



AUGUST 2010

Volume 1, Issue 1

## Introduction by Derek Boughton

It's a real pleasure to welcome the first issue of the Newsletter, which will be hitting your inbox four times a year. Before Bryan Badham started the initiative which led to the formation of EHS in February, I had often felt that I was alone in attempting to research and record Elham's history. Since then the steering committee which has brought us this far, Bryan, Andree, Dilys and me, has been a really effective and fun unit. And whenever our discussions got a bit stodgy, we would remind ourselves that we wanted it to be fun and perhaps have another glass of wine.

The Graveyard Shift, recording all the monumental inscriptions in the churchyard, has involved eighteen people in six teams. It's not an easy task, but I think everyone has enjoyed

it, and one team found that a morning shift followed by lunch at the King's Arms was an excellent approach.

I hope that even more members will be able to enjoy involvement in future projects. But if you can't be, don't feel guilty. Thanks anyway for your interest, and for your fiver, which has helped to get the show on the road.

We'll need more money. What has happened so far has been subsidised by the committee, particularly Bryan. So please recruit more members, and watch out for fund-raising activities in the future.

The visit to Westenhanger Castle isn't a fund-raiser, but it should be fun, and I look forward to seeing you there.

## Audrey Hepburn

Do any of you have memories of Audrey during her time in Elham? We would love to share your stories and photos.



*Audrey with the Elham hounds*

## Membership - 55

Our very first committee meeting was on 24th February 2010 and here we are just five months on with a membership of over fifty people. How encouraging it is to find so many like minded folk who are willing to get involved and to contribute towards this new and very important venture.

## Forthcoming Events

10th August - Westenhanger Castle (late bookings please contact Andree)

September - Visit to Tappington Hall

Future talks by David Brocklehurst & John Buss

## The Battle of Britain 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

If you were lucky enough to come along to our first public meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> May you will have heard that actor David Jason came to Elham to interview Battle of Britain pilot Bill Green on 10<sup>th</sup> May at Mill Hill Farm, where he came down during the war. Since then the BBC visited Elham to interview Bill for their "Inside Out" program and before that for a BBC News article. As we go to press it is thought that both of the ITV and BBC programs will be shown on the 12<sup>th</sup> September, so do check your programme guides around that date to confirm the exact date and time. The BBC News article can be found on the BBC News website at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/1/hi/england/10553690.stm>



*Bill with friends at the Rose & Crown, Elham May 2010*

As it is the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Battle of Britain we are hoping to arrange an evening event early in October at Elham Village Hall where David Brocklehurst the Chairman of the Battle of Britain Museum at Hawkinge will give a presentation detailing the events and incidents in and around Elham and the valley at that time. We are also hoping that Bill Green will come along to give his version of events as seen from a pilot's point of view. As you can imagine Bill's attendance will depend on a number of factors outside of his and our control, so watch our website ([www.ehs.elham.co.uk](http://www.ehs.elham.co.uk)) for further details.



*Battle of Britain pilot Bill Green at Mill Hill Farm 10<sup>th</sup> May 2010.  
Photo by B. Badham*

## LYMINGE EXCAVATIONS 2010

If you would like to catch up with the progress of this year's archaeological dig in Lyminge, discovering early monastic life around Ethelburga's church, you can go along to one of the weekly site tours which will be at 2.00 p.m. each Sunday. The meeting point is the bottom of Rectory Lane, Lyminge.

For further information contact Gabor Thomas on [gabor.thomas@reading.ac.uk](mailto:gabor.thomas@reading.ac.uk).

## Kent Wildlife Trust Study Days

Some of our members have mentioned their interest in natural history and you may like to know that Kent Wildlife Trust have a programme of Study Days and Evening Classes designed for anyone wishing to learn more about the fascinating wildlife of the county. Study Days are mostly held outside 'in the field', often on nature reserves.

They have a series of studies in September, October and November identifying fungi, an Introduction to Moths, and studying Broad Leaved Trees in Autumn and Veteran Trees.

Contact them for further details on 01622 662012 or at [www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk).

## The photos are coming in thick and fast

Since our recent launch Elhamers are rapidly unearthing their photo albums and collections. Fascinating photographs of Elham taken as recently as the 1980s and as far back as the early 1900s are coming to light. Here are just a few....



*The old Elham Village Hall, scene of many entertaining events. (Ann Laker Collection)*



*A Sunday School Outing (Ann Laker Collection)*



*1<sup>st</sup> May 1914 Elham Vicarage Garden*



*Methodist Church Centenary Celebrations 1935 (Yvonne Goldup Collection)*



*An Elham school outing to the Isle of Sheppey, leaving Elham by train to Canterbury, then Whitstable where they caught this vessel "Moss Rose" which took them over to the Island. (Gordon Young Collection)*

The latest collection being worked on has kindly been loaned to us by Dave Johnson and over 60 photographs have been scanned already.

So how are we going about this? The photographs are loaned to us for a short while to allow us to scan them (this could also be done in the person's own home, although it does take some time!) Once scanned the images are placed in a digital folder titled with the collection owner's name. The images are then printed on to A4 paper to allow the owner to write comments about each one. The printed images and original photographs are then returned to their owner. When the writing up of the comments has been completed the printouts are then returned to us to allow the comments to be electronically recorded with the scanned images.

This is obviously quite a time consuming process so please bear with us if we appear a little slow in getting to your collection!



## The Census 1841-1901

I have made an index of all the surnames which occur in the censuses taken from 1841 to 1901, which gives a total of 608 different names (more or less, allowing for variations in spelling). 54 names appear in all seven censuses, with the largest number from any one family being the 69 Claysons in 1871. Of those 54 families I believe that only six have descendants in the parish today still bearing the surname, namely Athow, Clayson, Hogben, Holliday, Palmer, and Terry. Of these only the Hollidays of Wheelbarrow Town are still living in the same house, where they have been for at least 180 years, all the more remarkable as they were tenants until the 1970s.

181 names are represented by just one person appearing in only one census. Although I have not done a proper study, it appears that most of these are young unmarried men living in as farm workers, or girls as domestics. This class was highly mobile, but within a relatively small area. Those more likely to come from farther afield were ministers of religion, doctors, schoolteachers, and, in Elham, hunt servants.

Dr Henderson, who arrived in Elham just before the 1901 census, had been born in Ireland, where his soldier father was stationed at the time. Dr Fortin, at the Old House in 1901, was born in Quebec, but Dr Forster, practising at the Well House in 1891 at the age of 25, had

been born in Port Stanley in the Falkland Islands, where his father (a British citizen born in Germany) may have been serving as a colonial magistrate. Thomas Garratt, who was first whip to the East Kent Hunt in 1891, was born in Northamptonshire, his wife in Wiltshire, and their children in Warwickshire, Oxfordshire, Shropshire, and Scotland.

This surname index, though a big enough task, is the most simple form of analysis that can be done with the census, but will be very useful in dealing with family history enquiries. Much more will be learnt from a full study of places of birth, and of occupations (particularly to see changes after the coming of the railway). Anyone like to join me in that?

## The Graveyard Shift



One of our first projects is to record the positions of the gravestones in the churchyard and to endeavour to decipher as many of the inscriptions as possible. This information will then be saved on computer to provide a permanent record for anyone wishing to use it.

The lovely sunny days have provided us with an excellent opportunity to get on with the work and the churchyard has been buzzing with activity. There is still a lot to do as some of the memorial stones are in a sad state and it is taking all our ingenuity to try and persuade them to give up their secrets, but we are getting there and I think mostly finding the task very rewarding if rather touching at times.

If anyone would like to get involved and has not already been contacted then please phone Andree and she will be very happy to put you in touch with one of the team leaders who will arrange to meet you and explain what needs to be done.

*Trevor Gasson and Sue Winter working hard. Photo Derek Boughton*

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**AUGUST 2010**

**Who is Who**

**Chair**

Derek Boughton

**Secretary**

Andree Sladden 01303 840336

**Treasurer**

Dilys Webb

**Data Collators & Archivists**

Derek Boughton & Bryan Badham

**Projects Coordinator**

Bryan Badham

**Newsletter Editor**

Dilys Webb - [dilyswebb@btinternet.com](mailto:dilyswebb@btinternet.com)

**Website & IT Resouces**

Bryan Badham -  
[bryan.badham@btinternet.com](mailto:bryan.badham@btinternet.com)

## An appeal for storage

### Cabinets

*Can you help us? We are in urgent need of lockable storage cupboards to safely lock our archive material away. If you can help please contact Bryan Badham on 840713.*

### Contributions

*This is your newsletter and we would be delighted to receive your contributions for our next issue which will be in November 2010.*

*Please email Dilys at -*

*[dilyswebb@btinternet.com](mailto:dilyswebb@btinternet.com)*

*Keep informed about our latest projects and activities -  
[www.ehs.elham.co.uk](http://www.ehs.elham.co.uk)*

## Postcards

To enable us to pay for the rent of the Archive Room and to proceed with our planned projects we will need to raise money. One of the ways we hope to do this is by selling the postcards of old Elham. There are nine different views of the village and can be bought either individually or in a pack of all nine. They are available from The Cosy Tea Rooms or The Abbot's Fireside, both in the High Street at a cost of 60p each or £4.50 for a pack of nine.



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