

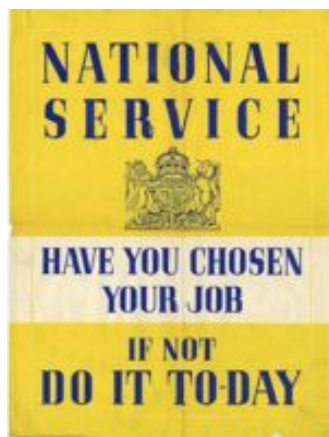


*The articles in this newsletter are purely the responsibility of the authors and are not necessarily the views of the Epsom and Ewell Local and Family History Centre.*

## Volunteers' Miscellanea

### National Service Revisited – a plea for help from a history graduate

Bert Barnhurst has received an enquiry from a History graduate, Emily Foster, who is about to work on her dissertation for her Master's Degree for which she has chosen to research various aspects of National Service from 1948 to 1960.



When first searching the web for ideas she contacted us at the History Centre and it would appear that we were one of the few to reply with any positive information.

Being unable to come in to the office - she lives in Liverpool – Emily is hoping that people who were called up for National Service will contact her with brief answers to the following:

- How did you and your family feel about being called up?
- Where were you sent for training and how did you feel about it?
- Was the war in Korea a possible posting (1950-1953) for you? If not did you worry about an overseas posting in another conflict area? (i.e. Malaya, Aden, Suez)
- Did National Service help you in any practical way in your future employment or in any other way?
- What was your most memorable experience during your service?

Emily would also like to know if respondents would be happy if she contacted them to answer more questions about their time doing National Service. Everyone who replies will be acknowledged as a source.

So, come on all you ex- 'squaddies' out there, whether members of the History Centre or not, think about those 'good old days' and let's help Emily achieve her Master's Degree in History. You can contact Emily by email at [em-rogue@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:em-rogue@hotmail.co.uk).

New Genealogy portal: [www.forebears.co.uk](http://www.forebears.co.uk)

Hazel Ballan has brought this new 'forebears' website to our attention. It was launched last year and aims to offer a point of reference, by country, for different historical & genealogical databases. The idea is if you are researching ancestors in a particular town that you can turn to Forebears to get a comprehensive list of sources that may contain information on your ancestors. This overview of sources is (or will be) supplemented by other information that may be of interest to researchers, such as: population demographics, local surname information,



the location and dates of parish registers and historical descriptions. Countries covered so far seem to be mainly England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man, British India, Ireland, Channel Islands, South Africa and New Zealand.

*Bear with it, this could be a useful addition for genealogists and is one worth trying/watching. Thanks Hazel.*

### A Pleb from the City of Chimney Pots! - By Meg Bower

I came across this 1851 census entry for the Ellis household and thought it might be of interest. Some of it is hard to make out so I have transcribed it.

1851 Census: FOLIO 219 Page 19 - Oxford Road, Parish of St. Mary, Reading

Name	Relationship	Condition	Age	Occupation	Where Born	Blind, Deaf or Dumb
Henry F Ellis	Head	Married	38	Plebeian Gardener & Chartist	City of Chimney Pots	
Ann Allis	Fruitful Wife	Safe Enough	39	Household and Maternal Carer	Ufton, Berks	Can hear the Church bells. Talks tolerably and wears spec's when "day light grows dim"
Mary Ellis	Olive branches around the Table	I believe my Daughters are Girls. I presume my Sons are Boys	15	Parents Housemaid	Reading, Berks	
Ann Ellis			13	Parents Housemaid	Reading, Berks	
Henry Ellis			11	Much work and little pay	Reading Berks	
John Ellis			9	Helps Brother and plays with others	Reading Berks	
Chs Ellis			7	Goes to School "Whistling as he goes"	Reading Berks	
Thos. Ellis			3	Stops at home, plays with baby	Reading Berks	
Edwn F. Ellis			4 mths	Nursed tenderly	Reading Berks	

At first sight, I took it to be no more than a joke on the part of the householder, an expression of his exasperation with the census form.

His birthplace (City of Chimney Pots), the children's occupations and gender are all very much tongue in cheek. He quoted from the bible for the relationship of his wife and children: *PSALMS 128:3 Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table.*

Then he goes on to use the census to declare himself to be plebeian and a Chartist - and this on the very eve of the National Charter Association convention, which assembled at the Parthenium Rooms in St Martin's Lane, London on 31 March 1851, and proved to be a turning point in the history of the Chartist movement (which since the rejection of the third petition in 1848 had generally been seen as a failure). But that, as they say, is another story.

Finally, Henry came to the column headed *Whether Blind or Deaf-and-Dumb*. He might have left this blank as most people seemed to do, but instead, and presumably referring to himself, Henry's response is quite specific and addresses all three possibilities: Can hear the Church bells. Talks tolerably and wears spec's when "day light grows dim".

How extraordinary, though, that all of Henry's statements and comments were copied so faithfully from the form into the enumerator's book.

*Thanks for this Meg. If anyone else comes across interesting census returns like this, please let me know. Ed.*

### Be Prepared! A foresight of disaster.

Elaine Parker recently came across this article in a national newspaper.

Does someone in Bradley Stoke know something we don't know? If they do, perhaps they should tell us so we can be prepared.

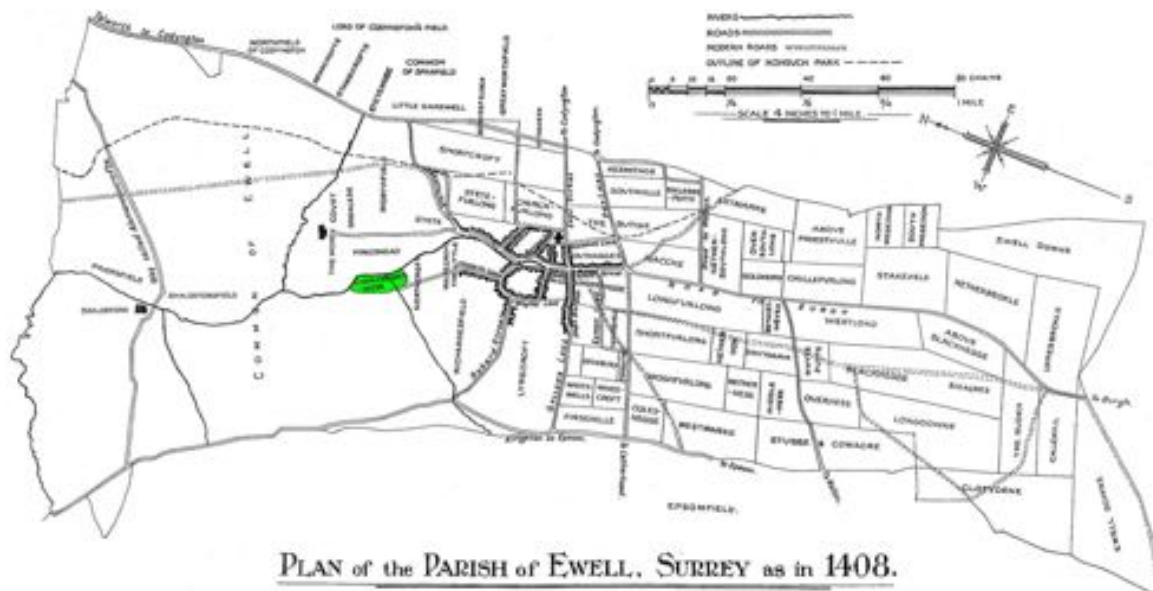


### So many maps of Epsom and Ewell

Carol Hill and Eileen Hunter have been sorting the maps we hold in the map drawers at the History Centre and have been putting them into "useful" order

Carol has informed us that the History Centre holds so much diverse map material – much of it from the council – e.g. plans for a golf course in Nonsuch Park, planning maps from the Epsom UDC and after the Charter, maps relating to the Hospital Cluster, 18th century Roques maps of Surrey and London, and a drawer full of maps of medieval Ewell, to name just a few.

The lists of material Carol sent us runs to nine pages and is too detailed to feature here. It even includes some aerial photographs, prints and engravings. If you wish to know what is available, we suggest you contact the History Centre; you never know, we might just have what you need for your research.



*Plan drawn by Margaret Glyn. It can be found in the 'Register or memorial of Ewell, Surrey' (1913) by Cecil Deedes*

*A larger version of this map can also be found at*

*<http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/images/Chambersmead2.jpg>*



## Forthcoming Events - Make a note in your diary

### Family History Day, Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2013, 10.00am - 4.00pm

Don't forget our Family History Day. In previous years we have dealt with a hundred plus enquiries on the day so it can get quite busy. Hopefully the current series of 'Who Do You Think You Are?' programmes on BBC TV will encourage people to come and explore their own family history. Please make a note of the date and times in your diary.



### A Coffee Morning for Volunteers - Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2013, 10.00am - 12 Noon

At a recent committee meeting for the History Centre it was noted that Bert Barnhurst suggested a coffee morning for the volunteers to get to meet and chat in an informal setting. The committee agreed this was a good idea.

At the same time another volunteer, Liz Manterfield, floated the idea that volunteers meet up a few weeks beforehand to discuss the 'Who Do You Think You Are?' day scheduled for October. It has been decided to amalgamate these suggestions into one event.

The date is Monday, 16th September starting at 10.00 am in Ewell Library, Bourne Hall. You will be aware that the library is normally closed on a Monday but the management have agreed to open for us. We have promised to be out of the building by 12 Noon.

Liz Manterfield has agreed to co-ordinate this event so, if you have not done so already, please contact Liz as soon as possible and let her know if you will be attending.

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## Reach for the Sky.

By Bert Barnhurst

If you had happened to be around Epsom on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July you might have thought that you had gone back in time to the Second World War if you had looked skyward. Why? - Because you would have seen an excellent aerial display being performed by a Hawker Hurricane, flown by Peter Kynsey.



The reason for this was to celebrate the Centenary of the RAC's ownership of the Woodcote Grove estate in Wilmerhatch Lane and, in particular, as a recognition of the emergency landing made by 19 year-old Pilot Officer Peter Simpson on that golf course on 18<sup>th</sup> August 1940. It was the height of the Battle of Britain and Simpson's Hawker Hurricane was under attack from German Dornier bombers. Fortunately, Simpson was unhurt and the aircraft repairable.

P/O Simpson flew with 111 Squadron but this Hurricane is in the markings of 605 (County of Warwick) Squadron, but this did not detract from the display or the sentiment behind it.

Any event which recognises the efforts and sacrifices of our armed forces of any time in the past, or present, has to be a good thing.

There was no chance of any crash landings problems with the aircraft on this occasion or the rescue facilities may not have been up to the task!

A few hundred RAC members watched the event, including those members attending the annual lunch for the 100 longest serving members of the Club, usually held at the Club's premises in Pall Mall London.

For more on P/O Peter Simpson see

[www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/Simpson.html](http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/Simpson.html)



## Epsom in the C17th - a fertile time for plotting

By Jeremy Harte

Charles II was such an amiable fellow that it is hard to see why anyone should have disliked him, but people did. They didn't like his brother James either, which is perhaps more understandable, especially when it was made clear that James was next in line for the succession. In April 1683, a group of highly-placed plotters occupied Rye House in Hertfordshire and got ready to shoot down the royal brothers on their way to the races at Newmarket. However, that's season's racing was called off and Charles lived on.

The authorities quickly gathered in their suspects. Among them was William Howard, 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron Howard of Escrick, who decided that a long life as an informer was better than a short one as a republican hero, and told as much as he knew. After consigning Howard to freedom and infamy, the Council went on to examine Ursula Morehouse, the vicar's wife from Epsom.

Her husband John had moved here from London in 1670, a few months after their marriage. They lived at the Old Vicarage, just opposite St. Martin's church: evidently in quite comfortable circumstances, as from 1676 John had also been vicar of Ewell, and was therefore drawing a double salary. It was in Epsom, towards the end of November 1682, that Ursula came to the attention of the authorities, along with her child and the serving maid. I suppose it was a mild November and they were walking in the garden; at all events they must have been outdoors, because Ursula was overheard. 'She was teaching her child to pray for the King that he might have long life and a happy reign'. This sounds innocuous enough, but it got a derisive response from Edward Mathews. He was a painter by trade, and came from Westminster, which makes you wonder what he was doing in Epsom. Maybe he was supplying decoration to Durdans, or Westgate House, or one of the many properties that were being built about this time. At any rate he had a bone to pick with the Morehouses, since he shouted to Ursula 'that I did not love the King but that I adored him'.



King Charles II  
By John Michael Wright

This was pretty incendiary stuff. The implication was, I think, that the vicar's wife was treating King Charles as a saint, and teaching her child to pray to him. The Catholic leanings of Charles II were widely suspected, and the conversion of his brother James had been known since 1673, so any discussion about kings and saints went straight to the heart of the confessional divide. Ursula kept her head and shouted back that 'as long as he lived, she would pray for him, but if he died to-morrow, she would not pray to him'.

That was perfectly standard Protestant orthodoxy, but Mathews seems to have been spoiling for a quarrel. We don't know where he was exactly, but the Old King's Head was next door to the vicarage, and he sounds like someone who has just spilled out of the pub. He announced that 'the king would not live above six months, for he would either die a natural death or be poisoned or killed'. What made him say that, asked Ursula - 'had he calculated the king's nativity?' - i.e. his horoscope. Obviously tempers were rising, because making astrological calculations of the monarch's death was still, at least in theory, a hanging matter. 'So what if I have,' said Mathews. "Look at Gadbury - *he* did just that, and nobody touched him.'



It was taken for granted that both parties would know who 'Gadbury' was - John Gadbury, the country's most famous astrologer, another Catholic convert who had been arrested at the time of the Popish Plot in 1678. He was supposed to have given the (non-existent) conspirators advice on the best time to assassinate Charles II. Two years later came the Meal-Tub Plot - it was a fertile time for plotting - and Gadbury was accused of giving more astrological advice, this time to one of the real conspirators who would be involved with the attempted assassination of 1683. Gadbury had published a series of popular almanacs, so everybody knew about him, even if they complained about him leaving out the date of Bonfire Night, which offended his Catholic sensibilities.

So this angry exchange between a jobbing painter and the vicar's wife makes sense, once you understand the background. But why did a garden-fence dispute like this end up as the subject of an official interrogation in London? Because Epsom was a particularly sensitive place.

Thirty-five years earlier, the 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Holland had begun his abortive campaign in the Second Civil War with a plan to assemble cavalry on Epsom Downs, under pretext of a horse race. He was forestalled by Parliamentary troops before the revolt could get going, but the strategic value of the Downs was not forgotten. Accessible from all directions and commanding a route to the capital, they were also a place where gentlemen could gather in

large numbers without arousing suspicion. During the Commonwealth, a register was taken of potential Royalists moving from or to Epsom: five of them in 1656 alone.

In 1678, at the height of paranoia over the Popish plot, an MP had stated as something quite self-evident, that 'most Papists resort to Epsom', although he felt that 'if you have but one third part of the Militia of that county in readiness, they may rise and beat them'. It wasn't just Papists who could see the military advantages of this location. Later, in 1685, John Wildman (formerly a Major in the New Model Army) got in touch with the Duke of Monmouth just before the young man sailed to lead his rising against the newly crowned James II. Wildman spoke of a band of unsuspected supporters in London who would leave the city under pretext of visiting Epsom Spa, gather their forces, and then sweep triumphantly down on the regular troops stationed at Kingston, Staines and Egham. It all came to nothing, but it was clearly meant to be plausible.

So in 1683, Edward Mathews' accusations were taken as something rather more serious than the rantings of a drunken craftsman. Adam Browne – the same MP who had warned of the circling Papists in 1678 – wrote to his son: 'There are in Ebbesham on pretence of drinking the waters at least 3 or 4 hundred good horses and most of them have pistols, so, if they are such as I suspect many to be, they have a brave opportunity to make a body before a militia troop can be half called together. Browne lived at Betchworth Castle, and owned Box Hill, which was run as a resort for day outings from the Spa, so he knew all the local gossip.

On 26th July the Privy Council met to discuss treasonable practices. Jenkins the Secretary wrote to Browne 'to make the strictest inquiry you can of what is fit to be seized at Epsom, either persons, horses or arms... The deputy lieutenants have power by law without any further order to search the houses you mention'. What the lieutenants found is not on record. I suspect they discovered that Epsom was full of paranoid amateur politicians who were delighted to have someone to talk to. Mr. Secretary decided that the file on Epsom could be closed. In October they hunted out Edward Mathews and had him sent to the county jail, and that was that.

#### **Sources**

*For Browne, see Anchitell Grey, Grey's Debates of the House of Commons (1769) 6 p210, Calendar of State Papers – Domestic: Charles II 24 pp172, 208, 210, 428, and F. Bastian, 'Daniel Defoe and the Dorking district', Surrey Arch. Coll. 55 (1957) pp41–64*

*For Holland, see R.J. Milward, 'The Battle of Surbiton, 1648', History Today 20 (1970) pp716–23 and Alfred Ridley Box, 'Suspected persons in Surrey during the Commonwealth', Surrey Arch. Coll. 14 (1899) pp164–89.*

*For Mathews, see Calendar of State Papers – Domestic: Charles II 24 pp81, 25 p37.*

*For Morehouse, see Manning & Bray, History of Surrey 1 p624*

*and Brian Bouchard, <http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/OldVicarage.html>.*

*For Wildman, see Richard L. Greaves, Secrets of the Kingdom: British Radicals from the Popish Plot to the Revolution of 1688–1689 (Stanford UP, 1992) p285.*

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## Help for neglected War memorials

By Clive Gilbert

I recently received an email from our local MP, The Rt. Hon. Chris Grayling, part of which I reproduce here:

"Next year is the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, and as part of the Conservative Party's social action work, I am looking to get our local team involved in identifying and restoring or cleaning up any local war memorials which have become overgrown or scruffy. Most of our main memorials are well known and well looked after – but I have often found smaller memorials which are partially forgotten when travelling round the country. Are there any in our area that you have spotted which have been forgotten or neglected? If there are, could you please let me know."

I replied that the Borough had lost at least three of its memorials, Long Grove, St John's church and the Ancient Order of Foresters and that I feared the worse for the memorials in the, now disused, Horton Asylum chapel.

I also let him know about the memorials belonging to St Barnabas church. Back at the beginning of 2012 one of our researchers went to St Barnabas to ask if they had any war memorials and was assured that none existed. Subsequently it was discovered that the church did, at some stage, have at least two memorials, one for the Great War and one for the Second World War. But they are both tucked away in the Surrey History Centre in Woking. I wrote to the vicar on 5 August to let him know that they still existed and would he like me to contact Mr Grayling on his behalf, he might be able to assist in their reinstatement. To date (21 August) I await a reply.





*Horton Hospital Chapel showing 1914-18 Rolls of Honour, left and right front. Picture courtesy Clive Gilbert*

In a later email I informed Mr Grayling that the Ashley Road memorial was in need of some restoration work, but that Sue Bonner the cemetery superintendent was trying to secure a grant for the work from the War Memorials Trust.

Clive has also received a letter from Councillor Clive Woodbridge, Ewell Ward, saying that the Council would like to know of all the Great War Memorials within the Borough and their condition, as part of the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the Great War.

Clive has referred the councillor to the website [www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorials.html](http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorials.html) and provided a list and brief details of the 23 known memorials in the Borough.

#### 1914 Centenary Display

As some of you will be aware, the volunteers in the History Centre are working towards producing a major display by June 2014 to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, subject to funding being available. It seems that the impending anniversary has raised interest in the Borough's Memorials and will encourage everyone to take an interest in our great and diverse War Memorial heritage.

## The Mystery of the Sally

In the May 2013 newsletter we published this cartoon that Peter Reed had unearthed. It was published in February, 1777 by W. Humphreys of Gerrard Street, Soho and is described as a political cartoon showing a man sitting in a carriage called 'Annuities' riding over a human skull by a marker showing '5 miles to Epsom'. It forms part of a collection of British Cartoon prints in the US Library of Congress.

We asked if anyone could throw any light on the meaning behind this cartoon and what it has got to do with Epsom. This led to some extensive correspondence on the subject, principally from Linda Jackson and Brian Bouchard.



Below is a summary of some of the points from this correspondence.

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*From: Linda Jackson*

Just a theory but I think the political cartoon in the newsletter may be a comment on the British Government's issue of life annuity tontines. There was one of these in 1777, issued under Irish legislation, and they were often perceived as usurious. Effectively you were lending money to the Government in return for an annuity and when you died (even if that was only a week later) your share went back in the pot for the other investors. When the last investor died the Government got the remaining pot of money.

The 1777 tontine was said to be a fund-raising effort occasioned by the cost of the American War of Independence, one of the main catalysts for which was the tax imposed on America by the British, culminating in the Boston Tea Party of 1773 - a protest against the British Government's tea tax and the East India Company's monopoly on the tea trade. Mincing Lane was the centre of the tea trade in London, so tea has to be relevant.

Little Hell was apparently an alehouse of very ill repute at Belmont/Sutton, used by the low-life attending Epsom Races. It may have been picked for the cartoon simply because it was notorious at the time or there may be some deeper significance – maybe there are connotations of dodgy gambling. I would say the point of the cartoon is that the artist disapproves of the issue of these iffy life annuities via the tontine of 1777 and is saying that what started out with tea is trampling over a load of dead bodies to end up in a den of iniquity.

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*From: Brian Bouchard*

The 1762 Rocque Map is said to show 'Little Hell' on the Brighton Road between Sutton and Belmont – once a riotous venue for Epsom race-goers.

A note on the cartoon suggests that it depicts 'Mr Thomas, one of the Bank's Directors' perhaps indicating the collapse of a financial institution which had accepted capital sums in return for the hollow promise of life annuities. I believe the cartoon probably related to the 1776 failure of the Second British Tontine promoted in 1765.

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*From: Peter Reed*

I get the impression that between you we have a reasonable explanation (The Tontine and the disreputable pub in the Belmont area). It would be good to thrash this out and then present it to Jeremy Harte to comment on.

To complicate matters even further I seem to recall that with the 1777 Tontine there was a group of foreign investors (From Geneva or Genoa or some other place starting with a G) that nominated (young?) people with long life expectancy in the hope that that they out lived the other annuitants and thus would maximise their profits, and that these investors had an agent/Banker in Mincing Lane.

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*From: Linda Jackson*

I like that second paragraph with the agent in Mincing Lane – sounds feasible. Perhaps he was Mr Thomas.

Little Hell may have been an area rather than just the one building, in which case it could still have been referred to by that name even if the alehouse had gone. Brian said in an earlier email that the Rocque map did not support the Belmont Station theory, so if we prefer the Sutton Lodge area, then the Lodge was inhabited by Mr Thomas Thomas, London merchant, at that time apparently, so he would seem a strong candidate for the subject matter.

I think it must have had something to do with a tontine, but they were paying around 3-4% in that era, not 12%. The coach driver has what looks to be a large bag on his lap (full of money perhaps?) so we seem to be looking at a man who made a huge pile of cash out of the life annuity market. Maybe the 12% was agent's commission and that's the point of it. If it were Thomas Thomas we would have a better Epsom & Ewell connection because his son the Rev Matthew Thomas is described as 'of Ewell' in one document.

It would be good to find out more about Thomas Thomas. Can anyone read the final word of the manuscript at the bottom of the cartoon after what looks like 'Bank'?

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And so we go on ...

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## A little bit of Hyland gossip – Sorted!

By Brian Bouchard

**A**n article about Hylands House on the website has been supplemented by Pat O' Mahoney's touching Reminiscences, which begin: -

'When I was about 8 years old my mother was appointed as housekeeper to the owner occupier of Hylands House, a Mr W H Saunders, who I recall as a rather dapper elderly gentleman. I understand he was an Architect



with a practice in London. We lived there from about 1952/53 until my mother's sudden death in 1956. He had previously lived elsewhere in Epsom in apartments in Grove Road I believe.'

Pat is thought to have been referring to Mr Henry Partridge Sanders formerly of Kenley House, Kenley, Surrey, architect and proprietor of residential flats, who came to notice locally when he libelled the town clerk of Epsom in 1963. The case in Queen's Bench Division, High Court Of Justice, was reported in The Times, 20 December 1963."

TOWN CLERK LIBELLED. MOORE v. SANDERS  
*Before MR. JUSTICE MOCATTA*

The settlement was announced of this libel action by Mr. Edward Moore, town clerk of Epsom and Ewell against Mr. Henry Partridge Sanders, of Dorking Road, Epsom, Surrey, in respect of a copy of a letter sent to the Mayor of Epsom and Ewell on March 12, 1963.

Mr. David Hirst appeared for the plaintiff; Mr. W.A.B. Forbes for the defendant.

Mr Hirst said that on March 12, 1963, the defendant sent to the Mayor of Epsom and Ewell a copy of a letter he had sent to Mr. Moore. In this letter the defendant accused Mr. Moore of falsifying council resolutions, accepting bribes, and in general carrying out his duties as Town Clerk in a dishonest manner. These accusations were couched in a most offensive language.

The defendant realised that his allegations were wholly and completely without

foundation and was here today by his counsel to apologise most sincerely to the plaintiff for having made them. He had agreed to indemnify Mr. Moore in respect of his costs and paid a substantial sum by way of damages.

In these circumstances, Mr. Moore was prepared not to proceed further with this litigation and would therefore ask leave for the record to be withdrawn when Mr. Forbes had endorsed what he had said on Mr. Moore's behalf.

Mr. Forbes said that he would like, on behalf of the defendant, to associate himself with what Mr. Hirst had just said. By letter from his solicitors, dated June 5, 1963, the defendant tendered his sincere apologies to the plaintiff and expressed his deep regret for the publication of these charges, which he there and then retracted, and he repeated these apologies now.

His Lordship ordered that the record be withdrawn.

The article on Hylands House can be found at [www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/HylandsHouse.html](http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/HylandsHouse.html)

## Horton Estate Cemetery A question of research and permission refused

Earlier this summer we sent the May newsletter to all Epsom and Ewell Borough and County Councillors. One of the responses we had came from Councillor Sheila Carlson, Court Ward. We thought you might like to see the correspondence (edited) to highlight some of the problems in research.

From: Sheila Carlson  
Subject: Horton Cemetery Service Burials

Dear Ian  
Thank you very much for the newsletter, it was very enlightening.

As you may know I am currently researching into Horton Estate Cemetery and have been working with the Epsom Guardian to see if we can eventually get it back into public ownership.

I am in need of any information concerning members of the armed forces who may be buried there. We obviously know about the two who have headstones at Ashley Road but if we can find names for any others I can go to the War Graves Commission for recognition.

Any help you could give would be much appreciated, in the meantime I will press on to find that one vital piece of information I need.

Cllr Sheila Carlson  
Court Ward



*Horton Cemetery photographed on 28 February 1971 by LR James.  
Image courtesy of [Surrey Libraries](#) and is held in the  
[Epsom & Ewell Local And Family History Centre Collection](#)*

From: Ian Parker

Dear Sheila

I have discussed your enquiry about servicemen buried in the Horton Estates Cemetery with my colleague, Clive Gilbert, who has conducted much of the research on servicemen listed on the Epsom and Ewell War Memorials.

He has responded that the definitive source of information for servicemen killed in the two World Wars is the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) and they only record the two men buried in Horton Cemetery with memorial headstones in Ashley Road - P. McMahon (Great War) and H.W. James (Second World War). But you are aware of this already.

Clive adds that the CWGC 'cut off date' for any Great War service death is 31 August 1921. There might be ex servicemen buried in Horton Cemetery after that date, who died in Long Grove, but how to find out? And if they died after 31 August 1921, the CWGC will not want to know. Recently Clive asked Surry History Centre to look at the 'Register of Service Patients 1916-1937', but was refused permission as they contain medical details. It is probably closed for 100 years (so looking at 2037 for any illumination).

Our website has a number of references, of which you are no doubt aware:

An article on the Horton Cemetery [www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/HortonCemetery.html](http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/HortonCemetery.html) in which it states that ... "Up to as many as 9,000 patients, war casualty soldiers and children lie buried within the old Horton Hospital site, but since the 1980s when the North West Thames Regional Authority sold it off it has been owned by Marque Securities a development company in Kingswood."

There is also an alphabetical list of burials in Horton Cemetery from 1902 to 1955 at [www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/HortonCemeteryBurialsA.shtml](http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/HortonCemeteryBurialsA.shtml) but does not identify service personnel. More on HW James and P. McMahon, but not a lot, can be found at [www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemCWGC.html](http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemCWGC.html)

It could be relevant that of the 148 names recorded on the screen wall behind the War Cross in Ashley Road, 94 died in Horton, 30 in Manor and 19 in Long Grove war hospitals.

Finally the Surrey History Centre [www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreyhistoryservice/](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreyhistoryservice/) holds the Long Grove Hospital Post Mortem Examination Book (part of Collection ref: 6275), which only covers one of the five hospitals in the cluster and that only for a brief period.

I wish we could have a more detailed answer to your enquiry. Our war memorials research is on-going and if we can find out more, we will let you know.

Ian Parker  
Volunteer

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From: Sheila Carlson

Dear Ian

Thank you for getting back to me. I too have contacted the Surrey History Centre and have some information, however, I now need to ask them to contact the "owners" of the documents for permission to access them. Strangely when I went to the Metropolitan Archives I was allowed to look at the medical records for Horton, but for some reason there is no record of anyone dying at Horton during the 2nd World War.

On further inspection you can see that the two servicemen we know about were both listed as coming from Long Grove and not Horton. Incidentally the two soldiers did not die of wounds as such and were listed with mental illnesses, one of them from the final affects of syphilis and the other from what sounds to be a sort of shell shock.

I will obviously share any further information I get with you and Clive.

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From: Ian Parker

Dear Sheila

Many thanks for the update, which I have also passed on to Clive Gilbert. Seems like this is a difficult call, gaining access to the records. Clive suggests the "establishment" may be coy about the Long Grove men as psychiatric cases and syphilis were factors.

If, in the meantime, we come up with anything, we will share the information.

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We wish Cllr. Sheila Carlson all the best in her aim of returning Horton Estate Cemetery into public ownership.

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## A thank you to Volunteers

Stephen Curry, Senior Team Officer, Information from Surry's Enquiries Direct, visited the Epsom & Ewell Local History Centre in Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> July to see the work of the Centre and to meet volunteers. The following day he sent this email. Congratulations and well done to everyone for making this a successful visit.

From: Stephen Curry  
To: epsomandewellhc@yahoo.co.uk  
Subject: Visit to Ewell Family History Centre

Thank you to all the volunteers who I met yesterday on my visit to the Family History Centre. I had a fascinating and informative visit which confirms what I already knew - how very lucky the enquirers at Ewell library are to have access to such an enthusiastic and helpful group of volunteers.

The Centre is a remarkable resource which the skill and professionalism of the helpers is making an essential first port of call for anyone interested in the history of Ewell. I was more than just impressed by the work and support the volunteers are providing.

I would also like to thank them too for their hospitality and for giving up their time to give me a guided tour of the excellent resources which they have developed.

I know from experience that any query that comes through to us at Enquires Direct which needs to be forwarded to your Centre is in safe hands and will be dealt with speedily and thoroughly. It was very nice to be able to put names and faces to some of the volunteers who I only knew before as names on an email.

Thank you to you all for your hospitality and for the superb service that you provide.

Yours sincerely  
Stephen Curry  
Senior Team Officer, Information  
Enquiries Direct, c/o Guildford Library

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## New Additions to the Website

[www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/](http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/)

Since the last newsletter in May 2013, Webmaster Peter Reed, has added a wealth of new information and pages to the website covering some 25 different subjects as well as six major updates. Just to mention a few:

[Fatal Reaction - Misadventure with Epsom Salts](#)  
[Henry Lee, Murderer - Fact or Fantasy?](#)  
[H G Wells, Literature And Love](#)  
[Strange Case Of The Solicitor And Miss O'Grady](#)  
[Manslaughter Charge At Epsom, 1915](#)  
[Upland House School](#)  
[Coroner And Soldier, 1915](#)  
[Epsom And Ewell Cottage Hospital](#)  
[Index of Epsom and Ewell wills 1239-1857](#)  
[Wallis, Mary - Dissenter and Builder](#)  
[Baby's Body Tied To A Tree, 1915](#)

Plus many family histories and reminiscences too numerous to mention here. It is probably easier to look at the 'What's New' page at [www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WhatsNew.html](http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WhatsNew.html) and enjoy browsing.

## And more researched additions to the War Memorials pages

The War Memorials Team, Clive Gilbert, Liz Manterfield and Hazel Ballan, have continued working away and they have researched, added and updated a further 23 people on the War Memorials pages. There are now over 700 names listed on these web pages of which close on 450 have been researched. To find out more just go to [www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorials.html](http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorials.html)

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## Welcome to new two Volunteers

### Judith Mitchell

We are pleased to announce that Judith Mitchell has joined us as a new volunteer. Judith has offered to help out on the front desk at the History Centre, which is very gratifying. Judith will be at the Coffee Morning on the 16<sup>th</sup> September, so please give her a warm welcome.



## Nick Winfield

We are also delighted to welcome Nick Winfield who has been assisting Peter Reed with the development of the website [www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk](http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk)

Nick Winfield has been turning new articles into web pages and updating existing ones. He has already contributed the following items

Interactive Location Map

'Railways Serving The Epsom Hospital Cluster'

'Goods Trains Serving The Epsom & Ewell Area July 1926'

'Coal Tax Posts'

'Horton Country Park'

His efforts mean that Peter will have an easier time keeping the website up to date and it will continue to grow.

You can find out more about Nick at his website [www.nicknation.co.uk/LocHist.html](http://www.nicknation.co.uk/LocHist.html).

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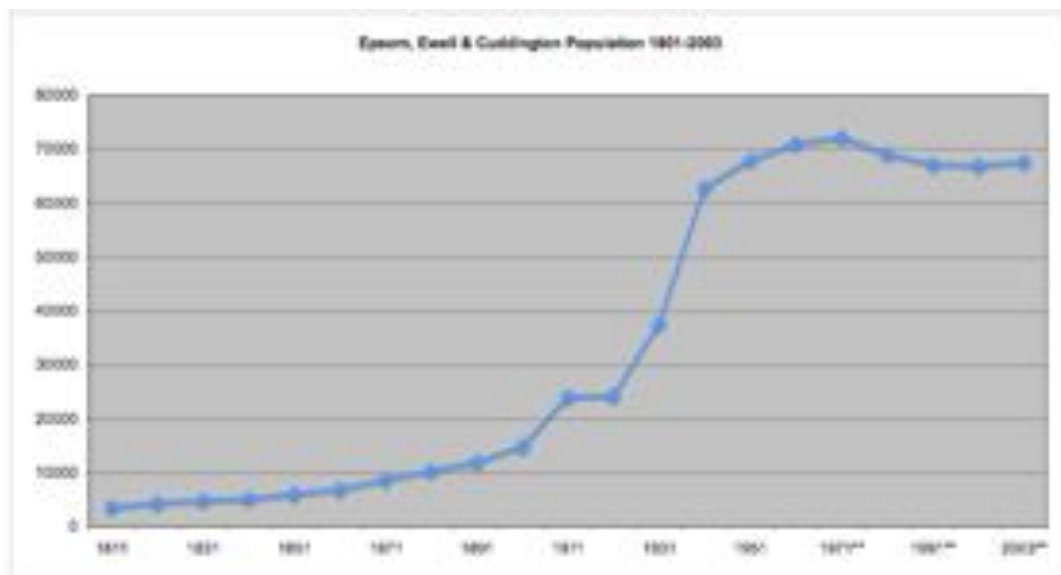
## Some brief notes on Epsom & Ewell

There have been settlements in the area since Roman times. In 70AD, Roman surveyors constructing Stane Street, from London to Chichester, had to change direction at the source of the Hogsmill River. Houses were built alongside the road and by 150 AD, Ewell was the largest village in Surrey.

In medieval times, both Epsom and Ewell were small rural communities, with Epsom being far less important than its neighbour.

The major event of Tudor Ewell was the building of Nonsuch Palace by Henry VIII in 1538 to celebrate 30 years of his reign. The church and village of Cuddington were razed to make way for this edifice, which was meant to outshine any other building of its time – hence the name ‘Nonsuch’. The palace was demolished in 1670, and the surrounding parkland sold off as farmland. By the 18th century a stagecoach service encouraged London merchants to make their homes in the village.

Epsom remained a small community until the early 17th Century when a farmer on Epsom Common noted that his cattle refused to drink at a certain pond. The water was found to have curative and purgative qualities and the minerals contained in the water became known as Epsom salts. Due to the popularity of the wells, the town became a prosperous spa town and had several notable visitors, including Samuel Pepys and King Charles II. The popularity of the spa declined in the first quarter of the 18th century, but horseracing bought back the visitors, especially after the Derby was established in 1780.



Dramatic change came to Epsom and Ewell in the mid 19th century with the arrival of the electrified railway. Rapid development started as demand for housing in the commuter belt surrounding London grew. Development accelerated after the First World War as the suburbs of Auriol, Stoneleigh and Worcester Park were developed. Expansion of residential areas in the Borough is continuing today with the redevelopment of the Hospital Cluster. The government announced in 1961 that the majority of the country's mental hospitals were to close. It was decided that the cluster of five institutions would be redeveloped as housing.

Today the Borough of Epsom & Ewell is relatively affluent, with high levels of income, car and home ownership, though it also has pockets of deprivation. Because of the choice of housing, the good physical and social environment, and the transport links to London and easy access to rural areas, the Borough is seen as a

desirable area in which to live and this is reflected in relatively high property values.

Sources:

*The script is edited from the Epsom Borough Profile. [www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/21FC127B-3BAC-41E7-BB51-93F4A59FF91A/0/BoroughProfile2005.pdf](http://www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/21FC127B-3BAC-41E7-BB51-93F4A59FF91A/0/BoroughProfile2005.pdf)*

*Population figures from Bourne Hall Museum, A Topographical History of Surrey (Edward W Brayley 1850) and Surrey County Planning Department*

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## Where else in the World is there another Epsom? In Victoria, Australia.

In the January 2012 newsletter we listed seven other towns called Epsom and two named Ewell from around the world. We decided to do some digging on these towns. In May we looked at Epsom in New Hampshire in the USA, in September it was Epsom in Auckland, New Zealand, in January 2013 it was Ewell on Smith's Island, Maryland, USA and in May 2013 it was Epsom in Queensland, Australia. This time we thought we would have a look at another Epsom in Victoria, Australia.

### Epsom, Victoria, Australia

Epsom is a suburb of the city of Bendigo in central Victoria, Australia, 7 kilometres (4.3 mi) north of the Bendigo central business district and around 100 miles north of Melbourne. At the 2006 census, Epsom had a population of 1,405. Bendigo is the fourth largest inland city in Australia and fourth most populous city in the state with a population of 82,794.



The founding of Epsom, and Bendigo, is due to the discovery of gold in 1851, which made it one of the most significant Victorian era boomtowns in Australia. The gold could easily be extracted and news of the finds intensified the Victorian gold rush bringing an influx of migrants to the city from around the world within a year and transforming it

from a sheep Station to a major settlement in the newly proclaimed Colony of Victoria. By June 1852, at the height of the rush, diggers were said to be arriving on Bendigo at a rate of 5-6,000 a week.



*The hotel owner, holding a greyhound, and his family in front of H.J. Jones Shamrock Hotel, Epsom, Victoria 1912.*

Source: MuseumVictoria <http://www.museumvictoria.com.au>

Of great interest to the early diggers were the ... "six or seven rounded white hills, 'unique and peculiar to Bendigo', which were possessed of a 'most obdurate hardness'. Many a digger had blunted his pick on them but at length a party of Cornish miners, refusing to accept defeat, drove through them for some sixty or seventy feet. It was backbreaking, slaving toil but suddenly, their picks sank into soft-pipe clay. The men began tunnelling and presently, the roof forming above showered gold at their feet - the secret of the famous White Hills lay revealed ... " A wild rush followed. Within days the tents and stores stretched out to Epsom Flats and some pretty piles (of money) were made from Epsom Flats.

Epsom was an important part of the gold rush. It has been quoted that 'Epsom diggers were renowned for their skill in sinking deep shafts in alluvial ground'. It also attracted an international influx – in addition to the Cornish, many Italian diggers and even more Italian-speaking Swiss were dispersed about Epsom and by the mid 1860s the largest Chinese encampment was at Epsom (the White Hills Camp), with a population of approximately 1,000.

Since 1851 about 25 million ounces of gold (777 tonnes) have been extracted from Bendigo's goldmines, making it the highest producing goldfield in Australia in the 19th century and the largest gold mining economy in eastern Australia.

Today the art of gold mining is displayed in the underground galleries of the Central Deborah Gold Mine close to the city centre. The complex offers visitors an above ground display as well as the chance to put on hard hats and individual lights and descend 61 metres below the surface and explore the shafts.

Epsom is just a short distance from the famous Bendigo Pottery. George Duncan Guthrie (born 1828) was a Glaswegian who, having arrived penniless on the South Australian shore following a shipwreck, tried his luck in the goldfields, failed to find gold but discovered instead a deposit of fine white clay, and started one of Australia's most illustrious potteries in 1857 and ran it until his death in 1910.



On the south-eastern edge of Epsom is the Bendigo Racecourse, known as the 'Nursery of Champions' and has been the launch pad for some of the great careers in Australian racing. It is an eye-catching course that offers some of the most picturesque country racing. It is popular amongst visitors who set up picnics or mini marquees as they watch the races. Coincidentally, there is a suburb called Ascot just to the east of the suburb of Epsom. So, maybe a strong racing community does exist?

Today, Epsom is a quiet suburb of Bendigo, which is the largest finance centre in Victoria outside of Melbourne and is home to Australia's only provincially headquartered retail bank, the Bendigo Bank, and the Bendigo Stock Exchange. But what an exciting past, it has left Bendigo with an heritage of attractive Victorian buildings.

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## Have You Got News for Me?

We hope you've enjoyed reading this newsletter. Thanks to all those who provided information, anecdotes stories and pictures – Bert, Brian, Carol, Clive, Elaine, Hazel, Jeremy, Linda, Meg and Peter. But to keep the momentum going we need more, so I make no apologies in repeating this message - again and again - as it seems to encourage more people to contribute material.

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
- intriguing Information Requests
- forthcoming projects or events
- interesting facts about local history or genealogy
- new research documents the LFHC has received
- or just strange tales to tell

please let Ian 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 be in January 2014, so you have plenty of time to think of something.

IRP September 2013

### 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 Library is open on Wednesdays to Saturdays from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm and on Tuesdays from 9.00 am to 7.00 pm

The History Centre is open Thursdays and Fridays from 2.00 to 4.00 pm

Tuesdays from 10.00 am to 12 noon and 5.30 to 6.45 pm

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

Closed on Mondays and Wednesdays

Other Saturdays and Wednesdays by appointment

Enquiries can also be made by email to [EpsomandEwellLHC@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:EpsomandEwellLHC@yahoo.co.uk)

### Take a look at our History Explorer Website

Epsom and Ewell History Explorer has numerous items of local interest including personalities, places, properties, 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 for historians and genealogists. You'll find it at

[www.EpsomandEwellHistoryExplorer.org.uk](http://www.EpsomandEwellHistoryExplorer.org.uk)