

September 2014

Volume 3, Issue 13

## Chairman's Message

When I gave my talk on "The War Diary of Fred Palmer" it was great to have his 93 year old son Peter in the audience, and to see him sharing reminiscences of Bomber Command with Henry Shackleton. There was a good turn out of Fred's descendants and other branches of the Palmer family, and I was pleased to be able to do justice to the remarkable record that Fred made of his service in Gallipoli, Egypt and Palestine. I was greatly helped by finding the photos sent home by Fred's great mate William May, who died in the Third Battle of Gaza. Since the talk I have learned that the photos of another pal, Dick Quested, also survive and I know that he took a photo of Fred in Egypt on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1916. I've not seen them yet, but here's hoping.....

I've been persuaded to revive Hezekiah Tumbleweed on the 5<sup>th</sup> December. It'll be like an old fashioned wedding dress - something old, something new, something borrowed, and something, well, just a little bit blue.

## Forthcoming Events

### October

- 11<sup>th</sup> **Ypres and the WW1 battlefields** - arranged by Real Socialising
- 13<sup>th</sup> **Private Visit to Bourne Park, Bridge** - **Fully Booked**
- 27<sup>th</sup> **A Tour of Westminster** - **Cancelled** - A trip is being arranged to visit Parliament, together with possibly the Cabinet War Rooms on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2015 by Real Socialising.

### November

- 14<sup>th</sup> **Talk in Village Hall** - (To be confirmed) Anne Beecham, "Neanderthals in Elham"
- 21<sup>st</sup> **Visit to Canterbury Cathedral Library and Archives** - This visit has been **cancelled** due to cost as a visit was free of charge on Heritage Day. There is however an Open Evening on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October. See [www.canterbury-cathedral.org/2014/08/18/cathedral-open-evening-will-remember-the-great-war](http://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/2014/08/18/cathedral-open-evening-will-remember-the-great-war) for more information.
- 5<sup>th</sup> **At the Abbots Fireside** - "An Evening with Hezekiah Tumbleweed" (Derek Boughton)  
To include supper - menu available soon.

### January

- 9<sup>th</sup> **Visit to Parliament and another venue (possibly the Cabinet War Rooms)**. Arranged by Real Socialising
- 30<sup>th</sup> **Talk in the Village Hall** - An Evening with Austen and Dickens - John and Jane Buss

### March

- 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> **Portsmouth and its Historic Dockyard** - Arranged by Real Socialising - an overnight stay at a Holiday Inn and an opportunity to see HMS Victory and the Mary Rose.

### 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](mailto:asladden@btinternet.com). Members £3.00 and Non-Members £5.00.

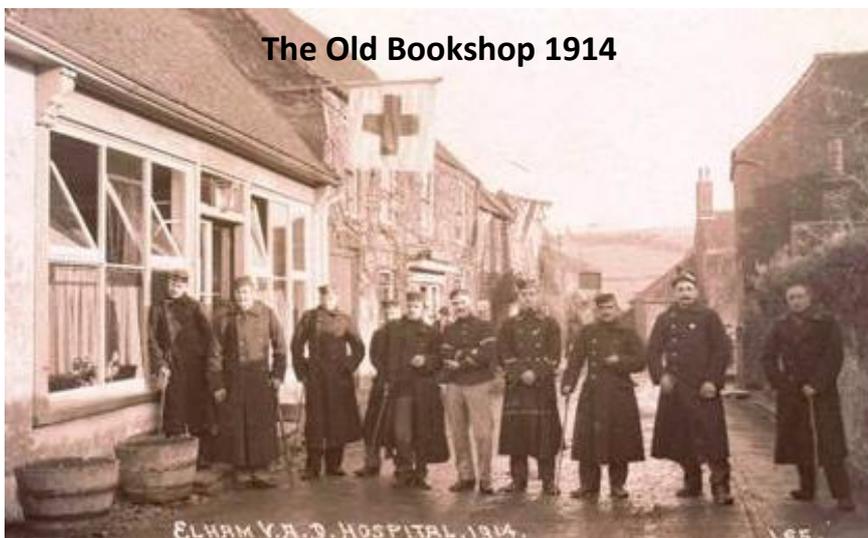
Visits that are arranged by Real Socialising can be booked by telephoning Viv Kenny on 0777 3946828 (Let her know you are an EHS Member) or emailing [info@realsocialising.co.uk](mailto:info@realsocialising.co.uk).

## Elham In The Great War

On the 4<sup>th</sup> August 1914 Britain declared war with Germany in what became known as “The Great War”. The EHS committee wanted to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a very special weekend to honour those men and women from the parish who took part in the “war to end all wars”. On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August we had a very interesting talk by Rosemary Piddock who told us about the life and events that soldiers of the First World War would have experienced, both at home and abroad. Then followed on Saturday and Sunday the Great War Exhibition and Self Guided Tour of the village. The exhibition was held in the Methodist Church Hall and contained many personal items from the war which are treasured by family members today. There was also research material from our EHS Archive which detailed the Service Records, photographs and other research material that has been gathered over the past two years. Over three hundred visitors came to the hall over the weekend and many were deeply touched by the personal stories that the EHS research team had uncovered. The hall was transformed into a recruiting station which attracted a great deal of interest from passersby, even before the exhibition was officially open.

The self guided walk around the village enabled people to see where service personnel lived during that period and the associated plaques added the personal family stories, thereby ensuring people were able to touch the lives of those that fought, and in some cases died for their country. The plaques attracted a great deal of attention from visitors and residents alike and the owners of the properties were very pleased to have them on display, some even transforming their homes with flags and period items.

The EHS Committee and individual members that helped to create this successful weekend have received numerous positive comments and feedback from all quarters, even our MP Damien Collins emailed to congratulate us “...I just wanted to offer my congratulations on the First World War project in the village. It is a very fitting and poignant way to mark the centenary. The placing of the boards outside houses in the village really brings home the significance of the losses ....”. The EHS Committee would just like to thank everyone that helped make the weekend a great success, Thank You!



## New - Brian Hart Elham Valley Railway Book



Many of our EHS members are Elham Valley Railway fans and will therefore know that Brian Hart has written many articles and books that cover the Elham Valley and in particular the Elham Valley Railway. His last book on the subject was published in 1984 and since then Brian has been collecting further photographs and research material to create another book, this time focusing on the effect that the railway had on the people, businesses and villages throughout the valley. The research has now been completed and publication is about to start, however as Brian hopes to self publish the new book he would like to gauge what interest there might be. The book has over 180 pages, some 300 illustrations and will be in hardback form. The likely cost is £35, so if you are interested please contact Brian by email to [b.hart@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:b.hart@mypostoffice.co.uk)

### 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](mailto:asladden@btinternet.co.uk) Andree Sladden

### New Email Address For Bulk Communications To Members

The EHS now has a new email account which will be used to send out bulk communications to members from the EHS Committee, the address is [ehscomms@elham.co.uk](mailto:ehscomms@elham.co.uk)

Please make sure it is added to your trusted email addresses and does not automatically go into your Junk/Spam email list.

We will still use and monitor the email address of [ehs@elham.co.uk](mailto:ehs@elham.co.uk) as our main address for enquiries, so please use that one in any replies or requests for information.

# Royal Greenwich Tall Ships Festival 2014

The Royal Greenwich Tall Ships Festival took place, starting with a race from Falmouth to the Isle of Wight, from 5th to 9th September and we were fortunate enough to be able to sail up, and down, the River Thames on the “Oosterschelde” - the largest restored Dutch sailing ship. She was originally a freight vessel, sailing along the coasts of northern Europe, the Mediterranean and North Africa, she has completed a round-the-world trip and is also a competitive racer, winning several races in her class.

Making such stately progress amongst all the other historic vessels, while sipping our wine and enjoying

the complimentary nibbles, was an amazing experience, like stepping back in time to a more leisurely era. Historic Greenwich Palace provided the perfect backdrop for this exciting event which was enjoyed by thousands of spectators.

These ships provide training and adventure for young people; at least 50% of the crew of each ship is aged between 15 and 25 and some have disabilities

which test their courage and determination. If you missed this year's amazing event you will have to wait until 2017 to see them, when the tall ships will race from Royal Greenwich across the Atlantic to the USA, finishing in Quebec City, Canada.



## Battle of Britain Memorial Tours

For some years both Derek Boughton and Bryan Badham have been honoured to welcome Battle of Britain pilots to Elham as part of the Battle of Britain Memorial Tours. Sadly one of the regular visitors Wing Commander Bob Foster died in August this year and as the number of Battle of Britain pilots is diminishing the memorial team have decided that this year will be the last year they run the tour.

The EHS committee thought it would be a good idea to share some pictures here as a tribute to these brave men, who enjoyed visiting the Elham Valley, this time in more peaceful circumstances.



Wing Commander Bob Foster in 1940



Wing Commander Bob Foster with Prince William in 2010



The Battle of Britain Memorial Tour in Elham 2012



The Battle of Britain Memorial Tour in Elham 2012



Flight Sergeant Bill Green, first dropped in to Elham in 1940 by parachute



Squadron Leader Tony Pickering, another frequent guest on the tours



Wing Commander Bob Foster with Hurricane R 4118, which he flew with No. 605 Squadron in the Battle of Britain

## Visit to Belmont House

A group of EHS members paid a super visit to Belmont House, near Painters Forstal, in August. The house is famous for its' magnificent collection of clocks – reputedly the finest private collection in England. But we didn't take the clock tour, instead we had a private tour of the house which is an unspoilt and distinctive example of the work of Samuel Wyatt, one of the most enterprising and progressive architects of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and is a good demonstration of his understated neoclassical style and the use of up-to-date building materials and techniques.

The house was built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and has been owned by successive Lords Harris who played a leading role in the development of the British Empire. We were delighted to see, apart from the clocks, the many mementoes of their careers overseas, and the beautifully decorated and furnished rooms.

The biggest surprise, however, was the stunning gardens and grounds which include a pinetum, a pleasure walk, a walled kitchen garden and a “mandala” which is a parterre that draws on Hindu and Buddhist art to reflect the Harris family's Indian connections. Even the weather was kind as we wandered past walls trained with a variety of fruit such as currents, apples, pears, cherries, figs, plumbs and peaches, not to forget the strawberries and raspberries.

They hold several workshops and events throughout the year, which give us an excuse to visit the house again.



2014

## Who is Who

### Chairman

Derek Boughton

### Vice Chairman

Bryan Badham

### Secretary

Andree Sladden

Cherry Cottage

New Road

Elham CT4 6TQ

asladden@btinternet.com

☎ 01303 840336

### Treasurer

Dilys Webb

### Membership Secretary

Moira Wiltshire

ehs@elham.co.uk

### Communications Co-ordinator

Wendy Badham

ehs@elham.co.uk

### Newsletter Editor

Dilys Webb

dilyswebb@btinternet.com

# Bygone Kent

The county's history magazine

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Shaftesbury House, Newton Road, Faversham, Kent ME13 8DZ

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[www.ehs.elham.co.uk](http://www.ehs.elham.co.uk) and [www.ehsdatabase.elham.co.uk](http://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](mailto: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/](http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/317708811602063/)