

Volume 1, Issue 2

November 2010

From the Chairman

When I wrote the introduction to our first Newsletter in August, the penultimate paragraph began "We'll need more money..." That remains true, but the success of the Battle of Britain evening (see article below), greatly enjoyed by all who were there but also a good money raiser, means that we are on a sounder footing, and the committee have had their loans refunded!

The visit to Westenhangar was on one of the worst evenings of the summer, but that couldn't stop us enjoying a really rewarding tour. Those of you who weren't able to join us may like to note that the Castle will be open on Tuesdays next year from 26th April to 27th September. The sun shone when we went to Tappington Hall at Denton for a fascinating talk and tour by Sue Clough (and superb home-made cake). We may be able to repeat this visit next year for those who missed out.

The Graveyard Shift material is beginning to come in to Bryan for co-ordination and eventual publication. It will also be incorporated into the Database which Barry Webb is working on. This will be a marvellous facility, and unique to Elham – watch out for an email to tell you when it is online.

Having a committee of just four means there is an awful lot for each of us to do, but it also means that things do get decided and acted upon quickly. If Elham Historical Study becomes the Elham Historical Society, then we may have to expand the committee, but not too much I hope. Anyway the four of us are going to talk over the subject this Saturday evening over a glass or two of wine, and will let you know our thoughts in due course.

My thanks to Andree, Bryan and Dilys for the enormous contributions they have made to our success so far.

Forthcoming Events - 2011

28th January – 1940 - What If? "A German invasion and occupation of Britain in 1940 would have changed the course of history. But could it have happened? In this illustrated talk John Buss will discuss the scenario from both German and British perspectives, with particular emphasis on East Kent"

25th March - A talk about the life of Elham resident Prof Cyril Northcote Parkinson by his son Chris

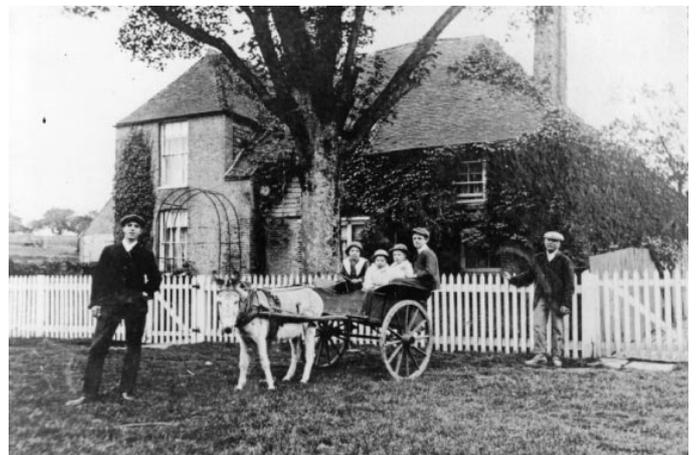
9th April – A special EHS Members event to celebrate our first birthday

May - Talk by Andrew Richardson of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust about this year's finds at East Cliff and how they relate to our understanding of East Kent's history

June - A talk by Elham resident and Lancaster bomber pilot Henry Shackleton

September – "Steam In Elham" a historical talk by Elham resident Richard Moffatt

October (TBC) – Brian Hart, Elham Valley Railway book launch



Picture from the Palmer Family Collection

Famous Elham People – Cyril Northcote Parkinson

We all know the theory...."Work expands to fill the time available for it's completion"....a phrase known to busy people everywhere. Yes, Parkinson's Law! But did you know that the man who coined the phrase, which is still muttered by many a frustrated business person, lived in Elham during the war years at The Manor House in The Old Road? In fact it seems it was he who was responsible for dividing the property into two and instigating the restoration programme. In fact he wrote an amusing article explaining the dilemmas he faced trying to restore the half-timbered house to its' original 1350 glory!

Cyril Northcote Parkinson was both a prolific writer of naval history and fiction, and an economist, and he first presented his "elastic work" theory in a humorous article written for The Economist in 1958. Published as "Parkinson's Law" and illustrated by Osbert Lancaster, satirizing government bureaucracies, it was based on his experiences during the Second World War in the R.A.F. and the War Office.

Said to be an unassuming man with a wonderful sense of humour, he theorised that work is elastic in its demands on time, there is little or no relationship between the work to be done and the number of people needed to complete it, and "a

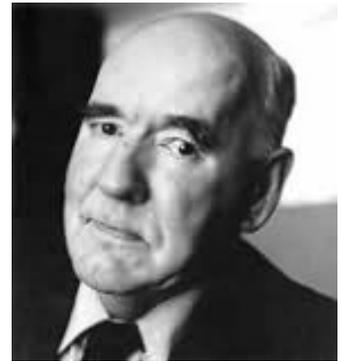
lack of activity does not result in leisure". Well, we can all relate to that and the proverbial phrase "it is the busiest man who has time to spare!"

C. Northcote Parkinson was born in 1909 in County Durham and developed his interest in maritime history as an

undergraduate at Cambridge. He had a brilliant academic and military career being appointed Raffles Professor of History at the University of Malaya in Singapore in 1950. It was here that he published his most famous work.

He married three times, had 3 sons and 2 daughters and lived for a time as tax exile in Guernsey and the Isle of Man before moving to Canterbury where he died in 1993 at the age of 83. He is buried in Canterbury.

His published works include seven books of nautical fiction, "The Life and Times of Horatio Hornblower" (1970), eight books of naval history, including his famous "Parkinson's Law" (1957). I can't imagine how he found time to restore a medieval manor house in Elham!



EHS Presented "The Elham Valley in The Battle of Britain"



A Full House

With the help of music and films from the period, as well as an exhibition of artefacts provided by Elham residents, the atmosphere within the village hall took you back to those days of uncertainty in 1940. The items included Elham Home Guard information recently provided by Teena Palmer, whose father Herbert was in charge of No.8 Platoon (Elham) and David Johnson who provided a very interesting selection of Home Guard military items.

We held a fascinating evening event on Friday 8th October at the village hall. The guest speaker was David Brocklehurst historian and Chairman of the Kent Battle of Britain Museum in Hawkinge. David's talk included detailed accounts of both British and German pilots who lost their lives in and around the Elham Valley. He also gave the audience of over 100 detailed descriptions of the heroic and daring deeds performed by those brave young men.

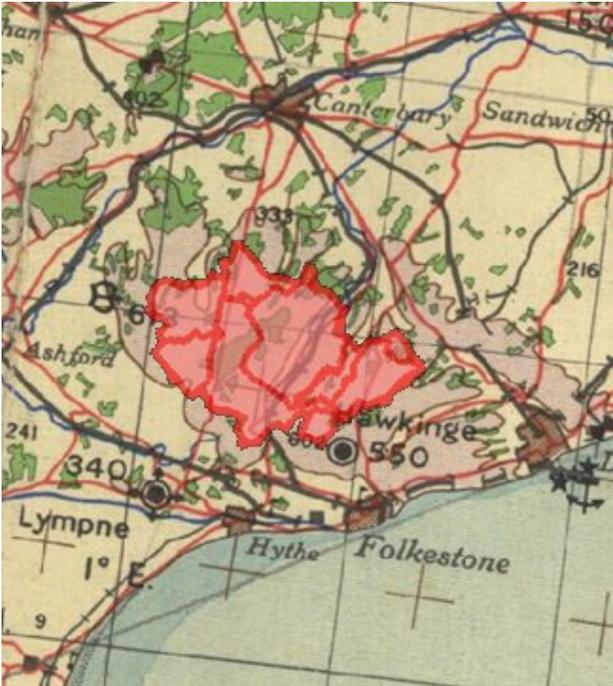


Spitfire beer for sale!

Elham Registration District Demographic Information

We thought it would be useful to include some demographic statistical information for Elham and a good source of information can be found online at the Vision of Britain website (<http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk>). One problem that has been found when creating websites for Elham is that numerous enquiries come in from family history researchers who “have found a relative that lived in Elham”. Most of these researchers have failed to identify that the Elham Registration district covered a very wide area as can be seen from the map below. Even when you look at the Elham Sub-District map you will see that this also includes a number of neighbouring parishes.

Boundary Map of the Elham Sub-District



Boundary Map of Elham RegD/PLU



(The map is approximate because parishes may have been only partly in the Registration sub-District)

Gazetteer Information for Elham

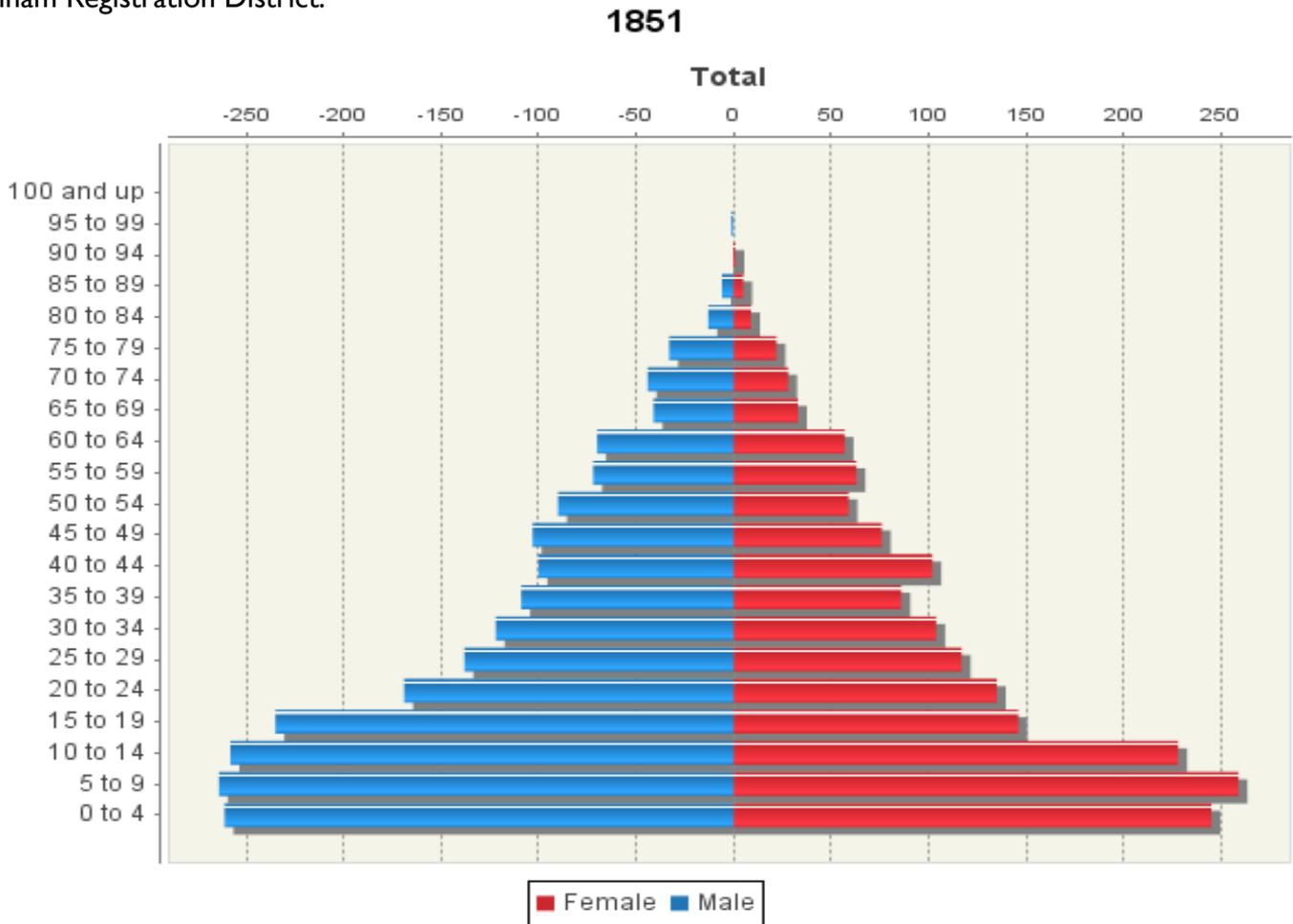
ELHAM, a village, a parish, a sub-district, and a district in Kent. The village stands on the river Stone**, near the Elham Valley railway, 6 miles NNE of Hythe; has a post office under Canterbury; is a seat of petty sessions; and was once a market-town. The E. Valley railway was authorised in 1866, goes from Canterbury to Hythe, and has connecting branches. The parish comprises 6,570 acres. Real property, £7, 855. Pop., 1,159. Houses, 241. The property is divided among a few. The manor belonged, at the Conquest, to Earl Hugh; and passed, through the Leybournes and others, to the Oxendens. The living is a vicarage in the diocese of Canterbury. Value, £390.* Patron, Merton College, Oxford, under nomination by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The church is early and later English. There are a Wesleyan chapel and an endowed school, the latter with £65.—The sub-district contains also the parishes of Swingfield, Acrise, Paddlesworth, Lyminge, Stelling-Minnis, Stelling, Elmsted, and Stouting. Acres, 20,916. Pop., 3,841. Houses, 715.—The district comprehends also the sub-district of Folkestone, containing the parishes of Folkestone, Hawkinge, and Cheriton; and the sub-district of Hythe, containing the parishes of Hythe-St. Leonard, Monks-Horton, Standford, Postling, Saltwood, Newington-next-Hythe, Lympne, and Sellinge. Acres, 43, 197. Poor-rates in 1862, £10,716. Pop. in 1851, 18,780; in 1861, 26,925. Houses, 3,904. Marriages in 1860, 149; births, 721, -of which 30 were illegitimate; deaths, 438, -of which 149 were at ages under 5 years, and 20 at ages above 85. Marriages in the ten years 1851-60, 1,489; births, 6,656; deaths, 4,017. The places of worship in 1851 were 21 of the Church of England, with 7,075 sittings; 3 of Independents, with 620 s.; 4 of Baptists, with 643 s.; 1 of Quakers, with 425 s.; 9 of Wesleyan Methodists, with 1,406 s.; 1 of Primitive Methodists, with 60 s.; 2 of Bible Christians, with 264 s.; and 1 undefined, with 144 s. The schools were 25 public day schools, with 1,962 scholars; 43 private day schools, with 951 s.; and 26 Sunday schools, with 2,189 s. The workhouse is in Lyminge.

(Information Source - John Marius Wilson, Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales (1870-72))

* *should read that the Nailbourne forms a tributary to the River Stour (not Stone)

Age and Sex Structure data in 5-year bands to age 100

The following statistical information has been taken from the Elham Sub-District data and not the wider Elham Registration District.



A Town Unearthed – Folkestone before 1500



Iron Age site showing Quern Stone

You may be aware that excavations have been in progress this summer on the cliffs at East Wear Bay, where Folkestone's history has been unearthed for the first time in more than 20 years. It is a three year community archaeology project exploring the ancient landscape and historical past and helping to preserve it for future generations.

Andrew Richardson, project manager of archaeology said, "This first phase of the dig has shown us straight away that a great deal of unexcavated archaeology still survives across the site. One of the most interesting discoveries was an unfinished quern stone, used for grinding corn. It has been known for some years that a quern stone

industry, dating to around 2000 years ago, existed here. This find provides conclusive evidence of their manufacture on the cliff top, probably during the first century BC.

Very few quern production sites have been identified in the country and this new discovery reinforces Folkestone's position as an internationally important late Iron Age site. It confirms to us that East Wear Bay was a very important trading place and point of contact between late Iron Age Britain and the Romans, before their invasion."

Andrew has agreed to come and talk to us next year in May but in the meantime if you would like more information about upcoming events or how to get involved visit the "A Town Unearthed" website:

www.atownunearthed.co.uk.



Work in Progress at East Wear Bay

Elham Photographic Archive Update

There has been a tremendous response to our appeal for "Elhamers" to dust off their photograph and postcard albums and allow us to see what treasures lay inside. In the August newsletter article we covered the fact that photographs had been loaned to us by Gordon Young, Ann Laker, Yvonne Goldup and Dave Johnson and since then we have heard from a number of Elham residents.



Chris Francis has very kindly loaned us his impressive collection of postcards, photographs, booklets and documents which give a fascinating insight into life in Elham all those years ago. So far we have scanned some 80 postcards and photographs from Chris's collection, with a further 2 albums to go! There are many important images that have not been seen before and we could not wait to share some with you, so here are just a couple of Chris's to whet your appetites.



Grace Tupper was recently interviewed by the EHS and gave a wonderful account of her life in Elham since the age of 11. Whilst being interviewed Grace showed us some very interesting family photographs which will also go in to our archive. Here is a wonderful photograph of Elham workmen repairing the road at Water Farm and the photograph of Grace with her two sons David and Doug, that her husband Sid carried with him whilst on active service throughout WW2. For those of you who are wondering where the last photograph was taken, it is on the steps of "The Kiosk" which was next to St. Katherine's Cottage, this is where Grace and her family were living at the time .



In her interview Grace remembered the kindness shown by the Royal Artillery troops stationed on the field where the school now stands. When the air raid sirens sounded they would ensure that Grace and her children were safely in their Morrison shelter before firing their anti-aircraft guns which were placed right outside her front door!

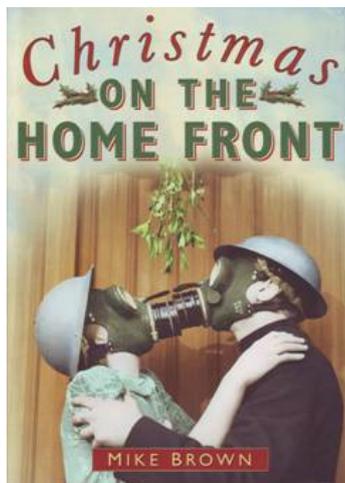
And finally for this issue of the newsletter we must include a couple of rare photographs from the Dave Johnson collection. Many of you will know that from a tender young age Dave worked at Pegden's as an apprentice and continued there right through to the closure of the Comet Marine Pump business which was run on the Pegden's site.

Richard Moffatt was very interested to see these photographs which will probably be used in his EHS talk "Steam in Elham" in September 2011. Richard is a direct descendant of the Pegden family and has an extensive knowledge of the traction engines built and maintained by the Pegden brothers.



The EHS committee would like to thank all those who have allowed us to scan and use their photographs and postcards. We really are creating a most impressive archive of Elham's past, so keep them coming!

Christmas is coming – don't blame us, it happens every year or does it?



As this will be our last newsletter before Christmas we thought it would be interesting to share a few tips and tricks devised during those lean years of rationing during WW2 to ensure Christmas survived the war.

We are also including a tip of our own which just might help you find that present for someone who “has it all”. Many of you will know from the excellent talk by David Brocklehurst of the Kent Battle of Britain Museum that the museum is now closed for the winter. What you may not know is that the museum shop is staying open throughout the year and is crammed full of interesting gift ideas.

Here is a wonderful book which was recently purchased at the shop that details how people coped during the Christmas's of 1939 to 1944.

The book includes many interesting advertisements and articles, a few of which we have included throughout this month's newsletter

Elham Historical Study (EHS) Database

Shortly after the EHS was formed it became clear that we needed a way to record historical data, artefacts, documents and many other items in a way that not only catalogued each item but, if possible actually linked the item to perhaps who it belonged to, where it was found or in the case of a property, who actually lived there. It has to be said that this was only a vision of what we wanted and in reality it was only likely to stay a dream whilst we continued with spreadsheets and pieces of paper.... or was it?

Back at the beginning of summer the EHS Committee were approached by Elham resident Barry Webb (who is without doubt a bit of a wizard when it comes to databases) with an idea he had to create a database for the EHS to use. Little did he know what he had let himself in for!

Well that was a few months ago and Barry has been hard at work with an EHS sub-committee, which includes Derek Boughton and Bryan Badham, together with additional assistance from “Elhamers”, Richard Hinds (who is an IT Professional) and Scott Jagger (who is a Website and Graphic Designer). Together the team have ensured the project is quickly taking shape and hope to announce very soon the internet link that will take you to the online EHS Database.

The database already has over 300 images of Elham properties and people, together with historical

details of those properties, a location map (courtesy of Google) and, where known, the historical residents information. Later additions to the database will include the results and images of the churchyard survey. Our aim is that you will be able to take a virtual walk around the village, look at the properties (with images going back in time), see who lived there and see where those people are located within the churchyard.

The property information is a little sketchy at the moment, so if you live in Elham we would very much like to have any details about the property you live in. It need not necessarily be a very old property as we hope this information will be available for many years to come.

We are familiar with the requirements of the Data Protection Act and very conscious of people's concerns about online information and pictures (i.e. Google's Street View). We will therefore not hold details of living people and as the property photos have been taken over many years, there should not be any issues about criminals using them to see what goodies are in the garden or what type of burglar alarm is installed. That said if owners of properties do have concerns then we can always amend or replace any images that they are not happy with.

So watch this space..... It should be online soon!

Elham's Red K6 Telephone Box

Model Designed to Commemorate the Silver Jubilee of King George V



Picture of Folkestone telephone box by Shane Record

Whilst working in Canterbury I found it fascinating to watch tourists lining up to have their photograph taken outside the three Red K6 Telephone boxes in Stour Street. It appears there is nothing more typically British than the site of these award winning design icons.

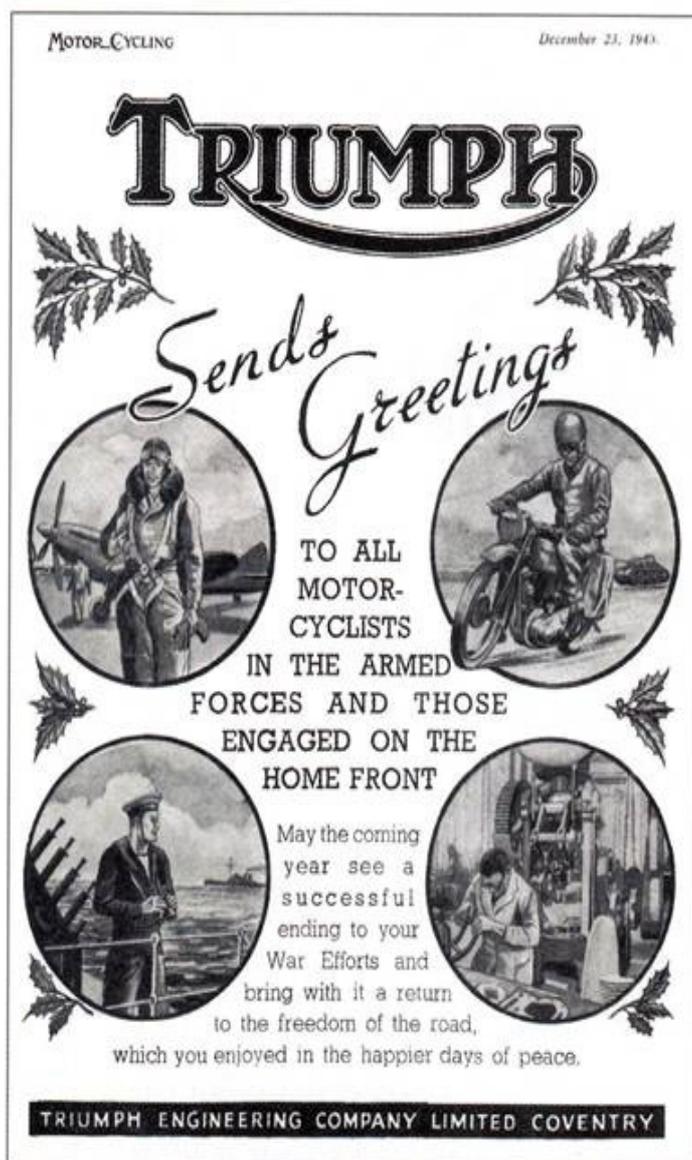
Folkestone artist Shane Record has even painted the one at Folkestone harbour with tremendous effect.

A number of years ago BT decided to replace the old red boxes with new stainless steel and glass ones, this totally transformed towns and villages as these contemporary boxes radically altered once quaint and charming views. Elham residents and the Parish Council were very concerned that Elham would also suffer this fate, so representations were made to BT, both at Parish Council and personal levels, to ensure it was not replaced. BT went one better and totally refurbished the red telephone box and even included heritage images within the box itself.

Sadly over time and with the assistance of people with "nothing better to do" the box is showing signs of its age. The EHS committee were therefore very pleased to see in the minutes of the September Parish Council meeting that Elham Parish Councillor, Miss Williamson, had been approached by two Elham residents who asked if the Parish Council would agree to them repainting the telephone box. The Parish Council agreed with this request and the last indication was that the correct paint was being sought in readiness for the volunteers to start their work.

Our understanding is that the K6 telephone box has

now been "listed" which **should** mean that this useful and prominent part of our history will remain with us for many years to come. I say useful because with limited mobile phone coverage in the village the phone box is still regularly used, especially when couriers cannot locate a delivery location. That said BT is keen to transfer responsibility for the maintenance and up keep of these boxes to Parish Councils and other official bodies, with or without their telephone inside! Further details of the telephone box adoption scheme can be found at this website address http://www.payphones.bt.com/adopt_a_kiosk/HTML/payphone/index.htm .



Triumph motor cycle Christmas greeting from *Motor Cycling* magazine, December 1943.

Who is Who

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Contributions

This is your newsletter and we would be delighted to receive your contributions for our next issue which will be in February 2011.

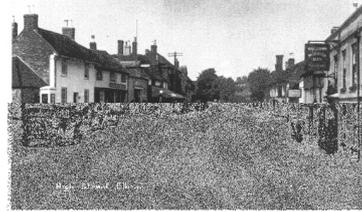
Please email Dilys at -

dilyswebb@btinternet.com

We hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter and your committee wish you all "A Very Merry Christmas"

EHS POSTCARDS

Don't forget 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.



Let us help with **YOUR PARTY**

Somebody's coming home on leave. It's somebody's birthday. Or just a little party for the children. And it makes a break. But don't let the preparation for it break you. Here are some suggestions, sweet and savoury, which will make your party remembered with delight by guests and hostess alike.

FORK AND FINGER SAVOURIES

Sandwiches immediately suggest themselves, but to save cutting so many slices of bread, why not have some of those open "spreads"? They look so tempting and colourful. *First—the bases.* It's nice to have a variety, and there are many to choose from: national bread, brown bread, rolls, "crispbread," squares or cases of pastry.

Some Hints for the Spreads:

1. Thin neat slices of cold meat or canned meat, decorated with strips of beetroot arranged like the spokes of a wheel or with latticed lines of finely grated raw carrot.
2. A layer of curried white fish or canned salmon, decorated with lines of chopped hard-boiled egg.
3. A round of hard-boiled egg (made with dried eggs), a slightly smaller round of beetroot on top, a pinch of parsley in the middle.
4. Grated cheese, well seasoned, mixed with a little salad dressing and criss-crossed with strips of celery.

And here are some other ideas:

- EGG BOATS.** Split some small rolls, scoop out some of the crumb, and spread the hollow with a little meat extract or vegetable extract or chutney; fill with scrambled egg mixed with a little white sauce.
- CELERY BASKETS.** Cut a few sticks of tender, crisp celery into 3-inch lengths. Fill with a mixture of mashed potato and grated cheese and colour a nice pink with bottled tomato pulp. Sprinkle a pinch of finely chopped parsley on top.
- LITTLE MEAT BALLS.** Mix equal quantities of chopped canned meat or cold meat and breadcrumbs and a little chopped cooked onion if you have it. Season, and bind with reconstituted dried eggs. Roll into balls the size of walnuts, egg and breadcrumb them (reconstituted dried egg again), and fry. Delicious hot or cold.
- INDIVIDUAL SALADS.** Pretty as flowers and so refreshing! Shred finely the heart of a cabbage and toss in a little salad dressing. Arrange on small glass plates if possible; decorate with grated carrot, diced beetroot and a sprinkling of chopped dried egg or grated cheese.

FOR THE CHILDREN'S PARTY

- LOLLIPOP CUSTARDS.** Make a thick custard in the usual way with dried eggs and household milk or fresh milk. Flavour if liked with almond, vanilla or other cooking flavour. Pour into individual glasses. Sprinkle with crushed "boiled sweets"—the more mixed the colours the better. Top with a marsh-mallow, piece of turkish delight, square of fudge or other soft sweet.
- FRUITY BUNS.** Chopped apple, mixed with dried fruit—raisins, sultanas or chopped prunes—bound with jam and sandwiched between halves of buns.
- ORANGE TRIFLE.** Sponge sandwich— you can make lovely light ones with dried eggs—spread liberally with sweet orange marmalade. Saturate with orange squash diluted and sweetened to taste. Top with custard, decorate with mock cream and grated chocolate.

FREE LEAFLET—"Festive Fare" containing many other recipes and suggestions gladly sent free on receipt of a postcard. Please mention this leaflet by name, and address The Ministry of Food, Food Advice Division, London, W.1. (S109)



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