

Dare to Imagine . . .

Have you seen the new exhibition marking the 100th anniversary of the birth of Frank Hampson, the man who created Dan Dare, the iconic Pilot of the Future, which is on display in Bourne Hall Museum, Ewell? Created by volunteer Meg Bower of the Epsom and Ewell Local & Family History Centre it is on display until the 12th March 2019 - see dates/times below.

Frank Hampson came to Epsom in the early 1950s and was soon established in Bayford Lodge, College Avenue, which served as his home and his studio. There, for a decade, he created the cartoon strips that held the nation's schoolboys (and others!) enthralled as they waited eagerly each week for the latest edition of *Eagle* to learn whether Dan Dare, the intrepid space explorer, had survived his most recent mission.

Meg Bower's research into the life of the gifted illustrator led her to Peter Hampson, the artist's son, and to David Britton of the Eagle Society. Not only were they willing to provide material for the display, but also offered to loan books, comics, photographs and memorabilia as well as original artwork from the Hampson family collection.

But how to take advantage of such an offer? Jeremy Harte, Curator of Bourne Hall Museum, generously provided space in the museum, and the original plan for a modest display quickly grew into an exhibition. An appeal to local people brought in still further loans of items relating to Frank Hampson/Dan Dare.



At the International Congress of Comics in Lucca in 1975, Frank Hampson was awarded the coveted Yellow Kid award and declared 'Prestigioso Maestro', as the best writer and illustrator of comic strips since the end of the Second World War.



Part of the display in Bourne Hall Museum

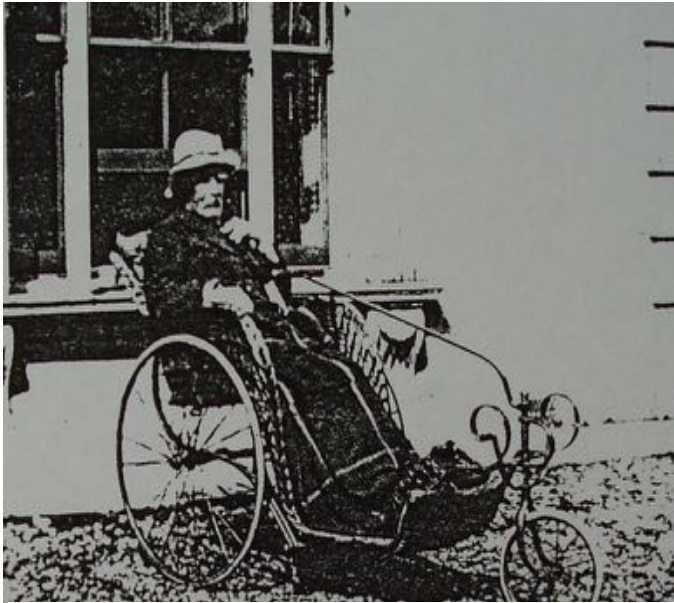
This new display, *Dare to Imagine*, provides the narrative for the fascinating exhibits now on display in the museum. Beginning with Hampson's early years in Lancashire it tells of the launch of *Eagle* magazine and its meteoric success. The story moves on through the glory years in Epsom to the successive takeovers that eventually led, in the early 1960s, to the parting of the ways for Frank Hampson and *Eagle*. Subsequently, Hampson worked as a freelance artist and also held posts at Ewell Technical College (now NESCOL) and Epsom School of Art. He died in Epsom Cottage Hospital in 1985; but Frank Hampson's influence lives on. His skill as a strip cartoon artist remains unsurpassed and his artwork still inspires comic artists today. Professor Stephen Hawking, when asked about the influence Dan Dare had on him, replied, "Why am I in cosmology?"

The exhibition in Bourne Hall Museum, Spring Street, Ewell runs until Tuesday 12th March 2019 and is open from 9.00am – 5.00pm Tuesday to Saturday. Entry is FREE and is not to be missed by anyone who still remembers Dan Dare, Digby, and the Mekon!

Miss Blandford and the Bath Chair Men

By Linda Jackson

For some time I have been immersed in Victorians because of research on the Cuthbert Hopkins collection of glass negatives (*for images see website link at end of article*) during which other things have surfaced,



*Henry Willis in his bath chair at Horton Lodge
Photo courtesy of Diana and Bernie Crumpler*

including an elderly Henry Willis (Horton Lodge) in a bath chair: this was Henry Willis the younger, born in 1841. I thought how sad it was that the vigorous young man photographed by Cuthbert in the 1860s, and the happy looking young husband in another later photo I have acquired, should have ended up in the 1920s with mobility issues, which has led me to this interest in bath chairs.

I was looking up something in the 1881 Brighton census and came across a household in Upper North Street ('Upper' being the point, although even the lower part of North Street is also very steep) where one of the occupants had only one leg. The word 'flat' in Brighton means an apartment, the terrain being anything but. Brighton doesn't do flat.

Brighton was one of the places that helped to spoil the trade of spa towns like Epsom. In the 18th century Dr Richard Russell started a fad for drinking and being dipped in sea water (personally, I wouldn't drink so much as a

thimbleful of Brighton sea water, then or now, but some people will try anything). Mrs. Martha Gunn, who became well-known beyond Brighton, was our most famous 'dipper'; a lady in a bathing machine would be wheeled into the sea by horsepower and the dipper would then dunk the lady in the waves. There was a male version of this who were called 'bathers' for some reason. You had to be big and strong to do this job and Martha was a strapping specimen – it did her no harm whatsoever, since she lived to the grand age of 88, still working more or less to the end.



*Martha Gunn
Courtesy of Royal Pavilion & Museums,
Brighton & Hove*

Although I knew about the dippers and bathers, until I saw the aforementioned 1881 census form I had never given any thought to methods of getting around vertical, pre-bus Brighton if you were physically disabled in some way and not rich enough to have a carriage. The answer seems to be bath chair men. I have come across these before as the father of Jonathan Riste, the shady Epsom racehorse trainer, was a licensed 'wheelchairman' in Cheltenham.

The disabled occupant of Upper North Street was one Emma Blandford, 33, an unmarried dressmaker born in Epsom. A note in the margin said she had lost a leg in 1863. A partial explanation for the incongruity of choosing such a steep abode is apparent when you see that the householder, one William Hutchings, was a bath chair proprietor, so he was obviously the solution to Miss Blandford's mobility problem. Or was he? His margin note states that he lost a hand in 1865 which, I would imagine, made pulling a loaded bath chair rather difficult

It appears that Emma had already experienced a hard start in life. She was born in 1845, the illegitimate daughter of one Louisa Blandford - had she shaved her age for the 1881 census,

or perhaps she genuinely didn't know how old she was? The christening took place at St Martin's on 15th June 1845 and Benjamin Bradney Bockett did the honours. Whoever made the entry in the register firmly wrote 'illeg.' beside Emma's name.

In the 1851 census Emma was living as a 'nurse child' (*see note below*) with the family of coachman James Weaver in East Street, which suggests that her mother might have been working elsewhere as a live-in servant, or perhaps she had died, married or run off. I can't find Emma in 1861 but ten years later she was lodging in Battersea, having by now lost her leg (it says so in the margin of that one too). Mr. Hutchings, the bath chair man, wasn't around by 1891 but Emma was still in Upper North Street with Mr. Hutchings' daughter, Sarah.

No mention of bath chairs that time but you could hire them in, with man, apparently. Things had changed by 1901 and Emma herself was head of household in Upper North Street, keeping a lodging house. In 1911 she was head of household at nearby 43 Temple Street with one elderly female boarder. Emma survived until 1931, having moved house again, and you really have to admire her. She seems to have had no family and, despite such a serious disability, earned herself a living somehow for all those years, whether by dressmaking or taking in lodgers. She left effects of £96.

This set me to wondering about bath chair men generally. Obviously they weren't particular to Brighton (unsurprisingly, the chair originated in Bath in the mid-18th century) and you would find them a lot in resorts such as coastal and spa towns where invalids went to take the air/waters or whatever. We also know that Lord Rosebery used a bath chair when he became infirm and Queen Victoria was sometimes snapped in one (either pushed by an attendant or pulled by a pony/donkey – for reasons of stability the chair would be mounted on four wheels if pulled by animal power). The chairs came in many versions, ranging from bottom of the range sturdy wickerwork to upmarket leather upholstery with tyres!

Eastbourne bath chair man George Meek, who was grindingly poor and blind in one eye, became famous by writing a book and having H G Wells write the introduction. In fact, Wells had encouraged Meek to set down his memoirs in the cause of their shared Socialist values. The introduction is typical long-winded and pompous Wells on a soapbox, but Meek's narrative is wonderful. The book is online at <https://archive.org/details/georgemeekbathch00meekuoft>. I recommend that you skip the yawn-inducing intro and dive straight into Mr. Meek's story, albeit that the Wells input was why the book sold so well.

And, to finish, there was a famous crime in 1943, known as the Rayleigh bath chair murder. Archibald Brown, who had lost his legs in a motorbike accident, was decimated (as was the chair) by a Hawkins grenade placed under the cushion: this was a new invention designed to take out a tank, so you can imagine the effect on Mr Brown. He had apparently been highly demanding, tyrannical and abusive towards his family and this was son Eric's revenge. Eric was found to be insane, which handily saved him from the hangman, and he was eventually freed.



*Pool Valley, Brighton, with a bath chair and man in the left foreground
Courtesy of Royal Pavilion & Museums, Brighton & Hove*

A 'nurse child' can mean a number of things, from informally adopted or fostered, to temporarily 'farmed out' to close kin, or family friends or near neighbours or private individuals who offered a service at what must have been a very low price

Images of the Cuthbert Hopkins glass plates can be seen at www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/StudioPhotos.html

It's nice to be appreciated ..

Doesn't it give you a slightly self-satisfied smile when your research on a customer enquiry is appreciated by the enquirer. Here are some to smile about.

... Starting with Canada, via Scotland

Back in May 2016 (Lives & Times issue no. 40) we ran a piece about a postcard that was added to the 'Epsom, Ewell, Cheam Memories, Local History and Genealogy Facebook' page. It purported to be of Woodcote Park, Epsom but volunteer Hazel Ballan, who is also a member of the above Facebook group, was convinced it was not our Woodcote Park; and it proved not to be because some time later it was identified as being Woodcote Park in Midlothian, Scotland (*pictured overleaf*). The Facebook page was thus corrected.

The subsequent emails between Hazel and an enquirer were a pleasure to read but have been edited because of their length.

From: Carrie Burgess
To: Epsom & Ewell Local and Family History Centre
Subject: Woodcote Park, Midlothian

I am emailing you today from Alberta, Canada. I am the granddaughter of a Scottish couple, Henry and Catherine Sinclair Taylor, who, with their ten children, immigrated to Canada from Scotland in May of 1928 to settle in the Peace River Country in northern Alberta, Canada.

There then follows a lengthy and detailed family history concluding with the discovery of their ancestors' involvement with Woodcote Park, Midlothian. The email continues ...

I did find on a site called "OfHouses," a brief story of the final days of the mansion "Woodcote Park" Midlothian. Given the scarcity of what I have been able to find about "Woodcote Park" you can imagine my excitement when I came upon the May 2016 – issue No. 40 of the Epsom and Ewell Local and Family History Centre Newsletter.

The article which caught my eye was entitled, "The real Woodcote Park revealed." I couldn't believe my eyes to see the postcard photo of Woodcote Park, Midlothian. One of your volunteers, Hazel Ballan, realized that the postcard image had been incorrectly labelled "Woodcote Park, Epsom 1908."

The Taylor family would so love to have a copy of it, or at least a copy of the image on it. We simply can't believe such an item exists! It would be a treasure among our keepsakes.

Kindest Regards,
Carrie Burgess



From: Lucy Ewell – Hazel Ballan
To: Carrie Burgess
Subject: Woodcote Park, Midlothian

Hello Carrie. Thank you for contacting us. I have attached a copy of the image for you. Sadly, we have no other info about the Scottish building.
Regards, Hazel Ballan

From: Carrie Burgess
To: Hazel Ballan
Subject: Woodcote Park, Midlothian

What an absolutely astounding way to start a day! I have just opened my emails on a Sunday morning to find the postcard photo of Woodcote Park in Midlothian, Scotland which you have sent to me! I simply don't know what to say! I never dared to imagine that anything of this quality and size existed, and in colour! "Thank-you" from way down deep in my heart, and I know I also speak from the hearts of all in the Taylor family here in the Peace River Country in Alberta, Canada.

I can assure that the photo you sent will find its place in "our story" of our grandparents' and aunts' and uncles' lives during the years they lived at Woodcote Mains (1920 to 1924/5). It will not be used for anything else. When I compare the sparsely populated and yet-to-be-tilled area to which they arrived in Canada, with only the bare necessities in buildings and improvements, I can't believe that they lived and worked with the sight of such buildings – castles!!! – as something common, in close view many times a day. And to maybe have visited - like attendance at a Christmas Party hosted by the proprietor at the time, Mrs. Myra Horn, when you are just a tiny girl! I so wish my mother was here to see the photo and to tell us her stories again.

Again, Hazel, our deepest thanks to you! As I continue to adventure into our family history, I continue to meet some of the loveliest people. You are now in a special, forever place in our hearts and also in "our story." The story is now over one hundred type-written pages long and we are still adding.

With Very Kindest and Warmest Regards,
Carrie Burgess

I think our enquirer was pleased! Well done Hazel – Ed.

. . . And now from Australia

Towards the end of last year we received the following email from The Mission to Seafarers in Australia.

From: Jay Miller
To: Epsom & Ewell Local and Family History Centre
Subject: Nigel Alan Hockly son of Revd Edward Hockly

I am currently putting together a small display to coincide with the centenary of armistice remembrance service for seafarers to be held in our little chapel of St Peter at the Mission to Seafarers in Melbourne Victoria, Australia. The chapel building was funded by a group called the Ladies Harbour Light Guild. I came across a link with Epsom and Rev Edward Hockly when trying to find out more about 2 mercantile apprentices who lost their lives on the Calgorm Castle in 1917

In a periodic newsletter issued by the LHL in 1917 is reference to two apprentices (Nigel Hockly age 17 and Fred Hyde aged 16) who were particularly well known to us in Melbourne. Nigel being a regular communicant during his stay. I thought you may like to know that Nigel and his colleague Fred were highly regarded and are remembered still.

Later in the same year when the brand new chapel was opened the sacrifice of the two young men was memorialised with the donation of a stone 'font' for the baptistery 'by one who wished to remain anonymous'.
With Kind regards

Jay Miller
Heritage Registrar, Mission to Seafarers Victoria Inc.



*The new stone font for the
Baptistery*

From: Hazel Ballan
To: Jay Miller

Thank you so much for sharing this information and photos with us. Your email below was forwarded to me as I did the main research for Nigel and his family. I knew that his brothers had travelled to Australia but not Nigel.

I have actually done a rewrite for him tonight and have included your snippets and, if I may, I would like to include your photos? Any other information you may come across about Nigel in the future would be welcomed too.

Regards, Hazel

From: Jay Miller
TO: Hazel Ballan

So glad the message reached you - you all obviously do a great deal of work in your network good to hear it is so active! My real mission was searching for faces of these two so very young men. I managed to find one of Nigel's colleague, Fred Hyde, through Fred's old grammar school website. Very happy to find out a bit about Nigel's family explained his engagement with the mission.

I wanted to include and identify these two in the display as symbolic of all the others lost. I am sure there would have been a high proportion lost who were apprentices and perhaps not so experienced as some of the older salts. It is also rare to find in our records many specific names linked to seafarers. Later in the day I sent this info to you I found out that the submarine thought to have sunk the Calgorm Castle was strangely enough destroyed later that year on 11th of September 1917 the same day the new Mission building and the chapel funded by the Ladies Harbour Light Guild was formally opened.

Kind regards and best wishes
Jay

*The entry for the Nigel Alan Hockly on the Epsom Memorials website can be found at:
www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesH.html#HocklyNA*

Job well done. Thanks Hazel – Ed

Commemorating the end of WW1 – with grace and style

On the 10th November 2018 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of The Great War, St Paul's Church Howell Hill in Northey Avenue, Cheam featured an exhibition, reception and a special free showing of the acclaimed WW1 feature film 'Journey's End', including interviews by Rev. David Senior, Curate of St Paul's, with the producer of the film, Guy de Beaujeu, and Colonel Ben Baker, Commander 4th Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

Over 500 tickets were issued for this remarkable evening and Clive Gilbert and Hazel Ballan, volunteers from the History Centre, were invited. The Rev. Martin Wainwright, Vicar of St Paul's and Padre to the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment was delighted with the excellent attendance and the positive reaction to the evening's event. He was especially generous with his comments about the exhibition which was based around the 62 A1 size display boards about WW1 produced by volunteers from the Local & Family History Centre.



St Pauls Church.



Some of the visitors to the exhibition and commemoration evening.



Hazel Ballan and Clive Gilbert with Rev. Martin Wainwright at the exhibition



*Guy de Beaujeu
Producer of the film*



*Colonel Ben Baker
Commander 4PWRR*

Do you want to know how to research WW1 military records? Read and learn.

From: Geoff Waite

To: Epsom and Ewell Local and Family History Centre – Clive Gilbert

Subject: Great War Memorials - Rifleman George Stanley Nash

I was pleased to find Rifleman 5/4997 George Stanley Nash of the 1st Battalion Kings Royal Rifle Corps, who died on 10 March 1915, is remembered in The Great War Memorials section of your site. He is also included on the St Martin's Epsom Roll of Honour.



The Roll of Honour in St Martin's Church, Epsom

His mother was Amelia Kate Nash née Feist who was my maternal Grandaunt and I see that his details were last revised on 17 Sept 2010 by ?EP and SM. I was interested in the information provided about George and his father and was wondering if, by any chance, either EP or SM could be related to them? If so, would you kindly be able to put me in contact with them or perhaps pass my email address to them?

With thanks for your assistance.

Geoff Waite

From: Clive Gilbert

To: Geoff Waite

The letters EP and SM refer to Epsom's main memorial in Ashley Road (EP) and St Martin's Church Memorial (SM). So sorry I am not a relative! Just the coordinator for all the Great War memorial pages.

Do you have any other info on George or perhaps a photo?

Regards

Clive Gilbert

From: Geoff Waite

To: Clive Gilbert

Thanks for getting back to me. I am sorry, but I know nothing more about George except that he was the nephew of my grandmother who was the younger sister of his mother Amelia Kate Nash nee Feist. Unfortunately, I don't have any photos of him either.

The reason I contacted you was because I was intrigued by the amount of research someone had put into compiling the military histories of both George and his father William. This could probably only have been done by a member of the family or somebody who knew the history of the family, hence my interest in contacting them. Would your records indicate who originally submitted this information for the site? Or would this have been compiled by one of your own researchers? Thanks again.

Regards

Geoff

From: Clive Gilbert

To: Geoff Waite

All the information on George is available from various web sites etc. As you probably know over 60% of all great war service records were destroyed or badly damaged by enemy bombing in 1940. Fortunately, not George's, which is available free from the National Archives at Kew or via a subscription to the Ancestry website, as are census returns, medal cards, medal rolls and war diaries. The Free BMD website provides birth, marriage and death indexes. The London Gazette, the Surrey Recruitment Register and local newspapers are also checked.

We seek out all available sources of information for each man, write the information into what I hope is a readable narrative and then make it available free of charge on our Epsom and Ewell website. And where possible the grave or memorial for each man is visited for a photograph.

We started researching the men on our local war memorials back in 2005, a labour of love and a tribute to their fortitude. You are the first relative I have communicated with about George, who, like many others signed up under age.

I hope that clarifies the situation for you.

Regards

Clive

Ed - The full record for Rifleman George Stanley Nash can be found at www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesN.html

John Constable sketches a grave in Epsom - 1816

By Ian Parker

Recently we were approached by Caroline Baldock from www.museumofthehorse.org who is preparing an exhibition on Epsom and its twin town, Chantilly, called '*A Tale of Two Racing Towns**'. Caroline queried if we had any information on John Constable, the 18th Century artist, and his time in Epsom.

During our research we came across the Gubbins family, to whom Constable was related by marriage through his mother's side of the family. There is quite a lot of information on the Gubbins family on the website including details of a family tomb in St Martin's Churchyard, Epsom's Parish Church - plus the inscription on the tomb and a photograph of the grave.

The inscription on the tomb reads:

“Beneath this Stone are deposited the mortal remains of JAMES GUBBINS Esqr. of Epsom who departed this Life on the 7th day of June 1814 Aged 69.”

And it is also inscribed to the memory of his Son Capt. JAMES GUBBINS of the 13th Dragoons who was killed on the 18th of June 1815 in the battle of Waterloo in Flanders.”

The website includes the comment that:

“After James Gubbins senior died on 7 June 1814, John Constable R.A. made a touching drawing of his uncle's monument in St Martin's churchyard surrounded by iron railings with spike heads and classical vases.”

Caroline asked if we knew anything more about the tomb as there are no longer any graves in St Martin's that are “surrounded by iron railings with spike heads”. We were able to show her the inscription on the tombstone where it is located and a photograph of the grave

Further research on The British Antique Dealers Association website - www.bada.org - led us to a sketch of the “Tomb of James Gubbins, Epsom Churchyard by John Constable 1776-1837” (left)



The Gubbins grave in St Martin's Church

BADA records that the

“drawing dates from a previously unrecorded trip to Epsom by Constable in June 1816, presumably to see his aunt on his mother's side Mary Gubbins. Constable's own parents had recently died, his mother in March 1815 and his father on 14th May 1816 and Graham Reynolds points out that the design of James Gubbins's tomb closely resembles Constable's parents' tomb in East Bergholt. The present drawing reinforces the theory that the latter was based on the former.”

* The exhibition ‘A Tale of Two Racing Towns’ will feature in The Grandstand, Epsom Downs Racecourse from 24th April 2019.

JC Sketch: <https://www.bada.org/object/tomb-james-gubbins-epsom-churchyard-john-constable-1776-1837>

The Gubbins Family: www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/GubbinsJames.html

Inscription: www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/EpsomMonuments1.pdf

Photograph: www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/StMartinsGravestones/485.jpg

Tomb inscription and photograph recorded by the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society under the direction of Martin Nail, 1963. Transcribed by Barbara Meredith, 2011.

Nonsuch and the Spanish Armada

From Norman Cameron

The following item, which has landed in my inbox, is part of a longer piece which included a description of the building of Nonsuch Palace, of which there is much on the website - www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/NonsuchPalace.html.

Mr. Cameron included this section about the Treaty of Nonsuch which, I must admit, I have never heard of and thought might be of interest - but be careful of the consequences with whom you make treaties – Ed.

Treaty of Nonsuch

Nonsuch Palace was a Tudor royal palace, built by Henry VIII in Surrey, England; it stood from 1538 to 1682–83. Its site lies in Nonsuch Park on the boundaries of the borough of Epsom and Ewell in Surrey and the London Borough of Sutton.

The Treaty of Nonsuch was signed at Nonsuch Palace on 19 August 1585 by Elizabeth I of England and the Dutch Rebels fighting against Spanish rule. It was the first international treaty signed by what would become the Dutch Republic.

The treaty was provoked by the signing of the Treaty of Joinville in 1584 between Philip II of Spain and the Catholic League in which Philip II promised to finance the League.

Elizabeth I agreed to supply 6,400 foot soldiers and 1,000 cavalry, which were initially intended as a way of lifting the Siege of Antwerp (1584–1585), with an annual subsidy of 600,000 florins, about a quarter of the annual cost of the revolt. As a surety for this assistance, the Dutch were to hand over Brill and Flushing to England, which it would garrison at its own expense. They were known as the Cautionary Towns.

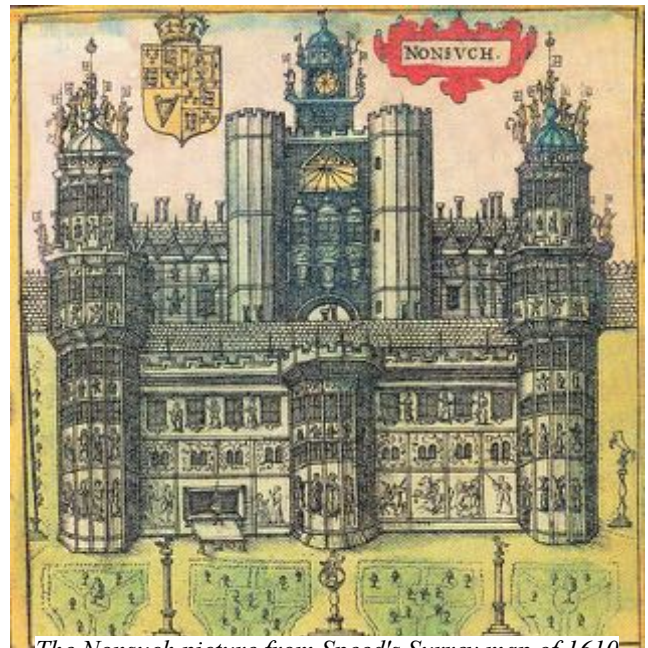
The treaty granted Elizabeth the right to appoint two councillors to the Council of State of the United Provinces. The surety provoked the objection of Zeeland, which was to lose the most by this measure. Elizabeth rejected the title of Governor General of the Provinces, offered to her in the treaty. When the head of the English troops in the Netherlands, Robert Dudley, 1st Earl of Leicester, accepted this title, Elizabeth was furious.



Spanish Armada - Courtesy Wikipedia

Philip II viewed the treaty as a declaration of war against him by Elizabeth I. Three years later, he launched the Spanish Armada and attempted to invade and conquer England. The resources spent by Philip on the Armada (10 million ducats) undoubtedly diverted significant resources from fighting the Dutch revolt. Around 110 million ducats were spent on the partly-successful campaign against the resurgent revolt.

The Treaty of Nonsuch was renewed and amended by the Treaty of Westminster of 6/16 August 1598 between the States-General and the Privy Council on behalf of Elizabeth.



*The Nonsuch picture from Speed's Surrey map of 1610
Image courtesy of Bourne Hall Museum*

Sources

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Nonsuch
www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/NonsuchPalace.html

Epsom Downs Monument for Southwark Volunteers. Is this what happened in 1806?

In the June 2018 issue of *Lives & Times* (issue no. 44) Angela Clifford raised the matter of a 'Monument' being raised on Epsom Downs in honour of the Royal Southwark Volunteers, as described in the *Morning Post*, Friday 26th July 1805. The question Angela asked is where is this 'four-sided monument' now?

In reply Brian Bouchard referred us to Cobbett's *Weekly Political Register*, Vol.9, 1806, which reported a proposal for demolition of the Southwark Volunteers' Monument and verses which might have been inscribed upon it. The article and inscription read as follows:

VOLUNTEERS

From Cobbett's Weekly Political Register, 23rd April 1806

SIR. – I have felt exceedingly concerned on reading a passage of your last Register in which you express your determination to demolish the column which is to be erected on Epsom Downs, in honour of the Southwark volunteers. The subject touches me very closely. I will explain; you must know then, Sir, that the projectors of this erection, wisely judging that a column was of little use without an inscription and having also been told that nothing was equal to verse in conferring immortality, applied to me to exercise my talents upon the occasion.

I must confess that I acceded to their proposal with great alacrity; but less on account of the pecuniary compensation than from the pleasing idea of having my lines inscribed in large characters on a beautiful slab of marble, and read by all the passers by for at least a century to come.

It is not often, let me tell you, that the works of modern poets secure such durability and such numerous readers. Your resolution, however, destroys at once my promised gratification. It bears peculiarly hard too on *me*. Masons, perhaps, may have no objection to seeing their labours pulled to pieces or forgotten; but this, I can safely affirm, is not the case with poets. As to the volunteers, you have taken good care that they shall be remembered.

But what is to be done, Sir, about my fame, upon which you are so cruelly putting your extinguisher? This is a tender point indeed; yet you have it in your power to set me completely at ease upon it and, as you have an odd kind of impartiality about you, I think you will oblige me. If you have already made up your mind to demolish the column, then print my verses in your Register, and I shall always be your obedient, humble servant.

Tim Tagrhime



Southwark Cavalry Volunteer

INSCRIPTION FOR THE COLUMN ON EPSOM DOWNS

Reader! thou woudst fain know why
This proud column towers on high?
Then learn that, on this barren down,
Fifteen tedious miles from town,
Fifteen tedious miles from home,
Unus'd to toil, unus'd to roam,
But burning with a holy zeal
To keep secure the common-weal,
The loyal Southwark Volunteers,
A band heroic, scorning fears,

Full fourteen days, in sunny weather,
Contriv'd in tents to live together;
Crack'd many bottles, toasted hearty;
Most bravely swore at Bonaparte,
Talk'd big, and held erect their heads;
Nay, scarcely sigh'd for feather beds;
Then back they march'd, all soldiers thorough,
The pride and envy of the Borough;
And hir'd a mason and a poet,
That all posterity might know it.

Maybe the proposal for the destruction of the Monument - if it was even built, which we can, as yet, find no proof for - was a response to government policy on termination of the Volunteer Corps (see below). Cobbett's Weekly Political Register carries other editorial correspondence threatening destruction of the Monument, if it is built – Ed.

About the British Volunteer Corps

The Volunteer Corps was a British voluntary part-time organization for the purpose of home defence in the event of invasion, during the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars.

The infantry Volunteers were disbanded at the Peace of Amiens in 1802, but reformed the following year when Napoleon's planned invasion became a serious threat. By the end of 1803, more than 340,000 had enrolled, far more than the government had planned for, and there were initially insufficient weapons and equipment for them. The Volunteer Act and Provisional Cavalry Act were allowed to lapse by the government in 1806. They were disbanded again during 1813, except for the Yeomanry, who were retained in case of civil insurrection.

Should you wish to see Tim Tagrhime's original letter and poem in the Political Register then here it is. Good Luck!
https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=lawTAAAYAAJ&pg=PA631&dq=%22Southwark+Volunteers%22+%2B+Epsom&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKewj8orThwb_eAhWkAMAKHW88Bx8Q6AEIKDAA#v=onepage&q=%22Southwark%20Volunteers%22%20%2B%20Epsom&f=false.

The Website

www.EpsomandEwellHistoryExplorer.org.uk

The website continues to grow and develop. To see the latest changes and additions please refer to <http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WhatsNew.html>

Have You Got News for Me?

We hope you've enjoyed reading this edition of 'Lives & Times'. Thanks to all those who have provided information, anecdotes, stories and pictures – Meg Bower, Linda Jackson, Hazel Ballan, Clive Gilbert, Norman Cameron, Angela Clifford and Brian Bouchard, oh! and me. But, to keep the momentum going we need more, so I make no apologies in repeating this message - again and again – Have you got news for me, please?

I'm sure many more of you have experiences, contacts with enquirers or local or family history information that would interest us all, so let's have them - you can see from this current issue, we like gossip and comments as much as more serious subjects. So, please don't be shy. If you have any

- reports on visits to various sites or centres
- interesting facts about local history or genealogy
- intriguing Information Requests
- new research documents the LFHC has received
- forthcoming projects or events
- or just strange tales to tell

please let me know - supporting photographs and pictures, if available, would be most welcome as it will make it all the more interesting for us all.

The next publication date will probably be in early Summer 2019, as long as our contributors keep providing material, so you have plenty of time to think of something.

Ian Parker – January 2019

Researching Local History or Tracing your Ancestors?

If you are interested in the history of Epsom and Ewell or want to trace your family's history then visit us at the Epsom and Ewell Local and Family History Centre located in Ewell Library at Bourne Hall, Spring Street, Ewell.

Opening Hours

The History Centre is open and staffed by volunteers at the following times

Tuesdays	10.00 am – 12 noon
Thursdays	2.00 pm – 4.00 pm
Fridays	2.00 pm – 4.00 pm
1 st Saturday of the month	10.00 am – 4.00 pm
Other Saturdays	By prior appointment

Enquiries can also be made by email to EpsomandEwellLHC@yahoo.co.uk

Take a look at our History Explorer Website - www.EpsomandEwellHistoryExplorer.org.uk

Epsom and Ewell History Explorer has numerous items of local interest including personalities, places, properties, and personal reminiscences of life in bygone times and notable events. There is also an extensive and searchable collection of local birth, christening, marriage, death records, cemetery burials, gravestone inscriptions, detailed Workhouse records and WW1 and WW2 memorials with numerous stories of those remembered. It is a fascinating and continually growing source of information.

Receive 'Lives & Times' by email

If you would like to receive regular copies of 'Lives & Times' and information on forthcoming events by email, please just send your email address to EpsomandEwellLHC@yahoo.co.uk with the heading "EMAIL ME YOUR NEWSLETTER". Your email address will not be provided to any other organisation or company and will only be used to send you 'Lives & Times' and information on our future events.

Should you no longer wish to receive 'Lives & Times' and details of forthcoming events please just email "UNSUBSCRIBE ME" to EpsomandEwellLHC@yahoo.co.uk