



# NEWSLETTER

2014, Issue 1

February 2014

<p><i>Welcome to New Members</i></p> <p>Mr J Boore Mr &amp; Mrs M Fisk</p> <p><i>And grateful thanks for generous donations from</i></p> <p>Mr A Killick Mr F Pemberton Mrs L Shaw</p> <p><b>Inside this issue:</b></p> <p><i>Church Meadow Ewell excavation 2013</i>      2</p> <p><i>Christmas 2013</i>      5</p> <p><i>Ewell Court House fire</i></p> <p><i>Frank Greenaway</i>      6</p> <p><i>November meeting Carshalton Water Tower</i>      7</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chairman's Notes</b></p> <p>The Committee wish all members of EEHAS a happy new year.</p> <p>However, it is with sadness that we announce the death of Charles Abdy on 11 January. Our sympathies go to Barbara and family. It is hoped to publish a full obituary in the next Newsletter. Also we report that Dr. Frank Greenaway, past President, died in June last year.</p> <p>The Committee is currently facing some difficulty on the situations vacant front regarding Newsletter Editor and Treasurer. Lou Hays has been soldiering on as our Treasurer for some time but with one thing and another really needs to be relieved asap. We therefore appeal with some urgency for someone to take this on. As a small society the work is not onerous and anyone with some book keeping experience could cope, so please, is there anyone willing to take over?</p> <p>Finally a reminder that subscriptions are now due for the new year.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lecture Diary</b></p> <p>March 5th    AGM and talk by Jon Cotton EEHAS President</p> <p>April 2nd    History of Public Houses by Alan Greenwood</p> <p>May 7th     Egyptian Archaeology by Ann Musgove</p> <p>June 4th     Coombe Conduit House, Kingston by David Kennedy</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>

## Church Meadow, Ewell: Excavations in 2013

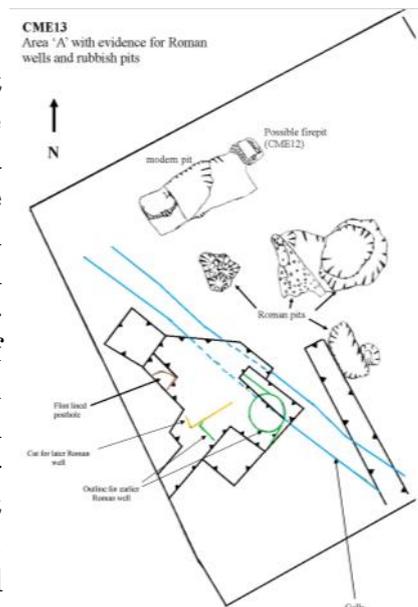
Nikki Coward

A second season of rescue excavation took place in Church Meadow, Ewell Village from 3-21<sup>st</sup> July. The site is towards the north-eastern extent of the known Roman settlement and it was anticipated that evidence for Stane Street, and settlement activity alongside, would be uncovered. The unusually hot weather, with temperatures regularly up to 30° C, made for slow progress in the trench and thanks must go to all 70 participants who soldiered on regardless. The 30 x 10m 2012 trench was re-opened to further investigate a number of features, together with a another 30m section of the consecrated strip (see Coward 2012). For practical purposes the trench was divided into ten 6m sections, named alphabetically, with 'A' at the lower end of the field closest to Church Street and 'J' towards the Ewell by-pass at the north-east end. Several interesting features were uncovered but not all the archaeology conformed to expectations.

The steam plough damage, identified in 2012 as having removed almost all features above Roman ground level, was found to continue up the field. This is in contrast to previous excavations in the adjacent churchyard where Roman above-ground features were recorded (Pemberton 1973; Pemberton forthcoming; Anon 1954, xxii). Evidence in Church Meadow indicates episodes of hillwash, both before and after the deep ploughing. Whilst a disturbed stratum above the natural was recorded in Areas A-E this was not evident in Areas F, G and H, which were found to be devoid of archaeology with fewer finds. If there was Roman activity in these areas it must have been surface-based as no features were found cut into the natural. Whilst steam ploughing had cut into the Roman ground level in Areas C-D by some 5-10cm (as shown by narrow strips of flint surviving between plough lines), in Areas H, I and J the ploughing had cut down well into the clean natural. Thus apparent surfaces in these areas are likely to be what remains of features/ foundations below Roman ground level.

The large pit in 'A' was re-opened and the section across the pit enlarged. It was noted that the fill varied on either side of the section, and further investigation showed that beneath a Roman rubbish pit were the remains of two Roman wells. The earlier well was roughly square in outline, 1.65 x 1.5m, with the shadow of a plank lining. A barrel, approximately 1m in diameter, was incorporated into its construction in its north-east corner, seen as a circular stain extending for a depth of 0.8m (through the excavated silt). The later well, about 1.25m square, was sunk slightly to the west of the earlier well overlapping it by about 20cm and aligned at an angle of 10-15°. This well showed no sign of a plank lining but a line of flint was found which may have been part of its lining/revetment. Associated with the wells was a well-constructed flint-lined posthole which may have supported a windlass.

An NNW-SSE gully identified in 2012 overlay the wells and therefore may represent a later property boundary once the later well had gone out of use. A series of rubbish pits both Roman and modern were found in the well area. The previously uncovered flint/chalk areas in C and D, which are thought to represent the only Roman ground level remains of a chalk platform and flint surface which had survived the deep ploughing episode, were further investigated, clarified and recorded. From the chalk spread and small lengths of edges, the chalk platform was identified as being about 2.5m (NW-SE) by 6m (NE-SW) in extent,



constructed of unabraded chalk blocks and standing above the surrounding flint surfaces by about 10cm. This suggests it may represent a chalk floor within a building. The platform appears to respect the recut gully (171) but was laid over the original ditch (172). The flint spread extends about 8m NE-SW and 4m NW-SE, has a good surface in places and also overlies the ditch (172) and borders the recut gully (171) to the NW, and a charcoal filled gully (174) to the SW.

The alignment of the NNE-SSW ditch (172) and its recut gully (171) first identified in 2012, was clarified. The shallow U-shaped ditch, up to 0.6m in depth, runs diagonally across the trench for approximately 20m and its mottled silty fill contained a small amount of Roman pottery. The recut to the SSE was cut after the original ditch had silted up as there is some wandering in its line and it was seen to have been cut through the ditch fill. The pit in Area D, which was found to be cut into the ditch in 2012, was re-examined. It was found to be a bowl shaped pit with an amphora sited in its NE quadrant and a series of mortar linings. To either side of the amphora (but not behind it) the bowl was lined with first chalk then flint. At the base was a layer of ash between the mortar and flint lining. Below these fills the cut became more vertical and in plan appeared square. It may be that the pits were a re-use of an earlier square feature such as a well or cistern, and this feature will be revisited in 2014 to confirm its earliest use.

During initial machining a linear flint feature aligned NNE-SSW was identified in Areas I-J. It corresponded to the anticipated line of Stane Street but excavation showed it to be lying on/within disturbed soil, having been turned over by the deep ploughing. A metre wide section was cut across the flint feature at a right angle, and beneath the plough soil in J was a steep-sided sub-circular pit about 1m in diameter. It was roughly half-sectioned and excavated to 1.4m. Augering suggested the fill extended a further 0.5m, and pottery and a mid-4<sup>th</sup> c. Chi-Rho coin suggest a late Roman date for this feature. It has been mooted that this pit was a latrine, and environmental samples were taken for analysis. If the flint feature above it is road-related it suggests that the road at this point had already gone out of use by the late Roman period. Other features at this end of the trench included areas of pebble/flint/chalk and four postholes, including one double. A 1m wide trench from Ewell Churchyard excavation 2000 (ECY00), which crossed Area I, was identified. This had been laid out at right angles to the anticipated line of Stane Street to assess the concentration of Roman settlement activity, and in particular how the intensity and nature of such activity changed away from the eastern edge of the road (Orton 2000). Orton had identified an area of chalk which related to similar findings this season. Adjacent to the pit a narrow gully was identified cut into the clay natural, on the same orientation as the disturbed linear flint feature; it may be that this is all that remains of the road structure. Whilst material evidence for the Roman road crossing the trench is slight, features to the west appear to relate to its proposed alignment. It is planned to re-open the northern 10m of the trench next season to fully elucidate any features that may have survived beneath the plough soil.

The excavation hosted the first of a two-day SyAS environmental course run by Becky Lambert. SCAU kindly lent a flotation tank and sample buckets, and a grant from The Council for British Archaeology enabled us to hire a petrol pump to circulate the water, as running water was not available on site. The



participants learnt how to take and process bulk soil samples from a number of the pits, gullies and wells and the resulting environmental evidence is currently being analysed.

A large amount of Roman pottery was found in the plough soil and in the subterranean features, together with bone and metal finds. As in 2012 the majority of the pottery was of Roman date, with a few possible prehistoric sherds. The range of pottery was wide, including fineware imports such as eggshell terra nigra, céramique à l'éponge, and samian. Post-Roman finds of any kind were rare but included two Charles I Rose farthings and a medieval long-cross penny. Over 200 Roman coins were retrieved with the help of metal detectorists Bill Meads and Mairi Sargent, together with metal and bone hair pins, brooches and an intaglio ring.

A number of visits to the site took place during the excavation, as part of the project's commitment to community involvement. All 180 pupils from a local Infant school visited, as did the Classics class from Ewell Castle School, and 75 children from Bourne Hall Museum Club took part in a day of excavation, finds washing and sieving on the spoil heaps. A number of parents are hoping to join the project as volunteers next season. The Open Day held on 13<sup>th</sup> July, which welcomed more than 300 visitors, was held in conjunction with The CBA 'Festival of Archaeology' and Ewell Village Fair. Post-excavation, a group meets weekly to catalogue the Roman pottery, and an exhibition was held in Ewell on 26<sup>th</sup> October to inform local residents, parishioners and the wider community about the work.

Thanks must go to all the volunteers involved in the project, and in particular to: Emma Corke, Assistant Director, who supported the Site Director, and ran the trench and diggers, a considerable task; Frank Pemberton, Assistant (Finds) Director; Chris and Gay Harris who ran the finds tent; Lou Hays, Volunteer Co-ordinator, environmental sampling, and site assistant; Colin Nutley who organised the 'pot washers'; Jenny Newell, site assistant; Michelle Cave, environmental sampling; trench supervisors - Roger Brookman, Rose Hooker, Phil Stanley, Nick Moore and David Calow; assistant trench supervisors - Laura Dodd, David Hartley and Meurig Thomas; metal detectorists – Bill Meads and Mairi Sargent; and Becky Lambert who ran the environmental course and advised on environmental sampling. This project would not be viable without grants and loan of equipment from Surrey Archaeological Society and Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society, and CBA Challenge Funding. Thanks also to SCAU for environmental archaeology support. The Vicar of St. Marys Church, Russell Dewhurst has arranged the extension of the faculty enabling us to excavate on consecrated ground, has afforded us access to the site and given much practical support. Neighbours Jane and Rob Pedler gave us the use of Rectory Barn for storage and access for equipment, and generously provided us with a water supply. This report has also been published in the December issue of Surrey Archaeological Society Bulletin, **442**, p. 1-6

### References

- Anon 1954 Report of proceedings 1953, *SyAC*, **53**, xxii-xxv
- Cowlard, N. 2012 Church Meadow Ewell: Excavations in 2012, *SyAS Bulletin*, **435**, 10-13
- Orton, C. 2000 St. Mary's No.5 Churchyard, Ewell, Surrey, unpublished summary report (copy in Bourne Hall Museum, Ewell)
- Pemberton, F. 1973 A Romano-British Settlement on Stane Street, Ewell, Surrey, *SyAC*, **79**, 1-26
- Pemberton, F. forthcoming *Excavations at the Roman Settlement in Ewell, 1974-5: St. Mary's Churchyard*

## December Meeting – Christmas Party

Isobel Cross



This was an EEHAS Christmas party with a few changes, though some things stayed the same. We had two quizzes as usual and a raffle, and excellent food brought by many people and co-ordinated by Lou. There was mulled wine presided over by David Hartley. The tables were arranged rather in the style of a medieval banquet, and they were decorated and we had tablecloths! Steve kept us organised,

The highlight was a mummers play arranged by Jeremy. He roped in a number of people to be the performers or guisers, called tipteerers in Surrey. (Also in Sussex, origin of word obscure but may mean they collected tips – info. courtesy of Wikipedia). Fran, Jeff, Gay Harris and Alfie read out rhyming couplets. Nikki was St. George and Lou was the enemy Turk she killed with her sword. Jeremy was the doctor who raised him/her from the dead and Alfie then started to ask for the beer money.....About 30 people were there and seemed to have a good time. Many thanks to everybody who helped and contributed.

## Horton Chapel

Isobel Cross

A walk organised as part of Epsom Mental Health Week allowed me to get inside the unused chapel which belonged to Horton mental hospital and I was able to assess its condition. It is watertight, the windows are well protected and the exterior is presentable. Inside here is a mural at the west end which is not great art but the colours are vivid and it is undamaged. The organ pipes are rather beautiful. The parquet floors are in poor condition and the main damage you see is the plaster peeling off everything – walls, columns, ceiling. This building is going to deteriorate, but the problem is finding a use for it. A community centre would be the preferred option, but it also needs a commercial purpose to fund it. This has to be thought about urgently and more publicity given to it. As a start it should be open on a Heritage Day, and perhaps it could be involved in the marking of the 1914 centenary – there is a war memorial inside. Surely it is not beyond the chapel's neighbours, the Council, conservationists and anybody who lives here to give this some thought. A variety of events and organisations might pay to use this building.

## Ewell Court House

Jeremy Harte

The recent fire at Ewell Court has been a shock to everyone who appreciated this lovely building, but it has opened up possibilities for research while the house is being restored. Fire broke out on the night of 9<sup>th</sup> December, in the attic of the west gable. It spread about halfway along the attic rooms of the south front before being checked; most damage to the property has been caused, as so often, by the water needed to put out the original fire. This streamed through the remains of the south gable floor to the



rooms below on the first and ground floor, affecting ceilings and panelling. Damage elsewhere will be assessed when the building, currently boarded up, is opened for repair. The work will take over a year and cost something like £2 million.

Ewell Court is a house of three phases. The oldest, a Spa period house of two ranges with Dutch gable ends, was less affected by the fire, since it was encased in the second phase of the building. This was done in 1879 for the newly-married John Henry Bridges, who added the north and south gables. In 1892 Bridges had the whole building encased in new brickwork and widened it to the south. Observation during repairs should be able to establish the relationship between these two Victorian phases. During World War 2, the house was used for Civil Defence, and many posters and graffiti of that period remained in the attics – now, presumably, surviving only in the Museum's photographic record. Ironically, one of them instructed staff to 'Put that Light Out'.

The attic rooms, now partly burnt out, were used as storage for the Society's excavation archive, after we had to leave the Upper Mill, along with much of the Museum's reserve collections. Luckily these were all moved over to Bourne Hall in 2006 otherwise they would most probably have been destroyed!



## OBITUARY FRANK GREENAWAY



Dr Frank Greenaway who died in June 2013, aged 95, was elected President of the Society in 1990, succeeding Philip Shearman. He had spent most of his career in the Science Museum joining them in 1949 and retired in 1980 as Keeper of the Department of Chemistry. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry and a FSA since 1973. He published a number of papers ranging from a work on Dalton and the Atom (1966) to Science in the Early Roman Empire (ed 1986). He was also experienced in the running of learned societies having served on the governing bodies of a great many, including the Museums Association, the Royal Institution and the International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science (of which he was Secretary-General for a number of years). His exceptional expertise and interest was in the

history and development of science rather than local history or archaeology but he took an interest in the NAS, as it then was, until he and his wife moved away from the district in 1997 at which time he was made Vice President. A part autobiography and part festschrift entitled "Chymica Acta" was published in 2007.

### November Meeting - Carshalton Water Tower

John Freeman, who has been a member of the Carshalton Water Tower & Historic Gardens Trust for over 20 years described for us the history of the Tower and of Carshalton House and its gardens. He began with a brief resume of the history of Carshalton village, in particular the area of West Street on which existed Old Farm or Manor in the C17. This property was acquired by Edward Carleton in about 1700. He pulled down the old house and constructed Carshalton House in c 1714.

The Water Tower in the grounds seems to have been constructed in c 1717 – often said to be in the style of Vanbrugh on the basis of its similarity to the Belvedere at Claremont but there is still debate. Its principle function was to supply fresh water to the main house and housed a huge lead tank for this purpose on the roof along with a large water wheel to raise the water channelled from springs in this area of Carshalton. It is uncertain when the tank went but the odd form of the roof carpentry may indicate its early removal. The grand floor of the Tower contains a suite of rooms including the 40’ long Orangery the Saloon and the famous tiled plunge bath.

The Trust has also been responsible for the maintenance of the historic gardens at Carshalton originally laid out by Charles Bridgman (one time Royal Gardener) which included the unusual lake/canal feature. Thomas Walpole (nephew of Sir Robert Walpole) owned the property 1768-84 and seems to have carried out a lot of work to the gardens removing much of the earlier C18 layout.

The renovation and repair of the Tower really began in 1992. One of the earliest jobs being reinstatement of the water wheel which had simply been cut through at floor level when this room was used as a chlorination plant in . The tiles lining all walls of the bath chamber were in a deplorable state but conservation repair by the Jackfield Conservation Studio has been remarkable. John finished with three short films, two by the BBC and one by himself exploring the maze of tunnels and conduits that underlie the Tower.



The work of the Trust at Carshalton in repairing the Tower and the other garden buildings which had been so badly treated, has been a remarkable achievement – the standard of conservation repair exemplary but all at no small cost. Although most of the structural repair has been completed the necessary ongoing maintenance requires a steady income which the Trust addresses through a variety of initiatives.

### Church Meadow Ewell – Excavation July 2014



The third season of excavation in Church Meadow, Ewell will run from 2—20 July, Wednesday - Sunday 9.30am - 4.30pm. It is expected that an Open Day will be arranged during the Ewell Village Fair. All volunteers are welcome but please register initial interest with Lou Hays [louhays@ntworld.com](mailto:louhays@ntworld.com)

### 2014 Subscriptions

I/We wish to renew my/our membership for 2014

Name and address.....  
.....

E-mail address: .....

Phone No. ....

Eligible for Gift Aid to be claimed on subscription ( a current UK tax payer)      Yes/No

*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)**

**President:** Jon Cotton MA, FSA

**Chairman:** Steve Nelson (020) 8393 7233

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

**Treasurer:** Lou Hays

**Archaeology Officer:** Frank Pemberton

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

**Membership Secretary:** Doreen Tilbury

**Please send copy for the next newsletter to the Secretary by 7 March 2014**

**Visit our website**

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

You can see a colour copy of this newsletter on the Society 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.

**Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society**  
**Annual Report for 2013**

**INTRODUCTION**

This annual report highlights the main activities of the Society for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013. The well-being of the Society owes a great deal to the hard work of numerous members, not all of whom are mentioned in this report, and we thank them for this.

**OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE**

The principal officers and committee members during the year were:

President	Jonathan Cotton
Vice Presidents	Peggy Bedwell, Dr. Frank Greenaway (died June 2013), Eve Myatt-Price and Steve Nelson
Chairman	Steve Nelson
Secretary	Nikki Cowlard
Treasurer	Lesley Hays
Committee	Rosemary Burleigh, Jeff Cousins, Isobel Cross, David Hartley, Fran Taylor (co-opted), Doreen Tilbury and Ian West.

The Committee held five meetings during the year.

Other functionaries are:

Archaeology Officer	Frank Pemberton
Conservation Officer	Nikki Cowlard
Membership Secretary	Doreen Tilbury
Newsletter Editor	Vacant
Programme Secretary	Peggy Bedwell/Fran Taylor
Publicity Officer	Vacant

**MEMBERSHIP**

Memberships at the end of the year in terms of subscriptions paid were 83 ordinary, 22 family, 4 student and 1 corporate. There were a total of 110 subscriptions. The Society has 6 honorary members.

**LIAISON WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

EEHAS is affiliated to Surrey Archaeological Society, Surrey Record Society and the Council for British Archaeology. 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. Lesley Hays is a member of Council, Secretary for the Local History Committee, sits on the Roman Studies Group Committee and is a member of AARG (Artefact and Archaeological Research Group). Nikki Cowlard is a member of Council and sits on the Roman Studies Group Committee. Several members belong to the SyAS Roman Studies Group.

**EPSOM AND EWELL LOCAL AND FAMILY HISTORY CENTRE**

The centre continues to help enquirers with local and family histories. EEHAS members take their turn on the enquiry desk; others help with computer records and visual displays etc.

**PUBLICITY**

Thanks go to Isobel Cross and Gay Keeble who produce posters advertising EEHAS talks for the Borough noticeboards. **The post of Publicity Officer is still vacant** so if you think you might be interested, talk to Isobel who can advise you as to what the role entails.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

No papers have been published this year. Members are encouraged to carry out local historic research and to approach the committee if they have papers for publication.

## **ARCHAEOLOGY**

### **Report by Frank Pemberton, Archaeology Officer**

#### **Current work**

This report cannot be written without mentioning the hard work of our EEHAS Secretary, Nikki Cowlard, for her commitment as Director of the Church Meadow excavations in Ewell. As Finds Director I worked together with the site finds team, which was coordinated by Chris and Gay Harris, helped by Lou Hays, and Colin Nutley supervised the finds washing work with members. Interim reports on Church Meadow have been published and evidence again indicates the level of Roman activity in Ewell.

At the time of writing, the archaeology group, which now meets in Glyn Hall, are completing the cataloguing of the mass of Roman pottery sherds from 2012, and will soon make a start on the quantities of pottery from 2013; Phil Stanley is drafting the on-going pottery report. Other finds, including small personal objects such as bone and metal hair and clothing pins, brooches, but also iron shoe studs, and buckle as wells as fittings and nails, have been identified and catalogued. Very little tile, brick or building stone was recovered from the site, again suggesting a settlement of wooden buildings with thatched roofs.

#### **Back excavation reports**

##### **St Mary's Churchyard**

At last the substantial report on the finds, structures and excavations ahead of use of St Mary's Churchyard between 1950-1975 has been completed, showing the extent of the Roman roadside settlement along Stane Street. It is planned to publish it as an EEHAS monograph.

##### **St Mary's Churchyard/Church Meadow**

I am about to commence drafting the report on the excavation of a 35 m. long trench with a side square extension, that was laid out parallel to the current northern garden boundary of Rectory Barn that faces onto Church Street, Ewell. This excavation took place from 1977-78 with a dedicated group of volunteers from the former Nonsuch Antiquarian Society (now EEHAS), many of whom have since died, initially under my direction and continued into 1979 by Richard Temple, Frank Child and Richard Birch.

#### **The site evidence suggests there are at least three main Roman phases.**

- The first phase of flints and sand has a cambered base of pebbles on Thanet Sand, and ditches on each side, and is interpreted as Stane Street: dated to late 1<sup>st</sup> century AD.
- A second phase of layers consists of settlement debris - a mix of chalk and charcoal screes, mortar and cement fragments - up to the edge of western ditch, with a late c.70s AD - mid 2<sup>nd</sup> century date. Amongst the structures in this phase are groups of embedded flints with charcoal fragments often packed with chalk cubes and occasional quern stone fragments, littered with animal bones suggesting these features are the bases of hearths. Bone and metal pins, gaming counter, oyster shells, brooches, with iron nails, fittings and a knife provide ideas of activities on the site. Pottery vessel sherds include wine beakers, storage jars, table bowls and dishes from the Alice Holt (Surrey-Farnham), Verulamium, North Kent shelly ware, and Highgate potteries.
- And finally, a third phase is a compacted blackish grey soil, possibly a rubbish midden, containing later Roman pottery vessels from the Oxfordshire and Portchester potteries, associated with a stylus, ring and pins; this midden is away from the edge of Stane Street, probably in a rear garden plot.

The year ahead will be interesting with work on reports, our excavation, and analysis after the excavation. There will be plenty for members to get involved in in the year ahead.

**Frank Pemberton BA.MA.AIFA**

## **Archaeological Monitoring**

Occasionally EEHAS is asked to carry out archaeological watching briefs in the Borough by the County Archaeologist. This year Steve Nelson monitored work removing weirs on the Hogsmill in the area of the gunpowder mills. Together with David Hartley he recorded standing structures and his report was published both in the EEHAS newsletter (November) and the SyAS Bulletin.

## **Church Meadow Project**

The second of a series of seasons of excavations has taken place in Church Meadow. The site is adjacent to St. Mary's Church Yard No.4 in Church Street, Ewell. An interim report will be published in the February 2014 newsletter.

The project is overseen by an independent steering group, of which seven out of the ten members are also members of EEHAS. Funding for the 2013 excavation came from Surrey Archaeological Society, EEHAS and the Council for British Archaeology.

The 2013 season saw the re-opening of the 2012 trench together with a further 30m conjoining strip. Over three weeks with temperatures reaching 30°C we had 70 volunteers on site, many of whom were EEHAS members. The deep ploughing which was previously found to have destroyed much of the above Roman ground level archaeology, continued up the field. Further examination of last year's features revealed the remains of two Roman wells beneath a deep pit, clarified the alignment of ditches and gullies, and areas of chalk and flint. Much of the newly opened area was devoid of archaeology but a late Roman pit was found beneath a linear layer of plough-disturbed flint and plough soil. This flint may possibly represent all that remains of the alignment of Stane Street, and if so, suggests that the road went out of use before the mid-late 4<sup>th</sup> century. The finds team dealt again with more than 300 special finds, including about 200 Roman coins, Roman brooches and an intaglio ring. Large quantities of Romano-British pottery sherds were recovered together with some fine imported wares. During the excavation an Open Day was held in conjunction with the Ewell Village Fair and attracted more than 300 visitors. The whole of Ewell Grove Infant School visited the site and 75 Bourne Hall Museum Club children spent a practical session trowelling, sieving spoil and washing finds. A post-excavation exhibition was held in St. Mary's Church and was well attended.

The third season will take place 2-20<sup>th</sup> July 2014. **Nikki Cowlard, Site Director**

## **CONSERVATION**

The Society's Conservation Officers check the Borough's planning applications each week to highlight applications which affect listed buildings, locally listed buildings and buildings of interest within conservation areas. They 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 work done by four committee members last year on examining the buildings on the Local List fed into a more robust list, which will better protect these buildings. Buildings that no longer retained features/ character that had originally made them of local value, have been removed from the list and more than thirty new buildings have been added.

Planning applications for listed or locally listed buildings that we have commented on or viewed include: the Grade II listed 18<sup>th</sup> c. gates in Madan's Walk (Epsom) which are in a still in a poor state of repair despite Lou Hays drawing them to the attention of EEBC regularly; West Park Water Tower; Ewell Castle School; Ewell Castle Nursery, Chessington Lodge; The Lane House, Epsom Road; 91 High Street, Epsom (Metro Bank); Chesham House, South Street; the Dairy site, Alexandra Road; 25 Alexandra Road; the public conveniences, High Street, Ewell.

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.

**Nikki Cowlard**, 1 Norman Avenue, Epsom KT17 3AB 01372 745432 [nikki.cowlard@btinternet.com](mailto:nikki.cowlard@btinternet.com)

**Lesley Hays**, 21 Wilmerhatch Lane, Epsom KT18 7EQ 01372 724172 [louhays@ntlworld.com](mailto:louhays@ntlworld.com) **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. EEHAS members participate in the running the Museum shop, and new volunteers are always welcome.

### **DISPLAYS**

The Society was involved in producing one display this year. The Church Meadow Excavation display won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Margary Award at Surrey Archaeological Society's February Symposium. The prize of £100 was donated to The Church Meadow Project.

### **LECTURE PROGRAMME AND VISITS**

Peggy Bedwell, our programme organiser for more than 40 years was unable to continue in this role due to ill health. Fran Taylor bravely stepped into the breach and continued to arrange a wide ranging and interesting programme of lectures. This year's lectures were: Steamy Jungles and Mayan Ruins - Richard Watson; Fire-backs - Jeremy Hodgkinson, The Story of Beekeeping - Liz Knee; Chile and Easter Island - Jeff Cousins; Excavation in Church Meadow 2012 - Nikki Cowlard, Frank Pemberton and Phil Stanley; Nonsuch Palace: a Reflection - Steve Nelson; the Time Cheam Project - Clive Orton; Rudyard Kipling: His Life and Remarkable Story - Gary Enstone; the Carshalton Water Tower - John Freeman. Members contributed to the August Member's evening with the following talks: A brief visit to New England - Martin Upward; Excavating Oplontis Villa B and taking a look at Villa A: Pompeii 2013 - Lou Hays; Khmer Temples - Brenda Allen. President Jon Cotton gave a talk on 'Thanet: Gateway to Britain' at the AGM in March.

In August Gay and Chris Harris arranged a successful coach trip to Faversham in Kent. Twenty-four members enjoyed a tour of the Medieval and Georgian town learning about its gunpowder mills, brewing, brickmaking and shipbuilding past.

### **REFRESHMENTS**

Thanks go to Peggy Gill who runs the refreshments rota for our monthly meetings, and to everyone who helped. All members are encouraged to take part in the refreshments rota- it is a good way to meet other members and helps to share the workload. Don't wait for Peggy to approach you, make her life easier and offer your services.

### **NEWSLETTERS**

Five newsletters were produced throughout the year, in the main by our Chairman Steve Nelson, in the absence of a permanent newsletter editor. Our thanks go to Steve for taking on this additional task. The Society needs a member to take on this important role - the ability to use Publisher or a similar program is the main requisite. The new format has been well received and the newsletters are also now published on the website. The reports on the monthly lecture continue to be ably recorded by Isobel Cross, and appear in the newsletter. Other articles that have appeared in the year's newsletters include: The Brasses of St. Mary's; Excavation from a Finds perspective; Broken pots - a story; Queen Anne House; The wrought iron gates in Madan's Walk; A Museum of Prehistory, a Prehistory of the Museum; Epsom Clock Tower; the Nonsuch Palace Model; The Glyn Hall, Ewell; Emily Davison; Delftware tiles; Ewell Gunpowder Mills; Lost Roads; 88 High Street, Epsom; A Poor Poem!.

Distribution of the newsletter is arranged by Doreen Tilbury, to whom we offer thanks. Assistance by volunteers in distributing to people who do not regularly attend our meetings gives a useful saving in postal costs.

### **FINANCES**

The Treasurer's Report will be available at the AGM and will be published online in advance of the meeting. The Society's finances are in the capable hands of our Treasurer, Lesley Hays.

## Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society Annual General Meeting 2014

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society will be held on Wednesday 5th March 2014 at 8p.m. at St. Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell.

### Agenda

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To confirm the Minutes of the AGM held on 6th March 2013 (circulated with the April 2013 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 2013.

#### **6. Election of Officers**

The following are nominated for re-election:

President	Jonathan Cotton
Vice-Presidents	Peggy Bedwell, Eve Myatt-Price, Stephen Nelson
Chairman	Stephen Nelson
Secretary	Nikki Cowlard
Treasurer	Lou Hays

Committee Members due for re-election are:

Rosemary Burleigh, Isobel Cross, Fran Taylor (previously co-opted), Ian West

Committee members not due for re-election are:

Jeff Cousins, David Hartley, Doreen Tilbury

**Peggy Bedwell** is retiring from the Committee, and as Programme Secretary after 42 years. She has played a pivotal role in her time with EEHAS, also having been Secretary from 1985-1996 and Chairman from 1996-2011. She was involved in the Documentary Group, and took part in many excavations including the Ice House at Epsom Convent, Bourne Hall Lake, the Churchyard and Church Field digs, and Hatch Furlong. Until recently Peggy has represented EEHAS on the Surrey Local History Committee, for many years she hosted the Monday night Roman Pottery sessions and also volunteered for the Museum Shop and the Local History Centre. She has kindly agreed to remain a Vice-President.

**Dr. Frank Greenaway**, a longstanding Vice-President died in June 2013. An obituary appeared in the February 2014 newsletter.

Election of independent examiner

Rod Clarke is nominated for re-election.

7. **Post of Newsletter Editor** – the Society needs a new Newsletter Editor who is capable of using Microsoft Publisher (or a similar program).
8. **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.

#### **9. Any other business**