



Major Kingsley Dykes OBE MC

Kingsley Dykes was studying medicine, including surgery, at Cambridge at the outbreak of WW1. Like most young men he joined the forces, and his service in Flanders saw him rewarded with the Military Cross and the Belgian Croix de Guerre. Unfortunately he was severely injured by a shell in 1917, and the damage to his left hand ended his hopes of a career in surgery. After return to duty in 1918 he joined General Ironside in a mission to northern Russia, for which he was awarded to O.B.E.

He decided to take up farming and came to Ottinge Court in 1921. He added soft fruit and vegetable production to the already mixed economy of the farm and ran a very successful business.

During the 1930s he was a leader of the Anti-Tithe Protests, a nation-wide movement in which the role of Elham farmers was pivotal. He found time to be involved with the running of the County Show for many years, and during WW2 he was a member of the County Agricultural Committee. Also during the war, he founded the Elham Valley Horse Show to raise money for the British Red Cross. This continued for many years after the war, raising money for various causes.

Along with his neighbour, Colonel "Max" Harrowing, another distinguished ex-soldier, who had moved to Boyke Manor in 1940, he was a leading light in organizing the Steam Engine Rallies which were such a part of Elham life in the 1960s.

He also played a key role in the formation of Elham's Home Guard.