



# NEWSLETTER

2023, ISSUE 2

April 2023

## Editor's Notes

The latest Surrey Archaeological Collections mentions a house being demolished between the 1960s and the 1990s. This is just the most extreme of several similar examples in archaeological reports. This vagary amazes me. We can say that Ewell West station opened on 4 April 1859. If we dug out local newspapers we could probably find out what the weather was like and what the ladies wore at the opening ceremony. How we can be so exact about events over 160 years ago yet not about events that happened within our own lifetimes?

Personally, I blame the demise of the local newspaper. It used to be that a town of any pretensions would have a weekly local newspaper; a city might have a daily evening paper. There would be a local office to which people took birth, marriage and death announcements, and adverts for items to buy or sell. Reporters would go out to witness the openings of important buildings or the weddings of the families of local dignitaries.

But new technology in the early 1980s made it easier and cheaper to print a newspaper, so there arose new local newspapers funded by advertising, delivered for free to people's

(Continued under Membership Matters)

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## Lecture Diary

May 3rd                      Horton Cemetery : Kevin McDonnell

June 7th                     Buildings in Kingston : Ian West

July 5th                      Epsom's War Graves : Martin Olney

Meetings are normally held on the first Wednesday of each month at St. Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell, KT17 2AY.

Doors open 7.45 for 8pm start. Members free, visitors £4, includes refreshments.

## **What did the Romans ever do for us in Epsom & Ewell?: a talk by Richard Baker**

**Nikki Cowlard**

Richard Baker has always had an interest in history, having studied the subject at Cambridge University. He worked in Switzerland for many years, before retiring and returning to the UK. Now an Epsom resident, he has served as a Councillor in Stamford Ward, and currently runs a modern history group in the U3A.

The talk started with maps of Roman Britain and Britain's tribal areas, showing how areas in the south- east, west, and east were conquered, before the northern lands of the Brigantes became part of the Roman Empire in AD79. Britain was rich in resources such as tin, lead, silver, gold, wool and wheat, all in demand by the expanding Roman Empire. The Lowlands east of the Severn and south of the Trent were fertile lands, as today, and Britain was seen as an important military conquest. Julius Caesar "conquered" Britain in 55 BC & 54 BC and, whilst an annual tribute was agreed, no Roman troops were left to enforce Roman rule. Emperor Claudius invaded Britain in 43 AD, and as he had allies amongst the tribal leaders, this facilitated the conquest. As an aside, Caligula, the emperor prior to Claudius, apparently claimed a victory against Neptune and had his men collecting seashells a spoils of war.

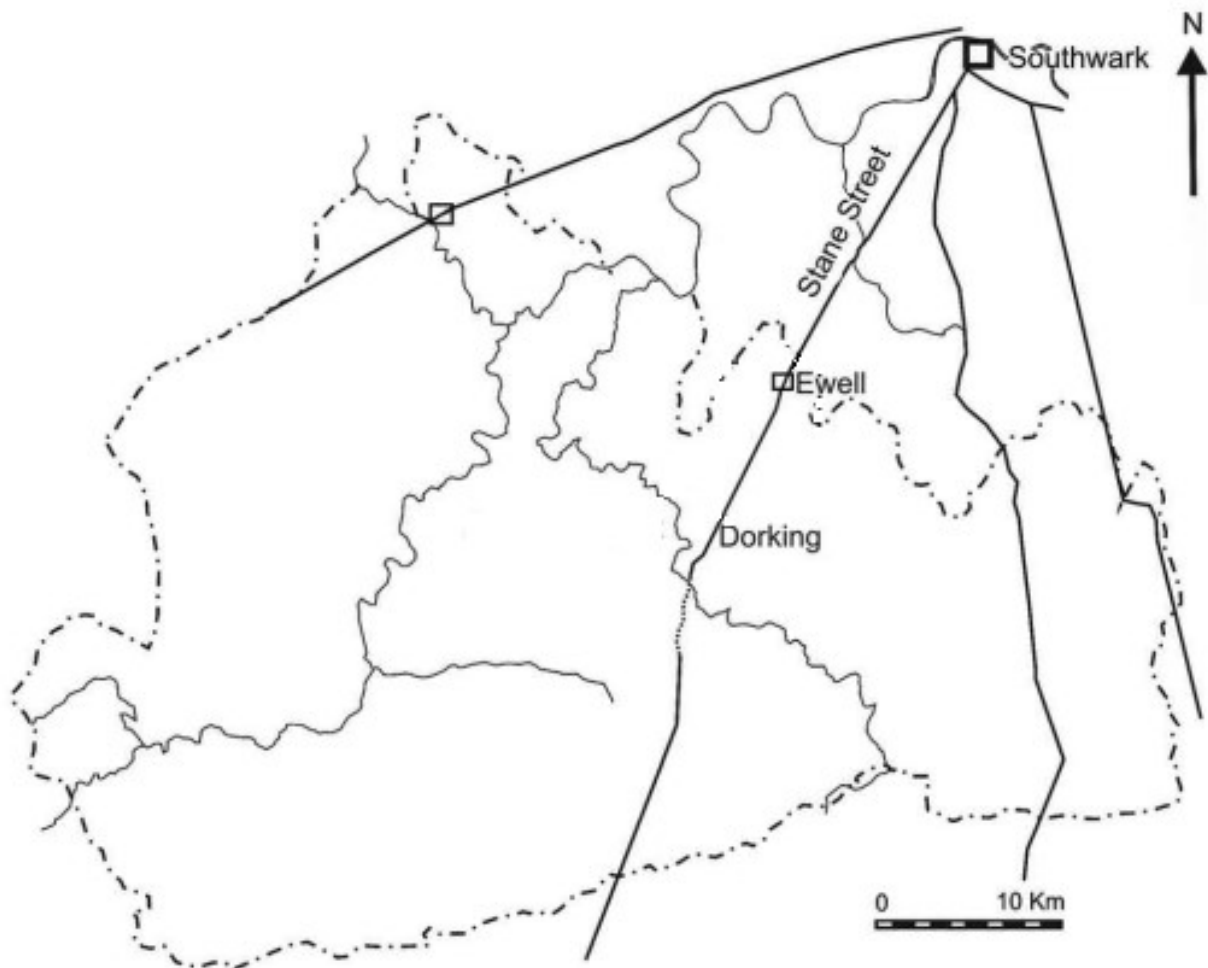
Hadrian, Emperor from 117 to 138, came to Britain in AD122 and ordered the construction of what is now known as Hadrian's Wall, which runs from Wallsend on the River Tyne in the east to Bowness-on-Solway in the west. It was built by legionaries and manned by auxiliary soldiers. Besides a defensive structure made to keep people out, the wall also kept people within the Roman province, enabling control over who and what was allowed in and out of the empire.

Septimius Severus (emperor AD193 -211) came to Britain in AD208 to subdue the parts of the island not under Roman rule, and died of infection in Eboracum (York). Britain became part of the Western Roman Empire in the latter half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD. Constantine was acclaimed Emperor in York in 306 AD showing Britain was not just a backwater but an important part of the Empire. Roman legions had left Britain by 409 AD to unsuccessfully shore up the Empire in Europe and, although British communities, having suffered badly from Saxon raids, appealed for help, this was rejected by the Emperor Honorius in 410 AD.

Having given a brief synopsis of Roman Britain, Richard then moved on to Stane Street, a Roman road running 56 miles from Londinium (London) to Noviomagnus (Chichester), which runs through the Borough of Epsom and Ewell. The road is thought to have been constructed between 50 and 70 AD and is likely to have been used to transport goods such as oil, wine, pottery, pig iron, timber, and tiles from Ashted tileworks.

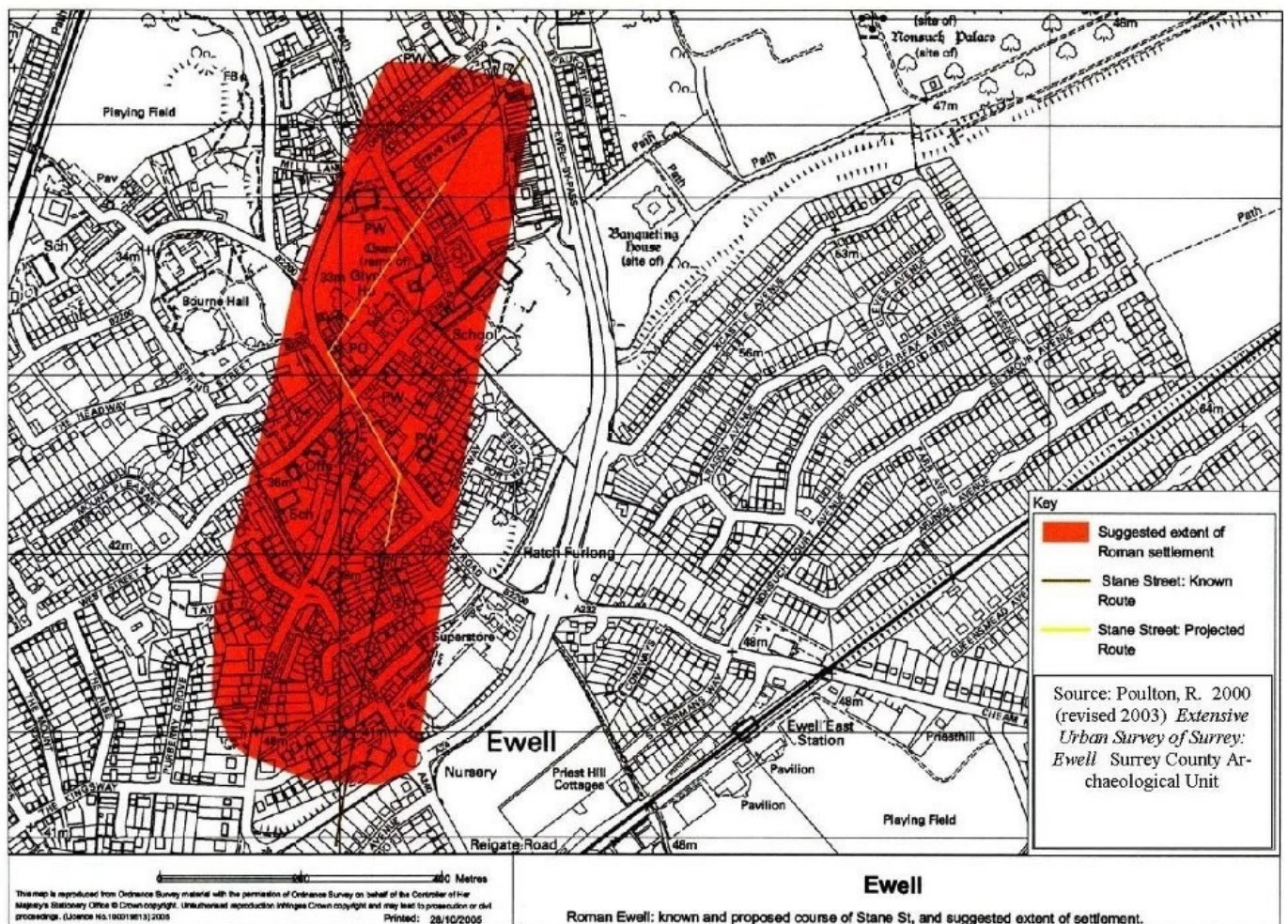
The construction of Stane Street usually consisted of a central agger (a raised embankment on which the upper road surface was laid), with parallel ditches. Although the width of the metalling varies, Stane Street averages 24 feet (7.4m) wide and was usually constructed of local materials, supplemented if necessary with imported stone. The metalling (usually about 30cm thick at the centre and having a pronounced camber) consisted of a base layer of sandy soil and gravel, a core layer of compacted large flints and stone, topped with a layer of compacted small flints and gravels. In a straight line with a deviation of only 6 miles over its route, it started at London Bridge and ran through Merton, Ewell, east of Leatherhead, Dorking, Alfodean and Pulborough to Chichester. In Chichester one can visit Fishbourne

Roman Palace, thought to have been built for Tiberius Claudius Cogidubnus, a pro-Roman local chieftain who was installed as king of a number of territories following the first stage of the conquest.



Route of Stane Street

Ewell, to which Stane Street runs in a direct line from London, is seen as a small roadside settlement, 6 hectares in area. It is a ribbon development with plots facing the road and the springs at the head of the Hogsmill River providing not only a source of water but also a focus for ritual activity, with deposition of votive offering into its depths; bodies of water are often seen as the entrance into another world. Roman pottery found in Ewell consists of a wide range of everyday and imported wares, and show Roman activity continuing here until at least the late 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. Stane Street enters Ewell along the London Road then crosses Church Street and continues through Ewell Village to Windmill Lane and via St Martin's Church, Ashley Road, and Woodcote Park to Thirty Acre Barn. Philip Pavey, a local writer has produced *Following Roman Stane Street on foot through Epsom and Ewell* (Copyright © Philip Pavey 2021) which can be found at on the EEHAS website at <https://www.epsomewellhistory.org.uk/NoticeBoard>.



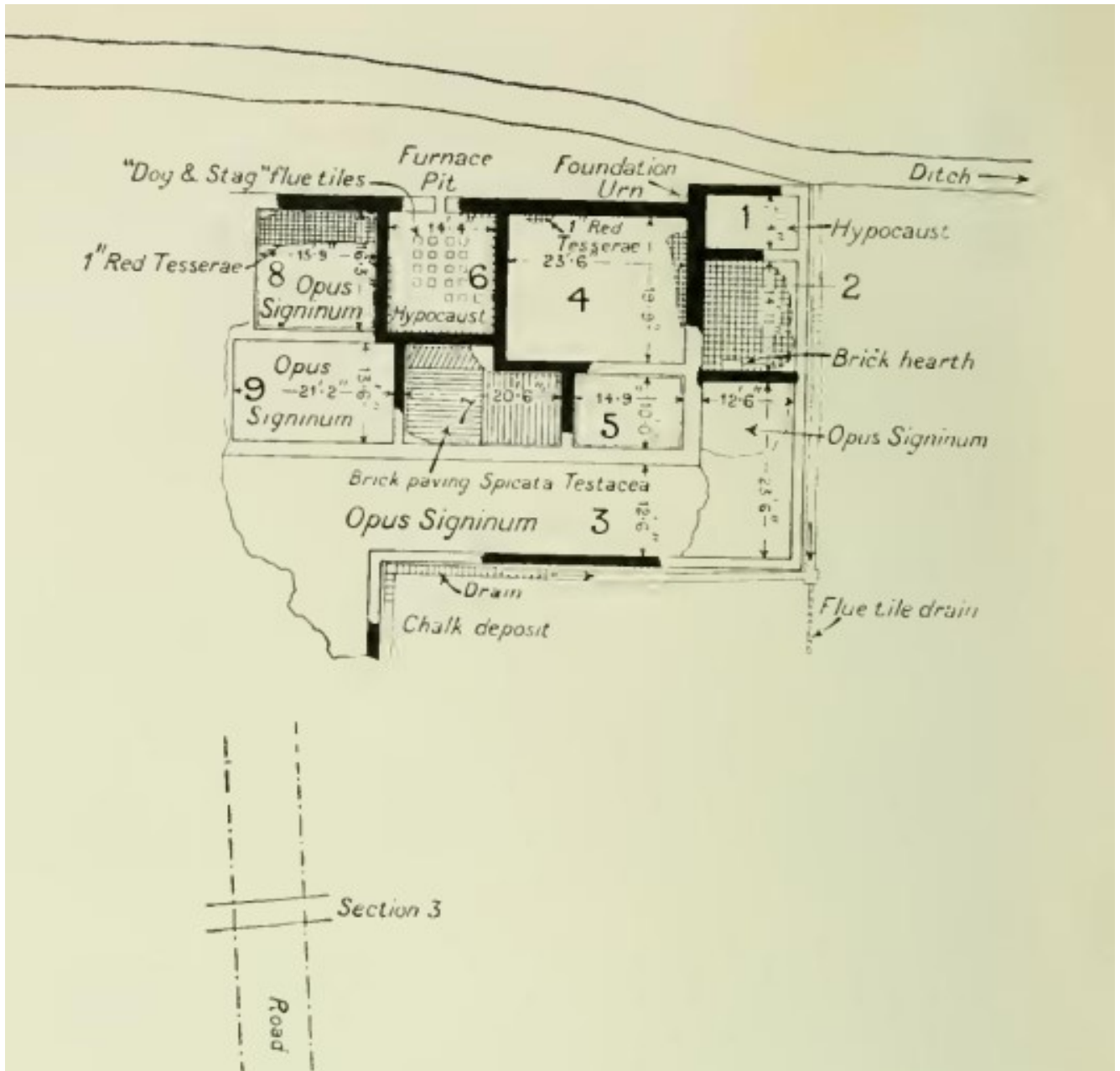
### Roman Ewell - Poulton

Walking regularly on Ashted Common Richard has become interested in Ashted Roman villa. Excavations since the 1920s have revealed evidence for a Roman villa built with flint foundations, painted plaster and a hypocaust heating system, as well as a separate bath house. Recent excavations have also revealed an earlier prototype villa, and have confirmed the adjacent scheduled earthworks as being Iron Age in origin. The villa is associated with a tileworks with evidence for tile kilns and clay pits. Archaeomagnetic dating has shown the excavated tile kiln was last fired between AD210-235. Tiles produced at Ashted have been found in London and as far away as Colchester. They are likely to have been transported via an access road about 2 miles to Stane Street, and from there onward to London.

In conclusion, Richard summed up what the Romans did for Epsom and Ewell, and its surrounds: a major road was built resulting in a roadside settlement at Ewell; a tile manufacturing industry was founded in Ashted, together with an associated villa and bath house; the road linked the area to both London and the coast; the area was opened up to continental trade and a wider market for its goods. Before the arrival of the Romans Britain was a group of disparate tribes, but under Roman influence they became part of a bigger enterprise, and a building block in the making of Britain (and its language) as we know it today.

If you would like to see the archaeological evidence for Stane Street's route through Epsom and Ewell see Alan Hall's paper 'The archaeological evidence for the route of Stane Street from Mickleham Downs to London Road, Ewell' in *Surrey Archaeological Collections*, **94**, 225–249, 2008

<https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/surreyac/contents.cfm?vol=94&CFID=62101&CFTOKEN=78BC2B43-E0D7-4D0C-94DAD2912DA73FD9>



Plan of Ashted Villa - Lowther

## Little Woodcote: A Late Bronze Age 'Treasure' in context : a talk by Jon Cotton

Jeff Cousins



General view across the site, looking north

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The finding of the hoard at Little Woodcote, by a local metal detectorist, was reported in 1993. This seemed quite altruistic as the Treasure Act didn't come into effect until 1996 (though see the final paragraph). The Treasure Act 1996's definition of treasure includes 'Any group of two or more metallic objects of any composition of prehistoric date that come from the same find'.

Bronze Age hoards are of two main types: 'wet' or 'dry'. An example of a wet hoard is swords thrown into a river. Occasionally items may be of gold. An example of a dry hoard is ingots in a pit; it is a moot point whether or not they were intended to be recovered.

The Late Bronze Age (LBA) had conventionally been dated as 1000-600BC, though recent research has since refined this. The Little Woodcote hoard dates to around 800BC, the peak time for the deposition of hoards in England, much of the content of which seems to have come from the continent.



Little Woodcote hoard laid out at the Museum of London

Until the Museum of London shut in December 2022, many of the finds from the hoard had been displayed there. Axes and rough ingots of copper predominated. The earliest item was a palstave (a sort of axe) from Brittany which predated the rest of the finds by 200-300 years. Many of the swords were of the 'carp's tongue' style, many of which are found in Brittany and SE England, and some in Normandy and East Anglia. Some of the axes were whole but much used, most were broken. The axes had all been broken in the same way, probably deliberately not accidentally as heating and repeated hitting would have been required. Some of the socketed axes were unusual in having hollow cavities behind the blade edge. There was a single socketed gouge – there seems to be some unwritten rule that each hoard must contain one and only one of these. The ingots were mostly fragmented, broken pieces of disk shapes, and probably of imported pure copper.

The hoard site was 1 km SE of the ring work at the site of Queen Mary's Hospital, in turn 4km or so south of Carshalton. The ring work seems to have been in a central location relative to a number of hoards. This is part of a broader pattern of LBA hoarding around the

wider Thames estuary, e.g. the major hoard found at Wennington in the London Borough of Havering in 2018.

There were 129 items in total, totalling 28 kg in weight. This makes it the largest extant LBA hoard from Surrey, and one of the biggest in Britain by number of items and weight. But in 2009 it was revealed that there had been a second hoard only 15m away that hadn't been declared. Who knows what else it may have contained?

## The Gadesdens of Ewell Castle - The Next Generation II

**Jeff Cousins**

*Augustus William and Emma's 4th-7th children:*

James Philip, born in 1850. He married his first cousin Dora (daughter of John Boulderson Barkworth and widow of H. J. Robinson Pease of Hesslewood near Hull) on 29 April 1894 at St. Margaret's Westminster. (The Pease family were merchants who lived at Hesslewood Hall, west of Hessle and now a hotel). He was living at Elham Hall, Lincoln in 1900 (when his father's will was proven). He cannot be found in the 1901 or 1911 censuses, but died on 20 June 1913, when said to be "of East Woodhay, Hampshire";

Florence Isabel, born in the first quarter of 1852 in Wandsworth district. She was married to Guilio Cowley Tyler-Smith (born c1849 at St. James, London) on 12 December 1878 at Ewell, by her uncle S. M. Barkworth. Her, and her bridesmaids' bouquets were by a new gardener, Mr. Scott, and described as "floral gems". She and her husband are listed in the 1881 census at Gloone House, Adelaide Road, Kingston, with two servants; in the 1891 census lodging at 11 Pelham Place, Seaford, Sussex – her husband was a tea merchant; not found in the 1901 census. Her husband died on 22 July 1909 at Links, Seaford, Sussex, aged 60. Florence soon married again, to Alfred William Craven (born in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 1850 in Camberwell) in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 1910 in Westminster district. He moved in with her, as the 1911 census lists them at The Links, Chyngton Road, Seaford, Sussex (as the name implies, near a golf course), with three servants. He was described as a tea broker. The 1921 census lists them at Avenue Lodge, Sutton Avenue, Seaford, Sussex, with four visitors (including a Barkworth relative) and two servants. He died in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 1925 in Eastbourne district, supposedly aged 76. She died in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 1939 in Surrey NW district, aged 87;

Augustus William, born in the second quarter of 1853 in Tooting Graveney. He married Louise Maud Hazelton (born in 1866 in Canterbury) in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 1883 in Marylebone district. It is believed that they spent much of the first 15 years of their married life in Australia. The 1901 census lists Augustus at Froxmere Court, Crowle, east of Worcester, with his wife and three servants but no children. The 1911 census lists Augustus and his wife at the Grand Hotel, Northumberland Avenue, Strand. She died on 8 May 1913 at Wilcroft, Hereford (supposedly aged 52). Augustus married again, to the much younger Clare Frances Mary Hopton (born on 25 February 1887 in Armagh, Ireland) in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 1918 in Ledbury district, Herefordshire. The 1921 census lists them at Homend, Stretton Grandison, Ledbury, Herefordshire, with six servants. He died in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 1937 in Ledbury district, Herefordshire (supposedly aged 82). Clare died in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1969 in Ledbury district, aged 82;

[Mary] Alma, born c1854 (the year of the Battle of Alma in the Crimea) in Tooting Graveney, known as Alma. She married her first cousin Harold Arthur Sandbach Barkworth (born c1854 in Beverley, Yorkshire, son of Harold William Locke Barkworth)



on 1 December 1881 at St. Martin-in-the-Fields. He had been commissioned in 1876, in 1882 he was a Lieutenant in the 1<sup>st</sup> Royal West Indian Regiment, in 1891 in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment at Gibraltar, in 1894 still with the Northamptonshire Regiment, but in 1902 he retired as a major from the Border Regiment. They had sons including Basil Gadesden (born in 1885, died in 1891), Julian Sandbach (born c1888, died in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1950 in Taunton district, Somerset), Humphrey Robertson (born c1891 in Paddington, killed on 3 July 1916 on the Somme) and Godfrey Egremont Boulderson (born on 6 September 1894 at 40 Cambridge Terrace, Hyde Park, Paddington). The 1901 census lists Alma at 11 Cargate Avenue, Aldershot, with her husband - a 'major in infantry', surviving sons and three servants. They cannot be found in the 1911 census. Harold died on 28 January 1917 in St. George Hanover Square district (i.e. Mayfair, supposedly aged 64). She cannot be found in the 1921 census, but died in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 1934 in Hastings district, Sussex, aged 80;

*8th-9th children Ellen Augusta and Edmund Henry to follow in the next instalment.*

## **Forthcoming Events**

### **Surrey Archaeological Society: Surrey Industrial History Group : A Journey along London's Lost Route to the Sea**

Thursday 13th April 2023 at 10:00am. Zoom talk by Simon Knapman.

### **Surrey Archaeological Society: Surrey Local History Committee : Conference : Music in Surrey**

Saturday 22nd April 2023 at 9:30am-3:30pm, Surrey History Centre 130, Goldsworth Road, Woking, Surrey, GU21 6ND.

### **Surbiton and District Historical Society: Surbiton Hill**

Tuesday 2nd May 2023 at 7pm for 7:30pm, The cornerHOUSE Arts Centre, 116 Douglas Rd, Surbiton, KT6 7SB. A talk by Janet Heski. £2 for visitors.

### **Surrey Archaeological Society: Roman Studies Group : Shining a Light on the disposal of the dead in Roman South-East England**

Sunday 21st May 2023 at 9:30am-5:00pm, Ashted Peace Memorial Hall, Woodfield Lane, Ashted, KT21 2BE.

### **Surbiton and District Historical Society: One Thames or Two**

Tuesday 6th June 2023 at 7pm for 7:30pm, The cornerHOUSE Arts Centre, 116 Douglas Rd, Surbiton, KT6 7SB. A talk by our President, Jon Cotton. £2 for visitors.

### **Surbiton and District Historical Society: Antiquaries and Collectors**

Tuesday 4th July 2023 at 7pm for 7:30pm, The cornerHOUSE Arts Centre, 116 Douglas Rd, Surbiton, KT6 7SB. A talk by Julian Pooley. £2 for visitors.

### **Surbiton and District Historical Society: The Archaeology of the Orpington Area**

Tuesday 1st August 2023 at 7pm for 7:30pm, The cornerHOUSE Arts Centre, 116 Douglas Rd, Surbiton, KT6 7SB. A talk by Michael Meekums. £2 for visitors.

**MEMBERSHIP MATTERS      Editor's Notes (continued):**

doors. What news content there was appeared to be largely derived from the previous week's paid-for local newspaper. This undermined the paid-for local newspapers, so when they closed the free local newspapers' 'news' was mostly limited to press releases from councils and companies, plus the odd item submitted by members of the public with particular bees in their bonnets. The free newspapers were already in decline - fewer and fewer roads had them delivered - by the time the internet became the normal place to advertise items for sale, in the early 2000s. These days the free newspapers usually have to be obtained from stands outside of estate agents. The Epsom Guardian ceased publication in 2018. Nominally there is still an Epsom newspaper, but apart from the cover being Epsom specific, the rest contains a set formula of an article for each of the south and south-west London boroughs.

**Members making payment of their subscription please note our change of bank details:**

Metro Bank (Epsom Branch), One Southampton Row, London, WC1B 5HA

Epsom and Ewell History and Archaeology Society

Sort code 23-05-80                      Account no 44508680

Please make sure you use your surname as the reference.

Standing Order members must remember to cancel their payment to the former bank HSBC.

Members who pay by standing order can get a form from the Membership Secretary, details on back page.

**We welcome the following new members:**

Mr P Stanley, Monty Williams, Patricia Macrae and family.

**2023 Subscriptions**

Members are reminded that subscriptions for 2023 became due on 1st January. Subscriptions can be paid at the monthly meetings, or by post to the Treasurer, Jane Pedler, or the Membership Secretary, Doreen Tilbury. Subs are £15 for ordinary membership, £22 for family membership, £6 for student, or £22 for corporate and school memberships. If payment is by cash please bring along the correct money. A slip is provided below:

**2023 Subscriptions**

I (we) wish to renew membership for 2023    Amount enclosed.....

Name and address.....

.....

.....

E-mail address.....

*Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society*  
*Founded 1960 Registered Charity No. 259221*

**Useful contact details**

**To contact any of the committee please e-mail [epsomewellhistory@btinternet.com](mailto:epsomewellhistory@btinternet.com)**

**President:** Jon Cotton MA, FSA

**Chairman:** Vacant

**Secretary:** Nikki Cowlard, 1 Norman Avenue, Epsom KT17 3AB (01372) 745432

**Treasurer:** Jane Pedler

**Archaeology Officer:** Frank Pemberton

**Conservation Officer:** David Hartley

**Membership Secretary:** Doreen Tilbury, 31 West Hill Avenue, Epsom KT19 8LE  
(01372) 721289

**Newsletter Editor:** Jeff Cousins

**Programme Secretary:** Hugh Ricketts

**Visit our website**

**[www.epsomewellhistory.org.uk](http://www.epsomewellhistory.org.uk)**

**Gift Aid**

Just a further reminder that if you pay tax EEHAS, as a charity, can claim Gift Aid on your subscription or donations, at no cost to yourself. In order for us to do this you need to sign a Gift Aid Declaration form which is available at meetings and can also be found on the Society website on the Membership page.

You can see a colour copy of this newsletter on the Society website from mid April  
**[www.epsomewellhistory.org.uk](http://www.epsomewellhistory.org.uk)**

# Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society



## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 8p.m. on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 at Ewell Hall, Ewell

### Present:

President	Jon Cotton
Vice-President	Frank Pemberton
Secretary	Nikki Cowlard

A total of 23 members attended.

The President welcomed members to the meeting.

**1. Apologies for absence:** Elizabeth Bennett, Joanne Downs, Nick Lock, Jane Pedler, Ian West.

### **2. Minutes of the AGM held on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

The minutes had been circulated with the May 2022 newsletter. Adoption of the minutes was agreed unanimously by members present.

### **3. Matters arising from the Minutes not otherwise covered in the agenda**

A suggestion by Paul Lang to hold a memorial lecture for Steve Nelson has been actioned by the committee. This will take place next month with Lyn Blackmore and Clive Orton talking on medieval and post medieval pottery.

### **4. Annual report for 2022**

The report had been circulated with the February 2023 Newsletter. Nikki Cowlard reported that membership remained fairly stable, but that it was difficult to attract younger members. This is a situation common amongst local societies generally. Talks are well attended but members are less willing to take on roles within the Society. However, Hugh Ricketts has taken on the role of Talks Coordinator, which is a welcome development.

The website continues to be updated and content expanded. When the provider changed from Moonfruit to Yell, and the website content migrated, all links were deleted. Hopefully they have now all been reinstated; members were asked to suggest content they would like to see on the website. Whilst no papers had been published in 2022 work had been continuing to bring to publication two papers by the late Steve Nelson, one on the 1962-5 Bourne Hall excavations and one on an early 18th Century pit group from South Street, Epsom excavated in 1981.

Planning applications continue to be scrutinised and commented on if necessary, and members were asked to contact the Conservation Officer with any concerns about the Borough's historic buildings or conservation areas. The Society works closely with Jeremy Harte at Bourne Hall Museum, and Jeremy was thanked for his support.

Nikki continued by thanking Jeff Cousins for his work editing the newsletters and to Doreen for their distribution. Members were encouraged to contribute articles of interest.

Frank Pemberton reported on progress on archaeological matters over the last year. He has worked hard to complete a number of reports pertaining to past excavations in which

he was involved, in St. Mary's Meadow (Church Meadow). They illuminate aspects of life in Roman Ewell, and will be offered for sale to members when they are published. He, Phil Stanley (a pottery expert) and David Hartley have been working on Steve Nelson's report on the Bourne Hall excavations, which will be published by the Society in due course. Jeremy Harte is hoping that it will be published in time for the relaunch of Bourne Hall on 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> May. Frank concluded by inviting members to get involved in finds processing.

The President thanked Frank for his commitment and hard work, and that of his colleagues, Phil Stanley and David Hartley. Jon reported that Geraldine Missig, a bone specialist, has produced a report on eight dog skulls and a cat skull found in the 18<sup>th</sup> century pit in South Street, Epsom, which is the subject of Steve Nelson's forthcoming paper. She has found a large amount of damage to the dog skulls which suggests they were fighting dogs. One hypothesis is that the pit may be the result of a Gentlemen's Club being disbanded, as the pit also included a large number of clay pipes, glass bottles and pottery, as well as the bones. Jon also thanked Ian West on whom we rely for advice on old buildings and building recording.

Members have been sent a link to the Borough Council's consultation on its Draft Local Plan, and they were encouraged to make their views felt via the online link. Angela Clifford said there were paper copies at Bourne Hall and Epsom libraries, and there is also a copy available at the Town Hall. Jeremy Harte suggested that the committee might like to send out suggestions on what should be commented on, before the deadline of 19<sup>th</sup> March. Jon again thanked Jeff and Doreen for the excellent newsletters and their distribution, and encouraged members to contribute articles.

Adoption of the Annual Report was proposed by Jeremy Harte, seconded by Gay Keeble and accepted unanimously.

## **5. Treasurer's report**

In the absence of the Treasurer her report was read out to the meeting:

'Firstly my apologies for not being able to present my report in person but as part of my duties as Master of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers for 2023 I am giving a talk this evening to the St Alban's Clock Club!!

This year has been more stable than 2021 although it has taken time for the events and income to catch up with Covid and its fall-out. The accounts have once again been prepared and examined by Rod Clarke to whom many thanks. You all had these in the Newsletter and also his report which gives us a clean bill of health.

The changeover over to Metro Bank in March 2022 was not trouble free and took longer than expected but we are at last there and the account is working reasonably well apart from the odd hiccup. The bank charges of £25.60 raised by HSBC at the beginning of this year will not be repeated I am glad to say! Many thanks to all those who changed their Standing Order details, and took out new ones. There were a few who forgot but HSBC did transfer the income as promised, albeit to the wrong account (CME instead of Society!) Luckily transferring it is now a simple manoeuvre.

The loss this year is larger than 2021 but if you take out the donations received in memory of Steve Nelson in that year it is actually a 50% DROP in loss this year which is not so bad. However, we need to bear this in mind when planning the future. Although lectures have started up again with consequent rise in income the downside is that we are paying hall hire charges again!

My final comment on expenditure is that the Newsletters keep coming thanks to Jeff Cousins, but this is a vital part of our membership communications so well worth the cost.

There was no Gift Aid receipt this year as I rolled 2021 and 2022 together and claimed in January 2023. However I can report that we received £206.46 in early February 2023 which will obviously appear in next year's accounts.

You will note there are again no figures for the CME this year. As they are a separate entity from the society accounts plus there has been no movement in the account (other than the bank charges) this year they have been omitted to avoid confusion.

Finally if anyone has any further questions please let me have them so I can answer them individually. Either by telephone on 0208 394 0511 or email [jane.pedler1@btinternet.com](mailto:jane.pedler1@btinternet.com).

Adoption of the Treasurer's Report was proposed by Mike Teasdale, seconded by Jeff Cousins and accepted unanimously.

## 6. Election of Officers

The following were unanimously elected en bloc, being proposed by Rod Clarke and seconded by Derek Yeo:

<b>President</b>	Jonathan Cotton
<b>Vice-Presidents</b>	Frank Pemberton
<b>Secretary</b>	Nikki Cowlard
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jane Pedler
<b>Committee Members</b>	Jeff Cousins, David Hartley, Doreen Tilbury

**Independent examiner** Rod Clarke was also elected unanimously, being proposed by David Hartley and seconded by Rosemary Burleigh.

## 7. Open Forum

No written questions had been submitted but the President asked members whether the talks offered had been of interest. Charles Blencowe's talk on the Cold War had been particularly enjoyed and it was hoped that he would return for another talk this year.

## 8. Any other business

There was a comment from the floor that expenses were increasing and should the membership fee be increased? The Secretary said that the fee was similar to other local societies and increasing it may mean that we lose members. We already charge visitors £4 which is above average, but this is hoped to make an annual membership look more attractive. The committee will look at ways of possibly reducing costs. Options might include reducing printing and postage costs by offering an e-newsletter, or reducing the number of meetings, thus reducing hall and speaker fees. Frank Pemberton said that in the past speakers had not expected a fee, but the Secretary said that nowadays a donation to a charity, or compensation for planning a talk focused around members' interests, was expected. Sadly there are fewer speakers giving reciprocal talks between societies.

## 9. Close of Meeting – there being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.33 p.m.

NC 2.3.2023