



NEWSLETTER

2019, ISSUE 2

April 2019

Chairman's Notes

Very many thanks to all the members who attended this year's AGM. The minutes are included in this Newsletter. As usual we appealed for volunteers to help with the Society's various activities, currently shouldered by only a few members. They are all dedicated but must have some more assistance if the EEHAS is to continue!

The Society recently received, rather out of the blue from a "well wisher", a large collection of black & white photographs which seem to date to the wartime and 1950s. While many are simply family snaps of people there are a number of apparently local views, including either ARP or Civil Defence volunteers. It is unfortunate that they all appear to have been torn out of an album and have no captions or indication of who the people are. This is disappointing as they now have limited value – a salutary lesson, we should all note what/who our photos are of for posterity!

I hear that the HLF has renamed itself, National Lottery Heritage Fund. They say that the Fund will be more stream-lined with a simplified and lesser number of grant streams ranked by value bands. We wait to see whether the actual application process will be simplified. The good news is that there is still a large amount of money in the NLHF coffers.

Inside this issue:

<i>February Meeting: John Linnell (1792- 1882)</i>	2
<i>The Great Hole of Danetree</i>	2
<i>March Meeting: The archaeology of Neolithic ritual and magic in Surrey and beyond</i>	2
<i>The King's Arms</i>	4
<i>Forthcoming Events</i>	6
<i>Membership Matters</i>	7
<i>Minutes of AGM for 2019</i>	

Lecture Diary

May 1st	Richmond upon Thames through time : Paul Lang.
June 4th	Merton Priory : John Hawks of the Wandle Industrial Museum.
July 3rd	"Late Antique Surrey": a new way of looking at the Romano-British to Anglo-Saxon transition : Rob Briggs.
Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at St. Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell KT17 2BB.	
Doors open 7.45 for 8pm start. Members free, visitors £4, includes refreshments.	

An Incredible Journey: the Huguenots - a correction

Please note that the references to Louis III and IV should have been to Louis XIII and XIV, respectively.

February Meeting – John Linnell (1792-1882): Finding glory in Surrey landscape painting – Iain McKillop

We hope to give a report of this talk in a future newsletter.

The Great Hole of Danetree

Jeff Cousins

During the Christmas and New Year holiday, a large hole (about six foot square at the surface) appeared in the pavement on the north side of Danetree Close. I wasn't allowed to look in myself, but was told that an old well had collapsed. It was described as being well (ho ho) constructed, with walls of layers of slate about half an inch thick, each layer built out over the one below (sounds like corbelling to me). Danetree Close was built over what had formerly been the back gardens of 338-364 Chessington Road, along the north side; the well would have originally been in the back garden of #342. The well is not shown on the 1935 25" OS map, but if there were further wells that may explain why some of the relatively new houses along Chessington Close have been prone to subsidence.

March Meeting - The archaeology of Neolithic ritual and magic in Surrey and beyond - Jon Cotton

Steve Nelson

After the AGM, Jon Cotton gave us his Presidential lecture. He took his theme from the late Ralph Merrifield's seminal 1987 book, *The Archaeology of Ritual and Magic*, which had been so influential at the time in developing an understanding of this difficult study. He had been assistant to Harrold Toms at Brighton Museum and had been inspired by Toms' own work on magic in Sussex. The Brighton Museum has just reopened after a major review and is well worth a visit.

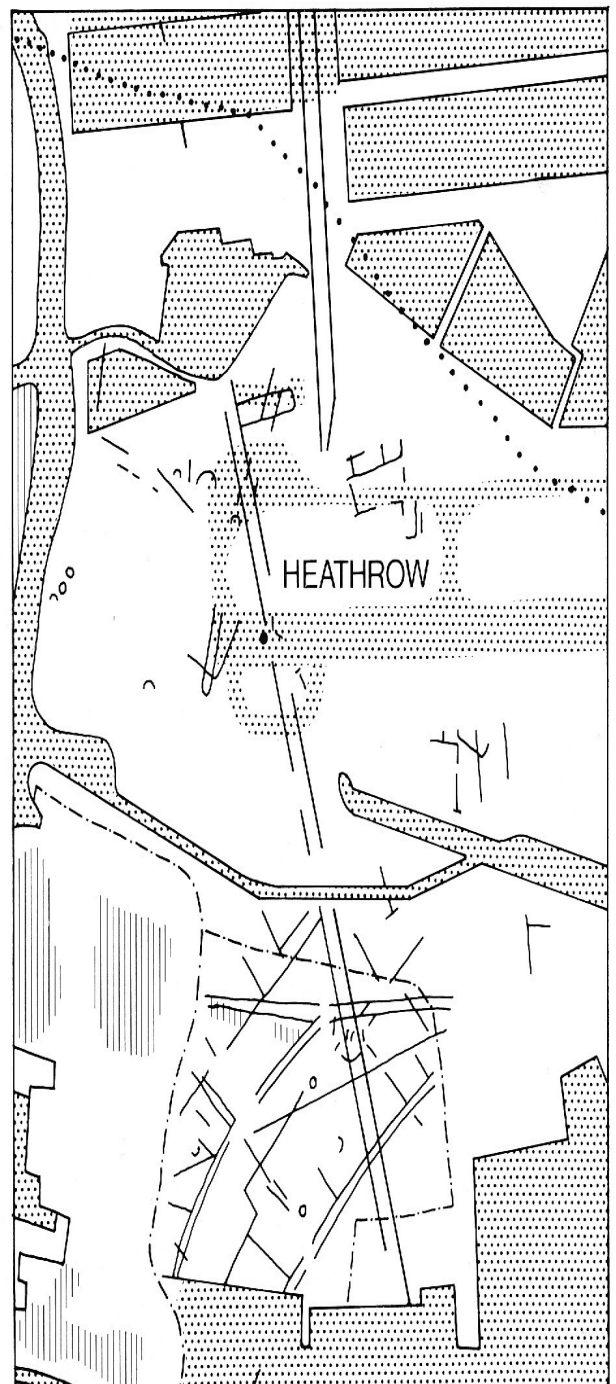
Many simple objects hold a fascination and also superstition; holed stones, oddly shaped flints and fossils, while entirely natural these have intrigued people in the past and still held people's imagination in more modern times. Fossil sea urchins in particular (often known in rural areas as Shepherd's Crowns) have been recognised stratified on a number of R/B sites, as at the Wanborough religious site and Farleigh Heath in Surrey. Such curiosities often acquired a mystique as "magic" objects.

Jon drew attention to the occurrence of so-called "witch marks", a collective term for both fairly plain but often quite elaborate inscribed marks on buildings supposedly to protect and ward off evil. Recent survey work is revealing more and more of these protective signs. Jon instanced recent work by the NT at Knowle, revealing protection marks associated with the Gunpowder Plot. Particularly common are compass drawn "daisy wheel" circles – perhaps complex designs intended to ensnare witches. Jeremy Harte has discovered one such mark on the wall of the old Church Tower in Ewell. This mark itself may not last much longer as the stone surface on which it is scratched is slowly eroding. Other intriguing symbols are scorch marks on timber buildings, associated perhaps with the use of holy candles; we have recently seen such a mark on a principal post in the Lower Mill.



**Lower Mill rear structure principle post
scorch mark**

Turning to the prehistoric period and the Neolithic in particular, there is much evidence that resonates with more modern practices in terms of ritual deposits often associated with social gatherings. The so-called causewayed camps of southern England often have distinct “placed” deposits in the interrupted ditches, particularly at the supposed entry points. These are known at the Yeoveney, Staines site excavated a while ago (LaMAS V 32) and more recently at Windsor. At the late Phil Jones’ site of Staines Road Farm, Shepperton, there was a complete bowl placed upside down associated with a wolf/dog hybrid skull (SCAU Mono 1). Associated with these places of gathering are also arenas of procession – the so termed Avenues. Most famous is that associated with Stonehenge, but the Heathrow Avenue or Cursus was of some 4km in length with a central bank raising the “procession” over the surrounding flat landscape. Excavations at the Ashford prison site (excavated by PCA in 1990s) revealed an occupation site and avenue leading to a small causewayed enclosure of early Neolithic date.



Heathrow cursus

Jon continued with a discussion of the river Thames as both a major route way and a destination, evidenced by the huge number of prehistoric finds discovered in the river and foreshore over many years and which are still being discovered. He showed in particular a selection of extremely finely made stone axes, clearly of special ceremonial use rather than everyday tools. Referring to some types of Neolithic pottery that are highly decorated with such intricate scribed designs that one may wonder whether these are manifestations of complex designs intended to ensnare evil spirits as are perhaps the later witch marks.

Jon finished with an image of the extraordinary pit group of early C18 date from South Street, Epsom recovered

by Sean Khan during the Ashley Centre development in 1980. This deposit is typical of other known sites of similar date and referred to as inn clearance groups. A parallel example is the published group from Tunsgate, Guildford of similar date. He wondered whether these deposits of wholesale clear outs of domestic objects have more meaning than simple household disposal of unwanted material and perhaps connect unintentionally with the distant past – I'm not sure.



Epsom Pit A objects

The King's Arms, 144 East Street, Epsom

Steve Nelson

I referred to this building in the September Newsletter for which there is threat of demolition under the current planning application (18/00315). Although not legally listed, it is on the Council's schedule of Locally Listed Buildings or as the formal description has it, "a non-designated heritage asset". The Built Heritage Statement supplied with the planning application provides a very good description of the building and its development – actually a very good argument for its continued preservation. At the time of writing, the building still stands.

Briefly, there seem no buildings on the site on either Roque's map of 1768 or on the first OS map of 1816. It first appears as a separate building with two cottages by the time of the 1838, Epsom Union map. So the original construction must be sometime between 1816 and 1838. The local myth that the building contains timbers from a Trafalgar "man-o-war" is

unlikely. Successive OS maps in the C19 show a gradual development of the pub which by 1896 had been extended on its south side with a rear extension, and two semi-detached houses had been erected on the East Street frontage to the south west. In 1903 plans were drawn up by an F.G. Burstow of Sutton for a new front façade that exists today (Surrey Heritage/DM/93/19).

We don't know what the building's front looked like before the quite striking stuccoed façade was put on apparently in 1903. This has some architectural pretention, not seen on other Epsom public houses, with a symmetrical design of fluted pilasters capped with flat urn shapes. Although not on the original drawing, the principle entrance had a porch supported on columns and which survived until the 1980s. A postcard view of about 1920, reproduced in Richard Holmes' excellent book *Pubs, Inns and Taverns of Epsom, Ewell and Cheam* (available in the Museum shop), shows this with an array of signs, brackets and lamps typical of the period. This shows the landlord as F Hill on the hanging sign; Frank Hill was licensee from 1919-1923 and it is presumably him standing by the main front door.



The building appears to have been a public house probably since it was built, most likely after the 1830 Beer House Act. It first appears as the King's Arms in Pigot's Directory of 1839 when the owner was John Rutley. Successive licensees are listed in the census returns as at the King's Arms apart from just one return, 1861, when the pub is named the Queen's Arms. This is assumed to be an enumerator's error. The pub was leased, in 1882, by Young and Bainbridge (who became Young and Co after 1883) and was bought by them in 1908 (*A history of Young's Pubs* by Helen Osborn, 1991). It may be that it was Youngs who had the new façade added although the plans for it are dated 1903. A different view of

the pub and a copy of the 1908 sale particulars are reproduced in Helen Osborn's book. The public house is generally listed in the censuses and directories at 118 East Street, apart from a couple of numbering errors, until c 1936 when, on renumbering, it became 144 East Street.

*Estate agent's notice
for the sale of the
King's Arms and other
property in 1908 and
(below) the pub after
the First World War.*



Particulars and Conditions of Sale
OF
THE FREEHOLD
FULLY LICENSED PREMISES

KNOWN AS THE
'King's Arms' Inn,
East Street, Epsom.

LET ON A LONG LEASE AT
PER **£60** ANNUM.

11 FREEHOLD COTTAGES

With Good Gardens,
Having important Frontages to the same road of over 330 Feet.

REPRESENTING A TOTAL RENTAL OF
PER **£183 6s.** ANNUM.

A PLOT OF
Freehold Building Land

Of about 23 perches,
Which MESSRS.

LANGLANDS & SON

Will Sell by Auction, in 7 LOTS, at their
MART, HIGH STREET, EPSOM,
On **WEDNESDAY, 24th JUNE, 1908,**

Forthcoming Events

Carshalton And District History & Archaeology Society: Plaster, Mortar and Timber Framing. The Fulham Palace Restoration Project

Saturday 6th April 2019 at 3.00pm, Milton Hall (the Darby & Joan Club), Cooper Crescent, Carshalton, SM5 2LG. A talk by Alexis Haslam of the Fulham Palace Trust.

Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society: Merchants, Military Men, and Migrants

Thursday 11th April 2019, at 8pm, Surbiton Library Halls, Ewell Road, Surbiton. A talk on incomers to London and the South-East in the Romano-British period and later, by Dr Judie English.

Leatherhead & District Local History Society: Worms, Ashes and Bones - From Darwin to Today at Abinger

Friday 12th April 2019, at 7:30pm for 8pm, Letherhead Institute, 67 High Street, Leatherhead. A talk by Emma Corke, past president of Surrey Archaeological Society.

Bourne Hall Museum Kids Club: An Audience with Henry VIII

Saturday 13th April 2019, at 11am-12pm and 1:30pm-2:30pm. £5 per child, 1 adult free per child.

Esher District Local History Society: AGM and talk on Ada Lovelace

Saturday 13th April 2019, at 2:30pm, Holy Trinity Church Hall, Church Road, Claygate KT10 0JP. A talk by Dr David Taylor. £3 for non-members.

Surbiton and District Historical Society: Tally Sticks, Templars and Trade

Tuesday 7th May 2019 at 7.45pm, Surbiton Library Annex. A talk by Mr Trevor Strong. £2 for visitors.

Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society: The Archaeology of the Thames Foreshore

Thursday 9th May 2019, at 8pm, Surbiton Library Halls, Ewell Road, Surbiton. A talk by Will Rathouse of MOLA.

Leatherhead & District Local History Society: Use of LiDAR (drones) in Archaeological Investigations

Friday 17th May 2019, at 7:30pm for 8pm, Letherhead Institute, 67 High Street, Leatherhead. A talk by Krystyna Truscoe.

Esher District Local History Society: Victoria at Claremont: Princess and Queen

Saturday 18th May 2019, at 2:30pm, Holy Trinity Church Hall, Church Road, Claygate KT10 0JP. A talk by Stephen Webbe. £3 for non-members.

Surrey Archaeological Society - Prehistoric Group: Blickmead Mesolithic site

Tuesday 21st May 2019 at 7:30pm, Letherhead Institute, 67 High Street, Leatherhead.

A talk by Professor David Jacques about this important site near Stonehenge.

Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society: 50th Anniversary Conference

Saturday 20th July 2019 at 9.30am-4pm, Surbiton Library Hall. £10 members in advance, £12 non-members in advance, £15 on the door. See Outside Events under the Notice Board tab for more details.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

We welcome the following new members:

Mrs A Gaitonde

Mr D Lowe

Mr A Posner

Mr S Wright

We thank for their kind donations:

Mrs L Shaw

Mr I West

Obituaries**Jeannette Norrington**

Jeannette Norrington, who many will remember, and who died on 18 January, was, with her husband John, an early member of the Society. They had joined NEAS, as it was then, soon after the society was established in 1960. Both she and John were willing helpers, and with John's truck were able to move the Society's tools, equipment and site hut to various excavations. I recall they helped move the collections in Ewell Court House to Bourne Hall when we had to leave. After they were married in 1955, Jeannette helped run the family business in Upper High Street, Epsom. John and Jeannette amassed a huge collection of old tools, including a definitive collection of smoothing irons, which they kept on display in their home and which the Society visited many years ago. Our condolences go to John and their sons Paul and David.

Steve Nelson**Rhoda Anne Edwards**

Rhoda Edwards, who died on 27 November 2018 in Epsom, was an early member of the NEAS. She was the daughter of H L Edwards of an old Epsom firm of auctioneers and agents. He contributed a couple of articles on Epsom buildings to the NEAS Newsletter. Rhoda was an archivist at the Minet Library before turning to archaeology full time, excavating in Europe for a while, and was active with this Society and Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society in the early days. She was also known for her historical novels including the award winning *Some Touch of Pity* and *Fortune's Wheel*, both based on the life of Richard III, and *None but Elizabeth* about Queen Elizabeth I.

Steve Nelson**2019 Subscriptions**

Members are reminded that subscriptions for 2019 became due on 1st January. Subscriptions can be paid at the monthly meetings, or by post to the Treasurer, Jane Pedler, or the Membership Secretary, Doreen Tilbury. Subs are £15 for ordinary membership, £22 for family membership, £6 for student, or £22 for corporate and school memberships. A slip is provided below:

2019 Subscriptions

I (we) wish to renew membership for 2019

Amount enclosed.....

Name and address.....

.....

.....

E-mail address.....

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

Useful contact details

President: Jon Cotton MA, FSA

Chairman: Steve Nelson

Secretary: Nikki Cowlard, 1 Norman Avenue, Epsom KT17 3AB (01372) 745432

e-mail info@epsomewellhistory.org.uk

Treasurer: Jane Pedler

Archaeology Officer: Frank Pemberton

Conservation Officer: Nikki Cowlard (see details above)

Membership Secretary: Doreen Tilbury

Newsletter Editor: Jeff Cousins

Programme Secretary: Vacant

If you are interested in this post please contact the Secretary.

Please send copy for the next newsletter to the Newsletter Editor by 12 May 2019.

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 April
www.epsomewellhistory.org.uk

Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 8p.m. on 6th March 2019

at St. Mary's Church Hall, Ewell

Present:

President	Jon Cotton
Vice-President/Chairman	Stephen Nelson
Treasurer	Jane Pedler

A total of 39 members signed the attendance book.

Unfortunately the Secretary Nikki Cowlard was unwell and unable to attend, so Steve Nelson acted as Secretary; he opened the proceedings and welcomed members. The Chairman congratulated Nikki Cowlard on her appointment as President of the Surrey Archaeology Society.

1. Apologies for absence: Jeff Cousins, Nikki Cowlard, Geoff Shaxton, Frank Pemberton, Clive Orton and Nick Lock.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 7th March 2018

The minutes had been circulated with the April 2018 newsletter. Adoption of the minutes was agreed unanimously by members present.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes not otherwise covered in the agenda

None noted.

4. Annual report for 2018

The report had been circulated with the February 2018 Newsletter. Steve Nelson mentioned the lack of active members and the vacancies noted in the Annual Report. The monthly tea rota in particular is still sadly lacking in names! The August members evening is usually dependent on a just few people and the Society would wish to encourage any research work that other members might wish to undertake. The committee would be happy to help and support any such work.

Steve Nelson said that the lecture programme for this year had now been filled and thanks are due to those who have suggested talks, Nikki Cowlard has tried to follow these up, though not always successfully, Steve Nelson mentioned that with the difficulties in arranging monthly lectures it may be necessary in future years to consider abandoning a January meeting.

We have a stall at Herald of Spring this Saturday, 9th March to advertise the Society and a couple of volunteers at least are still needed to help man the table.

Regarding archaeology the meeting noted Frank Pemberton's note in the Annual Report. The President also mentioned that progress was being made by himself with Harvey Sheldon and Nikki Cowlard on drawing together a post excavation framework for the Hatch Furlong excavation. Surrey Archaeological Society had indicated that they may be

receptive to an application for funding. Steve Nelson said that the draft report on Bourne Hall excavation 1962-65 had been completed and final illustrations need to be added but the full report should be published this year.

EEHAS is involved in the SyAS HLF funded test pitting programme and hope to run a weekend of work in September to ascertain the position of the later Stables relating to Nonsuch Palace.

Thanks are due to Jeremy Harte for his support of the Society, his suggestions for speakers and research subjects, and his willingness to allow us Museum space to advertise the Society.

Adoption of the annual report was proposed by Gay Harris, seconded by David Hartley and accepted unanimously.

5. Treasurer's report

Jane Pedler reported that this year shows a surplus of £522.36 against £1,598.84 in 2017. Subscriptions are slightly lower at £1,290 against £1,340 and Doreen Tilbury would be able to tell members how this equates to membership numbers. There have also been less publication sales this year although these are still healthy. Donations are down at £85 as there were no legacies.

The Gift Aid at £184.69 is for 2017. It has been claimed for 2018 and although it will (as usual since it is claimed in January) not appear until next year's account it totalled £148.72, reflecting the slight drop in subscription and donation income. Jane once again thanked those people who were able to do this and have taken the opportunity to add to the society's funds. Since Jane herself is one of the lucky ones who pay no tax she can appreciate that some members would love to Gift Aid but cannot do so!

Jane took members through the balance sheet, having already mentioned subscriptions and donations, and also sales of publications. It was noted that the Society did not actually publish anything in 2018 but the sales are any books that are sold, frequently donated items. Thanks are due to Rosemary Burleigh for dealing with this. Some of the zero balanced columns have been removed following comment last year but they cannot all be taken them out if they appear as items in the spreadsheets.

Many members now pay their subscriptions by Standing Order or Internet Transfer which is very efficient and cost effective for both parties. If anyone else wishes to adopt either of these methods for future payments there are slips available with the necessary bank details on them, and members just need to make sure they put their surname on the payment as the reference. The slip can then be e-mailed or posted to Doreen so she knows they have renewed. The Society is also very grateful to those members who add donations on to their subscriptions. Sadly the Society cannot offer Direct Debit because of the onerous obligations and systems required by the bank.

For interest only members were shown a Balance Sheet for the CME project – as this is an independent entity from the Society and the figures do not appear anywhere in those accounts. For the sake of clarity (and Jane had to ask) the dates 2012 – 2014 relate to the years the excavation took place. There has been little movement here this year as the actual excavation is long finished – the site is now a playing field rented out to Ewell Castle School – and the Pot Group has finished the cleaning and sorting of finds. However there is still ongoing research and expert assessments so the funds will be gradually dispersed.

Jane finished by once again thanking examiner Rod Clarke for his patience with her various eccentricities, and the speedy production of the accounts members had before them.

(Bank Details: HSBC Epsom, Sort Code 40-20-28, Account no 54027379. Epsom & Ewell

History & Archaeology Society – EEHAS will do!)

No questions were forthcoming. Adoption of the Treasurer's Report was proposed by Chris Harris, seconded by Rosemary Burleigh and accepted unanimously.

6. Election of Officers

The following were proposed by Ian West, seconded by Rosemary Burleigh and elected en bloc:

President	Jonathan Cotton
Vice-Presidents	Stephen Nelson,
Secretary	Nikki Cowlard
Treasurer	Jane Pedler
Committee Members	Jeff Cousins, David Hartley, Doreen Tilbury

The appointment of the **Independent examiner** Rod Clarke was proposed by Jane Pedler and seconded by Gay Keeble.

7. Open Forum

Angela Clifford queried how members might go about getting involved in archaeology. Steve Nelson said that the work of the society was advertised in the Newsletter and on its website. The three seasons of excavation in Church Meadow were particularly successful in encouraging amateur involvement, although they did not significantly result in an increase in membership of EEHAS. The County Archaeology Unit (SCAU) in Woking organises voluntary processing sessions and Surrey Archaeological Society has appointed an outreach officer and is arranging a series of free specific training sessions to help people progress in all aspects of archaeology and local history. Its February Newsletter is on our website under outside events.

Mike Teasdale referred to the proposed Test Pitting in Nonsuch Park, to which the NPJMC had now agreed, and queried where else such work might be undertaken elsewhere in the Borough. Steve Nelson mentioned that he would personally like to see some investigative work in Bourne Hall grounds in order to test what may survive below ground of the 16th century mansion house in the general area of the lawn. He also explained the rationale behind test pitting work with careful recording of 1m sq. pits dug in 10cm spits.

9. Any other business

There was no other business.

10. Close of Meeting - the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.37 p.m..