



# NEWSLETTER

2016, Issue 1

February 2016

<p><b>We welcome as a new member</b></p> <p>Cllr M Olney</p>	<p><b>Chairman's Notes</b></p> <p>We wish a Happy New Year to all our members and look forward to a successful 2016 for the society.</p> <p>I am pleased to note that Nikki Cowlard has been appointed to the Management Committee of Surrey Archaeological Society. We wish her well with this at a particularly difficult time for the county society with Guildford Borough Council seeking to disassociate from the SyAS, though at the same time wishing to keep the objects that the SyAS actually own! In developing Guildford Museum's services one would have thought that a development of the partnership that has existed for so long should be encouraged. However, it seems Guildford's councillors' view of the future does not include those who are most interested in the history &amp; archaeology of the county!</p> <p>We have the AGM coming up in March and the Annual Report (2015) and Agenda are included with this Newsletter. There are some decisions to be made at the meeting and of course, I need not remind you, we need more willing hands to help the hard working committee with running your society.</p>
<p><b>Inside this issue:</b></p> <p><i>Ewell Court House: A phoenix from the ashes</i> 2</p> <p><i>Background on the badges: A potted history of the RAMC</i> 3</p> <p><i>Pubs, Inns and Taverns of Epsom, Ewell and Cheam</i> 4</p> <p><i>November Meeting: Contemporary Illustrations of Nonsuch Palace</i> 5</p> <p><i>Christmas Meeting</i> 6</p> <p><i>January Meeting: The Churches of Ravenna</i></p> <p><i>Forthcoming Events</i> 8</p> <p><i>2016 Subscriptions</i> 10</p> <p><i>AGM Agenda</i> 11</p> <p><i>Annual Report for 2015</i> 12</p>	<p><b>Lecture Diary</b></p> <p>February 3rd Architecture of the London Underground, by John Glover</p> <p>March 2nd AGM, and Vanished people of the Wandle, by Jon Cotton, EEHAS President</p> <p>April 6th Langley Vale Memorial Wood, by Paddy Byrne</p> <p>May 4th History of Kingston, by Shaan Butters</p> <p>June 1st John Propert, the Medical Profession and the development of Epsom College in the 19th century, by Alan Scadding</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>

## Ewell Court House: A phoenix from the ashes

**Steve Nelson**

After the disastrous fire in December 2013 Ewell Court House has been fully repaired and reopened as a conference and meetings venue, as it was before. Remembering the scene of destruction a year ago it is remarkable how much of the original structure and fittings of the principal rooms has survived, although much of the attic rooms were destroyed. A striking aspect is the careful repair of the wood panelling that characterises the main interior. This was removed during the repairs and reinstated with new pieces let in to the scorched sections. Epsom & Ewell BC and the voluntary support group, Ewell Court House Organisation (ECHO), are to be congratulated on the whole

### Before



### After





## Badge finds

Lou Hays has written articles on two badges found over the last few years in Surrey, the one below left (Metropolitan Asylum Board) in a field in Surrey, the other (below right, Royal Army Medical Corps) in Church Meadow during recent excavations. The first of the two articles appeared in the previous newsletter, the second appears below.



## Background on the badges: A potted history of the RAMC

Lou Hays

It is on record that RAMC can trace its history back to the late 17<sup>th</sup> Century and the inception of a regular 'standing' army, replacing the varied groups of men who rallied piecemeal under the banner of their liege lords in times of need that had existed under the feudal system. The development of the new Army coincided with a change in the perceived value of human life, when each individual, however lowly, became a life worth saving. With the new Army, a 'barber surgeon' and assistant were appointed to many units to care for the wounded. Those surgeons bore little resemblance to the lofty, august group that we think of today, and we might well have mistaken them for butchers to whom hygiene was largely unknown and their skills and tools limited.

This military medical support remained somewhat ad hoc until the Peninsular and Napoleonic wars of 1808 – 1815, when, under the aegis of Sir James MacGrigor, system and method was brought to bear on the management of battlefield casualties. The idea of field hospitals was introduced with registration of the wounded, together with a fund for the support of families: A far cry from the historic mayhem of war when men simply died or were killed as an act of mercy by their own side because medical help was not available or was simply inadequate.

Years of peace and the shortness of Military memory meant that much of this effort was forgotten by the time of Crimea (1853 – 1856), having to be reinvented by such as Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole. Unfortunately, by this time the main thrust of medical support was managed by civilians without consultation with military staff as to their needs, leading to chaos, confusion and the unnecessary death of many; with the improved communication of the day this caused outrage back in England. A group of army pensioners was hurriedly gathered and sent out to form an ambulance Corps. (A

“Granddad’s Army”?) This proved to be an error of judgement, as many of the Corps were unable to function effectively due to age or infirmity, before disease such as cholera or dysentery and alcohol claimed the rest. Eventually order was restored and The Medical Staff Corps was formed in 1854; the name changed to Royal Army Medical Corps in 1898.

They proved their worth through various conflicts, including the Boer War and two world wars saving numerous lives but losing many personnel themselves. Their bravery is illuminated by their being awarded 29 Victoria Crosses, 3 with Bar. There have been many other crises, peace initiatives, skirmishes, troubles (or wars by any other euphemism) during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century in which the RAMC have played a full and active part saving many lives on the front line, with both medical and surgical expertise. Many of us saw the television coverage of an operation taking place in mid-air in a fully equipped air hospital (CASEVAC/MEDEVAC) on a return flight from Afghanistan.

Together with many military insignia, the style of the RAMC badge has changed over the years, and one of the ways this shows is in the various shapes of crown depicted at the top of the badge; this example found in Church Meadow by one of our metal detectorists, Mairi Sargeant, is a Kings crown so it dates from between the reigns of Victoria and Elizabeth II. The enamelling on the crown indicates that it could be a “sweetheart gift” from a serving member to his ladylove.

As with other badges (vide the MAB Badge found elsewhere in Surrey) it is not known how the badge arrived in a field in Ewell. That can be a matter for conjecture or imagination. Maybe someone reading this article may know.....

© LH 21 May 2015

### **Pubs, Inns and Taverns of Epsom, Ewell and Cheam, by Richard F. Holmes Jeff Cousins**

At one of last year’s meetings Richard Holmes brought along some copies of his recent book on pubs of our area for sale. And a fine book it is. At 201 pages it can cover more ground than our Occasional Paper. It splits the area into ten smaller areas, each with a location map, and for each pub it gives a few paragraphs of history plus a pair of photographs, past and present (or at the pub’s demise). An appendix lists the known landlords of each pub.

I can add a little to the history of the Barley Mow in Epsom, as some distant relatives were its landlords over a century ago. NOT the COUSINS who were there 1889-95, but the ALLENs of 1901-4. William ALLEN died in 1901 at the Cottage Hospital following a head-on collision at Cuddington whilst drunken-driving a “governess cart”\*. His wife Lucy Ann, who had been walking on ahead with a lantern to guide the way at the time of the accident, then ran the pub by herself for a few years, before returning to her family in Bethnal Green. Whilst in Epsom, she had lived at a house named “Erin” in College Road (does anyone know where this was?).

\* According to Wikipedia, a Governess cart is a small two-wheeled horse-drawn cart. Their distinguishing feature is a small tub body, with two opposed inward-facing seats. The driver sat sideways on one of these seats.

## November Meeting – Contemporary Illustrations of Nonsuch Palace – Iain McKillop

Ian West

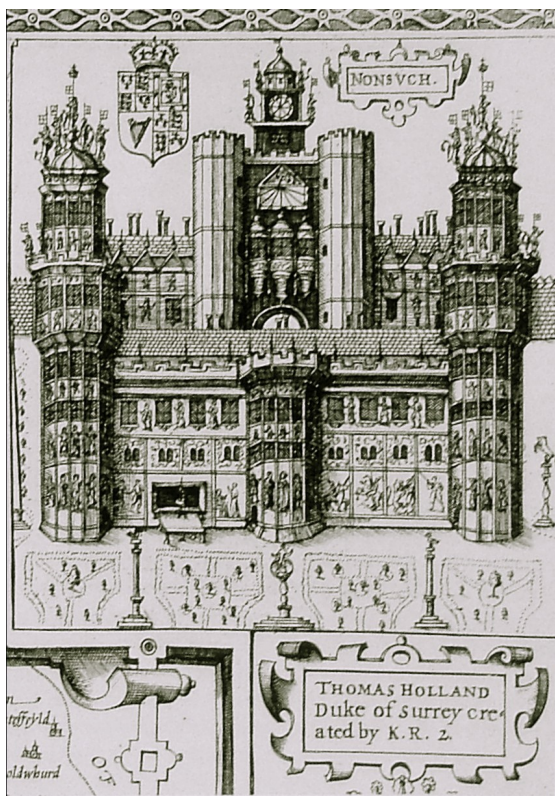
Iain's talk brought together information about the paintings, drawings and prints produced during the life of the Palace (1538 - c1680), the people who produced them and the background in which they were made.

Hoefnagel's drawing (on loan to the V&A) is probably the only surviving picture painted in situ. The three oil paintings would probably have been produced in studios from carefully made line drawings on site. All the other images are second or third-hand re-workings of extant images of the building.

The most reproduced image of Nonsuch is the 1582 engraving by Braun and Hogenberg based on a drawing of 1568 by Joris Hoefnagel. It was included in the first printed collection of town plans, important buildings and cityscapes in Europe, and the drawing from which the print was prepared is in the British Museum.

A mid-16th century map of Sparrow Farm has a small sketch labelled "Nonsuch" in its top border, the illustration being only indicative of the building on the site. John Speed's Map of Surrey (1611/12) incorporates a view of the Palace where the facade of the inner courtyard is raised above the external south facade. As details of the courtyard facade and the garden are not recorded elsewhere, Speed or his agent may have visited Nonsuch, especially as items recovered from the 1959 excavations are similar to those in the drawing.

The first oil painting to be produced is by an unknown Flemish artist about 1620 and is now part of the Fitzwilliam collection. About 1660 Danckerts painted two views of the Palace, one is at Berkeley Castle and the other in Epsom Town Hall. The coach in the Danckerts paintings is similar to one in a painting of a similar date of Durdans, also by Danckerts. At this time Lord Berkeley was Keeper of Nonsuch and owner of the Durdans.



Views of the south front of Nonsuch were used in two other contemporary illustrations, both based on the Hoefnagel prints. In his book of emblematic images published in 1623, Daniel Meisner added some animals to the foreground which Iain described the intended meaning of. Antonio Albizzi published in Augsburg in 1607-8 a set of prints showing the genealogies of European royal and ruling houses, each with a family tree set against a landscape background of each realm. Here the details of the Palace are less carefully reproduced, but it is significant that Nonsuch was selected to represent the English royal family.

Iain did not have time to talk about the Lumley inventories but intends to include them in a future EEHAS publication.

## Christmas Meeting

**Nikki Cowlard**

The Society's annual Christmas party was held at St. Mary's Church Hall on 2<sup>nd</sup> December and more than 30 members attended. As usual it was a bring-a-plate affair which provided a generous feast, and mulled wine 'oiled' the proceedings. Entertainment took the form of two quizzes [one based on Christmas traditions and one on archaeology], identification of curios provided by Frank Pemberton, and a murder mystery. The murder mystery was written and directed by Jeremy Harte, and the four parts were taken by members. It revolved around the sudden and tragic death of Sir George Glyn at the Ewell Rectory on Christmas Eve. The four suspects were: his daughter, Anna Glynn (played by Jean Cobbold); his Curate, The Rev. Thomas Bliss (Jon Cotton); Elizabeth Leigh, past landlady of The King's Head, now down on her luck (Nikki Cowlard); and Charles Henderson of the Upper Mill (Steve Nelson) with a very fetching rustic accent. This entertainment was very well received and added to a altogether festive evening.

It is possible that this Christmas social event will be replaced by a summer party on the evening of the Members' Evening in August. This will be discussed at the AGM in March where you will be able to put forward your opinion.

## January Meeting - The Churches Of Ravenna - Richard Watson

**Lou Hays**

To provide the background for his talk on five of the magnificent 1500 year old churches in Ravenna, Richard gave a potted history of early Christianity; from its beginnings as a persecuted, monotheistic faith up against the polytheistic Roman Empire; through the heated schism between the Arian form of Christianity and Orthodox Catholicism; revealing Ravenna's place at the centre of the new faith.

It was after Constantine the great had his vision of the Chi Ro on his way to the battle of Milvian Bridge in 312 (which he won) that he converted Christianity in gratitude, subsequently depicting the Chi Ro on his armour. That is, he described it as Christianity but it allegedly included acts such as boiling his wife in oil; a ritual unknown to many Christians ancient or modern. Nevertheless, it is a convenient time upon which to hang the date of Christian nascence.

The new faith was hounded from pillar to post, or from Rome to Milan, and thence to Ravenna, a significant town of the day with its legendary military port of Casse, now silted up and nowhere near the sea.

Roman temples were dedicated to individual deities, and accessible only to the priests and their acolytes; acts of worship, including sacrifices, were held in a courtyard in front of the building. In the absence of banks their cellars were often used as strong rooms for local wealth. Contrary to this, Christianity begun as an inclusive faith whose followers worshiped together within rooms or buildings dedicated to one God. Early churches were built to the Basilica design advocated by Constantine, giving more convenient space for worshippers within the structure.

Perhaps the oldest church, now dedicated to St John the Evangelist, was built by Galla Placidia, an early Christian benefactress and half-sister of Emperor Honorius, in the mid 5<sup>th</sup> Century. The site included her mausoleum, although it is unlikely that she was buried there having died at her family property in Rome. Both Church and Mausoleum were decorated with magnificent and colourful mosaics depicting early Christian iconography. Some of the

icons provide unwitting primary evidence of the similarities between Judaism, Christianity and the polytheistic beliefs of Rome. In particular, the icon showing Abraham offering his son Isaac for sacrifice, while on the other side of an 'altar' a saint in sheepskin offering a lamb for slaughter as an allegory of the Agnus Dei. This resonates with the ritual sacrifices made by many faiths, even paganism, at the time.

The second church on Richard's list was the Church of the True Cross, housing a relic of the True Cross to prove it. Just how big was The True Cross? (That is a rhetorical question). The church is now a ruin but remains of some of the mosaic floors are still visible outside; but the remnants of the True Cross are no longer there.

Richard's third church was the Neonian Baptistry. Built in 4<sup>th</sup> Century adjacent to a great Basilica, now destroyed, and replaced by a later Cathedral. Sited within is a huge octagonal marble font that would have easily accommodated the then de rigueur practice of Baptism by immersion. The lower walls were covered in highly decorative and elaborate mosaics with the ubiquitous vine scroll pattern. Above this were intaglia representing the saints or apostles that would have originally been coloured. The ceiling mosaic depicts John the Baptist baptising Jesus (now shown with beard) standing waist high in the river Jordan. Parts have been heavily, if crudely, restored.

In the late 5<sup>th</sup> Century the Ostrogoth, Theodoric (spelt various ways), captured Ravenna. The Ostrogoths were Arian in their belief that Jesus as a man walked on earth so could not be a true god; the founder, Arius, thought the Trinity leant towards the polytheism of pagan culture. The Catholics and Orthodoxy on the other hand believed in the Three in One. The western Empire was more pragmatic than the east who were made of sterner stuff: To them this was a difference to be fought over with relish, as indeed it was. Theodoric built the Arian Baptistry, at the same time as founding the Basilica Church of Saint Apollinaire Nuovo. Both beautifully decorated with mosaics and paintings. Saint Apollinaire has an iconic depiction of 26 saints or martyrs processing towards a seated Christ. On the opposite wall 26 female saints and martyrs processed towards the Virgin Mary. To a 21<sup>st</sup> century woman this is a fascinating glimpse into a past before women were erased from history. Part of the original put up in the 5<sup>th</sup> century remains but it has been heavily doctored to reflect differing opinions of Christianity. It was renamed St Martin before reverting to Saint Apollinaire.

One of Theodoric's most impressive buildings was his mausoleum, built of 300 tonnes of Istrian stone, inland from Casse. Within is an enormous sarcophagus made from porphyry, an exceptionally costly purple marble imported from Egypt. It was much prized by numerous Emperors, who loved their bling, as well as other wealthy wannabes. Originally the walls may have been heavily decorated, but after Justinian took over Ravenna, Theodoric's remains were removed as, probably, were the decorations.

Next was the Church of Spirito Sancto, also built by Theodoric. Outside the Church is the Baptistry, both with more ornate and colourful mosaics.

In 540 Ravenna was recaptured by Byzantium and it was all change once again.

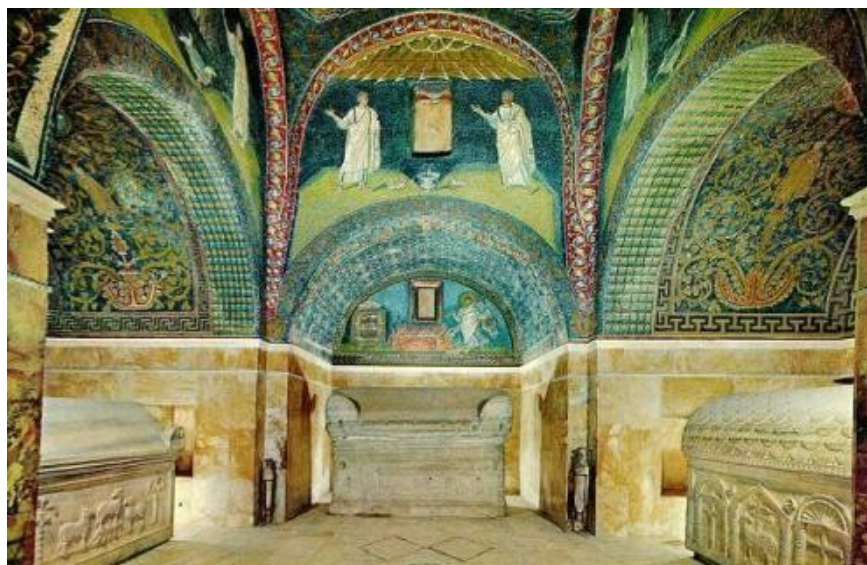
547 saw the building of Santa Vitali, in an unusual octagonal shape. Outside the walls are flat with sharp angles; inside it has decorated, curved arched niches on each side. The mosaics are relatively modern, or post 6<sup>th</sup> Century. The decoration showed differences between Old and New Testament sacrifices. Males are shown on one side and women the other, similar to many Middle Eastern and some Orthodox faiths. The church had balconies



to be used by women above the main body of the building to separate them from men. This correlates to the division followed in orthodox Jewish synagogues, although their Liberal faith is more integrated. In Islam women can make certain prayers in a mosque with permission from their menfolk as long as fully and modestly covered.

Unsurprisingly all the churches are on UNESCO World Heritage site lists. Their decoration is remarkable and gives a valuable insight into the mores of the time.

Our thanks go to Richard Watson for a fascinating talk, (we won't mention the IT problems, Steve).



### Forthcoming Events

#### **Surrey Archaeological Society Research Committee Annual Symposium**

Saturday 27th February 2016, Peace Memorial Hall, Woodfield Lane, Ashted, KT21 2BE

Subjects to be covered are: Country life at Woking Palace; Zooarchaeology in Surrey: a review of recent work and research priorities; Abinger Excavations; Test pitting by the Society in Surrey; Archimedean screw pumps and conveyors; Recent finds in Surrey; The Early Modern Studies Group.

Cost £10 (£12 on the door). For further information:

<http://www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk/sites/default/files/Symposium%202016%20programme.pdf>

#### **Roadside Settlements in Roman Britain and Beyond**

Saturday 9th April 2016, King's Church, Lewes

Roadside settlements do not feature widely in the published literature on Roman Britain, which focuses predominantly on forts, villas and towns, yet there is much to explore about these roadside settlements. Questions include how they developed, who lived in them and the range of their functions. This conference will address many of the themes concerning Roman roadside settlements, and is in part prompted by the current excavations at an important site at Bridge Farm, north of Lewes.

For further information:

<https://sussexpast.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Roman-leaflet.pdf>



*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](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

**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**

**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 February

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

### 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.....

### Ziggy played guitar ... and Epsom Ebbisham Hall

As you may have heard, David Bowie died on January 10th. He had played the part of Ziggy Stardust at the Ebbisham Hall, Epsom on May 27th 1972. The site of this is now occupied by W. H. Smith's.

Bowie devotees dispute whether Ziggy first appeared on Earth at Aylesbury (January 29th 1972) or the Toby Jug in Tolworth (February 10th 1972). I believe that the Aylesbury show was more of a dress rehearsal that members of the public were allowed to wander into, and the Tolworth show the first officially publicised performance.

Were any of you at the Toby Jug or the Ebbisham Hall?

## **Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society Annual General Meeting 2016**

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society will be held on Wednesday 2nd March 2016 at 8p.m. at St. Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell.

### **Agenda**

Apologies for absence.

To confirm the Minutes of the AGM held on 4th March 2015 (circulated with the April 2015 newsletter).

Matters arising from the Minutes not otherwise covered by the agenda.

To receive and adopt, if approved, the Annual Report (herewith).

To receive and adopt, if approved, the Treasurer's Report and the Account and Balance Sheet for 2015.

### **Election of Officers**

The following are nominated for re-election:

President	Jonathan Cotton
Vice-Presidents	Eve Myatt-Price, Stephen Nelson
Chairman	Stephen Nelson
Secretary	Nikki Cowlard
Treasurer	Jane Pedler

Committee Members due for re-election are:

Rosemary Burleigh, Isobel Cross, Ian West

Committee members not due for re-election are:

Jeff Cousins, David Hartley, Lou Hays, Doreen Tilbury.

Election of independent examiner

Rod Clarke is nominated for re-election.

Rather than raise the membership fee a proposal is put before the AGM to levy a £1 charge for members at the monthly talk, to cover meeting costs.

### **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.

### **Any other business**

## Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society

### Annual Report for 2015

#### INTRODUCTION

This annual report highlights the main activities of the Society for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015. 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	Eve Myatt-Price and Steve Nelson
Chairman	Steve Nelson
Secretary	Nikki Cowlard
Treasurer	Jane Pedler
Committee	Rosemary Burleigh, Jeff Cousins, Isobel Cross, David Hartley, Lesley Hays, 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 69 (-10) ordinary, 20 (-3) family, 0 (-1) student and 0 (-1) corporate (the curator of Bourne Hall Museum was given honorary membership at the last AGM). There were a total of 89 subscriptions and the Society has 6 honorary members. This loss of members will have implications for how the Society functions, and all members are asked to contribute to the discussion as to the way forward.

#### LIAISON WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

EEHAS is affiliated to Surrey Archaeological Society, Surrey Record Society and the Council for British Archaeology. Newsletters are exchanged with neighbouring local history societies. Some of our members have individual membership of Surrey Archaeological Society: our President, Jonathan Cotton is a Vice-President of the Society; Lesley Hays is a member of Council, sits on the Local History Committee, the Investment Committee and the Roman Studies Group Committee, and is a member of AARG (Artefact and Archaeological Research Group). Nikki Cowlard is a member of the Management Committee, sits on Council 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 Isobel Cross and Gay Keeble who produce posters advertising EEHAS talks for the Borough noticeboards, and to Lou Hays 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, talk to Isobel who can advise you as to what the role entails.

#### PUBLICATIONS

The Archaeological Monograph on St. Mary's Churchyard 1974-5 is by Frank Pemberton was published by the Society during 2015. A number of Occasional Papers are in preparation.

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

#### ARCHAEOLOGY

##### Archaeology report 2015

##### Current work



A committed archaeology group have continued to meet most Monday evenings to carry out post excavation work on the pottery from our excavations at Church Meadow. This has involved identifying both fine and coarse Romano British pottery, as well as imported wares which include amphora from the 2013 and 2014 seasons. In addition to collecting and delivering boxes the cataloguing onto spreadsheets has been carried out by Chris and Gay Harris, which will assist Phil Stanley to draft the pottery report; our Secretary Nikki Cowlard has been encouraging and coordinating the processes, and my personal thanks to the group for their commitment and interest throughout the year. Having carried out initial identification of special finds and personal objects such as pins, brooches, iron shoe studs, fittings and nails etc., I have prepared a first section for the special finds report covering Roman bone pins and objects, shortly to be followed by Roman brooches, with other artefacts emerging in the year ahead.

### **Back excavation reports**

#### **St Mary's Churchyard**

The report on the Roman phases at the site with Stane Street, roadside structures and finds from the excavations in St Mary's Churchyard between 1974-1975, has been published as a EEHAS monograph, with the help of Jeremy Harte, Curator, Bourne Hall Museum and Nikki Cowlard; it is now available for purchase.

#### **Purberry Shot, Ewell.**

Completion of a report that reassesses the site at Purberry Shot, Epsom Road, is near to completion, incorporating other sites on both sides of Epsom Road and the upper High Street, in the south western area of the Roman settlement. The Purberry Shot site was excavated by the late Professor Frere and Anthony Lowther in 1939, and revealed evidence for Iron Age settlement, with early Romano British iron working, with a well and settlement occupation; following this the site was levelled in the mid-2nd century AD to make way for a road across the site aligned from the present centre of Ewell in the direction of Epsom.

#### **St Mary's Meadow/also known as Church Meadow.**

Drafting of the report covering the 1977-78 excavation of a 35 m. long trench parallel to the northern garden boundary of the Old Barn continues, showing site evidence that suggests many Roman phases, from the construction of Stane Street with chalk and flint structures and rubbish middens, in the late 1st to mid-3rd century, with a gap in occupation up to the late 4th century. Signs of medieval ploughing and abraded finds exist in the top soils, with a cut through top layers at the far eastern end of the site probably by recent ploughing.

#### **St Mary's Churchyard no.4 extension**

The excavations in 1978-79 and 2003 carried out along the eastern side of the churchyard extension are to be written up together.

The pottery post excavation of these sites was carried out by our archaeology group over a number of years, with the late Peggy Bedwell acting as host at home, and Chris and Gay Harris ferrying museum boxes to be worked through.

Meanwhile, other sites and finds spots in Ewell need back reports.

**Frank Pemberton, Archaeology Officer**

### **Archaeological Monitoring**

Occasionally EEHAS is asked to carry out archaeological watching briefs in the Borough by the County Archaeologist. Steve Nelson and Nikki Cowlard monitored ground works relating to work at Glyn House, Cherry Tree Cottage in Church Street, and The British Legion in Epsom. Reports resulting from these visits will feed into Surrey's Historic Environment Record.

The Society has fed into a review of the County's Areas of High Archaeological Potential, currently being carried out by Tony Howe, County Archaeologist.

### **Bourne Hall excavations**

Steve Nelson and David Hartley have been working with Jeremy Harte, curator of Bourne Hall Museum, to prepare the archive of Norman Nail's 1960's excavation of the BH site.

Following completion of the review of the paper archive surviving from Norman Nail's excavation of the BH site, Steve Nelson and David Hartley enlisted the help of the SyAS Medieval Pottery Group to undertake a review of the pottery in line with the current type series for Surrey. It is hoped to complete this by next spring. The Group will then carry out a similar exercise on the pottery from Carpenters bakery, the other site dug in the 1960s by Norman Nail.

### **Church Meadow Project**

Whilst the final season of excavation took place in 2014 (Church Meadow 2014: interim report was published in the April 2015 newsletter) the post excavation work continues relentlessly. A group meets weekly at Glyn Hall to catalogue the many boxes of Roman pottery under the guidance of Phil Stanley and Frank Pemberton. This information will aid dating of activity within the Roman settlement, as well as specific contexts. The weekly meeting has also been used to sort and catalogue the 20 environmental samples from CME14. Once the basic work has been done a specialist will identify the different categories of ecofacts e.g. charred grains and seeds, mollusc shells and bone. The Council for British Archaeology has generously given the project a grant to enable the group to continue hiring Glyn Hall for the foreseeable future.

The site is still earmarked for a training ground for Ewell Castle School but work has not yet commenced. A condition of the planning permission granted will allow us to carry out a metal detecting survey and geophysics during groundworks, which should add to the overall picture of Roman activity on the site.

**Nikki Cowlard, Site Director**

## CONSERVATION

The Society's Conservation Officers check the Borough's planning applications regularly to highlight applications which affect listed buildings, locally listed buildings and buildings of interest within conservation areas. They also respond 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 British Legion; The Star, Ewell; Heron court, Alexandra Road, Epsom; Ewell Court House; The Albion, Epsom; 5 Mill Lane, Ewell; wall to the side of The Cedars, Worple Road, Epsom; 13 High Street, Ewell; The public conveniences, Ewell; Horton Chapel; The White Horse, Epsom; 25 Alexandra Road, Epsom; NESCOLT; 77-79 South Street, Epsom; the old William's shop, High Street, Ewell; the Royal Automobile Club; 67 Dorking Road, Epsom; The Olde King's Head, Epsom; Woodcote End House, Epsom; 61 High Street, Ewell; Old School Salesian College Sports Ground. 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.

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## 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. Isobel Cross continues to volunteer in the running the Museum shop; new volunteers are always needed.

## DISPLAYS

The Society was involved in producing one display this year. The Church Meadow Excavation display yet again won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Margary Award at Surrey Archaeological Society's February Symposium. The prize of £100 was donated to The Church Meadow Project.

## LECTURE PROGRAMME AND VISITS

Committee members, led by Lou Hays, have arranged another interesting and varied programme of lectures, in the absence of a Lecture Co-ordinator. This year's lectures were: The Thames Discovery Programme; Archaeology in Dalmatia; Archaeology and Buildings in Epsom and Ewell: some work of the Epsom and Ewell History and Archaeology Society, Past and Future; Past Crimes: archaeological and historical evidence for crime and punishment; Ancient Turkey; Excavations in Church Meadow, Ewell; Worcester Park, Old Malden & North Cheam; One hundred years of world class aircraft designed and built in Kingston; Rectors and Vicars of Ewell; and Contemporary Images of Nonsuch Palace.

Members contributed to the August Member's evening with the following talks: Demolished Buildings and How They Came to be Lost – Ian West; Update on NESCOLT Archaeology – Steve Nelson; Japan – Prehistoric and Later – Brenda Allen.

## REFRESHMENTS

Unfortunately no-one has come forward to run the refreshments rota 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, four edited by our Chairman Steve Nelson, and the last by Jeff Cousins who has taken over as newsletter editor. Our thanks go to both Steve and 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 for many years by Isobel Cross, and she has finally decided the time has come to pass this task on. We thank her for her many years of service in this respect. Initially the committee will cover this role but it hoped that one or more members will volunteer. Other articles that have appeared in the year's newsletters include: Church Meadow excavations 2014 - interim report; Bourne Hall Museum shop; Mr. Rooth's house in Epsom; NESCOLT field development; an obituary of Dorothy Nail: David Knights-Whittome, photographer; a review of *The*

*Medieval Potters of Cheam*; Isabella Beeton on stage; Some badge finds, and background on the Metropolitan Asylum Board (MAB) badge from Flexford.

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.