



February 2014

Volume 3, Issue 12

Chairman's Message

The big research project being undertaken by the Society at the moment is related to the First World War, of which the centenary is rapidly approaching. We hope that we can commemorate the contribution of the men and women of the village in an appropriate and sensitive way, and details will be revealed at the AGM in April.

My talk "Revolt of the People" covered civil unrest in Elham from the Peasants' Revolt of 1381 to the Swing Riots of 1830. I didn't bring the story up to the 1930s, though I was aware that there was Elham involvement in the Tithe Wars which took place in that decade. Recent research by Dr John Bulaitis of Christ Church University has shown how pivotal local farmers were in that campaign. One incident was known as "The Battle of the Ducks", when a foray from Elham "liberated" seventy ducks from a farm at Shepherdswell, where they were hidden after being seized at Westwell on behalf of the Church Commissioners.

One of the Elham leaders was Kingsley Dykes of Ottinge Court Farm. His grandson, Jeremy Wilson, has a boxful of material which he hopes soon to share with Dr Bulaitis, but Jeremy has more pressing matters at present with the enormous amount of water making its way through his land and across the road by the farm gate.

I thought it apt to reprint here my essay about Ottinge in the series "Elham History A to Z". I wrote that in December 2000, at the beginning of the floods of that winter, which forced some Elham residents out of their homes. There is even more water this year, but as I write no one has had to evacuate, and let us hope it stays that way.

Forthcoming Diary Dates

Friday 21st February – "Recreating Richard III's Queen" – a talk by the historic author Amy License. Amy has recently appeared on the television programme *The She-Wolves* discussing the early Queens of England.

Friday 21st March – "Kent in the Great War" – An illustrated talk by John Buss.

Friday 25th April – A.G.M. Last year we had a "bring in your local finds" section....please feel free to do the same this year! Plus, an update on our on-going projects and the opportunity to renew your membership.

Friday 1st August - Talk by Rosemary Piddock - "Soldiers of the 1st World War"

2nd/3rd August – 1914 Centenary Weekend Exhibition. Venue to be confirmed.

Sunday 28th September - Imperial War Museum (being arranged by Real Socialising)

Saturday 11th October – Ypres and its Battlefields (being arranged by Real Socialising)

Booking arrangements:

All Friday evening talks are at the Village Hall in Elham, starting at 8.00 p.m. and places can be reserved by contacting the Secretary on 01303 840336 or emailing asladden@btinternet.com. Members £3.00 and Non-Members £5.00.

Visits that are arranged by Real Socialising can be booked by telephoning Viv Kenny on 0777 3946828 (Let her know you are an EHS Member) or emailing info@realsocialising.co.uk.

We try hard to provide you with a varied programme of talks and visits but if you have any suggestions of things you'd like to see or hear about please let us know.

The Past Unearthed: Chronological Framework for South-east England

The following chronological framework is based on that currently used by Canterbury Archaeological Trust, and is specific to south-east England. Please note that there is no universally agreed chronological framework for the region currently in place, although the emerging South East Research Framework (SERF) will hopefully provide one in due course.

Palaeolithic

Date range: 500,000 BC to 8,300 BC (Neanderthals died out 30,000 BC)

Sub-periods:

Lower = 500,000 BC to 40,000 BC

Upper = 40,000 BC to 8300 BC

Mesolithic

Date range: 8300 BC to 3500 BC

Sub-periods:

Early = 8,300 BC to 6,500 BC

Late = 6500 BC to 3500 BC

Neolithic

Date range: 3500 BC to 2150 BC

Sub-periods:

Early = 3500 BC to 2900 BC

Middle = 3900 BC to 2500 BC (generally used only for monuments, not finds)

Late = 2500 BC to 2100 BC (Copper age or Chalcolithic c 2,450 BC to 2,150BC)

Bronze Age

Date range: 2150 BC to 800 BC

Sub-periods:

Early = 2150 BC to 1500 BC

Middle = 1500 BC to 1150 BC

Late = 1150 BC to 800 BC

Iron Age

Date range: 800 BC to 43 AD

Sub-periods:

Earliest = 800 BC to 600 BC

Early = 600 BC to 300 BC

Middle = 300 BC to 120 BC

Late = 120 BC to 43 AD

Roman

Date range: 43 AD to 410 AD

Sub-periods:

Early = 43 AD to 200 AD

Late = 200 AD to 410 AD

Anglo-Saxon

Date range: 410 AD to 1066 AD

Sub-periods:

Early = 410 AD to 720 AD

Middle = 720 AD to 850 AD

Late = 850 AD to 1066 AD

Medieval

Date range: 1066 AD to 1500 AD

Sub-periods:

Early = 1066 AD to 1400 AD

Late = 1400 AD to 1500 AD

Post Medieval

Date range: 1500 AD to 1900 AD

Sub-periods:

Early = 1500 AD to 1700 AD

Late = 1700 AD to 1900 AD

Modern – Used for all 20th and 21st century material

Date range: 1900 AD to present day

Sub-periods:

None

Visit to The Chelsea Hospital and The Houses of Parliament

Friday 17th January 2014 was, uniquely, a lovely day with sunshine and blue skies, so all our outside pictures had that “tourist” gloss to them.

After a swift journey to London in a very comfortable coach, the Chelsea Hospital was our first stop where we were met by our very avuncular guide, Tom, dressed in his red robin regalia. He was so full of information and anecdotes, and importantly to the EHS members – dates, that he soon had our heads spinning. We took in the golden statue of Charles II, before lingering in their lovely dining room and hearing about the way their fare has changed over the years. By the time we got to the chapel we were all glad to have a sit down and listen to one of Tom's fellow pensioners tell us about the Grinling Gibbons pews with the carved open pea pods, denoting that the woodwork has been paid for, and to marvel at the painted cupola over the altar. We were shown the museum, which contains a setting of the sort of room that each pensioner used to have, and Tom explained that there was currently a programme of upgrading each of the rooms to give pensioners a window and more space. We were shown the old uniforms, which really have not changed much over the centuries, and which make the pensioners recognisable all over the world.

After lunch the coach took us to Parliament with some time to spare before our tour started. I had time to dash – at considerable expense – around Westminster Abbey and see things I had missed on childhood visits. Others managed to get to The Queen's Gallery at Buckingham Palace but there was not time to linger.

The security controls one has to go through before being allowed into medieval Westminster Hall were similar to those in force before flying abroad, but though lengthy we all agreed they were possibly necessary.

Our guide here was brilliant, and very informative about the way Parliament operates and I now have a clearer picture of how it works. The architecture leaves one breathless and we stopped to admire the restoration work in progress. Those of us that had visited Pugin's House in 2012 felt a particularly strong connection. After we left the awesome Westminster Hall, which has seen addresses by luminaries from all over the world (Nelson Mandela was uppermost in our minds) we were taken to both the House of Lords and the House of Commons and saw the Queen's robing room where the sense of history seems to seep from the walls.

Our guide suggested that we might consider contacting our MP and asking for a visit to be arranged to hear a debate in progress. The Committee agree that this might prove an excellent outing for our members, so I am on the case, and will see if we could visit on a date where something really pertinent to us is in progress – watch this space!

Andree Sladden.



Westminster Hall



Palace of Westminster



The Chelsea Hospital

Tales from the Database - Emily Jane Wilds (1881 - 1962)

I like to trace the lives of people born in Elham. Mostly it is a simple matter of following a birth through to marriage and then onto death but some can prove to be very interesting and very difficult to follow. Emily definitely belongs to the latter camp.

She was born in Elham, or probably the Elham workhouse to be more specific as that was where her mother was working, just after the 1881 census was completed. Now the Wilds of Elham were a large family living in the thatched cottage on the site of Wayfaring at the top of the High Street. Henry was the head and lived with wife Frances (nee Savage), their four sons, a daughter and a brother-in-law. Four children had already left home and by the 1911 census Francis and Henry were recorded as having had fourteen children with eleven still alive. Frances was now pregnant with child no. 10, Elizabeth, so the arrival of Emily must have proved very difficult for the mother and the family as it appears there was no father around. Certainly there was no father listed on the birth certificate. There were actually only two males between the ages of 18 and 40 working at the Elham Union at the time of Emily's birth; Frederick Philips 18, described as an idiot from birth and Henry Baker 20.

Her mother was Fanny (18) the eldest daughter. Nothing is known of Emily until the 1891 census where she is found in North Elham, living with the Hogben family. She is now called Emily Fox and described as a nurse child. This is a term given to children who are informally adopted by another family when the mother has to give up the child for some reason. In 1881 the Hogbens were living in Horns Down Cottage next to the Wilds family but where the name Fox came from is still a mystery. Her mother is now married and living in London with her husband and two children and as far as I know, that is where she stayed. Emily is now ten and the only other child living in the house is Edith aged fifteen. It appears that these two became very close because in the next census (1901) they are still living

together.

Edith has now married Thomas West (in 1898) and they are living in Hunters Moon, next to the thatched cottage and also next to Emily's grandmother, Frances. In the house we find an Emily West who is described as Thomas' sister. This is definitely our Emily and she has taken her friend's name.

Later that year Emily marries a Thomas Haisell. She uses her maiden name which implies all the adoptions were informal arrangements. In fact she marries under the name Emily Jane Wiles. This is fairly common corruption of the name Wilds within the family and Frances and Henry were now calling their selves Wiles and in fact most of the Wilds were called Wiles at some time during their lives. On the marriage certificate her father's name is listed as Alfred H. Files (solicitor). There is no such person and it is obviously included for respectability.

By 1911, as Emily Haisell, she is living in Hythe with her husband Thomas and four daughters. The last record we have of her is when she died in the Folkestone district in 1962. Thomas died in 1945.

She is therefore known under five different names, a record in our database.

Most genealogy is done in reverse tracing somebody back to the birth. I can't imagine how anyone could have traced Emily back to her birth and this example highlights the difficulties that can be encountered during research and the advantages of chronological investigation. I found Emily on three family trees on ancestry.co.uk and they all linked back to, quite understandably, to an Emily Wiles born in Teynham in 1882. This Emily, however, stayed in Teynham and married a John Poynter. I have been able to put these families straight so that they may be able to continue their studies along the proper lines. I still wonder why Fanny went to live in London away from her daughter.

Barry Webb

A.G.M.

This year's AGM will be held on 25th April 2014 (Village Hall – 8.00pm).

We look forward to seeing you and if you have any nominations for a new Committee Member please contact The Secretary on 01303 840336 well before the AGM.

Our current Committee is as follows:-

Chairman	-	Derek Boughton
Vice Chairman	-	Bryan Badham
Treasurer	-	Dilys Webb
Secretary	-	Andree Sladden

and all are prepared to stand for re-election.

Augustus Pitt Rivers -Archaeologist, Anthropologist, Soldier, Ethnologist

As I am sure you are aware, Folkestone has an excellent Norman ring and bailey castle but were you aware that this was excavated in 1878 by the Victorian polymath, Augustus Pitt Rivers?

Before Pitt Rivers, archaeology was little more than 'treasure hunting,' so his work at Folkestone was not just a contribution to our knowledge of its past, but also our understanding of archaeology itself.

Folkestone Castle stands on a spur of the North Down overlooking Folkestone, at the end of the M20 motorway and close to the Channel Tunnel. The Norman castle stood on a natural mound which existed in the late 11th and 12th centuries. It is claimed that Pitt Rivers' excavation was the first of a medieval site using scientific methods. We know it as "Caesar's Camp" but it was not actually Roman at all. It was probably constructed as early as 1095 and was certainly occupied for some time following the Norman invasion and it's easy to understand why when one stands on the summit and takes in the splendid views over the town and the coast. Later excavations on the site, in 1988-9, revealed pottery dating from 2500-1800BC.



Augustus Henry Lane Fox was born at Hope Hall, Yorkshire on 14 April 1827 into a wealthy landowning family. He changed his name to Pitt Rivers after inheriting an estate from his great uncle. He pursued a career in the army from 1845 and fought in the Crimean War, retiring in 1882.

From 1851, Pitt Rivers was occupied in research on the replacement of muskets by rifles, and this led to his interest in the development of firearms. He is known to have recovered some flint tools at Acton in 1869, which may have led him to extend his interest to all kinds of artefacts. He amassed a huge collection of ethnographical items from all over the world and developed the idea of typology - the classification of artefacts in a chronological sequence, showing their development over time. Pitt Rivers joined the Ethnological Society of London as early as 1861, and served as president of the Anthropological Institute in 1881-1882.

He began carrying out excavations while still serving in the army, but his chance to indulge in excavation on a grand scale came in 1880 when he inherited the 27,000 acre Cranborne Chase estate in Dorset, which contained many archaeological sites. He had a meticulous approach to excavation and was interested in recording all the finds on a given site - not just the most spectacular - as well as their contexts. He kept detailed records of the position of all finds and of the excavation in general. He felt that excavation should

be undertaken only under proper archaeological supervision, and by properly trained people.

It was only natural that Pitt Rivers should become the country's first inspector of ancient monuments, after the passing of Sir John Lubbock's 1882 Ancient Monuments Act. Lubbock would later marry Pitt Rivers's daughter and was an important archaeologist in his own right.

His research was published in the four-volume 'Excavations in Cranborne Chase' (1887 - 1896), and he exhibited his artefact collections and finds in local museums. The excavated material from Cranborne Chase was transferred to the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum and his ethnographical collections form the basis of the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford. He died on 4th May 1900.



Castle Hill Folkestone

OTTINGE

OTTINGE is, according to most authorities, an “inge” name; that is to say it is formed from that suffix tagged on to a personal name, in this case Otta, meaning the settlement of his people (i.e. family, dependants, or servants). However, J.K.Wallenberg (of Uppsala University!), who did more detailed research on Kentish place names than anyone else, suggests that the “ot” element is to do with water or swampy conditions. Anyone who has driven through during or after a downpour will be inclined to agree.

Like the rest of the parish, Ottinge always had a mixed farming economy, but the large size of the original farm houses (Boyke Manor, Ottinge Court, Lower Court, and Stonebridge) indicate that they held some of the better land in the parish. The cottages opposite Ottinge Court, which were demolished in the 1950s, were converted oasthouses, still in use as such in the late nineteenth century.

Though latterly a dairy farm, Ottinge Court had a long connexion with sheep and the development of the Kent or Romney Marsh breed. Robert Westfield advertised in the Kentish Gazette of 26 June 1818 for good keep for 800 lambs. Westfield’s sheep formed the basis of the flock of Charles File & Sons, which became Flock No. 7 when the breed was registered in 1895 (Charles File junior had Flock No. 8, at Water Farm). According to the Flock Book “Selections have been exported both of Ewes and Rams to Falkland Islands, Patagonia, Buenos Ayres, Monte Video, New Zealand, and Spain”.

Robert Westfield was active in parish affairs, being a churchwarden for many years and Treasurer of the “Elham, Lyminge, Elmstead and Acrise Association for Discovering and Prosecuting Thieves, Receivers of Stolen Goods, and other Offenders”. He convened its A.G.M. at 5p.m. on the second Monday in December, either at the Rose & Crown or at the Coach & Horses in Lyminge. Prosecuting Societies largely concerned themselves with poaching, but sheep stealing appeared on their agenda at least once, when two of Sir John Honeywood’s sheep were butchered in a field at Evington.

Stonebridge farmhouse is of the “Wealden” type, originally of three bays with an open hearth in the central hall, but to me its best aspect is from the west when sunlight picks out the various colours of its roof and wall tiles, and the moulded brick of its later inserted chimney. Its name indicates what spanned the Nailbourne, currently reasserting itself, before the present railway bridge was built.

The visit of Phyllis Ladd Blackwell of the U.S.A. to the Elham website, mentioned in the November Newsletter, reminds us that the Ladds were the owners of Boyke (or Bowick) for several generations, though they appear to have sold it about seventy years before her ancestor emigrated in 1643.

Boyke Manor is a superb example of a “Wealden” hall house. Early photographs show it in a sadly decayed condition, but it was restored in the 1920s and, for the last half century, it and its barn and garden have been lovingly cared for by Mrs and the late Col. Harrowing. My favourite recollections of Boyke Manor are of Steam Engine Rally meetings in the 1960s, surely the most convivial committee meetings ever held in Elham. But no meeting with “Max” Harrowing present was ever less than convivial.

Derek Boughton.
December 2000

St Alphege of Canterbury

Everyone knows that pilgrims came to worship at the Shrine of St. Thomas Becket in Canterbury but in fact pilgrims were coming to the city sometime before that to worship at the shrine of an earlier Archbishop of Canterbury. Reputed to be the first English Archbishop to be martyred he suffered a most bizarre death at the hands of Danish raiders.

His Old English name was Aelfheah and he was born in 954 near Bath. He first became an abbot of Bath Abbey then later Bishop of Winchester in 984. It was said that he was responsible for the construction of a large organ in the cathedral, which was audible from over a mile away and which required more than 24 men to operate!

This was a time of Viking raids and following one in 994 Alphege brokered a treaty with one Olaf Tryggvason, who was converted to Christianity and confirmed by him.

Alphege became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1006 and took with him the head of St. Swithun, whose cult he had promoted in Winchester, as a relic to the Cathedral. He journeyed to Rome

in 1007 to receive his vestment of office from the Pope but was robbed during his return journey.

In 1011 England was again raided by Vikings and they laid siege to Canterbury and succeeded in sacking the city. Alphege was taken prisoner with Godwine, Bishop of Rochester, Leofrun, abbess of St Mildrith's, Aelfward, the King's reeve, and AEFnaer, the abbot of St. Augustine's Abbey, who managed to escape. The Cathedral was plundered and burned by the Danes following Alphege's capture.

He was held captive for seven months at Greenwich during which time he refused to allow a ransom to be paid for his freedom and as a result was killed on 19th April, 1012.

An account of his death appears in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*:

“...the raiding-army became much stirred up against the bishop, because he did not want to offer them any money, and forbade that anything might be granted in return for him. Also they were very drunk, because there was wine brought from the south. Then they seized the bishop, led him to their “hustings” on the Saturday in the octave of Easter, and then pelted him there with bones and the heads of cattle, and one of them struck him on the head with the butt of an axe, so that with the blow he sank down and his holy blood fell on the earth, and sent forth his holy soul to God's kingdom.”

Initially his body was buried in St. Paul's Cathedral but in 1023 his body was moved by King Cnut, with great ceremony, to Canterbury Cathedral and he was canonised in 1078. It was to St. Alphege that Thomas Becket prayed shortly before his own murder.



WANTED - PUBLICITY OFFICER

Is there a member out there who would be keen to take on the roll of publicity manager?

It's not an onerous position and wouldn't take up much time, but it would relieve me of one of my many tasks!

It would require emailing the local newspapers and asking them to include a note of any forthcoming events – I have a list that I always mail out to – and the distribution of posters around the village.

If you are itching to get involved but can't give up too much time.....this would right up your street!

Give me a ring on 01303 840336 or email me on asladden@btinternet.co.uk

Andree Sladden

Genealogy Tips

We thought that some genealogy websites and useful addresses may help members who are engaged in Family Research. If you are having a frustrating time it might be worth contacting our member **Elaine Graeme** eagraeme02@yahoo.co.uk who has a wealth of experience and can offer some practical guidance.

www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/ General Register Office website which you will need to use to order birth, marriage and death certificates.

www.findmypast.com General Register Office website. Excellent site – use for tracing birth, marriage and death certificates and various census returns, passenger lists, some military records and electoral roles. Buy units online or buy a subscription to suit your needs. Also has a link to the GRO online certificate ordering facility.

www.familyrelatives.com Family Relatives is an excellent site – its BMD site contains fully searchable indexes by name currently up until 1920 plus ability to search indexes for all years in normal way. Pay per view but also many indexes available free- e.g. some military records and births overseas.

<http://freebmd.org.uk> Again use for tracing birth, marriage and death certificates. The index has been transcribed from the General Register Office Records by volunteers. Very useful but beware – it is not complete! Check the home page link to see which years are complete.

www.thegenealogist.co.uk “The Genealogist” Another website for searching births, marriages, and deaths and census. Subscription or pay as you view.

www.ancestry.co.uk Popular website covering many types of records including searching for birth/marriage/deaths and census. Subscription based. Various types of subscription available. Great for census hunting and there is a link to the GRO online certificate ordering facility.

www.genuki.org.uk An excellent genealogy website covering so many subjects for all over the world. Find time to browse, especially on the countries you are especially interested in. A wealth of information and links to other sites.

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk Website for the National Archives (formerly The Public Record Office). Covers older records, will pre 1858, military records and lots more. Ability to search by name.

www.familysearch.org/Engl/Home/Welcome/welcome.asp The website of the Mormons, also known as the IGI (International Genealogical Index and once referred to as CFI – Card Fiche Index). Use for tracing baptisms and marriage (some burials). Wonderful finding aid if your ancestors moved away from original locality, but finds must be checked against original parish registers and please remember that many parishes are not included so even though you think you have found an ancestor on it, there may be a better match which is just not included on the index. Check to see coverage for the county you are interested in.

www.1901censusonline.com Online 1901 census plus 185k census and access to births, marriages, deaths. Pay by voucher or online credit card.

www.a2a.org.uk/ Growing database listing the holdings of various record offices around the country. Very useful for more advanced research. Now linked to TNA website.

www.fhsc.org.uk/genuki/REG/ List of civil registration districts with information on each and address of local register office.

www.genealogy.demon.co.uk/ One of the online genealogy stores - S & N Genealogy Supplies. Good for buying censuses and other records on CD ROM.

www.sog.org.uk/ The website of the Society of Genealogists. For research before 1837. The Society library is near the Barbican in London and they have a large collection of genealogical holdings – see website for details of their on line shopping store and details of the advantages of membership.

www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk Brilliant website for Scottish family records – civil registration and census records viewable online.

The General Register Office (for Scotland) – New Register House, 3 West Register Street, Edinburgh, EH1 3YT. Tel: 0131 314 4444 – email: records@gro-scotland.gov.uk.

www.groni.gov.uk General Register Office for Northern Ireland.

www.goireland.ie General Register Office for Southern Ireland.

www.familyrecords.gov.uk/frc Family Records Centre Tel: 020 8392 5300

For ordering certificates by post: GRO, PO Box 2, Southport, Merseyside, PR8 2JD Tel: 9845 603 7788 or online via GRO Website – <http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates>.

Family History Centre (at the Church of Latter Day Saints or Mormons) To view copies of GRO index the nearest Branch is: Forty-Acre Road, Canterbury. Tel: 01227 765431 – Telephone with any queries, as they are staffed by volunteers only.

www.ihgs.ac.uk Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies (IHGS) For buying registration district and county maps and other books. Good library specialising in Kent and Sussex for fee. 79-82 Northgate, Canterbury. Tel: 01227 768 8664.

2014

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*Keep informed about our latest projects and activities -
www.ehs.elham.co.uk and www.ehsdatabase.elham.co.uk*

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

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/