

EPSOM & EWELL HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY



THE FIRST 50 YEARS: 1960-2010

Conservation failures

Epsom and Ewell Borough Council does not have a good record for protecting historic buildings. Its inability to prevent the demolition of Pitt Place, Epsom in 1967 despite two Building Preservation Orders is described in *The Buildings of England* as scandalous.



Above- The demolition of Pitt Place in 1967

Below- Pitt Place, Church Street, Epsom prior to demolition



The Granary wall at 24 High Street, Ewell prior to its demolition in 2005



The replacement wall under construction

Two grievous losses in Ewell in the 1960s were Nuttall's shop and Carpenter's Bakery, both Tudor buildings. In 2005 the demolition of the Granary wall at 24 High Street, Ewell had an impact on the street scene of the village. More recently the Council has been more pro-active in working with EEHAS and other local societies to highlight areas for conservation. Unfortunately, it is likely that current financial restraints will push the needs of conservation down the Council's list of priorities and increase the need for public vigilance.



Nuttall's shop at 5-5a Cheam Road, Ewell- a 16th century jettied building demolished in 1968

EEAS (then NAS) played a major role in advising on the comprehensive relisting of buildings that led to the Department of the Environment's list of 1974, which has made it more difficult to ignore the need to protect old buildings. Experience, however, has shown how difficult it is to prevent the demolition or destructive redevelopment of even listed buildings. We live in an age where profit has top priority: once a developer has set his eyes on a property that can make money for him by being replaced or reconstructed he is not easily deterred. It is not difficult to persuade the Council that anything is better than having a building standing empty or derelict.



Left and Right Riddington's Tea Shop, High Street, Epsom, originally a Spa period building, was pulled down to make way for Epsom's modern High Street



Above- Cromwell Lodge in Church Street, Epsom

Below- The Shubbery in South Street, Epsom, originally built in 1680's and demolished- now under the one-way system



Above- A door frame being rescued from The Shubbery prior to demolition



Below- demolition of the 17th century Cromwell Lodge after which the land was left undeveloped

