

The War Memorials Trust. Preserving our Heritage.

By A Volunteer



The War Memorials Trust (formerly The Friends of War Memorials) started life in 1997. Its aim then as now is to preserve as many of the Nation's estimated 100,000 war memorials as possible. The Trust web site can be seen at www.warmemorials.org/.

The largest number of war memorials started life as a result of the First World War, or the Great War as it is often referred to. However, there are memorials to the dead of earlier wars such as the Crimea and the Boer War. Many memorials are now showing signs of age and wear, and are in need some restoration, whilst others have been vandalised, and others could simply do with a clean.

There are a great variety of memorial types throughout the country, the most common being some form of cross or cairn. Other memorials take the form of village halls, hospitals, bus shelters, recreation grounds, clock towers, chapels, fountains, lychgates, plaques and even funding for scholarships.

Some people feel that such memorials glamorise and glorify war, and are therefore not interested in their preservation. My view is quite different. Epsom's Ashley Road memorial bears the names of 264 men and 1 woman who died prematurely as a result of the Great War. I can only begin to try to understand in some small way the enormous sorrow that such huge losses must have brought. What sadness for families, parents, spouses, children. No names were added to the Ashley Road memorial for the Second World War, they are all listed in a book held at the Town Hall.



Recently the Worcester Park War Memorial (left) was damaged in an accident with a tree surgeon's lorry (right).

This is the kind of incident the War Memorial Trust would be concerned about and would get involved with.

We are assured the memorial will be repaired.



From the Ashley Road memorial, the Foulgar family and the Rasey family both lost three brothers. Eight sets of two brothers were killed. As an example the Gorey brothers, Fred and Henry. They served in the 101st Company of the Labour Corps. In France, on 11 May 1918 their company was bombarded by German gas shells. Henry aged 39 died from gas poisoning, in France on 19 May 1918, 8 days after. The gas took a little longer to kill brother Fred aged 38, 117 days, on 5 September 1918, in hospital in Cardiff. Nothing very glorious about either deaths, no doubt in some agony. They were simply doing their duty as required by King and Country (politicians?).

So Memorials do not (in my mind at least) glorify war but they do recognise that many good people did what society required of them at the time, and paid the ultimate price. Had Hitler prevailed, I would most certainly not be writing this.

Back to The War Memorials Trust. The Trust makes grants of money to eligible memorials that meet certain criteria, to make repairs and renovations to appropriate memorials, and actively promotes the listing of memorials to give them greater protection. It also is campaigning to encourage local Councils to appoint a 'War Memorials Officer', not as a full time post, but as a single point of contact for any war memorial issue that may arise.

I have recently spoken to the Epsom Cemetery Superintendent about listing the Ashley Road memorial and she is quite happy for that to happen. She told me that the Council is also responsible for the Bourne Hall, Dog Gate memorial and surprisingly the memorial in St Mary's churchyard, but ownership of the Hook Road cemetery memorial and the memorials in the redundant Horton chapel are not clear.

The War Memorials of the UK are part of our history and heritage and should be afforded as much protection as possible. The War Memorials Trust was set up to help in their protection and deserves to be supported.

Horton Lodge, later Hollywood Lodge

Some of the recent history and people connected with this building.

By A Volunteer

The fire-damaged wreck of a building visible from Christchurch Road and Horton Lane seems to have a chequered history. I hoped to find when it was built and something about past residents and owners. I have endeavoured to list events in chronological order.



C J Swete states in his 'Handbook of Epsom' (pub 1860) that Horton Place was built by James Trotter in 1798, but the Lodge is actually marked separately on the 1768 map by John Rocque and Horton appears on 17th century maps by mapmakers such as Norden and Speed.

The Manor of Horton was mentioned in the 12th century Cartulary of Chertsey Abbey. In 1197 a Sampson de Horton witnessed a Ewell document in the Fitznell's Cartulary (*ref: SHC ref 186/2/20*). However, I do not propose delving further into its medieval history at this time.

There exists a lease dated 1st October 1838, in the eighteenth year of the reign King George the Third, between Bertram John Trotter of Horton Place and John Browning of Horton Lodge (*ref: The Times Digital Archives (TDA) and Newspapers on line*).

Jackson's Oxford Journal, Saturday, 1st December 1821 reports: Died at Horton Lodge near Epsom, aged 88, the Hon. Louisa Browning, widow of John Browning Esq. of the same place.

The Morning Chronicle announcement notes – she was the eldest daughter and only surviving child of the Late Rt. Hon. Charles Calvert, Lord Baltimore, and sister to Sir Frederick Calvert, who was the last Lord Baltimore.

TDA 18th December 1822, page 3 Col E, issue 11507 carries the advertisement: Horton Lodge, Epsom, Surrey, by order of the trustees - To be let by auction, during the race week unless previously disposed of, by Messrs Campion and Church.

The above well-known and superior Property, which for years has been the residence of the Hon Louisa Browning, lately deceased. The estate comprises the very handsome dwelling-house with complete out offices of every description, most capital garden, with lofty fruit walls and pleasure grounds, situate as above and not 15 miles from London. The rooms and chambers are numerous and of lofty dimensions; the principal drawing room 27 feet by 18 feet and 13 feet high, with noble bow window opening to the lawn. There are principal and secondary staircases, and the whole so judiciously arranged as to be suitable for a large or small family. The pleasure grounds are extensive and connected with the meadows, containing in the whole 24 acres and a half. The above premises may be viewed any time prior to the races, by tickets only, which may be had of Mr Stevens, solicitor, 2 Sion-college-gardens, Aldermanbury: of Mr Dudlow, Solicitor, Epsom and of Campion and Church 170 Bishopsgate-street where a plan of the estate may be seen.

From the N Wales Chronicle 25th Sept 1858: Henry Willis Esq. of Horton Lodge, Epsom recorded as a visitor at Queen's Hotel, St George's terrace Llandudno.

From the Leeds Mercury 24th April 1862: Paull-Willis marriage. On the 22nd inst. at St George's Church, Hanover Square, London by the Reverend R. Atkinson, vicar of Cockerham, Lancashire Henry Paull Esq. MP, Barrister-at-Law, to Marianne, second daughter of Henry Willis Esq., Hill Street, Berkeley Square and Horton Lodge, Epsom.

[Same announcement in the Caledonian Mercury records H Paull as 'of the Hon Society of the Middle Temple, son of Archibald Paull Esq. of Devonshire Place].

[TDA also records this marriage with similar detail]

TDA Friday 30th December 1870 page 1 Col A, issue 26947: On the 29th Dec., at Horton Lodge Epsom, the wife of Henry Willis Esq. junior, of a daughter.

TDA 20th February 1872 Birth: Willis Henry junior, a daughter.

TDA 22nd September 1921: Death on 20th September at Horton Lodge Epsom, Emmeline, dearly beloved wife of Henry Willis and second daughter of the late James Levick of Hookfield, Epsom aged 75. Funeral tomorrow at Christchurch and afterwards at Epsom Cemetery. No flowers.

TDA - 'The sale room'. 12th May 1927: At Horton Lodge, Epsom on Monday.....sold the contents of the residence by orders of the executors of the late Mr Henry Willis. [Pictures listed include: Portrait of the late Mr Henry Willis as a boy riding on a pony - dated 1851 - by J F Herring. The Edinburgh Royal Mail changing horses at the Bell Inn. 1829].

TDA - 9th November 1937: Death at Springfield, Lower Green Road, Esher, Charles Edwin Willis, only surviving brother of the late Henry Willis of Horton Lodge, Epsom, in his 82nd year.

Later, the house, renamed as Hollywood Lodge, became an annex to West Park Hospital and then became a care home, which closed in 2003. Since then it has been vacant and was devastated by a deliberate fire in February 2005

This is just a small portion of the information I have recorded from the TDA as well as local newspapers. Surrey County Council has negotiated a special facility for use only on the library computers whereby Surrey Library Members can access many records online. These include the quoted newspaper archives and the Ancestry website for family research.

Going Dutch in researching the history of a West Ewell Pilot Officer By 2 Volunteers

The following email enquiry from a small museum in Geffen in The Netherlands could lead to remembrance day to remember.

Subject: Peter Henry Basson
To: Lucy Ewell <epsomandewellhc.yahoo.co.uk>
From: [REDACTED]

My name is [REDACTED] from Holland, and I am a member of a small museum in Geffen. On 24 July 1942 a RAF airplane was shoot down and crashed in our village. Unfortunately the whole crew died. One of them was a Peter Henry Basson, pilot officer of West-Ewell. He was a son of Bertie Harry Thomas Basson and Davidina Crockett Basson, stepson of Mr. R. T. Ransom.

Our museum is now trying to make an exposition of WW II in our museum. In that exposition we would like to expose photos of all killed soldiers in Geffen. And, if possible, to contact the families to invite them for a meeting in connection with a special Remembrance Day.

How I get to you? I looked at the Internet and found your address. Apologies for my poor English, but I hope you understand my request and hopefully you'll help me.

Thank you so much!

Geffen
The Netherlands
torenmuseum@gmail.com

One of the volunteers went up to Kew to look up the RAF stuff, while I researched the genealogy side as much as I could.

The Daily Express has run an article on the same subject

<http://www.express.co.uk/posts/view/226051/Are-you-related-to-a-hero-Are-you-related-to-a-hero-Are-you-related-to-a-hero-Are-you-related-to-a-hero>

The following is the research that I sent to the enquirer, at the Dutch museum.

Dear [REDACTED]

Peter Henry Basson, Pilot Officer (Rear Gunner) 48081

Killed in action 24th July 1942 aged 29

Peter Henry Basson was born in the September quarter* of 1913 in Poole Dorset (GRO Ref: Sept 1913 Poole 5a 477), the eldest son of Bertie Henry Thomas and Davidina Crockett Basson, nee Methven.

Peter's father had been born in 1879 in Littlemore, Oxfordshire and by the age of 22 was training to be a cook. Peter's mother was born in 1889 in Edinburgh Scotland.

29-year-old Bertie married 22-year-old Davidina on 28th November 1908 at 118 Princes Street Edinburgh Scotland. At the time Bertie was the hotel manager for the George Hotel in George Street Edinburgh.

When the 1911 census was taken, the couple appear as joint managers of the Kings Head Hotel in Change Alley Sheffield.

There are conflicting Poole registration district birth entries for Peter's younger sister Angela. She has been registered in the June quarter* of 1919 as Angela H G Basson (mother's maiden name Methven) and as Angela H I Basson in the September quarter* of 1920 (mother's maiden name Methven) but, as yet, I have been unable to find any further records for her.

Peter's parent's marriage did not last and in 1929, after divorcing, Davidina married Thomas Reginald Ransom, an estate agent, in Wandsworth Surrey. The couple lived in The Riviera Hotel Canford Cliffs Bournemouth where Davidina later died, aged 55, on 2nd March 1934 leaving an estate of £16,214 17s 7d.

By 1937 Bertie was living at 32 Princess Road Bournemouth and in 1940 he married Jeannette Oppenheimer. Bertie died aged 72 in 1951 in the Ploughley registration district in Oxfordshire.

There does not appear to have been any children from either of these second marriages.

It is unknown if Peter and Angela lived with either of their parents after the divorce, but the CWGC records show that Peter had been living in West Ewell Surrey.

I have not found any record of a marriage for Peter, or of his address in West Ewell.



Peter was the Rear Gunner of W7580, a Short Stirling of No. 149 Squadron, with the code number of OJ-D.

The RAF crew was made up of the following:

F/O A.J.L.Bowes, Captain
Sgt N. Acton, Flight Engineer.
Sgt D. Morris, Observer
Sgt G Blatherwick, W/Op
Sgt E.H. Boumphrey, A/G Forward
Sgt E.C. Isted, A/G Mid. Upper
P/O Peter H.Basson, A/G Rear.



Short Stirlings in flight

P/O Peter H. Basson

Both AJL Bowes and Peter H Basson were posted into 149 Squadron on the 14th July from 1651 Conversion Flight, just ten days before Stirling No. W7580 took off from RAF Lakenheath, in East Anglia, at 0111am on the night of 23/24 July 1942. The operation was a bombing raid on Duisburg, just over the German border.

OJ - D was shot down by a German night-fighter, and the aircraft crashed at 03.25am into a field near to the village of Geffen (Noord Brabant), 5km SW of Oss in Holland.

(Source = AIR 27/1002 at TNA Kew.)

All of the RAF crew died and were buried temporarily in the garden of the parish priest. The bodies were later exhumed and buried in the Uden War Cemetery.

Peter H Basson's grave reference is Coll. grave 4. I. 10-13.

Peter's name is one of the 342 Epsom people listed in the Epsom and Ewell WWII Book of Remembrance, which is on show in the reception area of the Town Hall but can be viewed online at <http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WW2Book.html>

**The June quarter includes the months of April, May and June.*

**The September quarter includes the months of July, August and September.*

For £9.25, Peter's birth certificate can be ordered online by going to

<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/default.asp>

After registering, you can fill in the form using the GRO Reference information:

Sept 1913 Poole 5a 477

Regards

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Epsom & Ewell Local and Family History Centre

Great research by the volunteers and not forgetting the enquirer in Geffen. Yet again demonstrating the power of the Internet and our website. - Ed

There is another Who Do You Think You Are? Day

By A Volunteer

Each year the Society of Genealogists puts on an event which has a certain similarity to one of our own; namely 'WDYTYA'. This year it was staged at Olympia, Earls Court.

I was only too pleased to see what it was like these days, especially as I was fortunate enough to win a ticket in a raffle at East Surrey FHS meeting in February. I was even more pleased when I discovered that the normal entrance fee was a bewildering £22 per adult. So what did I get for my money, or rather ESFHS' money?

Although the ticket was valid for the three days, 25-27, I decided to go on the Friday. The show opened at 10.00 so at least it was civilised start. While the journey was interesting, to see what had



changed, it took longer than a trip to TNA at Kew. The first thing that struck me was just how large the venue was from what I remembered. Not with standing that, by 10.30 the place looked pretty crowded to me.

There was so much to look at and many lectures to attend, but I must confess to a feeling of 'coals to Newcastle'. There were a number of areas giving advice which had quite a following, and it was at the S o G stand that I met Mrs █ and her family. Their tree was on a long length of what looked like wall paper covering many generations and family names. I wished them well and moved on.

Having been sidetracked by meeting one or two old friends – one being our own █, who wished to be remembered to her friends at EELFHC having not been around much recently being too busy working - and having had a chat with the members on the East Surrey stand, I had another trip round the upper level. Much to my surprise I found a roped off open space being used by Eric Knowles of Antiques Roadshow fame. He was evaluating various 'artefacts', and although busy did not have a lot of customers. However, this was a service which we have not had at Bourne Hall; as yet!



So what was my overall impression? The show was interesting, especially for those new to the 'game', but expensive for what was on offer. Having said that, there were discounts on Ancestry, Find My Past and many others, for those with funds, which would have covered the cost of entrance. There seemed fewer county societies there than I had expected together with some stands I would not have expected. These included such as RAIS insurance, Manteaux Ladies' wear, Casada Health & Beauty, and Cyclo-ssage! At least the last gave one

the chance to sit down in a massage chair after all that walking around. Unfortunately I don't think the Library would let us have the extra space!

All in all I am glad that I went, but on the whole I think that one would do just as well at the London Maze, which takes place at the Guildhall in April. Not only do they have a more varied range of events on the day but the surrounding area is more interesting. One last plus is that the MAZE is free, so that you can spend all your pocket money on 'goodies'!

Interesting Snippets proving History is Fun

There is an old Hotel/Pub in Marble Arch, London, which used to have a gallows adjacent to it. Prisoners were taken to the gallows (after a fair trial of course) to be hanged. The horse-drawn dray carting the prisoner was accompanied by an armed guard, who would stop the dray outside the pub and ask the prisoner if he would like "One Last Drink". If he said "Yes", it was referred to as "One For The Road". If he declined, that prisoner was "On The Wagon".

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. Here are some facts about the 1500s:

Most people got married in June, because they took their yearly bath in May and they still smelled pretty good by June. However, since they were starting to smell, brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water!"

Houses had thatched roofs, thick straw piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom, where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, "dirt poor." The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance-way. Hence: a thresh hold. (Getting quite an education, aren't you?)

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over they would hang up their bacon, to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, "Bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around talking and "chew the fat".

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning and death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or "The Upper Crust".

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of "Holding a Wake".

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people, so they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realised they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, thread it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift) to listen for the bell; thus someone could be, "Saved by the Bell" or was considered a "Dead Ringer" And that's the truth, although Stephen Fry on the TV show QI says this last one is not so, but it sounds plausible to me.

They used to use urine to tan animal skins, so families used to all pee in a pot and then once a day it was taken and sold to the tannery. If you had to do this to survive you were "piss poor", but worse than that were the really poor folk, who couldn't even afford to buy a pot, they "Didn't have a pot to piss in" and were the lowest of the low.

Now, whoever said history was boring!

Regrettably, I didn't record who sent these snippets to me. I think it was Bert or Carol. Either way, many thanks and if you have any more, keep them coming. - Ed

Happy memories of 'Pooh Sticks' and Frogspawn.

By A Volunteer

Whilst going through the red folders doing the cataloguing, I came across a newspaper cutting dated October 16th 1980 from the Epsom & Ewell Advertiser in the Hogsmill River folder.

However, what caught my eye was the picture of the original white bridge that went across the Hogsmill near Malden Manor/Worcester Park.

This picture brought back very many happy childhood memories for me, as my family lived in Tolworth on the borders of Malden Manor, the Hogsmill was within walking distance of our house, hence the reason I spent very many happy 'post-war' years playing with friends around the Hogsmill often on the bridge, playing 'Pooh Sticks' also looking for small fish.,



collecting frogspawn and sometimes climbing on the wood struts! I used to walk with my friend over the bridge most Sundays in my best clothes, to the church at the top of the hill.

I always thought that the white bridge was picturesque; regrettably, it was replaced by this metal one in the late 1950's.

Not sure I'd drink the water now. If anyone wants to add their own memories of how Epsom and Ewell used to be, then please let us have them, preferably with pictures.

New Additions to the Website

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

Webmaster, has added a wealth of new information and pages to the website. Here's a taster of some of the items for you.

[Infanticide in Ewell](#) - A possible miscarriage of justice, based on unreliable evidence, averted.
[The Barnards of Epsom](#) – a family history.
[Epsom and Ewell Gas Company](#) - 1839 – 1912.
[Epsom Local Board of Health](#) 1850 – 1894 providing the town with lighting, sewerage and drinking water.
[The Last London to Brighton Coach 1914](#) - Images of the journey via Worcester Park, Ewell, Epsom and Ashted.
[Peter Basson](#) - Pilot Officer (Rear Gunner) added to the WW2 Book of Remembrance.
[A clickable map of Epsom Cemetery](#)
[Henry Constable](#) - the jockey who rode the racehorse Sefton to victory in the 1878 Derby.
[Prefabs](#) – the solution to a housing crisis.
[Mount Diston or Garlands later Woodcote Grove](#)
[Riotous Epsom: "Murderous Assault on a Policeman"](#) - 8th May 1841.
[The Repented Sinner's Two Penny Murder Secret](#) – the 1868 murder of a Private R. Synon by Sergeant John Maskell of Epsom.
[Mellon, Harriet](#) - The second Mrs. Thomas Coutts then Harriet Beauclerk, Duchess of St Albans, actress and social climber, performing in Epsom 'for two nights only'.

A full list of the additions to the website, with links to the specific pages, can be found at www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/WhatsNew.html

Epsom & Ewell Local History Centre - Upcoming Events

Who Do You Think You Are? 2011

Our increasingly popular, annual 'Who Do You Think You Are?' day will be held **Saturday, 22nd October 2011** between 10.00am and 4.00pm. Make a note in your diary as nearer the date we will need to rota volunteers to help meet and deal with enquiries from the public.

Memories of the Fifties

The programme started with a display on '**1950s Fashion**' which was in situ during March and April.

The current display – '**Living in the 1950s**' is now installed outside the Local History Centre in Ewell Library combined with a display on '**National Service**' which had an impact on the lives of so many young people.

Coming up will be displays on '**Childhood in the 1950s**' in July, '**The Media in the 1950s**' in September.

This series of displays culminates in an open day in November when we invite members of the public to come and record their own memories of the 1950s with us. Several people have already done this either through the website

<http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/EpsomEwell1950s.htm>

or by completing the forms that are available from local libraries – Ewell, Epsom, Tattenham Corner, Stoneleigh and Ewell Court.

Do please encourage people to provide their own memories as they are a vital part of local history and are of importance for future researchers, scholars and enthusiasts.

Thanks to all who are contributing to this programme. The displays we have so far seen are indeed excellent and have set a very high standard.

By the way, at the end of this newsletter there is a list of events and activities provided by the Surrey History Centre in Woking – and there's a lot going on.



Some Relevant Miscellanea for Volunteers

Suggestions from the AGM

The following comments/suggestions were made at our recent AGM in April:

- Volunteers should be asked to reaffirm their membership and thus their commitment each year (at AGM time?) as we have a number of volunteers on our list who don't ever seem to attend the Centre and maybe should be struck off.
- Are volunteers happy to share their personal details with other LHC volunteers? If agreed, we can then legitimately hold a file of members' details and their local and family history interests and expertise.
- Volunteers must sign the 'Fire Regulations' in the back office to show they have read them else they will no longer be permitted to enter the office.
- Are there volunteers who would like to man the front desk on Saturday mornings and is there a demand? Since the AGM, an experiment is going on with the desk being manned one Saturday a month to assess the need.
- There was much discussion about our need for funds and fundraising. Several things are going, like a 'donations button' on the website and sending letters to local companies and charities. But we need to know more that we can approach. If any volunteer has any ideas or can assist in this vital task, please let a committee member know.

London Metropolitan Archives - revised opening times.

Wearing her East Surrey Family History Society's Chairman's hat, a volunteer recently went to a meeting for Family History Societies at the London Metropolitan Archives, mainly about cut backs. They will be introducing new opening hours from mid November 2011, which will be reviewed after about a year. They said that they would be putting full details on their website.

They new hours are as follows:-

Monday	9.30am - 4.45pm	<i>Same as now</i>
Tuesday	9.30am - 7.30pm	<i>Same as now</i>
Wednesday	9.30am - 7.30pm	<i>Was 9.30am - 4.45pm</i>
Thursday	9.30am - 7.30pm	<i>Same as now</i>
Friday	Closed	<i>Was 9.30am - 4.45pm</i>
Saturday	Open one day a month	<i>Was twice a month Visitors on a Saturday have dropped by 50% in the last two years</i>

Doesn't really seem that different to me - Ed.

Surrey Heritage Events Summer 2011 ...

The Surrey History Centre in Woking has advised us of the following events and activities. Seems there's a lot going on and plenty to enjoy, especially if you like cricket. Our thanks to the SHC for keeping us informed.

Identification and Recording of Finds

Second Saturday of each month 11am to 1pm at Guildford Museum (01483 444750).

As part of the Portable Antiquities Scheme, come along to Guildford Museum and see the Surrey Finds Liaison Officer. For metal detectorists and other finders of objects of archaeological interest.

Making Britain Exhibition

Tuesday 3 - Friday 27 May 2011

Free in the foyer of the Surrey History Centre

The 'Making Britain' team in partnership with the British Library presents the touring panel exhibition 'South Asians Making Britain, 1858-1950'. The display focuses on a wide range of South Asian-British networks and interactions including South Asian contributions to sport, the arts, domestic, cultural and intellectual life, resistance and activism, as well as national and global politics. It has been developed from extensive research examining a wealth of new material from archives in India, Sri Lanka, the United States and Britain. The AHRC, The Open University and The British Library have funded the exhibition. Available during normal opening hours



Castles and Palaces

Tuesday 31 May - 4 June 2011 at the Surrey History Centre

Free drop-in summer half term holiday family activities.

Come along to the Surrey History Centre and explore the Castles and Palaces of Surrey. Have fun building your own Palace and Castle and try our quiz. Parents and guardians are responsible for children at all times. Available during normal hours

Castles and Palaces Workshop

Tuesday 31 May 2pm –3pm Free workshop on the Woking Palace dig.

Come along and handle some of the archaeological finds and try being an archaeologist. Aimed at 7-12 year olds but other ages welcome. Parents and guardians must supervise their children at all times. To book your free place please call 01483 518737

Gypsy, Roma, Traveller History Month

June is Gypsy, Roma, Traveller History Month and Surrey Heritage are collaborating with the local Gypsy/Traveller community as part of the EU funded Roma Routes project to organize a range of events.



Epsom Derby

Saturday 4th June 2011

Gates Open 10am, Gates Close 6pm (all timings approximate)

Find us at the Epsom Derby with displays and performances celebrating Gypsy culture.

Normal admission fee www.epsomderby.co.uk/

Celebrating Gypsy Life at Bourne Hall

Saturday 25 June 11am - 4pm Free

Peek inside a painted caravan and enjoy vibrant gypsy music with a selection of traditional dishes cooked on the campfire. Try your hand at Romani crafts as well as learning about the heritage and history of Gypsies in Surrey. Bourne Hall, Spring Street, Ewell, Surrey, KT17 1UF

Foundling Voices Exhibition

Tuesday 19 July - Saturday 20 August 2011 at Surrey History Centre.

England's oldest childcare charity, the Foundling Hospital, was based in Redhill from 1926 until 1935. This Heritage Lottery Funded display explores Surrey's link with the hospital and includes the voices of former pupils recounting stories of life there. See archive footage of everyday life in the hospital. Free. In the foyer available during normal opening hours.

Woking Palace community excavations

13 – 17 July; 20 – 24 July; 27 – 28 July 2011

Free sessions for general public, either mornings or afternoons. Opportunities for local schools and community groups to book for special tour/dig workshops. If you are interested in booking a place please email education.scau@surreycc.gov.uk or telephone 01483 518737.

Ursula Moray Williams talk

Saturday 23 July 2.30pm – 3.30pm at Surrey History Centre

Two of the world's best-loved children's stories were written in Surrey, but it was an anxious time for their author, as she feared for the lives of her family in wartime Esher. Colin Davidson author of a new biography published of Ursula Moray Williams tells the untold story of their creation and how in a sometimes-difficult career she became increasingly concerned about the needs of disadvantaged children. It was a life as inspirational as those of her brave fictional heroes. Tickets cost £3.50. To book please call 01483 518737

Gobbolino, stories and drawings

26 July – 27 August 2011

Free drop-in summer holiday family activities

Come along to the Surrey History Centre and find out about the cat Gobbolino and other characters from the author Ursula Moray Williams books. Try making your own story and becoming an illustrator. Parents and guardians are responsible for children at all times. Available during normal hours.



Woking Palace Archaeological Open Day

Sunday 31 July 2011 from 11am to 5pm (last tour at 4pm)

A chance to see the results of the excavations that have been taking place this summer at Woking's medieval Manor and Tudor Palace. Guided tours of the site will run from 11am with the last tour at 4pm. Displays by various local History and Archaeology groups. There is NO public parking at the Palace. Park (free) in Old Woking, just off the High Street by the mini roundabout then follow the way-marked route (about 1 mile). The site can also be accessed by cycle. Free but donations welcome. No pre-booking.

... and Surrey's Sporting Life

Our Sporting Life exhibition

Tuesday 11 October – Friday 11 November

Celebrating Surrey's great sporting past through this exhibition inspired by Surrey's sporting heritage. Our Sporting Life is a national initiative which allows communities in Britain to connect with the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. At its core is an exhibition displaying Britain's Olympic heritage. Surrey has a rich sporting heritage and the Our Sporting Life exhibition offers local museums the opportunity to showcase many of Surrey's contributions to the local and national sporting picture, including the sports themselves, key people, and places. This is a travelling exhibition and will be visiting a number of museums throughout Surrey. Free in the foyer of the Surrey History Centre. Available during normal hours.

Basemen, bats and a lot of balls, Surrey Heritage Annual Lecture

Saturday 15 October 2pm – 3pm

Surrey's sporting heritage is unique. Not just one but two major international sports were first recorded in the county. One was cricket, which is well known. The other one is rather more surprising. All that, and much more, will be revealed in this intriguing talk by author Julian Norridge Tickets £10.00 including refreshments. Part of the Surrey Sporting Life events.

To book please call 01483 518 737.

The first recorded baseball match

Sunday 19 June

A dramatic re-enactment of the first recorded baseball match, involving a team in 18th costume playing against the Guildford Mavericks.

Surrey Sports Park, University of Surrey, Richard Meyjes Road, Guildford, GU2 7AD. Contact Richard McVittie, Guildford Borough Council on 01483 444766 or email Richard.McVittie@guildford.gov.uk for further information.

Cricket re-enactment

Sunday 19 June

Ripley Cricket Club in association with Send and Ripley Historical Society is putting on a series of cricketing events including children's taster sessions and kwik cricket matches. The main event will be a re-enactment of a 1775 match during which Lumpy Stevens's exceptional bowling changed the rules of cricket. Ripley Cricket Club, The Green, Ripley, Surrey, GU23 6AN.

For more information contact Clare McCann, Send and Ripley Historical Society, e-mail cricketshill@hotmail.com.

Golfing through the ages - family event and taster sessions

Saturday 23 July

As part of the Cultural Olympiad's Open Weekend Elmbridge invites families to come and take a look at golf through the ages. A family event where there will be various golfing activities for the whole family to try. Hurst Park, off A3050 Hurst Road, Molesey. Contact Lisa Winn, Elmbridge Borough Council on 01372 474583 or email leisure@elmbridge.gov.uk for further information

Cricket exhibition

Saturday 23 July – end of August

An exhibition showcasing cricket in East Surrey, including programmes from cricket matches and books on local cricket. This exhibition is set to run until the end of August. The museum is open Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday 10am to 5pm. East Surrey Museum, 1 Stafford Road, Caterham, CR3 6JG.

Contact Johanna Gummett, Curator on 01883 340275 or email eastsurreymuseum@btconnect.com for further information.



1850s cricket re-enactment

Sunday 24 July

Come and watch a seniors cricket match between Caterham and Chipstead played to 1850s rules. Tandridge Leisure Centre, Hoskins Road, Oxted, RH8 9HT. Contact Johanna Gummett, East Surrey Museum on 01883 340275 or email eastsurreymuseum@btconnect.com for further information.

Fun day and cricket re-enactment

Sunday 21 August

The Rural Life Centre's annual Sunday Fun will have a sporting theme this year with local rambling groups offering a selection of walks and a Victorian children's cricket match at the Rural Life Centre in front of the Victorian Cricket Pavilion. The Rural Life Centre, The Reeds Rd, Tilford, Farnham, Surrey GU10

2DL. Contact Chris Shephard, Rural Life Centre on 01252 795571 or email info@rural-life.org.uk for further information.

More activities and details will be added to the programme over the year, so for the most up to date information call 01483 518730 or visit www.exploringsurreyspast.org.uk and look at the news items.

Have You Got News for Me?

We hope you've enjoyed reading this newsletter. Thanks to all those volunteers who provided information and stories. But to keep the momentum going we need more, so I make no apologies in repeating this message, as it often seems to be the same people providing material. I'm sure many more of you have experiences, contacts with enquirers or local or family history information that would interest us all. And you can see from this current issue, we like gossip and comments as much as more serious subjects.

So, please don't be shy. If you have any

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

please let the editor 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 probably be in September 2011, so you have plenty of time to think of something.

IRP May 2011