

# EPSOM & EWELL HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY



## THE FIRST 50 YEARS: 1960-2010

### Local History

For half a century, members of EEHAS have pursued the study of local history and so fulfilled one of the objectives set out in the Society's Rules, namely 'to encourage, for the public benefit, interest in matters of archaeological and historical importance in Epsom and Ewell.' In the early years, emphasis seems to have been given to archaeological excavations, probably because the Society was founded by those who took part in the excavation of Nonsuch Palace and wished to continue to excavate other sites in the area. However, the Society's records show that a great amount of work has also been done to bring to light many aspects of the historical importance of Epsom and Ewell.

The Documentary Group, set up in 1968 by George Wignall, formerly Secretary of the Society, carried out the transcription and interpretation of historic documents relating to the Borough. Members are encouraged to write about their own research into historical features in Epsom and Ewell and to publish their findings in a series of Occasional Papers, in Nonsuch Extra papers and in many interesting short reports, articles and reviews printed in the Newsletter issued five times a year. The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year saw the publication of Occasional Paper No.50, so output has averaged one per year. Foremost among authors of Occasional Papers has been Charles Abdy (former Secretary of EEHAS and present Editor of the Newsletter) who has written no less than 18 and who has also written five books: *A History of Ewell* (1992); *The Glyns of Ewell* (1994), providing biographies of the most prominent family in Ewell village during the 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries; *Ewell Past* (2000); *Epsom Past* (2001) and *Ewell: A Surrey Village that Became a Town* (2004).

### The Glyns of Ewell



Charles Abdy

Above—the front cover of *The Glyns of Ewell* by Charles Abdy

#### Fitznell's Cartulary

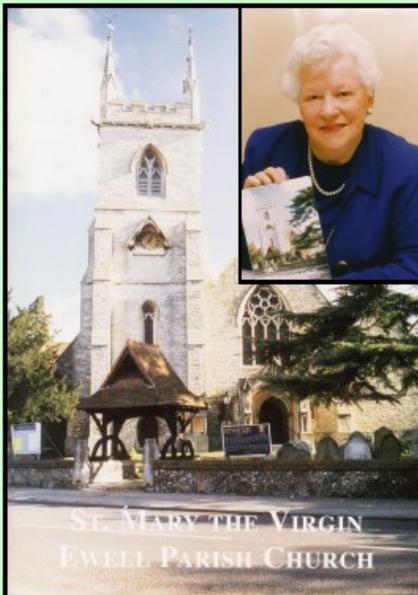
Mention must be made of the major work of Philip Shearman in transcribing and editing, jointly with C.A.F. Meekings, *Fitznell's Cartulary*, which led to its publication by the Surrey Record Society in 1968, the year in which he became President of EEHAS. The Cartulary is a collection of medieval deeds relating to Ewell and the surrounding area, and is an invaluable source of local history.

Right—a map of Ewell c.1400 as reproduced in Philip Shearman's publication, *Fitznell's Cartulary*



Above—gravestones in Ewell Churchyard whose inscriptions have been recorded

Below—the front cover of Charles Abdy's book *Ewell: A Surrey Town that became a Village*



The front cover of the 150th Anniversary Guide Book to St. Mary's Church Ewell by Eve Myatt-Price (inset)

#### Local Church History

Members were kindly given access to the collection of church magazines and newspapers dating from 1878 before they were deposited for safe custody in the Surrey History Centre at Woking. Supplemented by the collection in Bourne Hall library for the beginning of this period, they provided valuable information about the church and the people who made up the congregation. Eve Myatt-Price used this illuminating source of material for the Guide to St.Mary's which published in 1998 to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the consecration of the church.

Maurice Exwood produced the book entitled *Burials and Their Monuments in the Old Churchyard of Ewell in Surrey* (1997) as well as numerous reports on his work in connection with St.Mary's churchyard and the Old Tower, also by reference to original records.

