

Games People Play

By Jeremy Harte

New brooms sweep clean, and at Epsom in 1780 the Revd. Martin Madan was a very new broom indeed. A Methodist minister and chaplain to the Lock Hospital in Grosvenor Place, he had come to Epsom in 1775, and just before Christmas of that year he volunteered to join a committee of inspection for the Workhouse. Two years later he moved into Woodcote End, and about this time he became a magistrate. The labourer Joseph Welch was among the first to feel a clerical hand on his collar when in March 1780 he was had up for stealing two shirts, value 7/6d.



Revd. Martin Madan by Thomas Kitchen

But Madan had his eye on bigger game than washing-line thieves. Every summer, as the time for the races drew near, a crowd of strangers descended on Epsom, of whom, as the more tolerant Pownall would observe some forty years later, ‘the vicious and unprincipled form a tolerable proportion’. Now the Revd. Martin Madan was himself no stranger to vice. Until his conversion in 1750 he had been the leading light of a libertine club, which met near Temple Bar, although their wickedness seems to have confined itself to flippant views on religion and meetings that didn’t break up until five in the morning. Be that as it may, Madan had a past that he wanted to put behind him, and he can hardly have welcomed the sight of the gambling world streaming past his door as it headed down Woodcote Road towards Chalk Lane and the downs. The institution of the Derby in 1780 showed that Epsom’s racecourse was not just going to dwindle away like many of its competitors. And so, less than a week after the race of 1781, Madan struck. Ten of his fellow-townsmen were summoned to the Midsummer meeting of Quarter Sessions, on charges of illicit gambling. The penalty, if they were found guilty, would be imprisonment.



The charge, to be exact, was one of ‘keeping an EO Table and suffering persons to play at the game’. The sinister letters EO stood for Even and Odd, a game very much like roulette – indeed, it may have been created to get round the restrictions imposed on roulette when that arrived in England in the 1740s. An EO table had the familiar wheel and a ball, but instead of numbers there were forty sections marked alternately Even and Odd. Some of these were allocated for the house, the proportion probably varying according to the cupidity of whoever was keeping the tables. After a decade of popularity in the 1770s, EO was banned under the statute that gave Madan his chance.

And now, step forward the villains ... Summonses were issued for John Harris, cordwainer; Thomas Butcher, carpenter; John Dunbar, saddler; Thomas Heron, peruquemaker; Joseph Fountain, staymaker; Mary Plummer, pastrycook; Edward Stevens, glazier; John Ratcliffe and Joseph Salmon, gardeners; and Benjamin Chase, labourer. They don’t sound like the sort of underworld types that you’d find on Epsom Downs. Running an illegal game requires (presumably) a bit of skill in subterfuge as well as managing difficult clients, and where would a glazier or peruquemaker get that kind of experience?

In fact John Harris and co. were simply renting out their houses during race week, allowing a front room to be taken over by hard-faced professionals who knew how to run a gambling den. Three of the accused were close neighbours. Benjamin Chase ran a shoeing forge at the entrance to the New Wells in 8 South Street (Lehmann 1:16). Mary Plummer had inherited the pastrycook’s business of her late husband Thomas at 2/4 South Street (Lehmann 1:14), just down the road from the Albion. John Dunbar lived in a row of four houses at 137a/9 High Street (Lehmann 3: 27), just beyond Waterloo House towards South Street. Further away at 76 High Street

(Lehmann 2: 29–31), just west of the Post Office, was the home of John Ratcliffe. Otherwise the gambling dens were noticeably concentrated around the old heart of Epsom Spa, at a corner where the racing crowd would pause on its way to Chalk Lane.

Thomas Butcher was a ‘carpenter’ in the eighteenth-century sense of small builder, and owned five properties in and around the High Street, so it is not clear which of these was being used for illicit games. But the presence of an important local figure like this shows how far Madan’s net had swept in its search for the guilty. Butcher seem to have been born about 1740; at least, he married in 1765 and died 33 years later leaving a son, young Thomas, to carry on the building trade. He was a regular member of the parish vestry, appointed in 1771 as churchwarden; whenever the Workhouse or other parish buildings needed repair, it was Butcher who sent in his estimate. Among his partners in crime, John Harris had appeared regularly at Vestry meetings from 1779 and managed the contract for running the Workhouse between 1783 and 1795. He held military rank, if this is the same John Harris who died aged 55 in 1809 and ‘was Major in the Army and was killed at the races’. Thomas Heron attended the Vestry frequently from 1779; John Dunbar and Joseph Salmon had each made appearances at a single meeting. These were fairly substantial citizens.

Their court appearance wasn’t just a slap on the wrist, either. Butcher and Harris, the two most prominent of the group, seem to have employed counsel as they got their cases removed by a writ of *certiorari*, a bit of lawyer’s Latin (‘to be made more certain’) which meant that the suit was referred from Quarter Sessions to King’s Bench, where it was doubtless never heard of again. Dunbar and Fountain were found not guilty. Mary Plummer was fined 6/8d and told to provide two sureties for her future good behaviour. But the other five – Chase, Heron, Ratcliffe, Salmon and Stevens – were all found guilty, fined, ordered to find two sureties to the tune of £10 each, and imprisoned for a month.



Epsom was a small town, with less than a thousand inhabitants; its business community comprised some sixty traders, all closely linked, and trying to have ten of these banged up can hardly have endeared Martin Madan to his new neighbours. His version of the story, passed down through the family and recorded forty years later in Pownall, presents him as the lone gunman who cleans up a dirty town. ‘He interposed his authority as a magistrate, to prevent the introduction of illegal games into the town during the race week; he gave notice to those persons, who were in the habit of letting their houses for this purpose, that it was contrary to the laws of their country, and if they persisted in doing it, they must take the consequences. Several tradespeople, who disregarded this notice, were sent to prison, which so exasperated the inhabitants, that they burnt his effigy, near the spot

where the pump now stands’.

Like many recollections, this is as revealing in what it leaves out as what it includes. For Madan the fearless clerical magistrate, enforcing the laws of his country come what may, was also the Dr. Madan of Epsom who in 1780 had published *Thelyphthora: A Treatise on Female Ruin*. And this work had raised a storm of abuse and recrimination, advocating as it did the return of Old-Testament-style polygamy to solve the problems of women in modern England. Madan was not in Epsom because he liked the place. He was here because he had made himself unemployable anywhere else.

While it may, strictly speaking, have been illegal for decent locals to take their cut from the unhallowed mob of racegoers, it was rash for a newcomer to the town, invoking a newly passed law, to overturn these time-hallowed practices. But when the newcomer was also a reformed rake and member of a minority sect who had just brought out an outrageous book, the community’s sense of outrage was overwhelming. Madan held his ground, burning or no. Next year, a fortnight after the 1782 Derby, he brought summonses for keeping an EO table against three offenders – John Harris and Joseph Fountain, whom we have met earlier, and Robert Burlington, another perquemaker. Fountain, as before, was found not guilty. Burlington and Harris relied on the services of Mr. Brown the attorney, who got their cases taken out of Quarter Sessions by a writ of *certiorari*. After that we hear no more about prosecutions for illegal games, though that doesn’t mean that the games didn’t go on.

A final note: John Harris, twice hauled up before Quarter Sessions for breaking the laws of his country, and escaping each time only by a legal manoeuvre, continued to attend the Vestry of St. Martin’s, where he satisfied everyone with his work for the community. So much so, in fact, that in 1787 they made him parish constable. Thus passed away the social reforms of the Revd. Martin Madan.

Acknowledgements to Meg Bower, who found out about EO for me; Brian Bouchard, who has researched Madan’s residence at Woodcote End House; and the labour of the unsung volunteers who transcribed Quarter Sessions 1780–1820, now available on disk from Surrey History Centre.

Derby Day 1838: Road Rage has fatal consequences

By Ian Parker

I was recently re-reading *'The Reason Why'* by Cecil Woodham-Smith (CW-S). In the first half of this excellent history, CW-S gives a detailed biography of the two English aristocrats - Lord Lucan and Lord Cardigan - highlighting the conflict and jealousy between them which can be epitomised by their aristocratic attitudes: Lord Lucan believed of himself that "No man was ever more certain of being in the right" and Lord Cardigan was convinced "that he was now, and always, in the right never wavered". So, let battle commence.

CW-S devotes the second half of this excellent book to an investigation of the disastrous and fatal "Charge of the Light Brigade" at Balaclava on 25th October 1854, led by Lord Cardigan. She skillfully combines the two sections into a scathing indictment of the purchase system in the British Army in the nineteenth century.

But what has this got to do with the 1838 Derby. Well, half way through the book there was a report of a duel, in 1841, between the Right Hon. the Earl of Cardigan, Lieutenant-Colonel of the 11th Hussars or Prince Albert's Own, and Captain Harvey Tuckett, late of the same regiment, at the Windmill on Wimbledon Common in which Capt. Tuckett received a none-fatal bullet wound. In assessing the consequences of this duel CW-S added that "In 1838 a duel had taken place in the very same spot between a Mr. Eliott and a Mr. Mirfin in which Mr. Mirfin was killed ... The duel arose not out of a point of honour but on account of a collision ... on the Epsom Road on Derby Day".

This intrigued me and I did some digging and came across the following report in the 'The Chronicles of Crime or the New Newgate Calendar' by Camden Pelham, published in 1841.

Indicted for a Murder committed in a Duel on Wimbledon Common

On the evening of Wednesday, the 22nd of August 1838, a duel took place on Wimbledon Common, which, unhappily, was attended with fatal consequences. The principal parties were Mr. Francis Lionel Eliott (the son of Major-General Eliott) and Mr. Charles Flower Mirfin (a linen draper from Lambeth); and they were accompanied, the former by Messrs Young and Webber, the latter by Broughton and another person, whose name, we believe, was never ascertained with certainty, and also by Dr Scott, who attended to render that professional aid which it was deemed possible might be required of him.



The circumstances, which led to, this duel were as follows: During Epsom Races, 1838, both Mr. Mirfin and Mr. Eliott attended that far-famed sporting meeting. On Derby Day, as they were returning to town, Mr. Eliott driving a phaeton (*above*) and Mr. Mirfin a gig (*left*), by some accident the two vehicles came in contact, and Mr. Mirfin was overturned. In the fall some of his ribs were fractured. On his getting up, an altercation arose, and offensive language passed, which ended in Mr. Eliott striking Mr. Mirfin a blow on his already injured side, of which injury, however, it is due to say, Mr. Eliott was ignorant. The pain at the moment was excessive, and Mr. Mirfin had only a faint recollection that the name of the party with whom he had come in contact was Eliott. He had been unable to obtain his address, and

therefore had no clue to his discovery, although he was extremely anxious to call him to account.

Months rolled by, and on only one occasion had he obtained a transient view of Mr. Eliott in a cigar-shop, but almost instantly lost sight of him. However, on Tuesday night, 21st August, in company with two friends, he entered a saloon in Piccadilly, and while he was there he heard the name of Eliott mentioned. The name at once struck him, and on looking at the party by whom it was acknowledged he recognised him as the person whom he had so long sought, and from whom he had received a blow. He immediately requested one of his friends, Mr. Broughton, to address Mr. Eliott, and call the matter to his recollection. Mr. Eliott admitted the fact, and offered to make an apology. It would seem, however, that neither party was in a situation to enter upon the subject then, and it was agreed that mutual friends should meet at the Opera Colonnade Hotel at twelve o'clock the next morning to discuss the matter. Mr. Mirfin then proceeded to his residence, No. 2 Pleasant Place, West Square, Lambeth, where he retired to rest. At the time appointed the friends met, when an objection was made on the part of Mr. Eliott to meet Mr. Mirfin. A firm determination having been expressed, however, that such meeting must take place, on a second application to Mr. Eliott he acceded to the proposition, and a hostile meeting was arranged for the same evening, on Wimbledon Common.

The individuals named accompanied the principals to the intended scene of action, A suitable spot having been selected, the parties proceeded to adjust the preliminaries. After some conversation between the parties, in which Mr. Mirfin refused to consent to receive a verbal apology, the ground was measured -- twelve paces -- and the principals were placed in their positions, each provided with a pistol. At a concerted signal both fired, when the ball of Mr. Elliott's pistol passed through Mr. Mirfin's hat, whilst that of Mr. Mirfin went harmlessly past his antagonist. Mr. Mirfin then impatiently demanded another pistol, as he had previously declared he would face a dozen shots rather than submit to the insult he had received. The second fire quickly followed, when Mr. Mirfin placed his hand on his side, and exclaimed, "He's hit me!" then staggered a few paces back and fell into the arms of Dr Scott and his second. The former soon ascertained that the wound was fatal, and in a moment the unfortunate man breathed his last. The ball had taken a transverse direction, and had passed through his heart.

On Saturday, the 25th of August, an inquest was held on the body of the deceased, which was continued by adjournment until the following Tuesday, when the jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against all the parties concerned as principal or seconds; the verdict as to the latter, however, only referred to them as being accessory to the offence.

At the ensuing session at the Central Criminal Court indictments were preferred against the various parties concerned: and it being understood that Mr. Broughton would surrender to take his trial on Friday, the 21st of September, on that day the court was much crowded.



When Mr. Broughton was called, however, he did not appear, and his absence was stated to be accounted for by the indisposition of Mr. Clarkson, who had been retained as counsel on his behalf; but Messrs Webber and Young presented themselves, and declared themselves ready to take their trial. They were defended respectively by Mr. Adolphus and Mr. C. Phillips, while Mr. Chambers conducted the case for the prosecution.

The whole of the facts were then again proved in evidence; and eloquent appeals having been made on behalf of the prisoners by their counsel, a great number of highly respectable witnesses were called, who gave them excellent characters for the general humanity of their disposition.

The jury, after some consideration, found the prisoners guilty, and at the same time declared their opinion that Dr Scott himself should have stood at the bar with them. Mr. Justice Vaughan expressed himself to be of the same opinion, and sentence of death was then recorded against the prisoners.

They were instantly conveyed to the interior of Newgate, where they were placed, in obedience to the usual course, in the condemned cells. The application of their friends to the Crown, however, soon procured their liberation from this disagreeable confinement; but the sentence of death was only removed upon condition of their undergoing twelve months' imprisonment in the house of correction at Guildford, one month of which was to be passed in solitude.

On Friday, the 8th of February 1839, Mr. Broughton surrendered at the Old Bailey to take his trial, and pleaded guilty to the indictment. Sentence of death was recorded against him; but in this case, as in that of Webber and Young, the punishment was reduced to twelve months' imprisonment."

So what were the consequences of the Elliott – Mirfin duel and subsequent court case for Lord Cardigan and why was it reported by CW-S? An intelligent, increasingly powerful and rising middle class "were beginning to resent aristocratic privilege, manifested in the practice of duelling. Members of the aristocracy, and it seemed only members of the aristocracy, had licence to commit a criminal offence and escape penalty."

On September 29th, 1841, The Times demanded the same treatment for Lord Cardigan and had been handed out in the Elliott - Mirfin case.

"Let his head be cropped, let him be put on an oatmeal diet, let him labour on the treadmill. Let not occasion be given for anyone to say that the same which was visited as a felony on the associates of the linen-draper Mirfin is excused as an act worthy of a man of honour in the Earl of Cardigan".

However, as for Lord Cardigan, a peer could not be tried on a criminal charge at the Old Bailey and it was transferred to the House of Lords to be tried by his peers. He pleaded Not Guilty and it was finally decided that Lord Cardigan had no case to answer. And so, Lord Cardigan's self-belief was re-affirmed and he was free to continue with his outrageous and inflammatory behaviour ... the fate of the 600 some 13 years later in the Crimea was sealed.



NB. Amato, an Epsom bred, Epsom trained thoroughbred, won the 1838 Derby (Wednesday, 30th May 1838), his only racecourse appearance. He was then injured and retired undefeated. Jockey: Jem Chapple, Trainer: Ralph Sherwood, Owner: Sir Gilbert Heathcote.

Duelling has been illegal since the mid fifteenth century. The last duel fought in this country, between two Frenchmen, was in October 1852 at Old Windsor; the last between two Englishmen was in 1845 in Gosport.

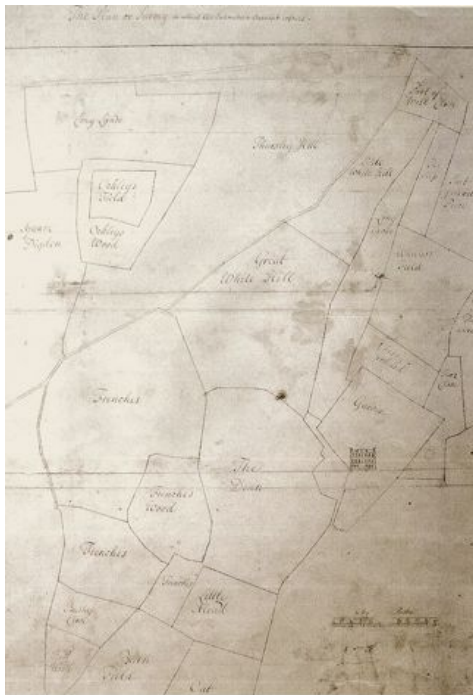
Sources:

- For further details of some very dodgy evidence and legal antics in the Cardigan case and an illuminating report of the 'Charge' at Balaclava I commend you to CW-S's book. 'The Reason Why' by Cecil Woodham-Smith. First published 1953 by Constable. Published in Penguin Books 1958. ISBN 0140012788 (0-14-001278-8)
- 'The Chronicles of Crime or the New Newgate Calendar, being a series of memoirs and anecdotes of notorious characters who have outraged the laws of Great Britain from the earliest period to 1841' by Camden Pelham. (1841, reprinted 1886) ISBN: 1166213374 / ISBN-13: 9781166213374
- Full and detailed reports of the Elliott, Broughton, Young, Webber trial also appeared in *The Times*, 25th, 27th and 30th August 1838. www.surreycc.gov.uk/libraries/reference (requires a Surrey Libraries' card to access)
- 'The Proceedings of the Old Bailey'. www.oldbaileyonline.org John Young, Henry Webber, 17th September 1838. Reference Number: t18380917-2251.
- 'The Last Duel in England' by Bob Jenkins. www.portsmouthnowandthen.com/gallery-1.html

The Dorking Way and its connection to Stane Street

By Brian Bouchard

In *A journey through time*, Newsletter No. 29 of January 2012, I reported, on the basis of conventional wisdom, that the track from Woodcote End past Upper Woodcote Green had been closed off at Worlds End since the 12th century. Documents recently discovered in the Royal Automobile Club's archive, however, reveal that this route to the Downs continued until about 1740. Further evidence is presented on the Centre's website at <http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WoodcotePark.html>, which also features a larger version of



1726 - with kind permission of Royal Automobile Club © 2012 and thanks to David Lambert of The Parks Agency

the 1726 plan of Woodcote Park Estate (shown below) which shows it running up Thursley Hill to reach Langley Vale Road opposite the approach to Langley Vale Farm.

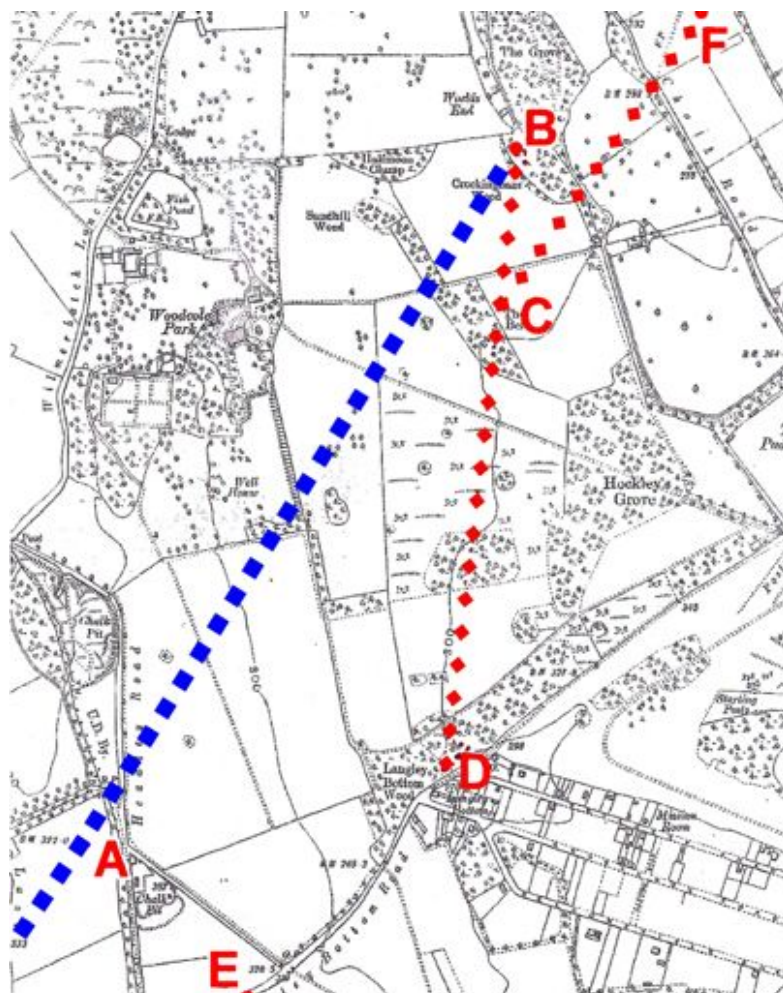
This accords with 'A Plan and description of the Common Fields of Woodcote and Smith Hatch in the Manor of Epsom', drawn by the late Reginald White and appended to his book *Ancient Epsom*: on page 50 it is mentioned as 'the old road passing between what are now Dudans and Woodcote Park to Epsom Downs to the West of the present Saddling Paddock.' What Mr White did not mention were references to a branch of 'Dorking Road' which had turned eastwards, across Great Digdens and Chalk Lane to pass below Lower Digdens (Square Digden on the 1726 map) but above Shortley Shot [SHC_COL 4073/11], towards the parish church.

The route of Stane Street from Thirty Acres Barn, Ashtead, to Ewell has been much debated. A preferred possibility is presently a northern spur, the Pebble Lane alignment, which peters out at Woodruff Stables but has been suggested to have extended in a direct line to Durdans Grove. This, however, involves a fall to the 70 metre contour before rising to 90 metres at The Grove. It begs a question why the practical Romans would not have avoided the valley bottom into which rainwater drains from the Downs.

S E Winbolt announced, in *The Times*, 6 May 1936, [reprinted SAC Vol. 44, pp 146/7] that he had found Stane Street 'between the fourth green of the golf course in Woodcote Park...and the Park wall..'. This is exactly where Dorking Way continued southwards from the gate at World's End.

In Surrey Archaeological Collections Vol. 9, 1888, H F Napper recorded having been told of 'a road called Roman, running from Ashtead to Epsom, as I understand, between Woodcut Park and Durdans, which is evidently a junction of the (so-called) Stane Street with the other road through Ewell...'. It now appears to the writer that Stane Street, in its later guise of The Portway, probably proceeded from Mickleham Down onwards to Langley Bottom before turning north along what became known as the 'lane leading from Dorking towards Epsom', otherwise Dorking Way or Road. This followed the 85/90 metre contours towards The Grove and then also forked east towards the parish church.

Reginald White, on page 50 of *Ancient Epsom* claimed, in consultation with S E Winbolt, to have identified 'a portion of an undoubted Roman road' through Dudans Estate. Nevertheless what he describes is evidently the causeway created by the 5th or 6th Lord Baltimore to provide a new carriage-way from Chalk Lane to the front of Woodcote Park mansion – as depicted on Roque's map of 1768. It may well have incorporated metalling recovered when the Dorking Way cart track was rendered redundant.



Notation

- A - B Extension of Pebble Lane alignment from Woodruff Stables to Winbolt's 1936 excavation.
- E - D Part of The Portway.
- D - B Indicative Dorking Way from Langley Bottom to World's End.
- C - F Indicative branch of Dorking Way towards Epsom parish church.
- The causeway access to Woodcote Park from Chalk Lane appears north-east of C

9,000 miles (or 14,500 kilometres) away, but not forgotten

By Hazel Ballan

Inspired by Clive Gilbert, who regularly visits WWI memorials in France to photograph the last known resting places of the fallen men of Epsom and Ewell, my mission to visit the State War Memorial in Kings Park, Perth, Western Australia was somewhat in reverse.

In our Epsom Cemetery lies the body of Private Lachlan Britten of the 28th Battalion Australian Imperial Force. He had been admitted to the County of London War Hospital (Horton) after being wounded in France. Lachlan was only aged 22 when he died three days later on 13 June 1916 from malignant oedema or gangrene of his wounds. <http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WarMemorialsSurnamesB.html> - BrittenL

My plan had been to attend the ANZAC Day Dawn Service held on Wednesday 25 April 2012 but my head cold, that had started during our AGM, plus jet lag, prevented me from the early start of 4.30am when the showing of historical footage on large screens erected around the State War Memorial, told the story of Australians at War, including those who had landed at Gallipoli on the same day in 1915.

The films and lights were turned off at 5.50am for the 6.00am Dawn Service. Following this moving *silent* ceremony, Brigadier Steve Coggin delivered an address before a free community Gunfire Breakfast was served in the Stirling Gardens. This was in remembrance of the traditional Australian troop's breakfast that had consisted of beef stew, sausage and bread.



State War Memorial in Kings Park overlooking Perth, Western Australia

After this, war veterans and their families marched through Perth, starting from St Georges Terrace down to Riverside Drive before entering the Supreme Court Gardens for an 11.00am service. All the shops in the city were closed for trade that day.

It was nearly lunchtime before my daughter and I put together a picnic and headed out with my granddaughter to Kings Park. There was still a feeling of utter peace in the park with other families, couples and service men and women enjoying the sun in this beautiful setting overlooking the city of Perth and the Swan River.

After finding Lachlan Britten's name, I placed my research and a piece of rosemary, the plant for remembrance, beneath the plaque.

It would be nice to think that it was picked up and that the history of Lachlan's short life was read by someone of this generation and for them to know that we in Epsom still care for his grave.



Can You Help Commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Epsom and Ewell in the Great War?

From Clive Gilbert

The 100th Anniversary of the commencement of WWI is in 2014 and should arouse considerable interest. There is a firm belief that we should mount a display to commemorate the role of Epsom and Ewell in the Great War.

It is envisaged that we could have enough material to produce up to twenty display boards. Quite a lot of work has already been done and the results are on the website. Using this work I can produce several panels on the War Memorials and the Grandstand Hospital.

More panels could be produced under the listed headings below, with town life, perhaps, being the most interesting. I can arrange for research findings to be formatted into Microsoft Publisher ready to be enlarged to panel size.

Town Life

- Belgian refugees
- Fear of Zeppelin raids & dimming of lights
- DORA
- Military tribunals
- Brothels
- Driver Martin, decorated for bravery
- Women's Land Army
- War work, munitions, materials?

University & Public Schools Brigade and Other Troops on The Downs

- 18th, 19th and half the 20th battalion were billeted with Epsom landladies.
- Later used Woodcote Park Camp.
- Book available at <http://www.archive.org/details/royalfusilierups00stanuoft>
- 13 October 1914 King George Inspected the Brigade. The 18th & 19th battalions on Epsom Downs.
- 22 January 1915 Kitchener inspects troops on Epsom Downs
- Tattenham Corner
- Tadworth.

Asylums as War Hospitals

- Horton War Hospital. Lt Col Lord book.
- Manor War Hospital.
- Long Grove Asylum. 19 soldiers died in Long Grove.
- Ewell War Hospital. Shell shock cases.
- West Park. Canadian military but probably not as a hospital
- (<http://www.whateversleft.co.uk/asylums/west-park-hospital-epsom-7>)

Woodcote Park Convalescent Hospital

- Canadian convalescent camp <http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WoodcoteParkCamp.html>

Possible sources: There are plenty of sources for information including the Epsom Guardian, Bourne Hall Museum, Surrey History Centre, Worldwide Web, National Archives, Aldershot library, National Army Museum, Imperial War Museum, Trevor White Surrey Town in the Great War, Parish magazines, Canadian archives, Council minutes.

Incidentally, I have spent some time looking through the microfilm for the Epsom Advertiser and have identified a considerable list of articles that may be of some help, and also an indication of how far I have got in looking through the microfilm.

If any volunteers would like to join me and carry out research on any of the subjects listed above, please let me know. I realise we are still two years away from the date of the centenary but it does give plenty of time for research and to mount a good and interesting display.

Clive Gilbert

More Help Needed from Volunteers

From Clive Gilbert

You are probably all aware of these items by now, but no harm in repeating them.

Locally Listed Buildings in Epsom

Members of EEHAS have carried out a physical assessment of about 100 or so locally listed buildings. It is proposed that research be carried out to find out as much information as possible about the buildings. Examples of the type of useful information that might be found include:

- When they were first built
- Who built them
- Who lived in them
- When they first appeared on local maps
- What they were used for
- Whether there are contemporary photographs
- Anything of interest not listed above!

The addresses of the first batch of buildings are:

- 1-5 Middle Lane, Epsom
- 7-9 Linton's Lane, Epsom
- 15-17 Linton's Lane, Epsom
- 97-101 East Street (Kiln Lane end)
- 106 & 108 East Street
- 110 & 112 East Street
- 132 & 134 East Street
- 144 East St (The King's Arms)
- Mill House, Windmill Lane, Ewell
- 45-57 Upper High Street, Epsom (old railway station)

If any volunteer is interested in carrying out research on any of these buildings please let Clive Gilbert know and he will pass any information found on to Nikki Cowlard, secretary of EEHAS.

History of Crime in Epsom and Ewell

Jeremy Harte has asked if volunteers would like to arrange a display on the History of Crime in Epsom and Ewell. He has four medieval stories to kick-start the project. If any volunteer is interested in taking this forward please let Jeremy know.

Recognition for Our History Explorer Website

www.EpsomandEwellHistoryExplorer.org.uk

From Professor Coustillas, France ...

If you remember there was an article by Jeremy Harte in the September 2011 newsletter (No.28) about the novelist, George Gissing, who led a traumatic life in Epsom from 1894 to 1897. There is even more information about Mr. Gissing on the Explorer website <http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/Gissing.html> which has roused interest from the Gissing specialist, Professor Pierre Coustillas, Emeritus, University of Lille - Author of many articles and books, mostly in English, on Gissing's life and works. Brian Bouchard has been in correspondence with Professor Coustillas and provided the following email.

From: Pierre COUSTILLAS

July 11, 2012

To: Brian Bouchard

Subject: Gissing

Dear Brian,

I just wanted to say that a Dutch friend of mine had drawn my attention to your article on George Gissing in his Epsom days, and that I was glad to see him thus commemorated in your part of the world, which I visited years ago.

I shall mention your interesting article and that of Jeremy Harte, the curator of the Bourne Hall Museum, in the next number of the Gissing Journal, which was founded as long ago as 1965, and which I have been editing since 1969.

I particularly liked your illustration of Worple Road. I took photographs of Eversleigh, and the images in your "Galleries" are all known to me. By the way, Gissing's father was "Thomas Waller Gissing" (not Walter), and the first sister in your gallery should be Ellen, the second one Margaret (I have the originals). John Halperin made a mistake in his book on Gissing, A Life in Books. I also have the originals of his father, mother, brothers and of Gabrielle. As for the sketch of Gissing, which you give as by H. G. Wells, it was made at Wells's house in Sandgate on 8 June 1901 by Mrs. Clarence Rook, and signed both by Gissing and Wells.

You would find much up-to-date information about Gissing at Epsom in the second volume of my 3-volume biography, The Heroic Life of George Gissing (London: Pickering and Chatto, 2011-2012). Amusingly you mixed up Gissing and Wells when you wrote George Herbert Gissing! His second Christian name was Robert, but he gave up using it in the early 1880s.

Thanking you again for your interest in him and his time in Epsom,

Yours sincerely,

Pierre Coustillas

I never cease to marvel at the power of the web in spreading information - Ed.

And Thanks from a Scottish School Teacher ...

From: Karen Murphy [mailto:karen.murphy@ewufsd.us]

Sent: 13 June 2012

Subject: Just a quick thank you for your Scottish resources :)

My name is Karen Murphy and I'm a history teacher at Elwood Union Free School District. I hope I'm not being a pain, but I just wanted to take the time to send you a quick thank you from the students in my class and myself

for providing the resources on your page (<http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/LinksFH.html>) My students just completed their Scottish history/genealogy projects and your page proved to be a great reference for them, so from Mrs. Murphy's class – thank you for your help :)

To thank you, we thought we'd send along a few other good resources that my students came across during their search. We figured since the students benefited from a variety of resources, the more resources, the better, so here they are:

History of Scotland - <http://www.authenticireland.com/History+of+Scotland>

Scottish Language - <http://www.dsl.ac.uk/> Scottish Traditions - <http://www.scotland.org/culture/history-and-tradition/>

And if you wouldn't mind adding them to your other resources, I'd love to show my students who went above and beyond to find the sites that their work was appreciated (maybe a little extra credit!).

Thanks again,
Mrs. Murphy's Class :)

From: Peter Reed [mailto:bigpeterr@btinternet.com]

Sent: 13 June 2012

To: 'Karen Murphy'

Thanks for the email. It's always good to get some feedback on the site especially as it was so positive.

I am pleased that your students found the site useful and am grateful for the suggested links. I have added them to the site at the bottom of the family history page

<http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/LinksFH.html> (you may need to refresh the page to see the changes). Please pass on my thanks to your pupils for all their efforts and I wish them well in their studies.

Peter Reed

Volunteers' Miscellanea

Congratulations to Joanna Grant

We are delighted to announce that History Centre volunteer (and Chair of East Surrey History Society) Joanna Grant married John Reynolds on the 11th August 2012 at Leatherhead. I'm sure all volunteers will join in wishing Joanna and John every happiness for a long and exciting life together.

... And to Peter Reed

We also take delight in wishing webmaster Peter a Happy 60th Birthday, and many more to come. Many of you were able to congratulate him personally at his extended new home on 23rd August – *after the traumas of the last few months did Peter have a word with Mr Cameron and influence him to introduce planning-free extensions?*

Thanks to Bert Barnhurst

We just thought it was worth mentioning that so far this year the LHC has received over £200 in funds, of which Bert has been the biggest single contributor having raised £85 from public speaking engagements to various organisations. Many thanks Bert.

Aspects of Epsom Downs

Meg Bower, with the support of Jeremy Harte, recently produced a display on Epsom Racecourse and The Derby. Its theme was a collection of fascinating facts, amazing stories and a wealth of illustrations covering all aspects of racing on Epsom Downs.

As well as being featured in the foyer of the Ebbisham Centre it also went on display in Bourne Hall in mid August. In both locations it was well received by the public with some excellent comments.



Just a few of the many visitors to Bourne Hall viewing the 'Aspects of Epsom Downs' display

We understand that the display has now been reduced to an A3 size for ease of use, so if you didn't see the display in situ, ask to look at this folder instead.

A rather morbid view of Genealogy

Peter Reed recently came across this picture. It's entitled '*The Dance of Death – the Genealogist*' and subtitled '*On that illumin'd roll of Fame, Death waits to write your Lordship's name*'.



Gives us a whole different view of BMDs don't you think – Ed.

Pity poor Jane Gadd – by Hazel Ballan

I was searching through the 1881 census for Epsom and came across an entry for a widower called William Anscombe, aged 35, head of the household. The entry on the next line was for Jane Gadd, aged 44, married with nine children.

The interesting point is that Jane Gadd's relationship with the Head of the Household is listed as "Cohabiter", and underlined as if to stress the point. That's fine, although I've not seen that description used before. However, someone seems to have taken an objection to this domestic arrangement and they have added "adulterer" in what appears to be different handwriting.

	George Heens	Carder	Thurs	32	Agre lab
1	William Anscombe	Head	Widow	35	Agre lab
	Jane Gadd	habitat	Married	44	
	Maria Gadd	down	adulteress	15	London
	Jedine Gadd	do		14	Agre lab

Is this a moral judgement or someone who's jealous of Jane? Either way, we must pity poor Jane as her cohabitation is acknowledged officially forever.

New Additions to the Website

www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/

Since the last newsletter in May 2012, webmaster Peter Reed, has added a wealth of new information and pages to the website covering some 15 different subjects including:

[Silver Birches](#) – Stilwell's private Asylum

[Sargent, George Jonathan](#) – 1882-1962 Professional Golfer

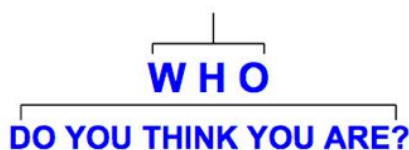
[Shaw, Joseph](#) - Receiver General of the Land Tax for Surrey and alleged embezzler

[Railway Hotel](#) – Station Road, Upper High Street, Epsom

[British Record Society](#) – Index of Wills

[Parochial Memoranda](#) – Sir George Glyn’s notebook of a Victorian Vicar
[The Trehistins of Ewell](#) – in the 16th Century
[Epsom Heritage courtesy of Epsom Civic Society](#) - A Detailed Survey of Epsom with historical context by Tomas H.J. Dethridge.
[Down Hall](#) – Burgh Heath Road
[Ewell Grove](#) - and the Pollard family from Mitcham, also of Southwark and Aldersgate
[Ewell Vestry](#) – including transcript of the Vestry minutes 1773-1829
[Index to Local Newspapers, 1970-1974](#)
[Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society Documentary Group papers](#)
[Proceedings of the Leatherhead & District Local History Society](#)
[Cloudesley S Willis Notes](#)

This is just a brief summary and it is probably easier to look at the ‘What’s New’ page at www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WhatsNew.html and enjoy browsing.



Family History Day, Saturday, 13th October 2012, 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.

Surrey Heritage documents to go online

Images of thousands of historic documents are to be published online thanks to Surrey County Council and the family history website Ancestry.co.uk.

The documents contain unique information about millions of people who lived in Surrey since the Tudor Age from all sections of society and from all walks of life. Among the records to be digitised are Church of England baptism, marriage and burial registers going back as far as the reign of Henry VIII; 18th century tax lists; electoral registers listing all those allowed to vote in elections from 1832 to 1945; admission registers for some of the huge Victorian mental hospitals in the county; and lists of all the men who joined the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment and the East Surrey Regiment in the years between the two World Wars.

This project will allow members of Surrey libraries to search the records for their Surrey ancestors free of charge in any local library in the county and subscribers to Ancestry.co.uk across the world will also be able to view them in the comfort of their own home.

Visitors to Surrey History Centre will have the advantage of free use of Ancestry.co.uk and in addition will be able to consult all the other original records held by the Centre to find out more about their ancestors and the communities in which they lived. New computers at the Centre will have a range of equipment to allow easier use by people with disabilities.

The original records, on paper and parchment, are all held in Surrey History Centre in Woking where they are preserved in temperature and humidity controlled strongrooms. Through this partnership, these precious documents will become far more accessible to researchers around the world whilst at the same time protecting and preserving the fragile originals for future generations.

Photographing the records will begin in July and, once they are indexed, the first records will be published on Ancestry.co.uk in 2013. Look out for the launch!

Where else in the World is there an Epsom? - In New Zealand.

If you remember, in the January 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. This time we are looking at Epsom in Auckland, New Zealand.

Epsom, Auckland, New Zealand

Epsom is a suburb of Auckland, New Zealand. It is located in the centre of the Auckland isthmus between Mount Eden and One Tree Hill, south of Newmarket, and five km south of the city centre. Population around 6,500

Named after the town in England noted for its horse-racing, Epsom also has a race track. The Alexandra Park Raceway lies in the eastern quarter of Epsom where it is located next to the Epsom Showgrounds. The broad, flat pastureland here at the intersection of Greenlane and Manukau Roads was used for sporting events from the 1850s onwards but the two venues were only formally established around 1900. The Alexandra Raceway was named after the then Princess of Wales (later Queen Alexandra). The Epsom Showgrounds are the location of the annual Royal Easter Show.

From the 1840s until the 1890s Epsom was noted for its rich pasture land which supported both dairy herds and grain crops. Towards Mt Eden is Windmill Road which was the site of the Bycroft Windmill. Initially large country houses and farms dotted the landscape but from the 1890s onwards suburban development spread southwards from Newmarket across the fields of Epsom. Most of the housing in the area dates from 1900 to 1930, often large houses built solidly of wood, many in the Californian Bungalow or "Stockbroker Tudor" styles.



The area has been long noted for its tree-lined, well-ordered streets, (above left), parks and a great variety of architecture, with century-old villas (above right) competing with late 20th century modern housing. Following WWII increasing numbers of the larger properties were subdivided and smaller houses appeared. Since the early 1990s there has been a considerable amount of "infill" housing with clutches of townhouses altering the streetscapes in some parts of Epsom – *I will make no comment regarding comparison with our Epsom, Ed.*

References/Sources

Wikipedia article Epsom, New Zealand

Graham W. A. Bush (ed), The History of Epsom

Epsom & Eden District Historical Society - www.epsom-eden.org.nz/

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 – Brian, Clive, Hazel, Jeremy, Meg and Peter. But to keep the momentum going we need more, so I make no apologies in repeating this message, 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 2013, so you have plenty of time to think of something.

IRP September 2012