

Work continues on recording The Great War memorials of Epsom & Ewell

By a Volunteer

Eighteen memorials to the fallen of the Great War have so far been identified within the Borough. Of these it appears that two have been totally 'lost'. The memorial from the Long Grove Asylum vanished sometime after the asylum closed, but a picture survived (*left – the interactive version of this memorial record is on our website www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk*).



The other was at St John's Church, Church Road, Epsom, and is described in an old parish magazine. The old church building now houses a playschool for young children. I wrote to the playschool sometime ago with a S.A.E. asking if it still existed within the building but got no reply. Three others are no longer in their original positions, the Epsom Brotherhood, Ewell Boy's school and the Manor Hospital. Fortunately they have been saved and are in the safe hands of Jeremy in the museum. One other, at the Methodist Church, was taken down when the building was redecorated, and to my knowledge has not been replaced. If anyone knows differently please

let me know. I have a feeling that there might have been a memorial for the staff at St Ebbas but I have no evidence for this. There are also seventeen burials in Ashley Road and St Mary's, Ewell of men who do not appear on any other Borough memorial, and another three who are mentioned on their parent's grave but nowhere else.

If you count every name that appears on all the memorials you get a total of 1,216. However, the total number of people commemorated is 708. This is because quite often a man is commemorated on several memorials within the Borough. An example is William Abraham Harlow. He is buried in St Mary's churchyard and is also commemorated on St Mary's church memorial, the Dog Gate memorial and the All Saints memorial. Another example is Robert Butland. He was killed in France on 28 September 1918 and is buried in Duisains British Cemetery, Etrun, France. He is also commemorated within the Borough at Ashley Road, Long Grove asylum and the Methodist Church (if they haven't thrown it away). He also appears on his hometown memorial in Looe, Cornwall.

The men in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission plot in Ashley Road and the men from Epsom College originate from places other than the Borough, and if they are excluded, the total commemorated reduces to 421. Of these, 262 have more information about them on the web site over and above their basic 'place holder' information.

The project continues and the amount of information continues to grow as more and more becomes available from the web. Recently 2 of us went to St Mary's churchyard, Merton to photograph the grave of 29 year old Harry Arderne Shoults White, a senior motor engineer who drowned when his salvage vessel the 'Thrush' sunk off the coast of Ireland. The grave was difficult to find and had sunk to some degree below the earth level, and obviously had parts of the original missing. *The picture shows a volunteer doing great work in cleaning his grave.*



Reid's Store - Epsom's Roof-Garden Puzzle.

By a Volunteer

Does anyone remember the tea garden on the roof of the now demolished Reid's store on the corner of Ashley Road and the Parade (next to The Spread Eagle)? Although I remember Reid's, it was not until I looked at a 1928 aerial photograph recently that I realised that there was a roof garden on the top, complete with tables, chairs and pot plants.



Aerial view of Reid's Store, October 1928 - © "Talk of the Town", John Furniss, printed by Bath Press 1992

I found a reference to it in a book, "Talk of the Town" by John Furniss, who had lived and worked in Epsom for well over seventy years, in which he describes "a roof garden with a lift and, better still, teas on the roof of the large white building which was the first four storey building with in Epsom." He said that he thought of it as a mini-New York with a good view from the top. This view has probably only been bettered by that from the new apartments in Station Road or the Ashley Centre car park

However, fewer, if any, of us will remember when Reid's was in the High Street, in the building now occupied by the Nationwide Building Society. He recalls "Mr H L Reid, dapper in a dark blue suit and wearing gold rimmed 'specs' on a rosy face, as he proudly paraded around his popular shop in the 1920s". What he and all small boys and I expect girls as well, will remember in particular was that wonderful contrivance of cables and little pots that carried his customers' invoices and payments to the cashier and brought back the receipt and the change, whizzing on wires above our heads as the shop assistants pulled little levers to set all in motion. Today's technology might be more efficient but nothing like this as entertaining. A very similar system was also installed in Coppen's the Drapers store at the junction of Upper High Street and the High Street and only disappeared when the store closed in the late 50s/early 60s.

If you have any memories or pictures of the roof-garden, Reid's or Coppen's, please contact me at the Local History Centre in Ewell Library – contact details are at the top of this newsletter

Harsh treatment – Welcome to Australia

By a Volunteer

Browsing through the Old Bailey website – www.oldbaileyonline.org - for cases that involved Epsom I came across the following.



Sources: *The Central Criminal Court 1674-1913* and freefoto.com.

“12th July 1721, Theft – grand larceny

Zechariah Collier of St. Botolph at Billingsgate was indicted for feloniously stealing 23s. 6d. the Money of several Persons, on the 14th of May last. William Bedman deposed, that the Prisoner was his Servant; that he sent him and the Maid to Church, and his Wife and self went out and lock up the Doors, that the Prisoner return'd, got in at the Back Door, took his own things and the Money mentioned in the Indictment, and went away; that he came to him but the Monday before, that he found him at the Crown at Epsom, where by means of a Counterfeit Recommendation he was got into Service; that he owned the Fact when taken saying, that he went first to Eltham and spent 5 s. brought the rest of the Money back to his Mother to fetch his Clothes out of pawn. His Confession before the Justice was read in Court.”

The Jury found him Guilty. The sentence was Transportation.

23s 6d is worth between around £200 at today's value (based on the RPI).

As for the Crown at Epsom, the following extract is from a booklet - *The Warmest Welcome I: “... In the 1690s two houses were built on a piece of land where the High Street met West Street; in 1714 we find one called the Crowne Inn while the other was known by 1719 as the Horse and Groom ...”* – see *Miscellanea*, page 10, for details of this booklet produced by Bourne Hall Museum and Epsom & Ewell Local History Centre.

WHO

DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

A fascinating day all round!

By a Volunteer

What a successful and interesting day we had yesterday (23 October 2010) when we held our own local version of “Who Do You Think You Are?” day. From the tickets given out it would appear that, within the 6 hours we were there, we had 40+ enquirers pass through our Local & Family History Centre in Bourne Hall Library, Ewell. All in all we handled around 70 enquiries (some enquirers made multiple requests).

These ranged from a six year old, who happily filled and coloured in 3 generations of her Smith Family Tree, to an Octogenarian who wondered if the computer could add anything to his tree. The said Octogenarian then produced from his briefcase 6 bound copies of his research as well as a 13 foot long Family Tree that started in the 1600's! Happily the computer and I did find some census information for him to add to his file.

My personal favourite though, was a couple that had Italian, French, Malta and English family connections. The lady was descended from an Italian Baron who was the Italian King's second in command. An amazing family story that started in the late 1700's through the Napoleonic wars and went on into the middle 1800's was unfolded to me. Sicilian by birth, the Baron served in the army of the Neapolitan Republic, the General Assembly in 1812 and took part in the Italian campaign in 1815 with Murat. He died in 1852. Such was the amount of family-known details, that I confess that at the time to being a little bemused by it all but the couple knew that at some point, after the Baron leading troops into battle and possibly fighting a duel, that his land and properties were confiscated and he was exiled with a death sentence hanging over him if he returned.

They were extremely delighted when I found 45+ 19th century newspaper hits relating to the Baron's military battles and one that confirmed the duel. They also knew that he moved to Malta and ended up in England where he married in 1832 an English girl. Their sons were born in France but upon the Baron's death she returned to England.

A search found that when she died in 1867, the *England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1861-1941* showed that her effects were in the region of £8,000. Today, this would equate to £517,000 based on using the retail price index, or £4,720,000.00 using average earnings. (See the purchasing power of the pound website at <http://measuringworth.com/calculators/ppoweruk/>) The couple's next port of call is First Avenue Holborn to get a copy of the Will!

By the way, you might like to know that the WDYTYA? day raised £86 from book sales, £26.80 from sale of Genealogy kits and £11 in donations. A nice and very welcome addition to our fund so thanks to all concerned. We would also like to thank the members of the East Surrey History Society who joined us in helping to answer visitors' enquiries.

Trafalgar revisited, but where are they all?

By a Volunteer

As some of you may recall, at the time of the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar in 2005 we had a display, put together by a volunteer, about the Epsom and Ewell connection with the battle. This was also on display in Epsom library before it found its way to the museum.



The Battle of Trafalgar by J.M.W. Turner (oil on canvas 1822-1824)
Nelson's famous signal flies from the Victory.

We discovered that six Epsom and Ewell men were fighting in the battle. They were John Clay, 19, volunteer in Victory; William Marshall, 28, the only one listed as pressed, in Ajax; Humphrey Miner, 51 and William Pitt, 23, both in Minotaur; James Phillips, 16, in Polyphemus; and James Nunn, 33, the only one from Ewell, in Phoebe. They were all from the ranks and all survived the battle apparently unscathed.

Unfortunately, James Nunn subsequently died when the prize ship on which he was crewed foundered and sank in the severe storm which sprang up directly after the battle and raged for seven days. Admiral Collingwood, commander after Nelson's death, had to get over 50 damaged ships back to Gibraltar but because of the weather,

he actually had to take off the men and sink the remaining captured ships in order to save the ships of the fleet. Of the 19 ships captured by the British, only four finally reached Gibraltar as prizes.



It is usual for most cruise ships nowadays to call in at Gibraltar on their way home and it was under these circumstances that I was able to take the opportunity to visit The Trafalgar Cemetery. Each year there is a memorial service in recognition of the Battle of Trafalgar, and although I was not there when that took place, it was a chance to see if there was anything relating to our Epsom men.

Finding the cemetery, through the gate at the far end of the High Street, was the easy part. The cemetery was a pleasant area of solitude after the hustle and bustle of the last minute duty free shoppers, in which to sit and think of events all those years ago, and our local lads who took part

What I was not prepared for was the fact that there is only one grave of a participant of Trafalgar – Thomas Norman, Captain of Marines on HMS Mars (*see picture, bottom right, previous page*). Another reference does suggest two memorials, but I could not find the other one. While it might prove interesting to find out more about Captain Norman, like all these things it is a question of time. Still as the old saying goes - ‘We may be none the wiser but at least we are better informed’.

Look, and What Do You See?

Much more if you contact the RAF Museum at Hendon and The Royal Flying Corps 1914-18

If you remember the photo below featured in an article by a volunteer in the September newsletter (no. 25). It came from the effects of the enquirer’s mother who had served as a cook to an officer’s mess at time of The Royal Flying Corp. It was said that it had been taken at Martlesham Heath in Suffolk, on Armistice Day 1918, and that the group was of ten test pilots for whom she had been the cook.



Andrew Cormack, Keeper of Medals, Uniforms and Visual Arts at the RAF Museum Hendon, to whom the volunteer turned to help identify the picture replied:

“I can confirm that the photo was definitely taken at Martlesham Heath. Thomas Laurence Purdom (far left) was serving with 62 Squadron on 1st April 1918, was evacuated to London - injured- at some later time (no date given), and was then posted to Aeroplane Experimental Station on 15th September 1918. He was placed on the Unemployed List on 19th February 1919.

The uniforms say WW1, but they are of a variety of types, some army, some RFC and some RAF. This last dates the photo to later than 1st April 1918, the date of the formation of the RAF. One pilot appears to have his hands bandaged (in fact, he is said to have got frostbite!) while most have on large (standard issue) gloves, but some don’t.” (*See the September newsletter for his much fuller response*).

Since then we have received an email from the editor of The Royal Flying Corps 1914-18 website, www.airwar1.org.uk with further information, as follows:

“From: Editor, Airwar1
To: EpsomandEwellLHC@yahoo.co.uk
Sent: Fri, 17 December, 2010 11:10:54
Subject: RE September Newsletter article on RAF photo

In the article ‘Look and what do you see?’ written by a volunteer, you mention Captain Thomas Purdom who served in 62 Squadron. For information he left 62 Squadron on 16 July 1918 after being wounded and sent to hospital, he was then given leave.

The aircraft on the left is a DH9 to the right an FE2 and to the far rear probably a Camel. Regarding decorations I don’t see any non-standard decorations and would imagine those with them have MC’s. Captain Purdom had an MC. The uniforms are a typical mixture for 1918 but showing the transition to RAF by losing the Sam Brown’s but retaining some variation in headgear and trousers.

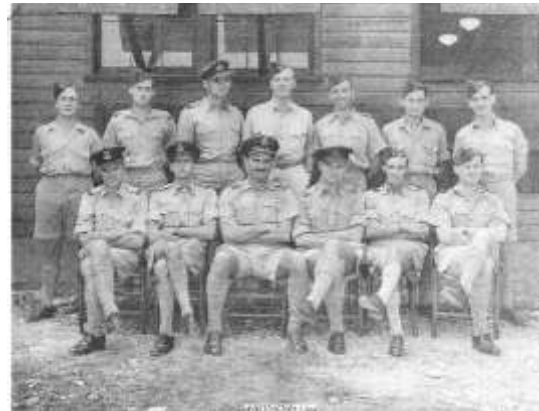
I will see if I can work out any of the others in the photo and let you know. I don’t think this unit was very big so these were probably all the pilots and there were no sub units.

Regards

I’m sure we’ll hear more on this as both men at Airwar1 have agreed to continue their research – Ed.

More ‘Looking and Seeing’ with the RAF

You may remember that in the January (no.23) and May issues (no.24) a volunteer posed some questions about a photograph a lady had purchased in a junk shop because she thought the gentleman in the dark jacket in the centre of the picture, below left, was her Uncle Bob. I proved it wasn’t her Uncle Bob and, having lost interest, the lady had no further use for the photograph. So, having sparked his interest, I sent it to the RAF Museum at Hendon to see if they could identify the photograph.



The Curator at the museum, has supplied the photograph on the right, which, he seems to think, show many of the same personnel and it looks like the chap in the middle-front is the same as the one in the dark jacket in the picture on the left. If he is right, he has tentatively identified him as Sqdn. Ldr. Ronald Arthur Webb, 111 (Coastal) Operational Training Unit (RAF). The unit was based at RAF Nassau in the Bahamas (*a fairly cosy posting*) where Webb was the Chief Navigation Officer. The photograph on the right was probably taken some time in 1943.

The unit’s “...purpose was to provide general reconnaissance crews to man Liberator squadrons in Coastal Command. The Station Commander reported officially to the Governor of the Bahamas, the Duke of Windsor, who had been tucked away in the Bahamas to avoid embarrassment”. (*Source: A brief history of 111 OTU*).

It’s nice to know our efforts are appreciated

The War Memorials featured on the website are drawing more and more comments, thanks to our volunteers. Here's another comment we have received:

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: 4 October 2010
Subject: Thank you very much

Hello [REDACTED]
I just want to thank you on behalf of my family for finding Gordon Steven's grave and adding the photo of the headstone to the write up about him on the Epsom and Ewell History Explorer website. Even though Gordon died long before I was born, having researched and written the piece about him meant it was really quite emotional to see the photo of his headstone when I went onto the site yesterday. My mother and I are both very grateful.
Thank you too for adding more detail to the piece as we now know so much more about the battle he took part in that led to his death.
Thank you again for all your work on this.
Kind regards
[REDACTED]

Don't you agree, the website just gets better and better, and just to prove it ...

In the last year, thanks to many volunteers' efforts, a significant amount of family history – births, marriages and deaths and Workhouse records – have been added to the website. Between 1st November 2009 and 31st October 2010 there have been over 44,000 visits to the family history pages.

And whilst we are at it, here are some more figures ...

You might like to know something of the work the 28 'active volunteers' have been undertaking in 2010 – if your name does not appear in the desk diary in the office at least once a month with your voluntary hours worked either at the LHC and/or at home then you are not counted in the active total. These are preliminary figures:

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Total hours given to the LHC by Volunteers*: | **6,839 hours |
| Total number of personal visits to the LHC by Enquirers: | 567 |
| Total number of enquiries by letter, phone, email and Enquiries Direct | 55 |
| Total number of enquiries handled by volunteers | 622 |

* Includes manning the LHC, preparing displays, researching and dealing with enquiries, updating Census and BMD records and digitising the photo library.

** Equivalent to 849 8-hour days.

Well done everyone; a significant contribution from our unpaid volunteers.

New Additions to the Website

<http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk>

The webmaster has added a wealth of new information and pages to the website. Here's a taster of some of the items for you.

[1950s Day to Day](#) – promoting the series of Fifties displays for 2011, including

[Record your memories of the 1950s](#)

[1950s National Service](#)

[1950s Shops](#)

[Abele Grove](#) – latterly the Convent of the Sacred Hearts, now the Haywain restaurant/pub

[Spencer Gore \(Father & Son\)](#) - lawn tennis champion and land surveyor and his artist son

[Manor Hospital War Memorial](#) – the Roll of Honour 1914-18 and 1939-45

[Upland House School War Memorial](#) – brief history of the school and the Roll of Honour 1914-18

[FitzRoy, George - 1st Duke of Northumberland](#) – 1665-1716 and the connections to Epsom

[St Barnabas Church](#) – a brief history

[St Barnabas Christenings](#) – June 1903 – September 1919

[Epsom & Ewell Cemetery Scattered Ashes 1955 - 1995](#) – index of ashes scattered in the cemetery

[The not so wicked Witch of Ewell](#) – the story of Joan Butts, 1680

[A farm called Langley in the Parish of Epsom](#) – sometime part of Ashtead Park estate and The Warren, Langley Vale

[Shadbolt Park](#) – the little gem of a garden in Worcester Park

[Hookfield](#) – sometimes called Hookfield Grove or Hookfield Park

[Hylands House](#) – listed Grade II circa 1740

A full list of the additions to the website, with links to the specific pages, can be found at www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WhatsNew.html

It's never a dull moment in Ewell

By a Volunteer

Here are a few interesting entries that I have come across whilst transcribing the Ewell Vestry notes for the Bourne Hall Museum (*reproduced by kind permission of Epsom & Ewell History and Archaeology Society - EEHAS*)

- Ewell. May 1, 1828 - At a vestry held this day it was reported that Mr. Curtis had not paid the whole of the late rates in consequence of a misconception about the assessment. Therefore, it was advised by this vestry that the officers should not insist upon the payment of the arrears till after the opinion of a vestry called for that purpose should be taken thereon. It was also resolved that in future the church wardens should pay for sparrows at the rate of two pence per dozen.
- Ewell, 27 June, 1833 - At the quarterly vestry held this day it was unanimously resolved that the overseers be empowered to expend any sum not exceeding thirty pounds for the purpose of sending Mrs. Smith and her two children to her husband at Van Diemens Land
- Ewell. Sept 9, 1833 - At an adjourned vestry held this day to take into consideration the best means of employing the poor belonging to this parish. It was resolved that this vestry be adjourned till Monday, the 23rd inst. In the meantime the overseers would undertake to find the best means of giving them employment. It was also resolved that the overseers do immediately procure a warrant for the apprehension of James Pearce for having deserted his wife and family who are now in the poor house.
- Ewell. Feby 6, 1834 - At a vestry held this day it was resolved that the widows should have the privilege (for the present year) of getting their gowns made by whom they thought proper on condition that they do appear at the church on Sunday morning, March 9th, in their new clothing after Morning Service.



Epsom & Ewell Local History Centre - Upcoming Events

Life in Epsom and Ewell in the 1950s

The world has undergone a dramatic change in the last 50 years so during 2011 we will have a number of displays covering different aspects of the Fifties.



The series includes:

| | |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| March | Fifties Fashion |
| May | Living in the Fifties |
| July | Children in the Fifties |
| Sept | The Media in the Fifties |
| Nov | Epsom and Ewell in the Fifties: to show and record the public's memories |

The Centre also plans on holding, with the assistance of Bourne Hall Museum, a small number of other 50's events. It is hoped that

the displays and events will help jog people's memories and encourage local residents to record their own reminiscences of this decade for future generations.

You can find out more at www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/1950sDayToDay.html and if you have a recollection or anecdote that you would like to share please see the Record your memories of the 1950s page at www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/EpsomEwell1950s.html

Who Do You Think You Are? 2011

Our increasingly popular, annual 'Who Do You Think You Are?' day will be held **during October 2011** between 10.00am and 4.00pm. The date has yet to be agreed but we will let you know as soon as it is as we will need to rota volunteers to help meet and deal with enquiries from the public.

Volunteers' New Year Lunch

Lunch for the volunteers has been booked at The Toby Carvery, Cheam Road, Ewell for Wednesday, 2nd February at 12.30 p.m. The cost will be £5.50 per head plus £1 for either a Starter, Ice Cream or coffee. We hope this is convenient and hope to see lots of volunteers there.

And a reminder about another good event in 2011



The London Maze is a free local history fair devoted to London and its past. It is organised by the Department of Libraries, Archives and Guildhall Art Gallery and takes place in Guildhall Art Gallery and the Guildhall complex located in the historic heart of the City of London. With dozens of stalls from libraries, archives, museums and local history societies, specialist talks, guided walks and a wide range of activities this fun and educational free event had something for everyone. It last took place in October 2008.

The next London Maze will be held on 16 April 2011.

Welcome to Six New Volunteers

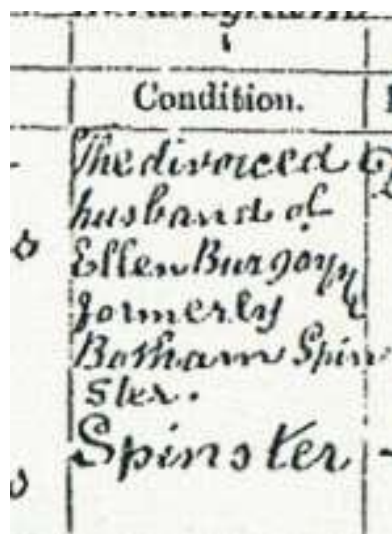
I am delighted to announce we have six new members. We hope they will enjoy working with our group. Please give them a warm welcome when you meet them. We now have some 40 volunteers working with the History Centre.

Some Interesting Miscellanea

Bachelor, Spinster, Widow or Widower, but never seen this before.

By a Volunteer

In the course of private research I came across this, I think, unusual information on a marriage entry:



Under 'Condition [of matrimony status]' it says

"The divorced husband of Ellen Burgoyne, formerly Botham spinster"

Wonder if this was a common entry or the hurt feelings of a divorced Registrar?

Personally I would feel very 'miffed' if a first wife's name was on my marriage certificate!

I have a similar peculiarity on an 1859 birth certificate. Under the entry for mother, which asks for 'Name surname and maiden surname of mother', it states:

"Mary Parker, late Johnston, formerly Roberts"

I presume from this that Mary, nee Roberts, was the widow Johnston before remarrying but why her deceased husband's surname was included when it was not requested I do not know. Perhaps it was an enthusiastic registrar. Requires more research on the Johnston name, methinks – Ed.

Has anyone else come across unusual entries on BMDs? Please let us know and we'll feature them in the next newsletter.

What a great reputation we had

A volunteer was recently thumbing through a copy of Genealogists' Magazine when he came across an article by Peter Maggs entitled "The Sutton Advowson – a tale of fraud, duplicity and profligacy among the Hatch Family in rural Surrey". To introduce his article, the author published a 'traditional Surrey rhyme', which he found in a book on Sutton in the Surrey History Centre. In fact it is one of several and the one below is also featured on the website www.sacred-texts.com/wmn/fow/fow16.htm

*Sutton for mutton,
Carshalton for beeves,
Epsom for whores and
Ewell for thieves*

So, how sacred is that? If it makes you feel any more comfortable, Mr Maggs also found some other little rhymes of a similar nature:

*Sutton for mutton,
Carshalton for beef,
Mitcham for lavender and
Dartford for a thief*

*Sutton for mutton,
Tamworth for beeves,
Brummagem for blackguards and
Coleshill for thieves*

By the way, beeves is the plural for beef.

You can find out more about Mr Maggs' latest book called 'Henry's Trials – the story of Henry John Hatch, first chaplain of Wandsworth Prison', from which the Genealogists' Magazine article was taken at www.mirlibooks.com

St Barnabas Christenings and St Martin's Marriages

A volunteer has finished transcribing St Barnabas, Epsom, baptisms from Jun 1903 to Sep 1919 (which is all we have at the centre) and they have now been added to the website.

www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/StBarnabasChristenings.shtml

Work is still going ahead on keying and proofing the St Martin's marriages which is the last of the main indices to be done.

The Warmest Welcome I: a new booklet

Last August there was a substantial display on the Lost Pubs of Epsom and Ewell at Bourne Hall and later at the Ebbisham Centre. Earlier this month the display made a return appearance at Bourne Hall. It featured a number of lost/demolished/changed pubs and was produced in conjunction with the curator of the Bourne Hall Museum and volunteers from the LHC - so thanks again to them all. The display created such interest that visitors requested it should be turned into a booklet. I am delighted to tell you that this has gone ahead, produced by the curator and a volunteer, and will be published in two parts. The first 28-page booklet – The Warmest Welcome I - features 'Inns and Alehouses 1667-1868' and will be published very shortly. I've seen a proof and it looks really good. It's priced at £3.99. The second half – The Warmest Welcome II – will feature 'Hotels and Public Houses' post-1866, will be published later.

Greetings from an old friend

On a recent visit to RHS Wisley, a volunteer bumped into a volunteer who left. He used to be a committee member responsible for volunteer scheduling on the desk. He now lives in Portsmouth where he is involved with Portsmouth History. He has asked that we pass on his regards and best wishes to all who remember him.

Is this the start of a 'Where are they now?' section on the newsletter?

Do you want a gateway to researching family in India? - By a Volunteer

If you have any European or Anglo-Indian ancestors who lived or worked in India or South East Asia between 1600 and 1947 try this website, which is FREE: www.fibis.org

According to Peter Bailey, Chairman of FIBIS, you can:

- Search a database of more than 580,000 individual names FREE <http://www.search.fibis.org/>
- Find out more about the lives your ancestors lived FREE www.wiki.fibis.org/
- Contact other people searching for your ancestors MEMBERS ONLY www.fibis.org/members-area.htm
- Learn more about researching British India with beginner to expert guides www.fibis.org/research.htm and FIBIS Books <http://shop.fibis.org/>

The Families In British India Society (FIBIS) is a self-help organisation devoted to members researching their ancestors and the background against which they led their lives in 'British India'. As your research progresses, we hope you will contribute your successful results to our pages for the benefit of others.

Have You Got News for Me?

We hope you've enjoyed reading this newsletter. Thanks to all those who provided information and stories – . But to keep the momentum going we need more, so I make no apologies in repeating this message, as it often seems to be the same people providing material. I'm sure many more of you have experiences, contacts with enquirers or local or family history information that would interest us all. And 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
- interesting facts about local history or genealogy
- intriguing Information Requests
- new research documents the LFHC has received
- forthcoming projects or events
- or just strange tales to tell

Please let the editor know - supporting photographs and pictures, if available, would be most welcome. It will help make the newsletter more interesting for us all.

The next publication date will probably be in May 2011, so you have plenty of time to think of something.

IRP January 2011