



NEWSLETTER

2015, Issue 1

February 2015

<p><i>Welcome to New Members</i></p> <p>Mr D Yeo Mr L Mulberry Mrs J Robson</p> <p><i>And grateful thanks for generous donations from</i></p> <p>Mr A Hine Miss M Hunter Mr F Pemberton</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Chairman's Notes</p> <p>A Happy New Year to everyone from the Committee of EEHAS.</p> <p>2014 saw the centenary of the start of the Great War and we had a successful series of talks on this theme culminating in the WWI entertainment arranged by Jeremy Hate for the Christmas social. By the time you read this the re-enactment of Kitcheners's review of troops on Epsom Downs, in 8" of snow, on 22 January 1915 will have taken place.</p> <p>A reminder that the AGM is in March and the Annual Report is enclosed with this Newsletter. As I'm sure all will know there are some vacancies that need filling, the most pressing being a programmes secretary.</p> <p>Members will be pleased to hear that we have heard from Peggy Bedwell's niece who tells us that over £400 was raised in her memory and has been donated to the Princess Alice Hospice.</p>
<p>Inside this issue:</p> <p>November meeting War Memorials 2</p> <p>January meeting Thames Discovery Project 3</p> <p>Notice of AGM and Annual Report</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lecture Diary</p> <p>March 4th AGM and Presidential Address by, Jon Cotton Prehistory in Surrey: Where from Here?</p> <p>April 1st Past Crimes; Archaeological & Historical Evidence for Crime and Punishment by Julie Wileman</p> <p>May 6th Ancient Turkey by Jeff Cousins</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>

November Meeting – The History of the Borough War Memorials – Clive Gilbert Isobel Cross

Nationwide, types of war memorials are very varied. They range from the utilitarian, like the bus shelter in Scalby, near Scarborough, which commemorates the 1939-45 war, to the very grand like the Cenotaph. Most of them are based on the traditional cross that exists in many towns and villages, or they may be plaques, rolls of honour and other things like the stained glass windows in Portsmouth cathedral.



In our Borough we also have a collection of memorials. There is the plaque in Epsom Methodist Church which they have just re-instated. Bourne Hall Museum has several plaques. Just outside the office door is a wooden plaque listing the names from Ewell Boys' School. At Epsom postal sorting office they display a roll of honour, and in the Town Hall there is a Book of Remembrance for the dead of the second world war. Epsom College chapel has memorials that include their people as far back as the Boer war. In Ewell there is a Portland stone panel by the Dog Gate, which records the names of eighty local men lost in WW1; the memorial in St Mary's churchyard records the same names with two additions, and although a panel reading '1939-45' was later added, no names from the Second World War were added. Second World War victims are commemorated in a Book of Remembrance kept in the foyer of the Town Hall.

Of course it is the 18ft high Cornish granite memorial at the Ashley Road cemetery which is the Borough's main focus of remembrance. The gates on either side are dedicated to the University and Public Schools Brigade. The roll of honour for the Manor hospital has been lost and so has the plaque at Long Grove. Those who died in the Horton war hospital are mainly commemorated at Ashley Road, but two are buried in Horton cemetery which is notorious now for being neglected and 'mothballed' by its owner. It was to deal with questions of ownership, responsibility, loss, neglect and vandalism that the War Memorial Trust was set up in 1997. This can be contacted, if you notice a problem, at warmemorials.org. Biographical details of local casualties are at epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk



December Christmas Party Isobel Cross

The party went well. A lot of people brought food, well organised by Doreen, and David produced mulled wine and mince pies. We had quizzes and a raffle which featured lots of chocolate. The main entertainment was provided by Tim Richardson and his colleague Ian Church. They dressed in World War One uniform

January Meeting – Tales from the Thames: Community Archaeology on London's River – Nathalie Cohen

Isobel Cross

Nathalie Cohen is involved with the Thames Discovery Programme, founded in 2008 and now part of Museum of London Archaeology. Its purpose is to monitor and record the archaeology of the Thames foreshore and to run public awareness events and activities. Its volunteer activists are the Foreshore Recording and Observation Group – the FROGS.

The Thames foreshore is a very long archaeological site, and finds have been surfacing for centuries, especially after the Victorian industrialisation period when dredgers found and sold artefacts. Structures are also found, and there is a kind of stratigraphy, although not like that in a land site. For example, at the important site at Vauxhall, right by the MI6 building, a spearhead was found embedded in its original context. This is where the remains of a Bronze Age jetty is visible at low tide, and where people deposited ritual objects.

The need for recording is urgent because erosion in modern times has increased, particularly through the activities of the Thames Clipper boats. Two examples were described; firstly, at Greenwich where timbers of a jetty, probably Tudor, appeared in the 1990s. Over the years that followed, more and more were visible as the foreshore was eroded. Secondly, by the Tower of London, the foundation of a medieval riverside wall appeared in about 2010 and by 2013 it had started to crack. Such erosion can be counteracted by reinforcing defences, but the erosion itself seems to be unstoppable. The work of the Discovery Programme concerns recording structures, not conservation.

There have been lots of finds of all dates along the foreshore as well as structures. Fishtraps are common, especially Anglo-Saxon ones, Neolithic pottery, Roman coins, medieval pilgrims' tokens and so on. Human remains feature, like the mid-18th century child's skeleton by the Isle of Dogs, once a desolate site where there was a gallows – an execution? There are a lot of medieval and post-medieval remains along the foreshore – murder? drowning? These people were not buried in churchyards. Why not? On a lighter note, below the Houses of Parliament, crockery and bottles seem to have been thrown out of the windows over the years, and our representatives have had a habit of losing their keys.

You too can volunteer or just take an on-going interest. via www.thamesdiscovery.org



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 nikki.cowlard@btinternet.com

Treasurer: Jane Pedler

Archaeology Officer: Frank Pemberton

Conservation Officer: Nikki Cowlard (see details above)

Membership Secretary: Doreen Tilbury

Meetings Secretary: Vacant

Lecture Co-ordinator: Vacant

If you are interested in either of these posts please contact the Secretary.

Please send copy for the next newsletter to the Secretary by 9th March 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- February
www.epsomewellhistory.org.uk

Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society

Annual General Meeting 2015

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society will be held on Wednesday 4th March 2015 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 5th March 2014 (circulated with the April 2014 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 2014.

6. Election of Officers

The following are nominated for re-election:

President	Jonathan Cotton
Vice-President	Eve Myatt-Price, Stephen Nelson
Chairman	Stephen Nelson
Secretary	Nikki Cowlard
Treasurer	Jane Pedler (previously co-opted)

Committee Members due for re-election are:

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

Committee members not due for re-election are:

Rosemary Burleigh, Isobel Cross, Ian West.

Election of independent examiner

Rod Clarke is nominated for re-election.

7. Proposal to give the Curator of Bourne Hall Museum honorary membership.

8. 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.

9. Any other business

Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society
Annual Report for 2014

INTRODUCTION

This annual report highlights the main activities of the Society for the year ending 31st December 2014. 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	Lesley Hays (to September 2014), Jane Pedler (from September 2014)
Committee	Rosemary Burleigh, Jeff Cousins, Isobel Cross, David Hartley, Lesley Hays, Fran Taylor (co-opted), 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	Vacant
Programme Secretary	Fran Taylor (to October 2014), now vacant
Publicity Officer	Vacant

EEHAS lost two of its past officers in 2014. Charles Abdy, who had been Secretary and Newsletter Editor for many years, died in January. Peggy Bedwell, one time Chairman, Lecture co-ordinator and long-standing committee member died in July 2014. Their positive contribution to the society is much missed.

MEMBERSHIP

Memberships at the end of the year in terms of subscriptions paid were 79 ordinary, 23 family, 1 student and 1 corporate. There were a total of 104 subscriptions. The Society has 4 honorary members.

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 Council and is Secretary of the Roman Studies Group Committee. David Hartley and Steve Nelson are active members of SyAS' Medieval Studies Group.

PUBLICITY

Thanks go to Isobel Cross and Gay Keeble who produce posters advertising EEHAS talks for the Borough noticeboards. **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

No papers have been published this year but the Archaeological Monograph on St. Mary's Churchyard 1974-5 is ready for publication, and at least two Occasional Papers are imminent. Members are encouraged to carry out local historic research and to approach the committee if they have papers for publication.

Committee members were involved in editing heritage-based articles for The Epsom and Ewell Residents' Guide.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Report by Frank Pemberton, Archaeology Officer

Current work

It was a privilege to work with colleagues as Finds Director at our excavation in Church Meadow, assisting our ever hardworking Secretary Nikki Cowlard as Director of the site, and working in partnership on finds with the trench supervisors and metal detectorists. Lou Hays and Andrew Francis monitored the regular finds team of local people together with other volunteers from Surrey, while Colin Nutley kept the "pot washing" going; with general support from Chris and Gay Harris. Regular Newsletter reports on Church Meadow, and information on the EEHAS web site, which has been maintained and created by Nikki, shows once again the extent of the Roman settlement in Ewell.

At the time of writing, the Ewell pottery group, which meets regularly most Monday evenings at Glyn Hall, has been identifying and cataloguing both fine and domestic Roman pottery as well as imported wares, which includes amphorae from Spain. The 2012 processing has now been completed and we have moved on to identifying assemblages from the CME13 season. Chris and Gay Harris are responsible for recording the catalogue digitally, which in turn will assist Phil Stanley to draft on-going pottery progress reports. Special finds of personal objects such as pins, brooches, iron shoe studs, fittings and nails from CME12-13 have been identified, with the cataloguing of the 2014 special finds underway.

Back excavation reports

St Mary's Churchyard

The report on the Roman phases, Stane Street, structures and finds, as well as structures from the excavations in 1974-1975 ahead of use of St Mary's' Churchyard is about to go to press as an EEHAS monograph.

St Mary's, 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 is continuing. This excavation took place with volunteers of the former Nonsuch Antiquarian Society (now EEHAS), and is one of a number of site reports that need to be published, as a tribute to the work former members. The site evidence suggests there are at least three main Roman phases: 1. a structure of flints and sand with a cambered base of pebbles on Thanet Sand, and ditches on either side, interpreted as Stane Street, and recently found by radar in Church Street. 2. a second phase of layers contained settlement debris, a mix of chalk and charcoal screes, and structures of embedded flints with charcoal fragments compacted with chalk cubes, with quern stone fragments and animal bones suggestive of hearth bases; finds include pins, oyster shells, brooches, iron nails, and a knife. Pottery vessel sherds include wine

beaker, storage jar, table bowls and dishes from the Alice Holt (Surrey-Farnham), Verulamium, North Kent shelly ware, and Highgate potteries. 3. finally, the compacted blackish grey soil of a rubbish midden, containing later Roman pottery vessels, with a stylus, ring and pins; this midden is away from the edge of Stane Street, probably in a rear garden plot.

In the year ahead report writing and working on the Church Meadow finds will be continue.

Bourne Hall excavations

Steve Nelson and David Hartley have been working with Jeremy Harte, in the Museum, to prepare the archive of Norman Nail's 1960s excavation of the Bourne Hall site. Having completed a preliminary survey of all the pottery some time ago progress has stalled slightly on this with difficulty in relating the material to the existing site context notes. However, further work just recently has enabled some correlation of the finds and interpretation of the context numbers; the aim being to produce an overall site plan and suggested phasing. How much can be deduced from the records that survive in order to prepare a comprehensive report suitable for publication is uncertain but this is the aim.

Frank Pemberton BA.MA.AIFA

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 the rebuilding of Lane House, Epsom Road, Ewell [adjacent to Monger's Lane], and a ditch within Nonsuch Park. No archaeological features were identified.

Nikki Cowlard was asked to support a project of test pitting at City of London Freeman's School in Ashted. In the spring a number of Yr 12 students undertook three sessions of digging on the site of the medieval manor house.

Church Meadow Project

The third and final excavation of the Church Meadow Project has been completed. The site is adjacent to St. Mary's Church Yard No.4 in Church Street, Ewell and excavations have revealed features relating to the north-east edge of the Roman roadside settlement. An interim report is planned for the April newsletter. This independent project has been supported by EEHAS and by Surrey Archaeological Society with funding, equipment and manpower, access and support from St. Mary's Church and grants from the Council for British Archaeology and the Local Committee Fund of Surrey County Council.

CME14 turned out to be the final season as plans are underway to convert the meadow into a sports field for the nearby Ewell Castle School. Liaison between the project, the Church and the school will ensure that any remaining archaeology will be preserved for future research. The final 55m of the 10m wide strip adjacent to the graveyard was excavated, and the adjoining 10m from 2013, together with a small area over a pit in Area D, were re-opened to complete a number of previously identified features.

The main findings from the 2014 season were as follows:

- An external ditch with at least two recuts, and a later internal gully was uncovered running parallel to, and mirroring the ditch and gully found in 2012-3. These are interpreted as roadside ditches for Stane Street, whose surface has been ploughed out in this area.
- A 4th century clay-lined ritual pit was completed in Area J. It was over 2m deep, containing a heifer skull, horse, dog and bird bones, within and below a deliberately laid layer of flint. This is a feature of regional, if not national, importance, and relates to similar structures found at Hatch Furlong, an excavated Roman ritual site c. 500m to the south. Another pit, not fully excavated, exhibits similar features.

Three pits with a likely industrial function were identified, running under the NW baulk to varying degrees in Areas, P,Q-R and S, and partially excavated. Finds are provisionally dated

- to the late 3rd century AD onwards and may represent activity at the northern extent of the later Roman settlement.
- The 'amphora' pit in Area D was re-opened for the third time, and excavation completed. Evidence was found for three phases of amphorae set in mortar, staggered vertically and horizontally around the edge of a pit cut into a redundant well shaft.

The number and quality of small finds was reduced, as one might anticipate in an industrial zone at the edge of the settlement. However, upwards of 180 roman coins were recovered with the help of the metal detectorists on the team.

This project has shown Church Meadow to be an important Romano-British site which still requires further investigation. Four pits excavated in 2014 require completion and any ground levelling for the planned sports field should be done no deeper than 300mm to protect remaining archaeology. Removal of the turf will enable us to carry out a metal detecting survey across the whole field to plot any activity away from the road, and a level ground surface would allow for modern non-invasive geophysics techniques to be carried out to identify any remaining features.

An exhibition on the final season of excavation was held at St. Mary's Church Hall in November and thanks must go to the church for its ongoing support; special thanks to all members who have been involved in, or have supported, the project. Member participation continues with weekly pottery cataloguing, and environmental sample sorting.

Nikki Cowlard, Site Director

CONSERVATION

The Society's Conservation Officers check the Borough's planning applications each week 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 on which we have commented on or viewed include: the Grade II listed 18th c. gates in Madan's Walk (Epsom) which are still in a poor state of repair; The Star, Ewell; The Albion, Epsom; The White Horse, Epsom; 25 Alexandra Road, Epsom; NESOCOT; 57-59 High Street, Ewell; The Durdans; Ewell Court House; Nonsuch Mansion; the Royal Automobile Club; the Organ and Dragon, Ewell; 9 West Street, Epsom; The British Legion, Epsom; and WS Atkins, Epsom.

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 nikki.cowlard@btinternet.com

Lesley Hays, 21 Wilmerhatch Lane, Epsom KT18 7EQ 01372 724172 louhays@ntlworld.com

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. EEHAS members (actually currently only Isobel Cross!) participate in the running the Museum shop; new volunteers are always welcome but without 'new blood' there is a strong possibility that the shop will have to close.

DISPLAYS

The Society was involved in producing one display this year. The Church Meadow Excavation display again won 2nd 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

Fran Taylor has arranged a wide ranging and interesting programme of lectures. Unfortunately for us Fran has now moved away and we are on the look-out for a new Lecture co-ordinator. This year's lectures were: Prehistoric Malta - Richard Watson; Pilgrimages to the Holy Land –Rev. John Baxter; The History of Public Houses – Alan Greenwood; the Boats of the Ancient Egyptians – Anne Musgove; Coombe Hill Conduit House, David Kennedy; Memorial Landscapes in Archaeology: Stonehenge and WW1 Battlefields, Scot McCracken; Epsom Coaches, Steve Whiteway; The Impact of WW1 on the Borough, Tim Richardson; and History of the War Memorials: Clive Gilbert.

Members contributed to the August Member's evening with the following talks: Reminiscences of the Six Day War – Elizabeth Bennett; The Hogsmill River Improvements – Steve Nelson; Gozo – Martin Upward; A Sudanese Odyssey – Brenda Allen. President Jon Cotton gave a talk on '25 years of Archaeology in London' at the AGM in March.

REFRESHMENTS

Thanks go to Peggy Gill who has run the refreshments rota for our monthly meetings, and to everyone who has helped. Unfortunately Peggy is not able to continue in this role and we are looking for someone to organise the rota and bring refreshments to each meeting. 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.

NEWSLETTERS

Five newsletters were produced throughout the year, edited by our Chairman Steve Nelson, in the absence of a permanent newsletter editor. Our thanks go to Steve for producing such informative newsletters. They are also published on the website with colour photographs. The reports on the monthly lecture continue to be ably recorded by Isobel Cross, and appear in each newsletter. Other articles that have appeared in the year's newsletters include: Church Meadow Excavations, Horton Chapel, Ewell Court House, Epsom's East End (Occasional Paper 4), Old Rubbing House public house, Bench Marks - what are they?, New State of England 1702, Benchmarks of the Borough, NESOT animal husbandry fields, Nonsuch Park ditch, Development in Epsom, An odd clay pipe from Ewell, The White Horse – Epsom, and The Perspective of a Volunteer coordinator. Thanks go 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 have been in the capable hands of not one but two Treasurers this year. Our thanks go to Lou Hays for her time as Treasurer and she has now handed over to Jane Pedler. Jane has been co-opted as Treasurer, and will hopefully stand for election at the forthcoming AGM.