

THE POSTAL HISTORY OF EPSOM

1.1 Introduction

This history was written by Les Bond of Cheam, a postal collector and historian, who gave the text to Bourne Hall Museum during 1994. The text arrived at the museum as a number of separate texts which we have arranged into the following parts

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1.2 Some Important Dates

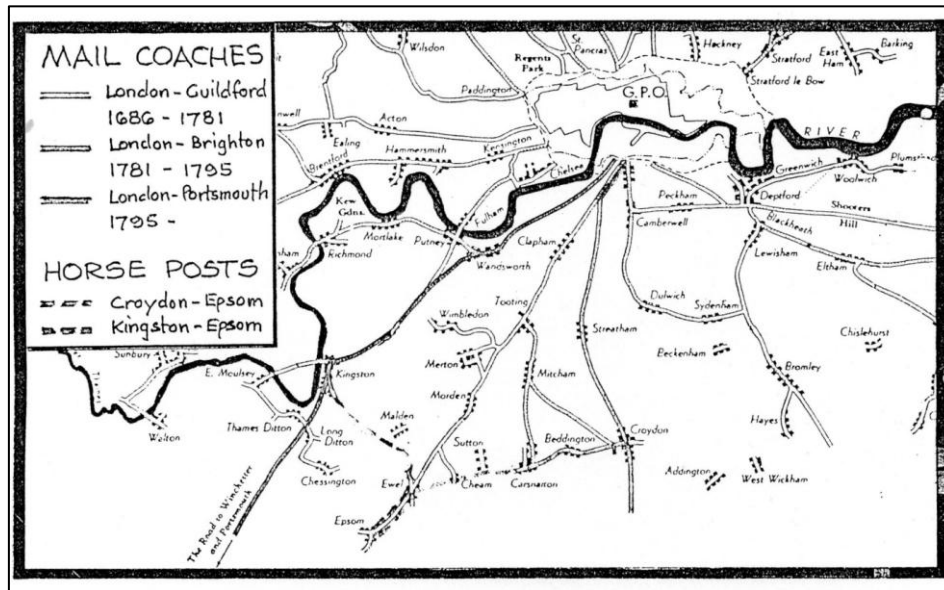
- 1678** A post three times a week to and from the City of London in operation on the Gilford (Guildford) route.
- 1683** A daily post to and from London established on Gilford (Guildford) route. (Probably during summer months only).
- 1756** Epsom on mail route to Dorking and East Grinstead.
- 1769** John Cole appointed deputy (postmaster) at Epsom and Leatherhead.

- 1774** A separate deputy (postmaster) appointed for Leatherhead; John Cole continued to serve as deputy at Epsom.
- 1781** Epsom mail transferred to the Brighton route and dropped off at Croydon.
- 1786** Epsom created a 'Post Town'.
- 1795** Epsom mail again reorganised and transferred to the Portsmouth route and dropped off at Kingston.
- 1802** 5th Clause Posts set up for Ewell, Cheam, Sutton and Banstead.
- 1803** John Cole died aged 76 (the oldest deputy in England at the time); John Parish appointed as his successor.
- 1806** John Parish resigned following allegations of fraud; John Lewis Jaquet appointed as his successor.
- 1834** London Twopenny Post area extended to a 12 mile radius from the GPO to include both Sutton and Cheam; however, both Sutton and Cheam remained under Epsom in respect of the General Post.
- 1836** A Penny Post to Kingswood area approved and a receiving house set up in Walton-on-the-Hill.
- 1838** A Penny Post receiving house set up in Kingswood (Tadworth).
- 1840** Introduction of Uniform Penny Postage – adhesive labels (stamps) and 'Mulready' covers issued.
- 1843** John Lewis Jaquet died aged 79; William Chase Morris Andrews appointed as his successor.
- 1847** London, Brighton and South Coast Railway extended to Epsom; Day-mail bags conveyed by rail, but Night-mail still carried by the Dorking and Kingston mail cart.
- 1857** William Andrews died aged 55; his widow, Lucy Welby Andrews, appointed in his place.
- 1868** Sutton created a 'Post Town' and both Sutton and Cheam completely separated from Epsom.
- 1891** Lucy Welby Andrews retires aged 82; her daughter Mary Anne Andrews appointed as postmistress.
- 1897** Present Post Office at 74 High Street opened (first building in Epsom to be designed as a post office).

1.3 The Mail Routes to Epsom up to 1840

A daily post to Epsom was started in 1684, as described in the London Gazette June 16-19, 1684: 'The Post will go every day (to and fro) betweenLondon and Epsom during the season for drinking those waters'.

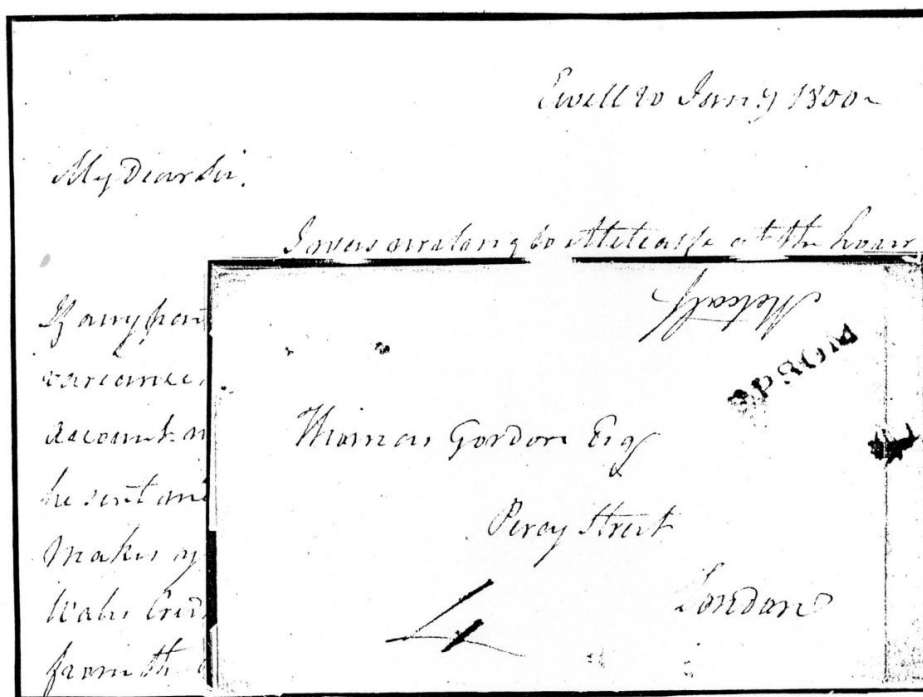
The London Gazette May 20-24, 1686 reported: 'The Post.....goes every day to and from London, Epsom, Leatherhead and Guildford'.



In 1756, Epsom was transferred to the mail route from London to East Grinstead, via Dorking, and the distance of Epsom from London was declared to be 16 miles. The Epsom mail was re-routed in 1781 to the London-Brighton route, via Croydon, from where the Epsom mail was carried by donkey cart. A further change was made in 1795, when the mail for Epsom came from London on the Portsmouth route and was dropped off at Kingston, from where it was conveyed to Epsom by mail cart; the distance of Epsom from London was then declared to be 19 miles.

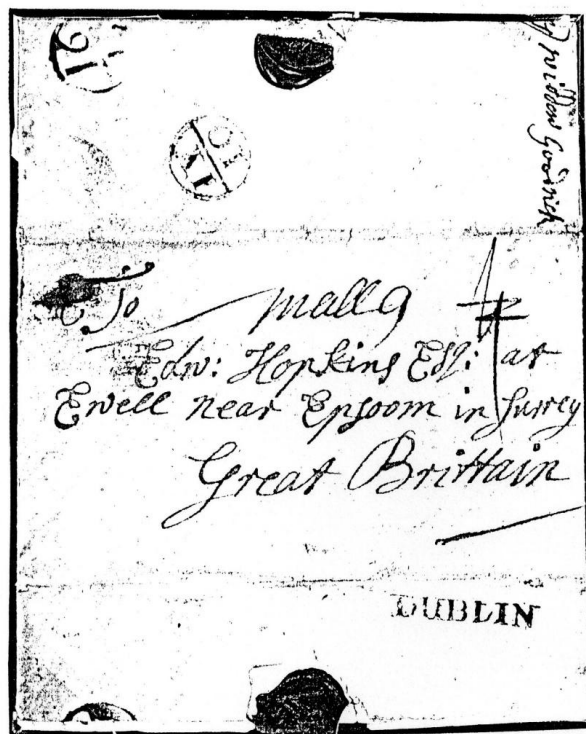
1.4 Mail Routes to Ewell

Prior to 1824, all letters from Ewell were dealt with at the Post Office in Epsom, consequently the sender had to arrange for his letter to be taken to Epsom



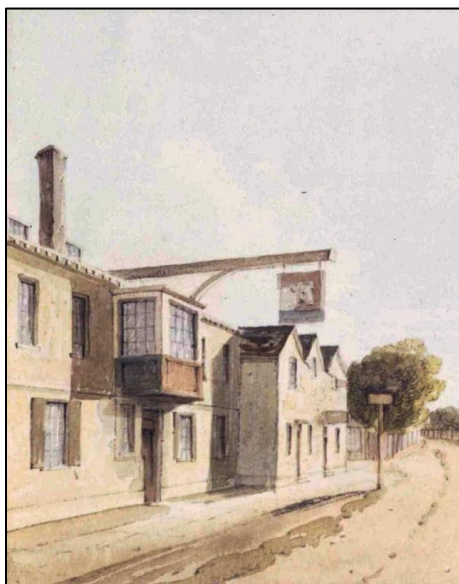
Entire from Ewell/Epsom to London, dated 20 January 1800. The charge was 4d (from 15 to 30 miles).

Similarly all letters addressed to Ewell had to be collected at Epsom Post Office by or on behalf of the addressee.



Entire from Dublin to Ewell near Epsom in Surrey, dated 9 July 1735. The charge was 6d from Dublin to London, plus 3d from London to Epsom – in all 9d.

As will be seen from the John Carey map below, published c. 1786, Ewell (EWEL) lay at the junction of 5 roads from London, Kingston, Croydon, Reigate, Dorking, etc.





c.1786

In the latter part of the eighteenth century, because of its natural convenient situation, Ewell was chosen as a point to drop off and pick up bags of Bye Letters. The pick-up point was The Bull's Head public house in the High Street (now Cheam Road, opposite the side of The Loose Box).

A Receiving House was first established in Ewell in 1824 and was probably in the building now known as The Loose Box.



The Receiving House in Ewell in 1830 in Green Man Street (now High Street) as seen from The Bull's Head in High Street (now Cheam Road).

This article is in 4 parts, to go to another part please click the relevant link below:

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Part 2. [Post Marks \(Franking, hand stamps etc\)](#)

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You may also be interested in the shorter [Postal Services](#) page.