

SurreyHills Society **views**

Chairman's view



Exciting times! Your Society is going from strength to strength with a fascinating and varied programme of events planned throughout the spring and summer.

The booking form and details for all the events are on the website and many are listed in this newsletter. For instance on Saturday 4 June, we are going to be private visitors to the beautiful Busbridge Lakes near Godalming, where we will see one of the country's largest collections of wildfowl. More information on this on page 5.

The visits organised by Parish Council affiliate members in and around the Surrey Hills are proving very popular both with members and

the organising Parish Council. It gives the parish the opportunity to show off the very best of its heritage, history, countryside and community to an audience of like-minded people. Our recent visit to Brockham was a complete sell out and much enjoyed by all present, as you can read inside. This followed a similar successful visit to Shamley Green last year. I wonder where we will be going next; perhaps a parish in Waverley or Tandridge? If any members have ideas for future visits, we



Views at Gaton Park, Reigate

are always more than happy to investigate and possibly organise a date, just get in touch with our administrator, June Robinson.

The Society continues to take an active interest in the challenges and problems facing the Surrey Hills. Details of such planning applications, as per the oil exploration on Leith Hill, can be found on our website. We also continue to take an active interest in the provision of dedicated mountain bike paths to reduce the conflict with others users on footpaths and bridleways.

The Society is very grateful to other organisations, particularly the National Trust and Surrey Wildlife Trust for the help and advice they give us; to Ringway for sponsoring our newsletters and the Surrey Hills Board for their continued support and encouragement. We are also grateful to the many volunteers who help us man our new gazebo and trailer at the many events we attend across the Surrey Hills. And finally, our thanks to Loseley House for their two for one offer to be found on the back page.

We would welcome many more of you to join our happy band.

Neil Maltby
Chairman

Our thanks to Glyn Sherratt, Diane Cooper, Chris Howard, Ken Bare, Martin Higgins, Surrey 2012 Group, Busbridge Lakes, Jane Garrett and other members and supporters who have kindly contributed photos and items to this issue.

Denbies Estate Local Food Links

Denbies mission is to provide delicious food and local products sourced primarily from the south-east region with an emphasis on Surrey produce.

Denbies strives at all times to work in partnership with local growers and suppliers using free range and farm assured produce which is ethical and sustainable in keeping with their ethos. Family-owned and run in the heart of Dorking, Denbies is committed to playing its role in strengthening the local economy.

Denbies was very pleased to support the March Monday initiative, in conjunction with the Surrey Hills, showcasing local producers on the wine tours. This was a big success and it is anticipated that this will become an annual event. Visitors to the event were both surprised and impressed at the breadth of produce that is produced in Surrey.

The Kitchen Garden Farm Shop is a committed purveyor of local

produce including best selling items such as local eggs from Collaroy Farm, Norbury Blue Cheese from Mickleham, Coffee Real (ground in Capel), Sue's Preserves and most recently introduced on the back of the March Monday initiative, Chalk Hills Bakery.

Surrey Hills Micro Brewery is currently relocating to an area within Denbies existing winery building, incorporating a visitor viewing area and tasting platform for a real 'hands on' experience. Visitors to the estate will now be able to enjoy an insight into both wine and beer production. The Ultimate Wine Experience, 360° cinema, people-mover through the winery and cellar tasting, outdoor vineyard train and 'Grape and Grain Tour' will be available throughout the year.



Gift Memberships



Thank-You Birthday Christmas Well Done

Whether or not you are already a Society member, if you are short on ideas for presents or wish to mark a special occasion, the Society might be able to help.

We provide Gift Memberships, which allow you to gift a year's subscription to the Surrey Hills Society to anyone you choose

Prices are the same as standard annual subscriptions - £10 for single membership or £15 for family membership – but in

addition, you receive a smart gift card to which you can add your own personal message.

To buy your Gift Memberships now, please visit our website: www.surreyhillssociety.org where you can download a request form, call us on **01372 220647** or write to us at:

Membership, Surrey Hills Society, Warren Farm Barns, Headley Lane, Mickleham, Dorking, Surrey RH5 6DG

Congratulations Anniversary



Olympic Cycling Road Races come to Surrey

The eyes of the world will be on the Surrey Hills on 27, 28 July 2012 when the Olympic Cycling Road Races come to Surrey, as one of the opening events of the 2012 Games. Races on the first two days will start and finish in London at The Mall and take in about 130 miles of Surrey roads, passing through a number of the county's villages, towns and areas of outstanding natural beauty including Walton, Weybridge, Byfleet, West Horsley, Gomshall, Dorking, Leatherhead, Oxshott, Esher, East and West Molesey, as well as lapping Box Hill a number of times. Discussions and site investigations are taking place at the moment to ensure special protection of Box Hill and to assess how many visitors the area can take without endangering the chalk-loving species to be found there.

Public sector organisations in the county have formed the Surrey

2012 group. This consists of Surrey County Council and the district and borough councils of Guildford, Woking, Mole Valley, Elmbridge and Reigate and Banstead, as well as Surrey Police, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, the National Trust and Natural England. The group's aim is to help ensure the event is a success, while minimising disruption to local residents and businesses. A detailed traffic management plan is currently being prepared and details of road closures will be made public well in advance.

One million spectators are expected to line the route which will provide a huge boost to Surrey's economy. Excitement is high within Surrey as we are hosting the opening 2 days of the 2012 Games.

The London Surrey Cycle Classic is planned for 14 August this year on the same route to test the infrastructure ahead of 2012.



LEADER helps again

Last year, the Society took delivery of a promotional trailer and gazebo – both of which were part funded by Surrey Hills LEADER grants. Early use of these items at shows and events indicated that we would have a greater impact if we could add extra attractions to keep people interested. One suggestion which we have followed up has been to supply power to the trailer so that we can show slide shows and other moving images. We already had

a set of pictures which we had developed over recent years but needed a generator and screen to make the idea come together. We have been successful in obtaining LEADER funding to buy these – plus an additional generator so that we can provide extra power to the trailer or power to both trailer and gazebo when we are at different events. The coming season will see these additions put into use so – thank you LEADER.

www.surrey2012.info



The funding is being made available through the Rural Development Programme for England, which is jointly funded by Defra and the European Union, and is managed by SEEDA in the South East



Society Notelets

Stay in touch. Say "Thank You" or keep just in case.

Our Surrey Hills Society Notelets are ideal. Each pack contains 8 different images to reflect the diversity of the Surrey Hills AONB.

Priced just £4, our notelets are available at events and from our trailer or gazebo as we go out and promote the Society

around the county. They are also available from the Tourist Information Office in Guildford High Street at £4.50 per pack.

Alternatively, send a cheque for £5 (to include P&P) to Notelets, Surrey Hills Society, Warren Farm Barns, Headley Lane, Mickleham, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 6DG.

www.surreyhillssociety.org





A New Way to Promote Your Society



Surrey Hills Wood Fair

Last October saw the first Surrey Hills Wood Fair at Birtley House, Bramley. Initially conceived by a Surrey Hills AONB working group as a vehicle to promote wood fuel, it blossomed into an event celebrating all things to do with wood. The event started with a Friday seminar for an invited audience involved in various aspects of developing the use of wood fuel. With Birtley House having been one of the first locations in Surrey to install a "green" boiler, fuelled by wood chips, the day included tours to show how successful the system was.

Saturday's Fair was a public day when a broad spectrum of companies, organisations, charities and other kindred spirits set up their exhibits and showed the wide range of applications for wood – from fuel to furniture, functional fencing and exquisite art-forms. A steady stream of visitors kept the exhibitors busy all day and the feedback from everyone was so positive that the team is going to do it all again this year – but bigger and better!

The 2011 Surrey Hills Wood Fair will be a three day event! **Friday 7th October** will be a seminar again followed by two days of public displays on **Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th**. Details are still being finalised but make a note of these dates in your diaries. We already know that there will be more stands displaying woodcrafts and countryside aspects of wood (from management to machinery and practical products). Plans are under development for some exciting entertainment and – based on the 2010 success – it is already clear that lots of exhibitors want to attend. This should make for an interesting and enjoyable weekend treat for everyone.

To make it even more special, the Surrey Hills Society is proud to have been nominated as the official charity of the Wood Fair. We are working as part of the organising team to ensure that everyone has a memorable day and look forward to meeting you there.

Surrey is the most wooded county in England. Come along and help make the Surrey Hills Wood Fair the premier event as well.

The Society takes its trailer or gazebo to as many events as possible but there are frequent clashes during the fete season with several local events on the same day. We don't have enough volunteers or equipment to attend them all so have to choose those which give us the greatest exposure. Since we would also like to have a presence at smaller events we have purchased a set of table-top display boards. These will fit on a standard trestle table and, together with a range of our leaflets, creates an informative display about the Society. Our first outing with these boards was to Westcott Reading Room at the invitation of Westcott Local History Group. The boards made an impact which we could never have achieved with just a selection of leaflets.

If you would like to use these display boards at your event, please contact us. We can't provide the volunteers to man the display but if you are prepared to liaise with your local event organiser to book a table, set up (and dismantle) the display and keep a general eye on it during the event we can get the boards and leaflets to you ahead of your event. So, if you would be prepared to assist in promoting your Society in this way, please contact us at info@surreyhillssociety.org



Founder Member Peter Hattersley

I was very fortunate to be born in Grove Road Hospital next to Richmond Park. I grew up with access to the open spaces of Richmond Park, Sheen Common, Old Deer Park, Terrace Gardens, Petersham Meadows and the River Thames. I therefore hold in high value the Surrey countryside. I took up horse riding in 1960 and rode in Osterley Park and the Norwood Green area. In 1968 I married Joan and we moved to Mogador on the North Downs with direct access to Juniper Hill and Colley Hill and a number of bridleways and plenty of walking for our dogs. In 1978 we

moved to West Horsley and another network of bridleways crossing the Sheepleas and Forests to Netley Heath and, again, good dog walking. I heard about the Surrey Hills Society inaugural meeting at Denbies in November 2007. It became clear that there was not a group in existence that volunteers could join to support and conserve the Surrey Hills area. I therefore joined and am a member of the visits subcommittee. I also volunteer to man the gazebo or trailer at Shows and events. I am very pleased that the Society has taken up the baton for the Surrey Hills.

Planning in the Surrey Hills

The Surrey Hills Planning Advisor, Clive Smith is now in his second year of appointment. His role is to work closely with the local authorities in the AONB and offer advice on planning consultations. Work has certainly increased during his second year and a Surrey

Hills planning protocol document is now in operation.

In 2010/2011 AONB planning advice on 122 planning consultations has been submitted to the relevant planning authorities. This compares with 105 consultations during the previous year. Submissions have been made to the Planning Inspectorate on ten appeals including attendance at one public inquiry and one hearing.

The great majority of consultations have come from Guildford (57), followed by Mole Valley (26) and Waverley (23). It is not known whether additional applications have been submitted that come within the protocol and have therefore not been referred to the Surrey Hills Office. Under the protocol the decision to consult with Clive rests with officers of the relevant Planning Department in the local authority.

He continues to be concerned about allowing existing dwellings to be replaced by larger

houses often imposing themselves on the landscape. Further extensions to these replacement houses can subsequently be allowed under existing planning policies. The cumulative effect of these incremental developments will, over a long period of time, even further spoil the natural beauty of the Surrey Hills. Further, those promoting development can sometimes rely too much on trees to screen their proposed buildings when in reality trees do not last forever and may be removed in the future thus exposing the development to public view. It is essential that a long-term view of development proposals in the Surrey Hills is taken.

On a positive note, he sees opportunities to enhance the public's enjoyment of the Surrey Hills through the improvement of visitor facilities at the most important viewpoints.

If you need further information on planning in the Surrey Hills contact Clive Smith on 01372 220653.

It's Spring-time at



Busbridge Lakes opens to the public on selected dates only but Society members are being offered a special opening on **Saturday 4 June**. Come and join us and discover some of the thirty acres of gardens and wooded hillsides, with nature trails and a large variety of interesting flora and fauna.

The wildfowl collection is housed in an enclosed area of some twenty acres. The present owner, Fleur Douetil, started the collection in 1966 with a pair of Carolina Wood ducks and from this small beginning the collection has grown to include over ninety different species of waterfowl as well as many different species of ornamental birds.

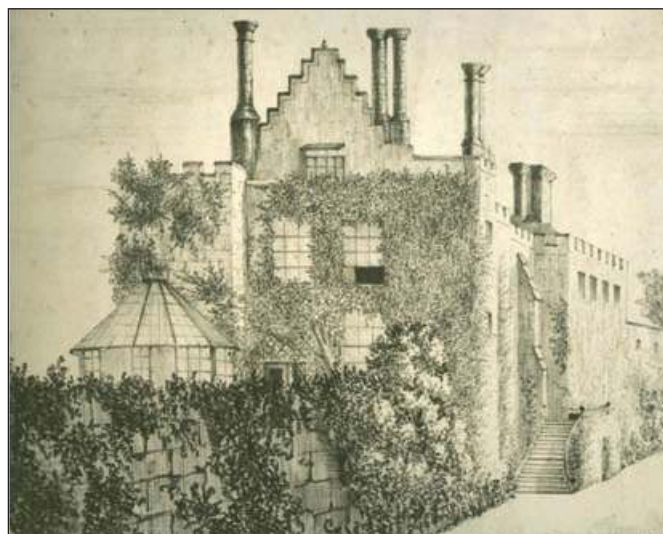
The Busbridge Lakes property is steeped in history and the garden is listed as a Heritage Garden specially noted for its follies, grottoes and caves. The lakes are full of giant pike and carp and the banks abound with dragonfly, butterfly, frogs and toads. It's situated on the Hambledon road, a mile and a half from Godalming, in its own valley where springs rise to form a chain of lakes and ponds.

For further information visit
www.busbridgelakes.co.uk



Betchworth Castle -

a Pile of Old Stones or a Monument Worth Saving?



The engraving of Betchworth Castle from 1737 when it was a country house is relatively well known. However, it was previously an extensive stone building with four ranges around a courtyard. On the east side was a great hall and grand reception rooms plus a four storey chamber tower. An impressive gatehouse stood at the end of a tree-lined causeway that stretched out through a medieval deer park towards Dorking.

The surviving veteran sweet chestnut trees in the park were noteworthy in the 17th century, and are thought to have been planted in mid 15th century.

The precise date of the castle, or fortified manor house as we should properly call it, is not known. Edward I stayed there in 1294 so it must have been a substantial building even

then. There were two licences to crenellate (fortify) the building and create a deer park, one in 1379 and a second in 1449. Most of the surviving fabric would fit with the second date, although the tower appears earlier.

The castle was intended to display the power and wealth of the owners at the top of a steep slope facing east. The site was levelled by creating a terrace with an enormous wall 100m long and 2.4m high. The white stone of the wall must have been an eye-catching feature. The castle was raised higher still on a vaulted basement so that it dominated the landscape.

The Browne family held the castle for much of its life, having married into the Arundel family who held it before. The last of the Brownes, Margaret, married William Fenwick in 1691,

who promptly demolished three quarters of it to make it more manageable. Later, despite significant refurbishment and extension in 1798 by the eminent architect Sir John Soane, the roof was taken off to form a romantic ruin in 1835. This was done by Henry Thomas Hope, who purchased the land to enlarge his Deepdene estate but had no need of another mansion. The estate ran from Box Hill to Fourwents Pond and was bought for £83,000. The castle has been a ruin ever since.

I have recently completed my purchase of the castle ruins. My plan is to conserve the remains and allow the public free access to view the ruins and enjoy the views. Betchworth Castle is the last surviving fortified manor house in Surrey and is both listed and scheduled.

Martin Higgins

Day in the Country

hosted by Brockham Parish Council

We were blessed with good weather for our spring outing to Brockham on Saturday 26 March. The Parish Council had done a wonderful job of organising a brilliant day out for Society members. Bob Bartlett, Oona Duffy and Tony Hines were our guides for the morning and gave us a fascinating insight into life in this picturesque village - both present day and historical. Apparently, historically Betchworth was where the "posh" people lived and Brockham was for the workers and contained several smithies, a brickworks and a lime factory. Like many other Surrey villages, it was "gentrified" during the Victorian era, with many workers cottages being knocked into one residence and large extensions being added.

Many well-known artists lived in Brockham, including Edwin Wilkins Waite and Reginald Tate. It was also the home of a late Victorian philanthropist, originally from the East End of London, a Mr Pound, who has done an enormous amount for the village and left a wonderful legacy trust fund to benefit the village in perpetuity.

Other famous residents included Mr Burberry, the now famous London fashion house who was born in a house on the Green. Another was, would you believe, the minder for infamous stripper "Gypsy Rose Lee".

The Royal Oak pub did a wonderful job of feeding us all very efficiently at lunchtime and were very welcoming and I have to say a few of us succumbed to the temptations of afternoon tea at The Grumpy Mole, which I thoroughly recommend.

After lunch Martin Higgins, local parish councillor and historian and recently acquired castle owner showed us round his new purchase of the ruin of Betchworth Castle. He explained not only the history of the building but also his vision for the future. See the article on page 6.

We are very grateful to Brockham Parish Council and Martin Higgins for putting together such an interesting and informative day.

Chris Howard



Society Fleeces and Polo Shirts

Wear our fleeces and polo shirts to promote your Society. Polo shirts are white with our logo embroidered on the left.

Our two styles of fleeces are modelled here for you by Chris and Jeff.

Further details, including how to order are available on our website.

www.surreyhillssociety.org



Polo Shirts £16 inc p&p				
Size	S	M	L	XL
Chest Size	36	38/40	42	44

Unisex Fleece £26 inc p&p				
Size	S	M	L	XL
Chest Size	36/38	40	42	44

Ladies Shaped Fleece £26 inc p&p				
Size	XS	S	M	
Ladies Size	8	10	12	
Chest	30/32	32/34	34/36	

Programme *May to December 2011*

Keep an eye on our website for additional events to be added to this calendar

Booking is essential and usually opens 2 months before the event - further details at www.surreyhillssociety.org or by sending an SAE to: Surrey Hills Society Events, Warren Farm Barns, Headley Lane, Mickleham, Dorking RH5 6DG

Sunday 1 May

May Day Walk (8 miles) including Mickleham Downs, White Hill, Juniper Top and Box Hill With magnificent hilltop views of the Weald and the South Downs and particularly overlooking the town of Dorking.
Booking: info@surreyhillssociety.org

Wednesday 4 May

Chairman's Day - Hampton Estate.
This event is fully booked.

Friday 6 May

Guided visit of Feldmore House by the Head Teacher of Belmont School (Arts and Crafts). Completed booking forms required- can be downloaded now.

Saturday 7 May

Discovering Trees and Shrubs at The Sheepleas with a plant identification specialist.
Booking: pamela.holt@talk21.com

Thursday, 19 May

Exclusive members' entry to Chilworth Manor gardens Completed booking form required - can be downloaded now.

Friday 20 May

Surrey Hills Cookery School day. Completed booking forms required - can be downloaded now.

Sunday 22 May

Family Ramble for all, including trampers and push chairs Bocketts Farm to Norbury Park 3 to 4 miles, including break for optional BYO picnic.

Saturday 4 June - See item on page 5

Exclusive opening for members - Busbridge Lakes, Exotic Waterbirds and Grade 2 Heritage gardens.

Saturday 11 June

A Day in Guildford - including tour by the Master of Abbot's Hospital (400th anniversary exhibition)

Tuesday 14 June

Box Hill Butterflies - talk in Box Hill Education Centre followed by guided walk

Saturday 16 July

A nostalgic Victorian Experience aboard the "IONA". Tickets £12 per person including cream tea. Travel the Victorian Way along this unspoilt waterway in Surrey as generations of boatmen before you. Our journey on the narrow boat "IONA", pulled by one of the Godalming Packetboat heavy horses, traverses both river and canal and passes through a lock

July/August

Walk the North Downs Way (4 days with 11-11-12 and 10 miles respectively)

Friday 12 August

Summer evening visit to Police HQ, Mount Browne, Sandy Lane, Guildford, Surrey GU3 1HG
Displays include a reconstructed lock-up (an old-fashioned holding cell for drunks and criminals), a reconstructed crime scene showing scenes of crime techniques, artefacts and touch-screen technology, all tracing the history of the Force up to the present day.

Sunday 4 September

Stepping into Newdigate's Socialist Past.
A two-hours guided walk around a little known part of Newdigate which was developed a hundred years ago on socialist principals. It is also the site of the first holiday camp in England which was run by a socialist couple who advertised for business in the Lansbury Gazette. We will finish with Sunday lunch in the Six Bells.

Tuesday 20 September

A tasting of wines from Surrey vineyards - Albury

Sunday 25 September

Autumn Walk (7.5 miles) starts in Shere and ascends to the North Downs Way, with magnificent views from Newlands Corner and St Martha's Church, returning via the Apostolic Church at Albury and Silver Wood.

Saturday 1 October

A Day in the Country - Wonersh

Saturday 22 October

SHS Dinner at the County Club, Guildford

Saturday 29 October

AGM and Members' Day. Details to come

November

Illustrated talk at Albury on 'The Past Present and Prospective Vineyards of the Surrey Hills'
The history of viticulture in the Surrey Hills over the last two millennia, and the impact of past & future climate change by Professor Richard Selley of Imperial College, London

Saturday 10 December

A guided walk exploring more of the 65 acres grounds of Belmont School in Holmbury St Mary, followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the School Hall by kind invitation of the Headmistress.

Special 2 for 1 offer for May - September 2011

Loseley House and Walled Garden

Valid for one visit only (Ref SH/LP)

Please check opening days and times before your visit

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