



NEWSLETTER

2015, Issue 2

April 2015

*We are grateful for
generous donations
from*

Mr I West

Mrs L Shaw

Chairman's Notes

Included in this Newsletter is Nikki Cowlard's interim report on the 2014 Church Meadow excavation. We publish it here in full as the CME work has been an especially important project initiated by this Society. It follows the equally important excavations on Hatch Furlong and has also acted as a catalyst in drawing together all the archaeological work that has occurred over the years on Roman Ewell and on which Frank Pemberton and others have been working. This same report can be found in the next SyAS Bulletin, 451.

We are also very pleased to announce that the AGM agreed to award Eve Myatt-Price an Honorary membership of EEHAS. This is in recognition of all the support Eve has given to the Society over many years.

I happened to notice recently that Professor Sheppard Frere died on 25 February age 98. As well as being the doyen of Roman Archaeology he excavated, and published, locally when a master at Epsom College. These included work the grounds of the Grove school, Ewell and an Iron Age site off College Road, Epsom.

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May 6th Ancient Turkey by Jeff Cousins

June 3rd Excavations in Church Meadow, Ewell by Nikki Cowlard & Frank Pemberton

July 1st The History of Worcester Park, Old Malden & North Cheam by David Rymill

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at St. Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell KT17 2BB

Doors open 7.45 for 8pm start. Members free, visitors £4, includes refreshments

Church Meadow, Ewell: Excavations in 2014

Nikki Cowlard

The third and final season of rescue excavation in Church Meadow took place in July 2014. Permission was granted for the original project in expectation of a 10m wide strip of the field being absorbed into the adjacent graveyard within the next five years (for previous interim reports see Cowlard 2012; Cowlard 2013). A change of plan means that the entire field is now to be converted into a sports training ground for nearby Ewell Castle School. Although the field is now 'out of bounds' the School's heritage statement for this development was written by the author, ensuring that the importance of the site was recognised in the planning process. Any ground disturbance will be restricted to the top 20cm of plough soil and the project will carry out a metal detecting survey once the turf has been removed, and further geophysics once the field has been reseeded.



For practical purposes over the three seasons the trench was divided into nineteen 6m sections, named alphabetically with 'A' at the lower end of the field closest to Church Street and 'S' towards the Ewell by-pass at the north-east end. The first two seasons had seen the excavation of 60m of the strip, which had revealed evidence for several Romano-British features beneath a horizon of deep ploughsoil; the ploughing which had destroyed almost everything above early Roman ground level is thought to have been carried out by a single episode of steam ploughing in the second half of the 19th century. In 2014, 4m of Area I and the entire 6m of J were re-opened together with 55m of 'virgin' 10m wide strip (K-S) in order to complete the excavation in view of the new plans for the area. A further small area in Area D was re-opened over the previously excavated 'amphora' pit to complete its examination.

At the end of the 2013 excavation a small gully was noted to the west of the deep pit in Area J. Further investigation revealed a ditch of probable 1st century date, shallow and wide in profile, running across the trench in a NE-SW direction, roughly in line with the anticipated route of Stane Street across the site. This ditch was filled with a grey silt, containing some concentrated areas of pottery and other rubbish. There is evidence that the ditch was then recut twice; the first was a steep-sided U shaped ditch following the eastern edge of the original ditch, with a homogenous pale silt fill; the second recut was on the western edge of the ditch and contained several episodes of fill. The segment excavated close to the pit in J was free of finds but to the north it contained a grey gritty fill full of rubbish. Finally a small V-shaped gully was cut into the west edge of the ditch. This sequence mirrored features found in 2012-3 and together they are interpreted as parallel roadside ditches for Stane Street. No agger or road base was apparent between these ditches; the area where it should have been in the trench, F,G,H and part of I, had been noted as a 'barren' corridor with no below Roman ground surface features, in contrast to elsewhere in the trench. It seems probable that the road was built up on a causeway as it

descended to the marshy area around the springs. This would have left no evidence for the cutting of the road into the natural as would otherwise be expected, and the causeway and surface would have been destroyed by ploughing, with the stones being used over the centuries for buildings and other roads/tracks or surfaces in the village. Otherwise the absence of foundation cuts/base flints for a main thoroughfare is a conundrum. Between the 'non-agger' and the eastern roadside ditch were areas of closely-packed pebbles, chalk, pot and ceramic building material. On the western side there was an area of scattered flints sunk into the natural clay and a wide but thin layer of crushed mortar. These are interpreted as the remains of metalled roadside tracks roughly 3m each in width with the road about 6m wide on a causeway between them. There is evidence for some chalk and 'chalk over flint' surfaces extending over the ditches and the eastern gully, which suggests encroachment onto the road; it may be that as the roadside ditches went out of use as occupation spread onto the roadside tracks leaving the central agger as a functioning highway. The shallow remains of a gully was found in Area O running NNW-SSE, at right angles to the road and may be a property division similar to those seen in 2012.

The deep pit [241] in Area J, which had been sectioned the previous season, was re-excavated. This circular pit was 1.3m in diameter with clay-lined vertical sides and more than 2m deep. It had been cut through the eastern roadside ditch [but not the later gully] and the uppermost layers were 1.4m deep and full of burnt material and rubbish. A number of late 4th century coins were retrieved and towards the bottom of this layer were deposited the bones of what have been initially identified as those of a small dog and at least one bird. Beneath this was the base of the clay lining which extended up the vertical sides to the top of the pit, presumably making it water-tight. Whether its use was industrial or ritual at this point cannot yet be ascertained, but initial examination of environmental samples have revealed the presence of single spiral water snails. Beneath the clay lining was a layer of 252 flints, 177 of them knapped, mixed with the upper and lower mandible, two scapulae, sacrum and part pelvis of a horse. These would have been carefully placed as neither the flints nor the bones were damaged as they would have been by being thrown in from the surface.



Below was a heifer skull placed on its side against one wall, with the rest of the layer packed with sand. This overlay more flint sitting on loose clay, underneath which was the flat sandy natural base of the pit. Extending across the base was what looked like a raised branch of concreted sand, about 10-20cm in width, more than 20cm deep, and running vertically 40cm up the west wall of the pit. Placed parallel to this natural concretion on the south side was a single animal rib. It appears that the base of the pit cut through part of this linear iron-pan concretion. Three substantial postholes were found cut into the surface of the roadside track to the north-west of this pit. They may have supported posts denoting an entrance from the road to a ritual area; pottery dating may help ascertain whether they are contemporary.

A number of pits were found in Areas N and P-S. A circular pit [324N] with vertical clay-lined sides, 1.2m in diameter but broadening to 1.4m at the top, was only excavated to a depth of 0.75m due to time constraints. The upper fill contained a concentration of charcoal and ash with chalk and mortar inclusions, pot and bone. Beneath this was a layer still containing much charcoal but also more clay. A melon bead, an iron tool and a stamped samian base of a Drag 18 or 15/17 shallow bowl or dish, from La Graufesenque [pre- or early Flavian in date], was retrieved from this context. The fill beneath this was mounded as having been filled from the centre in one episode; the fill was similar but contained more sand and clay in the mix. The pit's vertical sides and clay lining are reminiscent of pit [241J] but rather than being sited at the roadside it is about 12m to the east, 28m to the NE of [241J]. A shallow scoop was found close by, containing pot and a large quern fragment.

Three pits were sited running under the NW baulk to varying degrees in Areas, P, Q-R and S and thus were only partially excavated. They were approximately 8m, 13m and 14m respectively from the projected road alignment and may represent activity behind roadside buildings. About two-thirds of the pit in P [311] extended into the trench and consisted of an outer bowl-shaped pit approximately 2m in diameter. A 0.8m wide steep- sided shaft was seen to descend from the base of the pit, and was excavated to 0.8m, with augering indicating it was at least 0.75m deeper. At some point a smaller pit was cut within the fill of the bowl-shaped pit. This was 0.8m in diameter and remnants of a flint and mortar lining, 15-20cm thick, survived on the northern edge. Pottery from the fills suggests a 3rd-4th c. date.

About half of the pit [319] straddling the junction between areas Q-R extended into the trench, and again consisted of a bowl-shaped pit over a more vertical shaft, with an inner lined bowl. The earliest bowl was 3m wide and 1m deep, but in contrast to the pit in P the 0.8m wide shaft descended only 0.3m. The inner bowl was 2.4m wide and 0.5m deep, much shallower than the inner bowl in pit [311]. It was lined with hard mortar, laid in patches of differing colour and consistency, and about 10-15cm thick. The lining only survived on the southern curve of the pit, being absent on the base and northern sides. In the fill of the inner bowl where the base should have been was found a very large flint, 25.4kg in weight. Early indications suggest a late 2nd-mid 3rd century date for the overall feature.

Only the edge of the third pit [316] could be seen in the trench but it probably extended to a diameter of 2.5m. Two layers of fill were evident separated by a band of chalk and mortar fragments. The fills were same in appearance and consistency as those in pits [311] and [319]. These pits, together with the amphora pit described below, share characteristics of repetitive use with some indication of mortar lining and burnt material. A mortar-lined flint bowl found in Area B in 2012 may also represent a similar function. It is likely that these pits had an industrial function and parallels are being sought. Environmental samples have been extracted from all the excavated pits and may give us an indication of what use they were put to.

The 1m wide trench from Clive Orton's 2000 excavation (ECY00) was more clearly seen running at a right-angle to the road corridor in I-J (Orton2000). The flint, pebble and chalk surfaces identified in 2000 were seen to be part of the surface excavated to the west of the 'ritual' pit in 2013-14. The CME14 trench was extended to the north-west in K in an attempt to tie in Frank Pemberton's SMC03 churchyard trench. A flint layer, originally thought to be the surface of the Roman road, was found to mirror the disturbed flint layer found in the CME13 trench; post-medieval pottery was found beneath both the CME13 and SMC03 flint layers confirming the flint had been turned over by the plough and re-

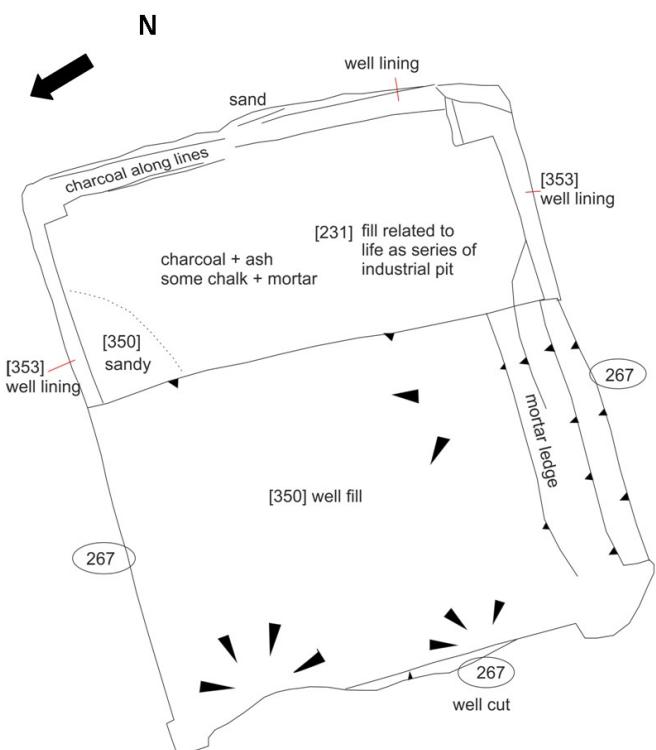
deposited. Exceptionally dry conditions in 2003 meant that it had been impossible to excavate beneath the exposed flint layer.

The ‘amphora’ pit, cut into the roadside ditch in D was re-opened for the second time; due to its complexity it had been left unfinished until there was time to examine it carefully. Excavation revealed a 1.15 x 1m rectangular feature identified as a timber-lined well. It was probably about 3m deep including an augered depth of 0.8m which was not excavated. The upper 0.75m was dug vertically through clay and beneath that through sand. There was evidence for corner posts with internal planking; the wood only survived as a sticky grey/white mottled lining, often with a band of charcoal on the inner surface. Unlike the earliest of the two wells found in A there was no barrel in one corner, posts being evident in all four corners. On the southern side, there was a mortared ledge parallel to and within the lining; this may be a replacement lining but more likely belongs to the next phase of activity. About 1.5m below the top of the western edge a niche 60cm wide, 20cm deep and 10cm high had been cut into the side of the well. This may have been part of, or behind the lining and probably originally held a greyware dish, perhaps as a kind of foundation deposit; some large sherds were found in the niche and other conjoining sherds were found in the main fill nearby.

Following the well phase there was then a series of three pits, one above the other, showing the same sequence of contexts, each apparently involving the setting in place of an olive oil amphora (or part of an amphora): 1. Build-up – grey gritty fill with some pot. 2. Mortar bowl. 3. A burnt layer [the burning did not take place in-situ as there is no sign of burning on the mortar]. 4. Build-up - grey gritty fill [not present in the top pit]. 5. An amphora then seems to have been cut into the side wall and set in mortar; the bowl and sides of the pit lined with flints, mortar and chalk. 6. Another burnt layer, possibly from in-situ burning. The amphora in the earliest pit was represented by a sherd sealed beneath the mortar for the next amphora pit, together with a curved depression in the southern wall of the well shaft into which it would have nestled. The fills, as in the later pits in the sequence, were dark and gritty, containing ash, charcoal, mortar and pot.

Once the initial pit went out of use and most of the amphora was removed, 40cm of a gritty grey layer containing rubbish was deposited and a second amphora placed in the south-east corner, against another curve cut into the wall. The base of this amphora was approximately 35-40cm above the base of the first. A dupondius of Vespasian, dated to 72-73AD, was found in this area and may have been deposited beneath the amphora base. A mortar bowl was formed around and beneath the amphora, and the gaps between the amphora and the straight wall of the well packed with clay and small flints. Activity then left a burnt residue over the bowl outside the amphora, before levels were then built up around the amphora and a further mortar lining laid down. A horizontal slot, 10cm in diameter, set at a 45° angle to the pit wall was evident in the mortar; it contained a soft dark fill and may represent a length of timber laid across the corner to support the amphora while the mortar set. The mortar extended up the walls with flint added in places, especially around the amphora base, perhaps to reinforce it.

Plan of well beneath amphora pits in Area D



When the second amphora was removed the wall of the pit was repaired with pieces of flints, and a grey gritty layer containing rubbish was deposited to raise the floor level of the pit. Again this was bowl-like, extending a short way up the SW side, and all the way up the SE side where the second amphora had been. A thin layer of yellow mortar was then applied to the base, and after at least part of the rubbish layer was removed in the SE corner of the pit, a thick layer of mortar was put in and the amphora placed on top. As with the second amphora pit there is again evidence that the mortar was laid against a piece of timber. The wall in the NE quadrant of the pit was then shaped to accommodate the curve of the third amphora, the remains of which were found in the first year of excavation. This amphora was approximately 55-60cm higher up the pit than the last, and burnt residue was again found above the mortar. On this occasion there was no further build-up layer. The pit was then lined to either side of the amphora ; in the SE corner where the 'Vespasian' amphora had been two layers of closely packed flints were laid without mortar, whilst in the SW corner these two layers of flints sandwiched a layer of chalk set in mortar. This sequence of pits shows evidence for the same type of process continuing over time; as with the other 'industrial' pits already mentioned, parallels are being sought.

Following the SyAS environmental course that took place during CME13, 20 bulk environmental samples were taken from 18 features, including pit and ditch fills. These are being processed by volunteers both at SCAU and in Ewell, and will hopefully add evidence for the environment and human activities in Romano-British Ewell. Whilst a number of interesting finds were retrieved there was the feeling of more mundane pottery with fewer finewares than in previous seasons. Several fragments of quern stone were found together with more than 50 hobnails, and more tile debris and dressed stone fragments.

Roman coins, most of which were found by our dedicated metal detectorists, Mairi Sargent, Dave Williams and Bill Meads, now number around 500 after three seasons. Once the coins have been identified it is hoped that analysis of the coin assemblage, and comparisons to other coins found in Ewell and other Romano-British sites, will add to our understanding of activity in this part of the settlement. Other interesting finds of Roman date include: the bovid terminal of a cosmetic grinder (probably 1st-2nd c.); a rare Maxey type Bow and Fantail brooch dated to the late 1st century AD (very few of these have been found in this country, mainly in East Anglia); a Knee brooch of late 2nd-early 3rd c. date, and a copper alloy dolphin-decorated carrying handle for a legionary helmet, probably 2nd-3rd c. Whilst non-Roman finds have always been in the minority on this site, a number of interesting objects of post-Roman date were recovered this season. They include: a pre-1952 'gold-coloured' metal Royal Army Medical Corps brooch; a WVS badge of WWII issue; two Charles I Rose farthings; a 17th c. trader's token from The Boar's Head in Tooley Street, Southwark; a medieval jetton; and a stamped clay tobacco pipe fragment of an early giant pipe dating from c1590-1620. This is an exceptionally rare find and the earliest example of a giant pipe that has so far been recorded in this country [D. Higgins, 2015, pers. com]. Also of particular interest is a copper alloy button stud, decorated with a single frontal face mask; it bears comparison to the style of Anglo-Saxon button brooches but rather than the standard brooch fitting it has a central single stud on the rear; a specialist opinion is being sought.

The second Saturday of the excavation saw an Open Day in conjunction with the Ewell Village Fair and the CBA's Festival of Archaeology. Good weather encouraged more than 200 visitors along to the site where they were given a tour of the trench and the finds area. More than 60 children from the Bourne Hall Museum Club attended for a practical session of excavation and finds washing, and pupils from Ewell Grove School visited over the course of one very busy day.

All dating for features is provisional as post-excavation pottery cataloguing continues. Volunteers meet on a regular basis, assisted by a grant from Surrey County Council's Local Committees Fund. The project has only been possible with support from EEHAS, SyAS, CBA's Mick Aston Fund, St. Mary's Church, SCAU, Jeremy Harte and David Brooks from Bourne Hall Museum and neighbours Jane and Rob Pedler. Thanks must go to the more than 80 volunteers that took part over the three weeks, and to those who are continuing with post-excavation work. In particular I would like to thank the following: David Bird, as Project Director for his support and sage advice; Emma Corke, Assistant Director who ran the trench, co-ordinated the recording, and was an invaluable help in interpreting the archaeology; Frank Pemberton, Assistant (Finds) Director; Andrew Francis – finds tent co-ordinator, together with Lou Hays who also organised the volunteers; Colin Nutley – 'pot washing' supervisor; Jenny Newell, site 'gofer' – a vital role; Michelle Cave – environmental supervisor; trench supervisors – David Calow, David Hartley, Meurig Thomas, Laura Dodd, Phil Stanley, Roger Brookman, and assistant supervisor Pauline Hulse; metal detectorists Mairi Sargent, Dave Williams and Bill Meads; Steve Nelson and Ian West of EEHAS for their on-site help; and Chris and Gay Harris for all their ongoing involvement and support.

REFERENCES

- Cowlard, N. 2012 Church Meadow Ewell: Excavations in 2012, *SyAS Bulletin*, 435, 10-13
- Cowlard, N. 2013 Church Meadow Ewell: Excavations in 2013, *SyAS Bulletin*, 442, 2-6
- Orton, C. 2000 St. Mary's No.5 Churchyard, Ewell, Surrey, unpublished summary report (copy in Bourne Hall Museum, Ewell)

November Meeting The Borough's War Memorials

Clive Gilbert has pointed out that our note of his talk in the last Newsletter has a slight error with regard to the Ewell, St Mary's Churchyard memorial. To make this clear it should read -

In Ewell there is a Portland stone panel by the Dog Gate, which records the names of eighty local men lost in WWI; 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 War victims are commemorated in a Book of Remembrance kept in the foyer of the Town Hall.

Bourne Hall Museum Shop

Isobel Cross

The shop which is run by the Friends of Bourne Hall Museum raises money which the museum has spent on a range of things from a new display case to local items which turn up on E-bay. A Friends organisation sounds quite important, but we are actually rather few and getting fewer, and need more people. We hope to work in pairs, are open Tuesday all day, Thursday and Friday mornings and also for special events, usually on Saturdays, as we did for the recent Herald of Spring. We could do more if we had the personnel – eg. Wednesdays and Thursday afternoons. (Friday afternoon is not a productive time). More Saturday mornings would be good if people would be willing. No qualifications are required except to be fit enough to put up the security shutters. We sell local history books, second hand books, children's books and toys (dinosaurs are popular), record what we have sold, are nice to people even when they don't actually buy anything, and count the money.

Our major problem is the recent death of our treasurer. Anyone who runs a group of any kind knows that this is not a job that everyone is willing or able to do. We need a new treasurer who preferably is able to work in the shop. If you are able to help in any capacity I can be contacted through the Museum. You can see us in situ when the shop is open. I am there on a Tuesday morning.

February Meeting – Archaeology in Dalmatia – Frank Pemberton

Isobel Cross

Dalmatia is an area on the east coast of the Adriatic, which is geographically part of modern Croatia. In Antiquity it was inhabited by Illyrian tribes. The term *Dalmatia* is derived from the name of one of them. The area was colonised by Greeks looking for amber and silver around 650BC. The Romans conquered Dalmatia in the days of the Republic and continued to administer it during the Empire. Later history saw Dalmatia become part of the Byzantine Empire, then part of Croatia, part of Yugoslavia and now Croatia again.

The talk first focussed on the city of Zadar where there are the remains of a temple to be seen and a two-storey forum complex. There is a late Roman Christian basilica, re-using some earlier columns. We saw pictures of many of the interesting and varied objects in the museum. The statues here and elsewhere show that Romans liked to see themselves in Greek dress. There is a stone depicting Mithras which must have come from a temple. There are agricultural implements, and rings and mirrors made of the local silver, portrait

Then to the city of Split – associated with the Emperor Diocletian, who had the idea of dividing the Empire into four administrative areas governed by sub-emperor colleagues with himself in over-all control. This fell apart when he retired to his palace at Split. The storerooms and cells with their substantial vaulting are visible remains. The Temple of Jupiter became a baptistry and Diocletian's planned mausoleum is now the Cathedral of St Domnius. The palace was fortified and the Split museum has many military monuments (about one hundred) such as the stone plaque commemorating a veteran of the 7th Legion. Dalmatia was a frontier area as the many military brooches and monuments, the cavalry helmet found in Zadar, and the temple of Mithras there, all attest.

There are more military brooches in the museum in Narona further down the coast, which also contains a variety of other objects. There is a hemispherical stone sundial from the 2nd century AD. There are attractive items made of lapis lazuli and a collection of medical equipment.

March Meeting – the AGM

Isobel Cross

Unfortunately our President, Jon Cotton, was ill and unable to chair the meeting or give his usual post-AGM talk. Fortunately, however, we had Steve Nelson to perform both functions. We got through the business rapidly and afterwards Steve spoke on *Archaeology and Buildings in Epsom and Ewell: some work of the Epsom and Ewell History and Archaeology Society, Past and Future*. In short, it was a summary of what EEHAS has done in the past and what we might do in the future.

There are several sites and many finds which could be re-assessed, interpreted, re-interpreted and published. In Epsom in 1980 the site of an early C17 building was excavated where TK Max is now, as was 41 South Street in the same year. In Church Street, Cromwell Lodge was demolished in the 1970s. Its site was investigated by SCAU in about 1998 but we do not know what records there are or what was found. In 1981 the Ashley Centre development produced much material from wells and cess pits. One special group comprised objects typically used in inns including the largest group of pre-Victorian clay pipes found in England, and a gold mourning ring dated 1707. All these finds and site records should be gathered together and published.

Frank Pemberton is working on excavated Roman sites and finds in Ewell that pre-date our recent work in Church Meadow, so Roman Ewell is being coped with, but there is more to pull together about other aspects of the history of the village. Norman Nail excavated the Bourne Hall site in 1962-64, particularly the stable block under the current car park. The problem is that although drawings, finds and notes exist, Norman never spelled out his reasons for his conclusions, and the whole thing has to be worked on again.

Later there have been various interventions in the Bourne Hall grounds. In 1987 a tree blew down revealing "Tudor" brickwork. In 1991-2 the Lake dried up revealing finds, Roman and earlier, and walls from a previous lake. In 1994 and 2004 various works revealed brickwork under the lawn. It was once used for school tennis courts, but a geophysical survey might be informative. Also, could we excavate in the lawn? Work still remains to be done on 7 Ewell High Street, once Carpenter's Bakery, and there is a lot of potential in collecting together the various finds from Saxon Ewell, to list them all and to assess their significance.

So, after the end of the Church Meadow excavations there is still plenty to do, if only enough people can find enough time.

Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society

Founded 1960 Registered Charity No.259221

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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 15th May2015

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-April
www.epsomewellhistory.org.uk

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 8p.m. on 4th March 2015
at St. Mary's Church Hall, Ewell**

Present: Vice-President/Chairman Stephen Nelson
Secretary Nikki Cowlard

A total of 36 members signed the attendance book.

Unfortunately President Jon Cotton was unwell and unable to attend, so the meeting was chaired by the Steve Nelson who opened the proceedings and welcomed members.

1. Apologies for absence: Jon Cotton, Jeff Cousins, Eve Myatt-Price, Jane Pedler, Frank Pemberton.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 5th March 2014

The minutes had been circulated with the April 2014 newsletter. Adoption of the minutes was proposed by Chris Harris, seconded by David Hartley and agreed unanimously by members present.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes not otherwise covered in the agenda

None noted.

4. Annual report for 2014

The report had been circulated with the February 2015 Newsletter. Steve Nelson mentioned that Nikki Cowlard had recently highlighted the Society's responsibilities as a charity, and the committee will be discussing these at the next committee meeting. He thanked Isobel Cross for her regular reports on talks for the newsletter, which made his job as acting newsletter editor much easier. Thanks were expressed to Fran Taylor who had resigned as Lecture co-ordinator due to relocation, and both this role and that of Publicity Officer are still vacant. Peggy Gill was thanked for her time organising the refreshments rota, and members were asked to consider taking on this important role.

Adoption of the annual report was proposed by Ian West, seconded by Norman Hale and accepted unanimously.

5. Treasurer's report

Jane Pedler took over as Treasurer in September from Lou Hays, who was thanked for her time in office. Jane, was unable to attend the AGM but had passed on her thanks to Rod Clarke, for auditing the accounts. The Secretary explained that the differences in figures in 'Social Events' between 2013 and 2014 was due to monies paid in and out, relating to the Faversham visit in 2013. A sum of £1000 which was allocated to the CME Project in 2014 has not yet been transferred over, so members were made aware that this would happen during 2015.

Elizabeth Bennett asked that it was made clearer which accounts related to CME and which to EEHAS. The CME account is a separate account, but linked to the EEHAS bank account for practicality and audited under the same process.

Adoption of the Treasurer's Report was proposed by Rosemary Burleigh, seconded by Gay Keeble and accepted unanimously.

6. Election of Officers

The following were proposed by Isobel Cross, seconded by Martin Upward, and elected en bloc:

President Jonathan Cotton

Vice-Presidents Eve Myatt-Price, Stephen Nelson,

Chairman	Stephen Nelson
Secretary	Nikki Cowlard
Treasurer	Jane Pedler
Committee Members	Jeff Cousins, David Hartley, Lou Hays, Doreen Tilbury
Independent examiner	Rod Clarke

The Chairman told the meeting that the Society was dependant on its members and their willingness to get involved, in whatever aspect of activity. Members were encouraged to think about taking on one of the vacant posts.

7. **Proposal to give the Curator of Bourne Hall Museum honorary membership – agreed unanimously.**

The committee also put forward the proposal to make Eve Myatt-Price, a longstanding member, committee member and Vice-President, an honorary member; this was met with approval and agreed unanimously.

8. **Open Forum**

David Hartley proposed a vote of thanks to Nikki Cowlard, who had won three Margery Award places in the last three years for Church Meadow displays, together with one on the Ewell Hinterland Project in 2005. Steve Nelson thanked David Hartley for his tenaciousness in drawing together the Bourne Hall excavation records. The medieval and post-medieval pottery for this site was originally catalogued by the Ewell pot group at Peggy Bedwell's house, with the catalogue kept by Gay and Chris Harris. The pottery has now been passed to the Surrey Archaeological Society Medieval Pottery Group to prepare it for publication.

9. **Any other business**

Building recording - Jeremy Harte asked what building recording was taking place. Steve Nelson mentioned The Star (Ewell), the British Legion building (Epsom), the Albion (Epsom) and The White Horse (Epsom). The Society is dependent on the expertise of Ian West and Ian spoke of plans to record these buildings. He had been interested in the pair of cottages in Waterloo Road, opposite the station, which have just changed hands; he has seen inside one house but not the other. Building recording generally takes place only when a building is under threat, due to time constraints.

The new manager of The Albion public house has made contact with EEHAS wanting information on the history of the building and is happy to offer access. Ian will go in to record whatever features remain. The Star is awaiting refurbishment and there is a plan, in conjunction with Ewell Village Residents Association, to place information about the buildings in the window, partly to engage passers-by but also to reduce the risk of broken windows.

It was mentioned that the Queen Adelaide was undergoing another refurbishment. Acer House, a Victorian house on the junction of East Street and Kiln Lane, which was due for demolition had suffered an arson attack recently. It was a locally listed building until recently when it was removed from the list because of loss of original features, such as an ornate metal canopy on the middle section of the building (which was originally one of three adjoining properties) and a terracotta shell over-window decoration.

10. **Close of Meeting** - the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30 p.m.