



NEWSLETTER

2015, Issue 4

September 2015

<p>We welcome as a new member</p> <p>Emma Rodber</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Chairman's Notes</p> <p>We learnt recently of the death, in February, of Dorothy Nail, one of the earliest members of the Society and one who undertook some significant historical research in her own right and which fostered the early development of the Documentary Group within the society. Our condolences go to her two children Martin and Barbara.</p> <p>You may have noticed the recent demolition of the building in East Street Epsom, opposite Kiln Lane, which was for a time the manufacturers of Chossy cycle bags and which older members may remember. We may have a fuller note on this in a future Newsletter.</p> <p>Finally, Nikki Cowlard has contributed a quick round up of forthcoming events and meetings which may be of interest and included a note on the recent listing of Bourne Hall. Now that it is an historic building, the Committee has in mind preparing a note on the more recent history of Bourne Hall with a review of how the present structure came about after demolition of the old one! We just need someone to offer to write this up from the notes that are available!</p>
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Dorothy Nail 1918-2015 by Martin Nail

Dorothy Nail, who died in February, was born in May 1918 in County Durham. On leaving school she joined the civil service. During the Second World War she worked in Bath and later in London. She left the civil service on getting married in 1946 and had two children. The family moved to Epsom in 1951 and she lived there for the rest of her life.

In the 1960s she developed an interest in local history and she researched the field names and other local topographical names in documents such as the Chertsey Abbey cartulary. One such name was "Nutshambles", on the border of Epsom and Ashted, which she identified as the meeting place of Copthorne Hundred in an article to the *Surrey Archaeological Collections* in 1965. This led her to study the meeting places of the hundreds in the rest of Surrey.

She was an active participant in the archaeological digs organised by the then Nonsuch and Ewell Antiquarian Society, and suggested the dig at Nutshambles by Coward et al reported in the *NEAS Bulletin* in 1965.

Later her attention focussed on the spa period and she wrote a thesis called *Seventeenth and eighteenth century Epsom : a topographical and social study*, for which was awarded a London University Diploma in local history in 1969, gaining her prizes from the University and from the Civil Service Council for Further Education.

After the breakup of her marriage she returned to the civil service and moved on from local history research. However, she continued her interest in history and in her retirement was an active member of the Epsom group of the University of the Third Age.

Her local history research papers, including her thesis, are now in the Epsom and Ewell Local and Family History Centre at Bourne Hall.

June Meeting – Excavations in Church Meadow, Ewell – Nikki Cowlard and Frank Pemberton Isobel Cross

The Roman road from London to Chichester, known as Stane Street, ran through Ewell, and through land set aside to extend the graveyard belonging to St Mary's Church in Ewell (in the next few years to be used as a school playing field). Over three seasons, 2012-2014, Nikki Cowlard has directed excavations here to investigate the road and the evidence of Roman occupation.

The road was never paved with large stones, as roads were in Italy, but would have had a flint surface. It was discovered that steam ploughing in the 19th century disturbed this, and the flints have been taken up and re-used in walls and houses. However, the road has been traced by its roadside ditches.

Various pits and wells yielded finds and information, which is still being interpreted. It seems that three of the pits were for industrial purposes, possibly for tanning. One yielded a 25 kilo flint with a hole – it could be a counter-weight perhaps for a well head. There were also signs of ritual activity, like the cow skull carefully placed and packed with sand.

Now there is work to be done on 36 boxes of Roman pottery, over 5,000 pieces of bone, and many environmental samples. There were 593 coins found, mostly by the metal detectorists. All this and the evidence of the excavated features will be interpreted and a final report made.

There were some especially interesting finds which Frank Pemberton spoke about. A fantail brooch dated 60-150AD may have been dropped by someone passing through on Stane Street, since many have been found in Lincoln and on Humberside. A cavalry helmet carrying-handle of a type known from South Shields, was dropped by a soldier. Was he in transit, or was he on duty here? A woman's bone hair pin and a cosmetic grinder show that the area was not all a masculine military enclave. There were few finds that were pre-Roman and not many from afterwards, the rarest being the bowl of a giant clay tobacco pipe, the earliest example known in Britain.

David Knights-Whittome, Photographer to the King

Paul Howard Lang

I recently went to a talk on the photographer David Knights-Whittome, who was known as 'Photographer to the King'. He had photographed King Edward VII, the future George V, and the future Edward VIII.

11,000 photographic plates were found in the basement of 18, High Street, Sutton in 1978, in various stages of preservation. However it was revealed that David Knight-Whittome had a second photographic studio in Epsom at 24, Station Road, which he purchased around 1911. Sadly the photographic studio in Epsom has been demolished, but the speaker speculated on what photographic plates may have been stored at this location, and whether they were thrown out when the studio was demolished?

A photograph was shown of the Epsom studio. It had a separate glass bay displaying photographs in the window, but this projecting bay on the right hand side had no building above it, so was very eye-catching and unusual.

Just to say a little about the photographer, he was mainly active between c.1904 to 1917. As well as the more traditional wedding photographs, and society portraits, Knights-Whittome, had photographed over 500 images of soldiers. The speaker mentioned that some of the soldiers were based at Epsom, so these would definitely be worth investigating.

I asked speaker if there were any local views of Epsom. She replied that the only one of local interest they had come across was one of a traffic accident at Belmont. David Knights-Whittome was a very keen motor car enthusiast apparently.

Knights-Whittome lost his Royal patronage in 1917 and unfortunately seems to have given up professional photography. However the images he did produce, open a rare window into the Edwardian social life, and go beyond into the period of the First World War.

There is a blog relating to this project- www.pastonglass.wordpress.com

July Meeting – the History of Worcester Park, Old Malden and North Cheam – David Rymill

Isobel Cross

The area described in this talk is quite extensive both in distance and time. Evidence of its Iron Age inhabitants was found in the 1991 excavation in Percy Gardens near Malden Manor station. Stane Street passes up the London Road through North Cheam. The name Malden is from the Anglo-Saxon *Mael Dune* and might mean 'The Cross on the Hill,' and Old Malden Church is an ancient Christian site.

In the 13th century Walter de Merton acquired land which includes the manor of Malden.

He founded Merton College which still owns land in the area, which was still rural and agricultural in the 16th century. Famously, Henry VIII decided to eliminate the village of Cuddington and create Nonsuch Palace and its surrounding Parks. In 1606 James I appointed the fourth Earl of Worcester as Keeper of the Great Park, and Worcester Park became its name. Cuddington was then a parish without a church until the Church of St Mary the Virgin opened in 1895 in The Avenue.

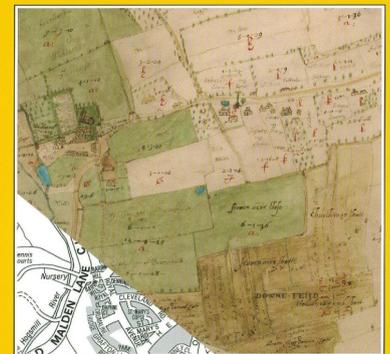
In 1859 the railway line from London to Worcester Park station opened. The area began to lose its rural character and was on the way to being a suburb of London, but not entirely. Worcester Park Farm, where Millais painted *The Huguenot*, supplied hay to Kensington riding school. In the 20th century the area was sufficiently open and undeveloped for the Daughters of the Cross to found St Anthony's Hospital in 1904. In 1901 Brock's fireworks moved into North Cheam near Gander Green Lane. Evidently there was space to keep the risk of explosion away from neighbours.

The railway had encouraged urban development, and its electrification in 1925 created the opportunity for building firms to sell houses to people who worked in London and wanted fresher air, especially since Morden tube station was a bus ride away. The streetscape, as we see it today, is largely the legacy of this time, but as life styles and people's requirements change, so re-development goes on.

David Rymill has written two books about his local area which are designed as walking books with which you can explore areas in depth and in which you can learn about the people who lived there as well as the physical environment.

WORCESTER PARK,
OLD MALDEN & NORTH CHEAM:
HISTORY AT OUR FEET

David Rymill



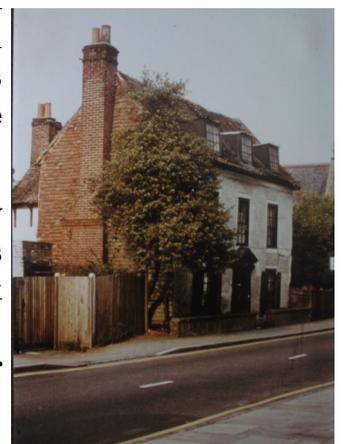
August Meeting – Members' Evening

Isobel Cross

Demolished Buildings and How They Came to be Lost – Ian West

Ian talked about some historically important buildings that the Borough of Epsom and Ewell lost in the 1960s when so many were destroyed here and elsewhere, Pitt Place in Church Street being a classic example. This house was built in a medieval chalk pit around 1700 and was extended by various owners. No plans exist but there are photographs of interiors as well as of outside features like the Orangery. There was a high wall round it for privacy and the main aspect of the house was over the garden. In 1967 an Act prohibiting the demolition of listed buildings was passed but over the weekend before it came into force, Pitt Place was demolished. The reason given was that there was danger to the public, especially from the wall. This was not true.

This excuse/reason, useful to developers, was used to justify demolishing other buildings. Cromwell Lodge in Church Street was one. There is a plan of it, and there are photographs of the back which we saw, but it disappeared before it could be properly recorded. SCAU dug an evaluation trench, but according to Ian West, their record is hardly a satisfactory record of the building's plan.



The Turrets, the dairy built in 1810 by the architect Henry Kitchen for Garbrand Hall in Ewell, was also demolished to avoid the Act after several planning applications to develop the site were turned down. Henry Kitchen eventually went to Australia and any plans that still exist are probably there somewhere. In Ewell also, numbers 5 and 5a Cheam Road, remembered as Nuttalls, and then the Imperial Wine Stores, disappeared in 1968, and so have Ian's recordings. It had an early 19th century shop front with medieval timber frame behind. There are some photographs and Ian has reconstructed a plan showing five phases of development.

Update on NESCOL Archaeology – Steve Nelson

NESCOL has been given permission to build on the fields that border the railway where they used to keep their farm animals. Oxford Archaeology performed a good evaluation, digging about 60 trial pits over the five hectare site. The full excavation, which covered most of the area, has been done by Pre-Construct Archaeology. There will be further information next year when the findings have been evaluated.

The site is on the opposite side of the by-pass to where the chalk shafts were found in the 19th century. The geology complicated the excavation since shafts occurred naturally in the Ice Age and were not made by humans. However, there was evidence of occupation from the Mesolithic to Saxon times, and mainly of Roman occupation. There were coins, pottery and the bones of dogs, birds and humans. There were burials, notably of a woman who was possibly thrown into one of the shafts unceremoniously. Ditches of rectangular fields, and with burials that seem to be Roman, were found overlying earlier ditches and burials.

Japan – Prehistoric and Later – Brenda Allen

The earliest cultural period in Japan is known as the *Jomon*. The people were largely hunter-gatherers but they made elaborate lacquered pottery and 'Dogu' figurines which are designated national treasures. The Japanese have a listed building system and are keen on reconstructing sites like Jomon settlements. The Jomon people also made stone circles which were aligned to the mid-summer solstice. They made tools of flint and obsidian which were superseded by iron ones during the *Yayoi* period, which lasted from the 9th century BC to the 3rd century AD. In this time pottery finds show contact with China.

In the *Kofun* period, mid 3rd century to the end of the 7th century, writing was developed and kingdoms appeared which were the foundation of the later Japanese political system. At Sakai there is the largest burial mound in the world. The best view of this is the one from the 21st floor of the City Hall.

The first permanent Japanese capital was founded in 710 AD at Nara. Buddhism was adopted, and a legal system and organised bureaucracy were created. Kyoto became the capital in 794, until Tokyo took over in 1603, though Kyoto remained a cultural centre. The 17th century castle in Kyoto, built for the ruling Shogun, has a defensive stone wall and a moat, protecting the buildings and palace within, which are all built of wood.

Brenda visited Japan when the autumn colours were at their best, which her photographs recorded. She travelled on the famous Bullet train system and by ferry, and in a traditional inn sampled Japanese lifestyle and food. Her trip ended with a visit to Nagasaki.

The Medieval Potters of Cheam

Nikki Cowlard

You may remember a most interesting talk by Clive Orton back in September 2013 on the Time Cheam Project. Clive ran the project between 2010-2012 which involved the study, archiving and publishing of the large amount of pottery found behind Whitehall in Cheam in 1978. Several members of EEHAS were involved in this project; following training they worked on identifying the pottery forms e.g. jugs, pitchers, pipkins and bowls. In advance of a full report being published in the *Surrey Archaeological Collections* in 2016, Clive has published a 20 page colour booklet on the background to the project. It starts by describing the discovery of medieval production in Cheam from 1923 to 1978, and then discusses how the kilns might have looked and worked, derived from archaeological evidence. He then moves on to the products that were produced, and how they sat within pottery production of the time. The booklet is well set out, with colour pictures and highlighted panels giving additional information to the main text. Well worth reading if you are interested in Cheam, its medieval pottery industry and its place in medieval pottery production.

The Medieval Potters of Cheam by Clive Orton, published in April 2015 by Carshalton and District History and Archaeology Society, Occasional Paper No.5 Available from Sutton libraries and Whitehall at a cost of £3.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The EEHAS committee have been discussing the possibility of changing the Members Evening in August and the Christmas party in December, as a change might be refreshing? One suggestion is to have a members party in August, perhaps with an initial and informal talk, then a buffet to which members would contribute as currently happens at Christmas. The December meeting could then take the form of the current Members evening, with two short talks before a break during which wine and mince pies would be served.

We would appreciate hearing members view on this suggestion, so please contact a committee member either by email or phone. Contact details are published on the back page of each Newsletter.

Fit for a King: — Power, Glory and Fashion at the Tudor Court'

The Friends of Nonsuch have arranged this talk for September 23rd. Henry VIII enjoyed the trappings of monarchy. His court - and that of his daughter, Elizabeth – glittered with all the riches of the age. At the Tudor court, glorious dress, stunning portraiture and even elaborate armour could be used to project an image of one's status, attain power and make a statement about the sexual politics of the court. Historian, author and broadcaster Dr. Suzannah Lipscomb will outline the symbols that the Tudors instinctively understood and reveal the desires and anxieties of the Tudor world. Dr. Lipscomb is an historian, broadcaster and award-winning academic. Following posts as Research Curator at Hampton Court Palace, and Lecturer in Early Modern History at the University of East Anglia, she is now Head of the Faculty of History and Senior Lecturer in Early Modern History at New College. Suzannah has presented historical documentaries on television and writes a regular column for *History Today*. Her books include *1536: The Year that Changed Henry VIII*, *A Visitor's Companion to Tudor England* and *The King is Dead! The Last Will and Testament of Henry VIII* (due November 2015) and (co-edited) *Henry VIII and the Court: Art, Politics and Performance*.

The talk is at 7.30pm. Tickets (£10) include refreshments afterwards and are bookable in advance from the Friends of Nonsuch Secretary, 12, Meadows Road, Cheam, SM2 7PF (enclosing a cheque made out to 'Nonsuch Enterprises Ltd.' and an s.a.e. for return of the ticket(s)). Alternatively, you can contact the Friends by telephone (020 8643 2737 - not after 9pm, please) and arrange to collect and pay for your ticket at the door on the night, before 7.15pm.

Forthcoming Events

Round the Borough Hike, Saturday 5th September – free event for all ages and abilities that follows a 20 mile route around Epsom and Ewell's beautiful open spaces. Starts at 8.30am at Horton Country Park. Register at www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/roundtheboroughhikeandbike

Heritage Open Weekend – Saturday 12th – Sunday 13th September – see <http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/directory> for information on events locally and nationwide.

Nonsuch Park Awareness Day, Sunday 13th September. This is an annual Nonsuch Park users' event – all are welcome.

A Day for All (featuring the bells of St. Mary's), Saturday 26th September 12 noon-6.30pm. A day for all to enjoy a variety of activities - have a go at hand bell ringing, craft work, run by the Brownies and Guides, a swap shop for your excess produce, listen to a talk about '5 years in prison', play board games, view records of the social history of Ewell Village, tours of WW1 memorial stones and much more. For more information visit www.stmarysewell.com.

Grade II listing for Ewell 'Flying Saucer'

You may have seen in Issue 63 of *Borough Insight* that Bourne Hall has been granted Grade II listed status, having been recognised as a Building of Special Architectural Interest. This latest building on the site was opened in 1970 and replaced Garbrand Hall which was built around 1770 by Philip Rowden, a prosperous London wine merchant. After a number of subsequent owners, it was bought by Miss Margaret Glyn in 1922. By the 1950s the site was in the hands of EEBC, but the building had deteriorated so much that it had to be demolished in 1962, so it was said!

If you would like to know more, see *A History of Bourne Hall*, EEHAS Occasional Paper 23, available from the monthly meeting or from the Bourne Hall Museum Shop.

CBA SE Annual Conference and AGM

The Council for British Archaeology South-East is holding its Annual Conference on 14th November 2015 9.39am-4.30pm at the Surrey History Centre. The theme is **Life in the Mesolithic and new perspectives on the Mesolithic/Neolithic transition**. The cost is £16 for CBA SE members and £20 for non-members. If you are interested visit:

<http://www.cbасouth-east.org/events/cbase-annual-conference/> for booking information.

The latest CBA SE newsletter can be viewed on the [EEHAS website](#) on the Outside Events page under the Notice Board tab.

To Journey's End and Beyond: The RC Sherriff Study Day Saturday 24th October 2015 9.30am – 4.30pm Surrey History Centre.

RC Sherriff was a writer and playwright, best known for his play *Journey's End*, which was based on his experiences as a captain in World War I.

Family History Course this autumn. Run by professional genealogists and archivists this 6 week course will cover all you need to know to enhance your research as well as providing many tips of the trade. Course dates and time: Six consecutive Friday mornings (10am - 1pm): 18th September, 25th September, 2nd October, 9th October, 16th October and 23rd October Price: £60 - booked as a complete 6 week course To book:

www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents

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

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Treasurer: Jane Pedler

Archaeology Officer: Frank Pemberton

Conservation Officer: Nikki Cowlard (see details above)

Membership Secretary: Doreen Tilbury

Programme Secretary: Vacant

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

Please send copy for the next newsletter to the Secretary by 17 October 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 September
www.epsomewellhistory.org.uk