



# NEWSLETTER

2016, Issue 2

April 2016

## We welcome as new members

Mr & Mrs L Johnston  
Ms M Cosson

## Thank you for donations

Mr F Pemberton  
Miss M Hunter  
Mrs L Shaw  
Mr I West  
Mr C de Chassiron  
Mr & Mrs C Nutley

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## Chairman's Notes

Thanks to all of you who attended the AGM and contributed to the discussion on various issues. This was very useful, though more useful would have been actual offers of help particularly in filling some of the vacant posts we have available!

Nikki Cowlard and I recently met with Martin Olney, a new member of the Society, to discuss conservation issues in the Borough. Martin is the new Councillor for Stamford Ward and also the Borough's Heritage Champion. He has a longstanding interest in history and archaeology and particularly industrial archaeology. Heritage Champions began with the support of Historic England to ensure that conservation of the built environment has a place in Local Authorities especially in the planning process. Martin told us he has access to a wide range of resources and expertise from HE, including a Champion's handbook and he intends to pursue this role to the full. In particular he is anxious to ensure that the Borough has a Heritage Plan in place to keep the profile of conservation to the front. We welcome the positive attitude Martin clearly has and he tells us he is more than happy to hear from people who have any concerns about the Heritage in general or if they think something needs doing in particular. We look forward to a very useful cooperation on this.

## Lecture Diary

May 4th	History of Kingston, by Shaan Butters
June 1st	John Propert, the Medical Profession and the development of Epsom College in the 19th century, by Alan Scadding
July 6th	Archaeology of the NESCoT site, by Alexis Haslam

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.

## WW1 Centenary Events - 1916

Nikki Cowlard

By 1916 heavy losses on the Western Front meant Britain's volunteer army needed reinforcements. On 27<sup>th</sup> January 1916 the government introduced conscription. All single men aged 18 to 41 could now be sent to war, although thousands were exempted because they had vital jobs in industry which were important to the war effort.

One hundred years ago the **Battle of Verdun** was continuing. The Germans began the battle in the Meuse region of France on 21<sup>st</sup> February and it continued for the rest of the year. The Germans had planned an offensive on a series of forts around Verdun, believing the French would throw huge resources into defending it only to be annihilated. The Germans failed to break through and the French refused to be broken. Both sides lost around 300,000 soldiers and for the French, Verdun became a symbol of the sacrifice of their country's youth.

By May German troops began to round up Belgian workers for deportation to Germany. They were assembled in daily batches of 1,400 men and women in equal numbers.

**May 1916** – Anzacs (troops from the British Commonwealth countries of Australia and New Zealand) began arriving in France.

**May 31<sup>st</sup> 1916**– the **Battle of Jutland** brought together the two most powerful naval forces of the time in the largest battle of the First World War. The battle resulted in the loss of six thousand British and 2,500 German personnel. Overall some 50,000 British and Commonwealth naval personnel lost their lives during the Great War.

Off the coast of Denmark, the Germans tried to break through the British blockade of German ports. In the two day battle, the British lost 111,980 tons of shipping with 6,945 casualties. The Germans lost 62,233 tons of shipping and 2,921 casualties. *Each side claimed victory.*

**Battle of the Somme** – the Battle of the Somme which began on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916 saw over one million wounded, killed or missing on the battlefields, and affected the lives of millions at home. Ten local men fell on the first day of the battle and by the end more than seventy had died.

Overnight public vigils will be held across the country so as many people as possible can come together to remember those lost at the Somme. The national vigil will be held at Westminster Abbey on 30<sup>th</sup> June, and **Epsom and Ewell Borough Council is holding its own event with an act of remembrance at sunset on 31<sup>st</sup> July.**



Imperial War Museum Q 1

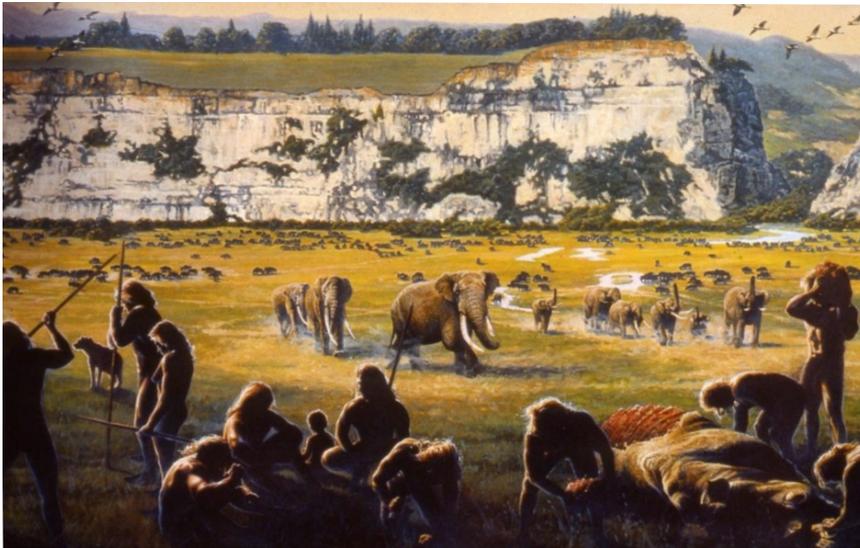
**Background** – In an effort to draw German troops away from Verdun, the Allies mounted a major offensive that opened with a large-scale artillery barrage that lasted five days. In one day, as German machine gunners raked the advancing troops, 20,000 British were killed and 40,000 more wounded. The devastating battle of the Somme continued through the summer and ended in November. The British gain was a modest six miles. The casualty count was horrific; 419,000 British, 194,000 French and 650,000 Germans.

## March Meeting - Vanished People of the Wandle - Jon Cotton

**Lou Hays**

Jon named his talk after a chapter in “The Book of the Wandle” written by John Hobson in 1924: A time when “political correctness” was unknown, so a chapter entitled “Vanished Races of the Wandle” passed without comment. Jon took the idea but changed ‘Races’ to ‘People’ to accommodate 21<sup>st</sup> Century sensitivities.

The Wandle is one of the “Right Bank” tributaries of the Thames, in more recent times with two heads, one near Croydon and the other at Carshalton. Those familiar with Ewell will see the similarity with the Spring in Ewell Village as the fount of the Hogsmill and the Ponds at Carshalton which fulfil the same function for the Wandle.



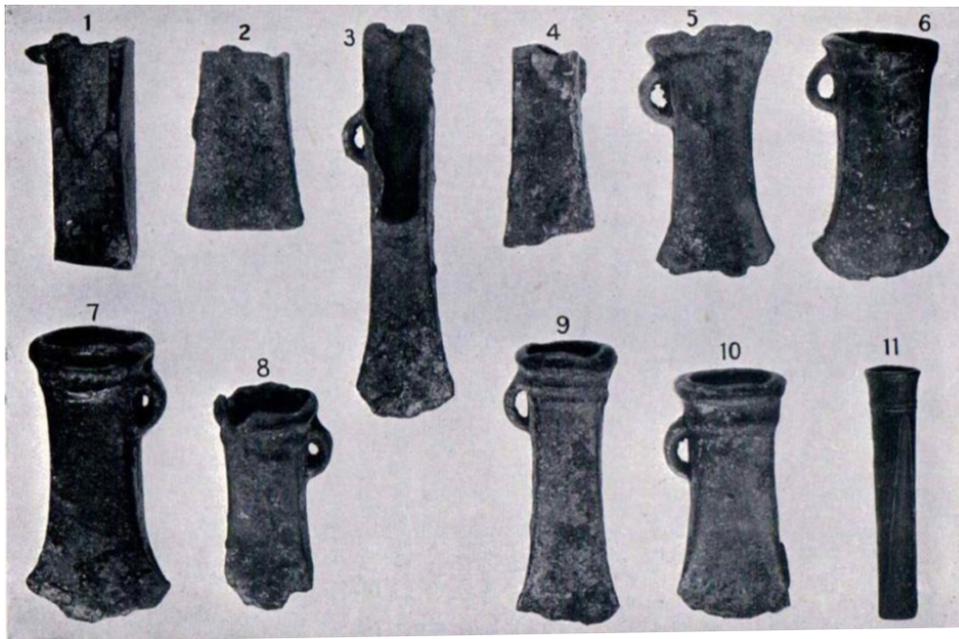
The Lower Palaeolithic scene around the Wandle may have looked similar to this reconstruction of the Boxgrove site

Originally the Wandle was a Wealden river with headwaters near Colley Hill on the North Downs; extensive excavation by Tom Walls and Leslie Carpenter, in the period after WW2, uncovered numerous Palaeolithic tools on the plateau overlooking the Weald, including 5 – 600 hand-axes. Their work was followed up by Peter Harp who trebled the finds. These date to 400 – 350,000 years ago; a time when Homo Heidelbergensis or Neanderthals, the

forerunners of Homo Sapiens, formed hunter-gatherer groups across Northern Europe and beyond. Although ‘sapience’ comes into it, as they picked a prime site for watching for prey!

Subsequent building work within the last 40 – 50 years at St Philomena’s School in Carshalton uncovered deposits of Late Upper Palaeolithic tools, indicating occupation by Homo Sapiens at the end of the last Ice Age 12,000 years ago. There is similarity with the finds made when excavations took place at Guildford Fire Station in 2014.

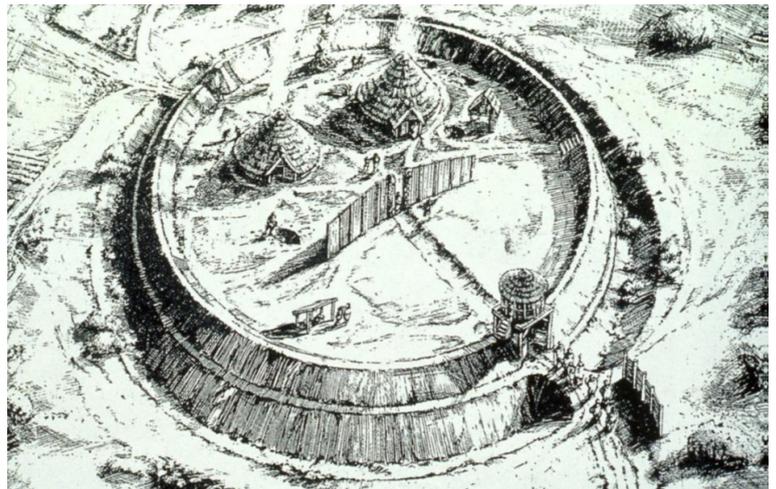
Dennis Turner’s excavation at Orchard Hill, Carshalton, in the 1960s found Mesolithic flint blades similar to those found in Ewell. Very little in the way of Neolithic activity has been discovered, a few indications of rectangular buildings are all that has come to light so far. A female buried at Blackwall further along the Thames was carbon dated to 4000 cal BCE, the backfill contained grains of wheat indicating an arable area.



Bronze Age socketed axes

The Bronze Age in Carshalton was identified by the discovery of collections of B.A. tools in Carshalton Park. Burials in Westcroft Road showed votive deposits including numerous shed antlers; i.e. they had dropped off naturally rather than cut off a dead animal, (shed's do not generally have them!).

Queen Mary's Hospital for Children was built in sanatorium form with wards in separate buildings to contain infection, and covered most of the site of "Carshalton Camp" When the Hospital was closed and demolished for redevelopment it provided an opportunity for excavation, uncovering defended Ring Forts and trackways from 800 B.C.E. together with Neolithic and Bronze Age deposits, some in large hoards. Later research showed some bronze axe heads were made hollow, rendering them unusable. The assumption is that they were deposited in bulk at the end of the Bronze age when Iron technology became the metal of choice for tools. The technological "must have" of the age (for younger readers – 'like' the latest iPhone). A similar hoard found nearby vanished without trace.



An illustration of a Ring Fort

Evidence of late Iron Age activity was the discovery of shafts filled with deposited animal bone at Carshalton Hospital and the War Memorial Hospital sites. These were similar to those uncovered at Hatch Furlong, Church Meadow and NESCoT fields, all in Ewell. Bones included those of horse, sheep, pigs and dogs. This was on the cusp of the early Roman period.

The construction of the sewage works in Beddington in the 1870s uncovered a Roman building thought at the time to be a villa, but excavation a century later found it to be a bath house attached to a nearby villa. Most of the foundations were destroyed during the original construction of the sewage works but enough remained to show aisled barns, Round Houses and enclosures overlooking the Wandle. Amongst the finds were brooches,

silver 'Kentish' coins and painted wall plaster. An intriguing find was that of a polished hand-axe settled amongst the fallen painted ceiling plaster. The assumption is that it was placed in the roof cavity by a Roman farmer in order to ward off lightning strikes, a useful insurance when living under thatch.. A small test pit style excavation in West Street Carshalton by Jeff Perry of Sutton Archaeology found evidence of a Roman building, which later geophysics indicated was probably a corridor villa, again overlooking the headwaters of the Wandle.

Regarding the hand-axes, Jon showed a picture of one found at the Blomberg site at Walbrook in the City of London during the recent redevelopment of the site, that had a ridge and hole at the top to which a bale may have been fitted so the item could have been worn, perhaps as a talisman.

As we have seen in our own lifetime, the Thames basin, including the Wandle, Wey and Hogsmill rivers are prone to flooding, and this is not a new phenomenon. It is estimated that peoples living in the areas over the millennia of hominid and human habitation would have been aware of environmental stresses. This is not only evidenced by the trackways found in many areas alongside the Thames that were lined with branches to make them navigable during periods of flood: At the time their first defence was to propitiate the gods by making offerings. The large number of finds at the flood stress points along the Thames is significant and possibly related to appeasing the water gods.

It is thought that the Thames had two names in history, one for when it was temperate 'Thamesa' and one for when it was less so 'Plowondia' from which the Latin name Londinium is thought to derive.

As usual Jon's talk was littered with erudition combined with a depth of knowledge of his subject, and although he stated that this was a "cut down" overview it was full of the kind of detail that only he can give, backed up by superb presentation. THANK YOU Jon.

**2016 Subscriptions**

Members are reminded that subscriptions for 2016 became due on 1st January. Subscriptions can be paid at the monthly meetings, or by post to the Treasurer, Jane Pedler, or the Membership Secretary, Doreen Tilbury. Subs are £10 for ordinary membership, £14 for family membership, £6 for student, or £14 for corporate and school memberships. A slip is provided below:

**2016 Subscriptions**

I (we) wish to renew membership for 2016 Amount enclosed.....

Name and address.....

.....

.....

E-mail address.....

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

**Useful contact details**

**President:** Jon Cotton MA, FSA

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**Secretary:** Nikki Cowlard, 1 Norman Avenue, Epsom KT17 3AB (01372) 745432  
e-mail [info@epsomewellhistory.org.uk](mailto:info@epsomewellhistory.org.uk)

**Treasurer:** Jane Pedler

**Archaeology Officer:** Frank Pemberton

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

**Membership Secretary:** Doreen Tilbury

**Newsletter Editor:** Jeff Cousins via [info@epsomewellhistory.org.uk](mailto:info@epsomewellhistory.org.uk)

**Programme Secretary:** Vacant

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

**Please send copy for the next newsletter to the Newsletter Editor by 14 May 2016**

**Visit our website**

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

**Gift Aid**

Just a further reminder that if you pay tax EEHAS, as a charity, can claim Gift Aid on your subscription or donations, at no cost to yourself. In order for us to do this you need to sign a Gift Aid Declaration form which is available at meetings and can also be found on the Society website on the Membership page.

You can see a colour copy of this newsletter on the Society website from mid 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 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2016 at St. Mary's Church Hall, Ewell

<b>Present:</b>	President	Jon Cotton
	Vice-President/Chairman	Stephen Nelson
	Secretary	Nikki Cowlard
	Treasurer	Jane Pedler

A total of 40 members signed the attendance book.

President Jon Cotton opened the proceedings and welcomed members.

**1. Apologies for absence:** Margaret Clemens, Peggy Gill, Iain McKillop, Eve Myatt-Price, Martin Olney, Dorothy White.

### 2. Minutes of the AGM held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2015

The minutes had been circulated with the April 2015 newsletter. Adoption of the minutes was agreed unanimously by members present.

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

Jon congratulated Eve Myatt-Price and Jeremy Harte on becoming honorary members.

### 4. Annual report for 2015

The report had been circulated with the February 2016 Newsletter. Nikki Cowlard highlighted some aspects of the report which included: membership of the committee has remained constant over the last year but membership has decreased and the Society needs to look at ways of encouraging new, and perhaps younger members; as well as the website and Facebook an EEHAS notice board was now set up at Bourne Hall Museum, and Isobel Cross and Gay Keeble ensure that lectures are regularly publicised on the Borough notice boards; Frank Pemberton was congratulated on the publication of the St. Mary's Churchyard 1974-75 report. At this point Frank informed members of work that he was undertaking to ensure past excavations are published. He thanked those volunteers who had worked for years on cataloguing Roman pottery from Ewell sites, and in particular Gay and Chris Harris whose organisational skills keep the pottery catalogues in order. A further outstanding Ewell excavation report is that for Hatch Furlong 2006-9.

Jon mentioned that Nikki Cowlard was now on the Management Committee of Surrey Archaeological Society, which was facing challenging times after having being asked to leave its headquarters at Castle Arch by Guildford Borough Council. He commented on the various vacant posts within EEHAS and encouraged members to step forward to fill them. Jeff Cousins was thanked for taking on the role of newsletter editor, and Isobel Cross was thanked for her comprehensive written reports on lectures over many years. She has now relinquished the role and committee members are covering the reporting until a member hopefully takes it on. The role undertaken by Steve Nelson and Ian West in responding to planning applications on listed and locally listed buildings was highlighted, and Jon reiterated how lucky the Society was to have such expertise.

Adoption of the Annual Report was proposed by Ian West, seconded by Lou Hays and accepted unanimously.

### 5. Treasurer's report

Jane Pedler reported that she had now completed her first full year as Treasurer and that it has been somewhat of a steep learning curve. She has finally got to grips with the difference between the main account and the separate Church Meadow account and the fact that the Chairman, who is one of the other signatories, lives just down the road, has made the double signing and sending out of cheques a highly efficient process. Jane thanked Steve and Nikki for their help over the last year, and examiner Rod Clarke for his patience, and the speedy production of the accounts. Jane also thanked Doreen for her incredibly detailed drops of subscriptions and meeting income, and Gay Harris for the Pot Group reckonings which are accurate to the last penny and tea bag.

Over the last 18 months Jane has been catching up on claiming Gift Aid, the regulations for which have become ever stricter; an updated Gift Aid form is to be implemented this April. It does not act retrospectively but will affect all new Gift Aid. She has now claimed up to 2014 and will start work on 2015 within the next couple of months. The total amount received in 2015 (for 2012 and 2013) totalled £195.08. It is worth emphasising that the Society cannot claim Gift Aid unless you have signed a form, and that we can no longer just assume you are eligible without the form.

From the balance sheet one can see that subscriptions and donations were down last year but sales of publications and meeting receipts (mainly visitors) were up, resulting in an overall rise on 2014. However expenditure was up so overall there was a shortfall. The payment of £500 under EEHAS for Archaeology is the transfer of that sum from the NS & I Savings Account to the Church Meadow Account

The Christmas party made a profit of £136.52, taking into account the hire of the hall, of which £74 was for the raffle; thanks must go to all who helped - the committee who planned it and all those who helped set the room up and clear away afterwards. Jane asked that if anyone has any ideas for future seasonal celebrations to make their suggestions known to any member of the committee.

A member asked whether the £500 transferred to the Church Meadow Project would be returned. Nikki said no as the £500 was half of a £1000 EEHAS grant promised to the project, and a further £500 would be transferred in due course. It had been deemed important to financially support a local excavation.

Adoption of the Treasurer's Report was proposed by Lou Hays, seconded by Rosemary Burleigh and accepted unanimously.

## 6. Election of Officers

The following were proposed by Jean Cobbold, seconded by Alfie Hine, and elected en bloc:

<b>President</b>	Jonathan Cotton
<b>Vice-Presidents</b>	Eve Myatt-Price, Stephen Nelson,
<b>Chairman</b>	Stephen Nelson
<b>Secretary</b>	Nikki Cowlard
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jane Pedler
<b>Committee Members</b>	Rosemary Burleigh, Isobel Cross, Ian West
<b>Independent examiner</b>	Rod Clarke Proposed by Ian West, seconded by Chris Harris and elected unanimously.

## 7. Proposal to levy an £1 charge at meetings

Nikki said this proposal had arisen because in 2015 subscriptions had not even covered newsletters and meeting costs, let alone other expenses. The proposal was opened to the floor and a frank and open discussion ensued. The alternative to a meeting charge is an increase in subscriptions and whilst some members were concerned this may detrimentally affect numbers of renewals, others felt a small annual increase would be preferable. The problems of raising gift aid on monthly fees were discussed as was the likelihood of speakers' fees increasing, the possibility of charging for a key speaker and the good value of family membership. In conclusion Ian West proposed that EEHAS raised its ordinary membership to £15 (from £10) and its family and institutional subscription to £22 (from £14), from March 2017. This was seconded by Jenny Lock and agreed *nem.con.*

## 8. Open Forum

Jenny Jacobs asked whether the Facebook page could be updated more regularly. Nikki said that whilst EEHAS did have a Facebook presence she concentrated on keeping the website updated. As no-one has offered to take on the role of publicity officer, refreshments co-ordinator or lecture co-ordinator the current committee was stretched and committee members did what they could.

The Society has been doing a lot of archaeology-based activity over the last few years and Frank Pemberton asked what was being done on the local history front. Jeremy Harte said all of the work done by the Documentary Group was now published on the Epsom and Ewell Local and Family History Centre [EELFHC] website and Barbara Abdy had just transcribed the Gaddesden Papers, which will be published in due course. EEHAS is keen to support and encourage local history research, and Nikki said that SyAS has just started an Early Modern History Group [1500-1700 AD], being led by Catherine Ferguson, which would act as an advisor on local history projects; a number of training sessions are planned to help one access and read records. Now that the major local history papers have been transcribed and published, potential researchers will need to access regional and national records, such as those at the National Archives at Kew. Members were encouraged to contact a committee member, or Jeremy Harte, if they wanted help on choosing a project.

Chris Harris proposed a vote of thanks to Nikki Cowlard who, on behalf of the Church Meadow Project, had again won the second prize of £100 in the SyAS Margary Award for a display on the post excavation work being undertaken on CME12-14, which is actively supported by many EEHAS members.

The possible changes to the Society's Christmas social event was discussed. Members had been canvassed on changing the social to the August Members' meeting, with very little comment being received either way. Therefore the committee had decided to try a summer social, with mince pies and short talks at the December meeting.

## 9. Any other business – none.

## 10. Close of Meeting - the Chairman closed the meeting at approximately 8.50p.m..