



September 2017

Volume 7, Issue 2

Chairman's Message

Just as Jackie Christian took up her duties as our Hon. Secretary she had to cope with her Dad's illness and death, and David has also been unwell. My best wishes to them both, and my thanks to Andrée, who, having barely cleared her desk, stepped in to help.

Dorothy Middlemiss, who died recently, was not a member of the Society, but she recorded her memories, and gave us some material related to the history of Wingmore Court, where she lived before moving to the Old Hospital. She had not been about much lately, but she was an immense presence in the village, when she ran her song and dance shows, which were a vital part of village social life from 1979 till 2005, raising spirits and money. Trevor Pitt, our Vicar in the 1980s and now a Canon of Durham, gave the address at her funeral, and recalled how she bullied him into being part of the show. I spoke too, as I was a perhaps more willing performer, and look back with affection, and a little pride, to the whole experience.

Forthcoming Events

Friday 22nd September – A School Girls War – Talk by Mary Smith

Friday 20th October – Samuel Ireland's tour of North Kent – Talk by Ian Guy

Friday 17th Nov – “Deare Heart” - Talk about 17th century letter writers in Kent by Derek Boughton

Thursday 7th Dec - Xmas Supper at the Rose and Crown, Elham (details will be emailed to you shortly)

Friday 12th Dec - Merton College 750th Anniversary Exhibition

Friday 16th February 2018 - An Illustrated Talk on the History of Henbury Manor

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 Jackie Christian on 01303 840464 or emailing elhamhistorical@gmail.com

Members £3.00 and Non-Members £5.00.

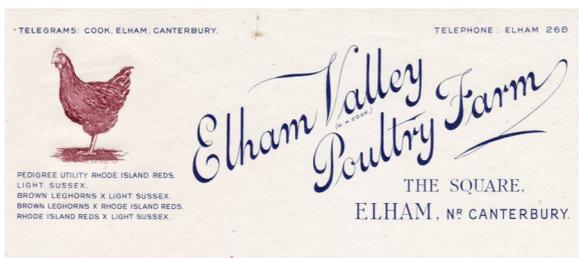
Elham Shops – part two



In Elham Square.

The first family to run **The Old Bakery** in the Square were the Swains, who had lived in the house from the 1850s, but appear not to have taken up the trade until the 1870s. The business continued in the family for almost fifty years, until the sudden death of Tom Swain in June 1920, left his young widow with an infant daughter Doris (remembered by older residents as Doris Tait). She met Walter Hawkins, a young widower in exactly the same plight, having a very young daughter. They married, had a further daughter together, and lived to celebrate their Golden Wedding at Sunnyside (now Windmill House), the home that they built in Cullen's Hill. They continued to run the business for a couple of years before

selling it. But Walter was an entrepreneur, and he retained the top piece of the garden facing New Road. On this he built Bank Buildings, a row of four shops (now Browns estate agents), which provided them with a rental income for the rest of their lives.



The business was bought by A. E. Worth, who ran it for about fifteen years, before selling it to Horace Cook. Horace also traded as the Elham Valley Poultry Farm, keeping most of his hens at Wenny Farm, Rhodes Minnis. After WW2, the Cooks also had the High Street bakery, so no baking took place in the Square, but the shop continued to trade until the 1960s.

In 1955, the shop was one of the local venues used in the film "Raising a Riot", starring Kenneth More. They also used the Valley Dairy at Lyminge, and the Black Mill at Barham, so good footage of that landmark, which was burnt down in 1970.



In the very snowy winter of 1956, when the business had **five** delivery vans on the road, I was a Saturday boy, usually working on the Acrise, Swingfield, and Denton round. Three weeks running we were unable to get up any lane out of the valley, and had to set out via Folkestone. This meant that Barbara Athow's family at South Lodge didn't get a delivery, and in order to serve George Elvery's at Mounts Court, I had to put ten tin loaves into a sack, and trudge through the drifts from Acrise Place. When you got back to the Square, and that was at eleven o'clock on the night we got stuck at Tappington Hall, you had to hand over the cash to Ruby Cook, and heaven help you if it wasn't correct.

When Horace Cook sold the High Street bakery to David Addington, the shop in the Square ceased trading, but it had a couple of reincarnations as bank and art gallery.

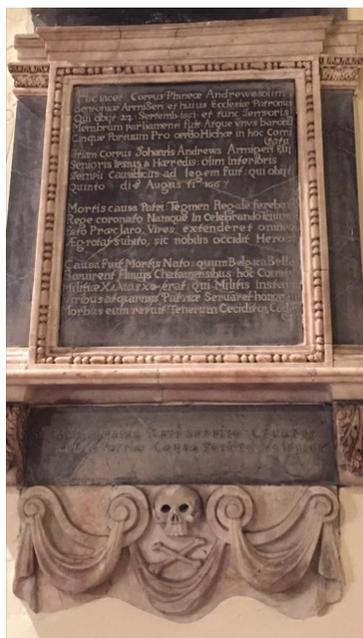
Horace Cook's first love was neither baking nor poultry keeping, but working in wood, and he used to restore furniture in the shed at the side both before and after his retirement from baking.

Visits

On a lovely sunny evening on Friday the 21st July we went to Denton and were treated to an excellent talk by Derek Boughton about the history of St. Mary Magdalene's Church. We were greeted by members of the church who welcomed us with tea, coffee, elderflower cordial and biscuits!



The memorial to William Willatts of Denton Court, who died in 1867, has symbols which describe the Voyage of Life.



The family of Phineas Andrews, who died in 1661, owned Denton Court only from 1658 to 1679, but another branch of the family lived in North Elham until the 20th century.



The wall-mounted brass is to John Boys of Denton Court, Attorney General to Henry VIII, who died in 1543.



Visit To Brook Agricultural Museum

On Saturday the 27th May we had a group visit to the Brook Agricultural Museum, followed by a visit to the 11th C. St. Mary's church next door. If you were not able to come along that day we thoroughly recommend a visit to both.



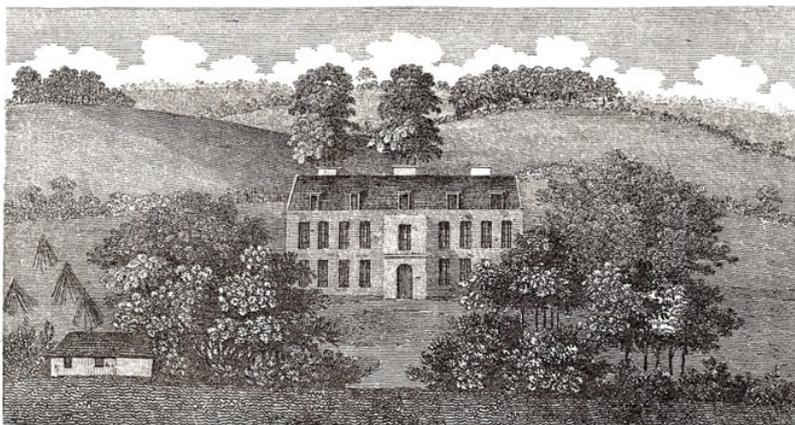
The church has some excellent examples of wall paintings dating between 1190 and 1350. These would have been a common feature in churches before being whitewashed over during the reformation in the 16th century.



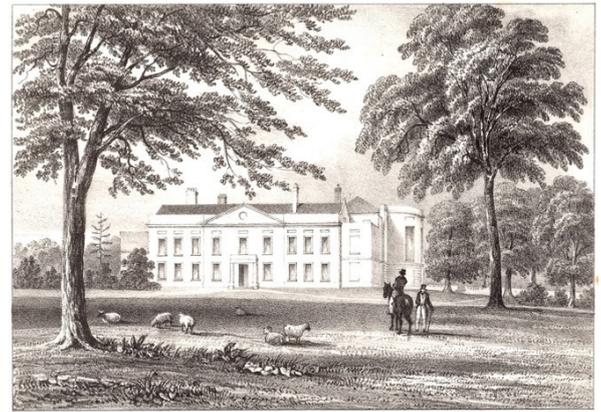
Visit To Charlton Park, Bishopsbourne

On Friday the 16th June we went to hear a talk about the “History of the Land, The House and The People” associated with Charlton Park given by Jack Wales. We were greeted in the main entrance hall by his wife Gubby, who provided us with a welcome drink and nibbles.

Our talk was held in the magnificent ball room and was based on the research Jack has carried out over the years. He kindly produced a small booklet for each of us to take away, this detailed work can also be found online here: <http://www.charlton-park.org/history/>



CHARLTON PLACE the Seat of JOHN FOOTE ESQ
Publ. Feb^r 1795 by Simon Kirby & Jones Canterbury



CHARLTON.
The Seat of Lieut. Gen. Sir Genl. W. Mordaunt R.G.H.
For the Epitome of the History of Kent.
 1838.

On Instructions from Dr. Barnardo's

THE FINE GEORGIAN HOUSE
Charlton Park, Bishopsbourne
Near Canterbury.

available for Institutional Purposes
 or Residence, with
157 ACRES of Parkland
 also a pair of Jacobean style Cottages (18th century)
 for conversion, and a detached Entrance Lodge,
 each property with small paddock.

To be sold as a whole or in 5 Lots
 (unless previously sold by private treaty)
At The County Hotel, Canterbury
on Wednesday, 5th June 1968 at 2 p.m.

Illustrated Particulars, Plan & Conditions of Sale from

The Joint Auctioneers:
 FRANK WOOD & COMPANY, 24 Walling Street, Canterbury, Kent (Tel. 08401),
 GREYARD TOWN & PARTERS, Broad Okeham, 1 Bookbinder's Palace Road,
 London, S.W.1 or 1 Mount Eborac Road, Tunbridge Wells (Tel. 90376).

This 1968 advertisement for the sale of Charlton Park on behalf of Dr. Barnardo's shows the sale included 157 acres of parkland, a pair of Jacobean style 18th Century cottages and a detached Entrance Lodge, each with a small paddock. To be sold as a whole or in 5 lots.

Kent's Literary Greats – Joseph Conrad



So many great literary talents have gravitated to Kent and here produced some of their greatest works. This is true of Joseph Conrad, who, although born to an aristocratic Polish family, in 1857, became one of our most prolific authors, and lived for most of his career in various houses in our area, ending his life in the lovely house “Oswalds” in Bishopsbourne.

His father, also an author, was a Polish patriot whose politics led to exile in Russia, and both his parents died of tuberculosis when Joseph was 12. He decided to make a career at sea in first the French and then the English merchant navy where he qualified as a Master Mariner. He started his literary career as soon as he left the Navy in 1894 with the publication of *Almayer's Folly*. He married and moved first to Essex and then to Pent Farm, at Postling. He and his wife Jessie, who was disabled after a fall damaged her knees, had two sons, the oldest Borys and the younger John. It was John, born in 1906, who became an architect and was responsible for several

buildings in and around Elham.....Elham Service Garage, The Vicarage, St. Mary's Church Hall, and, in 1924, the year of his father's death, Mount Lodge. Both his sons wrote moving tributes in later life saying he was an excellent father; severe, though watchful and loving. By temperament Conrad was somewhat austere and aloof and his son John said that he did not like to show emotion. The family moved to the Georgian house “Oswalds” in 1919, where he could spread out in his designated study with its bay window on the ground floor, and where he wrote some of those novels for which he is justly famous, many with the flavour of his old seafaring and adventuring days. By this time he had some great works already published, *Lord Jim*, *Heart of Darkness*, *The Secret Agent*, and was offered, but declined, a knighthood in 1924, not long before his death. He was buried in Canterbury cemetery, and the streets of the City were lined with people paying their respects. It was said at the time “Kent was home to Conrad, and the Canterbury District was proud of it's distinguished guest.”



The Porch of the village hall at Bishopsbourne was built as a memorial to Conrad and there is an inscription taken from a passage in "Suspense", the story on which he was working at the time of his death. The inscription includes these words:- "Don't you think, my friend, that there are men, and women too, whose stars mark them for loneliness no man can approach? "You mean because they are great?" "Because they are incomparable?"

EHS Website and Database

Just a quick update on how our online documents and resources are being viewed by internet users across the world. We have had a really positive response about the Virtual Tour information and it has been heartening to see people walking around the village reading it. Xander at the Rose & Crown had it printed out as an A5 booklet for his guests, who obviously enjoyed the tour so much that they took the booklets home with them.

The latest website statistics show that over the past two months the tour has been downloaded 265 times. Similarly the "Why Is Elham here?" document has been downloaded 342 times, the "Monumental Inscriptions Within St. Mary's Church" 98 times and Derek's "The Swing Riots" document 110 times.

ELHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY A Virtual Tour of Elham

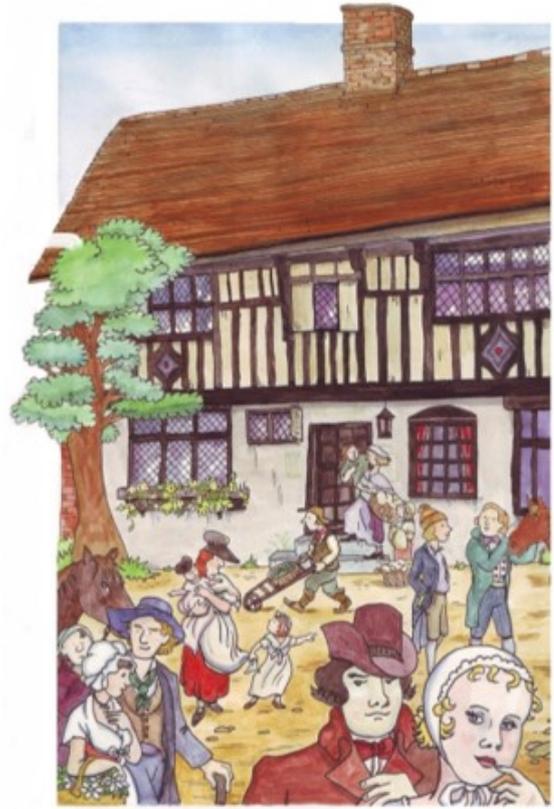


Illustration © Diana Turner



The EHS Database has had the following visits for each of these search categories over the same period.

People 3281, Buildings 551, Census 963, Residents 643, Burials 471 making a total of 6,724 visits to the EHS online resources over two months.

Needless to say that the most popular image downloaded on the Elham website was this one of Audrey Hepburn in 1957, which was downloaded 1,447 times.

Barbara Athow's Photos of Hop Picking in Frittenden 1951 - 1953

On visiting the Brooke Agricultural Museum, in particular on viewing the hop picking photos and equipment at the turn of the century, I realised how little it had changed since my parents (George and Ann Freeman) worked in the hop gardens at Appleton Farm, Frittenden in 1950 - 1953.

These photos show mum, with my two brothers (Bill and Robert) and a very small me!



Barbara and brothers sitting on a bushel sack holder



Barbara's mother and two brothers picking hops into a bushel sack



Barbara in the Hopfield with the network of strings for the hops to grow up

Friends Reunited!

The EHS Facebook page received a message on the 2nd August from Rebecca Herring (nee Taylor) in New Zealand, who went to Elham School from 1974 to 1977 and was trying to contact her best friend Leesa Long. Rebecca used to live in Hunters Lodge (the Old Police Station, The Row) and Leesa, lived with her parents Mo and John Long, at the racing stables, Elham. Sadly they lost contact when Rebecca emigrated. With the help of Sally Price we were soon on the trail and within a few hours had put the two friends back in contact via Facebook. Needless to say they are both very happy and plan to get back together when Rebecca visits the UK in September.

750th Anniversary of Merton's Connection with Elham

Merton Record 955. 27th September, 1267.

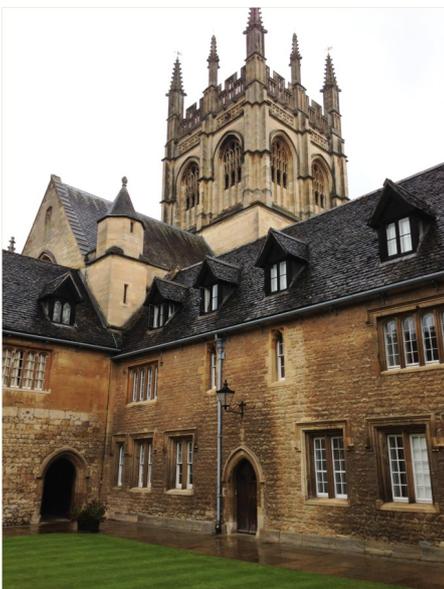
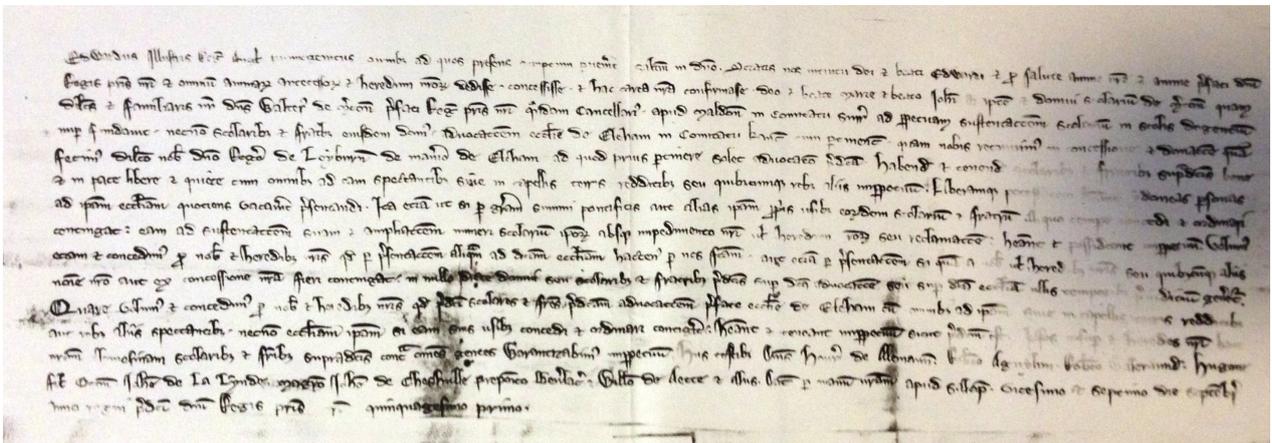
Edward, firstborn son of Henry III. Grant to the House of the Scholars of Merton lately founded at Malden, Co. Surrey by Dom. Walter of Merton, formerly Chancellor of the King our father, for the perpetual sustenation of scholars dwelling in the schools, of the advowson of the Church of Elham, Co. Kent, which we retained in the grant of the manor of Elham to Dom. Roger of Leyburn, to which manor the advowson previously belonged.

Witnessse Dom. Henry of Almaingne (brother of Henry III); Robert Aguylun; Robert Walerand; Hugh, son of Oto; John of the Lynde; Master John of Cheshulle (bishop of London, 1274-1280), provost of Beverley; William of Aetle.

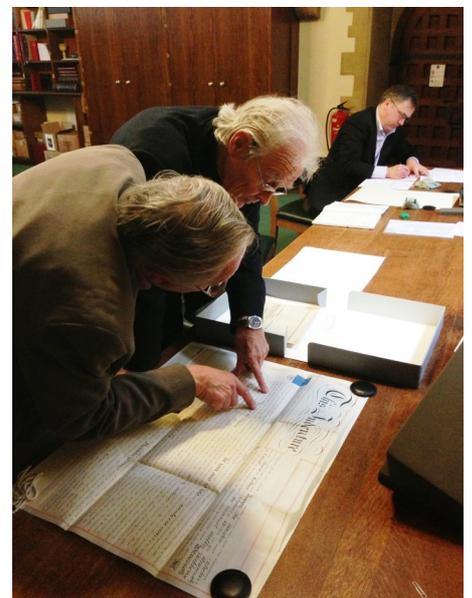
(Seal of Prince Edward).

The above transcript is of the original record (shown below) held in the Merton College, Oxford Archive which details the granting of the advowson (*the right in English law of a patron to present to the diocesan bishop a nominee for appointment to a vacant ecclesiastical benefice or church living, a process known as presentation*) in 1267.

To mark this anniversary Merton College Choir will visit Elham on the 12th December to perform in St. Mary's Church. The EHS will also provide an exhibition that same evening.



Derek, Nigel and Julian Reid, Archivist at Merton College



2017

Who is Who

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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 £4.00 for a pack of eight.



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

Follow us on our Facebook page

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/

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:

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