



NEWSLETTER

2025, ISSUE 1

February 2025

Secretary's Notes

Since the mention of Bourne Hall Museum in the November newsletter (2024, Issue 5) much has happened. Following the announcement of the forthcoming retirement of Jeremy Harte, the museum's curator, there was uncertainty about the future, both of the curatorial role and of the museum itself. No plans had been made to appoint a new curator within the prescribed timescale, which led to concerns that financial constraints on Epsom and Ewell Borough Council would result in downgrading/ termination of the role. In addition to this, the Council is looking to sell the Town Hall in The Parade, Epsom, and is looking to other spaces which could be used for council meetings and other such activities. Room D at Bourne Hall houses many of the museum's archives stored on high-grade museum roller racking, but it is viewed as a room with sufficient space to be used as a meeting room. The Council has a responsibility to protect accessioned archives and the cost of un-installing the racking, finding a new space in which they could be re-installed together with the moving over of hundreds of archive boxes and local history objects, many of which are fragile, would be exceedingly expensive. We keep our fingers crossed that the Council will find alternative accommodation. To ensure that a fully accredited museum fulfils its many roles, both as a repository of local history and archaeology and as a resource for local residents, researchers, schools and other interested groups requires professional input, and a curator is vital.

In view of the uncertainty around the future of the Museum, EEHAS raised its concerns with

(Continued under Membership Matters)

Inside this issue:

<i>The first surnames in Epsom & Ewell</i>	2
<i>WWI - dispelling popular myths</i>	4
<i>32 & 34 High Street, Ewell</i>	7
<i>Membership Matters</i>	8
<i>Forthcoming Events</i>	9
<i>AGM papers</i>	

Lecture Diary

March 5th	AGM and talk by President Jon Cotton on 'The Hogsmill People'
April 2nd	"Prague: City of Spires" : Paul Lang
May 7th	"The Harpole Treasure" : Gillian King
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.	

The first surnames in Epsom and Ewell - a talk by Jeremy Harte

Nikki Cowlard

'The first surnames in Epsom and Ewell (with illustrations from the medieval collections held at Bourne Hall Museum in Ewell)' by Jeremy Harte, Curator at Bourne Hall Museum

As his last talk to EEHAS, due to his forthcoming retirement, Jeremy chose the subject of surnames, specifically those that appear in the early documentation on Ewell and Epsom. His research on the subject was kick-started when he came across a farm in East Essex called Ewell. Temple Ewell in Kent is in part named for its position, like our own Ewell, at the head of the river. However, the Essex Ewell did not occupy such a geological position, rather being named after the De Ewell family who hailed from London and owned the farmhouse in the 13th century.

There is evidence for surnames appearing by the late 12th century. Early surnames that became established in Ewell included: William **Ebesham** (1468), Robert de **Ebbesham** (1315), Thomas **de Ewelle** (1315), Richard **de Hortone** (1331/2), John **de Langelie** (1225/35), William **de Shaldeford** (1315) and Simon **de Codinton** (1341). These surnames denoted where the person came from, or their landholdings. Spellings may have varied but surnames showed where they came from: Ebesham/Ebbesham – lands around Epsom; de Horton – Lord of the Manor of Horton; de Langlie – Langley Vale; Shaldeford – the only reminder of this place is Shawford Road. Codinton relates to Cuddington, and Simon added the 'de' when he received a coat-of-arms. Christian names such as Thomas, Richard, John and William were typical of the time, but girls' names were more varied.

Old English surnames developed as they underwent Mid-English pronunciation. Old English surnames persisted until the 13th century as people resisted French/Latin influences. Examples (with local examples) include: Ælfward → Alard (Henry Alard 1279); Ædelgyð → Aylet (William Aylet 1315); Dudewine → Dydwine (Richard Dydwine 1279); Ælfric → Elrych (Richard Elrych 1283); Osmund → Osemund (Roger Osemund 1315); Sigemund → Symond (John Symond 1315); Sigenoð → Synot (John Synot 1331); Wigemund → Wymond (William Wymond 1317).

Jeremy showed a slide showing how Old English surnames came about by joining two words e.g. Ædelgyth – from Ædel (noble) and gyð (war); Osmund – from *Os* (God) and *mund* (protection); and Sigemund – from *Sige* (victory) and *mund* (protection). Whilst these names come from combining two words, they do not signify a combination of their meanings, rather they reflect historic associations.

A century before the Black Death of late 1340s, 42% of surnames relate to places, 41% to occupations or character and 17% to relations. Local examples include: Alice **atte Brug** – crossing over the Hogsmill on Chessington Road; Hamund **de Ecclesia**, William **atte Church**, John **Churchman** – near the Church; Adam **atte Claye**, Gunnilda **atte Cleye**, Hugh **atte Cleye**, Richard) **le Clayman** – Clay Hill, now West Hill; John **de la Dy** – at a dyer's; Roger **le Deyere**, slang for dairy.

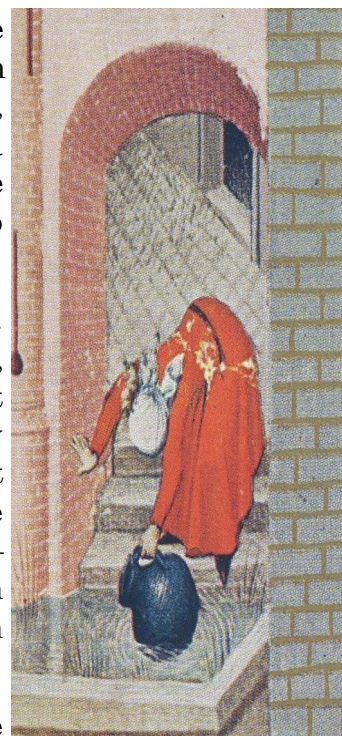
While in 1200 surnames would have reflected where they lived/what they looked like or relations to family member/employer, by the time of the Black Death these associations would have been several generations removed because of the convenience of keeping a surname for more than one generation. First names such as Hamund and Gunnilda are Norse names (of Norman origin, from Viking descendants). People would be named after buildings in the village, such as a dairy, church or dyers if there was only one. Relational names might relate to employers as well as familial relationships.

Other examples of place-related names include: John **atte Pleystowe** who lived on the green near The Assembly Rooms; John **de Scalario** – pigsty; water names such as John **atte Water**, Robert **de Aqua**, William **Attewatere** – relate to Ewell; Emma **atte Well** lived near Bourne Hall Lodge, Gerard **de Fonte**, John **le Wellere** relate to wells. These surnames of people living near to practical places are not those from high society.

Wider place names reflect immigration within a few generations. Surrey migration is reflected in names such as Hugh **de Cleygate**, Peter **de Guldeford** and Henry **de Oclie**. Names appear to chart local migration from the south and west (those from north Surrey would more likely have migrated to London). Wider South-East England place names seen in Epsom and Ewell include John **de Hevere** – Hever Castle, Philip **Dachet** and Alan **Kenitebur** – Berkshire, those from even further afield are Adam **Whyteby** from Whitby, Alice **le Walshe** from Wales and William **Noreys** from Norway.

Occupational names include Robert **Gardiner**, Gilbert **le Shepherd** – would have been the shepherd in charge, John **le Cake**, Robert **le Brewer**, and Philip **le Taverner**. William Pistor was a baker, Robert **atte Mulle** a miller, and John **le Mulleward** – a guardian of the mill. John **le Smyth** would have been a smith, Adam **le Chepman** – a peddler or seller, and Thomas **le Whelere** – a wheelwright, as in Wheelers Lane. Henry **le Constable** reflects a highly regarded position held for a year, and Alice **Dytour** is a descendant of a Town Crier. Philip **le Friman** denotes his ancestor was a freeman, not a villein or feudal tenant.

Some surnames reflect physical attributes such as **Cadde** – a barrel, **Le Cras** – fat, **le Steer** – like a bullock, **Elevhant** – bigger than a steer!, **Balle** – bald. William Balle, **le Blund** and **Fairher** – fair haired, **Rufus** – red haired, **cum Barba** – beard (the only one in the village). Names were chosen to boost one's own standing. **Jolyff**, for example, was 13th French for gay/lively, and one would need also to have understood French slang. Some names joined two parts such as **Turnehast** to denote a man who turns a spit, Belhogg from



Woman at a well—
Emma atte Well



“Turnehast” - spit turner

bellwether (leading sheep in flock with a bell around its neck) and hogget (a 1yr old sheep) may be a sarcastic name for someone who cannot even put the bell on the right sheep.

We are lucky to have information on Medieval local surnames through the Fitznell's Cartulary (which was commissioned by Richard Leversegge, a Londoner, who acquire Fitznell's manor in the early 15th century). A cartulary is a collection of charters, or documents, usually in a book or roll, that contains copies of legal documents and title deeds. Other records to have survived include the Cuddington deeds which were taken to London when Nonsuch Palace was created. Jeremy hopes to publish this information as a paper in Surrey History in due course.

WWI: dispelling popular myths - a talk by Charles Blencowe

Jeff Cousins

On December 4th we welcomed Charles Blencowe, Head of History and Classics at Ewell Castle School.

WW1 has now passed out of living memory, the last WW1 veteran having died over a decade ago. 750,000 British soldiers died in WW1. 72,000 of those who died during the Battle of the Somme have no known grave and are commemorated by the Thiepval Memorial.

The assassination of Archduke Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary by Serbian nationalists was the trigger of WW1. Austria-Hungary issued an ultimatum to Serbia, with German backing. Russia supported Serbia and started mobilisation of its army, but given Russia's vast size, lack of railways, and poor leadership by the Tsar this was going to take some time. Germany, sandwiched between France in the west and Russia in the east, knew that its best chance of victory was a prompt victory against the former whilst the latter was still mobilising.

France had a series of forts along its frontier with Germany so Germany bypassed these by invading via Belgium. The German army committed many atrocities against Belgian civilians. Britain had no interest in a continental war but felt it had to support its ally Belgium otherwise Britain's allies might not support it in the future. Germany's invasion plan had been devised by Schlieffen back in 1906. It was over optimistic about how fast German forces could be moved, and since 1906 the training of the French and Belgian armies had improved, so even Schlieffen wasn't confident in his plan. The German advance stalled so instead of a quick win the fighting stagnated with years of trench warfare to follow.

Britain felt safe behind its large navy, so its army was relatively small – its initial contribution to defending Belgium and France was 250,000 men in six divisions plus one cavalry division. These were volunteers, with up-to-date equipment for the time, fighting experience from the Boer War, long training, and long service, rather than the short term (2 year) conscripts of continental armies. Serve long enough and someone from a quite humble background could be promoted to a very responsible position.

Britain had no real reserves though, the Territorials being poorly equipped, and the rush of new volunteers were inexperienced, being left to learn as they went along. The experienced officers who would have been put to better use training the new recruits were being lost on the front line. A 'Pals battalion' contained men all from the same town, this had the appeal

that men would serve with people they knew, but if that battalion suffered heavy losses it could devastate a whole community. Ammunition workers were being allowed to join up when they would have been of more use at home. Many of the new joiners were only 16-17, but note that in those days someone would have been regarded as an adult at 14. These new recruits largely had to “learn on the job” and thankfully by the end of WW1 they had.

Were conditions at the Front as bad as made out? Actually British soldiers would only spend 2 or 3 days at the front at a time, then be rotated behind the lines for rest and training. British officers generally tried to take care of their men. French soldiers spent longer at the front and being short-term conscripts their officers took less care of them. For many working class British soldiers they were better fed, clothed and paid in the Army than they had ever been at home. Marching was easy compared with many labouring jobs. Half of the pay was sent directly to wives at home so many of them were better off too as their husbands couldn't spend all their pay at the pub. Medical care was good for the time, but the need for vitamins and the need to match blood groups when giving transfusions wasn't yet understood. Venereal diseases were rife. Trench foot was awful, but after 1915 this problem was largely fixed by changing socks more often. The stench at the trenches from bodies, both human and equine, was very real though.

The Gallipoli campaign was a failed attempt to knock the Ottoman Empire out of the war, though if it had worked it would have been a game changer. The original plan to send battleships up the Dardenelles Straits to bombard Constantinople was thwarted by Turkish gun batteries on the coast and the waters being mined. So in 1915 an amphibious landing was made on the Gallipoli peninsula. The troops were inexperienced and the Ottomans had had time to prepare their defences so the invasion soon stalemated with more trench warfare. British forces landed at Cape Helles and the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) at a cove later named after it, i.e. ANZAC Cove. A further landing at Suvla Bay was even less successful as incompetent generalship left the troops down on the beach whilst the Turks took command of the clifftops above. In the end the Allies had to withdraw, so it was a major Turkish success.

The First Battle of the Somme was fought in 1916. The idea was to take the pressure off of the French, who might collapse if they lost their fort at Verdun. But the British needed French support so the Somme was chosen as the battleground as it was at the boundary between British and French forces. It had been hoped that a week long artillery bombardment would so weaken the German defences that the Allied infantry could advance rapidly, but this proved to be a false hope. Allied communications were poor, still being reliant on runners, so commanders were slow to respond to how events unfolded. 20,000 British soldiers were killed on the first day alone, for only meagre gains. The more experienced French made some advance and the Germans regarded the battle as a defeat.

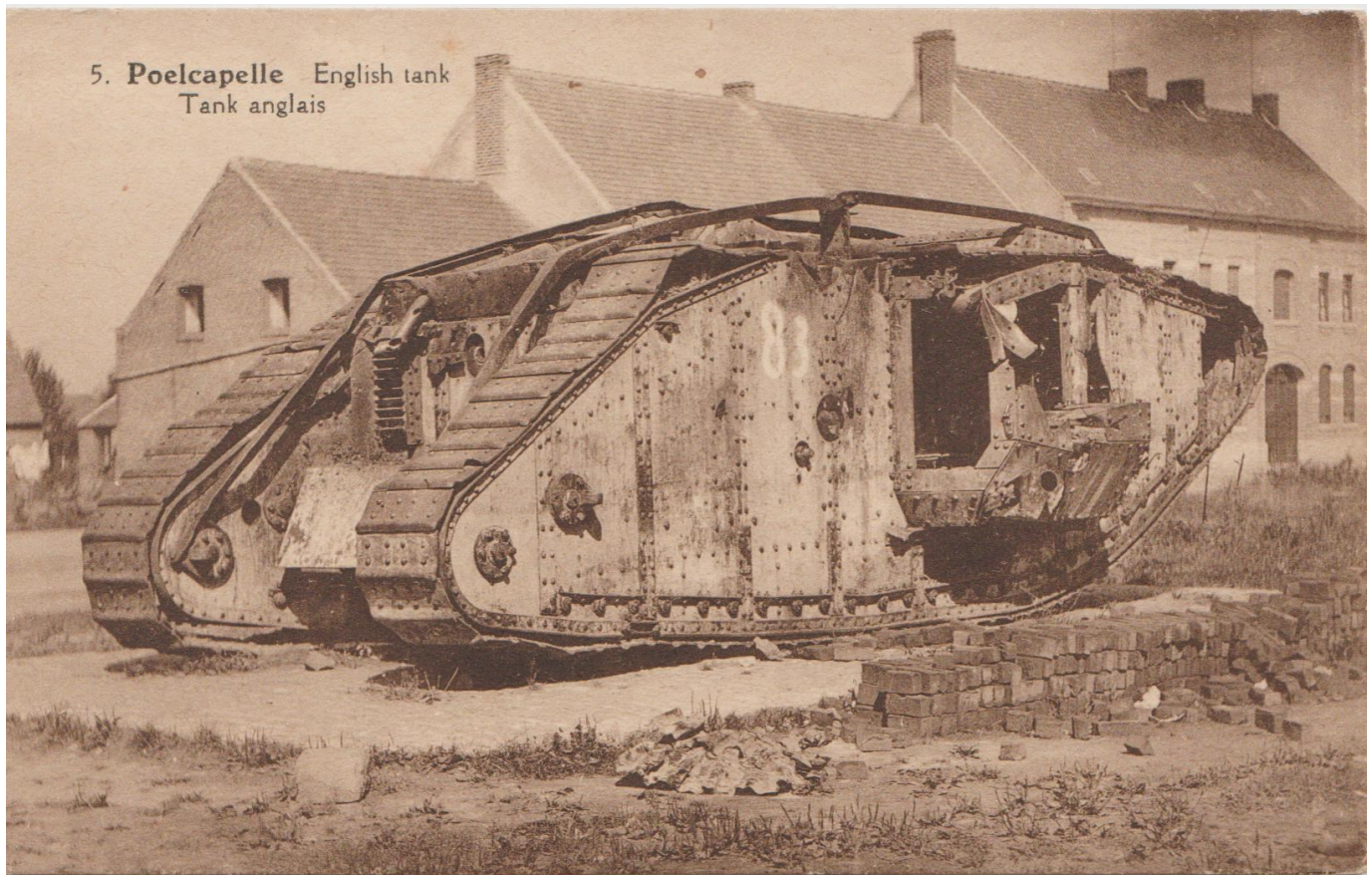
Were the generals unthinking and slow to adopt new technology? Not so. Various new things were tried:

Mining under enemy lines;

The accuracy of artillery improved, allowing “creeping barrages” where the area under bombardment crept forward with the infantry following close behind;

The tank was invented. Da Vinci had thought of the concept long ago, but tanks were impractical as long as humans and animals were the only motive power available. But the invention of the internal combustion engine allowed them to become a reality, the first being nicknamed “Little Willie”;

Planes were used. At first just for reconnaissance behind enemy lines, but progressively



guns were added.

The naval blockade of Germany was also effective, leaving many Germans starving.

Were shell-shocked soldiers casually shot? There were about 240,000 courts martial of British soldiers in WW1. Only one in seven were actually sentenced to death, and of these only in one in ten cases was the sentence actually carried out. The executions may have been an unpleasant wartime necessity for maintaining discipline. At the time there was little sympathy at home for those executed.

Women played their part. Many were volunteers in "VADs" (Voluntary Aid Detachments) providing nursing at home and in France, though these were largely from wealthy backgrounds with little experience of hard work. Others were paid nurses or worked in munitions factories. Ladies could be drivers not just nurses at the front. That women had proved their worth away from the home may have been a factor in women getting the vote.

Poison gas was first used by the Germans in 1915. Britain lost 7,000 men to it, though many more were injured for life. Using gas could score an own goal if it blew back to one's own trenches. It was not a game changer.

Cynicism about WW1 largely came later, particularly in WW2 when the idea that WW1 had been the "war to end all wars" was proven wrong.

Thanks to Paul Lang for the photo. It is hoped that more pictures from his postcard collection can be shown in future issues.

32 & 34 High Street, Ewell

Ian West

This “pair” of houses were constructed in the late 18th C by Henry Kitchen* builder/developer of Ewell on a site formerly occupied by a single dwelling. In the 19th C the ground floor of both properties became used for commercial purposes.

Henry Kitchen had used Mathematical Tiles on four properties in Church Street (and probably elsewhere) prior to the construction of 32/34 High Street. This development utilised a mansard roof that had been used at 2 Church Street. Like this and the 4 other buildings he used mathematical tiles on, the tiles were only applied to the front wall with short returns on the side walls. At 32/34 and 2, 4 and 6 Church Street the mathematical tiles were returned on to the side elevations using specially made angle tiles that produce a most effective impression of brickwork.

During the recent building works at 32 High Street a gauged brick flat window head was noted at ground floor level to the right of the central doorway. This is a feature of many window heads on mathematical façades where the brickwork was built off the ‘box’ window frames below and was ‘cut into’ the boarding that the tiles were fixed to. The side and rear walls of this development were timber framed with feather edged boarding forming the external face of the wall. Lath and plaster was used internally.

Recently No. 32 was allowed to fall into disrepair. Eventually an application was submitted and approved by the Council that allowed for external insulation to be applied to the “brick façade” with the exterior of the insulation being rendered. EHAS and myself wrote to the Council informing the officers that it was mathematical tiles on the front not bricks as stated in the application. In spite of this the application was approved. Had insulation been fixed to the tiles they would have detached themselves from the timber backing owing to vibration/fixings and the additional ‘loading’ caused by the proposed works. Fortunately by the time the work started on site Conservation matters in the Borough were being looked after by the County Conservation Officer who ensured the preservation of the tiles. Also an authentic repair to the return of the mathematical tiles on to the side elevation.

No. 34 (Lloyds Bank in picture) shows a shallow canted bay window similar to those remaining at 8 Church Street. The mathematical tiles were removed from the front of No. 34 just prior to or just after the Second World War. This resulted in a vertical step in the outer face of the walls of Nos. 32/34.

Note the step up from the pavement and the ‘forecourt’ of 32/34. At No. 32 some of the red and black tiles that existed when this picture was taken still remain.

Sadly we were not able to record the building during the works at No. 32 but the shop front has been reconstructed to the same design as it was previously.

* Information from the late Mac Douglas who researched five generations of the Kitchen family – all named Henry. This is the work of Henry Kitchen IV.



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

Councillors on the Community and Wellbeing Committee, under whose remit the Museum falls. The issue was also raised with EEHAS members, on the EEHAS website and other social media platforms. We were delighted when it was decided to appoint a curator, albeit on a two year contract. To ensure that Councillors were fully aware of the Museum and what it has to offer, we worked together with Jeremy to invite the relevant Councillors behind the scenes at the Museum before Christmas. Several EEHAS members also attended and were shown around the Museum and Room D, which is not usually open to the public. A further event for Councillors who were unable to attend will have take place in January.

Whatever happens, we would like to thank Jeremy Harte for his many years of service at the Museum. Part of his legacy is the digital organisation of records making sure that the archives are fully accessible, and the digitising of photos and paper records. He has supported EEHAS in many ways, including editing site reports and laying out publications, making archives available, giving us fascinating talks on local history and generally being a fount of local knowledge, to mention just a few. We wish Jeremy well and we hope he enjoys being able to concentrate on his career as an author going forward.

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.

2025 Subscriptions

Members are reminded that subscriptions for 2025 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. Please make cheques payable to Epsom and Ewell History and Archaeology Society. If payment is by cash please bring along the correct money. A slip is provided below:

2025 Subscriptions

I (we) wish to renew membership for 2025

Amount enclosed.....

Name and address.....

.....

.....

E-mail address.....

Forthcoming Events

Surrey Archaeological Society: Surrey Industrial History Group: Brewing in the Wandle Valley

Thursday 6th February 2025 at 7:15-8:45pm, by zoom. A talk by Alison Cousins.

Merton Historical Society: Transport History in Merton Park

Saturday 8th February 2025 at 2:30pm, St James's Church Hall in Martin Way, SM4 4AR. A talk by Bruce Robertson.

Surrey Archaeological Society: Surrey Industrial History Group: Victorian Dynamo: the life and work of Sir Henry Cole

Thursday 20th February 2025 at 7:15-9pm, by zoom. A talk by Nick Pollard.

Carshalton And District History & Archaeology Society: AGM and members' photos

Saturday 1st March 2025. at 2:30pm. Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, Carshalton, SM5 2DL. £3 for non-members.

Surbiton and District Historical Society: AGM and 70 Year Celebration

Tuesday 4th March 2025 at 7 for 7:30pm, The cornerHOUSE Arts Centre, 116 Douglas Rd, Surbiton, KT6 7SB. £4 for visitors.

Surrey Archaeological Society: Roman Studies Group: The Rise and Decline of Druce Farm Roman Villa (AD60-650)

Tuesday 4th March 2025 at 7:30-9pm, by zoom. A talk by Lilian Ladle.

Surrey Archaeological Society: Surrey Industrial History Group: The Stations of the London Brighton and South Coast Railway

Thursday 6th March 2025 at 2-4pm. Oddfellows Hall, 47 Bridge St, Leatherhead, KT22 8BN. A talk by Benny O'Looney.

Surrey Archaeological Society: Annual Symposium

Saturday 8th March 2025 at 10am. East Horsley Village Hall.

Merton Historical Society: Morden Cricket Club and its History

Saturday 8th March 2025 at 2:30pm, St James's Church Hall in Martin Way, SM4 4AR. A talk by Derek Ballard.

Surrey Archaeological Society: Surrey Industrial History Group: The Panama Canal

Thursday 20th March 2025 at 1:30pm for 2-3:30pm. Oddfellows Hall, 47 Bridge St, Leatherhead, KT22 8BN. A talk by John How

Surbiton and District Historical Society: Tales from the Riverbank; People of the Hogsmill

Tuesday 1st April 2025 at 7 for 7:30pm, The cornerHOUSE Arts Centre, 116 Douglas Rd, Surbiton, KT6 7SB. A talk by Jon Cotton. £4 for visitors.

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

Useful contact details

President: Jon Cotton MA, FSA

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Archaeology Officer: Frank Pemberton

Conservation Officer: Nikki Cowlard

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

Newsletter Editor: Jeff Cousins

Programme Secretary: Hugh Ricketts

Please send copy for the next newsletter to the Newsletter Editor by 12 March 2025.

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 General Meeting 2025

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society will be held on Wednesday 5th March 2025 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 6th March 2024 circulated with the April 2024 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 2024.
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

Trustees due for re-election are:

Jeff Cousins, Doreen Tilbury.

Trustees not due for re-election this year are:

Ian West.

Election of new trustees:

Hugh Ricketts, Phil Stanley.

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

Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society

Annual Report for 2024



INTRODUCTION

This annual report highlights the main activities of the Society for the year ending 31st December 2024. The well-being of the Society owes a great deal to the hard work of a core group of members, and we are indebted to them.

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, Doreen Tilbury and Ian West.

Hugh Ricketts and Phil Stanley were co-opted to the committee during the year.

The Committee held eleven meetings during the year.

Other functionaries are:

Archaeology Officer	Frank Pemberton	Conservation Officer	Nikki Cowlard
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 53 (+2) ordinary and 11 (-6) family. There was a total of 64 subscriptions and the Society has 4 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 Trustee, and Vice-President of the Society as is Nikki Cowlard, our Secretary. 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 published two Special Archaeology Papers this year: *Excavations at the Roman Settlement in Ewell, Surrey: St. Mary's Meadow 1977* by Frank Pemberton and *Excavations on the site of Bourne Hall, Ewell, 1962-5* by †Steve Nelson. Thanks go to Jeremy Harte for editing these publications.

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

ARCHAEOLOGY

Frank Pemberton, Archaeology Officer

Now the above publications have been published work continues on preparing St. Mary's Meadow 1978 and St. Mary's Churchyard 2003 sites for publication. In the New Year a regular session will be undertaken to catalogue Roman pottery from the collections of AWG Lowther, Martin Morris and other assemblages from Ewell sites. An outstanding paper to be completed is 'An early 18th Century pit group from South Street, Epsom' by †Steve Nelson; once additional information on dog bones and Georgian glass from the pit has been added, the paper will be

submitted to a relevant journal for publication.

Planning applications are scrutinised for possible impacts on archaeology in the Borough. Applications commented on include: new development at rear of 32 High Street Ewell; Glyn Hall Cheam Road Ewell; United Reformed Church, Church Street, Epsom; 30 South Street Epsom; Fir Cottage, Ewell House Grove Ewell; 181 London Road, Ewell; Ewell Castle Junior School, Glyn House, 15 Church Street, Ewell; 8 Reigate Road, Ewell. We carry out small archaeological watching briefs at the request of the Surrey County Council Archaeological Planning Officer but in 2024 this was not necessary. We did visit Glyn Hall when commercial archaeological unit, Compass Archaeology, was working on four trial trenches: two beneath the floor of the extant building and two outside. The site is within the known area of Medieval and Roman settlement. Five features were identified: two pits, a potential cut, a small sinkhole and a brick soakaway/well. Most finds were of post-medieval date with a small amount of residual evidence of Roman activity including pottery, ceramic building material and a glass fragment. There is no evidence that the site was utilised during the medieval period.

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 responds to concerns from members about conservation issues that affect the community.

With new government planning changes in the pipeline there will be even more pressure on built-up areas for development. Whilst we cannot stop future development in our neighbourhoods we can all help reduce the negative impact by voicing our concerns and helping to ensure 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 2024 include: development site at 24-28 West Street, Epsom, Bourne Hall, Ewell; 72 High Street, Epsom. There are concerns about the future of the mid-15th century Ewell Church Tower in St. Mary's Churchyard. The Vicar, Mark Stafford has resurrected the Ewell Tower Trust, in which Ian West played an integral part for almost half a century. It is hoped that a way forward can be found to maintain the structure of the building and to find a use for it, ensuring its future.

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 and Jeremy Harte, the Museum's curator, aids members' work on historical and archaeological archives. Sadly, Jeremy Harte is due to retire in March 2025. After initial concerns that this post would not be funded going forward, it has been agreed to fund the position for an initial two years. Jeremy has been an valued partner of the Society and his knowledge and support will be much missed.

LECTURE PROGRAMME

Nine monthly talks were held in 2024 at Ewell Hall. Meetings were well attended and enjoyed by participating members. The subjects were as follows: Industry to homes: the valley of the Wandle (Mick Taylor); Frail Memorials: A Journey Round St. Mary's Churchyard (Jeremy Harte); Brewing in the Wandle Valley (Alison Cousins); The mysterious discovery of the Epsom aurochs and other recent archaeological findings (Gillian King); The history and development of The University for the Creative Arts (Felicity Croydon); Taking Surrey's Pulse- Public Health and what Medical Officer of Health Reports can do for you (Ross McFarlane); From Ewell to Egypt (Paul Lang); The first surnames in Epsom and Ewell - with illustrations from the medieval collections held at Bourne Hall Museum in Ewell (Jeremy Harte); WWI: dispelling popular myths (Charles Blencowe). Thanks to Hugh Ricketts for arranging the programme.

A visit, arranged by Ian West, took place at The Durdans in August which was much enjoyed by those members attending.

NEWSLETTERS

Five newsletters were produced in 2024, 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: Preserving the Past for the Future: The Work of Surrey Heritage; From the Amazon to Kew and beyond: The advance of rubber; The Beauty of Stained Glass; From Industry to Homes: the Valley of the Wandle; Frail Monuments: A Journey Round St. Mary's Churchyard; Brewing in the Wandle Valley; The Mysterious Discovery of the Epsom Aurochs; Derby Day Enthusiast; The Golden Voice of British Rail; The Re-burial of Saxon Bones; A Gypsy History; The University for the Creative Arts; Bourne Hall Festival of Archaeology; A Visit to The Durdans; The Reid and Lemprière families (1); From Ewell to Egypt; The Roman Villa, Ashted; Taking Surrey's Pulse: Public Health and what Medical Officer of Health Reports can do for you?; The Reid and Lemprière families (2).

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 available online prior to the meeting. The Society's finances remain in the capable hands of Jane Pedler.



Some familiar faces at the 'Behind the scenes' Open Afternoon at Bourne Hall Museum on Friday December 13th