

EPSOM IN 1914

The dawn of another year is upon us – a year during which it is our confident hope that the sad darkness which enveloped the horizon at the end of 1914 will have been removed.

The year just ended has not seen anything of a very eventful character in Epsom, save, of course, the military invasion of the town in the middle of September. Politically and municipally there has been nothing remarkable but continued steady progress, such, as for instance, in the fruition of the scheme for establishing a public market, and the laying out and development of the Common Fields – now known as Rosebery Park – which Lord Rosebery generously purchased for the town as a pleasure park. Appended is a list of the principal events that have taken place during the year:-

JANUARY

- 5 Fatal accident to Mr Wm. Wiltshire, Epsom Common.
- 6 Urban Council debates new Common road.
- 9 Funeral of Mr Wm. Wiltshire
- 13 Epsom District Licensed Victuallers annual meeting
- 14 Mr Graham P. Spicer invited to address Executive Committee of the Liberal Association.
- 15 Mr Richard Kearton's lecture.
- 17 Children's performance in aid of Sister-hood and Young Helpers' League.
Annual meeting of Surrey Poor Law Officers.
- 22 Burglary at Corrie, Ashtead
- 25 Dedication of new organ in St John's Mission Room.
- 26 Robinhood Slate Club formed.
- 27 Epsom Town Dispensary annual meeting.
Shooting tragedy on Epsom Common resulting in the death of Wm. Jordan Unwin, ex-police constable.
Death of John Worsfold, 43 Miles' Road, a Crimean veteran.
- 28 Mr Robert Layland, of Prestwich, Lancashire, appointed assistant master of the Guardians' Institution.
Ebbisham tradesman hold successful smoking concert.

Technical Institute and School of Art prize distribution.

FEBRUARY

- 2 Mr Graham Spicer adopted Liberal candidate for Mid-Surrey Division.
Annual Licensing Sessions.
- 3 Urban Council debate proposal to erect water tower at the high level reservoir.
Epsom Traders' Association, annual meeting.
- 7 Epsom Operatic Society presents "The Country Girl."
Epsom Rifle Club, annual meeting.
- 9 Annual meeting of the Epsom Public Hall and Assemble Rooms Company.
- 14 Surrey Teachers' Conference.
- 15 Church parade of national Reservists.
- 16 Death of Sir Wm. Vincent, Bart, J.P. at the age of 79 years.
- 17 Mr Graham Spicer at Liberal Club smoking concert.
- 20 Presentation to Mr Henry Ames, retiring schoolmaster of Headley Schools.
Death of Mr Wm. Young. Waterworks Manager.
- 23 Miss Dorothy Capon's recital.
- 24 The Chocolate Minstrel Troupe performs in the Lecture Hall.
- 26 Epsom Rovers' Cricket Club, annual meeting.
- 27 Capt. Scott at the Public Hall.
Epsom and Ewell Cottage Hospital annual meeting.

MARCH

- 2 Sweated Industries Exhibition in the Lecture Hall.
Adjourned Licensing Sessions.
- 4 Mr Henry Keswick, M.P. the guest at the eighth annual dinner of the Traders' Association.
- 8 Epsom Wesleyans' farewell to their old church in Waterloo Road.
- 11 Opening of the New Wesleyan Church in Ashley Road by Mrs F. H. Sprang, a former Epsom resident.
Announcement at Liberal meeting that Mr Graham Spicer had won his bet of £50 with Mr Hugh N Duke, of The Rectory, Walton-on -the-Hill. The

- wager was made in connection with a statement which Mr Keswick made with regard to Tariff Reform, and the money was allocated to local charities. Annual meeting and dinner of the Surrey Agricultural Association at the Spread Eagle.
- 12 Sacrilege at the Congregational Church, Leatherhead.
- 14 Miss Weston's pupils perform "Midsummer Night's Dream" for the benefit of Dr Barnardo's Homes.
- 15 Record attendance at Sunday school services in the new Wesleyan Church.
- 17 St. Patrick's night celebrated by the members of the Epsom Liberal Club through the generosity of Mr P. M. McMahon.
- Epsom Operatic Society's performance in the Lecture hall.
- 18 Nomination day for Urban Council, Rural Council and Board of Guardians.
- 20 Resignation of Mr R. G. Wood, secretary of the Epsom Liberal Social Club, through illness received at the club's annual meeting.
- Mr Henry Keswick, M.P., gives his version of local political wager to the members of the Epsom Conservative and Union Association.
- 23 Brotherhood concert in the Lecture Hall.
- Mr Basil Braithwaite, J.P., appointed Chairman of the Epsom Petty Sessions Division in succession to the late Sir Wm. Vincent Bart.
- 25 Retirement of Mr Sparks, for 44 years station master at Epsom Downs.
- Coun. Chuter Ede holds his first meeting in connection with Surrey County Council election.
- Tenancy of the Public Hall by the Public Hall Club terminates.
- Resolution passed at meeting of the Board of Guardians substituting the words "Guardians' Institution" for "Workhouse" and "inmate" for "pauper".
- 30 Annual meeting of the Epsom Ratepayers' Association.
- 31 Urban Council discusses proposal to equip the local fire brigade with motor fire engine.

APRIL

- 1 Epsom Oratorio Society presents "Stabat Mater".
- 2 Bible Society's annual meeting.
- 4 County Council election result: James Chuter Ede, 1,046; John Hatchard Smith, 414.
- 7 School Managers consider suggestion of obtaining piece of land adjoining the Council Schools for increasing garden plots for the boys.
- 10 Easter services at the churches.
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- 13 Epsom and District Scouts held their holiday sports and exhibition at Uplands House.
- 15 Concert for the benefit of the First Epsom Boy Scouts.
- 22 Coun. J Hatchard Smith resigns chairmanship of the Urban Council, and Coun. C. Cropley elected in his place.
- Couns. F. Preston and A. E. Williams welcomed on the Urban Council.
- 23 Mr Basil Braithwaite, J. P., re-elected Chairman of the Epsom Board of Guardians.
- 26 Concert in the Public Hall in aid of the National Fire Brigades' Union.
- 27 Death of Arthur Duller, the Epsom jockey.
- 28 Liberal Club smoking concert.
- Distribution of prizes to students at the Evening Continuation Classes by Mrs Banister.
- 29 Opening of new pavilion of the Epsom Bowling Club green by the Vicar (the Rev. W. Bainbridge Bell).
- Local Government Board Inquiry into Urban Council's application for loan of £4,050 for sewerage and storm water drainage works.
- 30 Annual dinner of the Epsom Angling Society.

MAY

- 1 Crowning the May Queen by the Epsom school children in the presence of Lady Betty Balfour.
- 7 Lord Rosebery attains his 67th birthday.
- 8 Deputation from Epsom District Licensed Victuallers and Beersellers' Protection Society received by Mr

- Henry Keswick, M.P., in respect of the Sunday Closing Bill.
- 11 Death of Mr Wm. Smith at Haddenfield Street.
- 13 Re-union gathering of old scholars of the Ewell National Schools.
- 18 Opening of new club at the Public Hall.
- 19 Lord Methuen explains objects of the Cavendish Association at the King's Head Hotel.
- Miss Jean Marriott's recital at the Public Hall.
- 20 Distribution of prizes won at the Easter Monday sports of the Epsom District Boy Scouts' Association.
- 27 Derby Day.
- 29 The Oaks.

JUNE

- 1 Whit-Monday sports organised by Epsom Harriers.
- 3 Mr Graham Spicer presents shield and medals to winners of the billiard handicap of the Epsom Billiard League.
- 6 Fatal accident of Mr Alfred J. Oyley, of Wyeth Road, Epsom, in the Sutton High Street.
- Aerial Derby, great excitement at descent of one of the competitors on the Downs.
- 7 Wesleyan Sunday School anniversary.
- 9 Appointment of Mr T. W. Young to succeed his father as Waterworks Manager.
- 10 Presentation to Mr A. J. Warren, late Vicar's Warden of the Parish Church.
- Tragic death of Mr Henry Jessop, of the firm of Messrs. Baldwin Bros., butchers, High Street, Epsom, in motor cycle accident at Banstead.
- 16 Funeral of Mr Hy. Jessop.
- 16 Shortest meeting of the Urban Council on record, having lasted only three minutes.
- 17 Resignation of Dr. W. H. Coltart from post of Medical Officer for Epsom.
- 21 Territorials' church parade at Epsom.
- 22 Epsom Market "complete and fit for use by the public".
- 23 Local Government Board Inquiry into Urban Council's application to borrow £12,260 for work of water supply.

- 24 "Alexandra" Rose Day.
- 26 Epsom Literary Society, annual meeting.
- 29 Sir Thomas Bucknill stops a runaway in Woodcote Park Road.

JULY

- 2 Epsom Rose Show at Hookfield, West Hill.
- 4 Presentation to Mr R. Wood, late hon. secretary of the Epsom Liberal Club.
- 14 Complaints as to noise in Rosebery Park discussed by urban Council.
- 15 Appointment of Dr. H. M. Coltart as Medical Officer for Epsom.
- 22 Guardians and Councillors at cricket. Rain stopped play.
- 24 Fatal accident to George Oxford, a ganger, at Epsom Railway Station.
- 26 Speech day at Epsom College.
- 29 Mr J. T. White (Master) presents his half-yearly report to the Board of Guardians.
- Conservative children's fete.
- Guardians and Councillors at bowls.
- Ashted flower show.

AUGUST

- 3 Bank Holiday sports at West Hill House, arranged by Epsom Horticultural Society.
- 5 Departure of Epsom Territorials for active service.
- 8 Annual exhibition of West Ewell allotment holders.
- 10 Scheme to equip grandstand on the Downs as War Hospital unanimously supported at public meeting.
- 11 Urban Council considers arrangements to relieve possible unemployment during the war.
- 19 Epsom War Relief Committee appointed.
- 25 Epsom and Ewell special constables inspected by Sir Thomas Bucknill.
- 28 Great recruiting meeting in the Public Hall.

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Sir Thomas Bucknill resigns post of Commissioner of the Epsom Division

- of the Metropolitan Special Police Force.
 Hearty send-off to first batch of recruits for Lord Kitchener's New Army.
 Departure of contingent of National Reservists for active service.
- 14 Annual meeting of the Technical Institute and School of Art.
 Mortuary question discussed by Ewell Parish Council.
- 17 Three thousand recruits attached to the Universities and Public Schools Brigade billeted in Epsom.
- 18 Main burst in Church Street causes wastage of 200,000 gallons of water.
- 22 New rates for the current half-year made.
- 23 Consideration of the Tadworth cottage accommodation question deferred by Epsom Rural Council.
- 27 Baptist Sunday School anniversary.

OCTOBER

- 2 Revision Court conducted by Mr John Raymond, Revising Barrister.
- 4 Harvest festival services.
- 5 News received of Lieut.-Col. E. Northey, son of the late Rev. E. W. Northey and Mrs Northey, of Woodcote House, attached to the King's Royal Rifles, having been wounded at the battle of the Aisne.
 700 men of the 2nd (City of London) Battalion of the royal Fusiliers in training at Tattenham Corner.
- 6 Urban Council agrees to oppose the electricity proposal of the L.C.C.
- 12 The U.P.S. men inspected by His Majesty King George V.
 Belgian refugees received in Epsom.
 Wounded soldiers arrive at the Grandstand Hospital.
- 13 Splendid behaviour of troops in Epsom commented on at meeting of Licensed Victuallers.
- 19 Military funeral of two wooded soldiers at Epsom Cemetery.
- 21 Inmates Christmas fare discussed at meeting of the Board of Guardians.
 Earlier closing of public houses.
 Death of the Rev. E. W. Northey at the age of 82 years at Woodcote house.

- 23 Annual meeting of the Epsom Charitable Relief Committee.
- 24 Funeral of the Rev. E. W. Northey at Epsom Cemetery.
 News received of death at the front of Capt. W. Northey, D.S.O., younger son of the late Rev. E. W. Northey and Mrs Northey.
 The third wounded soldier to die in the Epsom War hospital interred at the local cemetery with full military honours.
- 28 Epsom Conservative Club, annual meeting.

NOVEMBER

- 2 Petition presented on behalf of the licensed victuallers in Epsom and district at the Petty Sessions against the compensation charge for 1915 and received.
 Presentation to Mr H. V. L. Kelham upon his retirement from the position of Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade.
- 3 Mr A. E. Harter appointed hon. Treasurer to the Church of England School Managers in succession to the late Rev. E. W. Northey, J.P.
- 4 United anniversary of the senior and junior societies of the Congregational Christian Endeavour Society.
- 9 Departure of remaining members of the Epsom district National Veteran Reserve.
 Mr Walter Cunliffe of Headley Court, Governor of the Bank of England created a peer.
- 14 Opening of Epsom's public market.
- 15 Parish Church dedication festival.
- 16 Epsom Operatic society's concert for the benefit of Belgian refugees.
- 17 Sir Frederic and Lady Cowen take part in concert arranged by Public schools Brigade.
- 18 Number of recruits from Epsom district up to date, 500.
- 23 Epsom Bowling Club, annual meeting.
- 24 Coun. Hatchard Smith resigns from Urban Council.
- 26 The rev. Llewellyn Parsons publicly welcomed as new minister at Epsom Congregational Church.
- 29 Sir Thomas Bucknill inspects the Epsom Drill Company.

- 30 Inquest of Hubert Gregory (78) ex-Parish Clerk of Cobham, who died at the Guardians Institute while saying his prayers.

DECEMBER

- 3 Boxing exhibition and contests at Public Hall.
- 7 The Rev. C. L. Wanstall, Curate at the Parish Church, accepts curacy at Kingswood.
- 9 Ordination of Mr Wm. Geo. Brown, a former Epsom resident, at the Congregational Church.
- 11 Trench-digging commenced by the "Ups".
London Fusiliers leave Tattenham Corner Camp for Tonbridge, Kent.
- 16 "Judas Maccabaeus" performed by Epsom Oratorio Society.
- 21 Local Government Board Inquiry into application of Epsom Rural district Council to borrow £3.500 in connection with the erection of cottages at Banstead.
- 22 Public Schools Brigade boxing competitions.