

Body Snatchers

The darker side of 19th Century Britain

Saturday 18th March 1pm-2.30pm

The streets of Victorian Britain were crowded by poor and desperate people. Some broke the law just to survive, other became victims — even though over 200 crimes carried the death penalty ranging from murder to minor offences like pickpocketing and being out at night with a blackened face. Despite these harsh penalties the criminal elements of society were still determined to make their living by ill-gotten gains.



Medical science had progressed slowly since the discoveries of the Greeks and the Seljuks due to religious restrictions. However by the early 1800s the study of anatomy was again at the cutting edge of science and surgeons needed bodies to examine. The law of supply and demand led to the rise of the grisly trade of the body snatchers or resurrectionists. Learn how and why these men crossed the boundaries of acceptability and what actions brought about the introduction of The Anatomy Act in 1832. Discover what happened in Ewell graveyard.



Cost per child £5 1 Adult per child free

Further information is available from David Brooks, Bourne Hall Museum, Spring Street, EWELL, Surrey, KT17 1UF. Tel 020 8394 1734, email dbrooks@epsom-ewell.gov.uk

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