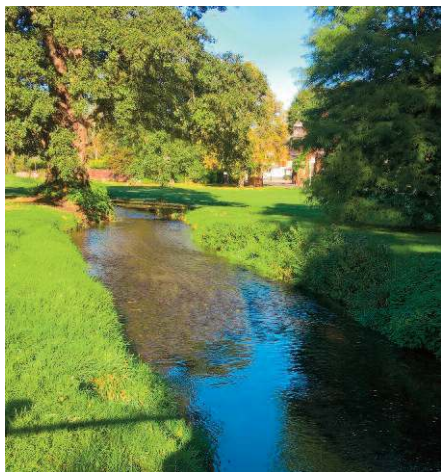




## Amazing heritage in the Surrey Hills

Visiting the Surrey Hills, it is easy to see the impact that the River Wey and River Mole have had on the scenery across the area. However, there is a third, small, river that has played a major role in shaping the industrial and social history of a valley in the midst of our beautiful countryside.



The Tillingbourne rises as a spring high up on the side of Leith Hill. Flowing northwards down to the village of Wotton, it then makes its way along a valley to Shalford where it joins the Wey. But its twelve miles, which take in several of our special villages, were once a hive of industrial activity.

From Saxon times onwards, water powered mills proliferated along the Tillingbourne's length. A host of industries were established and, in many cases, flourished for long periods of time. However, changes in technology and alternative power sources over time made all the mills along the river redundant.

Looking at the Tillingbourne valley now, it is difficult to imagine how busy and how important it was. It is for this reason that the AONB Board together with the Surrey Hills Society, local parish councils and local interest groups got together and decided that it was important to record and conserve what is left of this industrial heritage. A Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid was put together and successfully gained funds to research the industries and structures, engage with the communities in conserving the special features of the valley and help teach both young and old in the community about the unique heritage of this fascinating and important area.

The Surrey Hills Society took a lead role in the project commissioning the Project Coordinator and providing a significant number of the volunteers to help bring the various elements to fruition. Shere Museum volunteers have created a new mezzanine gallery to display the work

produced from the project. Chilworth2gether, the Chilworth Gunpowder Mills and Shalford Mill groups have played key roles in engaging with their communities up and down the valley.

The HLF funding is now coming to an end but the project goes on. The Society will be continuing to work with the local groups to create a legacy which will preserve the history of the area and provide opportunities to extend the reach of the initial project. The Society has already been successful in attracting a donation from Fidelity International to help us continue the work and, hopefully, other sources of funding and volunteering will be forthcoming for this fascinating and important work.



Our centre page spread provides more information about the project and opens a window on some of the elements which make it such a fascinating topic to be involved with. When you have read about the area, why not make the Tillingbourne valley a destination for your leisure time, walk some of our newly produced Tillingbourne Trails and discover more of this amazing heritage.





## Chairman's Views

Welcome to our Spring edition. Our Committee members and key volunteers have been working hard to put together another interesting year of events and activities. We will continue to work closely with the Surrey Hills AONB Board to support and help deliver the Government approved Management Plan. This will include building on the success of the Tales of the Tillingbourne Heritage Lottery Funded project that we are featuring on the centre page of this edition. Due to our growing number of volunteers we are able to deliver more activities each year. Do consider getting involved with us in 2017! We are advertising three specific roles here below, but there are lots of opportunities ranging from offering to help at a show just once a year, to taking up a role on one of our committees. Please call me to discuss on 01483 894437.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped support the Mayor of Guildford,



Cllr Gordon Jackson, in his efforts to raise funds for the Surrey Hills Trust Fund during his Mayoral year - especially those who joined us on the Mayor's sponsored walk in October. The event raised over £2000 for the Trust Fund.

Much thanks also goes to the Chairman of Mole Valley District Council for his support too. Not only has he nominated the Surrey Hills as his chosen charity this year but he is also a committed volunteer for the Society, driving our trailer to shows and Chairs the Mountain Bike working Group.

Mrs Helen Skrine, Headmistress of Belmont School, and her husband John led their 8th Christmas walk for the Society. Always held on the first Saturday in December, it has proved a real favourite with our members. Over the eight years they have raised well over a

£1000 for the Surrey Hills, so a very big thank you to them and their lovely school, based in Holmbury St Mary, in the gorgeous Surrey Hills of course!

Another big thank you to Jim McAllister and the Rutland Group, Dunsfold for organising their first Surrey Hills Challenge in September. This Ultra Marathon starting in Haslemere and running along the Greensand Way to Dorking, was also available to do as a half marathon or as a 5k or 10k walk. It was great fun and we want to build on it in September 2017. The event is designed to celebrate the area, as well as raising much needed funds for local charities distributed through the Surrey Hills Trust Fund and the Community Foundation for Surrey.

Finally, huge congratulations to one of our volunteers, Joan Hattersley who, in this year's Honours List, received a BEM for her charitable efforts.



Surrey Hills Challenge in September 2016



# Your society needs you!

Did you know our Society is run by volunteers?  
And we need more new ones!

Could you:

- Help us pack this newsletter as part of a team 3 times a year?
- Help us distribute this newsletter to various Surrey Hills places 3 times a year?
- Give us a day 2 to 3 times a year to help tow our trailer to shows?

Call the Chairman Chris Howard for a chat about it and to find out more on 01483 894437.

## Brockham visit in October

Those members who joined us on our visit to Brockham will be aware how welcoming the representatives from the village organisations were in telling us about their village and what they do to make it such a community. The participants will probably be pleased to know that we gave a donation of £75 to BERT (Brockham Emergency Response Team) from the proceeds of our event which they are going to use to purchase some protective clothing for their volunteers. Thank you to Tony Hines, bonfire committee, Steve Thorpe, BERT, and Martin Higgins who showed us Betchworth Castle.



## Surrey Hills Photo competition

The competition was run in partnership with Vantage Point magazine during 2016. The 8 winning photos will form new notelets for the Society. Congratulations to Philippa Reed, Julian Paynter and Raj Saaj who each won a bottle of English sparkling wine

and had their picture framed by Otters Pool Studio in Guildford. The runners up were Ian Macfadyen, Ray Peacock, Atifa Ismailmiya-Baldi, Peter Bailey and Tim Hunt. Thank you to all our members who sent their lovely pictures and to Jane Thomas for judging the competition.



*Thursley by Julian Paynter*



*Newlands Morning by Raj Saaj*



*River Wey by Philippa Reed*

## Planner's view from the AONB Board

### Exploratory oil and gas drilling at Leith Hill

The proposal is to take 6 weeks to deliver and set up a drilling rig and supporting structures, 6 weeks to drill and test and 6 weeks to dismantle. The site would then be restored and landscaped.

Surrey County Council refused planning permission in 2011 and Europa Oil and Gas Ltd lodged an appeal. Following a public inquiry the Appeal Inspector dismissed the appeal on Green Belt and AONB grounds. He broadly accepted the case presented at the Inquiry by the Surrey Hills AONB Planning Adviser. Europa Oil and Gas subsequently appealed to the High Court. The High Court upheld the appeal because the Inspector had misinterpreted Green Belt policy. This resulted in a second public inquiry in 2015.

The second Appeal Inspector also agreed the AONB would be harmed but it would be limited to a very short period and would be fully reversible with the site restoration. He further concluded that the exploration of minerals is in the national interest and his recommended conditions would minimise the vast majority of impacts. Recently several applications for these details have been submitted to SCC for approval.

An application has additionally been

submitted to enlarge the site in order for security fencing to be extended to Coldharbour Lane. This would give more effective security from anticipated demonstrations to allow the work to be contained within the 18 weeks.

If oil and/or gas is found that would be economically viable to extract, further planning permission would be needed to extract it. If oil or gas is not found or would be uneconomic to extract that would be the end of the matter and the landscape would be restored.

### Newlands Corner

There has been much publicity about charging for car parking. However this is not a planning matter and the physical impact on the AONB of three pay and display machines is regarded as being minimal.

If a new visitor centre is proposed together with any rearrangement of the car park layout, the Surrey Hills AONB Planning Adviser will be consulted. He will need to assess the proposal on its merits as to any harm or benefits it may have on the AONB. His conclusions will need to be taken into account by those determining the application.

### Dunsfold

Concern has been expressed to Waverley Borough Council on behalf of the Surrey

Hills AONB Board that their draft local plan includes the possibility of housing on a few sites in protected landscapes and about 2,600 dwellings together with commercial development at Dunsfold Aerodrome. Although the aerodrome lies just beyond the AONB, the main and serious concern is that the substantial additional traffic would use several unsuitable country lanes in the Surrey Hills AONB and as it runs to avoid worsening congestion on the A281. These increases in traffic would spoil the character and relative tranquillity of those areas.

### Large houses within AONBs

The latest worrying development pressure on the Surrey Hills comes from proposals seeking to meet Government policy that large new houses in the countryside can be acceptable if their designs are truly outstanding and innovative. They are accompanied by substantive submissions from teams of planning, architect and landscape consultants. The tests of acceptability seem to be increasingly easy to satisfy and the impact these dwellings on the AONB/AGLV, both individually and collectively over the decades, sometimes seems not to be fully appreciated and given sufficient weight.

**Clive Smith, Surrey Hills AONB Planning Adviser**



# Tales and Trails of the Tillingbourne Valley – overview

Stretching from Leith Hill to Shalford, the Tillingbourne was one of the most industrialised valleys in 17th century England, with some 24 mill sites powering at least 12 different industries from the medieval period onwards. However, much of this history has been largely forgotten, calling for the need to raise awareness, in order to preserve and protect the heritage surrounding the industries. The Tillingbourne Tales project was therefore conceived to support the local communities along the valley in learning about this nationally important landscape by working to research and record the industries, develop a permanent gallery and website which would feature them, and promote a trail network that would bring people closer in touch with this heritage.

## Characters

The milling history of the Tillingbourne Valley dates back to the Saxon period, if not earlier, with at least a dozen mills recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086, and many of the industries and mill sites continued in operation up until the late 20th century. With the huge range of activities that were undertaken – corn milling, fulling, tanning, paper-making, wire production, iron forging, gunpowder manufacturing, etc – it was recognised early on that the key to understanding how they worked and what their effect was on their communities was to look in more depth at the people themselves who undertook the work.

As a result, seven historical figures were chosen, one for each village, to represent the various industries along the valley: a corn miller for Shalford, a gunpowder worker for Chilworth, a paper-maker for Albury, a clothier for Shere, a tannery worker for Gomshall, a smith for Abinger, and a wire-maker for Wotton. All are from different periods of history, ranging from the Tudor era to the Second World War, each with their own social history to tell.



Story teller Jim Munro

Research was undertaken for each character, which included census information, land taxes, wills and other records, and was supplemented by other information, such as village development and the technical process of the actual industry. From there, the project storyteller, Jim Munro, created a tale for the characters, allowing insight into their day-to-day life.

## Puppets

In order to give substance to the characters, an attempt to depict what they may have looked like needed to be achieved. This is where Elaine Campling, an artist based in Shere, was able to use her skills to create detailed caricatures, based on Jim's vision. The level of detail in the sketches was necessary in order to translate into puppet form, and in particular the intricate papier maché heads. With the help of costume-maker Jessica Howard, 7 large-scale puppet versions of the characters were created, able to accompany Jim on his storytelling events along the Tillingbourne.

## Workshops

Education and outreach was an important aspect of the project, and for Key Stage 2 it was a particularly applicable resource, as both the local history element and the study of the Tillingbourne itself tie into the



Puppet makers Elaine Campling and Jessica Howard with one of the actors

curriculum requirements. Tillingbourne Junior School, Chilworth, was the first school to engage with the project's education workshops, put together by the talented team from the Yvonne Arnaud Youth Theatre Group, based in Guildford. As part of their ethos, which is to inspire creative minds, build self-confidence and use theatre to gain an understanding of stories and events, the theatre team put together living history workshops centred on the millers themselves and their tales, culminating in the participating classes putting on a performance for the entire school.



Tillingbourne Junior School pupils with actors from Yvonne Arnaud Youth Theatre



Supported by  
**The National Lottery**<sup>®</sup>  
through the Heritage Lottery Fund







Local historian, Professor Alan Crocker, demonstrating traditional paper-making

## Oral Histories

In addition to the archives themselves, much of the local heritage of the valley is held with members of the community still living today through their memories of working in the mills and growing up in the villages in the last century. The need to capture these important resources before they are lost was recognised from the onset of the project. This resulted in volunteers conducting oral history research and documentation, focused on preserving this first-hand information in recorded interviews, which is part of the training provided by Surrey Heritage at the History Centre in Woking.

## Trails

Coinciding with the heritage trail around the Gunpowder Works in Chilworth, developed and maintained by Guildford Borough Council, seven Tillingbourne Trails were identified and mapped for each village. Each walk, from 3.5 to 6km in length, is circular and centres on the mills and other major heritage sites. Step-by-step instructions are available as downloadable pdfs from the website, but condensed details and map of the trail appear on the trail leaflets, which also feature historical and other relevant information on the villages.



Chilworth Gunpowder Mill volunteers

## River Wardening

Despite the tranquil beauty of the Tillingbourne, the last round of investigations by the Environment Agency in 2015 showed it to be in a poor ecological status. This was related to such issues as low fish populations and high levels of phosphate, linked to agricultural pollution and wastewater treatment. As a result, the project partnered with the Surrey Wildlife Trust and their RiverSearch project, which aims to generate greater interest in the rivers and train wardens to survey and monitor their ecological situations, including managing invasive non-native species. Two training days took place in 2016, with another planned in Abinger Hammer in the spring of 2017.



River Wardening training day

## Gallery

With its central position in the village, Shere Museum was an ideal location as a central hub for the project and the Tillingbourne Gallery itself. With the patience and work of the museum volunteers and trustees, a space for the gallery was created in its upstairs room, featuring the major outputs created. This includes not only the puppets and their storybooks, but a largescale carved wooden map of the valley locating all of the mill sites, dressing-up costumes and activities for the children. Work continued over the Christmas with the gallery to be officially launched in early 2017.

## Legacy

One of the strongest components of the Tillingbourne Tales project is its legacy, which will last long after the Heritage Lottery funds which enabled it to be established. This is



Puppets on display

particularly manifested in the website ([www.tillingbournetales.co.uk](http://www.tillingbournetales.co.uk)), which will hold all of the research material, including that which does not fit into the gallery exhibitions, and will be accessible to all, not just those local to the Tillingbourne Valley itself. Many of the outputs, including the puppets, will also be available for the communities to borrow and use in their own village events, allowing them to come together and celebrate the unique heritage which ties them all together.



Home page of the new website

**SurreyHills Society**

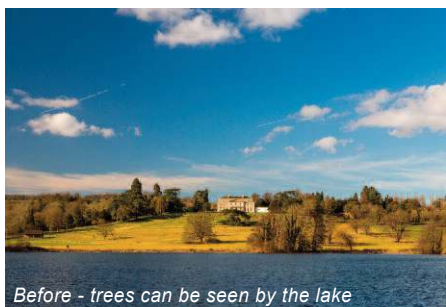
Registered Charity number 1125532  
[www.surreyhillssociety.org](http://www.surreyhillssociety.org)



Anthony Wakefield & Co  
Protecting what's important to you

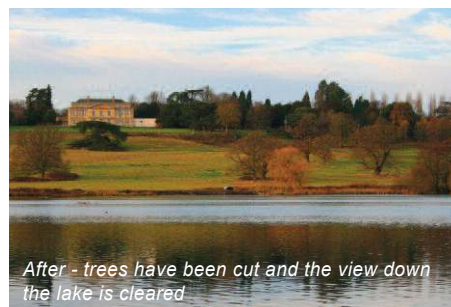


## Good news on our 2016 project



Before - trees can be seen by the lake

This 2016 project for the Society was supporting the Gatton Trust in their HLF application covering a series of events and improvements to mark the tercentenary of Capability Brown. We decided in particular to fund the removal of some trees which had grown up and were spoiling the view across the lake from the house. This work has now been completed and you can see the result in these two pictures. So a successful conclusion to our 2016 project to end the year!



After - trees have been cut and the view down the lake is cleared

## Going – going – gone: Wild creatures under threat – taking action

This short article describes two wild creatures which have disappeared from our countryside estates; both these creatures are very specific in their habitat requirements.

### The Nightingales of Bookham Commons

Nightingales have been nesting on Bookham Commons for as long as anyone can remember – but sadly none have returned to breed there for the last two years. The Plain's area on Bookham Commons provides a large area of scrub habitat which this bird requires; it is secretive and likes to hide in the middle of an impenetrable bush or thicket. They arrive in April to breed in forest scrub and sing until May-June only to leave again from July to September. The famous song is of high quality – a fast succession of high and low rich notes that few other species can match; it is the male that sings.

Nightingale



Globally, numbers are down, many factors are influencing the species, habitat loss due to development and agriculture, disturbance by dogs where they can penetrate scrub, and an increase in grazing deer in the UK has contributed with the sub-soil favoured by the secretive birds being destroyed. But the decline may also be taking place along its lengthy migration route, which sees it spend the winters in sub-Saharan Africa.

National Trust has received funding from the Friends of Bookham Commons to improve the habitat, trees are being thinned to encourage a scrub layer and leggy scrub is being laid, we are doing all we can in the hope that the Nightingales will return to breed – it is sad when we lose creatures from a site.

### The Small Blue Butterfly

The small blue butterfly disappeared from Denbies Hillside about 15 years ago, but is still found on Box hill. This is our smallest resident butterfly and is easily overlooked, partly because of its size and dusky colouring, but partly because it is often confined to small patches of sheltered grassland where its sole food plant, Kidney Vetch, is found. The plant seeds must have areas of bare chalk in which to establish and grow, it is also very vulnerable to being eaten by rabbits.

Area Ranger Amanda McCormick and her team of volunteers started to create bare ground scrapes a few years ago and to



Small blue upper wing

spread the kidney vetch seed with some success. The small butterfly made an appearance and egg laid two years ago, but has not returned since. We are now working in partnership with butterfly conservation that will see grant funded scrapes on areas along the North Downs where the seed can be spread on a larger scale. Time will tell whether we are successful in bringing this butterfly back to its former haunts.

There is of course the view "why bother". Well, the day might come when we are beaten and accept declines in our wildlife, but where there's hope!

The world is changing at a fast pace, we can only but try and see what happens with our efforts.

For me as a lover of wildlife it's like being robbed and I want to do something about it. The thought of my children and grandchildren not being able to see and enjoy seeing what I have seen saddens me, but I am no fool and I accept the inevitability of human population growth and impact. For now we have a rich diversity of habitats to maintain or we will lose more of these wild creatures.

**Rob Hewer, National Trust Lead Ranger**

## Well done!

Congratulations to our member Pam Bulman who with a small group from the NHS Retirement Fellowship Kingston Branch had decided to walk the Surrey section of the North Downs Way in five 'easy' stages!

Peter, the trail manager, has been posting their progress on the National Trails/NDW website. You can read all about it at [nationaltrail.co.uk/north-downs-way](http://nationaltrail.co.uk/north-downs-way).

"It was great and us oldies feel quite chuffed. We are so fortunate to have the trail on our doorstep. We're tempted with the Kent section now," comments Pam on their adventure.



Pam Bulman's team of NDW walkers

## Sponsor's view – Surrey Hills' German counterpart

We all love our beautiful Surrey Hills, but you may be interested to learn that there is an equally beautiful region in South Germany that is remarkably similar!

As our Society's President, Neil Maltby, will attest, the **Naturpark Stromberg-Heuchelberg** in **Baden-Württemberg**



Our sponsor, Anthony Wakefield

is a glorious area of wooded slopes, numerous vineyards, charming towns and villages and a wildlife area of immense beauty.

At 33,000 hectares (328 sq.km.), it is one of the smaller Naturparks in Germany of which there are currently ninety-eight. It was established in 1980. In total Naturparks cover approximately 25% of the total landscape of the country.

The park includes the Stromberg Hills and the Heuchelberg Mountain Ridge. It is characterised by a well wooded hilly landscape. Geologically, it belongs to the Keuper Mountains. The north slopes are mostly forested, the south slopes are used for viticulture

Neil and my connections with this area are through Dorking's Twinning partnership with Güglingen, which lies just outside the park. This year, we will be celebrating ten years of our association and a large party of us will be going over to Germany to mark the occasion.



View over Güglingen - similar to our AONB

We have so much to benefit from our common interests in preserving the beauty of our local countryside. I hope that our Society will forge links with its German counterpart and benefit from sharing ideas and visitor exchanges.

**Anthony Wakefield**

## Surrey Hills Enterprises – A year of CowParade Surrey

2016 saw the World's largest public art event come to Surrey. Launched by Surrey Hills Enterprises at Sandown Park Racecourse at the end of 2015 and concluding at a Gala auction event at Hampton Court Palace in November 2016, the project not only helped to increase public awareness of the Surrey Hills but also raised lots of money for a total of 52 charities.

64 full size cows were sponsored by businesses including Waitrose, Vines BMW, Ecclesiastical Insurance, South West Trains, Kier Construction, New Holland Agriculture, Scott Brownrigg, and more... The artist community were engaged with many established and up-and-coming artists having an opportunity to showcase their talent on full-size cow canvases! Over 65 artists got involved including the Godfather



Sir Peter Blake

of British Pop Art – Sir Peter Blake! Schools and pre-schools also got the opportunity to take part with 39 'mini moos' heading to schools. The tiny heifers really caught the imaginations of the young people and some fantastic designs emerged.

Cows headed out into the towns, villages and countryside of Surrey during the summer. A specially designed free app created by Akiko Design saw over 4,000 people download the app to find all the cows. Kuoni kindly donated a holiday to Mauritius for the person who found all the cows and social media went wild while 'cow spotters' devoted their spare time to collecting the cows.

At the end of the summer 'CyclingMooKay' the Cycling UK cow was stolen from the top of Box Hill, lots of publicity followed with an outcry from the public to bring her back! Alas she was never found but the artist

kindly agreed to create 'CyclingMooKay2'

so that the charity wouldn't miss out. Cows came off Parade at the end of August heading to Coverwood Farm in Peaslake for the inaugural Surrey Hills Festival of Food and Drink where over 2,500 people flocked to get the one and only opportunity to view the cows all together. As autumn approached 41 of the cows headed to Sandown Park Racecourse (where it all began!) to be auctioned. Ewbank's, the Premier International Antiques and Fine Art Auctioneers and Valuers in Surrey and Hampshire took on the job of selling the cows which achieved over £79,000 on the night!

The final gala auction took place in November 2016 at Hampton Court Palace where the last 20, 'cream of the crop' were auctioned. A total of £130,000 was raised on the evening. A huge variety of local and national charities have benefited from the sale of the cows including the Surrey Hills Trust Fund. The fund in partnership with the Community Foundation for Surrey helps to protect the Surrey Hills for future generations.



Schools got involved





## Event Programme February – May 2017

Visit our website for more information and additional events.

Bookings generally open about 6 weeks before each event and must be booked in advance – even free ones.

Non-email users can get more information by sending an SAE to the address above.

### Sunday 5th February Explore Cranleigh



Join us for a brisk walk around England's largest village. Free guided walk. Meet at Cranleigh Village Hall at 10.30am for an 11am start.

### Wednesday 8th February Grayshott Pottery

#### Visit 1

Guided tour of Grayshott Pottery preceded by an optional lunch in their excellent Kiln Café. Numbers are limited due to tour group size. Repeat visit on Tuesday 7th March

### Thursday 23rd February A Day Out in Dorking

A guided walk around Dorking including a hosted visit to its captivating museum

### Saturday 25th February Map Reading to enjoy the Surrey Hills

A training day for those who want to get out and appreciate the Surrey Hills, but do not have the confidence and experience to use Ordnance Survey maps and a compass. Based in Buckland

### Sunday 5th March Explore Waverley's Inspiring Views



A free walk incorporating three of the sculptures created as part of the Inspiring Views project and hosted by the project manager. Meet at Car Park 5 in Hurtwood at 10.30am for an 11am start.

### Tuesday 7th March Grayshott Pottery

#### Visit 2

A repeat visit – see 8th February (left).

### Saturday 11th March Repeat visit to Highways England at Godstone

This event has been set up to cater for those on the extensive waiting list from our popular November visit. A small number of additional places may be available.

### Saturday 18th March Volunteering at Gatton Park

A hands-on day at Gatton as part of the restoration work in this Capability Brown landscape.

### Wednesday 22nd March The GASP Project

An evening visit to the GASP Motor Project ([www.gaspmotorproject.org](http://www.gaspmotorproject.org)) at Albury, to learn more about the work of this fascinating local charity, that is having a real impact on the Surrey Hills AONB. Join us for cheese, wine and tour.

### Sunday 2nd April Explore Mole Gap Trail



Free, guided walk. Meet at Leatherhead Station at 10.30am for 11am start.

### Wednesday 19th April Chilworth Manor

An exclusive visit to the gardens of Chilworth Manor.

### Sunday 7th May Explore Farthing Downs and Happy Valley, Coulsdon



Free, guided walk. Meet at Farthing Downs Car Park on Ditches Lane, Coulsdon, CR5 1DA at 10.30am for 11am prompt start.

### Wednesday 10th May Leith Hill Place

An exclusive visit to the childhood home of Ralph Vaughan Williams, home to the Wedgwood family and frequented by Charles Darwin amongst others.

### Thursday 18th May Follow the Deepdene Trail

A visit to Deepdene at Dorking to wander the trail created as part of their HLF project.

### Saturday 27th May Walk the North Downs Way



A walk with the North Downs Way Officer between Farnham and Guildford as part of the Farnham Walking Festival.



Dog friendly



Family Friendly



Open to everyone who enjoys faster, fitter pace but particularly suitable for our 20's-30's group. For more details on 20's-30's events check out Facebook – Discover Guildford, Twitter @DiscoverGfrd or Email: [pete@discoverguildford.co.uk](mailto:pete@discoverguildford.co.uk)

To join us go to [www.surreyhillssociety.org](http://www.surreyhillssociety.org) and click on the Personal Membership tag