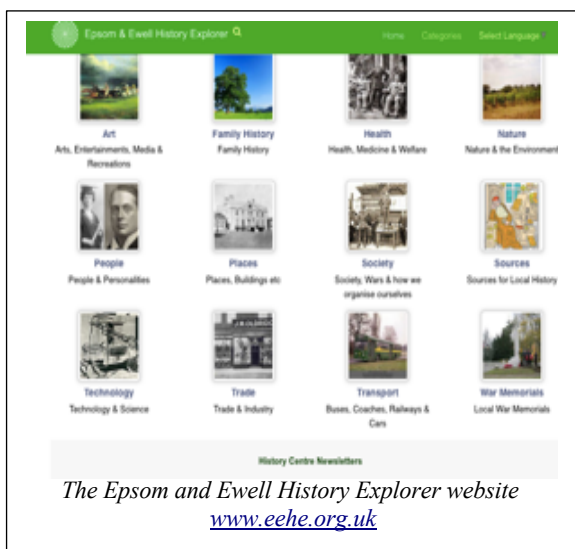


The articles in this newsletter are purely the responsibility of the authors and are not necessarily the views of the Epsom and Ewell Local and Family History Centre.

Due to Covid-19 the Local History Centre is still closed for visitors . . . but not for enquirers.

The Epsom & Ewell Local and Family History Centre is part of Surrey Libraries. It is located in Ewell Library, Bourne Hall and is totally staffed by Volunteers.



In line with Government advice on Covid lockdown, Ewell Library is currently closed to visitors and browsers but will continue to offer Click and Collect and computer services during the restrictions, allowing customers to use [Ready Reads](#), collect reservations, return items and PCs for essential purposes only.

Because the Local and Family History Centre's interface with the public is from an office within the library we too remain closed; furthermore, we are not clear when we might re-open to deal with your enquiries and help you with your research on local and family history.

But all is not lost. Our expansive History Explorer website covers numerous items of local and family interest including personalities, places, properties, personal reminiscences of life in bygone times and notable events. It also has extensive and searchable collections of local, birth, christening, marriage and death records, cemetery burials, gravestone inscriptions, detailed Workhouse records and WW1 and WW2 memorials with biographies of those listed on them. It is a fascinating and

continually growing source of information and could be the answer to your early stage local and family history enquiries. The website is www.eehe.org.uk Try it out, you'll be amazed at what it covers.

Also, if you have an urgent enquiry and can't find the answer on the website, our email address is still available and our volunteers will do their best to respond and help you. The email address is EpsomandEwellLHC@yahoo.co.uk

2020 has been a very difficult year for all of us. So, we welcome the New Year and hope that 2021 will be a new beginning and we can soon control this pandemic and, with successful vaccines, get back to normal life – take care and stay safe.



*The Supervax Centre on a misty morning
on Epsom Downs Racecourse, 10th January 2021*

So, what did you do during the Great Pandemic Lockdown?

By Bert Barnhurst

This is the sort of question asked by children of their parents and grandparents about other global conflicts over the years and now it applies to all of us. How often have we heard it said "I wish I had asked my Dad that" or "I wish that I had asked my Mother more about her family", in those good old days when we used to meet at the History Centre to try to sort out other people's problems, if you can remember that far back. In the first 'lockdown' we possible sorted

out the garden, cleared out cupboards and did all those jobs that we had put off for ages, but if you haven't done those yet then please don't start now because it's time to go 'Back to the Future!'

If you thought that you could not go on holiday this year then you are wrong. Just one afternoon last week my wife and I had a week's holiday in Scotland by going through our old photo albums and reliving those days of wide-open spaces, sunshine and colour - the visit to the whisky distillery was easy to recall with a little help from our drink's cabinet.

So where shall we go next? It wasn't long before we were questioning when was it that we went there and who was that standing next to what's-his-name, that we realised that we just had to write on the reverse of the photos before we forgot altogether. If we get any snow this year, which looks likely, then we will go back to the memorable holiday we had in Alaska to which the snow should add a little atmosphere to our recollections; and remember there won't be any travel insurance to pay.

Very soon I realised that the older the picture the more important it was to note who's who. Why should our own children know some of the people whom they had never met if we didn't tell them. And so, my wife and I are on a mission to enjoy both reminiscing and recording the who's who of our families. But why stop there, swap pictures with your cousins, after all you never know what might turn up. Weddings are the hardest to name, if you can remember them all; here's one from a distant cousin of mine; her notes are a little extreme but at least there can be no doubt of the ones she did remember!

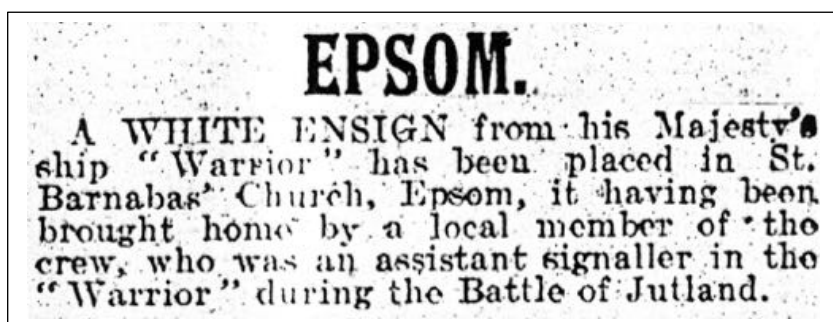
So why not give it a try, what have you got to lose? Remember, problems are set to be overcome. It will be a little like being back at the History Centre, and you could well be doing something useful for other people. As Lord Kitchener might have said – Your Descendant's Need You!



“Warrior’s” White Ensign Mystery Solved - partially

By Clive Gilbert

A time-consuming facet of researching the lives of the men and one woman commemorated on the Great War memorials of the Borough involved searching through copies of the *Epsom Advertiser* for the period. In 2014 I came across the following small article in the edition dated 23rd June 1916.



Prompted by this 'find', Hazel Ballan and I went to St. Barnabas Church to see if the flag was still there. Alas, it was not. The vicar and members of the congregation had never seen or heard of the White Ensign being placed in the church. So, what happened to it was, at the time, a mystery.

This mystery was solved this year by Carolyn Browning, the granddaughter of the sailor who placed it in the church. She made contact on 13th November 2020, via the EEHE website, having read an article about her great uncle John Leonard Greenslade who, whilst serving with the RAF, was killed on 25th October 1940 in an air raid on the airfield RAF Montrose (see <https://eehe.org.uk/?p=40861#GreensladeJL>).

Her grandfather was Charles Wells Greenslade (see <https://eehe.org.uk/?p=67033>), born in Woodmansterne, Surrey on 1st July 1898. Charles' father was an asylum worker and sometime between 1901 and 1905 the family moved to Ewell and then by 1911, to Epsom.

On 20th November 1913, at the age of 15, Charles joined the Royal Navy (RN). Throughout his 8 years 7 months in the RN, Charles served on various ships and land bases, leaving the RN on 27th June 1922.

On 21st March 1915 'Signal Boy' Charles was posted to HMS *Warrior*, a Warrior-class armoured cruiser. On 1st January 1916 he was promoted to the rank of 'Ordinary Signaller'. Charles' service aboard HMS *Warrior* would probably have been his most memorable as it fought in the largest naval battle of the Great War, the Battle of Jutland, 31st May to 1st June 1916.

HMS *Warrior* was badly damaged in the battle but despite this, was able to withdraw and was then taken into tow. Although some of the crew had been killed, 743 men were taken off before she sank at 8.25 a.m. on 1st June 1916.

Charles survived and managed to salvage the ship's White Ensign, which he placed in St.

Barnabas Church for safe keeping until he returned to 'claim it'. Fellow researcher Linda Jackson managed to find a picture of him holding the flag outside St. Barnabas Church in the 20th June 1916 edition of the *Daily Mirror*.

Charles' granddaughter informed us that Charles did indeed return to St. Barnabas Church to reclaim the flag and that he had it until his death from food poisoning on 15th July 1930. It was then kept by his wife Hilda for many years, but inevitably it became a 'little moth eaten'. In the 1970s the family decided to sell it and, via Christie's Auctioneers, it was sold, she thought, to a museum for about £1,000.



Charles Greenslade and daughter Beryl May (Carolyn's mother) c1928



1916: Assistant Signaller Charles Wells Greenslade saved the flag from the *Warrior* and placed it in St. Barnabas Church, Epsom until he returns to collect it.

So, a little mystery solved but where is HMS Warrior's White Ensign now?

And we think we have problems.

From Elaine Parker

Whilst Google-searching for a 17th century Berwick-on-Tweed ancestor I was referred to The History of Parliament online website 1660 - 1690. Regrettably, I could find no reference to my ancestor, but it did provide some fascinating reading about Members of Parliament of that period, including the following:

"Having survived infancy, and coming from relatively prosperous families, it is only to be expected that the life expectancy of Members would be greater than for the population as a whole during this period. The two oldest Members were Sir John Holland, who lived to be 98, and Ralph Hawtrey who died just short of his century.

"The cause of death for the great majority is, of course, impossible to ascertain, but considering the fact that more than half lived into their sixties, it is probable that many died of what would have been called old age at the time.

"It is known that 23 Members died of smallpox and two of the 'great pox' (syphilis); if more

evidence were available the figures would certainly be higher. Only one Member—Sir William Wheeler—is recorded as having died of the plague. Forty-six Members are known to have met violent deaths. Fourteen Members were killed in action (four in the battle of Sole Bay), and one, Wadham Strangways, was on duty with the West Dorset militia when Monmouth landed, and was shot down by a rebel musketeer in the town which he had formerly represented.

"Ten committed suicide (including Thomas Wyndham II who shot himself with a blunderbuss after having been rejected by the lady of his choice), six were killed in duels, and another four in brawls. Four Members were executed: Sir Thomas Armstrong and the Hon. William Russell, accused of complicity in the Rye House Plot, and Sir John Fenwick and John Friend after the assassination plot. The rest died in accidents of various sorts.

"According to contemporary rumour and family tradition Sir Richard Onslow was struck by lightning. Thomas Robinson was gored to death by his pet bull, and John Chetwynd, 'an immoderate taker of snuff', sneezed himself to death. Sir Robert Cann, on the other hand, having for many years drunk sherry, 'morning, noon and night', died after switching to small beer, for 'nature would not long bear so great a change'."

Being an MP was not such a safe job after all, wonder if it has changed much over the years? - Ed.

Source: <https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1660-1690/survey/i-composition-house>

Baltimore to Hollywood – it's quite a storyline

By Jeremy Harte

The citizens of Maryland in British Colonial America were so attached to Cecil Calvert, 2nd Baron Baltimore, that they named their principal town after him. The fact that he was a major landowner and founding proprietor of the province may also have influenced their choice. The Baltimores kept a commercial interest in the colony and in 1714 Charles Calvert, age 15, great-grandson of Cecil, inherited the title of 5th Baron Baltimore of Woodcote Park, Epsom. At his coming of age in 1721 he also received the title of Proprietary Governor of the Province of Maryland.



Charles Calvert
5th Baron Baltimore

1740 Charles was looking for a Principal Secretary for Maryland, based in Epsom. His choice fell on John Browning, largely because the year before John had married Frances Bressan, the elder sister of Cecil Mignon Bressan, and Cecil (so spelt, but presumably pronounced Cecile) was the mistress of the 5th Baron.

The two women were daughters of Pierre Jaillard (1663–1731), who is likely to have been a Huguenot since three years after the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes (which forced Huguenots/Protestants to renounce their religion) he left France for London, where he took on a new identity as Peter Bressan and went on to become one of the most important recorder makers of the baroque period.

Whether a shared fondness for music brought Charles and Cecil together, or some quite different factor, the relationship was stable enough for them to raise two sons, Charles and Augustus. In November 1750, at the age of 51, Charles Calvert fell ill. His boys were under the age of 21, so in his will he made provision for them: John Browning, with four other gentleman, were to act as trustees of the Baltimore family estates in Ireland, supporting Cecil and the children with their annual income. When the boys reached 21, £4000 (*value around £800,000 today*) was to be raised by mortgaging the estates and spent on 'their placing out in the world'.

At this time John, like his sister-in-law Cecil, was living at Somerset House in London. It seems that John also had a country residence at Esher; but in 1746, no doubt wanting to have his secretary more conveniently to hand, Charles Calvert leased him the house that would later be called Horton Lodge. This had been built in 1722 on the open common or waste of Horton, just down the road from Woodcote Park.

John and Francis must have been in Epsom in April 1750 when Charles, their sixth and youngest child, was born. It was a difficult birth and Frances died soon after. At her request, her body was taken to Barking in Essex and buried in the parish church of St Margaret's. Baby Charles survived for only a short time and was buried on the 4th May at St. Martin's parish church, Epsom.

When John was not travelling to America on business he spent more of his time at Horton Lodge. Frederick Calvert, the son of Charles, had succeeded his father as 6th Baron Baltimore and made over more land for the grounds in 1755. They were enlarged again, to give it a roughly triangular estate, in 1762. This year marked a step upwards in John's social progress since on 15th May in St. Anne's Church at Anne Arundel County in Maryland he was married to Louisa Calvert, the sister of Baron Baltimore, his employer.

It is not known how the wedding festivities went, but Maryland was getting fed up with the Calverts. Frederick, who was only 20 when he inherited the Proprietary Governorship, treated the province as a cash cow to fund his hedonistic lifestyle, and ran it in a feudal style without reference to the inhabitants. In any case, after 1768 he was no longer capable of running anything as he was on the run following his rape of Sarah Woodcock at Woodcote Park. He was seen in Italy with an entourage comprising 'a physician and a bevy of eight ladies'. In 1771 he died in Naples, without a legitimate heir, having spent most of his marriage living apart from Lady Baltimore due to 'incompatibility of temper'. However, Frederick had lots of illegitimate children and he left Maryland to the eldest of these, a teenager called Henry Harford.



Dr. Francis Willis
Psychiatric Physician

Louisa Browning, Frederick's sister, took a dim view of this, and with the support of her relatives she commenced a lawsuit to overturn the will. Out in the colony, locals were inclined to prefer Henry, but events in America had taken a new turn and by 1776 they had joined the newly formed United States in war against Britain. Clearly the province was no longer a source of income for the Calverts but under a settlement ratified by an Act of Parliament in 1781, Louisa and her husband were awarded £22,000 (*value £3.5 million today*) for the losses they had suffered in the Revolutionary War.

John Browning died in 1792, leaving a widow and two sons – John Frederick by his first marriage to Frances, and Charles by his second. Louisa had apparently suffered post-natal depression following Charles' birth. Certainly, she was in permanent mental ill health, and by 1771 she was a resident at Greatford Hall in Lincolnshire, the home and private asylum of psychiatric physician Dr. Francis Willis (in 1788/89 he treated King George III for his 'madness').

By 1780 the family had returned to Epsom where a commission and inquisition of lunacy was initiated to examine Louisa's state of mind and property. Her only son, Charles, was empowered to manage her affairs. He came to an agreement with his half-brother John Frederick by which Charles purchased the reversionary

interest in Horton Lodge. In 1795 Charles Browning married Elizabeth Ann More

Charles still held out hopes for recovering some of the estates of the Barons Baltimore in Maryland. In 1819 he visited the now independent state to sue for his rights as the last legitimate heir. But, after a delay of 40 years his quest was unsuccessful.

Louisa Browning died at Horton Lodge in 1821, age 88, and was buried at St. Martin's Church in Epsom. Charles and Elizabeth Browning had no further interest in Horton Lodge. They drew up a schedule of the fittings, secured the payment due to John Frederick as a mortgage. John Frederick died in 1823 at his residence in Middlesex and the search began for a new tenant.



Horton Lodge by Edward Hassell, 1830



Hollywood Lodge circa 2005 – in ruins and graffitied

In 1824 Horton Lodge was leased to Jacob Henry Franks of Misterton Hall in Leicestershire, and it is as 'Mr. Frank's House' that it makes its first appearance in the Visual History of Epsom, a watercolour of 1830 by Edward Hassell. Charles Browning died in Ostend, France in 1837. His body was repatriated and laid to rest in St. Martin's Church, Epsom. His widow, Elizabeth Anne, passed away in 1861 in Highgate and was also interred in St Martin's Church.

In 1865 Horton Lodge was sold by Louisa Chase, executrix of Elizabeth Anne Browning, to Henry Willis, described as being 'of Horton Lodge, Epsom' – presumably he was already in occupation as the lessee.

The house was rebuilt later in the nineteenth century and given the new name of 'Hollywood'. Today it stands in a ruined condition just off Horton Lane, and no-one seeing its gutted windows and graffitied walls would imagine they were looking at the embodied history of a feudal colony, an upwardly mobile secretary and several mistresses, one of them possibly a virtuoso on the recorder.

It is a strange twist to this story that the house that had been the home of the very troubled Louisa for nigh on 60 years was to become part of the Epsom Psychiatric Hospital Cluster, the largest group of such institutions in Europe and possibly the world.

Sources: Research Notes from Brian Bouchard. / Horton Lodge: <https://eehe.org.uk/?p=29820> / Frederick, 6th Baron Baltimore: <https://eehe.org.uk/?p=25489> / Images: Charles Calvert 5th Baron Baltimore: Wikipedia. / Horton Lodge: Bourne Hall Museum / Willis: National Gallery, London / Hollywood: Wikimapia.

The Epsom Cluster – By Kirstie Arnould

From Ian Parker

In early December, before Coronavirus lockdown, I was in Waterstones in the High Street enjoyably perusing their fine range of books when I came across this one - The Epsom Cluster. The book-jacket states "it captures memories and images from what was the largest group of psychiatric hospitals in Europe – and possibly the world – that lasted almost a century. Built to house some 10,000 patients it was like a small town on Epsom's doorstep".

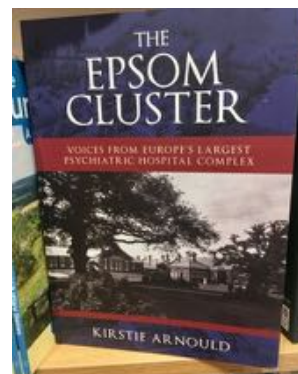
Opening up to page 1, the first line of the 'Acknowledgements' reads:

"Jeremy Harte of Bourne Hall Museum in Ewell provided the original idea for this book, as well as support, guidance, scanning of photographs and a generous supply of coffee and biscuits during its development. It would not have happened without him and I am enormously grateful."

We are also acknowledged in paragraph 3:

"I am indebted to the Local History Centre volunteers for their research and interpretation work, particularly the content on the Epsom and Ewell History Explorer website." (now renamed www.eehe.org.uk)

Proceeds from The Epsom Cluster (price £14.99 in Waterstones) are to be donated to Horton Chapel Arts and Heritage Society going towards the redevelopment of Horton Chapel as an arts and heritage centre.



The story of a Romance, told in stamps

By Hazel Ballan

Most of us will be aware of the Language of Flowers. In Victorian times flowers were often sent to convey messages. Even today red roses still represent love and white flowers, a sense of purity. However, few will be aware of the Language of Stamps.

Many letters posted in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century had stamps affixed to envelopes and picture postcards in all sorts of odd positions and angles. This was due to the development in England of a ‘language of stamps,’ which soon spread around the world. The position of the stamp on the envelope was supposed to relay a message to the receiver. I imagine that people found this a convenient way of expressing their feelings.

The problem of postmarking the stamps placed on various parts of the envelope finally became so great, that postal administrations of the world introduced regulations requiring the sender of mail to affix stamps in the upper right corner of the envelope or postcard.

A member of the Epsom, Ewell, Cheam, Ashted Facebook group recently shared four postcard images from eBay. The original postcards had been posted from Epsom in 1906 by a gentleman named Robert E Heron to a 'Mademoiselle I Priquelu, 30 Rue de l'Hotel de Ville, Vincennes, France'. Mr Heron was at the time staying with Charles Wells, a draper in Epsom High Street.



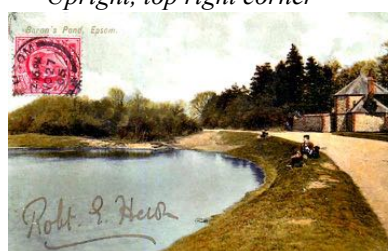
The cause of discussion between the Facebook group was that Mr Heron had placed the stamps on the front of the postcards. This I believe from an earlier discussion within the group, was custom in France but not recognised in Britain and incurred extra payment from the receiver. The comment that caught my eye was a link to *The Philatelic Database* which showed the postcard image below and the following romantic explanations:



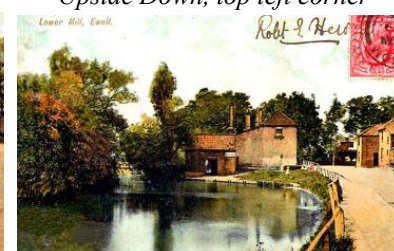
Upright, top right corner



Upside Down, top left corner



At right angle, top left corner



Upside down, top right corner

Mr Heron's stamp conversation with Mlle Priqueli seems to have progressed through "I desire your friendship", "I love you", "I hate you" and "Write no more". *The romance didn't seem to work out then – Ed.*



From the Philatelic Database

Upside down, top left corner = I love you
Crosswise on top left corner = My heart is another's
Centre of envelope, at top = Yes
Centre of envelope, at bottom = No
Straight up and down, any position = Goodbye sweetheart
Upside down, top right corner = Write no more
At right angle, top right corner = Do you love me?
At right angle, top left corner = I hate you
Upright top right corner = I desire your friendship
Upright in line with surname = Accept my love
Upside down in line with surname = I am engaged
At right angle in line with the surname = I long to see you
Centred on right edge = Write immediately!

So be careful next time you send a letter - except to the tax office when you could *accidentally* place your stamp upside down, top right corner!

Sources

Epsom, Ewell, Cheam, Ashted Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1676101255985466/>

The Philatelic Database: <http://www.philatelicdatabase.com/nostalgia/the-language-of-stamps/>

An old document triggers memories of Epsom

By Angela Clifford

I was recently sent an undated and unsigned Borough of Epsom & Ewell document by a member of College Ward Residents Society who thought I might find it interesting. It had been found in an old folder. I've transcribed the two parts – 'Old Epsom' and 'The Borough of Epsom & Ewell' because they were difficult to read - I then decided to pen a few thoughts about my own memories as a kind of update.

Old Epsom

The Domesday Book rated Epsom as 11 hides though it was rated at 33 under Edward the Confessor. Epsom was originally a mediaeval village clustered around St. Martin's Church. The parish was not enclosed until 1869. It was the last enclosure in Surrey if not all England. The town became famous three centuries ago as a chief resort of fashion, its celebrity derived from a medicinal spring discovered in 1618.

Many notables "took the waters" among them Prince George of Denmark, Samuel Pepys and Charles Dickens. During the reign of William III, the Earl of Shrewsbury was prevented from attending court through the orders of his physician "who had sent him for his health's sake to Epsom". Pit Place (where flats now stand) was the home of Lord Lyttleton. Sir Edward Northey (Attorney General in the reign of William III) lived at Woodcote House. Frederick Prince of Wales lived here and enjoyed hawking on the Downs, Charles II often visited Epsom and dined at the Durdans. The White House (Waterloo Road) was the home of George IV and Mrs. Fitzherbert and also Sharon Turner FSA. Nell Gwynne, Lord Byron and Mrs. Beeton lived in Epsom too.

Horse racing was established here in the reign of James 1st. In the days of Charles 1st, Royalists met on the Downs under pretence of a horse race. The Derby Stakes were instituted in 1780 and the Oaks 1 year earlier in 1779. Parliament used to adjourn for the Derby and during the Crimean War, the winner's name was transmitted in despatches to the troops.



*Woodcote House – 1830 by Edward Hassell
Home of Sir Edward Northey*

The Borough of Epsom & Ewell

The foundation of the Borough of Epsom & Ewell was granted by Royal Charter in 1937 and James Chuter-Ede was the Borough's first Mayor.

The Borough comprises 13 Wards, each fielding three Council reps., and currently the full Council has 34 (of 39) Residents Association members.

John Toland, who lived at Woodcote in 1711, found it difficult to decide "*whether it be a town in a wood or a wood in a town.*" Though much has changed in the ensuing 280 years, the Borough is still quite green as it has 43% Green Belt. The protection of the Green Belt is ever to the forefront of the Residents Association concern and it is appropriate that Chuter-Ede was our first Mayor as he was the originator of the phrase "Green Belt" in 1935. (The Act received the Royal Assent in 1938 and the Green Belt was increased in 1958).

In 1965, Epsom & Ewell fought an exceedingly vigorous campaign to remain outside London thus reducing the proposed loss of much of urban Surrey to the G.L.C. (Greater London Council).

Prior to the reorganisation of Local Government in the early '70s, Epsom & Ewell had responsibility for Education, Highways, and several other services which are now the responsibility of the County Council with the Borough acting as an agent for Surrey County Council.

Thoughts on changes in Epsom and Ewell

We moved to the Borough in 1973 and I cast my mind back to some of the changes since then. There may well be more, but I recall the debate about a proposed by-pass or link road to go through The Parade. An organisation – SLAM (Southern Link Action Movement) vigorously opposed this idea. At the time, the marketplace was two-way traffic - going east along the North (post-office side) and west along the South (present Boots side). Parking was in the middle – if you could find a space, otherwise I remember being able to park on rough ground in what I believe was the part of the orchard of The Shrubbery. There was also a car park on the site which is now the library.

The Shrubbery – built c1680, demolished 1970s (many owners named in Sean Khan's book 'Paper Tapestry' and a history on Epsom and Ewell History Explorer website - eehe.org.uk). It had to go for the Ashley Centre development, as did King's Shade Walk, a pleasant open square just off the marketplace with a bookshop and other small shops and a café.

Sir William Atkins House was built in Ashley Avenue for offices. At one time, Saturday car parking was allowed in the basement if the Ashley Centre was full. It was also marginally cheaper!

The Cedars in Church Street – important enough to be listed by Historic England - sadly lost its cedar trees in the 1987 storm, which brought down so many trees across the borough. Replacements have been planted but it will be many years till they reach the height of those lost. This building also has a long history – our GP surgery was there for a while, then it was a community centre but now is individual flats with housing in the grounds at the back - see <https://eehc.org.uk/?p=29883> for its history.

Like many places, even prior to the pandemic, the Borough has lost many public houses – some demolished, some flats. Now more may go – methods of working have changed - but coffee shops still survive.

Epsom and Ewell both had ‘workhouses’ one on the site of the present hospital and one in Gallows Lane, Ewell. Thankfully both now gone, but we have the prospect of a new multi-storey development of flats for the elderly on part of the current hospital site.

Another proposed development of several storeys will mean the loss of the ‘Furniss’ building on the corner of West Street and Station way – at the edge of the Town Centre Conservation Area. I wonder if the current listed buildings were met with horror several hundred years ago.

These are just a few of the changes which have happened in some 50 years. What will our Borough look like in another 50-100 years? Will there be any buildings and areas of historic interest? Will the Green Belt be amended for housing? Will our parks and open spaces and sports facilities still be used and cherished? Just think, if things had not changed over time we would still be walking on straw, going to bed and getting up at sunrise, washing in cold water, lighting our rooms with candles or rushlights! Some changes I welcome, others are harder to embrace.

No doubt in the past we would have comforted ourselves by staring at all the celebs that would come down to “take the waters” – Ed

No date or author has been given for the ‘Old Epsom’ entry; the Borough entry is thought to be 1990/91.

Apologies to Ewell. We need to find a document titled ‘Old Ewell’ to balance the books.

Images of Woodcote House and The Shrubbery courtesy of Jeremy Harte, Curator, Bourne Hall Museum



The Shrubbery built in the 1680s, Demolished after vandalism, it's now a roundabout.

What's in a name? – Quite a lot it seems

From Hazel Ballan

Whilst perusing the 1871 census for Hackney I came across this entry for the Goodfellow family.

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the									
Civil Parish (or Parishes) of		Municipal Borough of		Municipal Ward of		Parliamentary Borough of		Village or Hamlet of	
St John Hackney		Hackney		West Hackney		Hackney		Hackney	
No. of	ROAD, STREET, &c.	HOUSE	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	OCCUPATION	AGE	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	W. No.
			James Goodfellow	Head	Draper	30		St John Hackney	
			Elizabeth	Wife		2		St John Hackney	
			William	Son		12	Errand Boy	St John Hackney	
			A Dear little Baby	Son				St John Hackney	
			George Goodfellow	Wife		20		St John Hackney	

The Goodfellows obviously hadn't had time to name their one-week-old baby, so the census enumerator just put “A Dear little Baby” - I thought it quite sweet.

The previous page of the 1871 census showed the Head of the family, the father of the ‘Dear little Baby’, was George Goodfellow, a carpenter. A quick check of the 1881 census shows that the family named the now 10-year-old baby George after his father.

I also noted that William Goodfellow, the 12-year-old Draper's Errand Boy is described in the 1871 census as a Son-in-Law. How does that happen? Well, a quick Google-search shows that “The term ‘son-in-law’ to mean ‘stepson’ was quite widespread in the 19th Century.” Now that raises a whole new set of questions as to William's parentage?

Sources: 1871/1881 Census on Ancestry.co.uk

GRO Births 1858 Dec qtr. Salisbury Vo 105A Page 185 - William

GRO Births 1871 Jun qtr. Hackney Vol 01B Page 411 - George

‘Alice’ the Doll – repaired on TV

On Wednesday, 18th November 2020, after some 75 years, the long-running saga of ‘Alice’ the Doll came to a close on that very popular BBC 1 TV show - ‘The Repair Shop’.

Alice’s story with the History Centre started over 15 years ago in September 2005 when we hosted a ‘*WW2 Remembered: 60th Anniversary of VE Day*’ event at Bourne Hall – reported in the September 2005 Newsletter, No.11. Among the visitors was Mr. Alan Swan, with his family, who told volunteer Bert Barnhurst that his mother had been tragically killed when a Warwick airplane on a test flight crashed onto their house in Ruxley Lane in 1945. Mr Swan, who was only a child at the time, was taken in and looked after by Mrs Canter, a neighbour. He had not seen Mrs Canter since the end of the war, but he met up with her again during our ‘*WW2 Remembered*’ celebration. They had much to talk about.

In 2008 the story resurrected itself when Mr. Peter Barrett contacted Mr. Barnhurst having read about the Warwick plane crash in our November newsletter, No. 20. He related an unexpected twist to the tale. Shortly after the crash Douglas and Edith Barrett, Peter’s parents, who were visiting Ewell, walked past the ruins of the house in Ruxley Lane as it was being cleared away. They spied a bedraggled doll on top of the rubbish. The poignant image so touched Edith Barrett that she took the doll home with her but without any real idea what she would do with it.

So, she put it in a case and stored it at home. However, having read our story Peter remembered the doll and contacted the History Centre who found the doll’s original owner, Margaret Dyson (nee Swan), Anne’s evacuee daughter. So, 63 years later, on the 28 June 2008, Peter’s mother, Edith Barrett, handed the battered doll, called ‘Alice’, to its original owner Margaret Dyson.”



Margaret with Alice
in 1940



Edith Barrett seated
Margaret Dyson with Alice,
2008



Margaret with ‘Alice’ and daughter Hilary
with Julie Tatchell and Amanda Middleditch
at The Repair Shop in 2020



Margaret with Alice
after repair, 2020.

Then at 8.00pm, Wednesday 18th November 2020 on BBC1 The Repair Shop’s expert toy restorers Julie Tatchell and Amanda Middleditch were shown rebuilding ‘Alice’ and presenting her to Margaret Dyson as if she was new. Now, Alice sits in a chair in Margaret’s living room admired by all who visit her, asking ‘is that the doll that was on TV?’ Don’t we all love a happy ending.

Sources:

Alice’s repair can be seen on BBC iPlayer – search for ‘The Repair Shop, Series 6, Episode 7’: www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer

Sept 2005 Newsletter, No. 11: <https://eehe.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/NewsletterSept2005.pdf>

Nov 2008 Newsletter, No. 20: <https://eehe.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/NewsletterNov2008.pdf>

The Ruxley Lane air crash and its consequences for the family: <https://eehe.org.uk/?p=25738>

Thank you for your emails, they’re much appreciated . . .

From: Norman Cameron
To: Epsom & Ewell LHC
Subject: Congratulations to the Local History Centre

Thanks to your advance warning about the 18 November instalment of the series "The Repair Shop", I watched the account this evening about the reunion of the doll "Alice" with its owner after 65 years. The programme gave credit to the role of the Local and Family historians in the story and you deserve to feel proud that you were behind the good news. You and your circle deserve all the congratulations that come your way!

Best wishes
Norman

. . . with regard to this next email, Pat Lucas and Jean Walsh used to work for Surrey Libraries and liaised with the History Centre for many years, so they know us very well . . .

From: Pat Lucas
To: epsomandewellhc@yahoo.co.uk
Subject: "Alice" the doll story

Dear All at the History Centre,

Jean Walsh let me know about the "Repair Shop" programme "Alice" being on the television. I vaguely remembered the lady's face but had to look back at your newsletters to familiarise myself with the story. I am very impressed with all the research that goes into your newsletters. Many congratulations to all for such interesting and varied subjects.

I was always going to come back and see everyone but I needed to give it a little time.

Well, I got settled into another life, joined the local U3A and still carrying on with my family history.

The time has flown by.

I was so glad to see so many of you that I knew are still there and that the History Centre thrives.

Fondest regards to everyone ,

Pat Lucas

. . . this next email refers to the Dennis Haylock story that featured in the February 2020, No.48 and May 2020, No. 49, issues of 'Lives and Times'. The article refers to "The man who broadcast the German Surrender in WW2". Mrs Goode is the lady who found and sent us the original hand-written letter dated 1945 which led to the History Centre researching the enigma of its contents . . .

Viz:

"Dennis has written to you as much as he could, but they have now relaxed the censorship and he can head his letters, Lüneburg Heath, near Hamburg. He had the amazing order to contact German High Command find out if they are willing to accept unconditional surrender and it was his Sgt. Brown to whom he gave the honour of sending this news home by BBC flash as soon as it was authorised by Monty."

The only information we had was that the letter was from Jack to Stan, dated 14th May 1945 and was headed 32 Tudor Close. From this we were able to trace Dennis and the amazing story of his part in the unconditional surrender of the German High Command which ended the war in Europe. Mrs Emmy Goode, who found the letter, was informed of the outcome of our research and replied:

From: Emmy Goode
To: epsomandewellhc@yahoo.co.uk
Subject: Email received with thanks

I appreciate your email and understand the problems that lockdown has caused. I am glad you could at last see how much I enjoyed hearing about the continuing research on that historic letter found by chance in a pamphlet on herbs.

I am amazed at how much research has been done and have shown the results to quite a few people who showed an interest.

Thank you very much for keeping me in the loop. Wishing you good luck with all your historic research regarding the Epsom and Ewell area, which seems to be doing very well.

Very best wishes

Emmy Goode

The complete story about the letter and Denis Haylock can be found on our History Explorer website in the February 2020 (No.48) and May 2020 (No. 49) issues of Lives & Times - <https://eehc.org.uk/?p=33354>

Smiles all round. Well done team.

A visit to Epsom for the Derby, June 1851

By Charles Dickens

"A straggling street, an undue proportion of inns, a large pond, a pump, and a magnificent brick clock case, make up— with a few more touches not necessary to be given here—the picture of the metropolis of English racing and the fountain of Epsom salts.

"For three hundred and sixty-four days in the year a cannonball might be fired from one end of Epsom to the other without endangering human life. On the three hundred and sixty-fifth, or Derby Day, a population surges and rolls, and scrambles through the place, that may



An old print of Epsom High Street

be counted in millions. Epsom during the races, and Epsom at any other time are things as unlike as the Desert of Sahara and the interior of the Palace of Glass in Hyde Park.

“A railway takes us, in less than an hour, from London Bridge to the capital of the racing world, close to the abode of its great man, who is — need we add!—(Henry Dorling) the Clerk of the Epsom Course. We are presented to the official. He kindly conducts us to the Downs, to show how the horses are temporarily stabled; to initiate us into some of the mysteries of the " field; " to reveal to us, in fact, the private life of the racehorse.

“Well, to be sure, there never was such a Derby Day, as this present Derby Day!



Derby Day by William Powell Frith, RA

“Never, to be sure, were there so many carriages, so many fours, so many twos, so many ones, so many horsemen, so many people who have come down by "rail," so many fine ladies in so many broughams, so many of Fortnum and Mason's hampers, so much ice and champagne!

“If I were on the turf, and had a horse to enter for the Derby, I would call that horse Fortnum and Mason, convinced that with that name he would beat the field. Public opinion would bring him in somehow.

“Look where I will—in some connexion with the carriages— made fast upon the top, or occupying the box, or tied up behind, or dangling below, or peeping out of window—I see Fortnum and Mason. And now, Heavens! all the hampers fly wide open, and the green Downs burst into a blossom of lobster-salad!”

Sources: “A Sketch of Epsom on Derby Day”, from the weekly newsletter, *Household Words*, London 7th June 1851
 Edited from e-Borough Insight Issue 71, June 2020

What’s new on the Epsom & Ewell History Explorer website

www.eehe.org.uk

From Peter Reed

Since the last issue of ‘Lives & Times’ in September there have been some twenty additional and amended items added to our website. They cover a range of subjects including:

Subject	Author
Ashdown Road, Epsom – the story of a street	Linda Jackson and Peter Reed
Chapman, Ernest Richard 1883-1969 – Organist at Christ Church, Epsom Common	Roger Morgan
Countesses of Worple Road	Linda Jackson
Epsom’s Lecture Hall, 1883-1990 – Major update	Peter Reed and Roger Morgan
Five ships called “Epsom” – Update and consolidation of earlier articles	Peter Reed and Roger Morgan
Four ships called “Ewell” – Update and consolidation of earlier articles	Peter Reed and Roger Morgan
Gordon Home and his 1901 “Epsom: its history and surroundings”	Roger Morgan and Hazel Ballan
Greenslade, Charles Wells	Clive Gilbert and Hazel Ballan

Gunpowder Manufacture	Illustrated article from <i>The Graphic</i>, 24 October 1874
Harris, Rev Dr John 1802-1856 – Minister of Epsom’s Congregational Chapel	Roger Morgan
Horse Racing at Epsom Main Page	An index of articles
Mullins Family of Burgh Heath Road	Linda Jackson
New Life for Neurotics Images and research from Horton Hospital –	Article from <i>Picture Post</i> 1955
Parks and Open Spaces Main Page	An index of articles
Prefabs in the Borough Main Page	An index of articles
Rembrandt The – Pearl’s photo album	Steve & Jackie Eggleton
Swete, C. J. and his 1860 “<i>Handbook of Epsom</i>”	Roger Morgan
The Organ of Christ Church, Epsom Common	Roger Morgan
United Reformed Church, Epsom	Roger Morgan
Wilson, the Ven Mark 1946-2013 – Chaplain of Epsom College	Roger Morgan

A big thank you to all those who have contributed to the website. You can check them all out, and much more on the ‘What’s New’ page on our website <https://eehe.org.uk/?p=61076>

If you have not yet visited the Epsom and Ewell History Explorer website, I do encourage you to do so. You will be amazed at the huge number and range of articles, genealogy records and photographs/images it contains. Just go to www.eehe.org.uk -Ed

Here’s a little something to cheer you up

Margaret Jones found this delightful poem in the June 1978 issue of St Mary’s Ewell Parish magazine.

I’m fine thank you

There’s nothing the matter with me
I’m as healthy as one can be,
I have arthritis in both my knees,
and when I talk I talk with a wheeze;
My pulse is weak, my blood is thin —
But I’m awfully well, for the shape I’m in.

Arch supports I have for my feet,
Or I wouldn’t be able to be on the street,
Sleep is denied me, night after night,
but every morning I find I’m alright.
My memory is failing, my head’s in a spin,
but I’m awfully well, for the shape I’m in.

The moral of this, as the tale I unfold
that for you and me who are growing old
It’s better to say “I’m fine” with a grin
than to let folks know the shape we are in!

How do I know that my youth is all spent?
Well, my “get up and go” has got up and went;
But I really don’t mind when I think with a grin
of all the grand places my “get up” has been.

Old age is golden, I’ve heard it said,
but sometimes I wonder as I get into bed
with my ears in the drawer, my teeth in a cup,
my eyes on the table until I wake up;
‘Ere sleep comes o’er me I say to myself
Is there anything else I should lay on the shelf?

When I was young my slippers were red,
I could kick my heels right over my head.
When I grew older my slippers were blue,
but still I could dance the whole night through.
Now that I’m old, my slippers are black,
I walk to the store, and puff myself back.
I get up each morning and dust off my wits,
Pick up the paper and read the “obits”;
If my name is still missing, I know I’m not dead
So I get a good breakfast and go back to bed.

Anon.

Don’t know about you but it made me smile. Thank you Margaret and thank you Anon, I know how you feel!

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 – Hazel Ballan, Bert Barnhurst, Brian Bouchard, Angela Clifford, Clive Gilbert, Jeremy Harte, Margaret Jones, Elaine Parker and Peter Reed. But, to keep the momentum going we need more so I make no apologies in repeating this message 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
- intriguing Information Requests
- forthcoming projects or events
- interesting facts about local history or genealogy
- new research documents the LFHC has received
- 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.

Items are welcome from volunteers, friends and readers of 'Lives & Times' wherever you are in the world.

The next publication date will probably be in late Spring, as long as your contributions keep providing material. With the current constraints on socialising, you could even have time on your hands to find something to interest and intrigue us.

Ian Parker – January 2021

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 the Epsom and Ewell Local and Family History Centre, located in Ewell Library at Bourne Hall, Ewell is here to help you.

Opening Hours

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

***Regrettably, under the current Covid-19 pandemic regulations
the History Centre is not open to visitors.***

However, you can email us with your enquiries about Local and Family History at

EpsomandEwellLHC@yahoo.co.uk

and our volunteers will do their utmost to respond.

***Alternatively, check our website: <https://eehe.org.uk> where you will find
a wealth of information about Epsom & Ewell.***

Hopefully we will be back to normal opening hours before too long.

Take a look at our History Explorer Website

<https://eehe.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 WWI 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