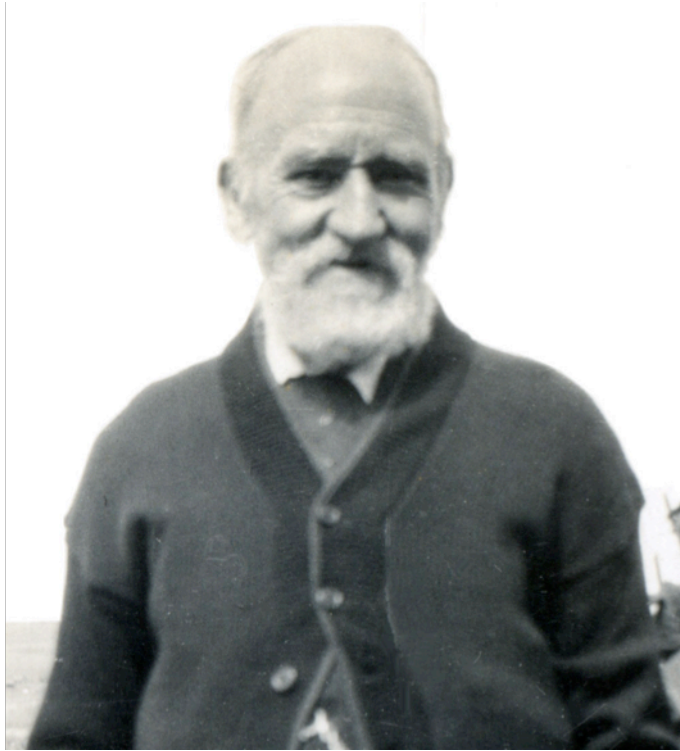


STUDIES
in the
HISTORY of EFFINGHAM



Two former creators of important collections of early Effingham photographs.

above – William Richards (1852-1938), producer of many postcards of local scenes

below – Effie Jane Ross (1884-1963), creator of large albums of her Effingham photographs



STUDIES in the HISTORY of EFFINGHAM

Presenting original research and narratives
relating to the village of Effingham
in the County of Surrey, England

VOLUME 2



Effingham Local History Group

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Front Cover: bluebells on Ranmore Common, a favourite walking area for Effingham residents.

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PREFACE

We are pleased to present this second volume in our new series *Studies in the History of Effingham*, following on from the first volume produced in October 2023. It has been a slightly daunting business getting this project underway given initial uncertainties about the wisdom or otherwise of the decisions we took concerning the volumes' scope, size, formatting conventions and printing options. However, with the first volume turning out most satisfactorily we now feel on surer ground as we contemplate the volumes yet to come; and how many of those there will eventually be, only time can tell.

This volume continues the furtherance of the project's principal initial aim, the safeguarding of all the research that currently exists only in electronic form by converting it to printed hard copy and depositing that in durable repositories such as the Surrey History Centre.

In the present case we have converted two articles on the early history of the King George V Playing Fields in Effingham; an article about the former Effingham windmill (what a surprise it was for ELHG to learn of this when the article's author first discovered it!) and articles on two notable past residents, Eileen Mary Ascroft and John ('Jackie') Dunn.

Additionally, following the example of the first volume, we have also included two articles which present new research not present on our website or in any of our other previous output. Both of them are *very* long but, we hope, also very interesting. The first concerns a man who was born in Glasgow, made his career in the West Indies, died in London and was buried in Effingham. He was George Bogle of Effingham House and our residents may well be familiar with his large square tomb in St Lawrence churchyard, where he lies with two of his daughters: all taken from this world in the same year, 1813. We had known at the start a little of his involvement in the Jamaican economy, based so heavily upon the sugar plantations and the mass enslavement of transported African captives whose labours and suffering had enabled the merchants and others of that period to make their fortunes. What we did not know, until doing the research, was just what an important man he had been in his dealings with the governing and mercantile classes in both Jamaica and Britain, nor his pivotal position in the provisioning of the British invasion of Saint Domingue, known today as Haiti. Nor did we know much of his mistress Adèle whom he met in the West Indies and brought to live in London when he finally settled there. His contemporaries spoke always highly of his kindness and generous character and it has been a challenge for us to reconcile this with his involvement with the slave trade; but, like ourselves, he was a person shaped by his own times and by the common precepts that then prevailed.

However, perhaps a greater challenge has been our attempt to understand the subject of the second new article, Lionel Atherton of Dunley Hill. He first came to ELHG's attention when Sue Morris gave a presentation about her discovery of the doings of this extraordinary man, in particular his establishing in the 1930s an unorthodox healing home in the remote south of the parish. Delving further into his life uncovered his decades of deep involvement in mystical beliefs and practices; never had we expected that researching the history of Effingham would immerse us in astrology, osteopathy and quasi-druidic incantations on Glastonbury Tor. Researching him has been a journey not of enlightenment but of growing incredulity and mystification. We hope our readers will find some fascination in navigating through our tale of his many escapades and unconventional leanings.

By the time this volume comes off the printing press we shall, we hope, be well advanced with the third volume, which will have a quite different character from this one.

The Editors

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The Editors invite submissions of original manuscripts to this series of Volumes. These may take the form of research articles, whether long or short, concerning the history of Effingham or of novel collections of relevant material (historic images, for example). The form in which any such submissions, if accepted, appear in the series is at the discretion of the Editorial Board. In all such cases third party copyright must be respected and permissions for use must be obtained by the authors where appropriate.

Enquiries about the series should be directed to Effingham Local History Group either by email as set out on the website (<https://elhg.org.uk/about>) or by writing to

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CONTENTS

Article No.

11.	George Bogle of Effingham House BRYAN SHERWOOD and CHRISTOPHER JOHN HOGGER	1
12.	Lionel Atherton and the First British Osteopathic Hospital CHRISTOPHER JOHN HOGGER and SUSAN MORRIS	87
13.	The King George V Playing Fields – Purchase in 1938 CHRISTOPHER JOHN HOGGER	179
14.	The King George V Playing Fields – Transfer in 1947 CHRISTOPHER JOHN HOGGER	209
15.	The Effingham Windmill SUSAN MORRIS	231
16.	Eileen Mary Ascroft – Journalist of Flower Cottage JEREMY PALMER	241
17.	John (‘Jackie’) Dunn – Professional Ice Skater of Effingham JEREMY PALMER	263

SUPPLEMENTS

9-1.	The Creation of Effingham Manor Golf Club – Supplement SUSAN MORRIS and JEREMY PALMER	273
	Index	275

