



NEWSLETTER

2021, ISSUE 4

September 2021

Secretary's Notes

As things begin to return to near normal we are looking forward to resuming face-to-face meetings again. Whilst the online chats and talks have been a good way of bridging the gap and a chance to see each other (albeit virtually), it has excluded those of you who can't or won't use digital means of communication. We look forward to returning to Ewell Hall (St. Mary's Church Hall renamed) on 1st September to hear David Brooks give his delayed talk on Sergeant Green and the Epsom riots of 1919. We do hope you will come and support the event, whether sporting masks or not, it is up to you. Refreshments will be provided although I need to restock as supplies of tea, coffee and biscuits from 2020 are too stale to use. This takes me on to vacancies we have in the Society - the refreshments co-ordinator is not an onerous task (if it is the only role you have!) and it would be good to share the load. If you would consider taking this on - it involves getting members to join the refreshments rota and bringing supplies to each meeting - let any of the committee know you are interested.

(Continued under Membership Matters)

Inside this issue:

<i>Early West Ewell</i>	2
<i>Hanwell and Horton Asylums</i>	6
<i>The Epsom Derby of 1947</i>	9
<i>Scotland - Independence or Union?</i>	10
<i>Barn Elms - Going to town on an Iron Age Oppidum?</i>	11
<i>Forthcoming Events</i>	12
<i>Membership Matters</i>	13
<i>Steve's drawing board</i>	13

Lecture Diary

October 6th Old Church Tower, Ewell : Alice Blows

November 3rd Surrey folklore : Matthew Alexander

December 1st PAS, FLO and Treasure Trove : Dr. Simon Maslin
- plus mince pies!

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

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

Early West Ewell

Jeff Cousins

Living in West Ewell, I've always felt that its history has rather been ignored compared with that of its more ancient neighbour, Ewell Village. Having said that, since I started this article I've already had my thunder stolen by an article appearing on page 9 of the May 2021 edition of the excellent "Lives & Times" newsletter of the Epsom and Ewell Family History Centre - see <https://eehe.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/NewsletterMay2021.pdf>.

Being interested in history, most readers will be aware that settlements may move. In mediaeval times they might move from a defensible site to somewhere with better access to water, as was the case with Old Sarum moving to Salisbury, and in Victorian times they might move from near the church to near the railway station, e.g. nearby Ashtead. West Ewell's centre also moved, though only round the corner!

West Ewell was first known as Ewell Marsh. From the name, I expected it to have been where Chessington Road crosses the Green Lanes Stream, but no, the 1871 OS map shows it on higher ground along Plough Road, with clusters of cottages at either end. The local vernacular was weatherboarded cottages painted black with tar, with brick chimneystacks and pantiled roofs. Sometimes the two clusters were differentiated as Lower Marsh at the end where All Saints church was subsequently built, and Upper Marsh at the Chessington Road end. *1

It has been said that the cottages near to All Saints church were built for workers at the gunpowder mills, a big employer in the area - maybe the original few cottages were, but the mills had closed in 1875 after a number of fatal explosions, and the quite attractive terraces standing today appear to be from a generation later.

Some detached and large semis started to appear around Chesterfield and Heatherside Roads' junctions with Chessington Road in the 1890s, occupied by professional people. All Saints church opened in 1894, then still surrounded by fields.

The first housing boom wasn't until the Edwardian period, when:

- semis and terraces were built on the south-west side of Chessington Road (originally numbered consecutively 1-31 but now odd numbers 95-127 and 141-169 *2);
- Oakdale Road;
- Ewhurst Terrace (probably now odd numbers 9-17) and Woodley Terrace (originally a terrace numbered consecutively 1-10 and semis 11-12, but now odd numbers 21-37 and 39-41, respectively) along the north-west side of Plough Road *3;
- the All Saints end of Heatherside Road (now odds 45 and above, evens 62 and above);
- Cottage Road;
- and the first two houses (now 6 and 8) of Poole Road.

By the time of the 1913 OS map the name "West Ewell" was in use.

Plough Road was the original main street. Ewhurst Terrace (at 9-17) and Woodley Terrace (both the terrace proper at 21-37 and the semis at 39-41) had larger properties at their north-east (All Saints) ends so as to provide for shop premises. There was:

- a blacksmith (possibly only briefly c1924) at number 1 or 3;
- a shopkeeper (boot repairer from 1934) at number 5;
- The Plough Pub at 7;
- a general stores at 17;
- a shop (initially a draper) at 37;
- a butchers (possibly only briefly c1909) at 41;
- and later (1936) also a shop at a bungalow (then called Lynmouth) at the start of Plough Road Extension.



35-41 Plough Road, former shops still evident at 37 and 41



13-17 Plough Road; following more extensive rebuilding (early 1990s??) 17 now has a second ground floor bay window where the shop had been

Competition soon arrived along Chessington Road, with a parade of shops called "Kings Walk" beginning on the corner by Fulford Road in 1911, near the big houses. Number 1 (now 256, "Luna Coffee") was a typical corner shop, run by Harry George Beams. The drapers and Post Office, run by Annie Beams, at 10 Woodley Terrace (now 37 Plough Road) promptly moved to 4 Kings Walk (now 250 Chessington Road), though a general shop, run by Albert Wyld, continued on Plough Road. *4

Understandably, there was little growth during WW1. But in 1927 an even bigger building boom began. To meet the needs of the growing population, the "Kings Walk" parade gradually extended towards the station. The shops after Plough Road were known simply as "The Parade", three being occupied by 1930 and the rest by 1934. "The Parade" ended at what is now number 206 ("Ruby Nails").

Subsequent growth then occurred on the opposite side of Chessington Road. The house at number 31 (now 169, "K & P Tyres") became a cycle shop by 1934, soon followed in 1935 by the erection of "Jubilee Parade" at what are now numbers 171-179 - the name and date are

proudly displayed along the top of the building, and by 1936 the house at 30 (now 167, "Amazing Car Hire") was a hairdresser.

West Ewell soon grew south-eastwards towards the railway. The first parade of shops near Ewell West station (numbers 78-94) appeared by 1938. Number 78 was a newsagent from the start - originally Jones & Bedford, now Ballards. The adjacent identical parade at 96-108 came a little later.

West Ewell also grew north-westwards. Most of Poole Road was built in 1937; its parade of shops also came after 1938.

By WW2 West Ewell was another sea of houses. The shops in Plough Road gradually declined though, the last closing in the 1970s, and The Plough pub closing in 2007.



Jubilee Parade, built 1935

*1 As there is only a few feet different in height, the terms Upper and Lower may just be reflecting the tradition of calling the end of a side road nearest a major the road the "top" and the further end the "bottom".

*2 When the houses along Chessington Road were renumbered c1937, odd numbers 129-139 were skipped, presumably in the expectation that houses would subsequently be built in the gap where the Richards Field car park is now.

*3 When the houses along Plough Road were renumbered c1932, only odd numbers were used. Maybe this was in anticipation that eventually some even numbered houses would be built on the other side of the road (originally allotments), but the building of Southville, Kingsmead, Limecroft and Worthfield Closes had already begun by 1929. The only even numbers are later infill on the (mostly) odd numbered side.

*4 One might have expected Harry Beams (1863-1951) and Annie Beams (1852-1917) to have been closely related, but it appears not. Harry was the son of Jesse (1836-1910), the Ewell village postman, and Charlotte née Charman (1838-1925, married in 1862 at Ewell). Jesse's ancestors had moved to Ewell from Cheam. Annie's late husband John Thomas (1849-1904) was the son of George (born in 1830) and Elizabeth née Shurlock (married in 1847 at Epsom). To complicate matters further, Annie's maiden name was also Beams; she was the daughter of John and Mary née Lillywhite (married in 1836 at Mitcham). So three different Beams families had all converged on the same spot!

Harry was a leading bell ringer, as was his brother John (1871-1940) who lived next to The Plough at 9 Plough Road, and their names appear on peal boards across the district. John's son John Edwin (1905-2003) lived at 4 Cottage Road and was Tower Captain at St. Mary's Ewell from 1943 until his death. St. Mary's still has more ringers from West Ewell than anywhere else.

Hanwell and Horton Asylums – Paul Lang

Jeff Cousins

Paul Lang, a member of EEHAS and Chairman of the Surbiton and District Historical Society, was the hospital librarian in the 1980s at what was then called St. Bernard's Hospital, Hanwell. Paul gave us an online talk on this, followed by some pictures of our local Horton Hospital Cluster.

The asylum near Hanwell opened in 1831 as the Middlesex County Asylum, in 1889 it became the London County Asylum, in 1918 the London County Mental Hospital, in 1937 St. Bernard's Hospital, and it is now the West London Mental Health Trust. Strictly it is in Southall parish, but it is nearer to Hanwell. A site was chosen by the Grand Junction Canal, and the hospital had its own dock for unloading building material and later coal.

The first superintendent, Dr. William Ellis, was liberal for his time, believing in the therapeutic value of work. In 1838 he was superseded by Dr. Millingen, was a military man who was very strict and introduced restraints, but he lasted less than a year. The next superintendent, Dr. John Conolly, was the first to abolish restraints in a public asylum.

An 1843 plan show the hospital as one big, sprawling, building: symmetrical with admin in the centre, men on the left and women on the right, but branching like some sort of plant.

The hospital attempted to be self-sufficient, with its own brewery (until brewing was stopped in 1888 due to abuses), farm (with its own ploughs), orchard (traces of which still remained in the 1980s) and fire brigade.

Drinking water was drawn from the canal, so it is not too surprising that soon there were cholera outbreaks. A relatively shallow well was then dug, but water was still taken from the canal until 1842, after which a much deeper well was dug.

The first mixed ward in England was introduced in 1935. In the early 1960s Dr. Max Glatt set up a pioneering unit for treating women with alcohol dependency; this expanded to treat men too and later people with drug dependency too. At the time these people had received little sympathy.

A museum was founded in the early 1990s to save the records and artefacts such as a straight jacket, neck collar restraint, an electro-convulsive therapy machine, and a padded cell. Sadly when the lady who was the driving force behind the museum retired, the collection was dispersed - the archives to the London Metropolitan Archives, the medical artefacts to the Wellcome Trust and the non-medical artefacts to the Gunnersbury Park Museum. The padded cell is now in the Bethlem Museum in Beckenham. A unusual article that went to the Gunnersbury Park Museum was a one foot diameter light bulb.

Paul finished with some old postcards of the Horton Asylum Cluster. The staff's buildings had three storeys, but the patients' buildings only had two storeys, so that patients could not kill themselves by jumping out of the third storey windows. Manor Asylum was in use 1899-1993 (a war hospital 1919-21), St. Ebba's (for epileptics) 1903-2011, Long Grove 1907-92 and West Park 1923-2003.

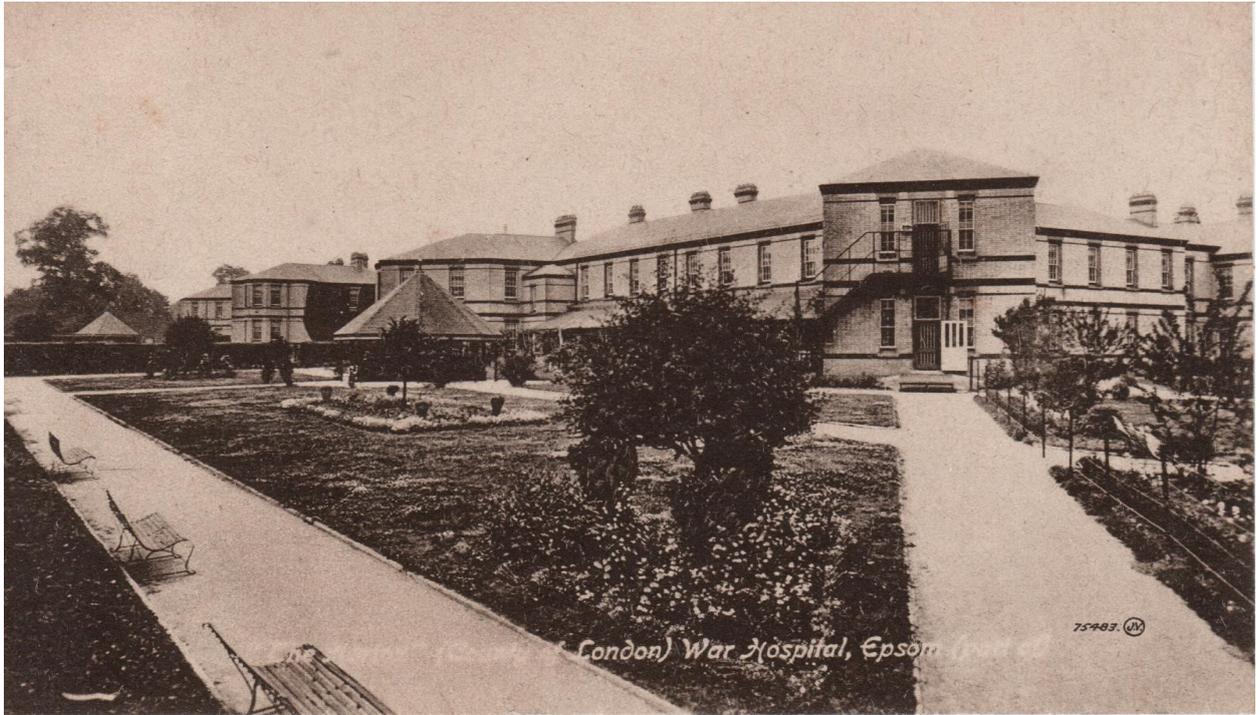
There were also three private asylums in Epsom, including one run by Prof. Lucett in Rectory House, now Glyn House, in Ewell.



Horton Asylum Main Entrance 1907 (note the water tower)



Horton War Hospital 1918



Horton War Hospital 1918



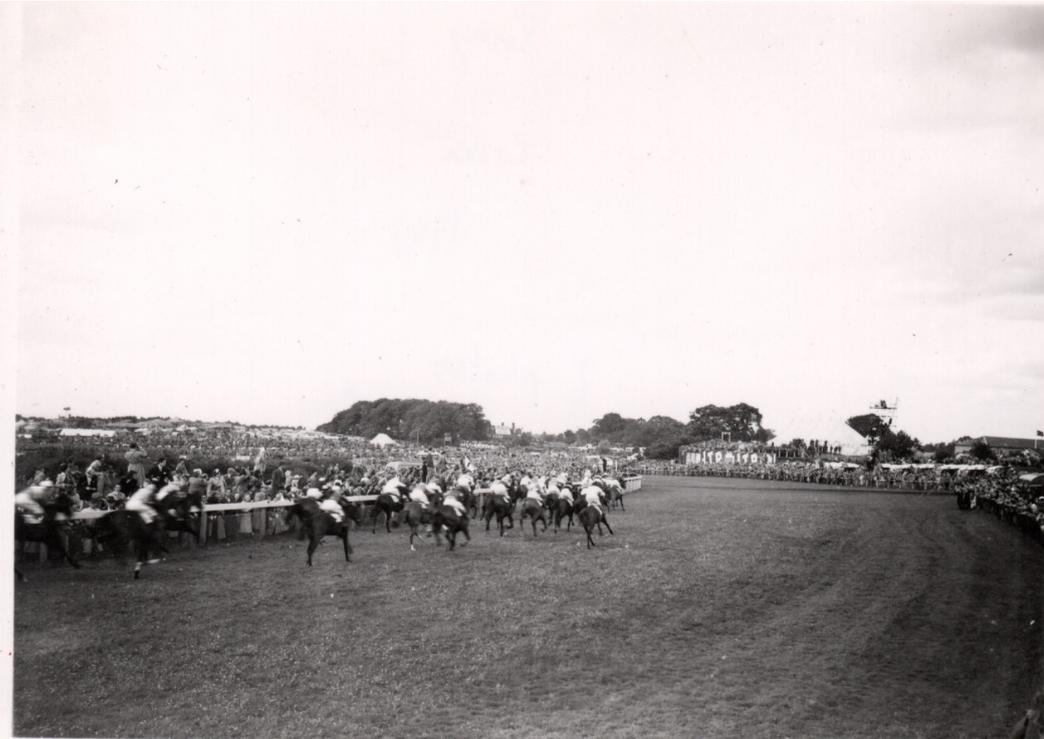
Poplar Walk to Cricket Grounds 1916

The Epsom Derby of 1947

Paul Howard Lang

I have in my collection two photographs taken at the Epsom Derby in 1947. Apparently 400,000 people attended, including the Royal family. The race was won by 'Pearl Diver' and was the first time that a French thoroughbred horse had won the Derby since 1914.

The other photo taken at the Derby shows an interesting vehicle, possibly for outside broadcasting, and what I take to be a group of coach drivers. Any observations on these images would be welcomed.





Morden Tube Derby Day 1933 (from Doreen Tilbury)

Scotland - Independence or Union?

Elizabeth Bennett

I do get fed up of people saying that if Scotland had a fully independent government it would lead to the break-up of the United Kingdom. This is not possible, as the Queen is descended from the Royal Houses of both England and Scotland. In August 1503 King James IV of Scotland married Margaret Tudor, sister of King Henry VIII of England. Ten years later James IV was killed, along with much of the Scottish nobility, fighting against Henry's army at the Battle of Flodden. His year-old son by Margaret became James V of Scotland. In 1537 James V married Madeleine, the daughter of Francois I of France, but she died a few months later. The following year he got married again, to Marie de Guise-Lorraine. She gave him two sons, but they both died in 1541. The Scottish kings were still quarrelling with Henry VIII and, on 24 November 1542, the Scottish army was defeated at Solway Moss. James V, already ill, took refuge in Falkland Palace. Two weeks later he was told that his wife had given him a daughter. To him this was the last straw and he died. The baby girl became Mary, Queen of Scots. Her son eventually became James VI of Scotland. Henry VIII died in January 1547, to be succeeded in turn by his three children Edward VI, Mary and Elizabeth. When Elizabeth died in 1603, leaving no direct heir, the English crown passed to James VI of Scotland.

Therefore, if Scotland had a completely separate government, we would revert to the situation that existed between 1603 and the Treaty of Union in 1707 - Two countries but one monarch. The only way the United Kingdom could be broken up is if one or both countries became a republic.

(For more details see Sir Fitzroy MacLean's Concise History of Scotland).

Tideway Site 4: Barn Elms – Going to town on an Iron Age Oppidum? - Mike Curnow

Jon Cotton

Mike Curnow of MOLA joined us via Zoom to present a talk on the Barn Elms site that he had given to the LAMAS spring conference in March. The work is being conducted in advance of enabling works connected with the installation of a new 'super sewer' under the Thames which, when completed, will effectively upgrade Bazalgette's Victorian sewers, originally constructed in the wake of the Great Stink of 1858.

One of the outstanding questions in the capital is the location of any major Iron Age site (or sites) that pre-dated Londinium. Work within the square mile of the Roman city has signally failed to locate any Iron Age precursor, and the hunt for possible candidates has been on since the 19th century. Recently, work at Woolwich Arsenal and at Uphall Camp, on the river Roding near Ilford, has offered two plausible contenders. Indeed, Brian Philp has already mischievously claimed Woolwich to be 'the London of the Middle Iron Age'!

Writing over 40 years ago John Kent suggested, on the basis of the distribution of gold Gallo-Belgic coins, that a major Iron Age site existed somewhere along the river upstream of London – possibly in the Brentford/Kew area. Following initial work conducted by Pamela Greenwood and the Wandsworth Historical Society in the mid-1970s close to the confluence of the Beverley Brook with the Thames, it looks as though Mike and the MOLA team may well have located part of a major Middle and Late Iron Age site that could well fit the bill.

Although hampered by poor sound, Mike set out the evidence that has come to light so far. At least four phases of Iron Age activity have been located, including parts of ditched enclosures encircling possible post-built structures, pits, and gravel surfaces. Evidence for craft activity is present, along with finds of several potin coins. Sited on low-lying ground close to the Beverley/Thames confluence, the site was prone to flooding, and several 'flood horizons' were encountered during the work. Clearly, access to the river frontage must have been a price worth paying!

Elaborating on this Mike, noted the site's position with regard to the major northward loop taken by the Thames between Barnes further upstream and Barn Elms/Putney and suggested that Iron Age activity could have extended over the area bounded by the river. Territorial oppida often enclose very large tracts of land, and it is possible that the Barn Elms site may have formed a small part of one such. Though he didn't go into this in any detail, his argument is supported by a series of spectacular Iron Age finds recovered from local stretches of the river. These include a series of Iron Age swords from Hammersmith and a bronze shield mount from Crab Tree. Furthermore, the famous 'Fulham Sword' of the early/mid-1st century AD was dredged from the river close to Fulham Football ground.

The Barn Elms site is one of the most significant prehistoric sites to have been examined in the capital over the last generation and looks set to re-write a critical chapter in the capital's early history. Mike is due to re-commence work on the site very shortly. We wish him well with this, and with the publication programme that will follow!

Forthcoming Events

Surbiton and District Historical Society: Kingston upon Thames in 50 buildings

Tuesday 7th September 2021 at 7pm for 7:30pm, The CornerHOUSE Arts Centre, 116 Douglas Rd, Surbiton, KT6 7SB. A talk by Julian McCarthy. £2 for visitors.

Leatherhead & District Local History Society: When in Leatherhead - Chips with everything

Friday 17th September 2021, at 7:30pm, Letherhead Institute, 67 High Street, Leatherhead, KT22 8AH. A talk by Bill Whitman, formerly a consultant with the Leatherhead Food Research Association.

Ewell History Day

Saturday 18th September 2021 at 10am - 5pm at various locations around the village. There will be re-enactors, stalls and activities in various locations around the village, including Bourne Hall, The Grove and the gaol in Church Street. EEHAS hopes to have a stand to advertise the Society and what we do. If you can spare an hour or two to help out it would be appreciated. Events are still being finalised and once there is further information it will be put on the EEHAS website under outside events. Do come along and support which should be a fun day for all the family.

Esher District Local History Society: AGM and talk

Saturday 18th September 2021 at 2:30pm at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Claygate, KT10 0JP. A talk by Alan Wright, author of "The Surrey Census of Nomads 1913".

Surbiton and District Historical Society: The Tale of Colonel Blood & the Crown Jewels

Tuesday 5th October 2021 at 7pm for 7:30pm, The CornerHOUSE Arts Centre, 116 Douglas Rd, Surbiton, KT6 7SB. A talk by M Bowman. £2 for visitors.

Surrey Archaeological Society: Roman Studies Group: AGM and talk on the Roman baths in Heerlen, The Netherlands

Tuesday 5th October 2021 at 7.30pm, by Zoom. Talk by Karen Jeneson.

Esher District Local History Society: TBA

Saturday 23rd October 2021 at 2:30pm at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Claygate, KT10 0JP. A talk by Amy Swainston of Elmbridge Museum.

Surbiton and District Historical Society: The Forgotten Boys of the Sea

Tuesday 2nd November 2021 at 7pm for 7:30pm, The CornerHOUSE Arts Centre, 116 Douglas Rd, Surbiton, KT6 7SB. A talk by Caroline Withall. £2 for visitors.

Surrey Archaeological Society: Roman Studies Group: Elstead Roman coin hoard

Tuesday 2nd November 2021 at 7.30pm, by Zoom. Talk by Simon Maslin.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Secretary's Notes (continued):

Ewell Village Day is coming up in September (see Forthcoming Events) and we would welcome help with running a stall. Even if you cannot commit to that, but manage to attend the day, do call in to see us.

I was recently involved in coordinating a Zoom seminar with the Roman Studies Group of Surrey Archaeological Society for those who had led excavations in Ewell, both volunteer and professional, to focus attention on Roman ritual activity, of which there is a surprising amount. The Roman aspect of ritual in Ewell cannot just be seen in isolation and it is hoped to include information on both prehistoric and post-Roman evidence. Hopefully we can start adding some articles to the newsletter to give you a flavour of the research going on.

Steve's drawing board

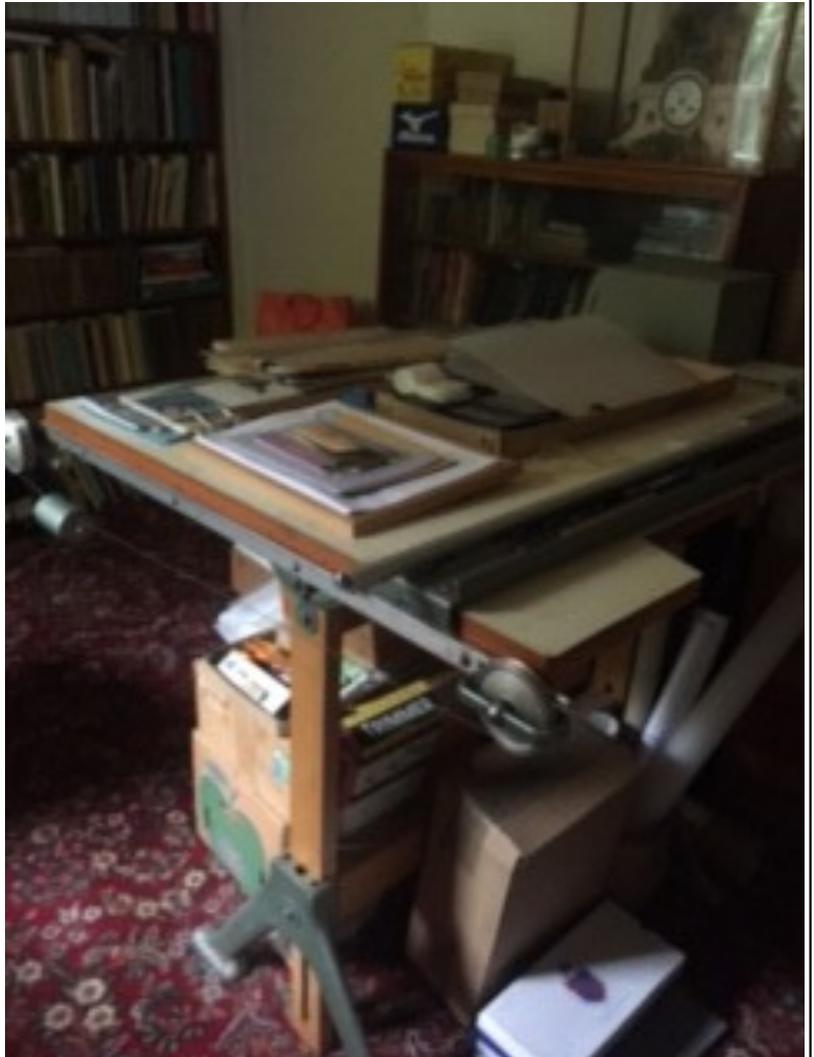
Would anyone like to give a good home to the drawing board of Steve Nelson, our late chairman?

It is available for free, but you would need to collect.

A picture is shown on the right.

The dimensions are: 42" x 35" on top, approx. 42" high but adjustable.

If anyone would like it or knows of someone who might benefit from this generous offer, please do let our secretary Nikki Cowlard know.



Another Epsom Shop to Close

Another shop in Waterloo Road is to go. The landlord of number 29, currently Suddies, is selling to a developer who has applied to build eight flats on the site of the one shop.

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

Useful contact details

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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 October 2021.

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