



NEWSLETTER

2014, Issue 5

November 2014

<p><i>Welcome to New Members</i></p> <p>Mrs S Adam-Harvey Jenny & Ron Lock</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Chairman's Notes</p> <p>It is with sadness that we record the death of Bob Schofield, stalwart of the Ewell Tower Preservation Trust working party, back in August.</p> <p>In this year of the WWI Centenary we have had a programme of three lectures on this subject and the third by Clive Gilbert is in November, the date of this Newsletter, in the presence of the Mayor of Epsom & Ewell, Cllr R Foote and his wife.</p> <p>The interim Conservation Officer in E & E Borough, Rowena Scrimshaw, was previously at Richmond upon Thames B.C. While there she was successful in getting some historic glazed windows reinstated to a listed pub in Twickenham. What a shame she wasn't here when the owners of the King William IV were busily removing their windows and all reference to the past name of this historic building in Ewell!</p> <p>In this issue we have a slightly irreverent view of the work of volunteer coordination for the CCE excavations!</p> <p>Also a reminder that Christmas is almost here again and tickets are now available.</p>
<p>Inside this issue:</p> <p><i>September meeting Epsom Coaches</i> 2</p> <p><i>October meeting The Impact of WWI on the borough</i> 2</p> <p><i>An odd clay pipe from Ewell</i> 3</p> <p><i>The White Horse, Epsom</i> 4</p> <p><i>The Perspective of a Volunteer coordinator</i> 5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lecture Diary</p> <p>December 3rd Christmas Party Members and their guests only</p> <p>January 7th The Thames Discovery Project: Natalie Cohen</p> <p>February 5th Some Aspects of Archaeology in Dalmatia - Modern Croatia: Frank Pemberton</p> <p>March 4th AGM and talk by President, Jon Cotton</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>

September Meeting – The History of Epsom Coaches – Steve Whiteway

Isobel Cross

Epsom Coaches is a business which was established in 1920 by the Richmond family. In the beginning they ran day trips in charabancs – essentially tourist buses open to the elements. They were popular, though, for example the journey to Brighton (£1 return – would be £38 now) took five hours there and five back, with stops at various pubs. The office was in the High Street, but moved to South Street in 1933 by which time coaches had canvas roofs.



In the Second World War some coaches were requisitioned and Jack Richmond was killed which motivated Roy Richmond to join the business. Roy died in 2011 honoured as a Freeman of the Borough for his charity work. Roy Richmond Way off Blenheim Road where the current office is, is named after him.

In the 1950s coaches had proper roofs and eventually heating, though air conditioning was still an open window. Vehicles have been constantly improved. There are toilets now, seat belts, good suspension (no one being sick). Older vehicles are sold on and turn up everywhere, Evidently there are a lot in Bermuda.

The family ethos is still strong, inspiring staff loyalty. People may have worked for the company for 50 years. Customer service is a priority. Expansion has included overseas tours, though competition closed the travel agency, Epsom Travel. Many of the local bus services are run by the Group. It is a nationally respected business and has won various awards including one personal to Steve Whiteway.

October Meeting – The Impact of the First World War on the Borough – Tim Richardson

Isobel Cross

This talk covered a rather wider area of Surrey than the Borough of Epsom and Ewell, and was illustrated by many contemporary photographs of the details of military life and events.

There was a military camp at Tadworth where there was open space for it and a convenient railway station. The camp held 3,000 men. The tents had wooden floors and round them were circles of chalk pieces to show up in the dark for safety. Someone did die impaled on a tent peg, falling over at night.

Among the first units to be formed in the War and billeted in the area was the University and Public Schools Brigade (UPS). They were popular as they spent money locally, and soldiers billeted on citizens also brought in money. They were later moved to Woodcote Camp in Woodcote Park, locally famous for the 1919 riots which killed Sergeant Green. There were huts here, all raised above ground and each holding 100 men. 4,000 men were billeted here, including Canadians.

In Epsom the mental hospitals were converted to military hospitals. Over 44,000 casualties were treated in Horton alone. Also many country houses became hospitals. Clandon was one.

The Surrey Regiments fought at Mons and at the Somme. The East Surreys are famous for kicking a football into No Man's Land on the first day of the Somme. Recruits were meant to be between 19 and 30 years old but the youngest soldier to die in the War was a 15 year old from Dorking.



Men had to be at least 5ft 3ins with a chest measurement of 34 inches. They came in thousands, though later the government had to introduce conscription. Lord Kitchener asked for 100,000 men and got 300,000. In 1915 he reviewed thousands of soldiers on Epsom Downs. Known as Kitchener's March it will be re-created on 24 January 2015. There was a blizzard, men stood in it from 4 am. Kitchener was there for about ten minutes. We saw a photograph of UPS soldiers standing around in the snow.

Among the photographs there were pictures of hand grenade training. British grenades were round like cricket balls and German ones were stick shaped. Around Langley Vale there may still be old grenades lying about! There was a field kitchen. Men got 1lb of meat a day, 1lb bread and a lot of vegetables were available. This alone was a good recruiting incentive. Boots had to be repaired, so did bicycles'. It all went on in the local camps. There was a picture of a barber giving the traditional short back & sides—very practical as it was easier to deal with lice and also with head wounds.

The UPS were photographed marching through Epsom and a picture of them in Epsom Market Place is on the tea towel for sale in the Museum shop, along with other commemorative items.

There are many pictures surviving from the period and Tim Richardson and others have obviously spent a great deal of time, although not always successfully, trying to match untitled photographs of the time to local landmarks. He is always interested in seeing any images he has not seen before.



EEHAS Newsletter Archive

A brief resume of some articles and reports that have appeared over the years in the Newsletter is now attached to the Society's Website and well worth a look. Thanks for initiating this are due to Jeremy Harte.

OBJECT OF THE MONTH

Most of the finds from the Church Meadow excavations have of course been Roman. However, a number of later objects have turned up in what was the plough soils of the medieval and later field. Just one odd object from this year is an, albeit broken, piece of a peculiar clay tobacco pipe with a diamond shaped design. I couldn't work out what it was but after asking around it appears to be part of a late C16 or early C17 large pipe type of probably Dutch manufacture. This is a rare early object in England and an unusual object to have found its way to Ewell.



THE WHITE HORSE 63 Dorking Road Epsom

Ian West



Once again the White Horse public house in Dorking Road is vacant and up for sale. It is a Grade II listed building (added following representations by NAS in 1974) and the following account is taken from *The Residential Copyholds of Epsom* by Dr. H.L. Lehmann. Further details are also in Brian Bouchard's article for EELFHC.

In 1755 John Bushby, victualler of Epsom and his wife, Elizabeth, owned a property at the sign of the White Horse and known by the name of the New Inn. It consisted of a house, coach house, stable, several other outhouses and yards on a site of half an acre.

The original site of the "New Inn" is further along the Dorking Road near to where Whitmores Close is now

built and not the site of the Assembly Rooms which have been given as the original location. A confusion dispelled by Norman Nail in 1974 (NAS Newsletter 1974/4). In 1672 Peter Evans inherited the site from his father and sold the lands called the "New Inne" to William Richardson of Bell Yard, London, gentleman. In the 1680 survey of Epsom the "New Inn" is described as a house, two outhouses, one wash house, one barn, two stables, one courtyard, one garden and two orchards. Two years later William Richardson of St. Clements Dane, Middlesex, gentleman obtained permission to let the property and in 1687 sold it to William Stewart, citizen of London, barber surgeon. In 1716 Sir William Stewart of Epsom obtained consent to demolish as much and as many of the outhouses and stables at the "New Inn" as he wished except the stable containing twelve stalls. He also got consent to "take in" a strip of common land in front of his property which indicates that major improvements were about to be carried out at the site. When the house at 75 Dorking Road was being refurbished, Bourne Hall Museum photographed some of the (now rendered) stonework which included medieval carved blocks. This stone probably once formed part of Merton Priory and would have later been incorporated into Nonsuch Palace being removed from there to Epsom when the Palace was demolished. Shortly after 1716 William Stuart built himself a new house (later known as Whitmores) and at his death in 1723 was described as house with outbuildings, yards, garden and appurtenances, There is no reference at this time of the "New Inn" and from then on no reference to it is made in connection with the site.

In the 17th century Dorking Road was known as Becon Soales Lane and by the early 18th century the name had become New Inn Lane. South Street at this time was known as the Road leading to New Inn Lane. As noted above, the "New Inn" was no longer on the Whitmores site and it appears that it was relocated to the White Horse site.

In 1680 the White Horse site was owned by John Michell of Ebbisham, bricklayer and consisted of a house, barn, stable, two gardens and an orchard in Becon Soales Lane. John's grandson is referred to in the same year as being a maltster of Fleetham, Bedfordshire. By 1742 John Michell is referred to as being "of Epsom Distiller". In 1749 the property was sold to John Bushby of Epsom, Victualler. Although there is no reference to an ale house on the site the owners were well connected to the trade and the reference in 1765 to the "new Inn" probably relates to the name being taken up by the owners of the "white Horse" site when it ceased to be used as the "Whitmores" site.

In 1811 George Brad of Epsom, gentleman, acquired two houses or cottages and gardens adjoining a property formerly called the White Horse. At this time the ale house may have been closed for fifteen years later the site is referred to as the White Horse. By 1853 the property consisted of six cottages and two at the rear, number 6 was formerly two houses but now one and used as a beer shop at the sign of the White Horse.

On 1st May 1873 the property was acquired by George Furniss of Epsom, Builder for £600. The uniform brickwork frontage to the White Horst was probably built by George Furniss shortly after, he purchased the property. At the rear of this "facade" is a group of structures that would be worth further investigation.

I hope that the building will remain in the licensed trade (unlike the Laddas which is now flats or the Queens Arms, now a kitchen shop) to retain its present name or even revert to the New Inn.

Excavation from the perspective of a volunteer co-ordinator: CME July 2012 – 14.

(Name and address supplied Ed.)

The Church Meadow Excavation was the latest in a series of projects completed over many years, designed to find the route of Stane Street, the Roman road joining Chichester to London, as it transited Ewell. The 3 year rescue archaeology project started in 2012 and, already on the steering group as secretary, I was nominated to do volunteer co-ordination; so “no pressure”. For those unsure of site terminology and hierarchy, volunteer co-ordinator equates to “Major Domo[re]” rather than “General Dogsboddy” but you get the drift.



The blank sheet, opened in February, quickly started to fill up with the “usual suspects”, those who regularly volunteer come rain, sleet or shine on most of the excavations undertaken by Surrey Archaeological Society, EEHAS’ co-operator in the project. To be followed in dribs and drabs by a wide range of people from those who had interest in, but no experience of, excavations; students; to those who felt that watching TV programmes on Archaeology gave them some authority.



As part of our funding from SCC, and CBA we incorporated a community programme, where local schools sent classes of children along to experience a day of excavating, so accepting students on work experience, or as part of their course work fitted in well. Dealing with those who thought that watching Time Team gave them expertise in all things Roman, was less easy. One had to try to let them down gently so as not to bruise egos. We also ran an ‘Open Day’ when the public were offered guided tours of the site.

Our first year tested everyone’s patience, heavy rain providing a muddy trench with mosquitoes and other bugs also ‘volunteering’ their services. Many of those who put their names down that first season also joined up for the second. However, those missing included some who had signed up for the whole 3 weeks, turned up for one day but decided it was too much like hard work, or one who huffed off saying “there was not one TV camera in sight!”. As that was something we had not promised I felt no shame. What *is* a shame is that those who booked in for several days but either did not turn up, or showed for only a day, clog up the lists for others who might be more reliable and get more out of it. Some welcome ‘volunteers’ balanced the frustration, coming in the shape of the Pedler’s felines who made it their business to supervise the on site finds team each day, often bringing sustenance in the form of cakes with them, carried by a member of their “staff”, aka Jane Pedler. (No, it wouldn’t help if unsuccessful volunteers also brought cakes, I am *not* open to bribes - speak to me later).

The second year followed the same pattern, with people applying to join the dig up to middle of the first week. Again, the students were terrific, throwing themselves into the swing of things with a will, though encouraged not to do so when using mattocks, as that could be dangerous. A very few armchair archaeologists who thought they knew better than those with years of experience either quietened down if they realised their error, or left feeling they were undervalued.

The second year was also notable for the unique sight of Jenny Newell (looking lovely) and me (looking like a barrage balloon) dressed as Roman *matrone* in order to give some added colour to the site tours on open day; you see what I mean about the job description? It was arguably the hottest day of the year, but the number of visitors showing an interest was well into the hundreds, hardy souls to the last so worth the humiliation.

On this third and last year one student actually came from north of the Thames and another volunteer came from as far afield as Canada and was due to start an archaeology degree in the UK in the Autumn! The excavation seemed even more popular with new people applying to join up to the last few days. Given that all volunteers by that time had completed days of often back breaking work I wondered if those asking to join at the last minute simply wanted to see what had been uncovered without “paying their dues” so to speak (cynical? Moi?).

Managing upwards of 90 + volunteers over each 3 week period during the life of the project is an exercise requiring tact and diplomacy so I am confused as to why I was asked, as T and D are not my forte. Perhaps the idea was for me to learn these skills, so it remains to be seen if the ploy was successful. This overall number of volunteers translates into 50 – 60 people on site each day: That splits down into 40+/- in the trenches and, say, 10 on the finds team; the most significant part of the exercise is to keep a balance in both trench and finds teams between novices and those with experience so that training can be effective otherwise the entire site could turn into a dogs dinner, to the annoyance of Nikki Cowlard (not to mention the Pedler’s Cats).

Should we run area I do hope you possibly irascible throw your names fun.



another excavation in our will not be put off by a volunteer co-ordinator, but into the ring and join the

Church Meadow Project 2014

This year’s exhibition of the results from CME14 will be held in St. Mary’s Church Hall on 22nd November between 2-4pm so you can see for yourselves some of the finds from this year’s excavation. Everyone is invited to drop in during the afternoon.

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

President: Jon Cotton MA, FSA

Chairman: Steve Nelson

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

e-mail nikki.cowlard@btinternet.com

Treasurer: Jane Pedler

Archaeology Officer: Frank Pemberton

Conservation Officer: Nikki Cowlard (see details above)

Membership Secretary: Doreen Tilbury

Meetings Secretary: If Fran Taylor moves from the district in the New Year this vital job will need someone to take over.

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

Please send copy for the next newsletter to the Secretary by 12 January 2015

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-November
www.epsomewellhistory.org.uk

EEHAS Christmas Party 2014

This year's Christmas Party will be held on Wednesday 3rd December at 7.45 for 8.00pm in St Mary's Church Hall. Tickets priced at £3 will be available at the November meeting and also by post from Doreen Tilbury, 31 West Hill Avenue, Epsom KT19 8LE. Using the detachable slip below—please include a SAE. Doreen would also be grateful for any contributions towards the catering.

2015 Subscriptions

Members are reminded that subscriptions for 2015 become due on 1 January. Subscriptions can be paid at the monthly meetings or by post to the Secretary. Subs are £10 for ordinary membership, £14 for family membership, £6 for student and £14 for corporate and school memberships. A slip is provided below.

Christmas Party 2014

Name and address.....

..... Amount enclosed.....

Finger food contribution offered.....

2015 Subscriptions

I (we) wish to renew membership for 2015

Amount enclosed.....

Name and address

.....