



NEWSLETTER

2018, ISSUE 1

February 2018

We welcome the following new members:

Mr & Mrs R Storti
Mrs S Hatfield
Mr J Royds
Mr & Mrs P Clifford

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Chairman's Notes

We wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Members will have heard of the recent reopening of the reconstructed Mithras temple in the basement of the new Bloomberg building. It looks impressive and very well worth a visit, especially as entry is free although advance booking is essential. This is good news but it reminded me of a little advertised piece of less good news. That is the destruction, earlier in 2017, by Greenwich Council of the remains of the mid C17 pottery kiln that was excavated in Woolwich in 1974. The structure, in good condition, was lifted en bloc at some expense by the old Ancients Monuments Laboratory, as it was the first example of its type in England to produce stoneware pottery hitherto only available from Germany. In that sense it was the direct precursor of the remarkable expansion of technology in this country that was part of the industrial revolution. Now destroyed it seems because it took up six car park spaces by the Greenwich Heritage Centre!!

This year's AGM is on 7th March and the Annual Report is with this Newsletter, all members are encouraged to attend.

Lecture Diary

March 7th AGM and a talk "JD's doughnut and Iron Age London" by our president Jon Cotton.

April 4th Restoration of Clandon Park: Tom Dommett.

May 2nd Hubert de Burgh (1170-1243): Richard Mantle.

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.

November Meeting – Freemasonry - what is it all about - Robert Dobbie

Steve Nelson

Robert Dobbie spoke to us about Freemasonry – its history and meaning and relevance in the modern world. He tried to dispel some of the misconceptions that surround it. He first emphasised that it is not a secret society; the rules and constitution are freely available on their own website. Membership is open to all, irrespective of religious affiliation. The movement's guiding principles are Brotherly love, Truth/morality, Relief and charity which underlines their principles of charitable work.

Robert then outlined the history. It has been thought by some to have some basis in the medieval stonemasons' guild structure which encouraged acceptance of their craft and also fostered a form of apprentice system to uphold standards. It may be that the "mysteries" of the craft, as it was known, included secretive signs and which fostered a certain exclusiveness. However, "modern" Freemasonry emerged slightly later, in the C17 during the period of European religious persecution. In 1646/7 Elias Ashmole was admitted into the Warrington Lodge and he remained a member for over 30 years. Amongst his notes are two brief records of him attending meetings and these are some of the earliest references to Freemasonry in England. 1717 was the date of the first national Grand Lodge and election of the first grand master, Anthony Sayer. The organisation has this year celebrated the 300th anniversary.

During the C18 the Freemasonry gained momentum and in 1776 the first Grand Lodge in London was built. The original building has been redeveloped a number of times and the current Freemasons Hall was built on the same site in 1933 as the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE). As the movement expanded it included more influential members – George IV was the first Royal Grand Master in 1790. The present Duke of Kent has been Grand Master for 50 years. In the C19 English Freemasonry spread abroad with the expansion of the Empire. The movement is organised into provinces which in England equate with counties and individual Lodges within them.

Robert Dobbie was at pains to dispel the reputation of secrecy that Freemasonry still has for many today. Up to WWI its activities were widely advertised and well attended events reported in the national and local press. However, during WWII there was a reluctance to advertise activities and this attracted some criticism of the movement. The non-response to this criticism fuelled the fire and has lingered on since. He emphasised that now virtually all aspects of Masonry are freely available. The only part that is restricted is the formal masonic ritual that precedes each Lodge meeting. The various symbols associated with Masonic regalia reflect its long tradition even if some seem rooted in medieval mysticism.

Robert Dobbie who is the MD of Glenmore House, the Masonic Lodge in Surbiton, was very willing to answer questions, one being – yes, they do role up the trouser leg! The only bar to membership is having no criminal conviction and thus demonstrated by showing no marks from criminal fetters. And yes, there are now women's Lodges.

The national Freemason's Hall in Great Queen Street, Holborn is open to the public when not in use and guided tours of the building and Museum are conducted free of charge. They also hold the archive of past members which can be consulted by anyone engaged in local or family history research. It is easier if you know an individual's Lodge and membership number.

December Meeting - Christmas Party

Nikki Cowlard

The December meeting saw members enjoy a Christmas get-together at St. Mary's Church Hall. Entertainment was provided by re-enactors, Paul and Helen Harding, of "Discover History". Paul played a Royalist and Helen a "festive killjoy" Puritan in "**Cromwell's Cancelled Christmas**". Whilst it is a myth that Oliver Cromwell himself banned Christmas during his reign as Lord Protector (1653-1658), it was the rise of the Puritan movement from the 16th century that led to Christmas being declared illegal. Puritans saw Christmas as a wasteful festival that threatened Christian beliefs and encouraged immoral activities. It was made clear that festival days, including Christmas, were not to be celebrated but spent in respectful contemplation. Puritans knew that Christmas was the adaption of a pagan midwinter festival (the feast of the Winter solstice) into Christianity, celebrated as a period of excess and jollity. Paul and Helen gave us an entertaining and humorous interpretation of these diverse views of Christmas, with most of those present voting for the more traditional Royalist festivities. Thanks must go to Jeremy Harte for organising this festive cheer.



Members enjoyed the two quizzes kindly provided by Doreen Tilbury, and an excess of lovely festive food was supplied by members. David Hartley acted as mulled wine 'chef', Rosemary Burleigh ran the raffle and Steve Nelson acted as Master of Ceremonies. Thanks to them, and to all who came along, for making it a memorable party.

January Meeting – World War 1 - Keeping your head in the trenches; WWII - Life on the home Front - Martin Olney

Jeff Cousins

At this meeting, attended by the mayor Liz Frost and her husband, Martin Olney gave us a talk in two parts: Fighting in the Trenches in WW1, and Life on the Home Front in WW2. Martin is a local councillor and is the Borough's "Heritage Champion", and also a volunteer at the Imperial War Museum.

When Germany declared war on France and Russia in 1914, it was over-optimistic in thinking that it could defeat France within a couple of weeks, and that Russia would take far longer than this to mobilise, both of which hopes proved unfounded. The introduction of the machine gun put a stop to the rapid advances seen in the Franco-Prussian War, so the stalemate of trench warfare ensued.

Initially much of the technology was primitive – all vehicles were horse-drawn, and British and French soldiers wore soft caps. Air burst shells were fired by artillery, and these exploded over the trenches, showering those below with shrapnel. Against this, the soft caps offered little protection. German soldiers wore "Pickelhaube", made of boiled leather and with a spike on top, but these weren't much better, being designed for protection against sword blows rather than shrapnel. Supplies of boiled leather soon ran out anyway, being replaced by softer materials.



By 1917, all sides on the Western Front had metal helmets. The British "Brodie" helmet was of a simple rounded design, making it easy to make and good at deflecting bullets.



The German "Stahlhelm", of a tortoise shape, was possibly over-engineered – harder to make, and the harder steel was more likely to shatter if hit.



After tea we were told about the Blackout of WW2. The Air Ministry had forecasted the Blitz, and introduced Blackout regulations on Sept 1st, two days before war was actually declared. (My father's class at primary school was marched down to Dagenham Dock for evacuation by paddle steamer to Lowestoft on Sept 1st, not 3rd, too). The Blackout made it harder for German bombers to spot their target, though didn't help much when there was a full moon. Vehicle lights were covered by a mask with just a narrow slot for the light to shine through, and with a cowl to direct the light downwards. Only one headlight was allowed on a car. This inevitably led to more accidents. To try to alleviate the problem, car bumpers were painted white, and kerbs, steps and lampposts were painted with white stripes. As the danger diminished, a "Dimout" was introduced in Sept 1944, where lights were allowed as long as they weren't brighter than moonlight, though a full Blackout was

still required if the air raid sirens sounded.

Rationing had occurred during WW1, but is best known from WW2. Clothes rationing was introduced in 1941. People were allowed 80 coupons a year. A pair of ankle socks would require 1 coupon; a lady's Macintosh 14. (The items still had to be paid for). Restrictions specified that trousers could not have turn-ups, and suits had to be single-breasted not double, to save cloth. "Utility" clothes were introduced, these bore a "CC41" label to show that they were still of some guaranteed quality. Churchill brought in fashion designers to make the Utility clothing more acceptable.

An interesting talk that brought back memories for several of the audience.

Forthcoming Events

Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society: TBA

Thursday 8th February 2018, at 8pm, Surbiton Library Halls, Ewell Road, Surbiton.

Carshalton And District History & Archaeology Society: AGM and 2017 photos

Saturday 3rd March 2018 at 3.00pm, Milton Hall (the Darby & Joan Club), Cooper Crescent, Carshalton, SM5 2LG. This includes a selection of photos by members of their 2017 visits to Cardiff, Blenheim Palace, Chiddingstone Castle, Arundel Castle and Polesden Lacey.

Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society: TBA

Thursday 8th March 2018, at 8pm, Surbiton Library Halls, Ewell Road, Surbiton.

Leatherhead & District Local History Society: AGM and lecture

Friday 16th March 2018, at 7:30pm for 8pm, Letherhead Institute, 67 High Street, Leatherhead. This includes a short lecture by Professor David Hawksworth.

Carshalton And District History & Archaeology Society: Archaeology of Knowledge: Six years of discoveries

Saturday 7th April 2018 at 3.00pm, Milton Hall (the Darby & Joan Club), Cooper Crescent, Carshalton, SM5 2LG. A talk by Nathalie Cohen of Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA).

Surrey Archaeological Society - Roman Studies Group: Shining a light on the 5th century AD in Surrey and the South-East: how did Roman Britain become Saxon England?

Saturday 5th May 2018 at 9:30am, Ashted Peace Memorial Hall, Woodfield Lane, Ashted, KT21 2BE. Surrey Archaeological Society is arranging a major conference centred on the period between about AD 410 to AD 470 when, in our part of the country, Roman Britain became Saxon England.

2018 Subscriptions

Members are reminded that subscriptions for 2018 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 £15 for ordinary membership, £22 for family membership, £6 for student, or £22 for corporate and school memberships. A slip is provided below:

2018 Subscriptions

I (we) wish to renew membership for 2018

Amount enclosed.....

Name and address.....

.....

.....

E-mail address.....

Don't forget to take a look at our last Occasional Paper, OP56, *The Star, 31 High Street, Ewell: draft report on the historic structure*, by Ian West and Stephen Nelson in November 2016.



Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society

Founded 1960 Registered Charity No.259221

Useful contact details

President: Jon Cotton MA, FSA

Chairman: Steve Nelson

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

e-mail 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

To contact any of the Officers please e-mail 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 12 March 2018.

Visit our website

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 February
www.epsomewellhistory.org.uk



Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society Annual General Meeting 2018

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society will be held on Wednesday 7th March 2018 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 1st March 2017 (circulated with the April 2017 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 2017.

6. Election of Officers

The following are nominated for re-election:

President	Jonathan Cotton
Vice-President	Stephen Nelson
Chairman	Stephen Nelson
Secretary	Nikki Cowlard
Treasurer	Jane Pedler

Committee Members due for re-election are:

Rosemary Burleigh, Ian West.

Committee members not due for re-election this year are:

Jeff Cousins, David Hartley, Doreen Tilbury.

Committee member, Lou Hays died in August 2017. She had been a member of EEHAS for a decade and during her time on the committee she had variously taken on the role of Treasurer and Co-Conservation Officer. Lou's contribution to the Society will be much missed.

Election of independent examiner

Rod Clarke is nominated for re-election.

7. 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.

8. Any other business

Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society

Annual Report for 2017



INTRODUCTION

This annual report highlights the main activities of the Society for the year ending 31st December 2017. 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	Stephen Nelson
Chairman	Stephen Nelson
Secretary	Nikki Cowlard
Treasurer	Jane Pedler
Committee	Rosemary Burleigh, Jeff Cousins, David Hartley, Lesley Hays (died August 2017), Doreen Tilbury and Ian West.

The Committee held six meetings during the year.

Other functionaries are:

Archaeology Officer	Frank Pemberton	Conservation Officer	Nikki Cowlard
Membership Secretary	Doreen Tilbury	Newsletter Editor	Jeff Cousins
Programme Secretary	Vacant	Publicity Officer	Vacant

MEMBERSHIP

Memberships at the end of the year in terms of subscriptions paid were 60 (-6) ordinary, 20 (-1) family, 0 student (-1) and 0 corporate. There were a total of 80 subscriptions and the Society has 5 honorary members. The gradual decline in membership continues, and this combined with reduced involvement by existing members has implications for how the Society can function going forward.

LIAISON WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

EEHAS is affiliated to Surrey Archaeological Society, Surrey Record Society and the Council for British Archaeology. E-newsletters are exchanged with neighbouring local history societies. Some of our members have individual membership of Surrey Archaeological Society: our President, Jonathan Cotton and Nikki Cowlard, our Secretary, are Vice-Presidents of the Society; Lesley Hays was a member of Council, sat on the Local History Committee, the Investment Committee and the Roman Studies Group Committee, and was a member of AARG (Artefact and Archaeological Research Group). Nikki Cowlard is a member of the Management Committee, and is Secretary of the Roman Studies Group Committee; David Hartley and Steve Nelson are active members of SyAS' Medieval Studies Group. Other members are also members of other local archaeological and historical societies such as KuTAS and Esher History Society.

PUBLICITY

Thanks go to Gay Keeble who produces posters advertising EEHAS talks for the Borough noticeboards, and to Nikki Cowlard for updating the Society information board at Bourne Hall Museum. **The post of Publicity Officer is still vacant** so if you think you might be interested, do talk to a member of the committee who can advise you as to what the role entails.

PUBLICATIONS

Occasional Paper 57, *Historic Survey of Woodcote Green House* by Ian West was published in June 2017, and a number of other publications are in the pipeline. We are grateful to Rosemary Burleigh for managing the sales desk at the monthly meetings.

Members are encouraged to carry out local historic research and to approach the committee if they have papers for publication.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Report 2017

Frank Pemberton, Archaeology Officer

This year I have been largely writing up reports on past excavations run by Nonsuch & Ewell Antiquarian Society, the predecessor of the current Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society. I have also been writing up catalogues of some of our more recent excavations in Church Meadow.

Firstly, I have been re-assessing the evidence and finds from an excavation of a site in the grounds of Purberry Shot run by Sheppard Frere and Anthony Lowther in 1939, with a basic report in the Surrey Archaeological Society's collections of 1949, with the aim of publishing it as an EEHAS special paper.

The first phase at the site is of an Early Iron Age settlement, probably a farmstead (c. 600-400 BC) with embedded flint and sandy soil floors, and a collection of flint and sand tempered jars. An early Roman furnace involving metal forging and later smelting coincides with a well of box construction, which was subsequently filled in the mid-2nd century AD to make way for an 8-metre-wide Roman road built across the site, aligned out of the Roman settlement southwards towards the Epsom area. The report also lists the Roman sites found in the southern area of the settlement down the slope of the present High Street from Purberry Shot, suggesting a settlement pattern of structures and pits along the route of the edge of the 2nd century road.

Secondly, I have written up a draft special report on the excavation conducted 1976 – 1979 along the southern boundary of Church Meadow, Ewell. The long trench revealed Stane Street on the 'London Road' alignment. Roadside chalk structures, a dry flint wall, and a rubbish midden derived from the demolition of a late 1st – early 2nd century AD building, which produced a collection of fine Samian ware and domestic grey wares. In 2018, the excavations conducted in 1979 and 2003 will be the reports that need to be written.

The special finds found at the Church Meadow excavation have been listed in a report listing over 40 Roman brooches, 39 bone and metal hair pins, together with 11 rings, 5 bracelets and 3 beads. Work is in progress on describing iron knives and nails as well as ceramic flue, roof and floor tiles; this would not be possible without the hours of work cataloging the metalwork by Chris Harris, Lou Hays and Rosemary Burleigh, who worked together with the Monday evening Roman pottery group.

Church Meadow Project

Nikki Cowlard, Site Director

Work on cataloguing the Roman pottery from Church Meadow is near completion. Thanks must go to the volunteers who have given up their Monday evenings since September 2012 to carry out the work under the guidance of Phil Stanley and Frank Pemberton. Frank Pemberton is working on completing the special finds cataloguing. A small-scale magnetometry survey was carried out on part of the newly levelled Church Meadow. Whilst there was a lot of magnetic 'noise' caused by metal debris in the soil, a large linear feature was noted, running perpendicular to the eastern roadside ditch.

Archaeological Watching Briefs and planning

Members of the Society, when qualified to do so, carry out watching briefs on small developments in the Borough on behalf of Surrey County Council's Archaeological Officer. In July Steve Nelson observed groundworks adjacent to the upper entrance to St. Martin's Church House. The church stands in an area thought to be Epsom's medieval village centre, and one sherd of medieval pot was found together with post-medieval pottery and glass, bones and iron coffin studs in a loose layer of chalk. We highlight the need for archaeological monitoring conditions in the planning process, and building works that take place in the Borough and are large or important enough to warrant commercial archaeological intervention, are monitored by the Society, ensuring the results are disseminated.

CONSERVATION

The Society's Conservation Officer checks the Borough's planning applications regularly to highlight applications which affect listed buildings, locally listed buildings and buildings of interest within conservation areas. The Officer also responds 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 Committee has liaised with the acting Council Planning Heritage Officer to raise issues of concern related to nationally or locally-listed buildings. Planning applications or conservation issues which we have discussed, commented on or viewed include: The White House, Waterloo Road, Epsom; The White Horse Public House, Epsom; The Star, Ewell; the RAC, Epsom; Longdown House, Epsom; 1 Wheeler's Lane, Epsom; Downs House, Epsom Downs; Hollywood Lodge, Epsom; The Old Moat Garden Centre, Epsom; 28 High Street, Ewell; The Comrades Club, Epsom; Grove Cottage, Ewell; Lloyd's Pharmacy, Epsom.

We are fortunate to have the expertise of Ian West in recording buildings at risk, and to feed appropriately into planning applications.

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 info@epsomewellhistory.org.uk

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.

DISPLAYS

The Society was involved in producing one display this year. A display on *Dress and Identity in Roman Ewell* won 2nd place in the Margary Award at Surrey Archaeological Society's February Symposium.

LECTURE PROGRAMME AND VISITS

Committee members have arranged another interesting and varied programme of lectures, in the absence of a lecture coordinator. This year's lectures were: Restoration of Ewell Court House; Restoration of the Temperate House at Kew; In the land of Gods and Monsters; The history of Brookwood Cemetery; Worms, ashes and bone: excavations at Cocks Farm, Abinger 1876-2016; The Curtis family of dairy farmers who sojourned in Ewell at the end of the 19th- 20th century en route from Balham to Effingham; Horace Walpole, Strawberry Hill, and "the Castle (I am building) of my ancestors"; Community Archaeology in Farnham; Freemasonry – what is it all about? In lieu of a July meeting members were shown round Woodcote Green House by Ian West. Owners Maggie and John Parsloe made everyone welcome and provided refreshments in their lovely garden. The Members' Evening in August saw a fascinating range of talks: a lead cistern from Woodcote House, a 14th century beam from Halesworth, the restoration of the Palace of Het Loo, building recording carried out at Lower Mill on the Hogsmill, a military family, a brooch from Queen Alexandra and Roman Mérida.

REFRESHMENTS

The role of refreshments co-ordinator has been vacant for yet another year, so once again this role is being carried by the committee. 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. Thanks to all those members who have contributed their help this year.

NEWSLETTERS

Five newsletters were produced throughout the year, edited by Jeff Cousins. Our thanks go to Jeff for producing such informative newsletters. They are also published on the website with colour photographs. The reports on the monthly lecture have been written by committee members due to lack of a volunteer from the membership. Articles that have appeared in the year's newsletters include: Surrey in the Great War; a metal find from Ashted Common; the Story Behind a Postcard; the Mill Race of the Lower Mill; Ewell in Space. Obituaries for Eve Myatt-Price and Lesley Hays were also featured.

Thanks as ever to Doreen Tilbury for organising distribution of the newsletter. 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 remain in the capable hands of Jane Pedler.