



Elham
Historical
Society

February 2022

Volume 12 Issue 1

Chairman's Message

The Loss of Andree Sladden

I repeat here the message which was sent out to members when we heard of Andree's death:

Our community has been shocked and saddened by the sudden death of Andree Sladden on Sunday 2nd January. It has come as a terrible blow to her husband Ian and their son Rupert, living in Thailand and unable to get home quickly to comfort his Dad. We offer them our heartfelt sympathy. Andree had lived her life to the full, always looking forward, and she and Ian were planning to spend some weeks in Thailand with Rupert and his wife.

Our whole valley feels her loss, for she played a pivotal role in the Elham Valley Twinning

Association for many years. She was a volunteer at the many years of excavation carried out at Lyminge by Dr Gabor Thomas of Reading University and was a member of both the Lyminge and Barham Downs Historical Societies.

Ond (as she signed off her emails) played a huge role in the Elham Historical Society right from its beginning, when she was one of the original gang of four. She was a joy to work with; energetic, cheerful, optimistic, and full of ideas. We have her to thank in particular for the many interesting and enjoyable visits, local and not so local, that we have made over the years. They were impeccably organised by her, and a large proportion at her suggestion. Ond had tried at times to stand back from the more than full-on role as Secretary and events organiser, but always returned to it ensuring that we were able to get together in the last difficult year, and planning a full programme of talks and trips for 2022. We must honour her memory by ensuring that her plans go ahead. Ond was small in stature, but hers are big boots to fill. Your Committee will need help, so please consider what you can do. We will certainly need to appoint a new Secretary at the A.G.M. in April.

Andree's Funeral, led by Pauline Gladstone-Barrett, was held on 1st February, just a few days after Rupert and his wife Chan were able to get here to be at Ian's side. We reproduce here the joyous photo of Ond which Ian chose for the service.

Stephanie Dunn, a colleague and friend from their early days at London Weekend Television, recalled a young Andree who was fashionable, vigorous, fun-loving, and a bit rebellious. Fifty years on, that was still the same Andree that I was privileged also to know as a colleague and friend.

D.M.B.



Forthcoming Events

- Fri 18th Mar **The History & Work of the Walmer Lifeboat** - A talk by Colin Varrall detailing the history and the continuing life-saving work of the crew at Walmer RNLI station, of which he is a member.
- Fri 29th Apr **EHS AGM & A Drone's View of Elham.** The usual AGM business including an update by Richard Motley and the team on the new EHS project to produce 3D records of Elham's historic buildings.
- Fri 13th May **Probate Inventories.** An illustrated talk by Derek Boughton giving intimate insights into how our ancestors furnished their houses, what crops they grew, what stock they kept, and the trades that they plied in Elham c1525-1765.
- Summer Events - TBC
- Fri 23rd Sept **100 Years of Radio** An evening event to mark the 100th anniversary of the BBC.
- Oct TBC **Britain's Secret Army in WW2** -A talk by Jim Gascoyne of the Coleshill Auxiliary Research Team (CART) <https://www.staybehinds.com/>
- Nov TBC **The History of the East Kent Hunt** – An illustrated talk by Nick Onslow. Following the discovery of two diaries written by the EKH Huntsman Richard Prior and detailing the events of the EKH in 1884/5 together with further extensive research by Nick, he will present an updated history of the EKH.

Unless otherwise stated all events are at 7.00 pm for a 7.30pm start in Elham Village Hall

Admission costs: EHS Members £3 Non Members £5
(There is also a Non EHS Member charge for external visits)

Space at Elham Village Hall may be restricted so please arrive early.

Tales from the Database

Elham Manor [Website](#)

The current Manor House stands at the top of Culling's Hill, on the Old Road which was once the only way through Elham towards Canterbury. The site of the earliest manor house, sometimes referred to as the 'Palace of the Earls of Eu', was situated a little to the south of the present house, around St. Mary's Church Hall, where fragments of foundations have been found. Some ancient stone walling in the cellars of the two cottages, Nos. 1 and 2 the New Road belong to the Old Palace.

We can trace the ownership of the original manor back to [Edric of Elham](#) in 1060 and forwards to [Simon de Burley](#) (1336-1388) in 1368, first owner of the new Manor House.

De Burley, a favourite knight of Richard II, was accused of involvement in negotiating with the French and was condemned and executed much to the disgust of the King who had tried to defend him.

Archbishop of Canterbury [Boniface of Savoy](#) (c1207-1270) briefly acquired the manor in 1257 before [Roger de Leyburn](#) (1215-1271), a converted rebel, was granted the manor on 17th November 1260 by Prince Edward. But on 6th April 1262 this was rescinded by King Henry III due to squabbling between Edward and Henry and trumped-up charges.

The most malicious of the insinuations against the character of Roger, was that of misappropriation of the prince's funds while acting in the capacity of his steward. The chronicle cited that the Queen instigated her son to demand a rendering of accounts from Sir Roger, which resulted in his being found in arrears of £1000; that the King, in consequence, seized his estates, and that, being deprived of all means of supporting himself, he wandered about a mere vagabond for three years, maintaining himself as he best could by his sword or any means that came to hand. This statement is probably somewhat exaggerated, but there is evidently much in it that is true.

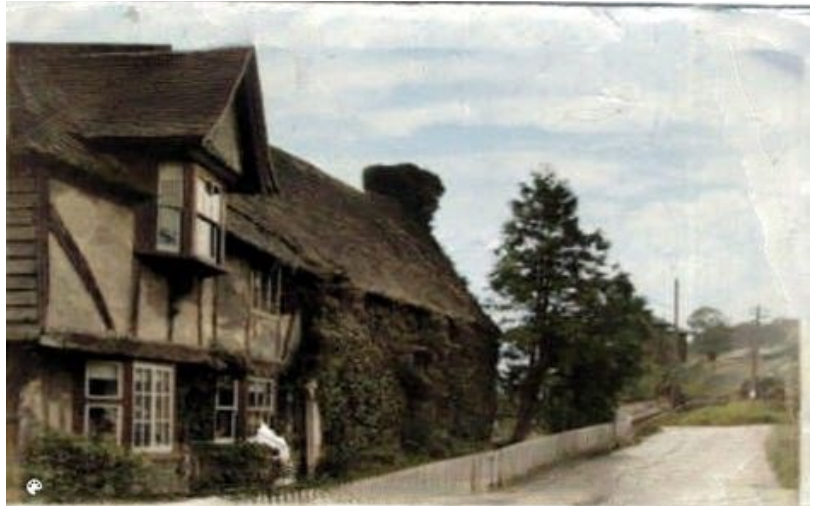
However, in 1265 King Henry III re-granted the manor after Roger saved his life at the battle of Evesham. He had also started the construction of Leybourne Castle without licence but under the circumstances was allowed to finish the castle.

The manor passed to son [William de Leyburn](#) (c1242 – c1309) in 1271 upon Roger's death. He was already the owner of Preston manor, granted in 1265. Long before his death, he had given up all interest in Leybourne. He had resigned it, as a residence, to his son Sir Thomas, — had alienated it to him and his wife Alice, and their heirs in fee and having also alienated Leeds to the King he had himself migrated to Preston where he had become owner of large possessions and a grand residence, through his wife Juliana, the daughter and heir of Sir Henry De Sandwico. All connection with Leybourne was comparatively gone.



Tales from the Database cont

After his death in 1309 the manor passed to his granddaughter [Juliana de Leyburn](#) (c1303-1367) and her uncle [Sir Henry de Leyburn](#) (1282-1337). The licence was granted on 15th Dec 1311. Sir William was verily a "man of war," chevalier "sans mes et sans si," (without ifs and buts) and seems to have transmitted the family spirit to his second son, Sir Henry de Leyburn, one of the most violent and restless men of his day, whose name occurs again and again on the 'Curia Regis' and other Rolls as a turbulent ruffler, and at last, in 1329, as an outlawed felon.



Juliana was only about eight-years-old when she inherited Elham manor. She became a popular and well-known figure locally and nationally, with close connections to two Kings of England and The Black Prince. By the time of her uncle's death in 1337 Juliana was into her third marriage. Her first husband John de Hastings (2nd Baron Hastings 1286-1325) died early in 1325. They had a son Laurence, but she was to have no further issue. In the middle of 1325 the King gave permission for Juliana to marry Thomas le Blount (1263-1328) who was steward of the king's household. He was some 40 years older than her and died in August 1328.

Finally, she married [Sir William de Clinton](#) (1304-1354), the younger brother of John, Lord Clinton just two months after Thomas' death. He was probably slightly younger than her, and this marriage lasted until 1354. Juliana was so rich she was referred to as the 'Infanta of Kent'. Although the joint owner of the manor it transpires that she kept her state in the splendid, tapestried halls at Preston Court. There appears to be some confusion surrounding her death. According to 'The Peerage' she had issue, Laurence with her first husband and although he had died his son John was still alive but according to documents I have read, her estate escheated to the crown for want of heirs; for it appears by inquisition taken after it, in the 43rd year of king Edward III that there was then no one, who could make claim to her estates, either by direct or even collateral alliance.

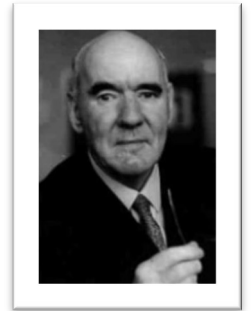
The Clinton baronetcy is still going strong despite a couple of hiatuses and the Clinton Devon estates now manage over 25,000 acres of land around Devon and surrounding counties. I am very familiar with this lineage as my wife is a great (x20) great-niece of William and direct descendant of his brother John. William is also a great (x7) grandson of William the Conqueror on his mother's side. John Clinton (great x3 grandson of John) married Elizabeth Fiennes thus starting the Clinton-Fiennes line with includes explorer Ranulph and actor Ralph Twisleton-Wykeham-Fiennes. Surprisingly they have only recently realised that they were related (3rd cousins once removed) after a chance meeting. Elizabeth Fines, daughter of Norris Fynes-Clinton is my wife's great (x4) grandmother. Notice how the spelling changes over the years. Former US president Bill Clinton's adopted father is also a descendant.

From 1368 until 1545, i.e. the dissolution of the monasteries, Elham Manor was part of the endowment of St Stephen's Chapel, Westminster. The chapel later became the chamber of the House of Commons, which is why you still go to St Stephen's Hall to meet an M.P.

In 1545 it was leased to [Sir Edward Wootton](#) (1489-1550) for 80 years. Other owners include [Hamon Lewkenor](#) (1611-1637) who also owned Acrise Manor. [Sir John Williams](#) (1653-1723), 2nd baronet of Elham, who established a charity school in the village. [Thomas Powell Symonds](#) (1762-1819) who was a descendant of Penelope Williams, daughter of Sir John Williams and Mary Powell. [Henry Chudleigh Oxenden](#) (1795-1889), whose seat was Broome Park, owned the manor for over 50 years, but the house was likely to have been occupied by tenants during that time.

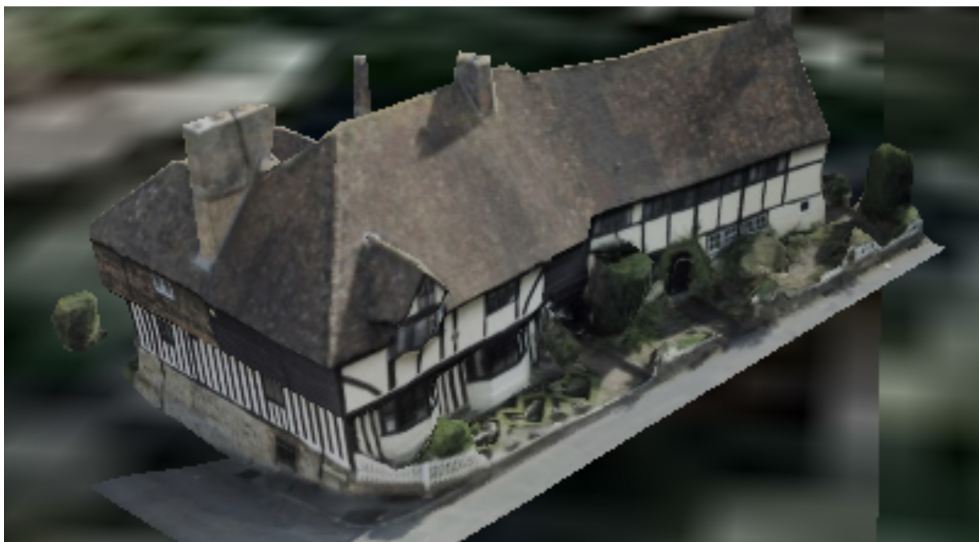
Tales from the Database cont

Cyril Parkinson (1909-1993) (right), famous for his quote “work expands to fill the time available for its completion” moved there in 1943 but it was probably let to a family called Olive when fire extensively damaged it in 1947, the occupants escaping unhurt. More information can be found at the EHS database website <http://www.ehsdatabase.elham.co.uk/> and we are always grateful to receive more information to improve the site.



Elham Manor Owners

1060 <u>Edric</u>	c1613 <u>Catherine Lewkenor</u>
1067 <u>Odo de Bayeux</u>	1636 <u>Hamon Lewkenor</u>
1086 <u>William d'Aubigny II</u>	1637 <u>Charles Herbert</u>
1139 <u>William d'Aubigny III</u>	c1645 <u>John Alst</u>
1151 <u>John d'Eu</u>	c1650 <u>Thomas Alderne</u>
1171 <u>Henry d'Eu</u>	1656 <u>John Fisher</u>
1218 <u>Raoul d'issouden</u>	c1675 <u>Roger Jackson</u>
1218 <u>Raoul d'Exoudun</u>	1681 <u>John Williams</u>
c1226 <u>Alice d'Eu</u>	c1723 <u>Penelope Williams</u>
1234 <u>Henry III</u>	c1765 <u>Powell Symonds</u>
1245 <u>Edward I</u>	c1785 <u>Thomas Powell Symonds</u>
1257 <u>Boniface of Savoy</u>	1796 <u>Henry Oxenden</u>
1260 <u>Roger de Leyburn</u>	1803 <u>Henry Oxenden</u>
1271 <u>William de Leyburn</u>	1838 <u>Henry Chudleigh Oxenden</u>
1310 <u>Juliane de Leyburn</u>	1889 <u>Henry Montague Oxenden</u>
1310 <u>Henry de Leyburn</u>	1895 <u>Percy Dixwell Nowell Oxenden</u>
1368 <u>Simon de Burley</u>	1909 <u>Louisa Pringle Culling</u>
St Stephen's Chapel	1909 <u>Louisa Pringle Bourne</u>
1545 <u>Edward Wootton</u>	1943 <u>Cyril Northcote Parkinson</u>
1550 <u>Thomas Wootton</u>	? Miss Crowhurst
1587 <u>Alexander Hamon</u>	c1970 Ian & Jennifer Milner
c1613 <u>Catherine Hamon</u>	c1980 Patrick and Diana Wheeler



3-D model of the manor created from multiple drone images by Richard Motley

A Dip into the Archives – items from the George Palmer Collection

Pilgrim's Flask



This little object, made of lead, but in the shape of a leather purse, is one of hundreds of items found by metal detectorists on the Palmer land at North Elham. Dating from the fourteenth or fifteenth century, it would have held a small quantity of holy water, and is of a generic design, so most likely from the local shrine of St Thomas at Canterbury, but maybe further afield. Some shrines had more specific designs, as with the sea shells from St James of Compostela.

A Dip into the Archives – items from the George Palmer Collection cont

Gleaner's Thimbles



All the items in this photo were found in Silverdown, the field on which the Village Hall stands, and which runs down almost to North Elham. They were made of base metal, but each one lost must have been a blow to a woman trying to add to a family's meagre income by undertaking the back-breaking task of gleaning. They were a necessary protection, particularly when dealing with barley, where the awns (the spikes on the grain that give the barley its "beard") can get beneath the nails and into the quick, causing nasty infections. I have enjoyed the odd pint over the years, but I know what unpleasant stuff barley can be from being sent out alone at Jacques Court to shock (stook outside Kent) a field of barley when I was fourteen.

D.M.B.

Plane Crash in Elham



A Gloster Grebe Reg. No. J7384 crashed while making a forced landing at Elham on the 10th February 1927
(Photo from the Badham Collection)



This is what a Gloster Grebe should look like.

A Newspaper Report from the time stated:

R.A.F. Plane Down – Pilot Uninjured in Wreckage – *From our own correspondent, Folkestone, Thursday.*

While piloting a single seater Grebe fighting machine today, Pilot-Sergeant H. Pearce, of the 25th Squadron, Royal Airforce, stationed at Hawkinge, near Folkestone, crashed in a field near Elham Railway Station, eight miles from Folkestone.

The engine failed when the plane was at a good height. The machine turned over in the field, pinning the pilot underneath. Assistance was promptly to hand, and Sergeant Pearce was helped out uninjured. The aeroplane was considerably damaged.

Another newspaper report indicated that the aeroplane hit an obstruction in the field which caused it to overturn. The above photo shows the undercarriage had completely disappeared on impact.

Agenda for the 2022 Elham Historical Society (EHS) AGM 29th April 2022 Elham Village Hall 19:00 for 19:30 Start

Apologies for Absence:

Welcome: By the Chairman, Mr. Derek Boughton.

This Year's Achievements: By the EHS Committee & Mr. Richard Motley

Membership Secretary's Report: By the Membership Secretary, Mr. Charles Kirchner

Treasurer's Report: By the EHS Treasurer, Mr. Bryan Badham

Election of the EHS Committee:

Nominations for the EHS Committee should be received no later than 14 days prior to the AGM.

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Secretary

Treasurer

EHS Membership Rate Review:

Exhibition & Social Time:

EHS Membership Report

At the time of writing we have 95 members of whom the overwhelming majority live in the village. We believe the Society continues to offer good value to members with a yearly subscription of £10 for a single and £20 for a family membership.

Our membership year runs from 1st April until 31st March the following year and we are anxious to encourage subscription renewals to follow suit. All renewals made before 1st April will be valid for the totality of the following year, if you are unsure of your membership status please contact Charles Kirchner (contact details below) who will be happy to let you know.

Paying annual subs is very straightforward with a number of options available:

BACS transfer (preferred) Account No. 34762434 Sort Code 52 – 30 – 23 Reference: EHS subs

Standing Order – Forms available on EHS website under “FAQ” or available on request

**By Cheque – Payee “Elham Historical Society” Send/Bring to Charles Kirchner at The Cottage,
Cock Lane, Elham CT4 6TL**

Could you please confirm when you have paid to enable us to ensure that our records are correct.

Please email charleskirchner@hotmail.co.uk or leave a voice message on 07771 684239 giving your name and whether single or family membership.

Snippets from the EHS Digital Archive



Photo from the Chris Francis Collection in the EHS Digital Archive

One of a series of photos taken at the end of May 1912 by an itinerant photographer who travelled by motorbike with his equipment in the sidecar. In the left foreground is the cobbler's shop of Frederick Smith, Pam Flight's great-grandfather. Lime Villas, built in 1908, cannot be seen, unlike the lime trees which gave the terrace its name.

Snippets from the EHS Digital Archive cont



Photo from the Edward Smith Collection in the EHS Digital Archive

This photo is probably from 1939. The end of the Abbot's Fireside was still Jack Hadaway's cottage. On what is now Fudge Cottage can be seen the box containing the Volunteer Fire Service's hose and the old style phone box. Trelawny Cottage had yet to become a shop, but Albert Castle, the village tailor is next door and the new Elham Service Garage has a full set of pumps.

Snippets from the EHS Digital Archive cont



Photo by William Coles Finch, historian of Kentish mills, showing the mill in full working order before the First World War.

Snippets from the EHS Digital Archive cont



Photo from the Yvonne Goldup Collection in the EHS Digital Archive

Some of the East Kent foxhounds in a snowy High Street, probably during the winter of 1940. The man on the right is thought to be Robert Kennelly, who wrote an interesting account of that year's weather. A rather enigmatic character, he was known to be a member of the British Union of Fascists.

2022

Who is Who

Chairman

Derek Boughton

Vice Chairman

Charles Kirchner

Secretary

Treasurer

Bryan Badham

Membership Secretary

Louise Kirchner

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