

CHARMAN'S REMINISCENCES OF EPSOM

I. Epsom Traders of over 50 Years Ago

East Street (west side)

[from 139 down to 81 East Street]

Starting from Half Mile Bush, on the site of Margaret Cottage were other old cottages and stables used by Mr. A. Daws, cartage contractor.

E. Morse, nurseryman (his shop was pulled down this year; a small shop near some lime trees)

G. Callingham, writer

Chitty, gardener

Mark Bristow, second-hand dealer

Page, builder

Fillery's Yard (he was a coal & wood merchant; cheap jacks used to stand in the yard; there were baby shows, singing competitions etc.)

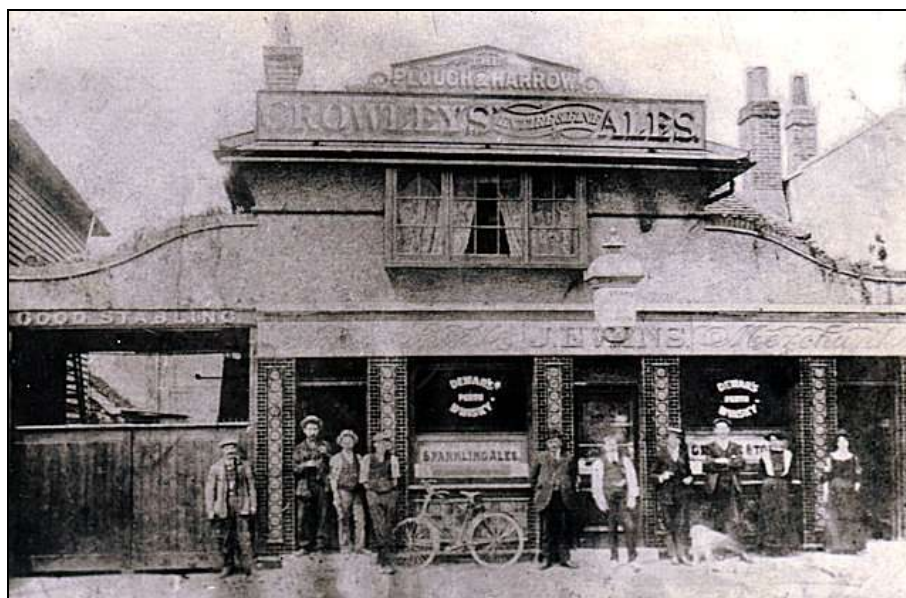
T. Burfitt at the Locomotive (and he was also a pork butcher)

Lintons Lane

C. Churchill, bacon smoker (his house stood in the orchard; the house is still there)

Mrs. Coleman, sweets

At the bottom of the lane was Swallow's brickyard (and Stone's brickyard, which was also in Providence Place)



Plough & Harrow

Back to East Street (west side)

[from 77 down to 5 East Street]

C. Reeves, dairyman

E. Morse's nursery

Tanton, nursery shop (afterwards E. Morse)

Farrow, chimney sweep (afterwards Tester)

Plough & Harrow (J. Farrow was the landlord)
Palmer, baker and confectioner (now Dining Room)
Tinker Wilding
W. Brooks, blacksmith and showing smith
Arnold, wheelwright (the wall at back of the Pavilion still shows where the
forge was)
T. Chuter, builder and undertaker (now the cinema)
Here is Kingston Lane (afterwards Hook Road)
Epsom Boys National School
Rifleman Inn (Brooks was the landlord)

Adelphi Road

P. Tickner commenced business in a small shop in Adelphi Road.

Back to East Street (west side)

[3 and 1 East Street]

Simon, grocer
J. Kippin, London carrier & sweet shop

East Street (east Side)

[from 184 down to 92 East Street]

Mr. James Chuter, farmer and brickmaker (at Bush Lodge, and also the
opposite side; grandfather of Mr. Chuter Ede)
Mr. Bates, miller (the old windmill was in Mill Road)
King's Arms Inn (Collins was the landlord)
Winslett, decorator
Mr. G. Rhodes, carrier for L.B.S.C Railway.
T. Telling, grocer (previously this was Graham)
E. Longhurst, carpenter, joiner and undertaker
C. J. Hopkins, photographer & draper (afterwards he removed to Hampden
House)
E. Lemon, baker (the oven was heated by faggots and one could stand at the
front door and see the oven being heated; residents in the district could
be seen taking joints etc. to be baked on Sundays)
Here is Lemons Lane (afterwards Church Road)

Church Road

Weller, grocer and coal merchant
Barcock at the Jug House
At the corner of Providence Place an apparatus in the form of a lamp post
was erected, the invention of Mr. G.R. Keeling, a member of the local
board, for destroying fever gases. This has only been moved a few
years ago.

Back to East Street (east side)

[from 90 to 2 East Street]

Almshouses
Vickery, saddler
Miss Wicks, dressmaker
Mr. Cox, cab proprietor

At the back, above Hawthorne Place, was Epsom's second Cottage Hospital.
I have visited patients here.

Red Lion Inn (Day was the landlord; the Club Feast was held here annually,
with a band, and dancing on the lawn at the rear)

Brann, confectioner

H. Brown, draper (his name on the house could still be seen until recently, it is
now obliterated)

Swann, confectioner

Razzel, bootmaker

W.B. Katterns, decorator, glazier and paperhangings

Fleetwood, bootmaker

W. Collins, decorator

Here is Clayton Road. Burton & Co., mineral water works, were here, and
round here is Salem Chapel.

Here we come to Clayton House. I think this must have been a school. A
Sunday school was held at the back of the present premises. This was
afterwards Miss Mittendorf's Girls' Orphanage, and then Dr. Barnardo's
Home.

David Elson, carman (the old stables are still standing)

From here to the other side of the Railway Bridge was the garden of the
stationmaster's house, which is still behind Woods the bakers.



Ormonde House

High Street (east side)

[from 10 to 2 High Street]

Opposite the Rifleman was a fine old house where Ormonde Buildings are
now – Ormonde House, occupied by G.R Keeling, dentist. This was a
handsome house, with a large flower bed to be seen behind the old
pump. A drive led round the back of this house to Dorling's office.

Dorling's Printing Offices

Station Road

[now Upper High Street]

From Dorling's there were no more buildings up to Epsom Station.

On the other side, the Railway Hotel (Rutley was the landlord; he had cabs and livery stables)

Opposite this in Station Road was waste ground with a rail fence until the Lecture Hall was built in 1882, and then the Town or Public Hall. Moody & Sankey's Mission Tent stood on this ground. Afterwards the Town Hall was built, and I think residents would like to see some of the plays that the touring companies used to produce – true, we have plays now, but not like those.

Church Street

Burgess, stonemason (occupied the premises where Fords is now)

Elson, wheelwright and coachbuilder

The other shops here were built out from cottages. One remembers when you could stand and see printing machines at work.

John Snashall commenced his printing business here with hand machines, which were looked on as a novelty.



Epsom High Street - the Literary Institute is on the right

High Street (south side)

[from 1 to 89 High Street]

Opposite the Railway Inn was Graham, stationer (afterwards John Snashall, now Adams the jeweller)

Oxley, chemist

J. Ede, grocer & baker (four or five carts could very often be seen in front; a large business)

G. Ship, bootmaker

Adds, butcher

Graham, wine shop

W. Rose, confectioner and ginger beer maker

Slater, coachbuilder (G. J. Beams the Anatomical Bootmaker commenced business here – ‘why should Epsom wait?’ was his slogan; it is now G. How’s)

Here was Rabbit Hutch Row, an old cottage, where one could stand on the path and reach the bedroom window.

Courtneidge, bootmaker

Here was Barber Kelly, but afterwards he removed nearly opposite.

R. Norman, oil, hardware and lamp shop (one little shop)

Next was R. Fensham, fruit shop (Bobby Blower IOGT [*International Order of Good Templars*], not always; a bullock once got in this shop; on his trading bags he had some poetry printed)

Parfitt, fishmongers

Chambers, wool & fancy shop

Mrs. Rogers, milliner

Hales, fancy goods and tobacco

Vickers, sweet shop (a very stout man, he used to sit outside his shop; he was called old Lord Abinger, I don’t know why)

Lock, pork butcher and cook shop

Marshall, fishmonger

Lewis, ironmonger (now Beauchamp)

White, clothier

Lane, barber, hairdresser and photographer

Maxted, newsagent

Williams & Blomfield, drapers

Smallwood, bootshop

Gimson, chemist

W. Charman, watch & clock maker

Then came Nyes Alley

G. Nye, builder

Spread Eagle tap

Spread Eagle Hotel (Margett was the landlord)

Worsfold livery and bait stables (afterwards this was Bristow)

Next door, where Reids stands now, was Hampden House. This was a private house laid back behind iron railings, which were about where the footpath is now. It was converted into shops by C.J. Hopkins, who removed from East Street to these premises.

London & County Bank (Willis was the manager, afterwards Owen)



Hampden House

Ashley Road

Down Ashley Road was W. G. Bradley's brewery, and George White at the County Court and offices.

Back to High Street (south side)

[from 91 to 153 High Street]

White Hart Hotel (J. Rowe was the landlord)

Charles Barnard, corn shop (in two shops; he was very eccentric and would have his fence painted red, white and blue, and also the shops, with half a quarter loaf put in the garden; he would be seen riding horseback with a monocle, with a long coat, in various coloured satins)

Tompson & Murrell, draper

Hoffman, piano & music shop

Miller, newsagent (one remembers the old *Police News* always put in the window)

Faber, stationer (afterwards F.A. Daniell, newsagent; Mr. Daniell started in business in a cottage in South Street)

W.O. Reader, solicitor, Clerk to the Guardians etc. (afterwards A.J. Weston, music shop)

W. Barnard, baker and confectioner

W. Wood, draper

J. Wood, grocer (at Nell Gwynnes)

King's Head Hotel (Miers was the landlord)

Gardner, livery and bait stables

King's Head Shades

W. Harsant, chemist

Mrs. Gardner (a noted shop for working men's boots and clothes)

Chadband, tailor

Smith, tobacconist

Newhams School (now Langlands Auction Rooms; many old residents, tradesmen's sons, received their education here)

Gilliams, masons

W. Langlands

C. Young, grocer

W. Steer, decorator

C. Jones, butcher

Hulbert, tailor (also in Albion Terrace)

W.G. Weston, draper (at Waterloo House; previously Bailey)

W.G. Weston, builder and undertaker (he was in Waterloo House, behind the iron railing along the edge of the path)

And finally the Old Pump

High Street (north side)

[from 12 to 66 High Street]

Next to Chuter was Arnold & Son, ladies and gents' boots (they had two shops)

Miss Hislop, wool, artists' materials and fancy shop

Mrs King, china & glass

Railway Inn (J. Rowe and Sully were the landlords)

E. Hope, butcher

E. Vassie, upholsterer (yeomanry officer, and a great religious worker; he also started Vassie's Drum & Fife Band)

T. Bell, solicitor (this was the Magistrates' Office and occasional Police Court)

Mrs. Ottaway, picture shop (one remembers a large coloured picture, *Cherry Ripe*; I have been told this house was once a public house)

Tom Lemon, billiard marker

Smith, farrier and blacksmith forge (afterwards Simpson)

W. Jeal, cab proprietor (at the back of Keeling's)

The old Literary Institute, now Keeling's, and shortly to come down. This was Epsom's first Working Mens' Club – the scene of many happy social evenings (smoking concerts), many famous local singers, some still residents (Mr. Gerard Miles was always in demand). One recalls all the old songs sung.

C. Churchill, saddler

Spikesman, china & glass (and also a large grocer's shop)

Next a row of old cottages. Barber Kelly resided in the first one, having removed from opposite; though he cut my hair, he did not draw the money first and go and get a drink across the road, as it was said he used to. Mr. Harvey started business here, making a shop of some of these cottages.

Bliss, butchers

Next Andrews' Library.

Waterloo Road

The room next to Bliss the butchers, where the library was recently, was the Post Office; it was not up near the present Post Office; afterwards it was transferred to the Iron Building in Waterloo Road. There were not many postmen those days. I remember Thomas Morris, Mark Hayton, George Chandler; also Jessie Beams, who took letters to Ewell.



Epsom High Street - R. Burns is on the right

Back to High Street (north side)

[from 68 to 124 High Street]

R. Burns (afterwards W. Dorset & Co)

G. Snashall, toys, china, earthenware and glass (he was a great worker for the Congregational Church)

Wellington Inn (Ranson was the landlord; some old cottages stood at the back of this)

Next to the Wellington, a small shop, where Epsom first saw electric light. It was run by Mr. Greengrass, an employee of Dorset.

Wilkins, watch & clock maker (a very kind man, a great worker for the Temperance cause; he had a very large Band of Hope for boys and girls; there was not much amusement in those days, only an occasional magic lantern, conjurer or penny reading)

Hibble, tailor

Greig, coffee shop (the Town Mission Room was at the back; some of the old boys say the only education they had received was at a night school conducted by Miss Alexander, a lady who lived for Christian work in the town; her family formerly lived at Hylands House, Dorking Road)

Hooker, builder (afterwards T. Skilton, veterinary surgeon, and now Pages)

J. Sheath, baker

T. Miles, fruiterer & market garden (this was a big business supplying shops wholesale in a radius of Kingston, Wimbledon, Fulham, Banstead, Dorking; he rented nearly all spare ground in various parts of Epsom)

West, saddler

Swinson, tailor

Head

Jones, a large cab proprietor business

A path led through the large cab yard up steps to the SW Rail station

Breeden, shoeing smith

W. Beauchamp, bootmaker

G. & J. Furniss, builders

W. Furniss, cab and carriage proprietor (he was Clerk at the parish church)

W. Bance, cooper

J. Busbridge, toy shop (Epsom Cattle Market was held at the back here)

Mrs. Downer, boot shop

G. Sayers, carriage proprietor (at the Stamp House)

Then an old house in between Roasts and Dearle

Dearle, tallow chandler, and candle maker (when the fat was being rendered down it was not at all like Eugène Rimmel! [*the parfumeur*] Mitcham lavender was not in it!)

Mason, hairdresser (afterwards Hick)

G. Wood, baker

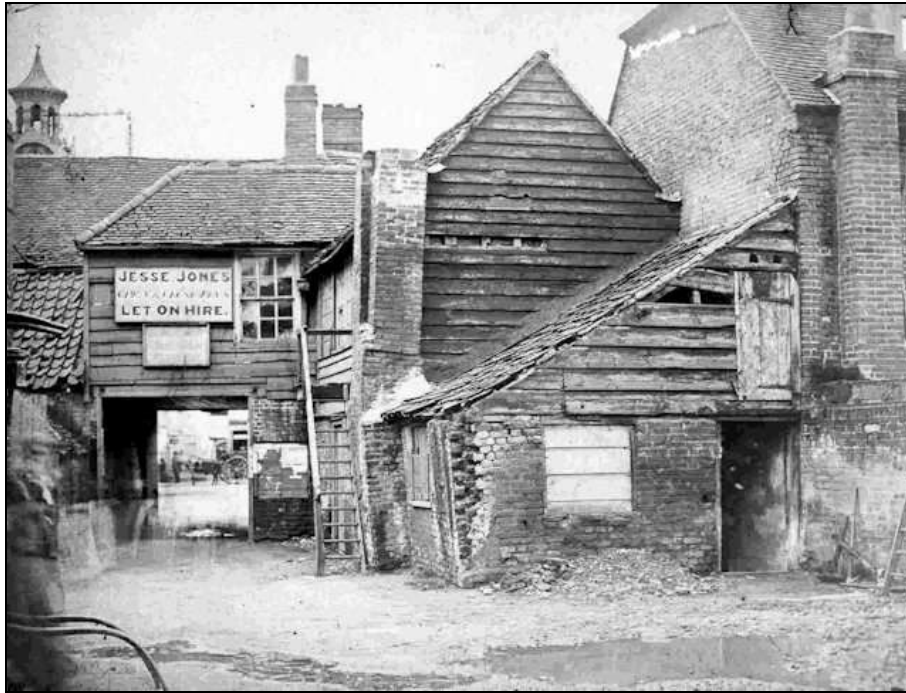
W. Butcher, decorator

George Inn (this was a cheap lodging house; Woolridge was the landlord)

Major, pork butcher (noted for sausages)

The Tuns Inn (another cheap lodging house; W. Dalton was the landlord; he used to tell the customers to 'eat plenty of salt, boys!')

Holden, tea, coffee and greengrocery



Jesse Jones' cab yard

West Street

Bradnum, butcher

Marquis of Granby Hotel (Bentley was the landlord; the London–Dorking coach changed horses here)

Here Sequah the quack stood with his medicines. He was supposed to have made many cures. One remembers a case where the Minister of a church offered prayer, anyhow they dragged the poor fellow round afterwards with his crutches. I would not like to say he was cured.

C.J. Langland, builder (many years ago the whole of this place was burnt down, and the Marquis of Granby was damaged; the coach horses were stabled here and they had to be taken up the bank at the back; Mr. Gray's private house next door in West Street was also burnt)

Waglan, bootmaker

Christ Church Guild Room

Langlands, auctioneers

Green, hot water engineer (afterwards Whiteside)

T. Furniss, coal wharf and builder's merchant

From here West Hill led to:

Eclipse Inn (Bransgrove was the landlord)

The common

Cricketers Inn (Griffith was the landlord)

Wernham, shoeing smith

Felton, baker

Jolly Cooper Inn (Stredwick was the landlord)

High Street (west side)

[from 126 to 134 High Street]

This was Albion Terrace

W. Wyeth, grocer

Hulbert, tailor
Robbins, boot and shoe maker
Crocker, saddler
Albion Hotel (J. Heath was the landlord)

South Street

Beauchamp, shoemaker
A confectioner
Williams & Blomfield, drapers
The Folly
J. Ruppel, pig slaughterer
South, tailor
Bone, baker
Samuel Barton, corn and coal merchant
C. Barton, grocer
Hill, bootmaker
Magpie Inn (Garrard was the landlord)
A. Tidy, hot water engineers & blacksmith
W. Bristow, furniture dealer
Bill Elliot, poster and Town Crier
Blake, butcher

Dorking Road

Queen's Head Inn (Worsfold was the landlord; the Dorking and London carriers put up here)
Field Bros., coach builders
White Horse Inn (Stone was the landlord)
Dagnall's brewery

The breweries were R. & F. Pagden, Church Street; W.G. Bradley, Ashley Road and South Street; and Dagnall at the White Horse in Dorking Road.

And I also remember the old London carriers. They were Mercer, Kippin, Mrs. Baker of Ewell, Poulter, and Dorkery, who stabled at the Queen's Head.

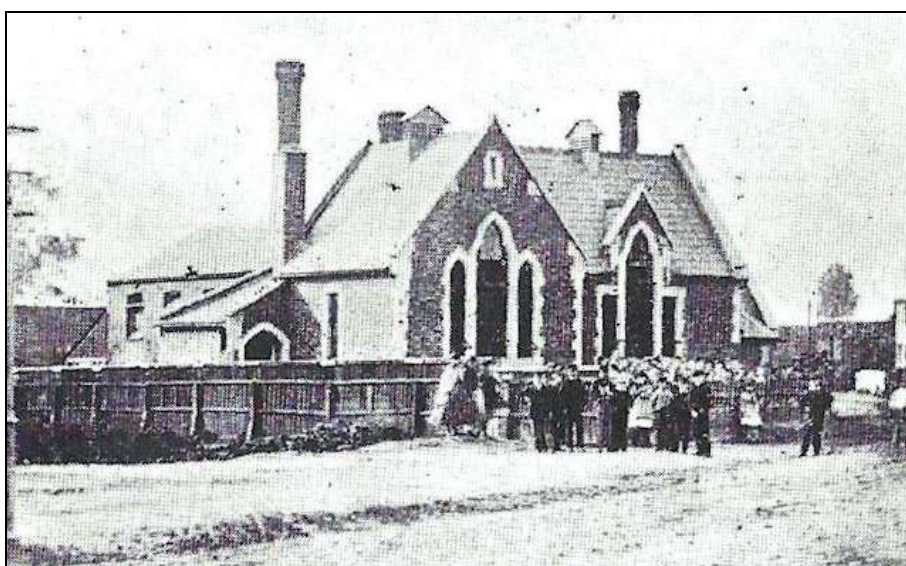
Epsom and Ewell were frequently having many cavalry regiments billeted in the town, when transferring from Woolwich to Aldershot and vice versa, and these were always looked on with interest in their smart uniforms; it is many years now since any were billeted here.

How many people in Epsom know a place called Frogs Island in the past? Then there was The Folly, and Rabbit Hutch Row, and World's End; also Snakey Alley, though I think this one is well known by footballers going to the town football matches; some very large elm trees are to be seen here, fine specimens for size and straightness.

II. Kingston Lane (now Hook Road)

Some memories from 55 years ago, when there were only three cottages and two farmhouses on the north side of the Railway.

Commencing, on the left, at the Boys' National School – it will probably surprise the scholars attending this school now, that the scholars who attended there in those days had occasional treats to the Crystal Palace which were very much enjoyed. It may not be known to the scholars that, in those days, school money had to be taken every Monday, different sums according to what the father's trade was. 2d. was the lowest fee. Sometimes this school money got lost, but that may have been because there was a good sweet and confectionery shop (Palmers) round the corner.



Epsom Boys' School

We proceed down Kingston Lane. Next to the school, reaching to the railway bridge, was Chuters Field. Here all the famous circuses used to pitch, and on the opposite side, where the Picture Palace stands, was Arnold the wheelwright. At the back of this, part of an old wall still remains. Two cottages still remain, and near the gas works stood two more cottages. These were demolished some years ago. The gas works was a very small place in those days, one very small gas holder only.

Passing under the railway bridge we find a very narrow cart track, with wide grass verges each side, with ditches cut to drain into a large ditch at the sides. On the left, reaching to near St. Barnabas Hall, was a field known as the Gravel Field. It had at some time been grubbed for flints, which in those days were used for upkeep of the roads.

About 100 yards from the Bridge on the left side was a pond; an old elm tree in one of the gardens denotes the spot. On the opposite side in a paddock was another pond surrounded by withy trees.

We come now to where Miles Road commences. There were some sheds and old railway carriages used by the market garden workers. These fields were in the occupation of T. Miles, hence the name, Miles Road. There were also some pigsties for E. Hope the butcher. A little further on was Tom Martin's blacksmith shop.

Continuing to the footpath leading to Upper West Street, Ewell, also known as Gibraltar (I have never heard why it was called this). On the opposite side near St. Barnabas Hall was another pond. On, or near, the site of St. Barnabas Church was the Recreation Ground, supported by the tradesmen. One of the most interesting events of the year was the Police and Tradesmen's Cricket Match, with the famous Police Band in attendance. There was also sport, throwing the cricket ball etc. There was always a good supply of hop juice— DORA was not born then! *[the Defence of the Realm Act, which brought in licensing hours]* Pubs were open then from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Another interesting event which took place on this ground was the Battalion Drill of the 3rd Surrey Rifles. There are still some of the old Brigade in the town.

Proceeding to Pound Lane, we pass Epsom Court Farm (Brown was the farmer). In front of the school was a large open dyke, through which flowed the surface water from Epsom Common.

Proceeding now to nearly opposite Long Grove Road, there still stand two old cottages, which were occupied by Johnny Upton and Worsfold, who worked at Whitbourne Farm. Further down we come to another cottage. Nearly opposite is New Farm, occupied by Whitbourne Bros. Near here is a footpath leading to West Ewell, then known as Ewell Marsh.

Continuing further on we come to Horton Lane, which still remains about the same, except for a better road. This part will give some idea what Kingston Lane was like. Proceeding up Horton Lane, near Long Grove, were some old cottages demolished many years ago. Near the entrance to West Farm were some more old cottages and a blacksmith's shop (Penfold was the blacksmith). At the top of Horton Lane was a large swing gate and stile.

III The Old Parade School

An old building still remains in the Parade, which has given good service to Epsom. In the days of the old Congregational Chapel, Church Street, the Sunday School in connection with it was held there, and it was known as the Parade Chapel. After the Lecture Hall was built, this Sunday School was transferred there.

The Rev. W. Summers was the Pastor, and was a very popular preacher. The morning service was held in the old Congregational Church in Church Street, and the popular evening service in the Lecture Hall. There was a very good choir under the direction of Mr. Frank Harsant.

The Sunday School Treat took place at the Wells, the residence of Mr. Norman, father of Mr. T.H. Norman, who was the Sunday School Superintendent. A large procession used to march from the town headed by the band from the South Metropolitan School, Sutton.

It was chiefly through the perseverance of the Rev. W. Summer and church officials that the Show Out Sunday business was done away with by a Bill through Parliament. On this Sunday, a large flower service was held to try and keep the children from visiting the Downs.

Two great workers for this Sunday School were Mr. Vassie, who conducted a large bible class for young men, and Mr. Charles Young, an old gentleman, who conducted a large class for young women.

This building was also the home of Epsom Athletics Club (gymnasium). Some of its old members are still well known in the town. Some very good performances were given in the Public Hall under Instructor Drake, including vaulting, horse, parallel and horizontal bars, boxing etc. It was also used by a Dramatic Club and one of the old performers, Mr. H.W. Absalom, is still resident in the town. It was also used for lectures and concerts, and many other entertainments.

Present inhabitants perhaps do not know that there are many graves and tombs in front of the present Congregational Church, and some old memorial stones can still be seen behind a hedge in front of the Chapel.

IV. Epsom Derby Carnival

Many inhabitants complain of the visitors we receive at the present time during Derby week, but the older residents will tell you that Derby crowds are quite respectable now to what they were in the past. Things are bad enough now, but in the old days Epsom was visited by the scum of the earth. On the night preceding Derby Day, if you were in the neighbourhood of East Street and Ewell Road, you would have seen roughs on the road in thick gangs all night, and people who had sheds, or work, had to have men patrolling to keep the undesirable visitors off their premises. You could find them sleeping in your garden in the morning, and they would amuse themselves by throwing at the chimney pots. If you walk that district now on the eve of the Derby, you won't find it so.

The Epsom Carnival used to properly start with 'Show Out Sunday', which was done away with many years ago by Act of Parliament, though after visiting the Downs last year, one thinks that, unless someone takes action, the old bad order of things may return. In the old days there were many gambling stalls open, people gambling and many tipsters. It was originally called Show Out Sunday because the horses taking part in the Derby were supposed to parade on Sunday. Now many of these horses do not arrive until the Monday. I have been present at these disgraceful affairs many times. Just picture three or four roundabouts, boxing booths and all the rest of a large fair going from two in the afternoon until late on Sunday night. Thousands of people used to visit Epsom on the Sunday, and it used to be said that the fair people took more money on Show Out Sunday than during the remainder of the week. It was a good thing it was done away with.

In those days there were many horse booths on the Downs. The reservoirs near the Derby Arms Hotel were not then built, and much water had to be carted by various people with numerous conveyances, loaded with large barrels, from the two town pumps, and people even used to cart from Ewell Horse Pond. There was a well at the back of the Grandstand, which probably supplied the stand.

The two worst nights in the town were supposed to be the eve of the Derby and Derby night. Many pickpockets were about, and Epsom town was not a nice place to be walking alone in. I had occasion to be about at midnight on one occasion, and had many requests to tell some visitor the time! The old long railway arch which was demolished a few years ago was generally packed with lodgers. Early in the morning many would be seen doing their toilet at a shallow pond on the site of Railway Electric House.

In front of Ormonde House roughs would be sitting on the wide stone wall and railings. The pathway was thick with sleeping roughs. On a visit to the Downs, early on Derby morning when the dew was still on the ground you would see Mrs. Greenfield patronised also by many persons sleeping all along by the course. Many horses can be seen galloping the course between 6 and 8 o'clock on Derby morning.



Doubtful types at the Derby

On the road to Derby Day there was certainly a lot more fun in the old days with the horse-drawn traffic. Pubs were open then all day. Outside many would be seen large baskets of hay and pails of water. Local men would pay the landlord for the privilege of supplying hay and water to the large number of drivers, who pulled up to give the horses a rest before proceeding up to the Downs.

Most of the visitors made a proper holiday of it. Many of the occupants of the various vehicles would have their hats decorated with dozens of small dolls, wore funny noses and wigs, and nearly all had various coloured veils around their hats. Colour was also lent to the scene by the many soldiers in uniform travelling on the many old four-in-hand buses. Some of the waggonettes and buses would have three or four musicians.

The butchers from Smithfield Market, with their long blue smocks, would be seen with their cleavers and leg bones, and they gave imitations of the bells etc. Bottle carriers would also be seen in the crowd. There were all sorts of conveyances – trotting machines, the nobility with their postilions, a four-in-hand of donkeys. This would be a novelty now, but it was seen then.

Pea shooters were used by members of the Derby crowd to shoot at one another, and coming back there was throwing of bags of flour. There was certainly several hours of amusement to be seen from the street corner. Opposite the cemetery stood an old blackboarded cottage, at which many pulled in for teas. Epsom residents were allowed to walk through the Durdans by ticket issued.

V. One of Epsom's Greatest Days

One of Epsom's greatest days, not previously recorded, was when the late Earl of Rosebery brought his Countess to Epsom after their marriage, somewhere about 1876 [1878].

Though decoration and illumination could not be carried out as now, everywhere could be seen the primrose and rose, his lordship's colours. His lordship and bride were met at the Half Mile Bush on the Ewell Road by the Epsom Fire Brigade with their old manual engine, if I remember rightly, drawn by four grey horses. There are only two or three members of the old Brigade in Epsom now – Mr. Gerard Miles, Mr. G. Holdsworth, and H.W. Saunders.

A triumphal arch was erected near Stones brickyard entrance, with WELCOME in large letters. At the waterworks, pipes were fixed in the form of an arch covered with the colours. Proceeding to the High Street, the procession halted near Andrews, where the old lamp post stood (known by many as the Betting Ring), and an address of welcome was read by lawyer White, father of Mr. Reginald White, on behalf of the inhabitants of Epsom. At the Clock Tower, two huge arches had been built nearly as high as the clock face, and covered with bunting and evergreens. Proceeding through South Street, another arch had been built near Fields the coachbuilder. At night two large stars made of gas piping, erected near the Clock Tower, illuminated the High Street, and also one over the King's Head Hotel entrance.



Epsom welcomes Lord Rosebery

Lord Rosebery was a great benefactor to the poor at Christmas time for some years. I also remember the late Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone being visitors to the Durdans and attending Christchurch. The Earl of Egmont, who resided at Nork Park, used to drive down to attend Epsom Court House as a magistrate.

VI. When Epsom had a Terrible Epidemic of Diphtheria

Sometime about 1882 or 1883, Epsom had a terrible epidemic break out, which not many families escaped, especially in the Common district. Hardly a family did not have one or two bereavements, not only of children, but parents also. It broke out one Epsom Fair week. A large house near Banstead Station was used as an isolation hospital (afterward demolished).

At this time there were three public water taps on the Common – one near Bracken Path, one near Wells Road, and one near King's Laundry. The water was turned off at night at 7 o'clock and turned on again in the morning.

There were no sewers on the Common at this time. The sludge cart would be seen going round emptying the latrines every Monday morning.