EPSOM & EWELL HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY



SOCIETY

THE FIRST 50 YEARS: 1960-2010

Conservation failures

Epsom and Ewell Borough Council does not have a good record for protecting historic buildings. Its inability to prevent the demolition of Pitt Place, Epsom in 1967 despite two Building Preservation Orders is described in *The Buildings of England* as



Above- The demolition of Pitt Place in 1967 Below- Pitt Place, Church Street, Epsom prior to demolition

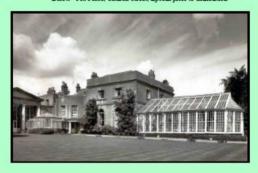


The Granary wall at 24 High Street, Ewell prior to its



The replacement wall under construction

Two grievous losses in Ewell in the 1960s were Nuttall's shop and Carpenter's Bakery, both Tudor buildings. In 2005 the demolition of the Granary wall at 24 High Street, Ewell had an impact on the street scene of the village, More recently the Council has been more pro-active in working with EEHAS and other local societies to highlight areas for conservation. Unfortunately, it is likely that current financial restraints will push the needs of conservation down the Council's list of priorities and increase the need for public vigilance.



EEAS (then NAS) played a major role in advising on the comprehensive relisting of buildings that led to the Department of the Environment's list of 1974, which has made it more difficult to ignore the need to protect old made it more curricult to ignore the need to protect out buildings. Experience, however, has shown how difficult it is to prevent the demolition or destructive redevelopment of even listed buildings. We live in an age where profit has top priority: once a developer has set his eyes on a property that can make money for him by being replaced or reconstructed he is not easily deterred. It is not difficult to persuade the Council that anything is better than having a building standing empty or derelict.



Nutall's shop at 5-5a Cheam Road, Ewell- a 16th century jettied building demolished in 1968



Left and Right Riddington's Tea Shop, High Street, Epsom, originally a Spa period building, was pulled down to make way for Epsom's modern High Street



Above- Cromwell Lodge in

Church Street, Eps





Below-demolition of the 17th century Cromwell Lodge after which the land was left undeveloped



The Shrubbery prior to demolition



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