

EPSOM IN 1916

Once again with the passing of another year it is interesting to look back and recall the events which are most conspicuous in the life of the town. Appended are some of them:-

JANUARY

- 2 The Bishop of Guildford preached at the evening service at the Parish Church.
- 3 Pte. J. R. Miles, of the 17th Service Battalion East Surrey Regt., reported killed in action. Deceased lived in Treadwell-road before enlistment.
- 4 "Suicide during temporary insanity" was the verdict returned at an inquest held by Mr. Gilbert White on the body of Annie Turpin, aged 62, an inmate at Long Grove Asylum, found with her throat cut.
- 5 New rooms acquired as a meeting place for girls in the town were opened, when Lieutenant-Com. Chamberlain, R.N., gave an interesting lecture on "Lord Roberts."
- 7 Sir Ian Hamilton and Lady Reid visited Woodcote Convalescent camp.
- 8 At the inquest on John Victor Booker, aged 14, who was engaged at Treadwell House, and who met with a cycle accident in Treadwell-road on the 6th, the verdict was "Death through misadventure". The same day Mr. Gilbert White conducted an inquiry relative to the death of James Taylor, 48, of Longfellow-road, Worcester Park, who was employed at the Epsom Council's Outfall Worked at Worcester Park. "Death from natural causes" was the verdict.
- 10 Mrs. Redmond, wife of Mr. Wm. Redmond, M.P., paid a visit to Woodcote Convalescent Camp.
- 11 The Rev. W. Bainbridge Bell presided at a meeting of the Church School Managers, when the proposed re-distribution of staffs in consequence of enlistments was considered.
- 11 At a meeting of the Urban Council it was unanimously resolved to retain the services of Mr. W. H. Martin as Inspector of Nuisances at a salary of

£215. A letter of sympathy was sent to Councillor Saunders, who had just lost his wife.

- 12 A proposal to hold meetings monthly instead of fortnightly was conveyed in the communication from the Local Government Board to the Epsom Board of Guardians, but it was resolved by a large majority to make no alteration.
- 12 Mr. George Brown was elected president of the Epsom District Licensed Victuallers and Beersellers' Society.
- 13 Funeral at Epsom Cemetery of Pte. John Waterfield, Royal West Surrey Regt.
- 24 Annual meeting of the Epsom Town Dispensary. Mr. B. Braithwaite, J.P., presiding.
- 24 Mrs. Homan distributed prizes at the Ewell Evening Classes. A number of Belgians were recipients.
- 24 The Vicar of Epsom (Rev. W. Bainbridge Bell), on behalf of the congregation at the Parish Church, presented Mr. Ernest Birch, who had been organist at St. Martin's for nearly 10 years, with a cheque for £20 5s., a framed testimonial, and an album.
- 27 Mr. John Foster addressed the Literary Society on "What I saw in Russia."

FEBRUARY

- 2 "Accidental death" was the verdict at an inquest on Lance-Corpl. Alfred Tooth, of the Manchester Regt. On January 30th deceased, while walking across fields from Ashted to Epsom, fell into a chalk pit.
- 3 "With Tommy Atkins in France" was the subject upon which Mr. Will Crooks, M.P., addressed a large gathering at the Public Hall.
- 5 Epsom Rifle Club annual meeting; Mr. B. Braithwaite was re-elected president.
- 7 Epsom Licensing Sessions.
- 7 Sister Collins gave a description of the flight of Servians before the Germans at the Girls' Welcome.
- 10 Mr. J. E. Creeze lectured to the Literary Society on "The Ocean Floor."

- 14 Mr. Edward Miller was given a marble clock at the meeting of the Ewell Parish Council on his 70th birthday and the completion of 21 years membership of the Council.
- 26 Epsom Tennis Club annual meeting.
- 29 Mr. B. Braithwaite occupied the chair at the annual meeting of the Epsom and Ewell Cottage Hospital.
- 29 Mr. J. L. Garvin at the Epsom Public Hall; the title of his lecture was "The War and the Greater Issue."

MARCH

- 1 Mr. A. W. Aston, J.P., elected president of the Surrey Agricultural Association.
- 28 An engine attached to a passenger train derailed between Ewell and Epsom through a tree having fallen in a heavy gale.

APRIL

- 4 At the meeting of the Urban Council it was resolved that the rates for the half-year ending September 30th should be:- General district rate, 1s. 8d. in the £; water rate 3d. in the £.
- 13 Mr. W. O. Reader, a former clerk to the Epsom Board of Guardians, died at Brighton. He was 73.
- 18 Mr. J. Gow elected chairman of the Epsom Urban Council, and Mr. J. Tryon vice-chairman.
- 19 Funeral of Mr. W. O. Reader.
- 19 At the annual meeting of the Board of Guardians. Mr. B. Braithwaite was re-elected chairman.
- 25 Vestry meeting at the Parish Church.
- 26 Vestry meeting, St. Barnabas Church.

MAY

- 3 "Flowerland" was the title of a pretty play produced at the Lecture Hall by members of the St. Martin's Girls' Club.
- 5 Crowning of the May Queen at Hook-road Council Schools.
- 12 "Lamp" Day at Epsom.
- 27 The Vicar of Epsom (the Rev. W. Bainbridge Bell) dedicated a sanctuary lamp, presented to the Parish Church

by Mrs. Elderton and family in memory of Lieut. Fothergill Rex Elderton, killed in action at Loos.

JUNE

- 6 Lord Rosebery, opening a tea-room at Woodcote Park Convalescent Camp, paid a tribute to Lord Kitchener.
- 18 Open-air service, Rosebery Park.
- 20 St. Barnabas Patronal Festival.
- 21 Annual sale of work on behalf of foreign missions of the Church at Epsom Vicarage.
- 21 Alexandra Day: Over £105 collected in Epsom.

JULY

- 8 Co-operative Society's sports on the Recreation Ground.
- 12 Wesleyan Sunday School annual outing on the Downs.
- 14 By the sale of tri-colours in Epsom £75 2s. 9d. was raised for the Red Cross Fund.
- 18 The King and Queen visited the Woodcote Park Convalescent Camp, and the County of London War Hospital.
- 20 Lieut. R. J. A. Bowles, Royal Fusiliers, only son of the Vicar of Christ Church, killed in action in France.
- 26 In aid of the Star and Garter Home, the pupils of Miss Perks' school presented scenes from "A Midsummer Night's Dream."
- 29 V.T.C. rally in Rosebery Park.
- 31 Memorial service at Christ Church for Lieut. R. J. A. Bowles.

AUGUST

- 4 Anniversary of the declaration of war. At a large gathering in Rosebery Park stirring speeches were made by Major Sir Edward Coates, M.P., and Capt. Spencer Churchill.
- 26 Sudden death of Mr. J. A. Newsom (aged 55), second master at Epsom College for more than thirty years. "Death from natural causes" was the verdict returned at an inquest on the body of John Alexander Newsom.

30 Mr. Newsom buried in Epsom Cemetery.

SEPTEMBER

17 Members of the Urban Council the Fire Brigade, and representatives of the Oddfellows and Foresters attended a special meeting of the Epsom Brotherhood at the Congregational Church. Mr. Harry Gaze spoke on "The Patriot's Vow."

18 An Inquest was held on Alice McDougall (35), of 4, Woodcote End, who was knocked down by a motor-bus in Dorking-road. Verdict, "Accidental death."

18 A verdict of "Death by misadventure" was returned at an inquest on Mr Walter Pledger (32), a grocer, of 48, East-street, Epsom, killed while cycling through a collision with a motor-cycle.

18 Inaugural meeting of the 1916-1917 session of Epsom Evening Continuation School and prize distribution.

19 Mr E. B. Jay, C.A., presided at the annual meeting of Epsom Technical Institute.

20 At a meeting of the Board of Guardians a message of congratulation was sent to Acting-Sergt. Bowden, Royal Engineers, mentioned in dispatches and awarded the Military Medal, at one time at the Kensington and Chelsea Schools.

24 The 9th Battalion Surrey Volunteers competed for the "Donegal" Badge, the winner being Co.-Sergt.-Major A. E. Ward, of the Tadworth and Walton Platoon, "D" Co.

OCTOBER

9 An inquest showed that the sad death of Lance-Corpl, George William Snow, aged 19, of the Devonshire Regt., under an anaesthetic at Horton War Hospital was due to syncope following a condition approaching status lymphaticus.

11 A sale of work on behalf of the L. and S.W.R. Orphanage, opened by Mrs. Houlder at the Lecture Hall.

12 At an inquest on John Crawford, aged 76, assistant turncock employed by the Epsom Union Council, it was stated that the body was found decapitated on the railway near Epsom Town Station.

13 In the absence of Sir Edward Coates, Mr. H. E. Ward presided at the annual meeting of the Literary and Scientific Society, Sir Edward Coates was re-elected president.

18 Surrey Agricultural Association's ploughing match at Fitznell's Farm, West Ewell. Mr. A. W. Aston, J.P., presided at the luncheon, and prizes were distributed by Mrs. Aston.

22 "D" Company of the 9th Surrey Volunteers inspected on Banstead Cricket Ground by Major Gallaher.

26 Canon Parfitt addressed the Epsom Literary Society on "Asiatic Turkey and Germany's Intrigues."

27 Annual meeting of the Epsom Charitable Relief Committee.

27 How an inmate at Long Grove Asylum died through being choked by cheese was described at an inquest.

30 Princess Christian visited the Manor War Hospital for its informal opening and to inaugurate a comforts fund.

NOVEMBER

1 At a meeting of the Board of Guardians the Rev. G. E. M. Tonge, of Sutton, resigned his membership as he was leaving Sutton for a curacy in Norfolk.

1 Concert by blind musicians on behalf of St. Dunstan's Hostel.

2 Mr. W. H. Shrubsole, F.G.S., addressed the Literary Society on "Budapest and the Great Plain."

5 Members of the Epsom Urban Council Fire Brigade and Friendly Societies attended the Parish Church.

7 Meetings of Epsom School Managers.

9 A lecture on "The British Navy of Today" was given to the Literary Society by Mr. Cecil H. Crofts, M.A.

14 Annual meeting of the Epsom Conservative Club, Sir Edward Coates re-elected president.

22 Sale of work at Wesleyan Church opened by Mrs. Braithwaite.

- 23 Mr. Ben Tillett addressed the Literary Society.
- 23 Meeting at Bromley Hurst to consider the forming of War Savings Associations.
- 30 Mr. Henry Hill addressed the Literary Society on "Flies."

DECEMBER

- 11 At a meeting of Ewell Parish Council it was decided to erect a memorial to those from the parish who had fallen in the war.
- 15 Death of Mrs. Squarey, wife of Mr. T. F. Squarey, of the Red House, Downs-road.
- 22 Sudden death in London of Mr. T. D. Holmwood, of Woodcote Hall.