to read what they say. From the early thirties it was the shop of Thomas and Louisa Goatman, but it is worth recalling their earlier story. In 1911, as a newly married couple aged 20 and 21, they were living with her parents at Rhodes Minnis and Tom was trading on his own account as a cycle agent. At some point they moved down into the village and he opened the first Elham Service Garage, next to the forge, in what had previously been a grocer's shop.



His business in the High Street is remembered in the name "Goatman's Yard", but about 1932 he sold out to the Masters brothers, and reverted to his old trade of cycle agent in Culling's Hill.



In this photo it is just possible to see the shopfront at the now “Monk’s Cottage”, and a sign which says “Cycle Agent”. It may also interest you to see that The Old [Book] Shop was home to a Ladies and Children’s Outfitters, probably run by Mrs Lovell. She also took orders for Singer sewing machines.

X	Cycle Shop. Elham	144	1	Goatman John W	M	16th Dec 89	M	Cycle dealer & repairs	
X			2	Goatman Louis	F	2nd Dec 89	M	Retail shopkeeper cycle accumu'lor and newsag	

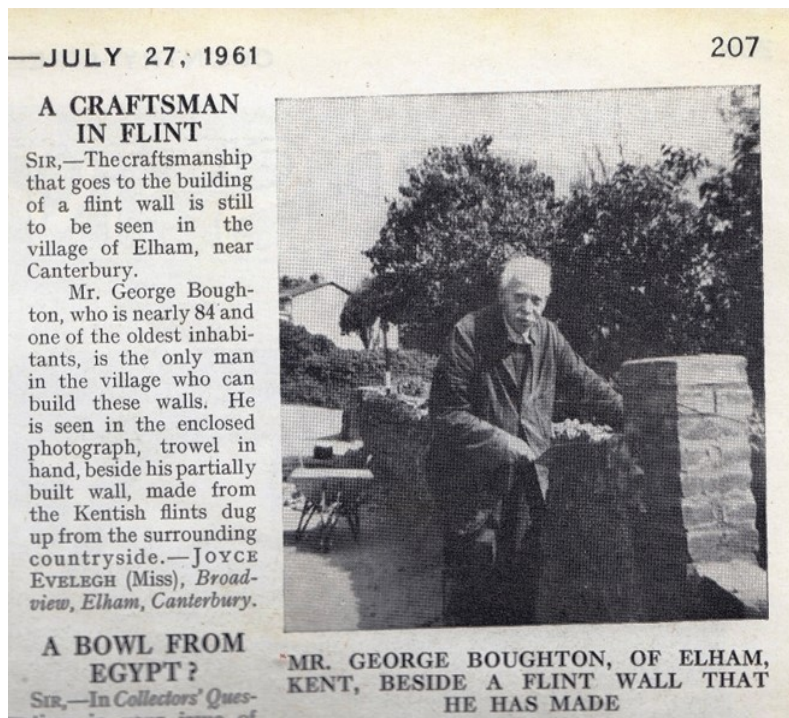
This is the Goatman’s entry in the 1939 Register. He is described as “Cycle dealer & repairer” and she as “Retail shopkeeper, cycle accumu’lor and newsag”, and that is how I remember it during the war and just after, a vital resource for those of us without mains electricity to get the accumulator charged to power the wireless. Without it we could not keep up with the news or listen to “ITMA”.

After Mrs Goatman’s death Tom Goatman junior opened the newsagent’s shop in Trelawny Cottage, where it was to stay for many years.

It was probably in 1955 that the property was bought by Charles Warneford, who incorporated the garage back into the house, and ran the whole as “Genevieve Antiques”. Mr Warneford was a tall man of some presence, and took the role of King Henry II in the 1976 Elham Festival.



A Working Life



Sixty years ago, in the issue of July 27, 1961, the then weekly magazine *Country Life* published a letter from Miss Joyce Eveleigh of Broadview, Old Road:

That wall was at West Bank at the beginning of Old Road (you can see Ken Law's shed in the background), and its condition today is testimony to my grandfather's workmanship.

Though he did small jobs afterwards, this was the last big project in a career that had started seventy-four years earlier in the school summer holiday of 1887. On three occasions that year he took a cart from his home at Scarps Farm, Stelling

Minnis to the sandpit at Brabourne and carried a load to the Palm Tree at North Wingmore, where his father was carrying out extensive modernisation.

If the lime burners were working at the bottom of Hempton Hill they would provide a trace horse to help him up the hill; otherwise it was the flat but much longer route through Postling, New Barn and Lyminge. At Elham he would come along Old Road and stop at Manor Cottage for some sherbet. At Worlds Wonder there was a sea of mud at the railway workings, and a trace horse was available, but his father, who was proud if not arrogant about his Welsh cobs, wouldn't allow it, and to be fair he always got through.

Grandad was nine years old at the time. Victorian roads were incredibly dangerous, and it was frankly irresponsible to send so young a lad on such a mission. The following year, on 1st October 1888, his fourteen year old cousin Richard, who lived at Upper Digges Place Farm, Barham, was taking a horse down Lydden Hill to meet a load coming from Dover. His dog got between the horse's legs and spooked it. He was caught in the traces and dragged, according to a eye-witness, about five hundred yards to a dreadful death.

On 24th September 1887 Grandad came with his parents down to Elham and travelled via the new Elham Valley Railway to Dover to visit his oldest sister, whose twenty-third birthday was the following day. They looked into Elham Church, where his uncle John was one those who had lowered the bells to the floor prior to their being hung in a new bell frame. He was to see them on the ground again in 1970, when they were sent to the, now sadly defunct, Whitechapel Bell Foundry to be recast. Sadly he did not see their return, dying just before that and his own ninety-third birthday.

A Working Life Cont/

He continued to work for his father until the latter's death in 1912. How a builder trading in such a remote location as Stelling Minnis came to do work all over East Kent for the Faversham brewers, Rigden & Co., I have no idea, but Grandad certainly left his mark, building Rigden's trademark porches on dozens of pubs, including locally the Five Bells at Brabourne, the Black Robin at Kingston. and our own King's Arms, where he also added the distinctive glazed chimney pots. When Mafeking was relieved, he was working on a pub at Ramsgate.



In 1913 he came to Elham to work for Palmer and Pitcher at The Butts. After three years in India with the Middlesex Regiment in WW1, he returned to the firm in November 1919, when his first job was the creation of the new west gateway and path to St Mary's Church. Next came the rebuilding of Oak Cottage. Look at the "ancient" beams there and you will see that they are machine sawn, in fact on a steam sawbench in the yard opposite.



In the early twenties he bought a plot in Old Road from Dr Henderson for £25 (paid in instalments), and built the house now known as Avalon, but which he named Lucknow after his posting in India. In 1929 he and George Mount went into partnership and took on the business from Mr Pitcher, and he built another new house, now Forge Cottage, in order to be close to the workshop. Unfortunately the Mount & Boughton partnership soon ended acrimoniously, and Boughton & Son started trading from Vicarage Lane. From here he conducted most of the village funerals, with the coffins made by the firm's wheelwright, Tom Marsh. As undertaker he provided a complete service, donning his bowler to

measure up the corpse, his topper to lead the cortege, and then his overalls to fill in the grave, which he had dug earlier.

In the fifties Boughton & Son ceased trading when a customer went bankrupt owing £903 (doesn't sound much today), but it didn't stop him working. In the summer and autumn of 1956, he did most of the brickwork and all the flintwork of a new farmhouse at Dane Farm, Bladbean. He was working a shorter day by then, getting home most days by half past four. One day, as it was approaching six o'clock, my father went to check, and found him atop a trailer stacking bales of hay. Rain was threatened so he had volunteered to help get it safe. It was long before the days of the Big Bale, which can be left out. My favourite photo of him was taken on the scaffolding at Dane in October 1956.

A Working Life Cont/

In 1959 I acted as his labourer when he built new pig pens at Bereforstal, using horrendous nine inch concrete blocks. When the job was finished, he stayed on for a few months as pigman!



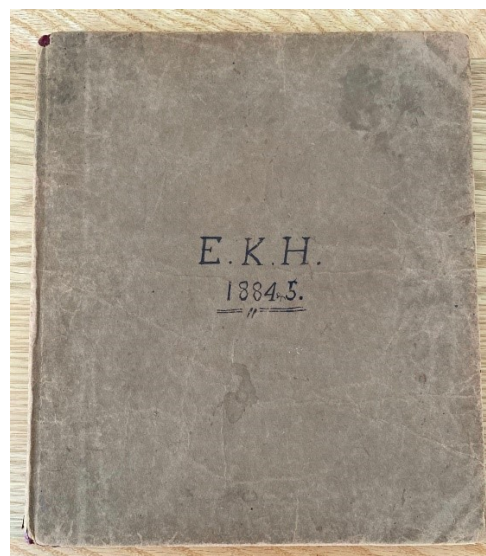
In 1965 he was honoured as a recipient of the Royal Maundy from the Queen at Canterbury Cathedral. So best suit on Maundy Thursday, but on with the gardening clothes to plant the potatoes on Good Friday.

The East Kent Hunt



Smith Family Collection

Towards the end of summer 2021 Paul Smith, whose wife is a direct descendant of Robert Prior, Huntsman for the East Kent Hunt (EKH) in the 1880's, visited Elham and the EKH Kennels. There they met Steve the current Huntsman and showed him a silver hunting horn and a handwritten hunting diary for 1884/85.



The EHS has since been in touch with Paul who has kindly sent photographs of the hunting horn and each page of the diary so that it can be further examined and researched. In the meantime we thought it might be useful to put together a list of the masters of the EKH and the locations of the kennels prior to their move to Elham.

Early records show that the masters of the EKH were as follows: 1810 – 1814 Frank Pettit of the Bell Inn, Hythe, 1814 – 1828 Sir H. Oxenden of Broome Park, 1828 – 1832 Lord Fitz-Walter / Mr. Deedes, 1832 – 1870 Mr. Frederick Brockman of Beachborough House.



1866 Portrait of F. Brockman by Stephen Pearce



Beachborough House in 1838



Staff outside Beachborough House

From 1870 – 1879 The Earl of Guilford of Waldershare Park was master.

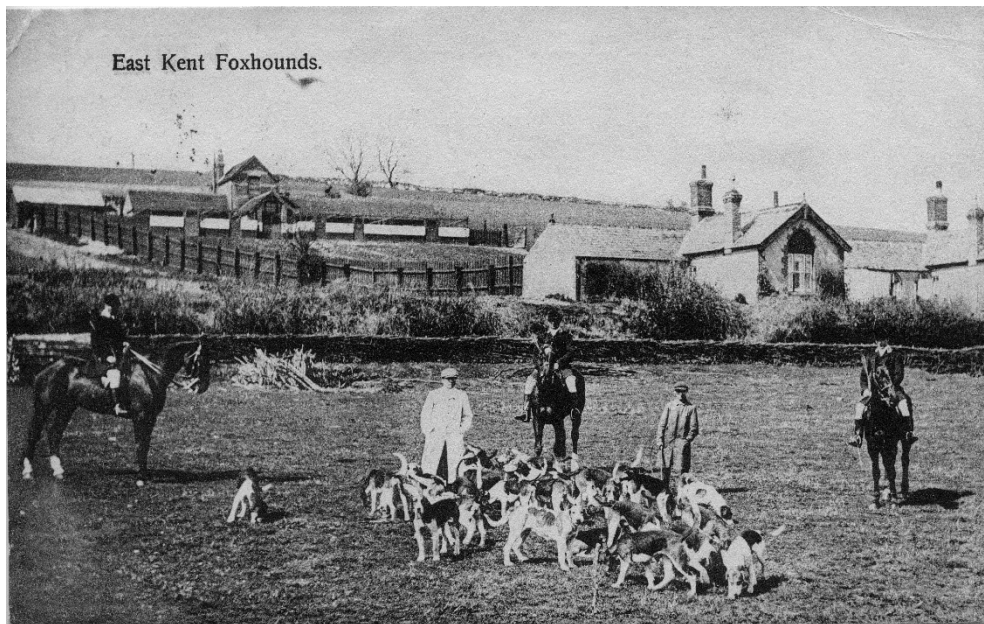


The House & Stables at Waldershare Park

The EKH now entered upon a still more prosperous era, when Dudley Francis, seventh Earl of Guilford, whose name was well known in connection with racing, and indeed with every form of sport, began his nine years' master ship. He began at once to hunt the country in lavish style four days a week. His lordship's most generous act was to build new kennels and stables at Waldershare at a cost of some £20,000. He was master until 1879 when he met with his death in Dorset after a fall while hunting.

1879 – 1881 Mr. F. J. Mackenzie succeeded the Earl of Guilford as master, but only stayed a season or so, and Mr. V. H. White, whose tenure of office was equally short, came in 1881 and went in 1882. The next master was Mr. E. R. Sworder, who stayed with the hunt for seven years. During this time Robert Prior was Huntsman with the hunt, initially at Waldershare Park, although it was about this time that the hunt moved to Elham. Records shows that E.R. Sworder's horses were sold at the Elham Kennels on Wednesday 3rd April 1889. From 1889 - 1890 Captain F. Fitzroy was master, followed by 1890 – 1893 Mr. C.W. Prescott-Westcar, 1893 – 1894 Mr. A.B. Worthington, and 1894 – 1898 Mr. L.E. Bligh.

In 1900 Mr. H.W. Selby Lowndes of Fox Lodge, Lyminge became master, with Bert Savage as the huntsman.



The EKH Kennel and cottages in Elham

The days of the meets were Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday with "Motors not objected to if halted at a reasonable distance from the meet".



Smith Family Collection

2021

Who is Who

Chairman

Derek Boughton

Vice Chairman

Charles Kirchner

Secretary

Andrée Sladden

Treasurer

Bryan Badham

Membership Secretary

Louise Kirchner

Speaker & Visits Co-ordinator

Andrée 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 have our own Facebook Page where people (EHS members and non members) can view information and our historical pictures, as well as make comments about Elham's rich 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