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One of Our Dustcart's is Missing! (With apologies to the wartime film of similar name) From Bert Barnhurst

While on a recent holiday, with what used to be Epsom Coaches, touring around Norfolk, one of our stops was at Bressingham Steam Museum and Gardens near Diss. The gardens were really superb and the steam part included two narrow gauge tracks, one of which covered the outside of the gardens to provide a different view. Also there were many steam tractors, rollers and even a steam operated antique roundabout with all the ride on horses; great fun for all.

The one thing I was not expecting was a Dad's Army collection together with a mock up of Walmington-on-Sea high street, including Jones' butchers shop, the bank and lots more. I knew that the series had been filmed in and around Thetford, which is not far away from the museum, but here was a whole collection of photos, uniforms, and a continuous playing of old episodes of Dad's Army in a small 'cinema'.



But for me the biggest surprise was seeing where Walmington's dustcart came from before it found fame, if not fortune! I wonder if the Town Clerk is still looking for it? It is strange what you can come across when you least expect it.

The 7-cubic yard side-loading refuse collection cart, built by Shelvoke and Drewry of Letchworth, was supplied to the old Epsom Urban District Council early in 1934 and carried the name 'Epsom and Ewell'

Urban District Council' in anticipation of the change of name to the enlarged District which took place later in that year. It wasn't withdrawn from service until 1957 and at the time it was one of the last surviving vehicles of its type in the country. Borough Engineer, Mr Colin Cobbett, arranged for it to be preserved in the hope that it would one day be restored to its original condition, which has now been done.

It featured in the 1971 Dad's Army film, appearing in a scene where Captain Mainwaring and his men hitch a lift back to Walmington-on-Sea.

The Dad's Army Dustcart is on loan to Bressingham from the Southern Counties Historic Vehicles Preservation Trust.

Jottings from Ewell Parish News

Margaret Jones has been perusing editions of Ewell Parish News from the 1970s. The following items caught her eye and we asked if we could lighten our tone by reproducing them here.

Ewell Parish News, March 1970

The Tale of Ernest Cotts

Once upon a time, at the end of a footpath leading off that part of the Kingston Road which runs beside the Hogsmill River, there used to be a notice board. It bore the cryptic message: '*Private only to Ernest Cotts*'.

From the earliest years of my childhood I indulged in happy fantasies about that notice. Who was Ernest Cotts? What misdemeanour had he committed that he alone was barred from using the footpath? Or did it mean that he was the only person who *was* allowed to use it?"

I never ventured to explore further. The word 'Private' was in any case a strong deterrent, and there was always the rather frightening possibility of meeting the mysterious Mr. Cotts himself.

Then, not so very long ago, Ernest Cotts disappeared. There's another notice at the end of the footpath now. Its message is clear, unambiguous and incapable of giving rise to any further fantasies. It simply reads: 'Private – leading to Ernest Cottages only'.

M.H.

Does anyone know if it is still there? – Ed.

Ewell Parish News, 1973

Major Operation

An old lady stopped the bus and slowly got on board. "Tell the driver to go carefully – I'm on my way to hospital," she told the conductor. The bus carefully wended its way to the hospital entrance and stopped very gently.

"Don't worry, Ma," said the conductor as he helped the old lady off, "you'll be alright after the operation." "Operation!" replied the dear old soul, "It's not me that's ill – it's my husband. And in this suitcase is a jelly I've made for him and it hasn't set properly yet!"

All-Fool's Day Tragedy

Close to the Old Tower (*in St Mary's Churchyard*) stands a well-preserved gravestone with the words "Here lies a sad memorial of the uncertainty of life – Catherine, wife of James Bailey, who in consequence of the overturning of the Dorking Coach – April 1st 1826, met with her death in the 22nd year of her age."

On that day Walker's Coach, full of passengers was standing outside the King's Head in Church Street. This inn is now a private house (No. 11) at the entrance to Glyn House. The coachman had the habit of starting the horses by stamping on the footboard. In his absence a boy stamped on the board, the horses started and ran away.

As the coach took the corner into High Street it overturned onto iron railings, which were then outside



No. 32 – now William’s newsagents. Catherine Bailey was one of the passengers thrown off the coach and killed, others were injured.

Unfortunately the messenger sent to Epsom for the surgeons was disbelieved as it was All-Fool’s day and considerable delay ensued before medical help, such as it was, was available for the dying and injured. A.W.L.

*Image: A Guide to Commuting in Regency London:
<http://www.wickedwilliam.com/category/b-wanstead-house/>*

A (very) remote brush with royalty

By Linda Jackson



*George FitzClarence.
Source: Wikipedia.*

Following Ian Parker’s piece on George FitzClarence in the February 2017 edition (Number 42), I was reminded of some research I once started, based on the confident assertion by Cloudesley Willis, in his book ‘A Short History of Ewell and Nonsuch’, that Dorothea/Dora Jordan, mistress of the Duke of Clarence, once had a house in Church Street, Ewell. I was then advised that the theory was without foundation. Still, what goes around comes around and Ian’s article has allowed me to disinter the material – thank you, Ian!

This could be the closest my ancestors ever got to royalty, but a niece of my great-great grandfather, a butcher in Epsom, was called Minna Swan. There were eight Swan children and, since there was no real money in the family, they all had to earn a living, daughters included. It may be that Mr and Mrs Swan, who lived in Brighton, turned the four girls out eventually, when they showed little sign of finding husbands. Three of them never did.



Minna and husband Albert

The second eldest Swan child, Minna, became a trained sick-nurse and in the 1891 census she filled such a position at St Mary’s Hall, Eastern Road, Brighton, then a large boarding school for the daughters of poor clergymen; the school had been founded by the Reverend Henry Venn Elliott in 1836. In the 1901 census Minna was described as a hospital nurse and I would guess that she had connections with the Royal Sussex County Hospital, also in Eastern Road. We do not know what Minna had been doing in between censuses – she could have been an employee in various nursing jobs or she might have been freelance. Nevertheless, in 1901 she was at 23 Palmeira Square, Hove, looking after the 2nd Earl of Munster.



*23 Palmeira Square (on left).
Photo by Linda Jackson*

This Earl of Munster was William George FitzClarence, born at Bushy, near Hampton Court, on 19 May 1824 to George Augustus Frederick FitzClarence (later 1st Earl of Munster) and Mary Wyndham, illegitimate daughter of the 3rd Earl of Egremont. As you may have read in the previous edition, George was the eldest illegitimate son of the Duke of Clarence, subsequently King William IV, and his mistress Dorothea/Dora

Jordan. George, albeit a distinguished soldier, was a considerable trial to his father, often in trouble with gambling and drinking and prone to mental instability,

possibly caused by the same malady that afflicted his grandfather, King George III. The 1st Earl shot himself on 20 March 1842, aged 48, and his eldest son, William, succeeded to the title. The 1st Earl was buried in St Mary’s Parish Church, Hampton.



*William FitzClarence.
Caricature by ‘Spy’*

William does not seem to have done anything of particular note: he spent a few years in the Army and then lived the life of a gentleman, mainly at 23 Palmeira Square. His wife was Wilhelmina ‘Mina’ Kennedy-Erskine, daughter of Lady Augusta FitzClarence, who was – wait for it - another child of the Duke of Clarence and Dora. By all accounts the Duke

was very fond of his grandchildren and visited them often, but after his death the FitzClarences were distanced from the young Queen Victoria by the new Queen's formidable mother, the Duchess of Kent. The Duchess had apparently regarded King William IV as 'an oversexed oaf'.

By 1901 the 2nd Earl had been ailing for some time, which explains the presence of Minna (allegedly aged 35, but actually 38) in the house. The census was taken on the night of 31 March/1 April and on 30 April the Earl died. The Countess, a novelist, lived on until 1906. The Earl was succeeded by his eldest surviving son Geoffrey, then serving with the Army in South Africa. Geoffrey never made it home and died in 1902, so the next Earl was his younger brother, Aubrey, who hung on until 1928. The title was then passed round various cousins and ultimately became extinct.

Minna was the only one of the Swan girls to marry and she presumably had the fiancé up her sleeve whilst nursing the Earl. On 28 June 1901 she nipped along to Portsea and married a considerably younger man, Mr Albert Benjamin Parsons, a maker of dairy utensils. They had one child, Eric, born in 1902.

15th Annual General Meeting

The AGM for Epsom & Ewell Local and Family History Centre held on Monday, 27th March 2017 in Ewell Library, Bourne Hall starting at 6.30pm. Some sixteen people attended the meeting and we were pleased to be joined by Deborah Tuddenham from the Surrey Library Service and Jeremy Harte from Bourne Hall Museum.



Some of the volunteers at the AGM. Photo courtesy Ian Parker

With regard to the agenda we are pleased to say that the committee was re-elected for another year, with the exception of Clive Gilbert, Treasurer, who, after 5 years, had chosen to retire from the committee. We thank Diane Tidd who offered to replace Clive and she was unanimously elected as treasurer. We thank Clive for his 5 years careful management of the Centre's accounts.

The committee comprises Meg Bower, Angela Clifford, Linda Clark, Diane Tidd, Glenda Charman, Margaret Jones, Janet Painter and Linda Laker. Tony Laker offered to continue as Examiner for the accounts. We wish them all the best.

The full minutes of the AGM have been issued by Angela Clifford and are available in the History Centre.

The Genealogists Anthem And a muse on the indispensable Agricultural Labourer

The AGM was followed by a fascinating and well-illustrated talk by Gillian Alford on one of the foremost poets of the 18th Century, Thomas Gray (1716-1771) and specifically his 'Elegy written in a Country Churchyard' published in 1751. Most people know the first few lines . . .



*The curfew tolls the knell of parting day,
The lowing herd wind slowly o'er the lea,
The plowman homeward plods his weary way,
And leaves the world to darkness and to me.*

. . . but there are a further 31 verses including three in the Epitaph.

The poem's origins are unknown, but it was partly inspired by Gray's thoughts following the death of the poet Richard West in 1742. It was completed when Thomas was living near St Giles' parish church at Stoke Poges. It was sent to his friend Horace Walpole, who popularised the poem among London literary circle

and Thomas was eventually forced to publish the work to pre-empt a magazine publisher from printing an unlicensed copy.

Thanks to Gillian for helping us appreciate the subtleness of this poem in her erudite and witty way. For those who would like to read the complete poem, go to <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poems/detail/44299>

The origins of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC)

By Clive Gilbert

Distinctive, instantly recognisable white headstones of the CWGC can be found in most of Britain's cemeteries, and of course in over 150 countries worldwide. The role of the CWGC is to care for the graves and memorials of some 1.7 million Commonwealth servicemen and women who died in the two world wars, at over 23,000 sites, and to ensure that each person is commemorated equally irrespective of rank, religious belief or nationality, to ensure that their names will never be forgotten.

Inaugurated by Royal Charter on 21 May 1917, the CWGC has just celebrated its 100th anniversary. Its existence can be attributed to one man, Sir Fabian Ware. Prior to the 1914-1918 war he had had a successful career in education in South Africa, written articles for the *Morning Post*, for which he was editor between 1905 to 1911, before becoming a director of Rio Tinto Limited. On the outbreak of war he volunteered to serve in the Army, but at the age of 45 he was told he was too old.

Wishing to 'do his bit' he joined the British Red Cross and by September 1914 he was in France commanding a Red Cross mobile unit. Because he was saddened by the large numbers of dead and also by the fact that no organisation was responsible for the marking and recording of graves, his unit began to undertake this task..

By March 1915 the Army realised that proper care of the dead would boost the morale of troops at the front and comfort relatives at home. The Army therefore created a new unit, the *Graves Registration Commission* with Fabian Ware in charge. This unit was to become, on 21 May 1917, the Imperial War Graves Commission (Imperial being changed to Commonwealth in 1960).

Brookwood Military Cemetery is the largest CWGC cemetery in Britain and to celebrate its 100th anniversary has produced an exhibition in the 'Canada' building at the cemetery. The exhibition is open from 10am, closes at 4pm and runs until 19th November 2017.



Finally, but by no means least William George Stripp, a gunner in the Royal Field Artillery who went to France on 4 September 1915, died on 7 November 1918, aged 24, whilst on leave in the UK. His cause of death was influenza, the deadly strain of influenza that killed many millions worldwide. William had

worked at the Spring Hotel in Ewell and is commemorated on the Dog Gate memorial outside Bourne Hall and on the memorial in St. Mary's churchyard. He is buried in grave XIII. B. 1. in Brookwood Military cemetery.

Where in Epsom is this?

From Jeremy Harte

The Museum has recently acquired this postcard, taken by the prolific local photographer J.G. Tillett of Church Street.

The house must be somewhere in the Epsom area: it is recognisably the left half of a semi, part of a street where the properties front quite closely onto the road. It's Victorian, with the two-storey bay windows ornamented by rosettes carved in the stone lintels and what are presumably terracotta capitals. The balustrade over the front door is distinctive. But where is it? Any suggestions would be welcome.

Answers please to Epsom & Ewell Local & Family History Centre <epsomandewellhc@yahoo.co.uk>



Woodcote Millennium Green and Pond

From Angela Clifford

Epsom's Woodcote Millennium Green is unique in Surrey. It comprises an area of 2.9 hectares (7 acres), bounded by Woodcote Green Road to the north and the Woodcote Estate to the south.

The land now forming the Green has passed through the ownership of monks, lords and developers over the last thousand years. It was originally part of the estate of the Manor of Horton, owned by Chertsey Abbey until the dissolution of the lesser monasteries in 1536-7. After passing through several owners, the Manor passed to the sister-in-law of John Evelyn, the 17th Century diarist. Woodcote House was re-built at this period, on a site which is now just south of the Millennium Green.

Woodcote House was acquired by Sir Edward Northey (1652-1723) in the late 17th century and became the family seat to the Northey family for 250 years. The present house dates mainly from the early 19th century.

In the late 1930s, Woodcote House and the surrounding land was sold to Earnest Gabriel Harwood, whose building company developed most of the land for housing, forming the Woodcote Estate. Woodcote House itself was subdivided into flats.

In 1999, the Harwood family donated a large portion of the remaining woodland, including the pond, to be held in perpetuity by the Trustees of the Woodcote Millennium Green Trust whose members are passionate to retain the character of this landscape gem.



County Councillor Chris Frost and a group of residents took on the challenge of transforming this site of overgrown brambles into the attractive piece of managed natural woodland. Landscape architect Robert Petrow was employed to produce a master plan and contractors were employed to clear the brambles to create open glades and

install the first phase of connecting paths. This was completed in time for the official opening of the Woodcote Millennium Green by the Mayor of Epsom and Ewell in July 2000 when a large number of local residents turned out to celebrate with a music and games.

The Green is well used by local residents, hospital workers and patients alike. The paths are wheelchair friendly and several benches have been donated and sited for maximum enjoyment of the surroundings. A condition of funding was that there should be a permanent feature and a human sundial was designed by Sue White. It comprises a ring of marble slabs marked with the hours of the day and a central slab on which a person stands to create a shadow on the time.

Funded by local contributions, subsequent projects have included an avenue of lime trees, extension of the network of paths, encouraging wildlife habitats, installing bird boxes and the always-demanding job of clearing the pond. The main task is now maintaining the area so that future generations will continue to enjoy this amenity. The trustees are very conscious that in the future the Trust will need financial resources to ensure that maintenance will continue ad infinitum. To this end they have initiated a Millennium Green Patron scheme, which can be found at www.woodcotemillenniumgreen.org.uk/

Society of Genealogists transfer Family Search microfilms

From Meg Bower

I recently received notification about the transfer of the London FamilySearch Centre microfilm collection to the Society of Genealogists.

“The London FamilySearch Centre microfilm collection, which is currently temporarily located at The National Archives, is transferring to the Society of Genealogists in Clerkenwell. The move reflects a partnership between the Society of Genealogists and FamilySearch to ensure that the microfilm collection continues to be available to family historians. The London FamilySearch Centre will continue to provide its research support services at the National Archives.

“The collection of about 57,000 microfilms complement the SoG’s remarkable library of genealogical sources and both bring together, in one place, an unparalleled resource for family history researchers in the UK. Having been carefully curated over many years, the Family Search Films include many thousands of copies of original church and local records from the



United Kingdom and Ireland; probate records for England and Wales before and after 1858 and selected items for Caribbean research.

“The films will be available to view at the National Archives until 31 May and should be available for consultation at the Society of Genealogists Library from 26 June 2017.”

The Society of Genealogists are located at 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Rd, London EC1M 7BA. Information about visiting and using their Library can be found on the SoG website <http://www.sog.org.uk/the-library>

The National Archives Revisited

Bert Barnhurst

As my reader's card ran out recently, I thought I would try to renew online. Although I appeared to have done so successfully having filled in all the right boxes, I was told to collect the card within the next six weeks, therefore necessitating a trip to Kew.

Apart from the journey there being absolutely horrendous due to a car accident in Clifford Avenue just before it crosses Lower Richmond Road, I arrived ready and eager to collect my readers ticket, I should have known better! The entire set up at Kew had changed.



The Reception desk was no longer where it used to be having been replaced by a large statue in the atrium, and the baggage check was like playing Russian roulette. The system now is that you press a button on a device located at a little side table and if it lights up green, you're in; if it lights red, you are searched; no prizes for guessing what colour my turn was. Nobody bothers what you do on the way out!

Whilst the bookshop appeared to be much the same as before, the entire catering area had totally changed, now featuring a number of multi-coloured armchairs in a rather puce shades of red and pink. These chairs must have been exceptionally comfortable as I never saw an empty one any time I passed through.

On the way upstairs to registration, I was met by a model of a WW1 machine gunner made out of compressed cardboard. It was very well constructed but I am not sure why it was there.

When I got to registration, up on the second floor, for my reader's card, it did prove to be quicker than if I had done it there in the old-fashioned way and I am now set for another three years.

These are not all the changes that have taken place, as the Enquiry desk on the first floor is no longer there, but there is one further towards the library. Half the terminals seem to have moved somewhere else and a brand-new Education Room is in the process of construction. The file of 'Class Lists' is no more, but the staff are as helpful as ever – and they need to be as nothing on the computer system seems the same as last time I was there.

I trust this will not put anyone off from going because once you have cracked the system, it is well worth while and I returned, not only with my readers ticket but some very useful research.



Actress, Courtesan and Royal Mistress, with 13 Children What a Dame!

By Ian Parker

In the article headed '*A Royal conundrum*' in the previous issue of 'Lives & Times' (no. 42 dated February 2017) we discussed the Royal Baptism of George FitzClarence by the Curate of Ewell, Thomas Lloyd. George FitzClarence was the illegitimate child of the future King William IV, who was, at that time Duke of Clarence, and the actress Dorothea Jordan.

We decided to look a little further into Dorothea's fascinating life. She was an Anglo-Irish actress born in County Waterford, Ireland in November 1761. In 1785, she made her first London appearance at Drury Lane. Her engagement at Drury Lane lasted until 1809, and she played a large variety of parts. But gradually it came to be recognized that her special talent lay in comedy. During the rebuilding of Drury Lane she played at the Haymarket; she transferred her services in 1811 to Covent Garden. Here, in 1814, she made her last appearance on the London stage, and the following year, at Margate, retired altogether.



Mrs Jordan from The Life of Mrs Jordan by J Boaden (1831)

She had an affair with her first manager, Richard Daly, the manager of the Theatre Royal, Cork, who was married, and had an illegitimate child with him:

- Frances Daly (also called *Fanny*) born in Dublin in September 1782; she later changed her name to *Frances Bettesworth* in 1806 and married Thomas Alsop in 1809. In 1820 the Duke of Clarence paid her passage to America where she had offers of acting work. 9 months after she arrived, in June 1821, she swallowed an overdose of laudanum in her lodgings. She was 39.

In England, Dora had a short-lived affair with an army lieutenant, Charles Doyne, who proposed marriage. But she turned him down and went to work for the theatre company operated by Tate Wilkinson. It was at this point she adopted the name "Mrs. Jordan" – a reference to her escape across the Irish Sea, likened to the River Jordan. She appeared at Wilkinson's York Circuit theatres.

Shortly after her affair with Wilkinson was over, she began an affair with George Ingham, the male lead in the Wilkinson Company. According to Claire Tomalin, Dorothea's biographer, Dorothea would have married Ingham but he never asked. Broken-hearted, she left him in 1786 to begin an affair with Sir Richard Ford, a police magistrate and a lawyer. She moved in with Ford when he promised to marry her. They had three illegitimate children:

- Dorothea Maria Ford (born August 1787) married Frederick Edward March in 1809.
- A son who died at birth in October or November 1788.
- Lucy Hester Ford (born 1789) married Samuel Hawker later General and Sir in 1810. Had 10 children, the youngest born when the General was in his 70s.



*William IV, Duke of Clarence
Encyclopedia Britannica*

In 1791, once she realised that Ford was never going to marry her, Dora left him to begin her affair with William, Duke of Clarence. She was pretty, witty and intelligent and seemed to have not bothered herself with politics or the political intrigues that often went on behind the scenes in royal courts. Together for 20 years, while he was Duke of Clarence, they had ten illegitimate children, as follows, all of whom took the surname FitzClarence, starting with our original subject baptized by the curate of Ewell:

- **George** (January 1794 – March 1842), created Earl of Munster in 1831. 'As he sat alone in his library late on a Sunday night, he killed himself. The footman told the inquest he heard a shot and went to see what happened and found his master with his right hand blown to bits; ... as the footman went for help there was a second shot. This time George put the gun in his mouth, with his left hand, and blew his brains out. The gun was given to him by his uncle, George IV.' Lord Melbourne, the Prime Minister, told

Queen Victoria that George had always been 'an unhappy and discontented man, and there is something in that unfortunate condition of illegitimacy which seemed to distort the mind and feelings and render them incapable of justice and contentment.

- **Henry Edward** (March 1795 – September 1817). No issue.
- **Sophia** (August 1796 – April 1837), married Philip Sidney, 1st Baron De L'Isle and Dudley.
- **Mary** (December 1798 – July 1864), married General Charles Richard Fox. No issue.
- **Lieutenant General Lord Frederick GCH** (December 1799 – October 1854), officer in the British Army. Remained in the army all his life without seeing active service.
- **Elizabeth** (January 1801 – January 1856), married William Hay, 18th Earl of Erroll.
- **Rear-Admiral Lord Adolphus GCH**, ADC, RN (February 1802 – May 1856). No issue.
- **Augusta** (November 1803 – December 1865) married firstly, Hon. John Kennedy-Erskine, married secondly, Admiral Lord Frederick Gordon-Hallyburton.
- **Lord Augustus** (March 1805 – June 1854), rector at Mapledurham in Oxfordshire
- **Amelia** (March 1807 – July 1858), married Lucius Bentinck Cary, 10th Viscount Falkland.

Sad to say, despite all her children and her 'contacts' Dora died alone on the 5th July 1816 (aged 54) in Saint-Cloud, France, in a grubby apartment. At last, in 1857, her daughter with Sir Richard Ward, Lucy Hester Ford, age 60, travelled to her mother's grave in St Cloud.

But her life was not in vain. Dora's notable descendants include:

- Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra, Duchess of Fife, a granddaughter of Edward VII
- Her Highness Princess Maud, Countess of Southesk, also a granddaughter of Edward VII
- Brigadier General Charles FitzClarence, recipient of the Victoria Cross (8 May 1865 – 2 November 1914)
- Sir Edward Bellingham, 5th Bt. Brig.-Gen., Senator of the Irish Free State (26 January 1879 – 19 May 1956)
- Duff Cooper, 1st Viscount Norwich British diplomat, Cabinet member and author (22 February 1890 – 1 January 1954)
- John Julius Norwich, 2nd Viscount Norwich, historian, author, television presenter (born 15 September 1929)
- Sir Rupert Hart-Davis British publisher, literary editor, and man of letters (28 August 1907 – 8 December 1999)
- Fra. Andrew Bertie (1929–2008) Prince and Grand Master of the Knights Hospitaller.
- Adam Hart-Davis British author, photographer, and broadcaster (born 4 July 1943)
- David Cameron (b. 1966), former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and former Leader of the Conservative Party.

Bibliography

'Mrs. Jordan's Profession: The Actress and the Prince, Claire Tomalin, 1994,

Publisher: Viking, ISBN 0-670-84159-5

Wikipedia https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dorothea_Jordan

Did the Vicar of Ewell do fractions or metrication?

In the article entitled '*Did the Vicar of Ewell do it?*' in the previous issue of 'Lives & Times' (No. 42 - February 2017) we drew attention to the population statistics for 1801, 1811 and 1821 found in the Parish record of Births, Marriages and Deaths for St Mary's Church, Ewell.

In this article we raised a question about some fractions that the vicar had written in the 1811 and 1821 statistics as to what they were and what they signified.

The fractions were as follows: 4 $\frac{207}{232}$ for 1811 and 5 $\frac{20}{306}$ 1821

Meg Bower has been looking at the figures and it turns out these are simply the average number of people in a family at that time.

1811 showed 1,135 people divided by 232 families = 4 $\frac{207}{232}$ or 4.89

1821 showed 1,550 people divided by 306 families = 5 $\frac{20}{306}$ or 5.06

So, the average size of a family in Ewell increased by 0.17 of a person in the ten years between 1811 and 1821.

Simple really, but we still have the problem of what is 0.17 of a person when it comes to providing food, drink and other elements of daily life?

They won't silence the peals

From Gillian Alford

Of all the sounds most closely associated with the pastoral idyll, none is more evocative than church bells. One of the greatest controversies to involve the village churches of England took place during the Second World War when all bells were silenced so that they could be used, alongside the ancient beacon system, in the event of a Nazi invasion.

Reluctantly accepted at first, the silence imposed on the beautiful sound of pealing or chiming church bells became more and more controversial as the war ground on. The Archbishop of York led protests and managed to win two exceptions in 1942, once to mark the victory of El Alamein in North Africa and again at Christmas. By the following April, when rural MPs, under pressure from their constituents, raised the issue in Parliament; even the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, sympathized, telling the Commons that in the unlikely event of the enemy storming ashore: "I cannot help feeling that news of anything so serious would leak out somehow".



Source: 'The English Village' by Martin Wainwright

Changes, Amendments and Additions to the Website

www.EpsomandEwellHistoryExplorer.org.uk

By Webmaster Peter Reed

It's been an amazingly busy few weeks partly because Google is changing the way it treats ordinary sites, those that just start with http: The change does not affect secure sites, those that start https: To become a secure site would add 50% to our web hosting costs and involve a lot of work.

Starting in October Google will flag up pages that start http: - that also have a text input box - as 'insecure'. We used this method for over 10 years to provide the search box that was in the left-hand column of the majority of our pages. So that visitors are not alarmed by this new (Google inspired) warning I have had to change almost every page on our site (over 1200 separate pages!). By clicking on the word search you are now taken to a separate search page that uses a new method of conducting the custom Google search.

Because I had to remove the search box from every page I have used the opportunity to also address complaints by a handful of visitors that the Contact link did not start their email program. Now clicking the Contact link just takes you to the 'About this site' page which contains contact information.

A further change to the website involves the links to other websites. The History Explorer website is approaching its 10th birthday and recently I have been reviewing the links from our website that no longer work. These broken links usually occur because another website has made some change to their file structure or names. Of course these changes are completely out of my control and as our website currently has 12,699 links the task of identifying and correcting broken links is very time consuming. To achieve an acceptable level of reliability in a realistic and workable way I have had to adopt the following approach:

1. If a link to a particular page no longer works but the main site still exists I have just changed the link to the home page (front door) of the main site. (Incidentally this is now the industry's recommended approach for all links but of course it doesn't take the visitor straight to the relevant page).
2. If the main site no longer exists I tried to quickly find/use a suitable alternative.
3. Where no obvious alternative exists I have had no option but to remove the link and occasionally make a tweak to the text of our page.

In the last 4 days I have made changes to hundreds of links spread over 563 files* and can now report that over 99% of links are now operational.

In the future if you are reviewing or amending any page please make sure you check that all the links are still working.

* You might like to know that our website currently is spread over approx 1,700 separate files and has 7,000+ images.

In addition to the above-mentioned changes, and since the last update (10 May 2017), I have received loads of new and amended pages, so here is the list. I apologize in advance if I have overlooked an article or two but do let me know.

A 1926 Snapshot Of Epsom Businesses	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/1926LocalBusinesses.html	New	Roger Morgan
Bourne Hall Museum Club	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/BourneHallMuseumClub.html	Amended	David Brooks
Epsom Coachman Wins Breach Of Promise	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/BreachPromise.html	New	Brian Bouchard
1926 & 1976 Histories Of Christ Church, Epsom Common	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/CC1926and1976.html	New	Roger Morgan
The Bells Of Christ Church, Epsom Common	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/ChristChurchBells.html	New	Roger Morgan
Christ Church, Epsom Common	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/ChristChurchHistory.html	Amended	Roger Morgan
Bessie Duller	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/DullerB.html	New	Linda Jackson
The Earles Of Ewell	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/EarlesOfEwell.html	Amended	Bill Eacott
The Elsons (23 Church Street, Epsom)	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/Elsons.html	Amended	Linda Jackson
Epsom And Ewell Local And Family History Centre	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/EpsomHistoryCentre.html	Amended	Peter Reed
The Stained Glass Of Christ Church, Epsom Common	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/GlassAtCC.html	Amended	Roger Morgan
George Edwin Good	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/GoodGE.html	New	Roger Morgan
The Curious Case Of Joseph Valentine Grimstead	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/GrimsteadJV.html	Amended	Brian Bouchard
Sinking Of The Hospital Ship Anglia	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/HMHSAnglia.html	Amended	Peter Reed
Coffin Bones, Horseboxes And Epsom	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/Horseboxes.html	New	Peter Reed
Sybil Myra Caroline Grant (née Primrose)	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/LadySybil.html	Amended	Hazel Ballan
Fatal Storm In Epsom & Ewell - Oaks Day 1868	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/OaksDayStorm.html	New	Linda Jackson
Reverend Thomas Burgess Barker	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/RevBarker.html	New	Brian Bouchard
By Underground To Epsom	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/UndergroundToEpsom.html	New	Peter Lemon
The WW2 Memorial At Christ Church, Epsom Common	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemChristChurchWW2.html	New	Roger Morgan
George Frederic Watts RA OM	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WattsGF.html	Amended	Roger Morgan
WW2 Book Of Remembrance – Supplement	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html	Amended	Various

The Clive Gilbert and the WW1 Memorials Team have recently researched & updated the following people:

ADAMS, George	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesA.html#AdamsG	Revised
BEATON, H	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesB.html#BeatonH	Updated
CLIFFORD, William	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesC.html#CliffordW	Revised
COX, C.R	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesC.html#CoxCR	Updated
DEANE, Arthur Francis	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesD.html#DeaneAF	Revised
DULAKE, H	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesD.html#DulakeH	Revised
GABRIEL, Stewart Arkcoll	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesG.html#GabrielSA	Revised
GARTON, Reginald William	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesG.html#GartonRW	Revised
HANKINS, Thomas William	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesH.html#HankinsTW	Revised
KERR, Hugh Wilfred	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesK.html#KerrHW	New
KIRK, Arthur	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesK.html#KirkA	New
LAURIE, John	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesL.html#LaurieJ	New
MARTIN, Francis Charles	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesM.html#MartinFC	Updated
MCGILLEN, Daniel	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesM.html#McGillenDF	New
PAGE, Frederick	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesP.html#PageF	New
PERRY, Sidney	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesP.html#PerryS	New
PRATTENTON, B	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesP.html#PrattentonB	Revised
PRIMROSE, Hon. Neil James Archibald	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesP.html#PrimroseNJA	Updated
RADDATZ, Albert	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesR.html#RaddatzA	New
RAMSAY, Martin	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesR.html#RamsayM	New
ROBERTS, Samuel Crosbie	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesR.html#RobertsSC	New
ROUNCE, E.R	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesR.html#RounceER	Updated
RUSSELL, Frederick Charles	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesR.html#RussellFC	New
TERRY, Alfred	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesT.html#TerryA	Revised
THOMAS, Maurice Wotton	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesT.html#ThomasMW	Updated
TURNER, Harcourt Charles	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesT.html#TurnerHC	Revised

A special mention goes to Roger Morgan who, in addition to the changes to the website pages listed above, has researched all the WW2 fallen who feature on the Christ Church Memorial, as follows:

A. E. ADAMS	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#AdamsAE
F. C. BERRY	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#BerryFC
H. E. BLACKMAN	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#BlackmanHE
A. K. W. BROWN	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#BrownAKW
B. M. BURNHAM	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#BurnhamBRM
J. CANHAM	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#CanhamJ
J. A. CHAPMAN	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#ChapmanJA
L. A. CLARK	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#ClarkLA
W. G. CLARK	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#ClarkWG
J. W. CLIFF	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#CliffJWPR
P. R. CLIFF	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#CliffJWPR
G. G. COLLINS	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#CollinsGG
A. COPESTICK	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#CopestickA
M. C. DANIELL	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#DaniellMC
C. W. EASTON	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#EastonCW
C. C. GLADMAN	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#GladmanCC
L. E. GORARD	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#GorardLE
R. GORDON	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#GordonR
P. GRANT	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#GrantP
O. L. R. HILLS	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#HillsOLR
C. A. F. HOWELL	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#HowellCAF
R. G. H. HUTCHINGS	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#HutchingsRGH
C. V. IRISH	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#IrishCV
P. C. JACKSON	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#JacksonPC

W. W. LEWIN	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/LewinWW.html
C. LEWIS	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#LewisC
V. LOWER	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#LowerV
E. LEVERINGTON	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#LeveringtonE
M. LEVERINGTON	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#LeveringtonM
R. W. MATTHEWS	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#MatthewsRW
H. MOORE	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#MooreH
A. G. NEWBERY	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#NewberyAG
W. T. PAGE	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/PageFamily.html#PageWT
T. J. PEDDIE	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#PeddieTJ
A. ROBERTS	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#RobertsA
J. C. ROLL	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#RollJC
T. ROWLAND	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#RowlandTA
E. J. SAVAGE	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#SavageEJ
H. W. SELMAN	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#SelmanHW
W. A. SKELTON	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#SkeltonWA
J. B. SMITH	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#SmithJB
G. R. STEEL	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#SteelGR
T. STEPHENSON	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#StephensonT
F. J. STONE	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#StoneFJ
R. D. TELLING	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#TellingRD
R. TOFT	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#ToftRF
L. G. H. TREADGOLD	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#TreadgoldLH
R. D. TURNBULL	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#TurnbullRD
C. R. VEALL	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#VeallCR
G. F. J. WAITE	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#WaiteGFJ
B. WARD	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#WardB
D. A. WATERMAN	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#WatermanDA
A. WESTON	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#WestonA
G. WESTON	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#WestonGP
W. J. WHITE	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#WhiteWJ
E. J. WILBY	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#WilbyEJ
P. E. WILLIAMS	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#WilliamsPE
R. G. WILSON	www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2BookSupplement.html#WilsonRG

Thank you to everyone for all your hard work,

We are now listed on the Epsom Library Community Page From Peter Reed

The library service has asked the History Centre to set up a page on their Epsom Library Community Page <https://epsom.interests.me/>.

This website details events, activities, and news shared by local groups, clubs and societies in Epsom. Click on 'The Directory' button and it will lead you to our link.

Alternatively, you can go directly to our page at: <https://epsomwelllocalfamilyhistorycentre.interests.me/>
This new listing allows us to describe what we do and to blog our activities and events.

A small, discreet but justly deserved award.

The Museum Staff were recently having a turnout of their store and found a cup and crown. Quite rightly, they decided to have a brief presentation to award them to Peter Reed to mark his 10 years of service as a volunteer and Webmaster for the Epsom & Ewell Local and Family History Centre.

Well done Peter and thank you to the Museum team for recognising Peter's contribution. And thanks too for the picture. One to treasure!





The strange things you find on holiday in Norfolk

There are some strange things you can come across on holiday. Bert Barnhurst, on holiday last July in Bressingham in Norfolk, came across this image in a church – notice the outstretched hand!

Bert asks if anyone can say what it is for and what it stands for.

If you know, email your answer to EpsomandEwellLHC@yahoo.co.uk

Regrettably, there's no prize for the right answer; treat it as an intellectual challenge.

Bert will let us know what it is in the next issue of 'Lives & Times'

Have You Got News for Me?

We hope you've enjoyed reading this edition of 'Lives & Times'. Thanks to all those who provided information, anecdotes, stories and pictures - Gillian Alford, Bert Barnhurst, Meg Bower, Angela Clifford, Clive Gilbert, Jeremy Harte, Linda Jackson, Margaret Jones and Peter Reed. But to keep the momentum going we need more, so I make no apologies in repeating this message - again and again – Have you got news for me, please?

I'm sure many more of you have experiences, contacts with enquirers or local or family history information that would interest us all, so let's have them - 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 me know - supporting photographs and pictures, if available, would be most welcome as it will make it all the more interesting for us all.

The next publication date will probably be in Spring 2018, as long as our contributors keep providing material, so you have plenty of time to think of something.

Ian Parker – September 2017



Ewell Library

Bourne Hall

Ewell

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SATURDAY, 14TH OCTOBER 2017

ANYTIME BETWEEN 10.00 AM AND 4.00 PM

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Email: EpsomandEwellLHC@yahoo.co.uk

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Researching Local History or Tracing your Ancestors?

If you are interested in the history of Epsom and Ewell, or want to trace your family's history then visit us at the Epsom and Ewell Local and Family History Centre located in Ewell Library at Bourne Hall, Spring Street, Ewell.

Opening Hours

The History Centre is open and staffed by volunteers at the following times

Tuesdays	10.00 am – 12 noon
1 st Wednesday of the month	10.00 am – 12 noon
Thursdays	2.00 pm – 4.00 pm
Fridays	2.00 pm – 4.00 pm
1 st Saturday of the month	10.00 am – 4.00 pm
Other Wednesdays and Saturdays	By prior appointment

The Centre is closed on Mondays

Enquiries can also be made by email to EpsomandEwellLHC@yahoo.co.uk

[Take a look at our History Explorer Website - www.EpsomandEwellHistoryExplorer.org.uk](http://www.EpsomandEwellHistoryExplorer.org.uk)

Epsom and Ewell History Explorer has numerous items of local interest including personalities, places, properties, and personal reminiscences of life in bygone times and notable events. There is also an extensive and searchable collection of local birth, christening, marriage, death records, cemetery burials, gravestone inscriptions, detailed Workhouse records and WWI memorials with numerous stories of those remembered. It is a fascinating and continually growing source of information.

Receive the newsletter by email

If you would like to receive regular copies of this newsletter by email, please just send your email address to EpsomandEwellLHC@yahoo.co.uk with the heading "EMAIL ME YOUR NEWSLETTER". Your email address will not be provided to any other organisation or company and will only be used to send you the newsletter.