



NEWSLETTER

2024, ISSUE 5

November 2024

Secretary's Notes

As local councils struggle to balance their books concerns increase about the impact on arts and heritage. Many civic and local authority museums around the country are under threat of closure as councils struggle to fulfil their statutory obligations. Sadly, Epsom and Ewell Borough Council's Bourne Hall Museum will not be immune to this threat.

Being a member of EEHAS you have already expressed an interest in the history and archaeology of the Borough, but you may not be aware of the wide remit of BHM. The museum collections on display in the mezzanine galleries at Bourne Hall are just the tip of the 'iceberg'. Although the physical museum space is an important way of communicating the local heritage it relies on acquiring, cataloguing and conserving historic collections, which are then made available for research as well as for display. The Museum currently has 16,000 objects, 650 boxes of archaeology, and 60,000 images.

The Museum does not work in isolation, partnering with other heritage bodies – both locally and more widely, as well as with individual historians and other interested groups. BHM is the first port of call for any queries you might have about local history or

(Continued under Membership Matters)

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Lecture Diary

December 4th World War 1 - dispelling popular myths :
Charles Blencowe

January 1st 2025 No meeting

February 5th 2025 Travels around Suffolk : Ian West

Meetings are normally held on the first Wednesday of each month at St. Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell, KT17 2AY.

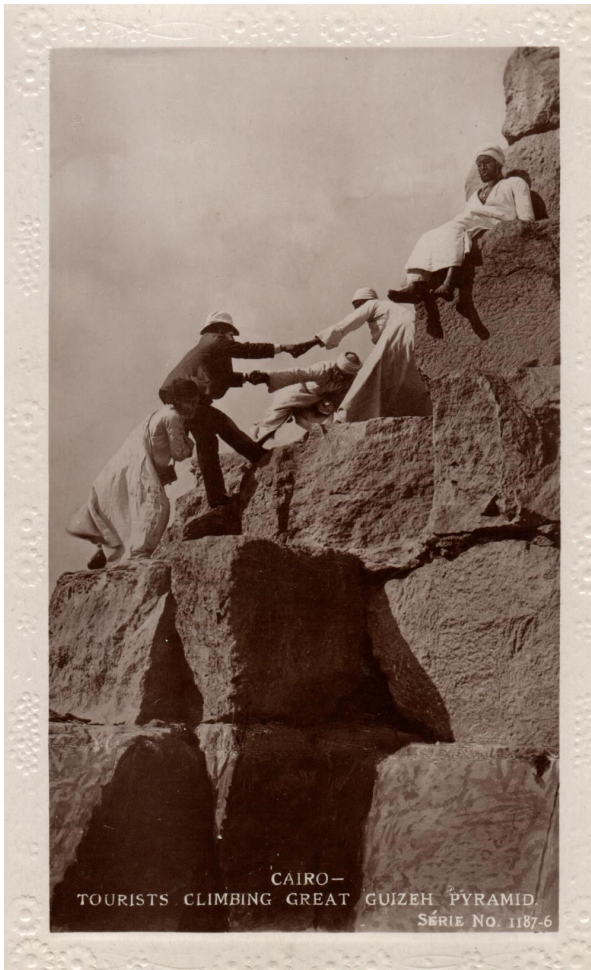
Doors open 7.45 for 8pm start. Members free, visitors £4, includes refreshments.

From Ewell to Egypt - a talk by Paul Howard Lang

Jeff Cousins

On September 5th Paul Lang took us with him on a tour of ancient Egypt. Ancient Egyptian civilization lasted for a very long time, from about 5500BC. Paul contrasted pictures of Egypt today with those from his collection of mostly Edwardian postcards

Visitors arriving at Cairo airport are welcomed by a golden statue of the protective goddess Selket. She was one of the goddesses featured on the outside of Tutankhamun's tomb.



Tourists climbing the Great Pyramid in Edwardian times

Paul could see the pyramids from his hotel balcony. The pyramids stand 10 miles south west of Cairo, and modern day Cairo now stretches all the way up to them. The pyramids were built during the Old Kingdom of c2700-c2200 BC. Menkaure's Pyramid has a gash on the north side where Saladin's son, al-Malekar-Aziz Othman ben Yusuf, attempted to demolish the pyramid in the 12th century. He failed miserably as he only managed to remove one stone a day. Many nobles are buried in tombs known as mastabas in the eastern cemetery, north of the Sphinx. Paul showed us the tomb of Meresankh III, the great-granddaughter of Queen Hetep-Heres I and Snefru.

The Museum of Egyptian Antiquities is one of the highlights of Cairo. This opened in 1902, the new Grand Egyptian Museum has been due to open "next year" for some years. Paul showed us pictures of the outer 'anthropoid coffin' and gilded 'cartonnage' mask of Thuya (grandmother of Akhenaten, and great grandmother of Tutankhamun) and a 'reserve head' (realistic sculpted head) of Senfru-Seneb (probably a son of Khufu, builder of the Great Pyramid).

The National Museum of Egyptian Civilization has a Mummies Hall, containing 20 royal mummies, 18 kings and two queens from the 17th - 20th Dynasties (1580 - 1080 BC), including Hatshepsut, Thutmose III, Seti I and Rameses II. The Palette of Narmer, maybe for mixing cosmetics, dates all the way back to pre-dynastic times (c3100 BC). Narmer was the first leader to unify Upper and Lower Egypt. He is seen in a classic smiting pose, he has his stone mace raised and is about to bring it down on his enemy. The reverse shows two mythical animals, looking much like dinosaurs, with their necks intertwined, probably symbolising the unity of the two parts of Egypt.

This museum also contains some relatively recent items such as a prayer carpet of red silk embroidered with silver and gold given by Muhammed Ali, head of the royal family, to his daughter Lady Zeinab as a wedding gift.



Palette of Narmer

Memphis Open Air Museum lies beneath the modern village of Mit Rahina, 12 miles south of Cairo. Memphis was the capital of Egypt for much of ancient times and was regarded as the city of the creator god Ptah. Ramses II built a temple to Ptah there. The museum has the Colossus (giant statue) of Rameses II. This was found face down but after several failed attempts turned over by a British army engineer in the 19th century. Ramses II was a prolific builder during his long lifetime, also building the Abu-Simbel temple in the far south and the new city of Pi-Ramesses in the delta in the north. Many images depict his victory (though it was more likely a draw) against the Hittites at the Battle of Kadesh. The museum also has an alabaster sphinx of Amenophis II, one of the largest sculptures ever made of alabaster. Many fine objects, but most not labelled!

Saqqara, north-west of Memphis, has the Serapeum where the mummified sacred 'Apis' bulls were buried in large sarcophagi in catacombs, and the Step Pyramid of Djoser, the first pyramid.

At Dahshur, out in the desert 40 miles south of Cairo, stand the Red and Bent Pyramids of Sneferu (he built several). The Bent Pyramid changes from a steep slope to a gentler slope part way up.

Paul then took a flight down to Luxor. The sites in this area are mostly from the New Kingdom of 1550-1069 BC (though Karnak Temple is older). The Temples of Luxor and Karnak stand on the east side of the Nile. The Abu Haggag Mosque re-uses part of the Luxor Temple, thus continuing over 3,000 years of religious use. Karnak Temple is the largest religious complex in Egypt. The pharaohs competed as to who could build the biggest and best additions to it.



Pylons at Karnak Temple



Colossi of Memnon

On the other side of the Nile are the mortuary temples and tombs of the pharaohs. The Colossi of Memnon are two seated statues of Amenhotep III carved from quartzite sandstone. A singing sound used to emanate from them at dawn, but this ceased in Roman times.

The tombs are in the famous Valley of the Kings. That of Seti I was discovered by Belzoni in 1817 and is the longest and most decorated. The sarcophagus from it can now be seen in the Soane Museum in London. Other tombs visited include that of Tausert and Setnakht (the latter usurped the tomb of the former), open since antiquity, and that of Rameses I, also discovered by Belzoni in 1817. The tomb of Rameses I is small and appears to have been completed in a hurry, probably because he only had a short reign. Decoration of the tombs may include various so-called 'Books' such as the Book of Gates, Book of Caverns and Book of the Dead.



Temple of Hapshetsut

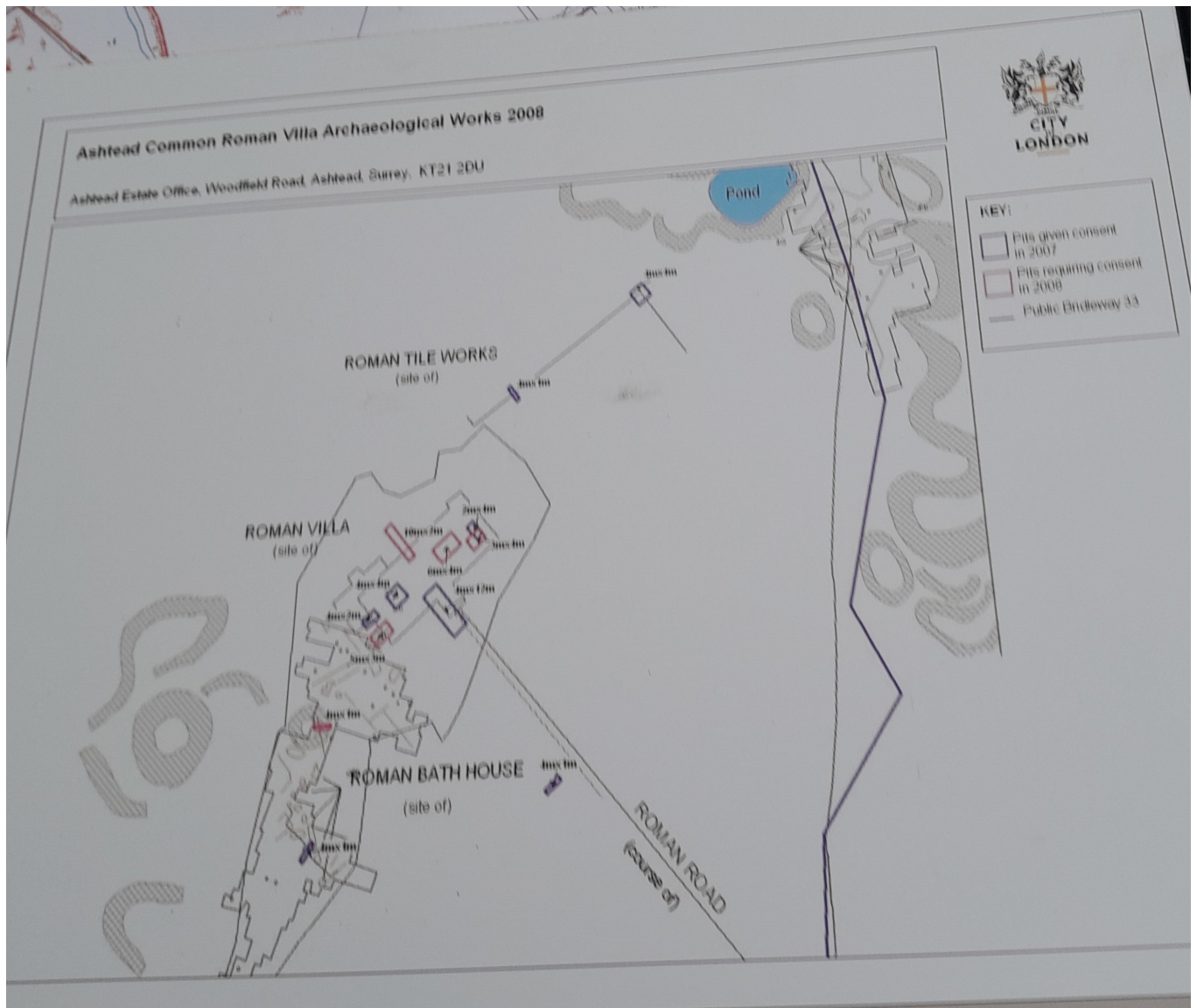
One of the more unusual temples is that of Hapshetsut, a rare female pharaoh. Her temple comprises three massive terraces sitting at the foot of a cliff face. Hatshepsut was the daughter of Thutmose I and Queen Ahmose. After the death of her husband and half-brother Thutmose II, she became regent to her infant stepson Thutmose III, but after several years she seized power for herself. After her death attempts were made to airbrush her out of history.

The Roman Villa, Ashtead

Paul Howard Lang

On Saturday 7th September there was an event at the Roman villa site on Ashtead Common run by volunteers of the Leatherhead Museum. It was called 'Meet the Romans', and the volunteers were dressed in Roman clothing. I helped put up the marquee on the site where the excavation had taken place, although nothing can now be seen of this above ground.

The site is in a remote part of Ashtead Common, a half hour walk from Ashtead station. Fortunately signposts to this event had been displayed along the pathway, one being along an insignificant looking path that I would have gone straight past if the sign had not been in place.



Information boards gave details of the digs and actual artefacts of Roman box flue tiles and roof tiles were on display which could be handled. Activities for children were provided in the form of clay and patterned rollers and tools to make impressions within the clay, and charts showing the original, patterns produced by the Romans.

Apart from the Roman villa and excavated kilns and spoil heaps found by Flag Pond, there was also a Roman bath house, so this indicated it was a relatively high-status villa and tile making complex. Although in a remote part of the common now, it was situated in an area

which produced good quality clay, had timber for charcoal and was near the Rye Brook, so had a water supply. It is highly likely that a Roman road connected the tileworks with Stane Street, a major Roman road.

Near the Rye Brook, Roman coins have been found and evidence of an Iron Age and Romano British farm (1st to 3rd AD century) has been discovered. An undated but probably medieval earthwork has been found by the Roman villa. Also, Iron Age pits and ancient trackways have been found on Ashted Common, so many archaeological finds have been discovered in this area.

The villa was first excavated by A.W.G. Lowther in 1924, but subsequent excavations have taken place, notably by the Surrey Archaeological Society between 2006 and 2013.

It was first thought that the villa was an unusual example of a corridor villa having two rows of six rooms behind the corridor. However, the 2007 excavation revealed that the villa had a single line of rooms. The main period of occupation of the villa was in 117-38 AD and it was abandoned c. 220 AD.

Often overlooked is the fact that Ashted had another Roman villa by St Giles's church, but which had been destroyed by a later earthwork; this lay in what is now the churchyard. The only remaining evidence for this is the Roman tiles that can be seen in the exterior wall of the church.

Ironically the Ashted Pottery (1923-1935) imported their clay from the West Country by train and it was then transported by horse and cart to the pottery. The site now houses an elderly person's establishment, there is a plaque, but it is placed in the interior of the building. The houses of the Ashted potters dating to 1925 can still be seen in Purcell Close.



Tiles from Ashted Roman Villa

Taking Surrey's Pulse: Public Health and what Medical Officer of Health Reports can do for you? - a talk by Ross MacFarlane

Jeff Cousins

On October 2nd we welcomed Ross MacFarlane to talk on public health, a talk postponed from July, ironically due to ill health (COVID). Ross works for the Wellcome Collection, across the road from Euston Station. This is a free museum and library. It holds the largest collection of Medical Officer of Health (MOH) reports, though not all. These have been digitised and are freely available online at <https://archive.org/details/medicalofficerofhealthreports>.

Each year the MOH would produce a report. These are a valuable resource, giving insights into the social conditions of the time. They can be useful to archaeologists – AOC has been writing up its excavations of a burial ground in Bethnal Green, and have made use of the mid 1850s reports. Later reports have been used to identify issues covered by the TV series 'Call the Midwife'.

Edwin Chadwick was a driving force behind improving public health in 19th c England. He introduced a scientific approach to public health, collecting data so that informed decisions could be made as to what improvements were most needed. His report led to the Public Health Act of 1848. This set up the General Board of Health to oversee sanitation reform. This involved administrators and engineers (e.g. to build the sewers), not just doctors and surgeons.

The first MOH report was produced for the City of London. MOHs spread to other cities, then to the countryside, until every district had an MOH producing an annual report. The first known reports to survive for Epsom were for 1903 and 1905, the next 1931, then for Epsom and Ewell from 1937 (the year Epsom and Ewell became a borough). Unfortunately reports don't survive for the period around WW1.

The MOH reports include many statistics such as birth and death rates, causes of death, and how outbreaks of infectious diseases were treated. Data could be presented in forms such as tables and bar charts. They considered conditions in workplaces, not just in people's homes. Slum clearance could take place. They contain masses of detail, e.g. exactly how many rats were destroyed.

The 1930s can be considered as the golden age of MOHs. More and more businesses were covered by legislation, such as fish & chip shops and ice cream vans. The reports grew bigger as more aspects were covered. They would go into much detail, even naming individuals who were just living in sheds. Clinics were provided at Waterloo Road and Ewell Court. On one Derby Day a single field was let out to gypsies (the name used then) and there were 85 caravans and 115 horses, but no toilet provision. Two temporary toilets were then provided.

WW2 was of course a setback, the reports became thinner and had poorer quality paper and printing due to wartime restrictions. The effect of bomb damage on food shops was considered (the borough had 35 butchers at the time).

1948 saw the creation of the NHS. Although mostly a good thing, this divorced consideration of the medical aspects of health from the social ones. Environmental health, water, housing, nursing and social services became separate departments. Tackling public health became less 'joined up'.

There were moments of optimism, such as the introduction of polio vaccine in 1955. The Clean Air Act was enacted in 1956 to control smoke and other emissions. Health education increased in importance. In 1960 the Noise Abatement Act was introduced; most complaints were about ice cream vans. In 1967 the caravan site at Lower Cox Lane were tidied up - hard standing, paths, electricity and a toilet block were provided. In 1971 there was a campaign against smoky bonfires, quoting the Clean Air Act.

The importance of MOHs declined, their reports adopting a somewhat regretful tone, and 1972 was the last year for MOH reports (everywhere). In the evidence of Sir Mark Walport (Government Chief Scientific Adviser prior to COVID) to the COVID enquiry, he said that we are less able to tackle infectious diseases now than 40-50 years ago due to the move away from looking at public health as a whole.

The Reid and Lemprière Families and Their Residences in Cheam Road, Ewell - Part 2

Jeff Cousins

Sir John Rae (second baronet) and Maria Louisa Reid's children were:

Sir John Rae, Bart. (third baronet), born on 14 August 1841 in the St. George Hanover Square district of London, baptised on 18 September 1841, "of St. Margaret's, Westminster";

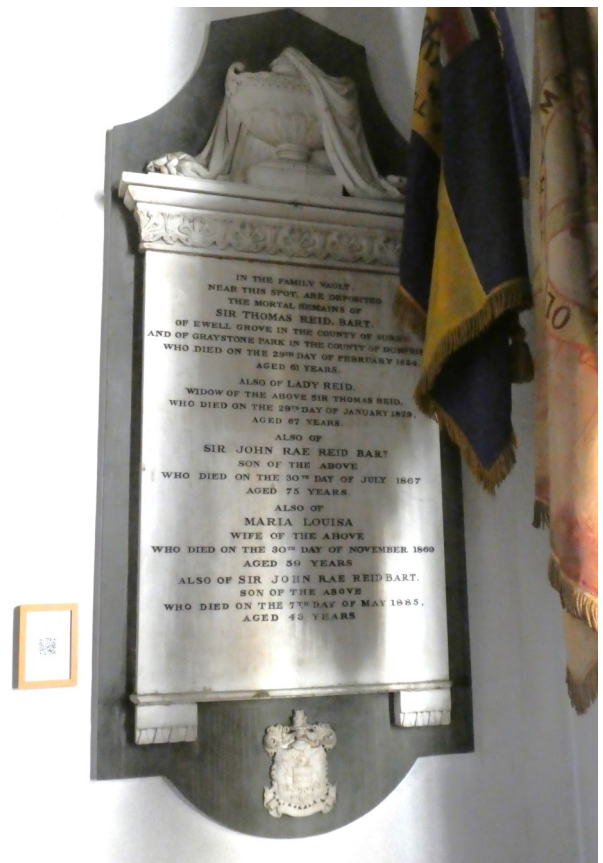
Louisa Elizabeth Rae, born in the third quarter of 1843 at Eaton Square, St. Peter's Belgravia (in St. George Hanover Square district), baptised on 27 September 1843 at Ewell;

Sir Henry Valentine Rae, Bart. (fourth baronet), born on 13 February 1845 in the St. George Hanover Square district of London, baptised on 26 March 1845.

In 1841 census the family has eleven servants. Willis (p13) reported that if Sir John Rae thought that the sermon in St. Mary's church was too long, he used to take a walk on the stairs to the gallery. In 1848 he chaired the Vestry meeting where it was decided to demolish the old church except for its tower. The Ewell Vestry Minutes of 1843-54 record Sir John and Lady Rae Reid giving 60 bonnets to the National School. Lady Reid used to be carried in a sedan chair by two men. The 1861 census lists the family as having two lodgers and nine servants. Sir John Rae (the elder) died on 30 July 1867 in Epsom district and was buried six days later. Sir John Rae (the elder)'s will was proven on 6 November 1867 with his wife and youngest son as executors. I don't know where all the money had gone, but his effects were valued at under £3,000. Eldest son



Grave of Sir Thomas, Sir John Rae (senior), Maria Louisa and Sir John Rae (junior) Reid, side with inscriptions for the middle two



Memorial to Sir Thomas, Lady Elizabeth, Sir John Rae (senior), Maria Louisa and Sir John Rae (junior) Reid

Sir John Rae (the younger) had renounced his position as executor on 19 May 1860. The will had been written in 1855, with a rather blunt and smudgy pen, and witnessed by Robert A. Mitchell and Harry Reid Lempriere of Lincolns Inn Fields. It left his 'mansion' Ewell Grove and various jewellery to his wife, and talked of a trust for his daughter Louisa Elizabeth Rae with William Charles Lemprière, Charles Winston and Christopher Robert Pemberton of Eaton Hall, Belgrave Square as trustees. (The last named was the son of a moderately famous physician of the same name).

Dame Maria Louisa died on 30 November 1869 in Epsom district and was buried six days later. Both Sir John Rae (the elder) and Dame Maria Louisa were buried in Sir Thomas's vault in the old churchyard of St. Mary's, Ewell.

George son of Sir Thomas Reid married Sarah Isabella in 1832. Their children included:

George Rae "of Clarence Terrace, Regents Park", born and died after only six days in Marylebone district, buried on 4 May 1838;

George Irving, born in the third quarter of 1840 at 8 Clarence Terrace, Regents Park, in Marylebone district. He married Eleanor Frances Day (born c1846 at 10 Sussex Square, on the north side of Hyde Park) in the 4th quarter of 1880 in Uckfield district. They are listed in the 1881 census visiting his cousin Harry Lemprière (see below) in Epsom; George was a Clerk in the War Office (CS). He died on 22 June 1894 in Tunbridge district and was buried five days later;

Alfred Jolliffe, born in 1850. He died on 28 May 1858 in Marylebone district, aged only 7 years 7 months, and was buried six days later. (The Jolliffes were another Ewell family.)

George "of Kemp Town, Brighton" died on 22 July 1855 in Brighton district and was buried eight days later. Sarah Isabella "of Paddington" died on 25 May 1891 in Paddington district and was buried three days later. George, Alfred Jolliffe, Sarah Isabella and George Irving were buried together on the site of the old church of St. Mary's, Ewell.



Grave of George Reid and family

Sir John Rae, Bart. (third baronet), died on 7 May 1885 in the St. George Hanover Square district of London, aged only 43, and was buried four days later in Sir Thomas' vault in the old churchyard of St. Mary's, Ewell. His will was proven on 23 June 1885 by his younger

brother Henry Valentine Rae. Sir John Rae's effects were only worth £1630 12s. He was said to be formerly of 11 Albert Mansions, Victoria Street but later of 53 Victoria Street, Westminster, and his younger brother of 67 Victoria Street. Sir John Rae never married so when he died the baronetcy passed to his younger brother.

Louisa Elizabeth Rae married Spencer Broughton Wilde on 6 June 1866 at Ewell. (He was a gentleman of Cheam, born c1843 in St. John's Paddington, son of George W., a solicitor). They are listed in the 1881 census at Cheam House, Station Road, Cheam, with six servants but no children. By then he was also a solicitor, and farming 90 acres, employing four people.

Sir Henry Valentine Rae, Bart., was a wine merchant. He became 4th baronet after his elder brother died in 1885. He married Eulia Alberta Louisa Budd in the 2nd quarter of 1895 in Strand district, but they had no children so after his death (in the 3rd quarter of 1903 in Pancras district) the baronetcy became extinct. There was no money left to pass on anyway, he and his wife both having been declared bankrupt.

To be continued ...

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS Secretary's Notes (continued):

archaeology. You may have taken part in one of the Museum's local walks or attended open air history events, and if you have school age children or grandchildren they are likely to have benefited from a school visit or loan boxes from BHM to support their learning. The Museum Club is always popular, engaging the next generation with their heritage.

These few lines can only be a snapshot of what goes on at BHM. Most of EEHAS' publications have depended on access to BHM's archives, both archaeological and documentary. Without the museum space, the curatorial staff and their volunteers, and evolving and accessible archive storage, the memories and heritage of our Borough are at risk.

We thank the following for their kind donations:

Mr & Mrs Clifford.

Members making payment of their subscription please note our change of bank details:

Metro Bank (Epsom Branch), One Southampton Row, London, WC1B 5HA
Epsom and Ewell History and Archaeology Society
Sort code 23-05-80 Account no 44508680

Please make sure you use your surname as the reference.

Standing Order members must remember to cancel their payment to the former bank HSBC. Members who pay by standing order can get a form from the Membership Secretary, details on back page.

Forthcoming Events

Surrey Archaeological Society: Surrey Industrial History Group: Brunel – Father, Son & Grandson

Thursday 7th November 2024 at 7:15-8:45pm, by zoom. A talk by Bill McNaught.

Merton Historical Society: Local History Workshop

Friday 8th November 2024 at 2:30-4:30pm, Wandle Industrial Museum, The Vestry Hall Annexe, London Road, Mitcham CR4 3UD.

Merton Historical Society: AGM and Members' Talks

Saturday 9th November 2024 at 2:30pm, St James's Church Hall in Martin Way, SM4 4AR.

Surbiton and District Historical Society: Garden Follies

Tuesday 12th November 2024 at 2:15pm, Surbiton Methodist Church, 39 Ewell Rd, Surbiton KT6 6AF . A talk by Cherrill Sands. £4 for visitors.

Surrey Archaeological Society: AGM followed by a Recent Discoveries at Stonehenge

Saturday 16th November 2024 AGM at 2pm, 3 pm talk by Prof Michael Parker Pearson, by Zoom.

Esher District Local History Society: Mary Neal and the Suffragettes who saved Morris Dancing

Saturday 16th November 2024 at 2:30pm, Holy Trinity Church Hall, Church Road, Claygate KT10 0JP. A talk by Kathy Atherton. £3 for non-members.

Surrey Archaeological Society: Surrey Industrial History Group: Mayors, thieves and bargemistresses: people of the early Wey Navigation

Thursday 21st November 2024 at 2-4pm, Oddfellows Hall, 47 Bridge St, Leatherhead, KT22 8BN . A talk by Sue Jones.

Surbiton and District Historical Society: So This is Christmas

Tuesday 3rd December 2024 at 7 for 7:30pm, The cornerHOUSE Arts Centre, 116 Douglas Rd, Surbiton, KT6 7SB. A talk by Maggs Latter. £4 for visitors.

Surrey Archaeological Society: Roman Studies Group: The latest Roman road fieldwork around Ewhurst

Tuesday 3rd December 2024 at 7:30-9pm, by zoom. A talk by Chris Gibson.

Surrey Archaeological Society: Surrey Industrial History Group: Musings of a Miner - A Glimpse of Life in County Durham a Century ago

Thursday 5th December 2024 at 1:30 for 2-3:30pm, Oddfellows Hall, 47 Bridge St, Leatherhead, KT22 8BN . A talk by Michelle Howes.

Carshalton And District History & Archaeology Society: The Ghost Trains of Merton

Saturday 7th December 2024. at 2:30pm. Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, Carshalton, SM5 2DL. A talk by John Hawks. £3 for non-members.

Esher District Local History Society: Cobham Characters – From the Jolly Miller to the Russian Spy

Saturday 14th December 2024 at 2:30pm, Holy Trinity Church Hall, Church Road, Claygate KT10 0JP. A talk by Dr David Taylor. £3 for non-members.

Merton Historical Society: West Barnes and Motspur Park 1920-1940

Saturday 14th December 2024 at 2:30pm, St James's Church Hall in Martin Way, SM4 4AR. A talk by Toby Ewin.

Surbiton and District Historical Society: Fred (The Demon) Spofforth

Tuesday 7th January 2025 at 2:15pm, Surbiton Methodist Church, 39 Ewell Rd, Surbiton KT6 6AF. A talk by Orlando Pearson on an Australian cricketer who ended his days at Ditton Hill. £4 for visitors.

Surrey Archaeological Society: Roman Studies Group: TBA

Tuesday 7th January 2025 at 7:30-9pm, by zoom.

Surrey Archaeological Society: Surrey Industrial History Group: Concorde - Icon of the Skies

Thursday 9th January 2025 at 2-4pm, by zoom . A talk by Guy Bartlett.

Carshalton And District History & Archaeology Society: Beddington in the 19th Century

Saturday 11th January 2025. at 2:30pm. Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, Carshalton, SM5 2DL. A talk by Bev Shew. £3 for non-members.

Surrey Archaeological Society: Surrey Industrial History Group: The London Underground's Origins

Thursday 23rd January 2025 at 1:30 for 2-3:30pm, Oddfellows Hall, 47 Bridge St, Letherhead, KT22 8BN. A talk by Chris Green.

Carshalton And District History & Archaeology Society: Oman

Saturday 1st February 2025. at 2:30pm. Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, Carshalton, SM5 2DL. A talk by Brenda Allen. £3 for non-members.

Surbiton and District Historical Society: The Perfect Playground – Crystal Palace

Tuesday 4th February 2025 at 7 for 7:30pm, The cornerHOUSE Arts Centre, 116 Douglas Rd, Surbiton, KT6 7SB. A talk by Michael Gilbert. £4 for visitors.

Surrey Archaeological Society: Roman Studies Group: Discoveries at Cocks Farm Abinger 2024

Tuesday 4th February 2025 at 7:30-9pm, by zoom. A talk by Emma Corke.

Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society
Founded 1960 Registered Charity No. 259221

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Programme Secretary: Hugh Ricketts

Please send copy for the next newsletter to the Newsletter Editor by 12 January 2025.

Visit our website

www.epsomewellhistory.org.uk

Gift Aid

Just a further reminder that if you pay tax EEHAS, as a charity, can claim Gift Aid on your subscription or donations, at no cost to yourself. In order for us to do this you need to sign a Gift Aid Declaration form which is available at meetings and can also be found on the Society website on the Membership page.

You can see a colour copy of this newsletter on the Society website from mid November
www.epsomewellhistory.org.uk