



NEWSLETTER

2018, ISSUE 2

April 2018

We welcome the following new member:

Mr I Cairns

We thank for their kind donations:

Mr K Gardner

Mr F Pemberton

Mrs A Shaw

Chairman's Notes

Thank you all for attending this year's AGM which engendered some lively debate and comment. The minutes are in this Newsletter. Nikki Cowlard mentioned in particular the need for suggestions for the monthly lecture meetings – this is a key part of the Society's work and we are still without a formal meetings secretary. We are currently without booked talks for this July, September and October so please let us know what you would like to hear. Jeremy Harte circulated his note, reprinted in this Newsletter, on the records of the Society Documentary Group lodged with the museum in 2012. It should be remembered that this large body of material – transcriptions and schedules, etc., was compiled by a number of members over many years since the establishment of the Society. The Group was very active for a number of years having been formed initially with the support of John Dent, the then Borough Librarian. It is nice to see all this brought together and now available on line.

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Minutes of AGM for 2018

I was interested to note the Borough's recognition of the 400th anniversary of the beginning of Epsom's famous Spa period in 1618. While of course the date is a matter of opinion, a sense of civic pride in this important aspect of the Borough's history is to be welcomed. Let us hope this pride is remembered in the planning circles.

Lecture Diary

May 2nd Hubert de Burgh (1170-1243): Richard Mantle.

June 6th Imperial War Museums: 100 years: Emma Coburn, Head of Care and Conservation.

July 4th TBA.

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.

February Meeting – Leith Hill Place – Patrick Newberry

Nikki Cowlard

Architectural historian and Commissioner for Historic England, Patrick Newberry gave us a fascinating and entertaining insight to the hidden gem that is Leith Hill Place. Although the property was given to the National Trust in 1945, it had been privately leased both as a private house and as a school until 2008 when it reverted to the Trust. It is situated on the southern slope of Leith Hill and has long been known as a place of creativity, being associated with the Wedgewood family, Charles Darwin and the childhood home of composer Vaughan-Williams.

Although Leith Hill Place appears to be a Palladian style building of the early to mid-18th century, in the manner of William Kent, its origins appear to be in the 16th century, with the possibility of an earlier medieval hall house incorporated into the structure. The only 16th c. feature remaining is some wood panelling which shows evidence of having been refitted from elsewhere; rumour has it that it was from Nonsuch Palace, but it could equally be from another royal residence or big house.



Leith Hill Place in the snow - photo courtesy of the National Trust

Since the 1600s it has only been in one family for at most three generations so little documentation has survived in the house itself. In 1664 Mrs Mary Millett, widow of Harrow, Middlesex settled Leith Hill Place on herself for life with remainder to Henry Best of Gray's Inn. The house is present on Aubrey's map of 1673 suggesting it was already of some significance. It was then sold by Best's daughter and heir, Katherine, to John Worsfold of Ockley in 1706. On his death his executors sold it on to Colonel Folliot in 1725. Folliot, a career soldier, was responsible for the Palladian-style house as we see it today. A younger son of a Worcestershire family, he joined the army in 1705 and rose to the rank of

lieutenant general. In 1745, he was charged with the defence of London should Bonnie Prince Charlie make it that far south, so he was obviously held in high regard.

Folliot decided to have the house remodelled, from the H-shaped 16th c. building he had bought, to a style made popular by architect Andrea Palladio. Thus the bays were removed, and the remaining wings faced in ashlar stone up to the first floor. This facing was fixed with iron clamps which have since caused problems as they have rusted, causing the stone to come loose. The balustrades were also removed and pediments added to the wings. On the north side a new entrance hall and first-floor gallery were introduced between the wings to improve circulation. There is discussion as to whether an architect was involved in the remodelling. There were errors in design such as a chimney on one side being placed centrally whilst on the other side it was on one side, and a window with a staircase behind it. However, some aspects suggest architectural skills, for example windows decreasing in size as they go up the building, fine mouldings, a sophisticated porch design and a staircase with fine woodwork and fine Greek key pattern inlay. These discrepancies may be explained by an architect's plans being passed on to a local builder, who amended them as he went along. William Kent, a top Palladian architect, had worked on the Wotton Estate for the Evelyn family, may possibly have been introduced to Folliot and offered some thoughts on the remodelling. Patrick showed a slide of an 18th c. sash window catch which had a hole in one end. Apparently this was to attach a bell at night so that it would ring if someone attempted to break in.

During Folliot's ownership the estate was improved by clearing woodland and scrub, and adding fine ancillary buildings and a 4 acre walled garden (where the soil could be improved from the clay or sandy natural of Leith Hill). In 1748 Folliot died at the age of 89, his only daughter having predeceased him. The estate was sold in 1754 to Richard Hull, a retired Bristol merchant. A manuscript description of sale particulars survives from this time. It was fashionable at this time to recreate the landscape, and Hull had Leith Hill Tower built on land leased from the Evelyns in 1764-5. The hill was largely bare of trees at the time and thus had more impact than it does now. Hull recorded that he wished to be buried under the tower (which was unusual as the ground was not consecrated). When NT undertook work in the tower in 1984 human bones were indeed found, and remain to this day under the floor of the café. There had been a rumour that Hull was buried upside down, so that when the Day of Judgment came and the whole world was turned upside down, he would be on his feet to meet his Maker. Sadly this story turned out to be unfounded.

Following Hull's death in 1772, the estate was sold to Henry Thompson, an Oporto wine merchant, and after his death the house was sold to Philip William Perrin of Parkhurst, Abinger Common. He did not need to live in the house so leased it to the Reverend Rusden who ran a school for young ladies at the house.

A picture of 1831 in Brayley's *A Topographical History of Surrey* shows a hut on top of the tower and buildings surrounding it, recording the time when the tower was used as a base for an Ordnance Survey. By 1829 the house belonged to John Smallpiece, Treasurer of the County. Sales particulars showed a formal avenue and a wooded estate, but by the time it was sold again in 1847 the landscape had been simplified and the avenue had gone.

Leith Hill Place was bought by Josiah Wedgwood III, the grandson of the founder of Wedgwood pottery, famous for its Jasperware. The pottery's greatest contribution was its mass produced white china, or creamware, named Queensware for Queen Charlotte. In 1773 Catherine the Great of Russia commissioned a 952-piece service (known as the green frog service for the little amphibian found on each piece) displaying scenes from English

country estates, London and environs. Josiah III worked in the family business but retired to Leith Hill Place, leaving his brother Frank to take over.

Josiah married his cousin Caroline, the sister of Charles Darwin. Charles Darwin married Emma Wedgwood, Josiah's sister and his first cousin. They were close friends and spent much time together at LHP, and Darwin was known to have worked on his earthworm thesis in one of the tower rooms. Josiah and Caroline planted a formal elaborate terrace around the house and a rhododendron garden, early evidence for introduction of this species. They had the 18th c. balustrade removed, and dormer windows added. Josiah and Caroline had four daughters, one of whom died in infancy. The estate passed from Josiah to his wife, then to their daughter Sophy before being left to her sister Margaret Vaughan-Williams. She returned to Leith Hill Place as a widow and it became home to her son, Ralph from the age of 2-18 yrs. He was a precocious musical talent and played an organ that used to be in



An old photo of Ralph Vaughan-Williams - photo courtesy of the National Trust

the entrance hall. He went to Charterhouse and on to the Royal Academy of Music where he became friends with Gustav Holst. He married Adeline Fisher, who suffered ill health, and they moved from London to 'The White Gates' in Dorking.

The estate came to Vaughan-Williams through his elder brother Hervey in 1945, but he did not want it and gave it to the NT. The house was then leased to Sir Ralph Wedgwood, cousin to Ralph Vaughan-Williams, and then his son in 1960s. In the cellars are murals copied from Knossos which are the work of the Wedgwood children, guided by William Pye, the sculptor. Since 2008 the NT has had the challenge of encouraging visitors to an empty house – see <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/leith-hill-place> for events taking place.

March Meeting - "JD's doughnut and Iron Age London" - Jon Cotton

Steve Nelson

After this year's AGM Jon Cotton gave us a talk with an intriguing title – JD's doughnut and Iron Age London! This referred to the idea proposed, some 15 years ago, by JD Hill, the eminent prehistorian at the British Museum, that in the Iron Age (IA) there was no occupation in the London area itself. Jon thought he would review this concept in the light of some old and some more recent work.

While we are all aware of the dramatic river deposits of IA objects, there are also a number of find spots of La Tene burials that almost ring the London area. However, evidence of actual occupation appears very slight despite over 100 years of excavation and study. But is there more to be said?

Jon began locally with Ewell, beginning with the finds from Bourne Hall lake when it last dried out in the early 1990s. In particular he drew attention to the gold C3, ¼ stater coin amongst other possible IA objects. This shows a prancing horse on one side and a "tramline" like device on the other. From the King William IV site (excavated in the late 1960s by the Society and published by Clive Orton in SyAC V 84 1997) came the small group of pottery of Late IA (LIA) type, including two Butt Beakers of the period 15/10 BC to post conquest. It was argued that these were associated with a cremation burial, albeit disturbed, in pit F67 on the site. At Purberry Shot in the 1930s, Anthony Lowther, excavated the deep well, backfilled in the C2 but which included some IA material. There were a number of small furnace slag "cups" of LIA date, described by Lowther as "iron cinder lumps" at the time, that have now been recognised for what they are elsewhere. Lowther also published the miniature "axe" shaped objects similar to others from other sites (e.g. King Harry Lane St Albans) and now interpreted as razor knives. At the Looe site (Tom Walls and published by Jon SyAC V 88 2001) there were, in pit 1, seemingly placed deposits of burnt bone associated with some distinctive LIA pots decorated with "eyebrow" designs, in a fabric known as East Sussex Grog tempered ware (SUG).

In Carshalton there has just been published, by Wessex Archaeology, the work on the IA and early Romano-British (R/B) settlement at Queen Mary's Hospital Carshalton, which has described a series of some 70 pits and enclosure ditches with radiocarbon dates from C2-C3 BC into the Roman period. Jon drew attention to one, Pit B, a burial with a curious collection of associated objects or actually parts of objects. There is an iron spearhead with a small bronze inlay, a well-used hammer head object and a pot repaired with pitch. There were also more of the Sussex Grog tempered ware vessels. Also in Carshalton, at the War Memorial Hospital, PCA have published another IA site with a huge complex of intercutting circular pit, many with animal burials.

Recent work by SCAU in Staines, Hengrove Farm and Ashford prison, has developed what was already known of this area of north east Surrey to the west of London (see also the publication *Settlement Sites and Sacred Offerings* by SCAU, Spoilheap publications). Also in west London are the old finds of bronze miniature boar's head figurines from Hounslow High Street.

Further afield at Mucking in Essex, on the Thames estuary, the long awaited publication of this important site is beginning to be published; that on the prehistoric activity is in the recent CAU Landscape Archives Series. Equally impressive is the finds from the Lower Lea Valley excavations (2012 Olympic Games site) of C1 and C2 BC IA date. And, we have seen the important excavation and investigation of the prehistoric topography of Southwark and Lambeth (MoLAS Mono 14 2002), although the 1970s site at Harper Road Southwark is still the earliest, c 50AD, burial south of the City. More recently at Westminster PCA excavated IA material from a lift shaft in the Houses of Parliament, including again some E Sussex Grog ware reminding us of the complete example of this type from Fetter Lane. All this seems to be filling in JD's ring!

Jon described more fully three particular sites in Woolwich/Greenwich, Uphall Barking and Putney. In Woolwich Brian Philp excavated, in 1986/7, the deep (at least 4 m) circular double ditch enclosing a riverside hill suggesting this to be the London of the Middle Iron Age?

At Uphall there was another huge 48 acre ditched enclosure, as big as Maiden Castle, with evidence of round houses and 4 poster structures and associated C1 potin coins. Turning to the Putney/Barn Elms area and its important Thames crossing point, Jon mentioned the well-known highly decorated shield bosses

from the Thames with their perhaps swan like motifs and of Middle IA (MIA) date. Very recent finds include two dagger scabbard sheaths from the foreshore, one in 2014 and one just last year. John Kent, a while ago in 1978, predicted a significant presence in the M/LIA, a west London *oppidum*, from the concentration of coin evidence in the Putney area? In the 1970s Nick Fuentes and the Wandsworth Historical Society carried out some rescue work on an important site by the river, and (in association with the current Thames Tideway Tunnel project) the area by the junction of the Thames and Beverley Brook is due for more archaeological work there this summer.

All this has made Jon wonder what sort of doughnut JD Hill envisaged – perhaps one with at least some sort of filling? Jon has just published a full review of 50 years of prehistoric archaeology of London in the latest *London Archaeologist* (15 No 3) and is well worth reading.

The Mills of Ewell



Nikki standing proudly by the display!

The latest display from EEHAS, 'The Mills of Ewell', won 2nd prize in the Margery Award at the Surrey Archaeological Society symposium in February. Thanks must go to Nikki Cowlard and Jeremy Harte for this informative display. You can see the posters on the Society website under the Local History tab. Click on the noticeboard tab for recent additions to the website.

The Legacy of the Documentary Group - Jeremy Harte

In 2012, two years after the winding up of the Documentary Group of the Society and the transfer of its papers to Bourne Hall, I presented a report to the AGM summarising the research materials which had been left by the Group and setting out a programme for making them available to researchers in the future. This is a report on developments since then.

Schedules

The Gadesden papers (SHC 940) come from an estate including the manors of Fitznells, Buttalls and Ruxley from the mid-fifteenth century until 1902. The schedules made by the Group are stored at the Museum in two file boxes. They have been typed and are accessible online at:

<http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/GadesdenPapers.html>

The Northey papers (SHC 2238/10 and 2238/57) come from property including the manors of Ewell and Cuddington. The schedules made by the Group are stored at the Museum in two file boxes of which the longest – /10/166, 167, 169, 170, 171 and 174 – have been typed up and can be searched at the Museum. More work will need to be done on this series before it can be placed online.

Transcripts

Transcripts of documents made by the Group are kept at the Museum in two file boxes and a set of notebooks. A schedule of these is online at:

<http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/DocumentaryGroup.pdf>

The principal documents have been typed and are available online as follows:

SHC: 940/20/3a/xxii and 940/20/17

<http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/GadesdenPapers.html>

SHC: 2238/10/158

<http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/TaylorSurvey1577.pdf>

SHC: 3831/1/1 to 3

<http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/EwellVestryMinutes.html>

SHC: 6246/1/1

<http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WestStreetSchoolExtracts.html>

SHC: 6832/6/5/26

<http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/ParochialMemoranda.pdf>

SHC: 6832/6/5/30 and 31; 6832/6/6/5; 6832/6/9/4, 6 and 7

<http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/GlynTravelDiaries.html>

SHC: QS2/1/2–4

<http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/QuarterSessionsIntroduction.html>

TNA: LR 2/190 Epsom and Ewell

<http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/TudorRental.html>

(Privately owned) Kitty Robinson's diary

<http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/KittysDiary.html>

In addition, several documents have been typed and can be searched at the Museum: from SHC, there are 6832/3/6/2, Bonnet & Cloak Fund 1843 onwards; 3831/2/2, Church Rate 1871; 3831/3/1 and 2, Accounts of the Overseers of the Poor 1759 onwards; 3831/3/57,

Lighting Rate Book 1882; 3831/5/1, Charities Account Book 1778 onwards; 3831/6/1, Savings Bank Ledger 1869 onwards; CES/15/1 and 2, Log book of Epsom National Boys' School 1889 onwards; CES/17/1 and 3, Log book of Ewell National Girls' School 1862 onwards; and from TNA there are E178/2262 and E178/184/143, 150, 174, 197 and 203, taxation records for Epsom, Ewell and Cuddington 1524 to 1599.

Some of the transcripts have not been typed awaiting further copying. The transcripts of SHC 3831/3/60 to 116, Settlement examinations; QS6/7/82 and 3, Land Tax returns 1780 onwards; and 3831/3/6 etc, Poor Rate Books 1837 onwards, form an imperfect series and the other records should be copied from originals at Surrey History Centre. The 1839 map and valuation of Ewell (SHC: 3831/3/5 and 6247) needs to have the map digitised before the valuation can be of use. The 1802 Enclosure Map, SHC: 2585/1, has been digitised by Surrey History Centre and is available at the Museum as a CD.

Fieldwork

The Documentary Group copied inscriptions from the second (Victorian) churchyard at St. Mary's. These have been typed up, checked against the monuments and supplemented with photographs. The photos are at the Museum, the transcript is available online at: <http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/StMaryEwellGraveyard2.html>

Oral history collected by the Group is available online at:

<http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/Cracknell.pdf>

<http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/Pocock.html>

<http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/Fausset.pdf>

Studies and Notes

The studies made by members of the Group on particular archives and research topics are accessible at the Museum in the orange file sequence. Those on particular places and people are in the red file sequence. The Millennium Project is online at:

<http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/MillenniumProject.pdf>

Photographs

Original photos of Ewell kept by the group are in the Museum listed as GP 9031 to 75. Slides have been copied and listed as OP 10791 to 11224. All images have been scanned.

Publications and Other

As proposed in 2012, the local history books of the Group have been absorbed into the Museum library or sold. The papers of the Group which are of no contemporary use – mostly photocopies of publications already on record, or card indexes – have been discarded.

Jeremy Harte, March 2018

Wanted: Editor for Archive Project

We would welcome someone who can help put sources for Epsom and Ewell history online. This involves co-ordinating typists, checking and editing their work, and preparing introductions to the documents. The task needs familiarity with local history archives from 1500 to 1900 and basic computer skills.

Forthcoming Events

Carshalton And District History & Archaeology Society: Archaeology of Knole: Six years of discoveries

Saturday 7th April 2018 at 3.00pm, Milton Hall (the Darby & Joan Club), Cooper Crescent, Carshalton, SM5 2DL. A talk by Nathalie Cohen of Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA).

Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society: Liquid Assets: Interpreting the Pre-Historic Finds from the London Thames

Thursday 12th April 2018, at 8pm, Surbiton Library Halls, Ewell Road, Surbiton. A talk by our President, Jon Cotton.

Leatherhead & District Local History Society: Mediaeval Life in Surrey Villages

Friday 20th April 2018, at 7:30pm for 8pm, Letherhead Institute, 67 High Street, Leatherhead. A talk by Jane le Cluse, Archivist at Dorking Museum.

Surrey Archaeological Society - Roman Studies Group: Shining a Light on the 5th century AD in Surrey and the South-East: How did Roman Britain become Saxon England?

Saturday 5th May 2018 9:30am - 5.45pm, Ashtead Peace Memorial Hall, Woodfield Lane, Ashtead, KT21 2BE. The Surrey Archaeological Society is holding a major conference centred on the period between about AD 410 to AD 470 when, in our part of the country, Roman Britain became Saxon England. £15, bookable online at www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk or by post to Castle Arch, Guildford GU1 3SX.

Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society: From prehistory to WWII, a monuments inspector's travels round the south of England

Thursday 10th May 2018, at 8pm, Surbiton Library Halls, Ewell Road, Surbiton. A talk by Rebecca Lambert - Inspector of Ancient Monuments for Surrey, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire.

Carshalton And District History & Archaeology Society: Scarborough Weekend

Saturday 12th - Monday 14th May 2018. Visits to Woolaton Hall, Whitby Abbey, Castle Howard (via North Yorks Steam Railway) and Lincoln. Approx. £195 (+ £40 single room supplement). Contact John Thornton 020 8647 2574.

Surrey Gardens Trust: Repton Study Day

Thursday 17th May 2018, 9:15am - 4pm, morning talks at Hartsfield Manor about Betchworth House, then visiting the latter in the afternoon. £45.00 (SGT member)/£48.00 (non-SGT member), including lunch, see <http://www.surreygardenstrust.org.uk/events/>

Carshalton And District History & Archaeology Society: Coach trip to Knole House

Thursday 7th June 2018. Pick up at 9.30am at Wallington, Shotfield and 9:45am at Carshalton, Ruskin Road. Members £25, non-members £26, plus Knole admission.

Snippets

'Tall Hedges and Artificial Slopes'

The development of the Carshalton House landscape between c.1680 and 1815

Andrew Skelton

Jeff Cousins

The obscure title is a quote from a description by Lady Anson, a tenant of Carshalton House, in 1751. As the subtitle explains, it describes the development of the grounds. The house itself is not covered, though its owners, and garden structures such as the water tower and grotto, are. Andrew Skelton is highly regarded for the quality of his research, so this is likely to be the definitive work on the subject. The book is available at Honeywood.

Langley Vale

Jeff Cousins

Those who listened to the talk on the Woodland Trust's First World War centenary wood at Langley Vale might be interested in viewing a short animated film about it, produced by Sainsbury's to celebrate the planting of the three millionth tree that it has sponsored, at: <http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2017/12/sainsburys-3-million-trees/>

Nonsuch Diggers

Were you one of the original diggers at the Nonsuch Palace site in 1959? Would you be interested in taking part in an oral history project? If so, please contact us!

2018 Subscriptions

Members are reminded that subscriptions for 2018 became due on 1st January. Subscriptions can be paid at the monthly meetings, or by post to the Treasurer, Jane Pedler, or the Membership Secretary, Doreen Tilbury. Subs are £15 for ordinary membership, £22 for family membership, £6 for student, or £22 for corporate and school memberships. A slip is provided below:

2018 Subscriptions

I (we) wish to renew membership for 2018

Amount enclosed.....

Name and address.....

.....

.....

E-mail address.....

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

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Treasurer: Jane Pedler

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 May 2018.

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

Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 8p.m. on 7th March 2018

at St. Mary's Church Hall, Ewell

Present:	President	Jon Cotton
	Vice-President/Chairman	Stephen Nelson
	Secretary	Nikki Cowlard
	Treasurer	Jane Pedler

A total of 38 members signed the attendance book.

President Jon Cotton opened the proceedings and welcomed members.

1. Apologies for absence: Elizabeth Bennett, Margaret Clemens, Martin Olney.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 1st March 2017

The minutes had been circulated with the April 2017 newsletter. Adoption of the minutes was agreed unanimously by members present.

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

None.

4. Annual report for 2017

The report had been circulated with the February 2018 Newsletter. JC mentioned the death during the year of Lou Hays, her contribution to the Society being much missed. Both JC and NC commented on the number of vacancies still existing within the Society, and the large amount of work being shouldered by the few. NC asked members to think about how they could contribute, in whatever capacity. Vacancies include the Refreshments Co-ordinator, Press Officer and Programme Secretary. It is getting exceedingly difficult to source new talks and members were encouraged to let the committee know if they had heard a good talk elsewhere. JC stated the importance to the Society of expertise amongst its members in carrying out its role in archaeology and conservation, naming Frank Pemberton and Ian West in particular.

Adoption of the Annual Report was proposed by Gay Harris, seconded by David Hartley and accepted unanimously.

At this point Frank Pemberton commented on the Annual Report, thanking all the volunteers who had worked on the Roman pottery from Church Meadow and elsewhere, for several years. He said there was still much work to be done, with the next project looking at the 'dreaded' ceramic building material. He has been writing up the report for St. Mary's Meadow 1977 (SMM77), a long trench along the border of Church Meadow with properties along Church Street. He will then return to completing the report revisiting the Purberry Shot excavation by Lowther in 1939. SN added that he and David Hartley had been working on two sites excavated by Norman Nail, Bourne Hall and Carpenter's Bakery. The draft has been disseminated for feedback and it needed a digital site plan before it can be published as an Occasional Paper. Jeremy Harte suggested the paper on the Saxon cemetery in Ewell by Margaret Taylor-Sutton should also be published in the forthcoming year.

5. Treasurer's report

JP commenced by stating that the accounts for 2017 show a surplus of £1,598.84 against last year's loss of £304.61 and subscriptions are noticeably higher at £1,340 against £960; this relates to an increase in the cost of membership but a loss of 6 ordinary members and 1 couple. Donations are also up at £1153, much of this being down to the generous legacy from Eve Myatt-Price.

The Gift Aid at £156.29 is for 2016. It has been claimed for 2017 and although it will (as usual since it is claimed in January) not appear until next year's account it totalled £184.69. JP said that many thanks are due to those people who are able to do this and have taken the opportunity to add to the society's funds. As well as subscriptions and donations being up on 2016, so also are sales of publications. Some of the zero balanced columns have been removed following comments last year, but this is not always possible if they appear as items in the spreadsheets.

Many now pay subscriptions by Standing Order or Internet Transfer which is very efficient and cost effective for both parties. If anyone else wishes to adopt either of these methods for future payments, slips are available from the Treasurer with the necessary bank details on them. One just needs to ensure one puts one's surname on the payment as a reference. The slip can then be e-mailed to Doreen Tilbury so she is aware of the renewal. The Society is also very grateful to those members who add donations on to their subscriptions. Unfortunately Direct Debits are not feasible because of the onerous obligations and systems required by the bank.

For interest only, the balance sheet for the CME project was shared with members; this is an independent entity from the Society and the figures do not appear anywhere in those accounts. For the sake of clarity, the dates 2012 – 2014 relate to the years the excavation took place.

Jane finished by once again thanking independent examiner Rod Clarke for his patience with her various eccentricities, and the

speedy production of the accounts that were presented. No queries were forthcoming.

Adoption of the Treasurer's Report was proposed by Jeff Cousins, seconded by Mike Teasdale and accepted unanimously.

6. Election of Officers

The following were proposed by Rod Clarke, seconded by Jean Cobbold, and elected en bloc:

President Jonathan Cotton

Vice-Presidents Stephen Nelson

Chairman Stephen Nelson

Secretary Nikki Cowlard

Treasurer Jane Pedler

Committee members, Rosemary Burleigh and Ian West were proposed by Martin Upward, seconded by Mike Teasdale and accepted by the meeting.

Independent examiner, Rod Clarke was proposed by Rosemary Burleigh, seconded by Chris Harris and accepted by the meeting.

7. Open Forum

Last year the possibility of carrying out magnetometry over Nonsuch Palace was mooted. A small survey had been carried out in Old Stable field in an attempt to identify the position of the stables known to be in existence by 1650. Results were poor due to brick/tile debris strewn over the area but more work is to be done. Historic England had given NC a Section 42 licence to carry out a magnetometry survey over the eastern side of Nonsuch Palace. Twelve 30m grids were surveyed but backfilling of the 1960 excavation made for a confused picture. Mike Teasdale reported that Epsom and Ewell Borough Council and London Borough of Sutton are preparing a Heritage Lottery Fund bid and the initial meeting with the HLF was very positive. The project includes the outlining of the Palace on the ground to improve the visitor experience, together with improved signage and paths. The Banqueting House is looking much neglected and would benefit both from repair, clearance and signage. The lottery bid is likely to be lodged by the autumn. Sam Whitehead, Streetcare Manager at EEBC, is leading the bid. HE has been asked for advice and will have to give scheduled monument consent for any work on the scheduled site. The 1960 excavation at Nonsuch led to the formation of the Nonsuch Diggers which developed into the current EEHAS, and JC suggested that it would be good to record an oral history of the event from those diggers still around.

David Hartley mentioned building work being carried out on the Salesian playing field site in Old Schools Lane, Ewell. A commercial archaeological unit CgMs has been employed to oversee the archaeological investigation. David Hartley has been in touch with Nigel Randall, County Archaeological Planning Officer, who will ask CgMs if a visit could be arranged for the archaeologists on the committee. There is a concern that information from this site will not be disseminated. Currently there is no onus on a commercial unit to lodge their archaeological report (known as grey literature) with the council. This is an issue that EEHAS should highlight with EEBC.

Jeremy Harte has been keeping the committee informed about issues at the WW1 Centennial Wood at Langley Vale. A lodged planning application for a visitor centre and car park includes a path across the Nutshamble Bank (SHHER_3313), an area thought to be a moot or meeting place of the Copthorne Hundred, at the junction of the parishes of Ashtead and Epsom. Unfortunately this is not a scheduled site but there is documentary evidence that the earthwork was already present in 15th century. Nigel Randall is working with Jeremy Harte to ensure this feature is considered carefully in the planning process and JC suggested that Roy Stephenson, a local historian and Peter Harp, of the Plateau Group could be of help. It is not the first time that desktop assessments by commercial units have missed evidence for known archaeology or previous archaeological investigations in the Borough.

Jeremy Harte brought to the attention of the meeting his report on 'The Legacy of the Documentary Group'. Most of the records from this group have now been put online via the Epsom and Ewell History Explorer. Grateful thanks must go to Peter Reed, who is the webmaster, and the volunteers who have typed up the information to be uploaded. We are now looking for an editor for the archive project (full job description to be put in the April newsletter together with the Legacy document). Jeremy asked what plans there were to publish Occasional Papers in the forthcoming year. NC reported that, apart from the archaeological papers already mentioned, it was hoped to publish Iain McKillop's paper on 'Contemporary Images of Nonsuch Palace' and a 1970s paper by Arthur Jenkins 'In search of Roman Ewell' which will include updates on sites and finds.

New member Angela Clifford asked what the aims and objectives of the Society were. SN replied that EEHAS aimed to foster interest in local history, archaeology and conservation. Over time the focus of the Society depended on the interests and expertise of its active members. NC said that the aims of the Society could be found on the home page of the EEHAS website and the Rules of the Society were also online (below the Home tab).

9. **Any other business** – Gay Keeble said that The Friends of Nonsuch had had some interesting talks recently including one by Rupert Matthews, an author, talking on clothes fastenings. This will be followed up.

10. **Close of Meeting** - the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.57 p.m.