



# NEWSLETTER

2013, Issue 2

April 2013

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Welcome to New Members</b></p> <p>Mrs I Baker Mr R Clifford Mr G Dicks</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Donations generously given by:</b></p> <p>Mr G Dicks Mr K Gardner</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Inside this issue:</b></p> <p><i>The wrought iron gates in Madan's Walk</i> 2</p> <p><i>Conservation and Archaeological Watching Brief</i> 3</p> <p><i>AGM talk by Jon Cotton</i> 4</p> <p><i>February meeting - Firebacks</i> 4</p> <p><i>Artefact of the Month</i> 4</p> <p><i>A Museum of Prehistory, a Prehistory of the Museum</i> 5</p> <p><i>The Lost Prince and the Lost Palace</i> 6</p> <p><i>Did Alfred come to Epsom?</i> 7</p> <p><i>March Meeting - Thanet: Gateway to Roman Britain</i> 8</p> <p><i>31 High Street, Ewell</i> 9</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chairman's Notes</b></p> <p>Welcome to the second edition of the Newsletter for this year, again edited by Nikki Cowlard who has stepped nobly into the breach. The AGM of the Society was well received on 6 March and the Annual Report for the year demonstrated a high level of activity on many fronts. The meeting also highlighted the Committee's commitment to the future as demonstrated in the Statement appended to the images of the Society's 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration. Maintaining such a high level of engagement depends on the enthusiasm of a number of people. The lack of a permanent Newsletter Editor has highlighted a general problem in the Society. The existing Committee members, and others in EEHAS, are a dedicated group of people but the continuing success of the Society depends on the involvement of all members. We do need to engage more members in active roles. We are appreciative of the support of a general membership, although we are always anxious to increase member numbers as much as possible, but those who are already involved need the support of all members. On a positive note we look forward to the second season of excavation in Church Meadow. Last year was a huge success and engendered great interest. It has also certainly raised the profile of EEHAS in terms of Roman studies in Surrey.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lecture Diary</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>2013</b></p> <p>April 3rd      The Story of Beekeeping - Liz Knee</p> <p>May 1st        Chile and Easter Island: Jeff Cousins</p> <p>June 5th       Excavation in Church Meadow 2012: Nikki Cowlard and Frank Pemberton</p> <p>July 3rd        Yet to be arranged</p> <p>August 7th     Members' Evening</p> <p>September 4th 'These sherds belong to you and me: an account of the Time Cheam Project 2010-2012': Clive Orton</p> <p>October 2nd    Rudyard Kipling - His Life and Remarkable Story: Gary Endstone</p> <p>Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at St. Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell KT17 2BB</p> <p>Doors open 7.45 for 8pm start. Members free, visitors £4, includes refreshments</p>

## THE WROUGHT IRON GATES IN MADAN'S WALK, EPSOM

Lou Hays

Anyone who has recently walked along Madan's walk in either direction, will have noticed the poor state of the gates at the end near Avenue Road which was once the corner of the land surrounding Woodcote End House. Madan's walk gets its name from Reverend Martin Madan, (1726-1790) a well-known cleric and associate of Wesley, who, in his retirement at the end of 18<sup>th</sup> century owned the property. Madan's reputation suffered for his treatise on 'female ruin' *Thelyphthora, a defence of polygamy*, in which he advocated polygamy as a 'cure' for prostitution.

As a long term resident of Epsom, I can recall the gates from childhood when they were smartly painted black. The main body of the gates are now mainly covered in green lichen or even rust; in places they are held together with wire but some parts are missing altogether.



The eminent 20<sup>th</sup> century local historian and member of the Surrey Archaeological Society, Cloudesley Willis (1865-1955), described them in 'Ironwork in Epsom and Ewell', *Surrey Arch. Coll.* 48 (1943) pp8-16, his words are so clear I quote them here "In Madan's walk is an early 18<sup>th</sup> Century wrought-iron wicket gate with pilasters and panels, measuring about 14 feet 6 inches in width and 11 feet in height, standing between brick piers with stone caps" The gate is formed of 7/8 inch square vertical bars, set at 4 1/4 inch centres, and the hanging style and the standards of the pilasters are I 1/4

inch ; a single bar forms the lock- rail which runs right through, and is ornamented with C scrolls and arrow-heads on the gate and panels, which also have arrow-headed dog-bars ; over the gate on a base made of a plain horizontal bar is an overthrow of broken scrolls and acanthus-leaves with a finial of scrolls and water-leaves ; in the centre of the overthrow is a stepped compartment with the cypher 'J.P.' reversed". He goes on to describe the pattern of the pilasters and ironwork in some detail. He surmises that the width is either to allow a lady wearing a hooped skirt to access them or alternatively a sedan chair. In his writings Willis states that the smith's working of the steel gives each item an individuality which is lacking in modern rolled steel. In his view they were worthy of preservation when the Council tried to commandeer them for scrap during WW11. Willis says that a schedule of notable gates was made up by the Nonsuch Society 'that exists to protect amenities' and sent to the Borough Surveyor, presumably as a result of this they eventually became Grade 11 listed in 1954.

Following in these footsteps, we have taken steps of our own in an attempt to stop the rot of these fine gates. Unfortunately the council are well aware of the deterioration of the gates, but with lack of public funding on the one hand and lack of interest from the owner of the property on the other it is feared that little can be done to protect them. We are fighting on in an attempt to prevent further deterioration until such time as the funding is available.

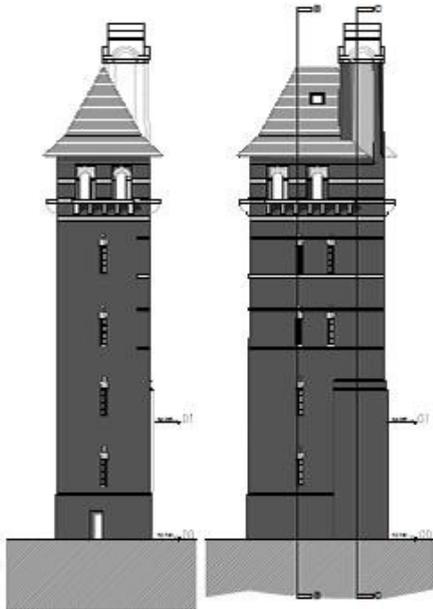
## CONSERVATION

Apart from the Madan Walk gates your committee has been discussing a number of other conservation issues:

- **The Albion** , at 134 High Street, Epsom is currently being renovated and it is hoped that Ian West will be given access to record the upper floor and roof structure. It is an early 18th century Grade II listed building . It has three storeys, is built in red brick and retains an old tiled roof. The front is Edwardian timber framing and roughcast. This public house (currently closed) retains stables in the back yard.



- **West Park Water Tower** – a planning application has been submitted for partial demolition and alterations to the Grade II listed water tower to facilitate conversion into one residential unit and ancillary estate office. The committee agreed that it would be preferable to retain the water tower with some alteration than risk the same fate as the Horton Water Tower which was demolished after its condition deteriorated.

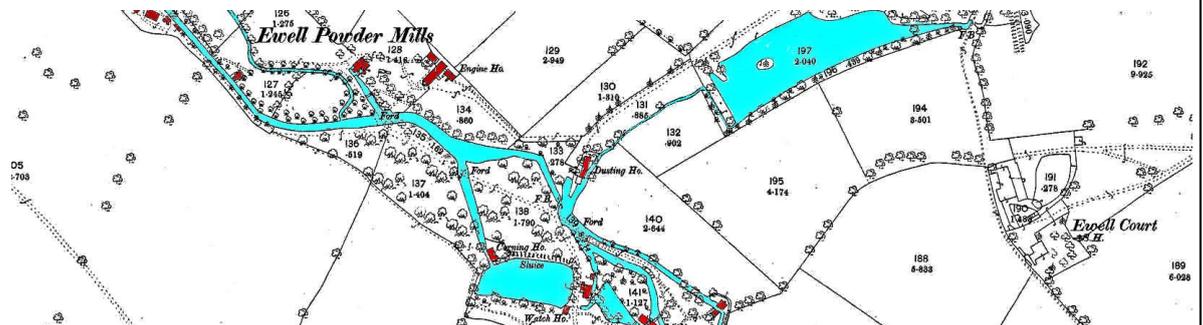


This six storey hospital water tower was designed in 1909 and built 1913-21 by Clifford Smith for London County Council. It was built in brown brick in irregular Flemish bond with red brick dressings, and has a welsh slate roof. At the top, corbelled balconies project below round-arched, small-pane glazed doors. The tower originally contained 3 large water tanks with a capacity of 25,000 gallons, and has a solid brick base.

## Archaeological Watching Brief

- A watching brief will be carried out during the removal of two weirs on the Hogsmill River. The area was the site of gunpowder mills from mid 18th century until manufacture ceased in 1872. The work is being carried out by The Wandle Trust to improve flow along the river for environmental benefits.

The site of the Ewell Gunpowder Mills on the 1870 OS map.



## February Meeting – Firebacks – Jeremy Hodgkinson

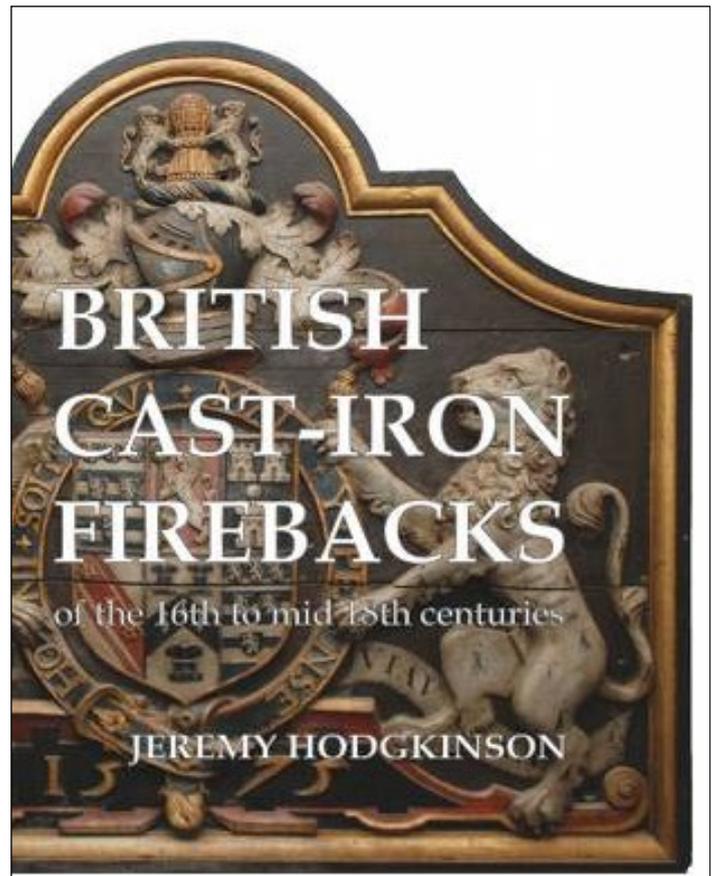
Isobel Cross

Early timber framed houses had their fires in the middle of the main room. Then at the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century the blast furnace was introduced, enabling the making of cast iron plates. These could be used to protect the walls, so the fire could be put up against it, and eventually the fireplace evolved. The earliest firebacks came from South East England, and directly resulted from the iron industry in the Sussex Weald. Production here peaked when firebacks were most needed. Other parts of the country made them eventually but as the need diminished, so that production declined.

A fireback is made by first mixing some sand with damp clay, and then making an impression in it with some kind of mould or stamp. The mixture hardens and then iron is poured into it. The stamps could be simple like a repeat pattern of a dagger, or even a person's hand. A pattern of crosses could keep witches at bay.

Other patterns for firebacks could be elaborate and personal. We saw a number of examples. Husbands and wives could put their initials behind their fires. Many motifs were used - anchors, vines, dragons, greyhounds. Coats of Arms are quite usual. Hatfield House has the Arms of William Cecil plus the wooden pattern for this dated 1575. Corporate bodies like the City of Bristol had their Arms on firebacks. Strangely – to us – memorial plaques were used as patterns, like the memorial to Anne Forster in Crowhurst Church, which was used as a pattern and no-one thought this odd. At the end of the 17th century Germanic designs came in via Dutch influence. They favoured Biblical scenes and Greek mythology.

Eventually fireplaces became smaller when coal was introduced because it takes up less space than logs, and grates arrived. The need for firebacks was reduced, and they were made only for niche markets. Eric and Mary Gill made one in 1930.



### Artefact of the Month

Jeremy Harte

#### A silver terminal of the twelfth century,

with a tapering circular shaft intended to hold a rod (or strap) and a polyedral head, of which each facet is engraved with a diamond design; it was found by a Mr. Boyd while detecting at Howell Hill. Now in the Museum, Z 163. Given the quality, it could have a liturgical fitting, decorating a rod which was used to pick out words during the church service; certainly this is the interpretation of the very similar-looking Late Saxon *aestels*. Cuddington had a church by c.1100, if not earlier.

## A Museum of Prehistory, A Prehistory for the Museum

Jeremy Harte

It was a November evening, so there would have been a fire in the grate at 36 High Street when Ewell Parish Council sat down to discuss village business in 1922. Alexander Henderson of the Upper Mill had something to say. Could they authorise him to meet with the Urban District of Epsom and discuss setting up a local museum? 'The reasons for his doing so was that little things kept being dug up in the district through lack of care, and it seemed a pity they should be frittered away'. Did they remember, for instance, the finds made in 1854? That's what he said, but I think he meant 1847, when Diamond discovered the first shafts at Hatch Furlong: for he goes on to refer to 'the two fine bowls in the British Museum and the pot which the Council had'. These bowls are most likely the Samian ones, BM 1848.0510,1 and 2, but the Council's pot has, alas, long since disappeared.

'Quite recently', added Henderson, 'an interesting little gold coin was dug up, a coin of the period BC 30 and AD 5 or 6'. This, I imagine, was the Dobunnic gold stater featured in Frere's *Problems of the Iron Age in Southern Britain* (UCL Institute of Archaeology Occasional Paper 11) p201, and there said to have been 'found at Epsom, c.1910'. Certainly this would match a date of 30 BC to 6AD.

The stater has disappeared, along with the Council's pot, amply justifying Henderson's anxiety that 'they should have some central spot where those of them who came into the possession of interesting things might be willing to put them'. The district was getting 'more and more built on', and the old landmarks were disappearing.

Henderson was followed by David Jones, the schoolmaster. As you might expect, he was in favour of the educational aspects but he was also practical. Where was the money going to come from? If they approached the Carnegie Trust, they might be able to get a combination library and museum for Ewell. Cloudesley Willis, also showing a practical streak, suggested that the project would only be viable if it included Epsom. Why, then they might even get a curator as well. Cecil Miller rounded off the discussion by saying that personally he thought education was over-rated, and the meeting moved on.

So the plan for a local museum vanished, for the time being, as did many of the objects that would have featured in it. Fortunately the discussion stimulated a policy of sending local finds to Guildford Museum, although ironically Henderson's own collection of Roman coins from the area around the mill was never preserved, nor was Willis' original watercolour of the old St. Mary's Church. In a broader context, the discussion illustrates the way that Ewell by the early twentieth century had become incapable of running any major public service without Epsom. The union of the two settlements was only eleven years away.

Thanks to the volunteers at the Local & Family History Centre for finding this cutting (*Epsom Herald* 24<sup>th</sup> November 1922) and bringing it to my attention.



A glazed Roman pot donated to the British Museum by Hugh Welch Diamond in 1848 from the Ewell 'pits'.



A Dragendorff Form 37 Bowl from Ewell, donated by Diamond to the British Museum in 1848 (0510.2)

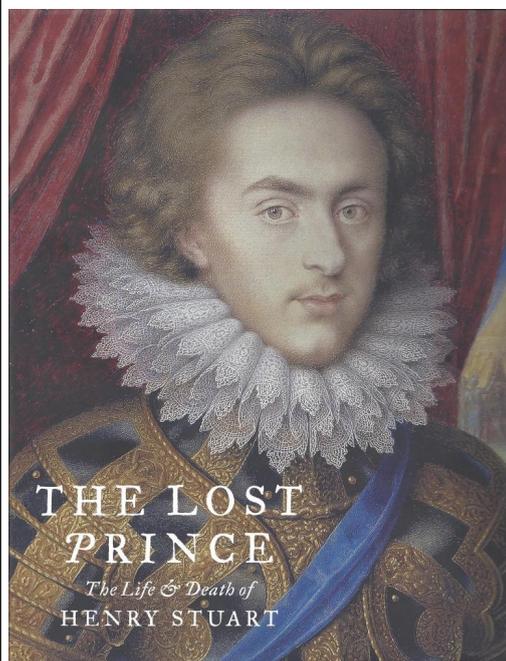
## THE LOST PRINCE AND THE LOST PALACE

Jeremy Harte

In the end there were two wooden legs, a framework torso, and points of attachment for the missing arms and head. Nothing else is left of the funerary effigy of Henry, Prince of Wales, who wrote himself out of English history by dying of typhoid in 1612 at the age of 18. The nation was consumed by grief, the streets were lined with mourners, and much bad poetry was published by way of elegy. Four hundred years later, the National Portrait Gallery revisited this short life in a compelling exhibition, now finished, but still accessible through its catalogue *The Lost Prince: The Life and Death of Henry Stuart*.

We first see the prince in a portrait of 1596, when his father James was still VI of Scotland and not yet I of England. He's a two-year-old held still by a great deal of embroidered stuff. A little later he appears as a Knight of the Garter aged 8, looking like any other eight-year-old stuffed into red velvet. The pale lean face is very serious and a little cold, but this may not tell us much about the boy; as in the royal portraits of his parents and family, people are what they wear and the expressions don't give much away. The portraits of commoners are much more interesting and extend from his Henry's tutors to Phineas Pett the shipwright, who began by presenting the young prince with model boats and ended up building the country's largest warship for him.

From Henry's arrival in England in 1603, down to his creation as Prince of Wales in 1610, Nonsuch was the 'collegiate court' where Henry learnt the things that belong to a prince under a few hand-picked tutors, together with a cohort of his aristocratic contemporaries. The blueprint was in his father's advice book *Basilikon Doron*, a best-seller when it was published in England in 1603.



Educating the heir to the throne is never easy, but the Nonsuch programme seems to have worked. It's true that earning praise is not difficult for a young prince. The visitor to England who thought Henry danced and managed his horse 'with incredible talent' may not have been setting his standards very high, and one prefers the plain comments of his tutor, which translate as 'handwriting just about so-so'. But then he was always an outdoors type. According to one report, he studied two hours a day and spent the rest of his time practising pike drill and other exercises. Two hours isn't much, and would explain why Henry supported Chapman's translation of Homer: he couldn't read the Greek.

James, scholar though he was, seemed to have been happy with this. The complementary characters of father and son were stage-managed. James ruled and Henry, who never held actual responsibilities, did all the charismatic things his father couldn't, including a great deal of sabre-rattling and talk of Protestant crusades. As he became a teenager, tilts and tourneys and masques became more important, combining athletic display with suitable princely symbolism.

Henry was interested in travel. One of the most endearing exhibits was *Coryat's Crudities*, the travel memoirs of a 17<sup>th</sup>-century Bill Bryson; this is a presentation copy made for the prince, who wasn't allowed to travel himself (much too dangerous for the heir apparent) and who had to live off vicarious experience. He sent out an expedition for discovering the North-West Passage, and although unfortunately there was no such passage, the ship's crew obviously trusted his judgement. In 1609 the Lumley Library had been moved from Nonsuch to St. James' Palace, and Henry continued to keep an interest in it, placing orders for newly published books including studies of navigation.

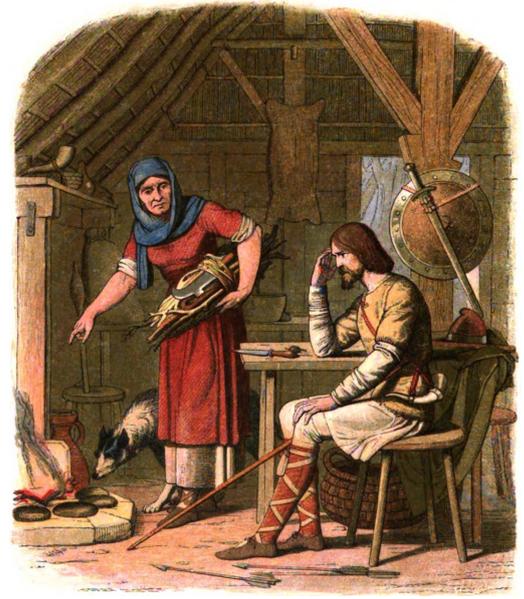
In the end, the story of Henry is a might-have-been. What would have happened if he had lived and succeeded to the throne? One imagines he wouldn't have been as much of a disaster as his younger brother, the future Charles I, but this sort of speculation is unhistorical. What remains for us, as close neighbours to Nonsuch Palace, is the record of those seven years in which it served as the training ground for the model of a Renaissance prince.

A copy of Catherine MacLeod, *The Lost Prince: The Life and Death of Henry Stuart* (National Portrait Gallery, 2012) is at the Museum.

## Did Alfred come to Epsom?

Steve Nelson

The rather less well known reference to *Hebbeshamm* as the site of a Council convened by King Alfred in 882 has been accepted by historians for some time as referring to Epsom or possibly, as has been suggested in the past, to Nutshambles, the meeting place of Cophthorne Hundred. Dorothy Nail, a past member of the Society, reviewed the significance of the earthwork known as Nutshambles Bank in 1965 (Surrey Archaeological Coll. 62). However, a recent review of all the evidence, by Rob Briggs, has demonstrated that, on balance, the identification of the name which at first glance appears to have a resemblance to the current name Epsom, is incorrect. There seem two main objections. One is that the text refers to a military campaign of some sort, implicitly against the Vikings, and that if this is true it was more likely to involve fighting in Essex rather than Surrey. Also, linguistically old spellings of Epsom are always some variant of Ebbesham without a leading H or ...mm ending. All this is of course quite academic research and requires an understanding of late Saxon history and Old English to follow. However, in this very thorough review of the linguistic, historic and topographical background it would seem Rob Briggs' interpretation is more likely. So, nice as it may have been to have imagined King Alfred visiting Epsom in 882 it seems that he was actually in Essex all the time!



For the full text of Rob Brigg's article go to -

[http://www.academia.edu/1332929/Did\\_King\\_Alfred\\_really\\_go\\_to\\_Epsom\\_Historians\\_linguists\\_and\\_the\\_search\\_for\\_Hebbeshamm](http://www.academia.edu/1332929/Did_King_Alfred_really_go_to_Epsom_Historians_linguists_and_the_search_for_Hebbeshamm)

## Church Meadow Ewell – Excavation July 2013

If you haven't yet signed up to help during the second season of excavation in Church Meadow, Ewell, and you are interested in doing so, do not delay.

The excavation will take place 3<sup>rd</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> July, Wednesday - Sunday 10am - 4pm.  
The site is within the Roman settlement and is traversed by Stane Street.

Last year's work uncovered Roman ditches, gullies and pits and evidence for prehistoric activity (see EEHAS Newsletter November, 2012 or on EEHAS website).

If you are interested in volunteering please register with Lesley Hays-[louhays@ntlworld.com](mailto:louhays@ntlworld.com) or telephone 01372 724172



## Herald of Spring 2013

*Left - Re-enactors at the Herald of Spring festival held in Bourne Hall on the weekend of 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> March.*

The fourth festival on a medieval theme, this concentrated on magic and medicine, with a chamber occupied by a surgeon and two alchemists. Jars of ointments, severed limbs, a stuffed crocodile and a real salamander contributed to the ambience'.

Children and adults alike enjoyed the demonstrations and exhibits, amongst them the St. Mary's Morris Men, the Fountain of Youth, and Crafts of the Middle Ages. Visitors were able to participate in brass rubbings from the replicas of brasses in St. Mary's Church as previously described in the November 2012 and February 2013 newsletters.



## March Meeting – AGM - followed by Thanet: Gateway to Britain – Jon Cotton

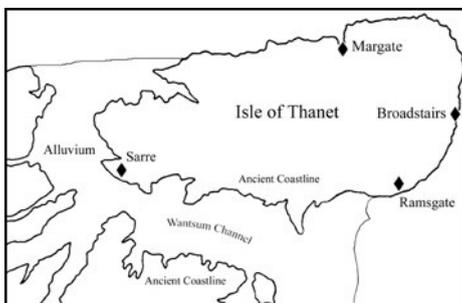
Isobel Cross

After the business of the AGM was concluded our President Jon Cotton talked about an archaeological project in which he has had a role as consultant. The Isle of Thanet is an area particularly rich in archaeology and has attracted the attention of various bodies, notably the Oxford Wessex Joint Archaeology Venture. Jon Cotton has been involved with MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology). Opportunities have arisen because a new road was built in 2010-2011 across this rich archaeological area.

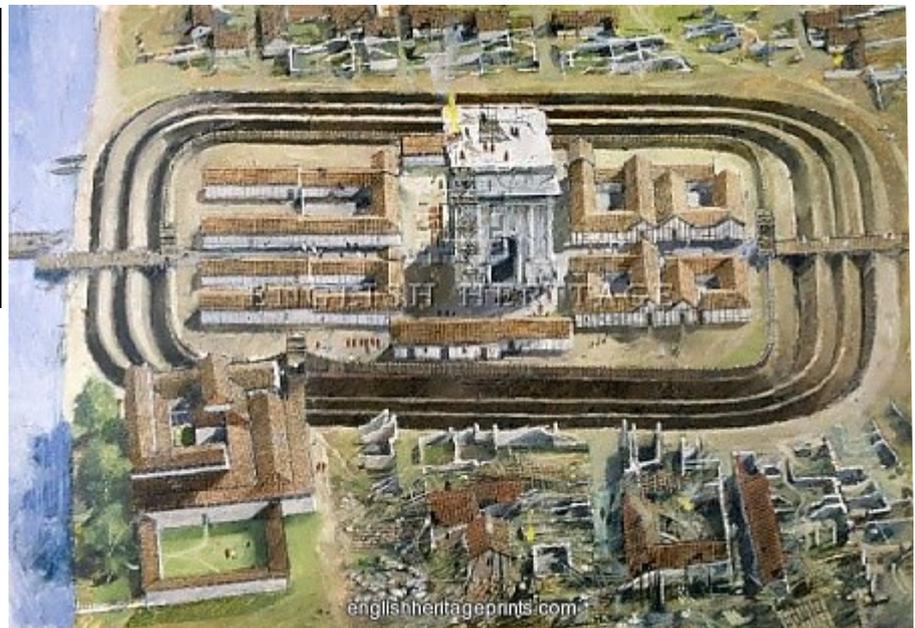
In Prehistory and the Roman period Thanet, where the resorts of Broadstairs, Margate and Ramsgate are now, really was an island, separated from the mainland by the Wantsum Channel. At each end of this the Romans built the Saxon Shore forts of Reculver and Richborough to guard against invasion. Thanet was indeed a gateway to Britain. Hengist and Horsa came here in the 440s, St Augustine arrived in 597, and before that the Romans themselves and for anybody else who crossed the English Channel, this was a prominent landfall.

The MoLA site was near Minster. There were a large number of round barrows here. There were crouched inhumations, evidence of late Bronze Age activity and some precious bronze artefacts. There is a lot of evidence of Roman settlement. There are Roman buildings of a type which goes back to the Iron Age. These are cellar buildings where chalk cut steps lead down into an area – for what - a living area sheltered from the wind? Individually these seem to have been occupied for a generation and then turned into rubbish dumps, which of course contain lots of archaeological material. There were pits with dog and horse remains, reminding Jon of Hatch Furlong. Notably, in one of these pits was the handle of a knife in the form of a gladiator, a murmillio with his large shield and over-the-knee leg protectors. He was made of ivory, probably elephant, and is an exotic find.

The sunken structures were near a villa of some status, with wall plaster decorated with flowers and deer. One of several questions is what was the relationship of the people in the villa and those in the coarser buildings? Everything in Thanet seems to come to an end in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, when Richborough's defences were strengthened. At this time Carausius set himself up as Western Emperor. How did the political situation impact on Thanet? This is another of the questions which require further work to answer. There will be a final report in the coming months.



*Above - a map of the Isle of Thanet and the coastline as it was in the Roman period*



*Right - an illustration of how Richborough Roman fort may have looked*

## 31 HIGH STREET, EWELL

Ian West



This 'postcard' was sent by Mr. and Mrs. T.O. Masters of Bank House, Ewell at Christmas 1907 when it cost ½p to send a card inland and 1p foreign. Apart from the removal of a chimney stack in the central valley 31 High Street has not changed in external appearance in the last 100 years. At one time the Post Office and then a Bank, the freehold was bought by Epsom and Ewell Borough Council when Barclays Bank vacated the building. After a short period as an antique shop the building was incorporated into the adjacent wine bar that occupied the former 'Star' public house. More recently both properties were operated by Hall

& Woodhouse as a public house reviving the name of the Star. Following a period of neglect by Hall & Woodhouse the building returned to the Wallis family who have a long lease on 31 High Street from the Council. Although some refurbishment has been carried out completion of the project is unlikely to be completed until a new occupant is found so that fitting out can be done to suit their requirements.

When Barclays Bank vacated the property the first floor had been removed from one of the rear rooms so that the required 'air volume' was achieved for those working on the ground floor. This was inter war 'Health and Safety' at work regulation which had also caused floor removal at 24 High Street, the former electricity showroom/ office. Another Godfather to one of my Godsons was brought up at 'Bank House' where his father was the manager and used the front room to the right of the bay windows as his office. This room retains the 20<sup>th</sup> century oak panelling that also once lined the 'banking hall'.

Last autumn members of EEHAS were allowed to examine the three structures that form 31 High Street. The oldest part of the building is the range adjacent to the Cheam Road which dates from the early 17<sup>th</sup> century and has a side purlin roof which would have been a 'modern' form of construction at the time. Phase II was built at right angles to this leaving a space between the front of the building and the road. This phase, like that which followed it, has a queen strut roof which needs to be regarded as an older roof type than phase I. The final period of construction infilled the angle between the previous phases and created the right hand of the two gables that now front the High Street. It is thought that the whole complex would have been completed by the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century.



Some years ago a well was uncovered in the passage between No. 31 and 33 High Street. It was located close to the highway and probably served both properties until piped water became available.

There are still some questions to be resolved before a full report can be produced and we are grateful to the Wallis family for allowing the recording to take place.

*31 High Street, during its more recent incarnation as 'The Star' public house*  
*Photo: Charles Abdy*

*Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society*

*Founded 1960 Registered Charity No.259221*

Useful contact details

**To contact any of the Committee please e-mail [info@epsomewellhistory.org.uk](mailto:info@epsomewellhistory.org.uk)**

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**Conservation Officer:** Nikki Cowlard (see details above)

**Membership Secretary:** Doreen Tilbury

**Newsletter Editor:** VACANT

If you are interested in this post please contact the Secretary.

**Please send copy for the June newsletter to the Secretary by Monday 13th May 2013**

**Visit our website**

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

### **Gift Aid**

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 and send it to Lou Hays, our Treasurer. Forms will be available at meetings and can also be found on the Society website on the Membership page.

### **The 100th anniversary of the death of the suffragette, Emily Davison**

June sees the 100th anniversary of the death of Emily Davison who fell under the hooves of the King's horse at the Derby on 4th June 1913. It was suggested that the suffragette planned to affix the purple, white and green colours of the suffragette movement to the bridle but was fatally injured as she did so. She died 4 days later in the Cottage Hospital in Alexandra Road. If you would like to learn more have a look at the Epsom and Ewell Local Family and History website:

<http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/Davison.html>

**The Borough is planning several events to do with this historical event so keep your eyes open**

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 6th March 2013 at St. Mary's Church Hall, Ewell

<b>Present:</b>	President	Jonathan Cotton
	Vice-President/ Chairman	Steven Nelson
	Secretary	Nikki Cowlard
	Treasurer	Lou Hays

A total of 40 members signed the attendance book.

The meeting was chaired by the President who opened the proceedings and welcomed members.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Charles and Barbara Abdy, Jeremy Harte, Frank Pemberton, Fran Taylor.

### 2. **Minutes of the AGM held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

The minutes had been circulated with the April 2012 newsletter and were accepted unanimously.

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

None noted.

### 4. **Annual report for 2012**

The report had been circulated with the February 2013 Newsletter. The President, Jon Cotton highlighted a number of points:

- 4.1. **Publicity Officer** – the post is still vacant after more than two years. The post would involve press releases, organising posters to advertise meetings and raising the profile of the Society. Members were encouraged to consider how they could contribute to the Society.
- 4.2. **Publications** – Charles Abdy was thanked for his latest publication on the Old Church of St. Mary's. He has almost single-handedly maintained EEHAS' reputation as a publishing society and it was for others to now take up the mantle.
- 4.3. **Archaeology** – Frank Pemberton, Archaeology Officer, had reported on forthcoming publications on past excavation in the Churchyard, and Nikki Cowlard had updated members on the Church Meadow Project. Jon hoped that many members had visited the site Open Day last July or the Exhibition in November. It was also anticipated that members would get involved in the forthcoming season. A talk will be given on last year's excavation in June.
- 4.4. **Conservation** – Ian West, Nikki Cowlard, Lou Hays and Steve Nelson were involved in ensuring that EEBC gave due care and consideration to planning issues involving buildings of local or wider interest.
- 4.5. **Museum** – the Society maintains a close working relationship with Bourne Hall Museum, Jeremy Harte being an invaluable source of information and support.
- 4.6. **Displays** – The Church Meadow display exhibited at the Surrey Archaeological Society Symposium won second prize in the Margary Award. Those involved were congratulated.
- 4.7. **Lectures** – as always a wide range of interests had been represented in the lecture series and for this Peggy Bedwell was congratulated.
- 4.8. **Newsletter** – another impact of Charles' resignation was the need for a new newsletter editor. Nikki and Steve had stepped temporarily into the breach but this could not be sustained. Not only was a newsletter editor required but members were encouraged to provide copy in the form of articles or snippets on relevant topics.
- 4.9. It is hoped that the Church Meadow Project will bring new members into the Society, and the Chairman raised the subject of the Society's plans for the future. Members were advised to look at the last poster of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary display which is on the EEHAS website, and which was displayed at the back of the hall during the AGM. This outlines a way forward for the Society but the Officers reiterated that this could only be achieved with the involvement and support of its members. They were encouraged to get involved and to feed back with comments/ ideas/ suggestions as to how the Society can develop.



4.10. Gay Keeble commented that although the Annual Report stated 103 subscriptions, with family membership the actual membership was more like 120.

The Report was adopted unanimously, being proposed by Peggy Bedwell and seconded by Eve Myatt-Price.

## 5. Treasurer's report

Lou Hays presented her report to the meeting. Members are encouraged to apply for Gift Aid on their subscriptions and the form will be available on the website and at the next meeting. Elizabeth Bennett asked whether it was possible to hold meetings elsewhere due to the difficulty in parking. Lou replied that alternatives had been looked at but involved much more expense and could not provide the catering facilities we needed.

The adoption of the Treasurer's report was agreed, proposed by Ian West and seconded by Jayne Hayland.

## 6. Election of Officers

The following were proposed by Norman Hale, seconded by Gay Keeble and elected en bloc:

<b>President</b>	Jonathan Cotton
<b>Vice-Presidents</b>	Peggy Bedwell Dr. Frank Greenaway, Eve Myatt-Price, Steve Nelson,
<b>Chairman</b>	Steve Nelson
<b>Secretary</b>	Nikki Cowlard
<b>Treasurer</b>	Lou Hays

The election of committee members Jeff Cousins, David Hartley and Doreen Tilbury was proposed by Martin Upward and seconded by Gay Harris.

The independent examiner, Rod Clarke was elected after being proposed by Ian West and seconded by Rosemary Burleigh.

The election of the above was then accepted unanimously by the members present.

Jon paid tribute to Charles Abdy, who resigned at the end of December, for all he had done for EEHAS both on the committee and for the publications he had written on behalf of the Society. He paid personal thanks to both Charles and Barbara for their contribution. As recognition of this Charles and Barbara had been offered honorary membership which they had been happy to accept.

## 7. Post of Newsletter Editor

The Society is in need of a newsletter editor. The February newsletter was published in a new format, which can be used as a template for future editions. The possibility of printing in colour had been looked into by the Chairman but was almost five times the cost of b & w. As a compromise the newsletter will now be available online in colour.

## 8. Open Forum

8.1. Elizabeth Bennett commented that it would be good to have access to a colour newsletter on the website.

8.2. Jean Cobbold said that as she did not live in Epsom or Ewell she had trouble identifying where places were in talks. She suggested speakers could include a map to pinpoint the position of buildings/ sites. She also would like to see more talks about Cheam and its environs. The Secretary suggested that members were welcome to recommend new speakers to Peggy Bedwell, who had been organising the lecture programme for more than forty years.

## 9. Any other business

None

10. **Close of Meeting** - the President closed the meeting at 8.29 p.m.