



August 2012

Volume 2, Issue 6

## Chairman's Message

It was sad that I had to prepare a eulogy for the funeral on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> August of Dot Baker, who had died so suddenly just short of her ninetieth birthday. Dot had given an interview to Gillian Ratcliff last year for the EHS, and both I and David Ratcliff, who conducted the funeral, were able to draw on that interview. It was certainly not with funerals in mind that we started to record the memories of older residents, but it does point up the value of the exercise. As all who knew her can imagine, there were lots of amusing bits in Dot's memories, and quoting some of them helped to lighten the mood on a sad day.

## Lyminge Archaeological Project 2012

The Lyminge Dig is underway again for this summer on Tayne Field, next to Lyminge School, which is a previously unexplored part of what is presumed to be the Anglo-Saxon monastic precincts.

Tayne Field was occupied by Nissen huts during World War II so it is expected that some more recent finds may come to light, along with items related to any prehistoric activity, as well as the hoped for Anglo-Saxon archaeology.

Already the site has yielded some promising finds, including a number of worked flints, and valuable features are being unearthed.

If you would like to find out more, or take part as a volunteer, either digging or cleaning the finds, join the weekly site tour given by the Director, Dr Gabor Thomas, at 2.00 p.m. each Saturday afternoon.

## Forthcoming Events

**August 30<sup>th</sup>** (Thursday) **Hampton Court** Realsocialising's trip. Bookings by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> August.

**September 14<sup>th</sup>** (Friday) Elham Village Hall – 8.00 p.m. **Folkestone's Leas Lift** -Terry Begent will give an illustrated talk about the history and restoration of this unique water lift.

**September 15<sup>th</sup>** (Saturday) **Regia Anglorum Public Show Day**. A visit to the re-created Anglo-Saxon Long Hall at Wildwood near Canterbury. Some of you may have seen the re-enactment society's members in action at the Folkestone Anglo Saxon weekend – great fun and very informative. Cost £10.00 per head. Full details to follow.

**September 15<sup>th</sup>** (Saturday) St. Mary's Church – 7.30 p.m. **"The Windsors – The very model of a modern Monarchy"** An evening with Dr David Starkey C.B.E. Tickets available from Browns or Derek Boughton.

**October 5<sup>th</sup>** (Friday) Elham Village Hall – 8.00 p.m. **The Man who Never Was** - Nicholas Reed will talk about his father whose secret work in the 1940's helped win the war!

**October 6<sup>th</sup>** (Saturday) **Ypres "In Flanders Field"** Realsocialising's day trip to the battlefield sites and memorials with John Buss as guide.

**November 3<sup>rd</sup>** (Saturday) Folkestone Campus - 10am to 4pm **Visions of the Past : Kent and its Antiquarians** – Lecturers Lesley Hardy, Lorraine Flisher and Iain Neilson. A free day school organised by W.E.A. (course code: cccuds50)

**November/December** Dates t.b.a. Talks by either Helen Harrington, University of Kent (Finds Supervisor) on fascinating finds from the Lyminge Dig or Maurice Worsley an accredited metal detectorist, who has worked on Time Team and many local digs on finds he has made in the Elham Valley and in Kent.

For further information and booking details please contact Andree Sladden - [asladden@btinternet.com](mailto:asladden@btinternet.com) 01303 840336

## Canterbury Cathedral Visit - 26<sup>th</sup> April 2012



Book of Remembrance



Cloisters



Looking towards Trinity Chapel

We had summer before us when we gathered in the precincts for a guided tour of the Cathedral, and the day showed great promise. However, so much history sends a shiver down the spine and our able guide, Mike Evans, brought it all vividly to life. I'm sure we'd all wandered round the Cathedral in the past, or attended a service but I, for one, had not experienced it through the eyes of a knowledgeable guide. Of course, I'd seen the spot where Becket was murdered but somehow the sword symbol on the wall came vividly to life under Mike's skilful reconstruction of those events in 1170.

I found the 11.00 am daily ritual of a member of the Armed Forces turning a page of the Book of Remembrance incredibly moving – Derek Boughton said he could remember as a boy when a soldier marched through the High Street every day to perform this task. Down in the Crypt the Anthony Gormley floating sculpture of a horizontal man, entitled "Transport" and created using ancient nails from the roof of the Cathedral seemed very serene and moving.

I felt again, how fortunate we are to have this potent symbol of Christianity on our doorsteps and vowed to visit more often to truly take in its beauty. Some photos here, taken by Andy Bourne, will hopefully give you a flavour of our special visit.

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### Elham Celebrates the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II

Did you manage to see the DVD of Elham's celebrations for the Coronation which was shown in the Methodist Church on Jubilee Monday? We've had several requests for copies, which will cost £8.00 each. If you would like a copy please complete the slip below and return to The Secretary, EHS, Cherry Cottage, New Road, Elham, Canterbury, Kent. CT4 6TQ, together with a cheque for £8.00 made out to EHS.

Name.....

Address.....

Post Code.....

Telephone Number.....

## Tales From Our Database

### Danzey Somerville Cresswell (1825-1889)

Undoubtedly one of the more intriguing characters of 19<sup>th</sup> century Elham was Danzey Somerville Cresswell. He was born in 1825 in Bibury, Gloucestershire the sixth child of **Rev. Sackville Cresswell** who was infamous in Bibury for his match betting. He would challenge his friends to horse races of one mile across the downs with winner taking a 50 guinea purse put up by the contestants. He was obviously an accomplished horseman and his exploits are reported in the *Oxford Journal* of 4th June 1814. His great grandfather **Thomas Estcourt Cresswell** (1712-1788) M.P. for Wootton Bassett was sued for bigamy after his marriage to a wealthy heiress. A previous marriage was revealed by a search of \*Fleet records as was a third marriage and thus the last two were bigamous. He had at least another four illegitimate children with his mistress. His great (x2) grandfather **Richard Cresswell** (1688-1743) M.P. married Elizabeth the daughter of Sir Thomas Estcourt. Although fiercely loyal, he was described by his son-in-law as a perfect madman. He inherited his grandfather's very considerable estate after his father was disinherited. He was arrested on 38 separate counts of buggery with 'a young Genoese boy he had lately dressed up'. He is next heard of in France in 1730 and died in 1743, although no will or administration of his estate has been found. His ancestry can be traced all the way back to Edward I.

\*Fleet marriage – a marriage taking place before the Marriage Act 1753 away from the home parish and specifically at London's Fleet prison.

Danzey schooled in Bampton, Oxfordshire and in 1851 is an assistant surgeon in Prescott, Lancashire. Around this time he became the assistant to Dr. Beattie, the Elham surgeon although there is no record of his having any medical diplomas at all. His first child Danzey Somerville Arthur (known as Arthur) was born in 1853 to local girl Jane Hogben. Another three daughters were conceived before he married Jane in Elham in 1859. They went on to have eleven children in all. When Dr. Beattie poisoned himself in 1859 Danzey assumed the role of General Practitioner even though Hubert Beadles had been appointed surgeon to the Elham Union in place of Beattie. In the 1861, 1871 & 1881 censuses Danzey and family are living at The Well House in

the Square.

There have been many newspapers inches written about him and he first appeared in the *Kentish Gazette* in 1863 when he appeared in court as the victim of an assault. This article appeared in the *Whitstable Times* in 1871 "The quiet of our peaceful parish has for a long period been frequently disturbed by the wild vagaries of Danzey Summerville Cresswell, pseudo "doctor," but it is to be hoped that a wholesome check has been put upon his movements by the decision of the magistrates assembled in petty sessions last Monday, whereby "Dr." Cresswell was mulcted\* in the penalty of £5 and cost. The circumstances from which the magisterial proceedings arose had long been the subject of village gossips. It seems from the evidence given that sometime in January last a man named Castle was at work with a horse and cart upon the road just outside Elham, when Cresswell approached riding a horse at his usual rapid pace, and called out to have the road cleared for him. Now as it happened that a waggon, and several gentlemen on horseback had just previously passed the spot where the horse and cart were still standing, Castle did not immediately obey the order, which it is said was given in language not fit for ears polite, whereupon Cresswell without further ado commenced to belabour the head and shoulders of the disobedient curter with blows from the butt end of a heavy hunting whip. A scuffle ensued; the doctor got unhorsed, and commenced "squaring" up for an engagement. Castle, however, quickly felled his antagonist to the ground, and when opportunity offered repeated the performance. The doctor thus got the worst of the encounter, his eyes were blackened, his lips cut and bruised, and the "bridge" of his nose broken. Next morning Mr. Cresswell invoked the majesty of the law, and obtained a summons against Castle for an assault. The simple carter, too, objecting, it is to be presumed, to the Legree style of castigation practised upon him, like-wise obtained a citation to appear against the "doctor," and when the cross-summons came on for hearing, Mr. Cresswell, by virtue of his having placed himself in the position of the original complainant, had his "say" first. Nothing doubting, Mr. Cresswell stated (upon oath, of course) his version of the affray, but happily for Castle, whose tongue the law now kept silent, he had "free and independent" witnesses to bring forward whose testimony clearly convinced the bench of Magistrates which of the parties was the



## Danzez Somerville Cresswell cont ...

*actual aggressor, and without waiting to hear the evidence in detail they at once dismissed the case. The tables had now turned; the man of the horse and cart was complainant and the \*soi disant professor of the healing art, defendant. Castle (not only by his own testimony but by the evidence of others who evidently spoke without favour or affection for either party) clearly demonstrated to the bench that a brutal assault had been committed upon him, and the magistrates—most righteously we think—ordered the "doctor" to pay a penalty of £5 and costs. It is said that at first the administrators of justice were inclined to commit the defendant to prison without the option of paying a fine. Who would have regretted it but himself?"*

\*Mulct – tr v. To penalise by fining

\*soi-disant - adj. as claimed by and for yourself often without justification

The local magistrates finally lost patience with Cresswell in 1880 and sentenced him to 14 days' hard labour for being drunk and disorderly and

endeavouring to twice drive over Police-sergeant Lyons in Elham High Street. After his appeal failed he was sent to St. Augustine's gaol. His release saw a remarkable demonstration when he was greeted by a two-horse load of his friends who cheered vigorously as he passed the gaol gate. Danzey was escorted to a carriage and four horses and driven off amid cheers, his progress being heralded by the blowing of a post-horn.

On his death in 1889 it is said that he had a most extensive practice, among farmers and labouring classes. His reputation reached every part of Kent and some astonishing cures had been reported under his treatment. His abilities were held in great reverence and many placed implicit faith in his skill and would trust no other. So it would seem that he was despised and revered in equal measure.

To read more about Danzey Cresswell's misadventures follow this link to the EHS database: <http://www.ehsdatabase.elham.co.uk/people.aspx?nameid=21997>

## The Mendham Collection

We have been asked by one of our members to publicise the Law Society's planned break-up and sale of the huge collection of ancient books and manuscripts called the **Mendham Collection**. They are currently deposited in Canterbury and managed by the University of Kent and Canterbury Cathedral. Although the Law Society owns the collection, one assumes it does so as trustee. The collection is mainly about religious history in England going back to the Reformation and related topics including, it is assumed, legal history. The plan is, I understand to break it up and sell it by auction.

You may wish to object and if so, please see below and click "view the petition" and then submit. So far more than 3,500 people have signed! More details about the collection and its history can be seen under "about this petition".

The Committee felt this was a cause worthy of our concern – I hope you agree.

<http://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/the-law-society-of-england-and-wales-stop-the-break-up-and-sale-of-the-mendham-collection>

Linda Osband, David Hill, Sharon Hill

## Steam Returns to Elham



7<sup>th</sup> July 2012 - David Hill driving, with newly weds Natalie & Carl Hutchinson



## Henbury Manor

The house latterly known as “Henbury Manor” was built in 1913 for a family named Treharne, as is confirmed by the following: “*The Lantern*” [*Elham Parish Magazine*], *Epiphany 1914*:

Three new houses have been built in the Parish during the last twelvemonth – Mr Treharne’s new residence, named “Acryse Manor”, built on a site on Drial’s Farm, its Lodge at the entrance gates, and Mr Kemp’s house named “Vectis” situate at the extreme Eastern end of the High Street.

The naming of the house was doubly curious, in that it is not in Acrise parish (which is sometimes spelt with a “y”), nor is it a manor, and by 1913 the manorial system was fast becoming an anachronism. The farm on which it was built is usually known as Dreads. It probably lay within the defunct Ladwood Manor, which belonged to the owners of Acrise Place.

The Treharnes also built a bungalow about a mile and a half to the south west, which they named “South Lodge”, perhaps intending to suggest that it was the entrance to their estate, but in fact almost all the intervening land was in other hands.

Mr Treharne died in 1929, and the house and land was bought by George Henry Parker, a London builder. He renamed the house Henbury, after the village in Gloucestershire (now Avon) from which his family originated. The Parkers kept three or four live-in servants. My mother was a maid there until she was unfortunate enough to become pregnant with me. Alas I have no photos from her time there.

*Elham Parish Magazine, April 1943:*

### **Elham loses a great man**

On Wednesday March 17<sup>th</sup> I learnt with profound regret that our friend, George Henry Parker, C.B.E., of “Henbury” Elham had been taken from us after a brief illness at the age of 64. I am confident that I am expressing the thoughts of all when I say that we are mourning the loss of a great man, a keen sportsman, one who was exact and thorough in all his undertakings, and a good and generous friend to all.

For the past fourteen years he personally took a keen interest in all the happenings of the Village. He was one of the first to volunteer for the Local Defence Volunteers (now the Home Guard), and had the honour to command one of the most efficient and smartest platoons in the district. He was a busy man – here a good farmer; in London, Chairman of the National Joint Council of the Building Industry. He was Chairman of George Parker & Sons Ltd, Builders and Contractors, and of the Advisory Council appointed by the Ministry of Works and Planning, as representative of the

National Federation of Building Trades Employers.

The Village was proud to have him in their midst. He was Chairman of the local Flower Show and Ex-Services Club. He took a great pride in leading the H.G. parade at the Village War Memorial on Armistice Day, and I thought it fittest to meet his funeral procession there so that once more he should lead the parade, followed by his family, many friends, representatives of his firm and of the Ministry of Works and Planning and the old volunteers who served under his command in the Home Guard.

The service, which was choral and included his favourite hymns, was conducted by the Vicar. He was laid to rest in the Cemetery at Elham.



### **W. MILLEN**

Mr Millen was landlord of The Rose & Crown, and he had indeed lost a good friend and very valuable customer. His son, George, was an even more enthusiastic drinker than his father, but not as good a businessman, and the company eventually went into liquidation and the house was sold.

Mr Parker was building up a herd of pedigree cattle, and was not amused when the rag-tag bull of a neighbouring farmer got among them, and even less so when the farmer told him (in the Rose & Crown) “I won’t charge you for his services, master”.

The Parkers had called it “Henbury”, which is how it appears on the Ordnance Survey map of 1961, but a subsequent owner added “Manor”, and it was thereafter known as “Henbury Manor”, though it ceased to function as a private house.

It was first home to a pharmaceuticals company, and then to the dressmaking business known as “Angela Gore”, which provided a good deal of employment to local ladies in the cutting and sewing room. Her sales pitch (I have forgotten Angela Gore’s real name) appears to have been mainly aimed at readers of the *Daily Telegraph*, where she took regular front page adverts, promoting different coats, skirts and dresses. It was quite a loss when she moved the business to Scotland. She died there (in poverty) earlier this year. The house was pioneering at the time in its construction, which included pre-stressed concrete, but its biggest problem was its flat roof. Angela Gore had a plan to put on a pitched roof, which was never executed. After she left, the house was little occupied, and was already in a poor state when it was destroyed by fire about twenty years ago.

D M Boughton, 6 September 2011



## Visit to The Grange, Ramsgate - Home of Pugin

2012 marks the bicentenary of the birth of Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin and EHS members enjoyed a highly informative visit to his home "The Grange" in Ramsgate. In this important year Pugin has been featured in a number of TV programmes about his life and work, so it was fascinating to see his wonderful "Gothic Revival" designs first hand, both in his home and the neighbouring church which he built at his own expenses.



The Landmark Trust now own the property and are in the process of restoring the house and church back to its former glory. You can find out more information about The Grange and the work done by the Landmark Trust at <http://www.landmarktrust.org.uk>



## Are you interested in Family History Research?

We receive an number of enquiries from people who are tracing family in and around our area. Do you have an interest in helping people to find their missing relatives? Maybe you've done some research on your own behalf and know how satisfying it can be when you find that missing link. We have the records but not the time – so if you feel you could help, let us know. Email or telephone Andree Sladden (see back page)

## Regia Anglorum

Regia Anglorum are an international society who aim to accurately recreate life in Britain over 1,000 years ago. They own three acres of Kentish woodland near Canterbury where they have built a permanent site. Surrounded by a ditch, a bank and a palisade they have created a replica Anglo Saxon Long Hall, which dominates the site.

Because of their "authenticity" they are often called upon to provide "Anglo-Saxon" personnel, full-scale replica ships and background historical know-how for films and T.V.

We have been invited to join their show day on 15<sup>th</sup> September at their site next to Wildwood, near Canterbury. They will give us a welcoming talk, with tea and coffee, a conducted tour of the site including the usually out-of-bounds boatyard and a chance to wander around the site and experience the historic skills and activities that their members will demonstrate.

This sounds like a really fun day for all the family so if you would like to join in please email me ([asladden@btinternet.com](mailto:asladden@btinternet.com)) – the cost will be £10.00 a head.

## Realsocialising - Free Membership Offer

For some time now EHS have been successfully using Realsocialising for our non local visits, these have included a trip to Bruges, Buckingham Palace and Bletchley Park. Viv Kenny at Realsocialising is now offering free membership of Realsocialising which gives you reduced rates on all of her trips. Log on to [www.realsocialising.co.uk](http://www.realsocialising.co.uk) to find out more about the free membership offer and the upcoming trips, which include: Day trip to Rouen on 22<sup>nd</sup> September (another chance to walk in the Pugin family footsteps), Hampton Court on 30<sup>th</sup> September, Ypres "in Flanders Field" 6<sup>th</sup> October, Greenwich – A Royal Borough 28<sup>th</sup> October and many more.

August 2012

## Who is Who

### Chairman

Derek Boughton

### Vice Chairman

Bryan Badham

### Secretary

Andree Sladden

Cherry Cottage

New Road

Elham CT4 6TQ

asladden@btinternet.com

☎ 01303 840336

### Treasurer

Dilys Webb

### Membership Secretary

Moira Wiltshire

ehs@elham.co.uk

### Communications Co-ordinator

Loll McShea

ehs@elham.co.uk

### Newsletter Editor

Dilys Webb

dilyswebb@btinternet.com

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## 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](mailto: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/](http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/317708811602063/)