

Covid-19 means the Local History Centre is missing . . . but not gone.

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.

As a consequence of the global pandemic and the government's lockdown, Surrey Libraries announced that all libraries would be closed from "5.30pm on Friday, 20th March 2020 for the foreseeable future." Since our interface with the public is from an office within the library we, of course, closed too.

The good news is that 22 weeks later, Surrey Libraries announced that Ewell Library would partially re-open on Tuesday 18th August 2020. However, the usual precautions were in place: restricted opening hours 10.00am-2.00pm, social distancing, wearing of face masks, track-and-trace forms, a one-way system, a limited number of people admitted at any one time and hand-sanitisers readily available.

However, as we prepare this article the Local History Centre remains closed and we are not clear when it might re-open.

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 <https://eehe.org.uk> Try it out, you'll be amazed at what it covers.

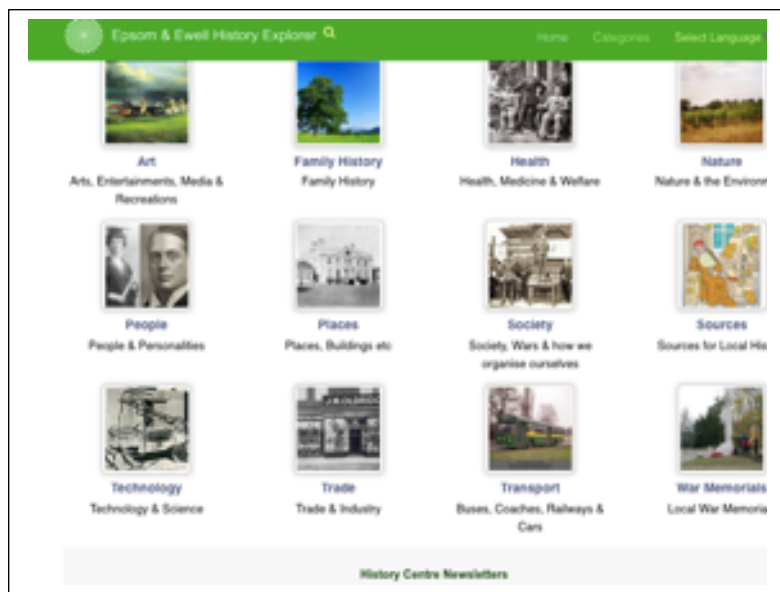
Also, if you have an urgent enquiry and can't find the answer on the website, our email address is still available and, bearing in mind we are excluded from our office, our volunteers will do their best to respond and help you. The email address is EpsomandEwellLHC@yahoo.co.uk.

All things being well, if everyone co-operates to limit the spread of the virus and a vaccine is successfully developed, we would hope for a rapid return to our office in the library, providing assistance and guidance to those researching their local and family history. Keep safe.

Ian Parker

On behalf of the LHC team

1st September 2020



The History Explorer website: <https://eehe.org.uk>

Life during the Covid-19 Pandemic

The Pictures say it all



Post Box bonnets in the High Street and Church Road



Old Cottage Hospital Surgery, usually busy with full car park



Messages at the entrance to doctor's surgery and adjoining pharmacy



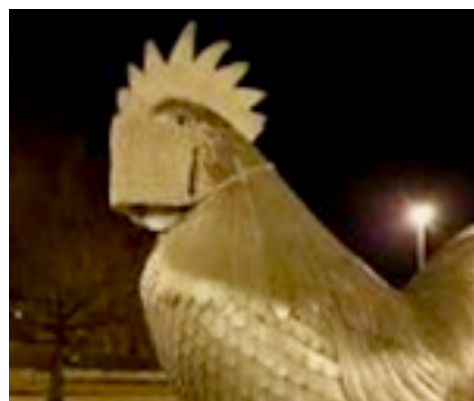
Supporting the NHS



Tattenham Corner and The Grandstand on Derby Day, 4th July 2020. Not a soul in sight. The race was run behind closed doors but shown on television. The runaway winner, by five-and-half lengths, was Serpentine (25-1), trained by Aiden O'Brien, ridden by Emmet McNamara, second was Khalifa Sat (50-1) with Amhran Na Bhfiann third (66-1).



Ye Olde Kings Head – ready to re-open

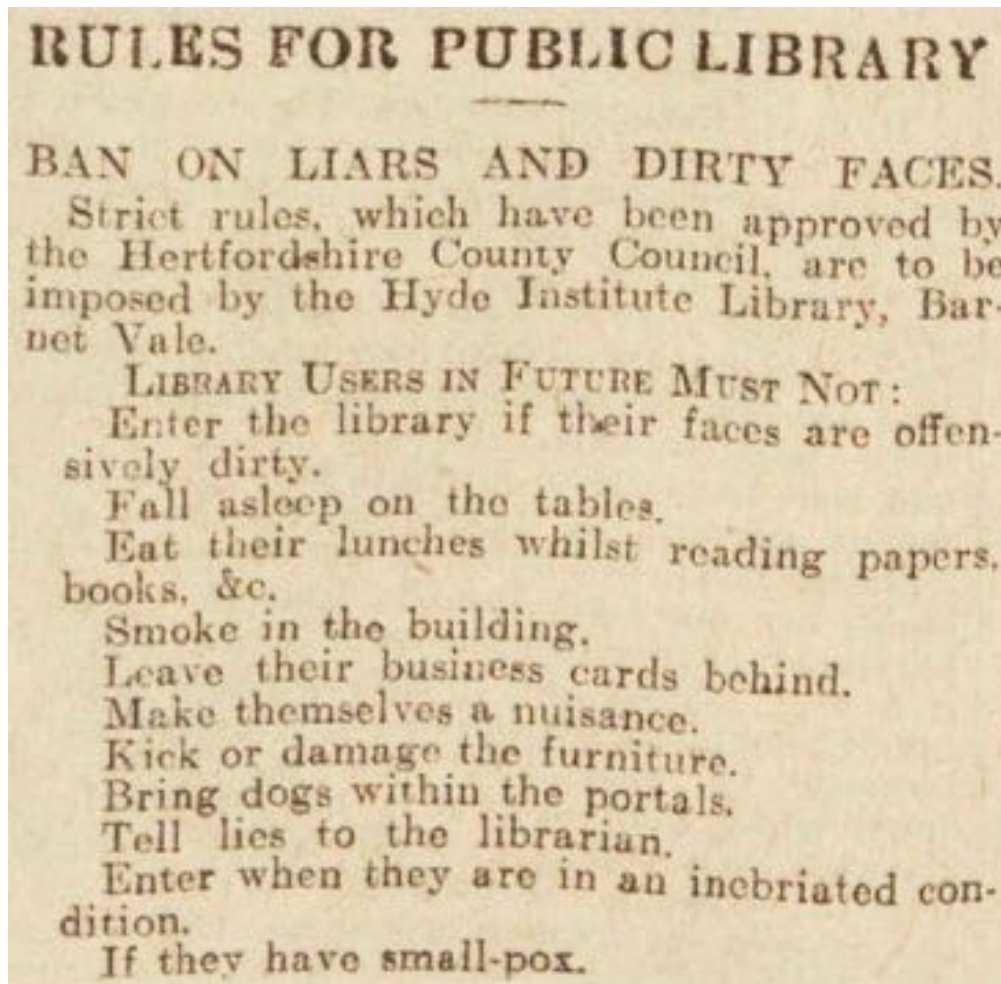


The Dorking Cockerel – suitably attired

Library Rules – Do they still apply?

From Hazel Ballan

I was browsing on Facebook recently and came across the following Rules for Hertfordshire libraries published in 1930. For some strange reason, they were found on the National Library of Scotland Twitter page. I wonder if they still apply? Maybe the last rule, if changed to Covid-19.



Reading this, one could conclude life must have been quite challenging in Hertfordshire libraries – Ed.

Source: <https://twitter.com/natlibscot/status/948534260675305474?lang=en>

Where there's a Will, there's a tale.

By Elaine Parker

Herewith is the Last Will and Testament of Thomas Jeudwine

I, Thomas Jeudwine, of Pit Place Epsom Surrey being of sound mind and memory etc. etc. do hereby make my last Will and Testament this 10th day of May 1815. Whereas my daughters have behaved in a most unnatural manner for some years past without just cause and instituted suits against me in various Courts by which their consequences I have been defrauded of above ten thousand pounds. On Monday May 9, 1814 I was arrested at their suit for a Balln (*sic*) of £51 altho (*sic*) was paid to Mr Holloway's Agent on Saty (*sic*) May 6th one of their trustees. I do therefore hereby bequeath to the said Mary and Ann Jeudwine only one shilling as a punishment for conduct to a father so horrible. And whereas Sarah Agate my housekeeper has treated me with the kindness and attention I had a right to expect from my daughters and having had two boys by me one christened Thomas the other Henry I do hereby give and bequeath to each of them three thousand pounds good and lawful money of Great Britain viz Nine thousand pounds to be invested in Bank Securities the interest thereof to be for the sole and separate use of the said Sarah

Agate and her two sons above mentioned and so long as she shall remain unmarried and single should she be so foolish and inconsiderate as to marry then in that case sd (*sic*) interest of sd bank securities shall from the day of sd marriage be the sole and whole property of sd Thomas and Henry her sons until they arrive at the age of twenty one years when it shall be for the purpose of enabling them to gain their livelihood by some respectable business profession or calling.

(As well as owning Pit Place, Thomas Jeudwine also owned Pit Place Farm and 112 acres of meadow, pasture, and arable land, stables, barns, cottages and various other properties in Aberdeen and Banstead. The will instructed that all were to be sold and . . .)

Whatever surplus may remain I hereby direct it shall be divided between sd Sarah Agate and her two sons Thomas and Henry ditto.

I must say, when I first saw this Will I was puzzled. What had the daughters done to deserve such harsh treatment? But like all family dramas there's a lot more to this tale.

Mr. Thomas Jeudwine was a gentleman of Huguenot ancestry. A merchant of Silk and Velvet, with a company in Basinghall Street in the City of London. In 1791 on the proceeds of a hard won and thriving business he was able to achieve his long-held dream by the acquisition of a property of some importance that had more than a little notoriety attached, notably Pit Place in Church Street, Epsom, which would bring him, certainly in his eyes, the ultimate reward, a position in polite society.



Pit Place by John Hassells c. 1816

Sometime around the turn of the century Thomas and his wife Penelope separated leaving him to bring up his two daughters, Mary Penelope and Ann. His business in London continued to flourish along with a number of lucrative property investments. But life gradually started to change for the Jeudwine family not, it seems, for the better. After working hard to achieve a respected place in society his irrational behaviour gave cause for eyebrows to be raised. Thomas began to appear irascible and more than a little unpredictable. Over the years he was to appear in a number of court cases.

In 1800 he became embroiled in a fracas when a Petty Constable arrived at Pit Place to serve a writ on Mrs Field, his then housekeeper, for her assault on one of the servants. After a heated discussion Thomas eventually resorted to a physical attack on the constable. This led to a court appearance at Guildford Assizes where, despite being found guilty, he was granted bail. 1806 saw Thomas before a Magistrate at Bow Street on a charge of sending an anonymous letter threatening to kill a High Bailiff and County Magistrate. After considerable negotiation he was once again admitted to bail.

By 1815 life in Pit Place was changed. As someone who enjoyed a flamboyant lifestyle discretion had never been Thomas's watchword and this was in part his undoing. A family dispute had taken place some years earlier causing a great rift between Thomas and his two daughters. It began with the employment of a new housekeeper, Sarah Agate. It would be presumed that once she had settled in the household would run like clockwork. But that was not to be the case. In due course the housekeeper gave birth to a baby boy who was openly accepted by Thomas and given the name Thomas. This threw the whole household above and below stairs into complete disarray. For the daughters, Mary Penelope and Ann, the situation was beyond the limits of tolerance and scandalised and embarrassed them.

They left Epsom and took up residence at their own suite of rooms in London. Their fury and shame knew no bounds and they retaliated in a manner corresponding to the circumstances in which they found themselves. Consequently, on a number of occasions they were to apply successfully to various courts to initiate criminal proceedings against their father. This, according to an enraged Thomas, had the unfortunate result in relieving him of a great deal of money. This situation was further aggravated by the arrival of a second baby who was named Henry. Thomas doted on his illegitimate sons seemingly in preference to his two daughters, which is clearly demonstrated in his Will.

After years of family conflict Thomas appears to have decided that the time had finally come for him to leave his much-loved Pit Place and both his legitimate and illegitimate offspring and retire abroad. In 1817 an advertisement appeared in *The Times* of a 'Sale by Auction – An Elegant Freehold Villa and Estate, Epsom, Surrey, the property of Thomas Jeudwine Esq., who is going to reside on the continent.'

In fact, Thomas died in England in 1818 and the property was bought by Mr Roland Stevenson and thereafter tenanted first by a Mr Hodgson, MP for Barnstable, followed by Mr Richard Digby Neave who was to purchase the property in 1848.

Pit Place, the house, no longer exists having been demolished in the 1967 to be replaced by a block of apartments called Pitt Place - Ed

Image courtesy of Surrey Libraries is held at the Epsom & Ewell Local and Family History Centre.

It was only a mop – but quite a story

By Ian Parker

It's surprising what the Bourne Hall Herald of Spring weekend can bring. Sitting in the Local History Centre on that day (7th March 2020) Margaret Jones and I were approached by Mrs Belinda Paul with a mop. But not just any old mop. It was a unique *'Homeware Rapid Self-Wringing Mop - which not only saves hands and knees but is also excellent for rubber and tile floors'*. Mrs Paul was interested in knowing a little bit more about the company that made it.

Our research showed that the 'Self-Wringing Mop', patent no. 293289, was manufactured by Homeware Co. (Hook) Ltd. According to an entry in the catalogue for the 1929 British Industries Fair, the company manufactured Mops, Scrubbers, Dusting Gloves, Hand Dusters, Pudding Basin Covers, Fur Collectors, Hand Cleaners, Non-tearable Leathers, Mop Shampoo, Dry Process Window Cleaner, Boot Wipers, Meat Safes, Dish Covers, Scrubs, Stove Brushes.

Originally built as a corn and fruit store when Hook was a small farming village, the building became the Homeware factory in 1924 run by three brothers, Bill, Roland and Jimmy Long, with up to 20 employees producing their range of mops, soaps and polishes. After the building was demolished in the 1960s, it was redeveloped as a supermarket in the early seventies for Bishops but after a fire in 1984 it re-opened as Budgens until the millennium.



The Homeware Co (Hook) Ltd factory which stood on the Hook Road making mops and polishes. It was formerly a fruit stores.

The 'Self-Wringing Mop' has been donated by Mrs Bell to Jeremy Harte, Curator of Bourne Hall Museum.



Sources: 'Hook Remembered' and 'Hook Remembered Again' both by Davison and available in the Local History section of Ewell Library
[https://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Homeware_Co_\(Hook\)](https://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Homeware_Co_(Hook))



A photographic conundrum - times four!

'Oh, what a tangled web we weave'

Some time ago, in 2019, we had an email from Canada, from Mavis Legg, who lives near Vancouver, British Columbia, in a place called, would you believe, Surrey. She had contacted us to be included on the mailing list for 'Lives & Times', which we were delighted to do. We enquired as to why someone from Vancouver was interested in 'L&T'. Mavis explained that she periodically goes through the material on the Epsom & Ewell History Explorer website – <https://eehe.org.uk> - to see what has been added because her grandfather, Arthur Harry Legg, was born in Ewell in 1854.

But, more to the point, Mavis has copies of four old photographs that were found in a cousin's album. They are by Epsom photographer, Cuthbert J. Hopkins, and she has been trying to determine how the sitters fit within her family tree and the approximate dates the photos were taken.

Mavis adds "I've been very interested in the research project that your colleague, Linda Jackson, has been working on regarding the Hopkins' photographs. I've perused the photos published on the web, looking carefully at the props and backgrounds to see if I'll find any clues that will help me in my project".

We should note here that Mavis is referring to a sequence of photos copied from glass plates taken by Cuthbert Hopkins of Epsom. They are studio portraits and it can be seen from the ages of the sitters that they were taken over a period of

about thirty years in the 1860s to 1880s. The sitters, who were well-to-do members of local society, are identified by surname only. A major research programme has and is being undertaken to try and identify the sitters and results to date are featured on the website as 'Victorian Studio Photographs' - <https://eehe.org.uk/?p=24113>. These copies of the glass plates are in the possession of Bourne Hall Museum - ED

Mavis went on to explain that her grandfather was born in Ewell: Arthur Harry Legg, baptized July 30, 1854 at St Mary's. His parents were Henry William Legg and Mary Wigham Hards. She'd like to think the two photographs (below left) are of Henry and Mary but hasn't been able to verify this. The other two photos are of a small boy and a small girl and they appear to be sitting on a fur rug.



The mystery photographs – who are these people?

Mavis adds "I've gone through all your posts hoping to see the same props and backgrounds. No luck! The props and backgrounds in your project are quite consistent - the same chairs, desk, column, draperies are used repeatedly. I couldn't find any photos with my props or backgrounds. I've researched fashion for the time period. It hasn't helped! Any thought that you might have as to how I should proceed would be greatly appreciated".

Linda Jackson responded: "Off the top of my head, I think these are significantly later than the batch of photos we showed on the website, so quite possibly they were taken in his later studio. When Cuthbert started all this in his original premises he seemed to have one large bolt of cloth (he was a draper then and did the photography as a side-line), which got artfully draped about variously, a plinth, a bust and various other bits and bobs. Eventually he moved to a place called Hampden House, which was a bit more upmarket, and I think your photos probably date from that era. He got better at the job – and had more money. He moved to Hampden House between 1881 and 1891 and died in 1916. It's also interesting that Arthur Legg's mother was a Hards – a familiar name, there were a lot of them in Epsom & Ewell, mostly involved in various trades – you may have seen their story, The Hards of Ewell, at <https://eehe.org.uk/?p=25561>".

Mavis replied: "Your comments on possible timing are very useful. Perhaps the adults were Arthur Harry Legg (my grandfather) and his wife, Emily Louisa Curtis. They were married in 1887 and their first child, Emily Mercy Legg, was born in 1889. The cousins with the photo album did have a photo of Emily Mercy which was taken at Christmas 1890. My father was the next child (Henry William Legg) - born in 1890 and then there was another girl (Alice Mary) born in 1892. Perhaps these children are my father and Alice Mary. Definitely something to pursue.

"Mary Wigham Hards was the daughter of William Hards and Mable Whitfield. William died in 1827 and Mable died in 1835. Mable's second husband was Lewis Chadband (1792 - 1864). Lewis also shows up on the Epsom and Ewell website in connection with the Jolly Waggoner public house and the King's Head. Lewis was in gaol (debtors' prison) at the time of the 1841 census. I've been able to trace Mary Wigham Hards ancestry back to Cuthbert Wigham who was a prominent Quaker in the Northumberland area. We visited the Quaker Meeting House there in September 2018. There are still Wighams in the area. The Hards family featured on the History Explorer website were related to our Hards."

Linda Jackson then commented: "First impressions, these photos are too glamorous for our collection of earlier Cuthberts and are likely to be much later. So now we have a Chadband in the plot, which is even more interesting, as we know something of them. There's an ancient poem by Sir Walter Scott, which contains the words, 'oh, what a tangled web we weave', and this is certainly a tangle at present. However, you have sparked off a thread of connections between various known local families and I will have a look at it all. Take a look at <https://eehe.org.uk/?p=25693> where a large part of a story was staring us in the face all the time, but we didn't spot it because we were off on some other scent."

The final word so far comes from Mavis: "Linda has given me some very good pointers and I feel that I'm making progress with the photos. I think I now am focusing on the correct generation and just have to determine which son it is (along with his wife and children)".

Well done Mavis for persevering, we hope you can crack the problem, and thank you Linda for your help and guidance. So, the search continues, It just shows how complex genealogy research can become, especially when it comes to photographs. One solution, and I know it's a pain, is to make sure you write on the back of all photographs what the subject is, the date and who the people are so that future generations have an easier time with their research – Ed.

Four years help in the making of a Family Tree leads to a big ‘thank you’.

The discovery of a certificate presented to a Mabel Roffey in 1901 by the Girls Friendly Society for ‘Eleven years faithful discharge of duties in the employment of her own parents’ triggered Bill Robson’s interest in his family history. Bill’s grandmother was born in Epsom and so to find out more he came to the Epsom & Ewell Local and Family History Centre to begin his research. There he met volunteers Hazel Ballan and Peter Reed. This was in 2014, and over the years Hazel and Peter helped him with his family tree research.

By 2018 Bill had, in his eyes, a fairly complete tree so in August 2019 he, together with his granddaughter, made a trip up from his home in Southampton to present a copy of his Family History and Tree, including BMD certificates and numerous photographs, to the History Centre for our archives. It can be viewed by anyone interested in putting together a family history. Bill also presented his Grandmother’s Girls’ Friendly Society framed certificate, ‘for being a good girl for her parents’, to Jeremy Harte, curator, Bourne Hall Museum.



Jeremy Harte (left), Hazel Ballan and Bill Robson, grandson of Mabel Roffey, with a copy of the GFS certificate and Bill’s Family History

Transcript of Bill Roffey’s thank you letter:

“5th August 2019

To all the people who have helped me with my family tree searches, this is to say a genuine thank you. Allowing me to take a photo of you, Hazel, and Jeremy for my records. A copy will go to my cousin Paula in Omaha as she is the person who prompted my searches of the Roffey and Haynes families. I can assure you your help has been excellent. I was naive about family trees and very much the amateur when I started. I am still the amateur but getting better! A big thank you to all the volunteers, including Peter. By chance you, Hazel, were my first point of contact. I wouldn’t expect you to remember, I do. Your help has been immense over the years. My searches will continue so expect some more questions.

Again, a very sincere and genuine thank you for all your help with the Roffeys, the Haynes and the Johnson families.”

Inventory of a Life Lieutenant John Harcourt Welby Hart From Clive Gilbert

Back in the 1980s I bought several WW1 commemorative memorial plaques. The plaques, about 4.75 inches (120 mm) in diameter, were cast in bronze and came to be known as the ‘Dead Man’s Penny’ because of the similarity in appearance to the much smaller, pre-decimal penny coin. They were given to the relatives of men and women whose deaths were attributable to the Great War.

One of the plaques was for John Harcourt Welby Hart. With the help of volunteer Hazel Ballan, I began researching John’s background and found he was a member of the University and Public Schools Brigade (UPS).

Just three weeks after War was declared on 4 August 1914 the idea of the UPS was formed. It took just 24 days to recruit 5,000 men from universities and public schools of which 3,250 were billeted in Epsom and the rest between Ashted and Leatherhead. Later on, a camp was established at Woodcote Park in Epsom, home of the RAC Club - Ed.

John enlisted on 15th September 1914 aged 27 as Private No. 1595 into the 18th (Service) Battalion Royal Fusiliers. He went to France with the



*Lt. John Harcourt Welby Hart’s
WW1 Commemorative Plaque*

battalion on 14th November 1915 where he remained until 21st March 1916. On 1st April 1916 he was transferred to No. 3 Officers Cadet Battalion in Bristol for officer training and was commissioned on 10th July 1916. On 1st December 1916 John went to Mesopotamia (Iraq) attached to the 1st Battalion Manchester regiment. He was Mentioned in Despatches on 2nd November 1917 and promoted to Lieutenant on 7th January 1918. On 10th April 1918 the battalion left Basra and went to Palestine. John's service record states that he was recommended for a Military Cross on 17th May 1918 but it appears that the award was not ratified.

John was Killed in action on 20th September 1918, age 31. At the time his battalion, part of the 8th Jullunder Brigade, 3rd (Lahore) Division, was fighting in the Battle of Sharon (19th-25th September 1918).

It is a sad story, John having gone so far through the war to die just a month before the end. However, what we uncovered in our research was a very interesting, detailed and precise inventory of John's belongings which somehow shines a light on John as a person because of its focus on the minutiae of life.

On 2nd October 1918 Staff Captain Gerald U.B. Roos forwarded by registered post to Messrs Cox & Co, Shipping agents, the following:

<i>Revolver, holster & lanyard</i>	<i>Book of stamps</i>	<i>3 Discs</i>
<i>Passbook (Cox)</i>	<i>A.B. 439</i>	<i>4 stars</i>
<i>2 cheque books (partly used) & 8 blank cheques</i>	<i>Fountain pen & metal holder</i>	
	<i>Badge</i>	

John's service papers contain a long inventory of his belongings dated 8th October 1918:

1 Wooden box containing

<i>Correspondence</i>	<i>4 Puttees, pr.</i>	<i>1 Waterproof sheet</i>	<i>2 Pipes</i>	<i>1 British Warm, 2 stars</i>
<i>2 Electric torches</i>	<i>1 Wallet</i>	<i>1 Cardigan</i>	<i>1 Boots, ankle, pr.</i>	<i>1 Blanket</i>
<i>1 Body belt</i>	<i>1 Stockings, pr.</i>	<i>5 refills</i>	<i>1 Towel</i>	
<i>2 Socks</i>	<i>1 Gumboots, pr.</i>	<i>1 Curio, crescent</i>	<i>5 Socks, prs.</i>	
<i>2 Books</i>	<i>Mosquito net</i>	<i>1 Spine pad</i>	<i>1 Breeches, pr.</i>	
<i>5 Collars</i>	<i>1 Fur-lined coat</i>	<i>1 shoetrees, pr.</i>	<i>1 K.D. Tunic</i>	

1 Wooden box containing

<i>8 Shirts</i>	<i>1 Watch case, empty</i>	<i>1 Mattress</i>	<i>1 Books</i>	<i>1 Towel</i>
<i>1 Slippers, pr.</i>	<i>1 S.D. Slacks, pr.</i>	<i>1 Correspondence, tin</i>	<i>1 S.D. Tunic</i>	
<i>1 Gloves, pr.</i>	<i>1 Stockings, pr.</i>	<i>4 Handkerchiefs</i>	<i>1 Breeches, pr.</i>	

1 Uniform case containing

<i>1 Medicines, box</i>	<i>1 Wooden curio</i>	<i>13 Collars</i>	<i>1 Waistbelt</i>	<i>1 S.D. Tunic, 2 badges</i>
<i>2 Shirts</i>	<i>1 Electric bulb</i>	<i>1 S.B. Brace</i>	<i>1 Sterilising tablets, bottle</i>	<i>1 Muffler</i>
<i>1 Card-case</i>	<i>1 S.D. Slacks, pr.</i>	<i>1 Thermometer in case</i>	<i>1 Visiting cards, box</i>	<i>1 Razor strop</i>
<i>1 address book</i>	<i>3 underpants, pr.</i>	<i>1 Water bottle & strap</i>	<i>4 Handkerchiefs</i>	<i>1 Notecase</i>
<i>1 S.D. Cap & badge</i>	<i>1 Towel</i>	<i>1 Wallet</i>	<i>2 Stockings, pr.</i>	<i>1 Glove, odd</i>
<i>1 ammunition pouch</i>	<i>2 Undervests</i>	<i>1 Notebook, small</i>	<i>1 Breeches, pr.</i>	<i>1 Sword frog</i>
<i>1 Brass curio</i>	<i>3 Ties</i>	<i>1 Knife</i>	<i>1 Balaclava</i>	<i>1 Dressing gown</i>
<i>1 Safety razor, broken</i>	<i>1 Trench mirror</i>	<i>1 Mess-tin & cover</i>		

John's service papers also contain another smaller inventory of his belongings dated 15th October 1918:

1 Valise containing

<i>1 K.D. Tunic</i>	<i>1 Canvas bath & stand</i>	<i>1 Nail brush</i>	<i>Letters, etc.</i>	<i>1 Address book</i>
<i>1 Pyjama trousers, pr.</i>	<i>1 Canvas bag</i>	<i>1 pipe</i>	<i>1 Shoes, pr.</i>	<i>1 Mirror</i>
<i>1 Air-pillow</i>	<i>1 Sleeping bag</i>	<i>Letters</i>	<i>1 camp chair</i>	<i>1 Shaving brush</i>
<i>5 Collars</i>	<i>2 Socks prs.</i>	<i>2 K.D. Shorts, prs.</i>	<i>1 Canvas basin</i>	<i>1 Toothbrush</i>
<i>1 Braces, pr.</i>	<i>1 Compass</i>	<i>2 Shirt</i>	<i>1 Waterproof sheet</i>	<i>1 Shaving stick</i>
<i>5 Socks</i>	<i>1 Binoculars in case, pr.</i>	<i>1 S.B. Belt, 1 brace</i>	<i>1 S.D. Cap</i>	<i>1 Coin</i>
<i>1 Boots, ankle, pr.</i>	<i>1 Housewife</i>	<i>3 Ties</i>	<i>1 Leather vest</i>	
<i>1 Fleece lining</i>	<i>1 Whistle</i>	<i>1 Soapbox</i>	<i>1 Holdall</i>	

On 21st January 1919 John's father, James Hart, was granted probate at the Exeter Probate Registry, in the sum of £640 16s 4d. John's 1915 Star, British War medal, Victory medal, Plaque and Scroll were sent to his father.

John has no known grave and is commemorated on panel 15 of the Jerusalem Memorial in the Jewish War Cemetery in Israel, which commemorates some 3,320 men with no known graves. John's Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) register entry reads:

HART, Lt. John Harcourt Welby. Devonshire Regt., attd. (Adj.) 1st Bn. Manchester Regt. Twice Mentioned in Despatches. 20th September 1918 Age 31. Son of James and Annetta Emily Hart, of 38, Glenhouse Road, Eltham Park.

Like many families of the time, the Hart family was not without other sad tales. John had three brothers and two sisters. Two younger brothers also died during the First World War – Cecil James Welby of the London Regiment on 21st October 1915 in France from wounds, age 25, and Bertram Welby, a Sub-Lieutenant, on 24th January 1915 accidentally shot whilst on sick leave, age 22 – See the report at <https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/two-officers-killed-accidentally-by-sentry/>. Victoria May Welby, John's youngest sister, died in 1934 at the tender age of 36. But his older sister, Rosalie Melita, lived to the ripe old age of 84 dying in 1971, as did his youngest brother, Gerald Welby, who was 83 when he died in 1978.

Further information about Lieut. Hart and his life and family can be found at <https://eehe.org.uk/?p=28340#HartJHW>

Poetic Genealogy in the Churchyard

By Elaine Parker

Whilst researching the lives of some of the people who lie buried in the old churchyard of St Martin of Tours, Epsom's Parish Church, I found a quiet, reflective and gently humorous poem written about this very place written by Hubert Nicholson, the founder member of the Epsom Poetry Society (formed in 1950), for he too had wandered between these upright, leaning stones.

The Gossips

By Hubert Nicholson

The leafiest way, I easily mistake
The upright stones for people underneath
And see them standing once more, leaning a little,
Putting their stony heads together, taking the air.
My dog runs round their feet. I pause at a decent distance,
Reluctant to appear like a ghost among them.
The breeze, twinkling down through the silver birch,
Brings me their quiet unexcited voices.
If you want to know what they say, have only to drink
In The Olde King's Head, or hear the talk in the market
Where once they loitered, cheapening and chaffering.
Rose Tanner, departed 1763, aged 82, but still legible;
Cathrin Curson, who frowned or curtsied to Nell Gwynn;
Young David White, bricklayer, who made his pile,
Died without issue, and "left the poor his heirs,"
And old R.D., a wretched sinner, who outwore the Civil War.
When I approach, I find they are back in their beds
For they tire quickly and have nothing new to report.



Hubert Nicholson
1908-1996



"The upright stones . . . leaning a little"

Hubert Nicholson was born in Hull in January 1908, son of a printer. He first moved to Epsom after the second world war but then returned to London. He finally moved back to Epsom in 1967 and died in Epsom on the 11th January 1996. His books include 'Half My Days and Nights' and 'Selected Poems 1930- 80.

- Rose Tanner was buried on 11th May 1763 age 82. Her grave location number is 423.
- Cathrin Curson was buried on 7th April 1719 age 54. Her husband, John, died a month later and was buried in the same grave on 14th May 1719. Their location number is 31
- David White was buried on 11th February 1725 age 39. His bequest, which the poem hints at, was £30 per annum to the children of the parish of Epsom and the same to the children of the parishes of Ewell, Astead (*sic*) and Leatherhead plus £10 per annum to the children of Abbots Langley in Hartford (*sic*) 'for better instruction in reading and writing.' His location number is 269.
- The 'wretched sinner', RD, was buried on 14th October 1741. His location number is 41. Buried close by (location number 37) is another 'wretched sinner' named as just ID, buried 24th January 1742, age just 21; are they related?



*The graves of Rose Tanner (left),
Cathrin Curson (left centre),
David White (right centre) and
RD (right)*



The Burial Index, which lists all the burials in St Martin's and their grave location numbers, the Gravestone Inscriptions, which links to images of the gravestones, and Maps of the graveyard showing the location of the graves, can be found on the following three websites:

Burial Index: <https://eehe.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/StMartinsGraveyardIndex.pdf>

Inscriptions: <https://eehe.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/EpsomMonuments1.pdf>

Maps: <https://eehe.org.uk/?p=25528>

A mysterious hoax at Epsom College

Webmaster Peter Reed came across this newspaper story, dated 1931, on eBay. It's a strange puzzle and the newspaper seemed to take it quite seriously and has given us a fairly detailed report, involving quite a lot of research. But they note it took place on April Fool's Day so they must have realised it was probably a schoolboy jape that initially fooled a lot of people before it went a bit viral. Still, it was good of the headmaster to be so discreet and not tell us who dreamed it up, or did the hoaxer really want us to know? Maybe Madame Tussaud's Exhibition should create a waxwork of this mysterious, master hoaxer.



A MYSTERIOUS MR. HARRIS

MANY "KINSMEN" HOAXED

Many people were last week made the victims of an elaborate hoax—a day before All Fools' Day. They received a letter, purporting to be written by solicitors, inviting them to be present at a meeting of "legatees" at Epsom College, to hear the reading of a will made by a former master. The majority of the recipients of the letter seem to have been names Harris, corresponding with that of the mythical testator, but either because the supply of names ran out, or for more subtle reasons, the hoaxers also selected a number of people whose surnames begin with "D" or "G".

Whatever pleasant anticipatory feeling were aroused by the letter were quickly changed to wrath when it was found that, the telephone numbers given on the notepaper were those of Mme. Tussaud's Exhibition, that the address was that of a boarding house, that no such firm of solicitors existed, and that "John Sebastian Harris, deceased," had lived and died only in the imagination of the letter-writers.

The secretary to Madame Tussaud's Exhibition stated that between 50 and 60 inquiries had been made by telephone from people named Harris. "At first," he said, "they seemed to think we were the authors of the letter for advertising purposes and were very annoyed, but we assured them that we had had nothing to do with the hoax and had been equally annoyed."

The bursar of the College, Major W. L. Giffard, said:- "The whole thing is a hoax from beginning to end. There has been no master named John Sebastian Harris at this school, and there is no firm of solicitors named Thomas and Gifford. Many persons called at the college and several others telephoned."

The identity of the person who perpetrated the hoax became known on the following day when a young man just under 20 years of age, an old boy of the school, made, a voluntary confession that he was the perpetrator of the hoax. He was all contrition, and assured the headmaster that in the first instance his intention was only to have a joke with some of his friends living in his own vicinity, but as it dawned on him that they might discover who the sender of the letter was it was circulated only in the district in which he lived, he sent the letter out to people in other districts.

The headmaster, in a statement, said that the matter would be dealt with domestically, and that he did not intend to reveal the boy's name because he was convinced that he was genuinely sorry for what he had done and he did not want to prejudice his future.

Well, would you Adam and Eve it? There's a Cockney Museum in Stoneleigh!

By Bert Barnhurst

A neighbour of mine, knowing of my connection with the History Centre, recently asked me if I knew where the Pearly King and Queen exhibition was in Stoneleigh? It's the first I've heard of it, and so the hunt was on! The museum does exist due to a lot of work by George Major who I realised I first knew of some thirty years ago when I met him in his Pearly King of Peckham regalia.

The Museum is the dream that came to him some 60 odd years ago to preserve the tradition of the Pearly Kings and Queens. George is very keen to show how the first Pearly families started, going back to the days of Henry Croft born in 1862. It features what life was like for the poor of London and the extent of the Pearlies' charitable work in helping one and all.

Pathé News reported that there were some 400 Pearly Kings, Queens, Princes and Princesses at Henry Croft's funeral in 1930, but that now there are just a handful, which is why George wants to highlight their traditions so that the Pearly charity work can continue.



Much of the Museum is divided into Streets, such as Poverty Street, Market Street, and King and Queen Street, to show how people lived in the early days. Also, if you fancy a cup of Rosie Lee or Everton Toffee there's a restaurant serving pie and mash.

George was delighted when on the 7th August this year The Cockney Museum in Stoneleigh was formally opened by the Mayor of Epsom and Ewell, Councillor Humphrey Reynolds.

You might be surprised with just what you can feast your mince pies on if you take a ball and chalk down the frog and toad with the trouble and strife and take a butchers at George's Cockney Museum in Stoneleigh.

The Cockney Museum is located at the rear of 31 Stoneleigh Broadway, Epsom KT17 2JE

<http://www.originalcockneymuseum.com/>

The Museum is normally open from 10.00am – 4.00pm every day; large groups by appointment only, and if in any doubt please phone 07884 341897

Cockney Rhyming Slang Translation: Adam and Eve – believe; Butchers (butcher's hook) – look; Rosie Lee – tea; Everton Toffee – coffee; Mince Pies – eyes; Ball and Chalk – walk; Frog and Toad – road; Trouble and Strife – wife

Useful Source: The Dictionary of cockney rhyming slang

<http://happy2movelondon.co.uk/complete-dictionary-of-cockney-rhyming-slang/>

Request for volunteers to help research Horton Cemetery graves

From Kev McDonnell

Horton Estate Cemetery occupies about 4.5 acres, and holds the remains of about 8,500 men, women and children who ended their days in the Epsom Hospitals Cluster and were buried as paupers. The cemetery was sold by the NHS to a property developer in 1983. It has since become completely overgrown and used as a dumping ground for building rubble, unwanted electrical appliances, and other rubbish.

It is the largest derelict hospital cemetery in the UK, and it is in Epsom & Ewell Borough. Apparently, permission to build on this land has been refused, but with the ever-increasing demand for building land the developer presumably hopes that eventually resistance to development will stop. Other hospital cemeteries have been built on.

A group of local residents are trying to get the ground protected from development in perpetuity and cleaned up so that the cemetery occupants, most of whom may still have relatives alive today, are shown the respect they deserve.

To help us achieve this objective we have been doing statistical research on the cemetery and its residents and are now embarking on a project to bring the occupants “back to life” by researching their lives wherever possible. By telling the stories of the people buried there we hope that, when the time comes, we will have stories of enough cemetery occupants to be able to rally mass public support for the protection of the ground. At the moment the thousands of people buried there, mostly from London boroughs, are forgotten people. But they are real people from families that continue today and are part of the story of London from the last half of the 19th century well in to the 20th century. The stories that we have so far researched tell a story of hard work, poverty, the workhouse, abandonment, sadness and joy. Their stories need to be told.

With so many people buried there we need volunteer researchers to help us tell these stories. Some people may already have access to genealogical tools such as *Ancestry* and *Find My Past* at home, but these tools are also available to use free in our public libraries when they reopen. Using tools like this, the stories of the people buried in the cemetery can be built quite quickly.

Some of the other things we are looking for, that would help us tell as complete a story of the cemetery as possible are:

- Photos of the cemetery.
- Documents about the cemetery or its residents
- Memories of the cemetery, especially from people that worked there as grave diggers or on ground maintenance.
- Memories of people that are buried there.

And last, but not least, a map! We have all the grave numbers, but nobody has been able to come up with a map of the cemetery layout, showing which grave numbers are where and how graves were laid out either side of the central path.

If you can help with any of these things or you know people that may be able to help, please contact us at email address hortoncemetery@gmail.com



*Horton Cemetery
photographed on 28 February 1971 by LR James.
Image courtesy of [Epsom & Ewell Local & Family History Centre](#)*

Further additions to the Epsom & Ewell History Explorer website

www.eeche.org.uk

From Peter Reed

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

- Horton Hospital Chapel Baptisms Register from 1902
- Epsom Medical Officer’s Reports 1903 to 1972
- Horton Cemetery - Researchers Needed

- 1936 Street Directories (Post Office) for Epsom, Ewell and Worcester Park
- Mrs Mary Elmslie (1780-1868) and her Orphanage
- 'The Times' Clock Tower – Epsom Downs
- Lord Jack Ashley of Stoke formerly Jack Ashley M.P. 1922-2012
- Arthur Richard Peddie, Private Sherwood Foresters and Far East POW 1942-45
- The story of Ebbisham Hall & The Epsom Brotherhood

You can check them all out, and much more on the 'What's New' page on our website <https://eehe.org.uk/?p=61076>

The power of rote learning

By Ian Parker

When I was at my first school some LXV years ago (yes, we did Latin too), it was a time of 'rote learning', especially of our Times Tables, singing in unison 'two times two equals four', 'two times three equals six' and so on. It worked and anyone who learnt their tables this way can instantly shout back the answer to 'six times seven' without the need of a calculator; yes, you're right, it's forty-two.

My history teacher had this same appreciation of rote learning. He was also was fixated on teaching history through the reigns of various Kings and Queens from 1066, not that there weren't any English monarchs before that date, but I think he was obsessed with the Normans. Anyway, what I sang out each history lesson with the rest of the class all that time ago has never left me and I thought you might like to see it. Starting with William I, winner of the Battle of Hastings.

The Kings and Queens of England from 1066

Willie, Willie, Harry, Ste
Harry, Dick, John, Harry Three
One, Two, Three Neds, Richard Two
 Henry Four, Five, Six, then who?
Edward Four, Five, Dick the Bad
 Harrys' Twain and Ned the Lad
 Mary, Elizabeth, *James the Vain*
Charlie, Charlie, James again
William & Mary, Anne Gloria
 Four Georges, William, Victoria
Edward the Seventh comes next then
George the Fifth in 1910
Edward Eight, George Six, Betty Two



Richard III



Henry VIII



James II



Victoria

The poets among you will notice that the last line from Edward the Eight falls a bit flat. Elaine Parker has suggested an alternative:

Edward the Eighth did abdicate
Leaving George the Sixth as head of state
Elizabeth the Second, a much-loved queen,
Came next and reigns long and supreme

I know it misses out Empress Matilda after Henry I and before Stephen and the Commonwealth between Charles I and II, but you can't have everything.

The next bit of the lesson was to allocate these monarchs to their relevant houses and the ever-efficient history teacher taught us the following mnemonic:

No Plan Like Yours To Study History Wisely

Which stands for:

Norman, *Plantagenet*, Lancaster, *York*, Tudor, *Stuart*, Hannover, *Windsor*

I'm aware that Edward VII was actually the house of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, but it was changed in 1917 by George V to Windsor. And, anyway, Saxe-Coburg and Gotha is a bit difficult to rhyme.

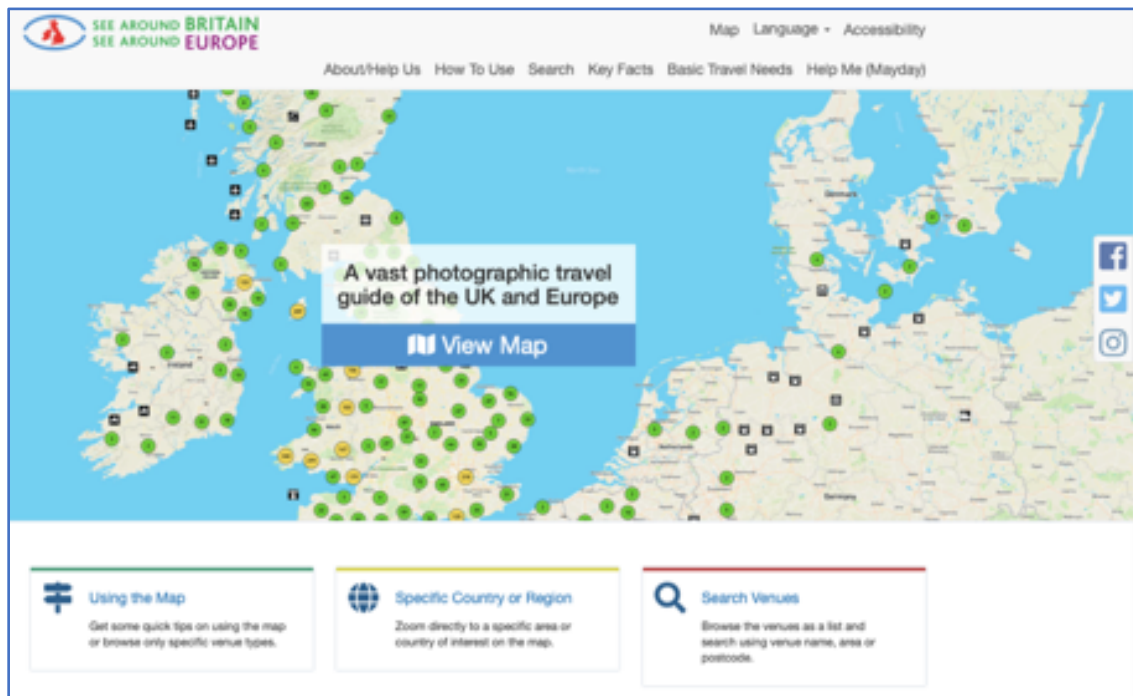
Happy chanting to you.

Image Sources: Richard III: Society of Antiquaries; Henry VIII: Hans Holbein; James II: Peter Lely; Victoria: Alexander Bassano

Ground-breaking disabled travel app's Domesday Survey Opportunities for volunteering

The History Centre has been contacted by the See Around Britain registered charity (no. 116 2172) regarding volunteer opportunities to help build and add to its website <https://seearoundbritain.com>.

See Around Britain is a registered disabled-run UK charity which began with over 500,000 photos taken with no public funding by its founder trustee Marg McNiel, an Irish citizen (his unusual first male name is Norse) who has spent a lifetime in community and heritage education travelling throughout Europe and the British Isles. Born with a mobility impairment and now an ME sufferer he has joined forces with fellow trustees Vin West, MBE and Trevor Palmer, BEM to make the app available to be downloaded free from the Apple and Android Stores. All 3 trustees are pensioners. The charity is located near Carmarthen, Wales.



Their website is fully multilingual in over 60 languages and uses GPS and a comprehensive use of photos to show how to find a venue and discover its attractions and facilities inside, to enable the user to check out if it is suitable for their interests or needs, including families with young children, older citizens, or individuals with a wide range of impairments. It covers a vast range of venues and public places used in everyday life such as post offices or local shops, and transport provision, and a huge number of heritage sites including parish churches, gardens, nature reserves and historic houses.

The 21st-Century Domesday Survey will take it to the next level to increase its coverage further and invite online volunteers of all ages and interests using their smartphones or cameras to visit every kind of venue in their local area and village, to add to the website. Marg explains, "The venue owners that they visit will get an awareness of the varied needs of disabled people, and how to best meet them."

The Survey also has Online volunteering opportunities in writing venue descriptions for the large backlog of photos waiting to be uploaded, social media to raise its profile and admin and editorial support.

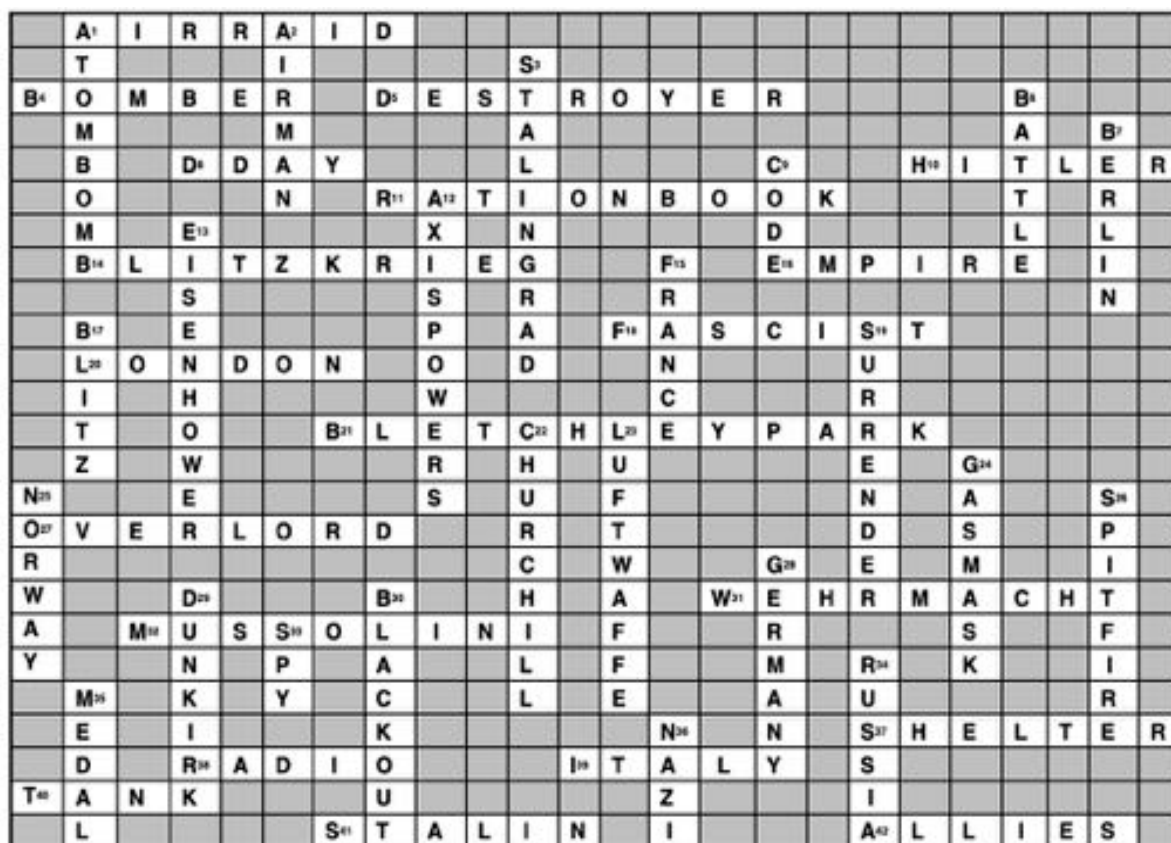
Volunteers can join and get online tutorials, and also submit their Survey photos and videos, at the bottom of the website 'About Us' page at <https://seearoundbritain.com/about-us> and for more information please contact support@seearoundbritain.com

To get a clearer understanding of this project and what it aims to achieve do please click on these links to look at the 2-minute films that featured in the news on [ITV Wales](#) and the [BBC](#)

The answer to the VE Day Anniversary Crossword

In the May 2020 issue of Lives & Times (no.49) Peter Reed offered “A Crossword to celebrate the end of WW2 in Europe – VE Day”. Here are the answers, which we hope you all got right.

As we also said in May, we should not forget the war in the Far East was still going on, and we need to remember the soldiers, sailors, airman and prisoners-of-war that were still struggling and suffering.



Across

- 01 People took shelter from this (3,4)
- 04 Plane for delivering high explosives (6)
- 05 A type of military ship (9)
- 08 When Operation Overlord started (1,3)
- 10 German Leader (6)
- 11 Needed to buy food/clothes etc (6,4)
- 14 The term for lightning war (10)
- 16 Victoria once ruled this (6)
- 18 Italian and Germany Nazism (7)
- 20 Capital of England (6)
- 21 Enigma was decoded here (9,4)
- 27 Code name for Normandy landings (8)
- 31 German armed forces (9)
- 32 He made the Italian trains run on time (9)
- 37 Somewhere to hide during air raids (7)
- 38 A wireless set (5)
- 39 Country of Asti spumante (5)
- 40 Armoured vehicle (4)
- 41 Leader of Russia (6)
- 42 Our Side (6)

Down

- 01 Leaves a mushroom cloud (4,4)
- 02 A flying man (6)
- 03 Major battle in Russia (10)
- 06 Part of a war (6)
- 07 German capital (6)
- 09 Cipher (4)
- 12 The opposition (4,6)
- 13 American general (10)
- 15 Country of the Can-Can (6)
- 17 Intense air bombardment of London (5)
- 19 What the losing side did (9)
- 22 Holy place rise (9)
- 23 German Air force (9)
- 24 Face protection (3,4)
- 25 Capital of this is Oslo (6)
- 26 Famous World War II plane (8)
- 28 The country of the beer stein (7)
- 29 An Evacuation Port (7)
- 30 In the dark (8)
- 33 Violette Szabo was one (3)
- 34 Stalin was its leader (6)
- 35 A gong (5)
- 36 Abbreviation for National Socialism (4)

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, Clive Gilbert, Kev McDonnell, Elaine Parker and Peter Reed. 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
- 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 around the end of the year, as long as our contributors 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 – September 2020

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
1 st Saturday of the month	10.00 am – 4.00 pm
Other Saturdays	By prior appointment

***Regrettably, under the current Covid-19 pandemic
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