



# NEWSLETTER

2018, ISSUE 4

September 2018

## Chairman's Notes

Our very grateful thanks are to Jane and Rob Pedler who stepped in at the last moment when the Church Hall was closed for the August meeting. The visit to their barn was very successful and timely as the usual Members Evening slot was rather lacking in support. Hopefully next year there will be contributions from members?

There is a disturbing proposal to demolish the King's Arms in Epsom. We are making representations about this. It is somewhat disappointing that Epsom Civic Society (previously Epsom Protection Society) in their representation seem to support the demolition!

Incidentally a revised version of the National Planning Policy Framework was published in July. This, along with other Guidance, is what central Government expects Local Government to follow in formulating their individual local plans and planning decisions. Chapter 16 outlines the significance of the Historic Environment and how it should be protected. But this is only one chapter; others extol the need for other issues to be considered such as housing need. However, a significant clause still emphasises that "great weight" should be given to the impact of development on heritage assets although this is qualified to mean designated assets. It seems locally listed assets are not designated as such! One wonders what the point was in listing them.

A better approach is that which seems to have been adopted for the redevelopment of the Lower Mill site in Ewell. Some members may have visited the recent public exhibition on what is proposed. Here the need to respect the two historic buildings has been grasped and their significance is well understood. But then the Mill buildings are listed grade II and the King's Arms is only Locally Listed.

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### Lecture Diary

October 3rd

The Lavender Industries of Mitcham: Alison Cousins (no, not the editor's wife!)

November 7th

The Great Barn at Harmondsworth: Dr Justine Bailey

December 5th

Christmas talk and festivities

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

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

## June Meeting – Developing a Strategy for the Map Room at Imperial War Museum, Churchill War Rooms – Emma Coburn Steve Nelson

Emma Coburn, who many will remember from her time in the office at the Surrey Archaeological Society, has moved on to the Imperial War Museum (IWM) and she came to talk to us about a recent project with which she has been associated. Emma began by outlining the history and background to the IWM which was founded in 1917 as a memorial to the civilian and military war effort of WW1. Its role expanded with the outbreak of WWII and it has continued recording all armed conflicts around the world since then with which the British military has been involved.

The Museum is now actually five museums – the original one in Kennington, where it's been since 1936, Duxford airfield in 1974, HMS Belfast, 1978, the War Rooms in 1984, and finally IWM North in Manchester in 2002. These sites, all together and after 100 years of collecting, now have some 33 million items. This includes paintings, photographic and film archive (IWM is the longest established film archive of its type), as well as the weapons, vehicles and historic aircraft that many associate most with the museum. All this constitutes a nightmare in terms of modern conservation and risk management, and Emma heads a team in the Care and Conservation Department to deal with this.

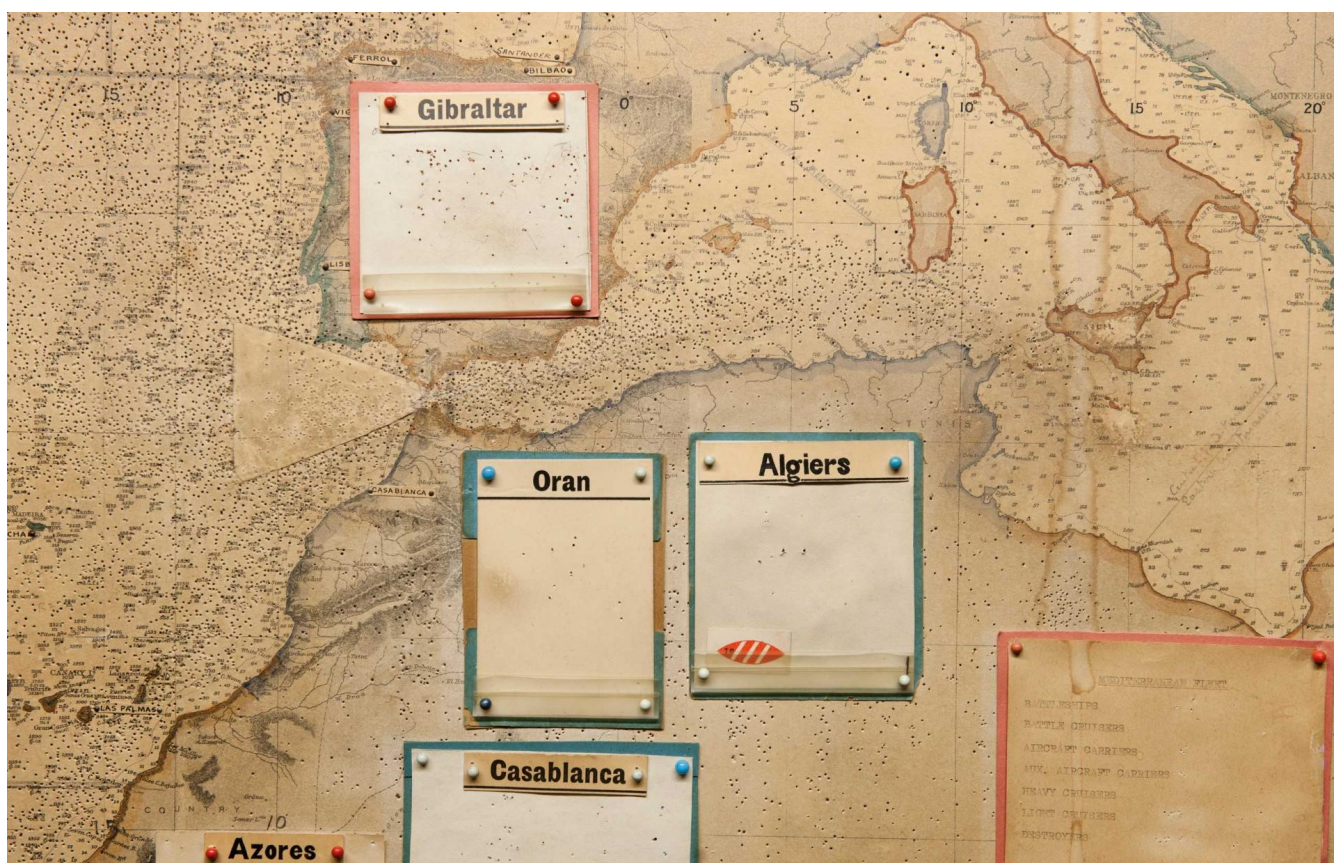


IWM Cabinet War Rooms



Emma's recent project has been overseeing the new management plan for the Churchill War Rooms in the basement of the Treasury building in Whitehall. She recently delivered her paper on this to an international conference in Poland, an experience for her in itself. The rooms were established early in the War to provide a secure venue for Churchill and the War Cabinet to follow the progress across all theatres of operations and liaise with the military. It included telephone/radio communications, huge large scale wall maps, and sleeping accommodation for Churchill and staff. At the end of the war the centre was redundant and ownership passed to the old Ministry of Works, who had responsibility for all government buildings. The rooms were occasionally opened to public tours but on a very restricted basis. By the 1970s there was increasing public interest and pressure mounted for wider access, supported in particular by Margaret Thatcher. Eventually the IWM was persuaded to take responsibility for this and it was formally opened in 1984. It has since become a major attraction – one of the top four “things to see in London” – and is open 7 days a week from 9.30am to 7pm.

The near continuous stream of visitors is a challenge for the Museum to manage and a nightmare for Emma's team to monitor, from implementing precautions to stop people simply knocking things over, to the ongoing wear and tear and monitoring of humidity levels. It requires close cooperation with all departments in the IWM, some of whom will have competing requirements. All museums face a challenge to respond to the differing perceptions of the visiting public without dumbing down their prime importance of care and curation for the future. A much needed review of procedures was carried out in 2017 while



IWM map detail

still open to the public! A special issue has been with the maps glued to the walls, often many layers deep, like wall paper. This involved work with specialist conservators including the Dr Scholl Foundation who have carried out a full photographic record within the very restricted spaces involved and advised on non-invasive repair of the maps. These relatively cramped conditions are also a challenge for appropriate lighting to give the right effect and not introduce any damaging light levels.

With the ever increasing numbers of visitors, private tours and requests for filming, there is greater pressure on Emma's team to ensure that the proper curation and conservation of all the museum's objects is maintained in displays that are a "visitor attraction". Many members will already know the IWM but a visit to one or all of their venues is recommended. The main museums in London and Manchester are free, while the others have a charge which can be expensive. It is possibly worthwhile considering a year's membership if you intend visiting all the venues.

### **Correction - Family Devotions**

In this article it was stated that Alan Horde did not purchase Fitznells Manor until 1562, but he had died in 1553. It was in fact Edmund Horde who purchased Fitznells Manor in 1562.

Thanks to Elizabeth Bennett for spotting this and to Jeremy Harte for the correction.

### **July Meeting - Buildings in the Landscape– Ian West**

**Steve Nelson**

Ian West kindly stepped into the breach for the July meeting when we were left without an arranged speaker. Ian is our historic buildings expert of long standing and has spoken on many aspects over the years. This time he tried to widen the subject by investigating why buildings were built where they are. Some are obvious, like castles for example, but more modest, domestic buildings have different reasons for being where they are. His talk centred on examples from the areas where he has worked on their historic buildings: Shropshire, Derbyshire, East Anglia and Dorset, and included many images of buildings of many dates and types.

He began with a dovecote built out in the open countryside, not where you might expect it. However, it was built by the landowner in fields let to tenants and where the doves might feed off the tenants' crops! A sustaining aspect of rural housing, particularly in the bleaker northern parts of the country, was the need for some protection from the weather; so many houses and villages are to be found in the valleys and lower land in the lee of surrounding hills. The late C18 estate village of Milton Abbas in Dorset illustrated this well, and Rushton in Shropshire, another example, showed buildings all particularly well preserved. At Rushton the render of C18-C19 date had been removed to show the timber framing as it would have been when built. There was a vogue in the early C20 to strip back walls of historic cottages and tar over the timberwork. There is now debate over this as conservation good practice and the NT is experimenting with leaving timbers exposed. Other rural buildings include mills - usually purpose-built, but Ian showed a mill in Dorset, Ilminster which was originally a house converted to a mill. Ian's slide was taken some 30 years ago and it has since been converted back to a house as a holiday let!





Ilminster Mill House

In the Clee Hills is a house with a standard timber frame on stone ground floor walls, a practice more common in the Midlands and North. There are very few like this in the South East. Ian mentioned as possible parallels Castle Cottage, Reigate and the Old Crown pub in Church Street, Kingston, although there the ground floor is brick and possibly infilling a previous jetty frontage. Ian made an aside to discuss some early brick buildings, including one in Church Stretton near Ludlow of c 1600 with a brick chimney stack offset from the gable end to avoid risk of fire and with an integral garderobe shaft – an unusual arrangement.

On the subject of building types, Ian showed a number of Gatehouse buildings, not built for serious defensive purpose but more to impress; that at Upton Cressett, late C16, is impressive solid brick but not defensive. At Lower Brockhampton (NT) the moated site has a free standing timber framed gatehouse



Lower Brockhampton



astride the moat. One wonders what the gatehouse at Tolworth Court Farm, known from a survey of the manor in 1327, was like, and of which no evidence was found in the excavations there in 2000/02. While looking at timber framing, Ian mentioned the difference between close studding and square framing, with the latter using less wood and therefore cheaper. A local example is 1 Thames Street, Kingston, where the upper floors are in large framing. He also turned his attention to porches, which when built were open on the ground but often with an upper room built above, as at Whitehall, Cheam.

Ian finished by talking about barns. Most impressive are the large and early monastic tithe barns, for example Great Coxwell Barn, Oxon (NT), but these are atypical, particularly of the south east where simpler structures are the norm and are increasingly converted to housing. This served as an introduction to the August meeting visit to the barn in Church Street, Ewell, all that remains there of the Rectory Farm buildings.



Great Coxwell Barn west porch interior

## August Members' Evening

Jeff Cousins

The church hall was not available as it was being redecorated, but Jane Pedler kindly stepped into the breach and offered Rectory Barn as a venue, and other members brought chairs and donated cakes. Jane began with a welcome and gave some background as to how she and Rob came to own the barn and some of the problems that arose with owning a listed building. She also displayed some pictures. Ian West discussed the structure of the barn. He then introduced some curiosities for members to look at and discuss whilst refreshments were served.









## The Bandstands of Surrey - Jeff Cousins

The first of what would be recognised today as bandstands, were a pair built in 1861 for the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS)'s gardens and show in South Kensington, on the site of what is now the Science Museum. They were designed by the same engineer (Francis Fowke) who went on to design the nearby Royal Albert Hall. When these gardens closed in 1888, the gardens moved to Chiswick (and subsequently Wisley) and the show to Temple Gardens (and subsequently Chelsea), and the bandstands were sold off second-hand for use in Southwark. Both were destroyed in WW2. The oldest and largest surviving bandstand in the London area is on Clapham Common, an enlarged copy of these built in 1890.

Music had of course been played in parks and gardens before this, for example Vauxhall Gardens in Georgian times. Most bandstands were built in the last years of Victoria's reign or during Edward VII's reign. Rosebery Park, being given in 1913, was probably just a smidgen too late to be given with a bandstand, which would have been the normal practice just a few years before. Most were constructed by foundries from Glasgow.

During the last couple of decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century half were lost - Croydon seems to have been particularly careless - but also some new ones were built. About one in seven have been restored, thanks largely to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Our nearest bandstand appears to be that in John Innes Park, Merton Park, an attractive though rather diminutive affair that looks as though it could only hold six people – not even that if they played large instruments. Does anyone know of any that were nearer?

### List of bandstands in old county of Surrey, but sorted by modern day boroughs

#### **Bromley**

Crystal Palace Park (original, q by Lion Foundry, lost; new one 1997; plus a new 'Village Green Bandstand' opened this year).

#### **Croydon**

Grangewood Park, Thornton Heath 1891 (lost)  
 Park Hill Recreation Ground, Croydon (lost)  
 Thornton Heath Recreation Ground (lost)  
 Upper Norwood Recreation Ground (lost, by Walter MacFarlane & Co, Saracen Foundry, Glasgow)  
 Wandle Park (by Walter MacFarlane & Co, Saracen Foundry, Glasgow)

#### **Guildford**

Guildford Castle Grounds 1888

#### **Kingston upon Thames**

Canbury Gardens 1997

#### **Lambeth**

Brockwell Park, Herne Hill (lost)



Ruskin Park, Camberwell



**Kennington Park**

Myatt's Fields Park, Camberwell 1889

Ruskin Park, Camberwell 1906

Vauxhall Gardens (lost) 1912 (Lion Foundry Co Ltd, Kirkintilloch)

**Lewisham**

Horniman Gardens, Forest Hill 1904

Telegraph Hill Park, Hatcham (near Peckham) (lost)

**Merton**

John Innes Park, Merton Park 1907

Morden Park, c1950

South Park Gardens, Wimbledon (lost)

**Richmond upon Thames**

Terrace Gardens, Richmond Hill (lost)

**Southwark**

Ferranti Park, Deptford

Peckham Rye (lost WW2) (ex- RHS gardens South Kensington re-erected 1889)

Southwark Park, Rotherhithe (original 1884, replaced by an ex- RHS gardens South

Kensington one re-erected c1889, lost WW2; new one 2002)

**Sutton**

Manor Park (lost)

**Wandsworth**

Battersea Park 1887

Clapham Common 1890 (George Smith & Co, Sun Foundry, Glasgow)

King George's Park, Wandsworth (lost) 1938

**Woking**

Woking 1989



John Innes Park, Merton Park

Paul A. Rabbitts has published several books on the subject, which are the source of much of the above information, and are well worth a read, though I'm disappointed that his database doesn't include the bandstand of my childhood (Royds Park, Rawfolds, Cleckheaton).

## **Forthcoming Events**

### **Carshalton And District History & Archaeology Society: Coach Trip to Mary Rose Museum, Portsmouth**

Monday 10th September 2018. Pickup at Shotfield, Wallington 9.30, Ruskin Road, Carshalton 9.45. Cost £40 (Non-members CADHAS £41).

### **Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society: From Madras to Surbiton**

Thursday 13th September 2018, at 8pm, Surbiton Library Halls, Ewell Road, Surbiton. A talk by David Kennedy. Alexander Raphael built St. Raphael's Church and had a very interesting life.

### **Leatherhead & District Local History Society: Rowhurst - Leatherhead's 'Blessed Plot'**

Friday 21st September 2018, at 7:30pm for 8pm, Letherhead Institute, 67 High Street, Leatherhead. A talk by Lucy Quinnell.

### **Surrey Archaeological Society - Roman Studies Group: Trip to Newport and Brading Roman Villas, Isle of Wight**

Saturday 29th September 2018, setting off around 7am to catch the 9am ferry. Admissions £14.50 per adult, or £13.75 per senior, plus travel.

### **Surrey Archaeological Society - Surrey Industrial History Group: The Merchant Navy at War Pt III, including The Falklands**

Thursday 4th October 2018, at 10am, Letherhead Institute, 67 High Street, Leatherhead. . A talk by Richard Mellor.

### **Surrey Archaeological Society - Roman Studies Group: AGM & The Bloomberg excavations, including post-excavation update**

Tuesday 9th October 2018, at 7:30pm, Letherhead Institute, 67 High Street, Leatherhead. AGM, followed by a talk by Sadie Watson on the dig that discovered over 400 Roman writing tablets.

### **Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society: Godalming late Saxon and early medieval cemetery at Priory Orchard**

Thursday 11th October 2018, at 8pm, Surbiton Library Halls, Ewell Road, Surbiton. A talk by Rob Poulton of the Surrey County Archaeological Unit (SCAU).

### **Carshalton And District History & Archaeology Society: Heath Robinson Museum**

Friday 19th October 2018. Meet at 11am at Pinner Station. A visit led by Clive Orton. Admission £5 for over 65s.

### **Leatherhead & District Local History Society: A Study of Country House Services at Polesden Lacey**

Friday 19th October 2018, at 7:30pm for 8pm, Letherhead Institute, 67 High Street, Leatherhead. A talk by the Industrial Heritage Group of Fetcham U3A.



*Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society*

*Founded 1960 Registered Charity No.259221*

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**Membership Secretary:** Doreen Tilbury

**Newsletter Editor:** Jeff Cousins

**Programme Secretary:** Vacant

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

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