



NEWSLETTER

2023, ISSUE 1

February 2023

Secretary's Notes

We are now a month in to the New Year and starting our new season of talks. We were lucky enough to have a member, Hugh Ricketts, volunteer to coordinate the talks programme, but he needs your help in identifying possible speakers. If you are willing to give a talk, know someone who would be happy to talk on a relevant subject, or have heard a good talk elsewhere please let Hugh know.

We were sad to hear of the dissolution of Kington upon Thames Archaeological Society in July 2022. It was formed in 1969 and had carried out rescue excavations, building recording and instigated, or contributed to, several important projects. KuTAS and EEHAS shared similar aims, objectives and indeed members. KuTAS could no longer carry on because vacant positions on the committee could not be filled; this is a problem EEHAS and many other societies are wrestling with, and unless we have a more active membership we may end up going the same way. However, things are not 'doom and gloom' - we have a new talks co-ordinator, more volunteers have come forward to help with refreshments, and the Society has supported a young DofE volunteer in improving access to WWII defences at Manor Park. Our comments on planning applications continue to

(Continued under Membership Matters)

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Lecture Diary

March 1st	AGM and talk : Little Woodcote: A Late Bronze Age 'Treasure' in context : President, Jon Cotton
April 5th	Steve Nelson Memorial Lecture: Rhenish influences on earthenware and stoneware production in England : Lyn Blackmore
May 3rd	TBA

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.

10 000 years of Brentford: The early years of a riverside town : a talk by Jon Cotton

Jeff Cousins

Our President Jon Cotton presented this talk on November 2nd. Jon had worked in Brentford for most of the 1980s.

Roy Canham had run the field office of the London Museum (subsequently part of the Museum of London) from 1966, and dug several sites in Brentford. When he left in 1974, he published these sites in '2000 Years of Brentford', though it actually covered a far longer period.

Brentford lies where the River Brent meets the Thames.



Brentford from the air

Famous inhabitants included Pocohontas and a young J M W Turner. Turner often painted the Thames. More recently Robert Rankin, comedy fantasy author, grew up in Brentford and most of his novels are set there.

The 'Brentford Road' approximately follows to the main Roman road from London to Silchester. An early channel of the Thames, dubbed the Syon Channel, flowed through Syon Park, and was turned into lake when the park was landscaped by 'Capability' Brown. Pollen samples show that 10 000 years ago the area was wooded. Many flint tools dating to the

Mesolithic have been found across the area, and some of the best flint tools had been offered to the Thames.

Local collector Thomas Layton acquired many of the finds from 1850 till his death in 1911. His . When his house was demolished in the 2000s a pit containing an Early Neolithic bowl was found on the site. Possibly the site had been within a causewayed enclosure. During the building of Kew Bridge in 1901 collection grew and grew until his back garden was full of 31 sheds containing tea chests of finds-03 flint, pots and skulls were found.

The Bronze Age brought big changes, much of the land in west London being re-organised into hedged and ditched fields. Midstream islands became popular for settlement. Syon Park was effectively an island between the above mentioned Syon Channel and the Thames, and the downstream end, known as Old England, was a likely settlement site. Smaller islands in the Thames, known as aits, have produced early finds. At Brentford Ait a spearhead and sword were found.

Julius Caesar made an opposed crossing of the Thames in 54 BC. Many places have been claimed as the crossing point, but Brentford has one of the better claims, and indeed this claim appears on an obelisk.



The Brentford obelisk outside of the County Court, High Street

The modern road has diverged somewhat from the course of the Roman road, and remains of the latter have been found in several back gardens. The road was initially 4-6m wide but was widened to 10-12m. The traffic soon attracted roadside buildings.

When '2000 years of Brentford' was published it was thought that Roman Brentford was limited to the area east of the Brent known as 'Old Brentford'. More recent excavations, such as on the site of the Hilton London Syon Park Hotel in the 2000s, have shown that Roman Brentford had extended west of the Brent into 'New Brentford'. There may have been a mile-long ribbon development. Three burials were found out in the fields, implying that Roman Brentford was not populous enough to require formal cemeteries though.



BRE82, watching briefly as the Romano-British road disappears

The Cold War and its relevance today : a talk by Charles Blencowe

Jeff Cousins

Charles Blencowe, Head of History & Classics at Ewell Castle School, presented this talk on December 7th. Afterwards members enjoyed mince pies and various nibbles.

Charles studied History at Goldsmith's College, and served in the Army in Berlin during the 'Cold War', at one point guarding Rudolph Hess.

Russia has been driven by two factors: wanting access to a warm water port to its south as its own ports were often ice bound, and, having been invaded by both Napoleon and Hitler, wanting buffer states to its west to protect it. In 1943 Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill met in Tehran, and again in 1945 at Yalta in the Crimea. Stalin was promised a 'sphere of influence' in eastern Europe. Roosevelt was ill though and died not long after, to be superseded by Truman. Later in 1945 Stalin, Truman and Churchill met at Potsdam outside of Berlin; Churchill being replaced by Attlee mid-conference. Truman distrusted Stalin and did not tell him about the development of the atomic bomb, Stalin took umbrage at this and became increasingly paranoid. The 'Truman Doctrine' aimed to oppose any further spread of communism.

Stalin blockaded West Berlin in 1948, but the western Allies supplied it in the 'Berlin Airlift' and the next year the USSR gave up its blockade. The Korean War was fought in 1950-53 between the Soviet-backed North Korea and the American-backed South Korea. Stalin died in 1953 and was superseded by Khrushchev. The Hungarian Uprising in 1956 was brutally suppressed by the Soviets without the West intervening.

Until 1961 East Germans were still free to cross the borders, and up to 20 000 were defecting to the West each month. The eastern European communists were in many ways more zealous than the Russians, the Russians not caring too much about the details of how the eastern European countries were run as long as they didn't step too far out of line. The Berlin Wall was built by the Soviets in 1961 at the East German government's request.

The Cuban Revolution, led by Castro, had overthrown a rather bad pro-American government. In 1961 J F Kennedy became the American President and supported an attempt to overthrow Castro by an invasion at the Bay of Pigs. It was too feeble to be successful, made Kennedy look weak, and drove the Cubans closer to the Soviet Union. In 1962 the USSR started installing missiles in Cuba, within easy reach of the USA. After coming close to nuclear war, the Soviets withdrew their missiles from Cuba and the Americans promised not to invade Cuba again.

After this, primarily 1972-89, there was a period of relative peace known as 'Détente'.

Brezhnev died in 1982 and his successors were elderly and not very well. Meanwhile the US was becoming more assertive, Reagan (President 1981-89) supported any force which claimed to be anti-communist, however unsavoury they may be, and invaded Grenada in 1983. Gorbachev came to power in 1985, he was a communist but advocated some reform. The 1986 explosion at Chernobyl and the Soviet withdrawal in 1988 from a failed occupation of Afghanistan were signs of decline. The Berlin Wall came down in 1989 and Soviet troops were withdrawn from Eastern Europe during 1990-94. The Soviet Union broke up in 1991 into its constituent republics. Chechnya, a region within Russia, wanted independence too and Russia fought a long and vicious campaign to prevent this. A few Russian oligarchs became very rich, but for most ordinary Russians life became much less secure.

Russia wanted the Baltic States, Belarus and Ukraine to become its new buffer zone. Russia promised to respect these countries' rights, and thought that it had been promised in return that NATO wouldn't expand eastwards. In 2014 Russia invaded the Crimean part of the Ukraine. The West's response to this was weak, the West's withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021 was shambolic, so Putin thought that he could get away with invading the rest of the Ukraine.

32 High Street Ewell

Ian J. West

Work started after Christmas on the conversion of 32 High Street, Ewell into flats with a small office/shop on the ground floor. Nikki Cowlard visited the site and was permitted access to record any structures uncovered during the initial clearance of the building. It appeared that the interior had been in a very poor state of repair before current work commenced. The owner is amenable to further comment/advice from the Society and it hoped to take advantage of this, as work progresses.



The building and the adjoining No.34 were built by Henry Kitchen (IV) in the late C18th. His son the architect Henry Kitchen (V) designed Ewell Castle and The Turrets (part of the Bourne Hall estate, demolished infelicitously in 1967). In the late C18th Henry Kitchen (IV) extended and converted a C17th house to form 6 and 8 Church St. Ewell, refurbished 4 Church St. and erected No. 2. All these buildings are timber framed, with Mathematical Tiles on the front elevation. 26 High St. was refurbished c.1790, using Mathematical Tiles on the façade; work also probably undertaken by Henry Kitchen (IV). 2 Church St. and 32/34 High St., which were new builds, incorporate mansard roofs. Unfortunately the Mathematical Tiles were removed by Lloyds Bank from No. 34 and replaced by render, while



on No.32 the Mathematical Tiles have been painted.

Mathematical Tiles were an early C18th innovation and were often used to re-front older buildings (e.g. 4 Church St.) or to provide the appearance of a brick façade on new timber-framed buildings (e.g. 2 Church St.). It is often claimed erroneously that Mathematical Tiles were used to avoid the 'Brick Tax' introduced in 1784. However, the oldest recorded tile is dated 1724, 60 years before the enactment of the tax. In fact Mathematical Tiles were more highly taxed at 3s per 1000, whilst bricks were taxed and 2s 6d per 1000. The tax on tiles remained until 1833, while bricks remained taxed until 1850.

There are 17 locations in Epsom and Ewell where Mathematical Tiles are recorded, which is almost half of those recorded in Surrey. Sadly, when 32 High St. was 'listed', the front was described as 'brick', though damage to the front right-hand corner of the property clearly shows the use of Mathematical Tiles. I first noted this use of tiles on the building in the mid-1970s, on examining the exposed end of the return wall. Although the Council was informed of the use of Mathematical Tiles when the Planning Application for the current works was submitted, no provision was included in the Planning Permission for the repair or preservation of these important features. They have added significance, since we know the name of the builder. His extensive use of Mathematical Tiles in Ewell has made it the most important location for such tiles in Surrey.

Ian J. West. Jan. 2023

Forthcoming Events

Surbiton and District Historical Society: Cleaveland Rd., Surbiton

Tuesday 7th February 2023 at 7pm for 7:30pm, The cornerHOUSE Arts Centre, 116 Douglas Rd, Surbiton, KT6 7SB. A talk by Mr Bob Phillips. £2 for visitors.

Surrey Archaeological Society: Roman Studies Group : 2022 excavations at Cocks Farm Abinger

Tuesday 7th February 2023 at 7:30pm. Zoom talk by Emma Corke.

Surrey Archaeological Society: Surrey Industrial History Group : Croydon—A Model Airport (1916-28)

Thursday 16th February 2023 at 10:00am. Zoom talk by Roger Potten.

Surrey Archaeological Society: Surrey Industrial History Group : Bringing Back the Brighton Belle

Thursday 2nd March 2023 at 10:00am. Zoom talk by Stuart Wilkinson.

Surbiton and District Historical Society: AGM and talk : Tall Tales: Local Historical Trees

Tuesday 7th March 2023 at 7pm for 7:30pm, The cornerHOUSE Arts Centre, 116 Douglas Rd, Surbiton, KT6 7SB. A talk by Mrs Susan Rhodes. £2 for visitors.

Surrey Archaeological Society: Roman Studies Group : Roman Coins used in Britain

Tuesday 7th March 2023 at 7:30pm. Zoom talk by Dr. David Rudling.

Surrey Archaeological Society: Surrey Industrial History Group : The Voyage South

Thursday 16th March 2023 at 10:00am. Zoom talk about cargo and ocean liners by Richard Mellors.

Surrey Archaeological Society: Surrey Annual Symposium

Saturday 18th March 2023 at 10:00am-5pm, Ashted Peace Memorial Hall, Woodfield Lane, Ashted, KT21 2BE.

Surrey Archaeological Society: Surrey Industrial History Group : Farnborough Air Sciences Trust

Thursday 30th March 2023 at 10:00am. Zoom talk about Farnborough's aviation history by Graham Rood.

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

result in archaeological monitoring and building recording, all of which help preserve/record our local heritage.

As a Society, and as residents of Epsom and Ewell, we are most fortunate in having a Borough museum. Bourne Hall Museum and the Society are mutually beneficial, and members who carry out research are encouraged to use the museum's resources. For example, the finds from Church Meadow 2012-14 are being stored at the museum during post-excavation work and once published, will be accessioned into the permanent collections. The Curator, Jeremy Harte, and David Brook, Museum Assistant, are a great source of local knowledge and are happy to answer queries or set you on the right path. Why not make it a New Year's resolution to visit the museum - it has many interesting permanent displays and regular exhibitions, something for everyone. We also benefit from having the Epsom and Ewell History Explorer <https://eehe.org.uk/> which is a fantastic online resource. Much of the information of our Documentary Group has been made widely available through this website. If you want to understand more about the role of the Documentary Group, which was active from 1968 until 2009, go to <https://www.epsomewellhistory.org.uk/OnlineHeritage>.

If you have time on your hands why not try out the new Surrey Archaeological Society YouTube Channel, where you can catch up on a variety of history and archaeology themed videos. They can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/@surreyarchaeologicalsociety7344/featured>

Finally, we would like to congratulate Frank Pemberton, our Archaeology Officer, on celebrating his 80th birthday last month. He has been involved in archaeology in Ewell since the 1960s, has dug on many of the key sites and has written many reports to disseminate the results. He is currently working to publish excavations in the Churchyard

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

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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
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Newsletter Editor: Jeff Cousins

Programme Secretary: Hugh Ricketts

Please send copy for the next newsletter to the Newsletter Editor by 12 March 2023.

Visit our website

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 February
www.epsomewellhistory.org.uk

Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society

Annual Report for 2022



INTRODUCTION

This annual report highlights the main activities of the Society for the year ending 31st December 2022. The well-being of the Society owes a great deal to the hard work of a core group of members, and we thank them for this.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

The principal officers and committee members during the year were:

President	Jonathan Cotton
Vice President	Frank Pemberton
Chairman	vacant
Secretary	Nikki Cowlard
Treasurer	Jane Pedler
Committee	Rosemary Burleigh, Jeff Cousins, David Hartley, Doreen Tilbury and Ian West.

The Committee held six meetings during the year, all via Zoom.

Other functionaries are:

Archaeology Officer	Frank Pemberton	Conservation Officer	David Hartley
Membership Secretary	Doreen Tilbury	Newsletter Editor	Jeff Cousins
Programme Secretary	Hugh Ricketts	Publicity Officer	Vacant

MEMBERSHIP

Memberships at the end of the year in terms of subscriptions paid were 52 (=) ordinary and 16 (-1) family. There were a total of 68 subscriptions and the Society has 5 honorary members. The gradual decline in membership continues, and this combined with reduced involvement by existing members has implications for how the Society can function going forward.

LIAISON WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

EEHAS is affiliated to Surrey Archaeological Society, Surrey Record Society and the Council for British Archaeology. E-newsletters are exchanged with neighbouring local history societies. Some of our members have individual membership of Surrey Archaeological Society: our President, Jonathan Cotton is a Vice-President of the Society; Nikki Cowlard, our Secretary, was President (until November 2022) and also Secretary of the Roman Studies Group; David Hartley is active in SyAS' Medieval Studies Group. Several members are also members of other local archaeological and historical societies such as Esher History Society, and Surbiton and District Historical Society.

PUBLICITY

Thanks go to Nikki Cowlard for running the website and Facebook page.

PUBLICATIONS

The Society has not published any Occasional Paper this year. However, members of the committee have been working on preparing archaeological reports for publication. It is the intention of the committee to ensure that outstanding reports by the late Steve Nelson are brought to publication.

Members are encouraged to carry out local historic research and to approach the committee if they have papers for publication.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Report 2022

Frank Pemberton, Archaeology Officer

Roman Ewell reports.

The start of the year saw the completion of the back reports covering excavations in Ewell between 1977 - 2003. I hope to make available at the AGM, pre-publication versions of these reports for members to see.

Bourne Hall excavation report.

This is a work-in-progress report.

The excavation was run under the aegis of the Nonsuch and Ewell Antiquarian Society from 1962-65 (now EEHAS), directed by Norman Nail working jointly with Martin Morris, during the months up to the building of the current Bourne Hall.

The key Roman features on the site were a flat bottom-cut ditch on a north/south alignment traced to a length of 55m, overlooking the lake to the east, and a second ditch on an east/west alignment. Near the enclosed area was a cremation burial with a ring-necked flagon with a hole in its base, dated AD 50-160. Quantification of the Roman pottery found on the site and around the ditch has been led by Phil Stanley, and shows phasing of an Early Roman period AD 50-160 and AD 250-400 date range, a common date found elsewhere in Ewell.

The Medieval and Post-Medieval phase consists of a well and the packed chalk 'cellar' floor. The analysis of these structures and finds was initially undertaken by the late Steve Nelson, David Hartley, and their colleagues. The chalk-lined well had 12 courses with its base at a depth of 5 meters. The backfill or closure deposited artefacts include a wood cheese or butter mould, square-toed shoes of different sizes and designs, a wooden water bucket, a Cheam ware jug, and the block and wheel of the water pulley lifting gear of the well. Taking all these objects together a date range of 1450-1550 is arrived at.

The demolition of the cellar floor revealed some red and yellow glazed encaustic tiled probably robbed from the Medieval Merton Abbey.

CONSERVATION

The Society's Conservation Officer checks the Borough's planning applications regularly to highlight applications which affect listed buildings, locally listed buildings and buildings of interest within conservation areas. The Officer also respond to concerns from members about conservation issues that affect the community.

As always there is pressure on built-up areas for development, whether in back gardens, knocking down buildings and redeveloping, or on brown-field or green-field sites. Whilst we cannot stop future development in our neighbourhoods we can all help reduce the negative impact by voicing our concerns and ensuring that the development that goes ahead is appropriate for its surroundings and respects our historic buildings and environs.

The Committee has liaised with the Council Planning Heritage Officer to raise issues of concern related to nationally or locally-listed buildings. Planning applications or conservation issues which we have discussed, commented on or viewed in 2022 include: 32 High Street, Ewell; 54 High Street, Ewell; 24-28 West Street, Epsom; 14 Chalk Lane, Epsom; Redroofs, Ewell House Grove, Ewell; Ewell Castle School; 65 London Road Ewell; 9 Copse Edge Avenue, Epsom; Priest Hill Sports Pavilion, Reigate Road, Ewell; Former Police Station, Church Street, Epsom; Hylands House 73 Dorking Road, Epsom.

We are fortunate to have the expertise of Ian West in recording buildings at risk, and to feed appropriately into planning applications.

We rely on you to let us know of any concerns you have about local buildings - we need 'eyes and ears' around the Borough to make sure problems are picked up and highlighted. You can contact us by phone, e-mail or post via the Secretary.

BOURNE HALL MUSEUM

Members of EEHAS continue to support the Museum when circumstances allow, and Jeremy Harte, the Museum's curator, aids members' work on historical and archaeological archives.

LECTURE PROGRAMME

Due to a necessary postponement of the March AGM meeting and talk to April, ten monthly talks were held in 2022. Meetings were well attended, and enjoyed by participating members. The subjects were as follows: Down Memory Lane: Some Ewell Street-Names and Their History (Jeremy Harte); The Horton Light Railway (Stewart Cocker); Springs and Waterways of Carshalton (Peter Wakeham); Bentalls: Kingston's department store since 1867 (Carolynne Cotton); Nonsuch Park (John Phillips); The Calico People of the Wandle (Mick Taylor); the Portable Antiquities Scheme and the Treasure Act (Dr. Simon Maslin); Variolation in Ewell (Dr. Alicia Grant); 10,000 Years of Brentford: the early history of a riverside town (Jon Cotton); The Cold War (Charles Blencowe). The Mayor of Epsom and Ewell, Councillor Clive Woodbridge attended the October meeting with the Mayoress, Mrs Mary Woodbridge.

NEWSLETTERS

Five newsletters were produced in 2022, edited by Jeff Cousins and for this we thank him. Newsletters were printed and distributed at the meetings, by hand delivery or by post. They were also published on the website with colour photographs. Articles that have appeared in the year's newsletters include: Surrey Folklore; Obituary for Martin Morris 1942 – 2021; Welcome to Coriovallum; Down Memory Lane: a journey through street names; Not War Memorials; The Horton Light Railway; The Springs & Waterways of Carshalton; The WW2 Manor Park Anti-Tank Defences; Bentalls: The Kingston department store since 1867; The Portable Antiquities Scheme in Surrey; Variolation in Ewell; A magnetometry survey of Nonsuch Palace; The Calico People of the Wandle; The Gadesdens of Ewell Castle; Ashted Bells and Mrs. Greville Howard.

Many thanks to all our contributors, but more articles are always welcome. Thanks, too, to Doreen Tilbury for organising distribution of the newsletter.

FINANCES

The Treasurer's Report will be made available at the AGM, posted on the website and available by e-mail on request to the Secretary. The Society's finances remain in the capable hands of Jane Pedler.

Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society

Annual General Meeting 2023

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society will be held on Wednesday 1st March 2023 at 8p.m. at Ewell Hall (opposite St. Mary's Church), 7 London Road, Ewell, KT17 2AY.

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To confirm the Minutes of the AGM held on 2nd March 2022, circulated with the May 2022 newsletter).
3. Matters arising from the Minutes not otherwise covered by the agenda.
4. To receive and adopt, if approved, the Annual Report (herewith).
5. To receive and adopt, if approved, the Treasurer's Report and the Account and Balance Sheet for 2021.

6. Election of Officers

The following are nominated for re-election:

President	Jonathan Cotton
Vice-President	Frank Pemberton
Chairman	Vacant
Secretary	Nikki Cowlard
Treasurer	Jane Pedler

Committee Members due for re-election are:

Jeff Cousins, David Hartley, Doreen Tilbury.

Committee members not due for re-election this year are:

Rosemary Burleigh, Ian West.

Election of independent examiner

Rod Clarke is nominated for re-election.

7. Open Forum

Members of the Society are invited to ask questions about EEHAS affairs and to give their views on future activities. If anyone prefers to make a short contribution to be read out at the meeting it should be sent to be received by the Secretary at least seven days before the meeting.

8. Any other business