Edition 17 Summer 2014

views



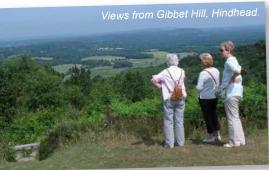


Protecting the Surrey Hills

The Surrey Hills has been an admired landscape for hundreds of years. Historically, it was used by the aristocracy to hunt and shoot, or in the case of King John, traumatise the locals if local tales are to be believed!

In Georgian and Victorian times, the Surrey Hills became a "green lung" away from the smog and pollution of London. Hindhead became known as "Little Switzerland", recognising the healing qualities of the fresh breezes and tranquil open space of its heathland and hills.

With the creation of the railways, Surrey became even more accessible to the residents of London, with many moving to the attractive green hills to create idyllic country lifestyles, while still being



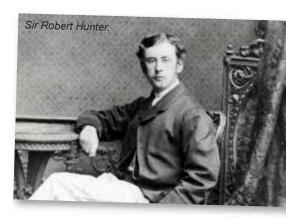


able to commute to London to earn a living - a way of life which of course still goes on today.

Early 20th century admirers of Surrey's hills included a Hindhead resident called Sir Robert Hunter, who was interested in developing the concept of protected landscapes. Originally he, along with colleagues and supporters, purchased through public subscription and donations, special areas of land that had become threatened. He went on to create the legal foundations for the National Trust and is recognised as one of its founder members.

In the 1930s, as pressure to build more houses became even greater, the concept of creating designated 'green belt' space and protected landscapes evolved. In 1947, the 'Town and Country Planning Act' first enshrined the concept in planning law. The Surrey Hills was designated as a protected landscape on 8 May 1958 and those who believe in the importance of this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) have endeavoured to protect it ever since.

The official creation of the Surrey Hills Society in 2009 marked yet another



milestone in this story. Our members, through their volunteer efforts, promote the importance of the area to newcomers, visitors and residents alike. With our volunteers' help, we take our promotional trailer to shows and events across the county, lead educational walks and volunteer to do practical work with likeminded organisations like the National Trust. Some of us write articles for magazines and newspapers, while others raise money for practical conservation projects. Many of us seek out and support our local farmers and producers, recognising the important work farmers do to preserve this rural landscape that we all value so much. The Surrey Hills Society succeeds because we all recognise how precious this landscape is and how important it is to protect it.



Discover and help conserve the natural beauty of the Surrey Hills

www.surreyhillssociety.org

Chairman's View



Welcome to the summer edition of the Surrey Hills Society newsletter. After a long wet winter I am sure, like me, you are determined to enjoy this summer's good weather while we have it. What better way to do that than to book up a few events with the Society. A big thank you to all the volunteers who generously give their time to organise these days out on our behalf, which is no easy task.

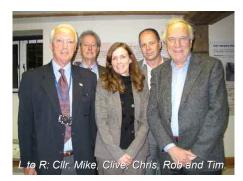
I believe that if you don't enjoy something, then you won't value it and if you don't value it then you won't protect it. So although sometimes it might look like we are just a bunch of people having a good time enjoying the Surrey Hills, behind the scenes our volunteer members and the officers at the AONB unit are working hard to protect this beautiful landscape – our theme this issue.

This is particularly so of late, with the Government's announcement last year that development within National Parks and AONBs was potentially acceptable under the New Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). As covered in our last newsletter, this has led to a huge wave of protest from various groups, including the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) and the various parish councils and neighbourhood associations across our county.

In order to make sense of some of the issues, I was very grateful that officers and members of the Surrey Hills Board came together for an important Surrey Hills Planning event on 19 March. Rob Fairbanks, Director of the Surrey Hills AONB and Planning Officer, Clive Smith, gave a detailed explanation as to the current planning issues affecting the area. At this event we were also privileged to be given a very personal insight into the pressures affecting one of the planning authorities, Waverley Borough Council, with a presentation by the Deputy Leader (and SH Board member), Cllr Mike Band. He explained the extremely complicated process that all authorites have to navigate through in order to get a new Local Plan accepted by the Planning Inspectorate. He explained to members how important it was to get all the research in place and test every option (no matter how unpalatable) to show to the Inspectorate that all options had been explored and that reasons for the rejections could be justified by real evidence.

Tim urged us all to voice our opinions to our local MP as he says, 'we're stronger together'.

Finally, Tim Harrold from CPRE (and advisory member to the Surrey Hills Board) gave a very frank and well received update on his organisation's take on current planning issues. CPRE have been working very hard to put the case for protection of our Green Belt and AONB to planners across the county. The information has been enormously useful to the Board, with our members writing to the respective planning authorities, the various Parish Councils and neighbourhood associations who are involved in this heated debate. Tim urged us all to voice our opinions to our local MP as he says, 'we're stronger together'.



On a more practical note, I am extremely grateful to those members who joined me in early March on Headley Heath to support the National Trust volunteers in their important conservation work. We also heard from the Ranger, Will Frost, about the challenges of managing a protected landscape in one of the most densely populated parts of Europe.

Balancing the enjoyment of the human population of Surrey with that of its flora and fauna was also a major source of debate in the recent Surrey Hills Management Plan Review undertaken by the Surrey Hills Board. Over 800 people responded to the consultation - the best response they have ever had. We think that is partly because of the increased awareness and engagement that now occurs through the Surrey Hills Society. Thank you to all our members who took the time to respond.

I am pleased to report that the majority of the respondents agreed with the Management Plan objectives and there will be no significant change to the current policies operated by the AONB Unit. What is significant is that with the squeeze on government budgets, it is clear that if we value this landscape we are going to have to find more resources locally to fund its protection. As part of a new initiative to encourage local philanthropy, the Surrey Hills Board has joined forces with the Community Foundation for Surrey. This organisation specialises in providing long term investment programmes to create sustainable funds for vital charity work in this county. A Surrey Hills Trust Fund has been created for this purpose and is being launched on 23 May. Our website has further information on this initiative.



Finally, I would like to congratulate members of the Surrey Hills "New Gen 20s to 30s" and "Families" groups for their successful launch events recently (see page 7). Both groups now have a series of events planned for the rest of the year and it is fantastic to see the range of activities the Society offers grow even further.

Chris Howard, Chairman

Leith Hill Action Group, who are opposed to oil drilling by Europa Oil at the beauty spot, reports that they had their Court of Appeal hearing in early May and are now awaiting a decision.



Registered Charity number 1125532

Eye-catching poster campaign helps to promote local Surrey Hills businesses

The Surrey Hills Board and First Great Western trains have been working in partnership to help promote the local area and support Surrey Hills businesses. As part of a promotional campaign, a series of eye-catching posters have been created to encourage rail passengers to visit the Surrey Hills AONB and to showcase some of the distinct local businesses that are based here.

The campaign will run until the end of May and features four posters. Two of the posters focus on the Albury Organic Vineyard and Abinger Stained Glass, both of which are members of Surrey Hills Enterprises. Caroline Price, Marketing Communications Officer for the Surrey Hills comments; "The Surrey Hills are delighted to be working with First Great Western on this promotional project. The more we can encourage visitors to this nationally protected landscape sustainably, the better and even more so if they help the rural economy by supporting our local businesses whilst here".

Mal Thurman Operations Manager from First Great Western comments;

"We are very pleased to display these eye-catching posters in our stations, not only do they improve the customer experience but they also show First Great Western's commitment to working with local organisations and communities".



Unsightly Power Lines to go Underground on Nature Reserve

Work has begun in earnest on Thursley National Nature Reserve in the Surrey Hills AONB to underground unsightly overhead power lines. Almost a year in the planning, this high profile project will see the majority of power lines that cross the Reserve hidden from sight.

The work is being carried out by contractors from Scottish & Southern Electric who have funded the project with the aim of reducing the impact of overhead lines on amenity applicable land within Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks.

The work will initially take 6 weeks and will

be followed later in the year by the removal of the poles and pylons. Not only will this significantly improve the landscape, it will also benefit local residents, by reducing the risk of power outages, which was a regular occurance during the storms in December 2013.

Rob Fairbanks, Director of the Surrey Hills Board comments;

"This project to remove the unsightly pylons and cables at Thursley will greatly enhance one of the most beautiful and wild landscapes in the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. I fully commend the work undertaken by Natural England and SSE".

Cross Channel Partnership to improve woodlands

Delegates from Central Brittany in France visited the Surrey Hills at the end of March on a tour to show how conifer woodlands are managed in the UK not only for timber but also for amenity and conservation.

The two day tour showcased some of the larger private estates set within the rolling Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the delegates met with those involved in the management of Surrey's woodlands. There was also a visit to LC Energy based in Albury, one of the UK's leading specialists in sustainable wood fuel supply and complete biomass systems. On the final day the group visited the Forestry Commission estate of Alice Holt, near Farnham.

The visit, organised by Surrey Hills Enterprises, formed part of a £55K INTERREG grant to provide cooperation between timber growers and users in West Central Brittany and those within Surrey.

Carrie White, Surrey Hills Enterprises Development Manager comments;

"Surrey Hills Enterprises are delighted to be working in partnership with the delegates of West Central Brittany. We hope to be able to share best practice and improve knowledge and skills of active organisations in the forestwood industry on both sides of the Channel."

Nearly 25% of the South East is wooded and there is a serious mismatch between use of wood products and the raw material supply coming from the woodlands in the region. The area is dependent on imported wood.

The wood-forest industry faces numerous environmental, social and economic challenges. The review is the same in Central Brittany where the local forest resource is barely valued because of weaknesses in the sector. Therefore, there are common issues in both territories.





Surrey Hills Society Views

Some less well-known spots to discover in the Surrey Hills over the summer months



Waverley Abbey, Tilford was the first Cistercian abbey in England. It was founded in 1128 by William Giffard, Bishop of Winchester and is now under the protection of English Heritage. It is situated 1 to 2 miles south of Farnham, on a site surrounded on three sides by a bend of the River Wey. www.english-heritage.org.uk



Blackheath is a village with a strong "Arts & Crafts" influence and has been considered to be a forerunner of the Garden City Movement. Still slightly off the beaten track, it remains unknown to many of our members. Add in the chance for a stroll over Blackheath towards Wonersh or along the Downs Link or Fox Way and you have the basis of day out with a difference.





Hindhead has changed! No longer a bottleneck on the A3, the Devils Punchbowl and Gibbett Hill are now destinations for those seeking interesting walking country, wonderful heathland scenery and an atmosphere which is totally unlike the rest of Surrey. See how nature is accepting back the site of the former road, follow the re-launched tracks or just sit and picnic in one of the many open areas and admire the view.



Leith Hill boasts much more than just a tower! There are numerous walks up, down and around the area together with stunning views – especially to the south. With several car parks to choose from and everything from bluebell walks to a rhododendron garden and natural woodland, there is something for everyone to enjoy. National Trust trails criss-cross the area so head for the hill and make a day of it with an open-air picnic or a pub lunch in nearby Coldharbour or Holmbury St Mary.

Surrey Hills Society Views



St Martha's Church, above

Chilworth, is an iconic landmark on the North Downs Way. Approachable only on foot via a steep climb, it commands wonderful views of the surrounding area. The church and graveyard have plenty of interest too. Details can be found at www.stmarthaschurch.org.uk





Gatton Park, near Reigate, is a wonderful estate famous for the work that was carried out in the 1760s by the famous English landscape designer, Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. The park covers about 600 acres with almost half (including the core features and gardens) managed by The Gatton Trust. The rest is now owned by the National Trust. www.gattonpark.com

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV)



nbury Mary

> **Mickleham Gallops** are ideal for a walk from the car park in Headley Lane – but be aware of the steep climb. The Gallops were used to exercise the horses that ran at nearby Epsom races. The horses would have been stabled at what is now the Running Horses Pub. For more details see National Trust "Box Hill Hike".

Reigate Fort was built as part of a 72-mile defence line to protect London in the 1890s. This was a worrying time in British history with France threatening to invade and if London was lost, the country and the empire would surely follow. Now looked after by the National Trust, it can be reached from Wray Lane car park, on Reigate Hill.





Titsey Place, near Oxted, is an impressive manor house with beautiful gardens set in the stunning countryside of the North Downs. The House and Gardens are held in Charitable Trust and for part of the year are open to the public. Titsey is one of the largest surviving historic estates in Surrey and dates back to the mid-sixteenth century. Details on www.titsey.org

SurreyHills Society

Registered Charity number 1125532 www.surreyhillssociety.org



News from Surrey Hills Enterprises



Surrey Hills Enterprises Community Interest Company is set up to support the project work of the AONB Board to conserve, enhance

and promote the exceptional Surrey Hills landscape. At the same time it works to support and promote rural enterprises who display a passion for their countryside.

These business members are operating under the Surrey Hills Love Local banner which means they share their appreciation of the landscape through their products and services and support rural business by buying locally.

This issue we're focussing on the Jolly Farmer's pub at Buckland.





SurreyHills Society

Lost and found - New Surrey Hills Heritage Sausage resurrects long-forgotten recipe

A sausage created from a long-forgotten recipe has become the only banger to carry the Surrey Hills badge of approval. When Jon and Paula Briscoe of The Jolly Farmers pub at Buckland near Reigate asked their butcher to create a truly local sausage, little did they know that it would lead to the discovery of a long-forgotten recipe. Now, the historic banger, re-named The Surrey Hills Heritage Sausage, is a firm favourite on the award-winning pub's menu.

Jon Briscoe explains how the lost recipe was found again after he approached local butcher Robert Hewitt of Robert and Edwards and asked him to create a sausage using locally sourced ingredients.

"The pork and apple sausage is made to an original recipe created by Robert's father, Norman," explains Jon. "He ran a pig farm less than two miles from here and was something of a sausage expert who supplied top stores such as Selfridges, so when Robert found his recipe, we agreed to give it a try. Once we'd tasted it, we knew this was a sausage that people needed in their lives – a handmade product we would be proud to serve to our customers.

"The discovery of this heritage sausage from such close proximity to The Jolly Farmers is just a fantastic story. We are honoured to be the driving force behind this wonderful collaborative project bringing pub, butcher and Surrey Hills Enterprises together through our shared values," he adds. "Our business model is about supporting and working with local food and drink producers, so this is a perfect fit for us."

To further show their commitment to the local area, The Jolly Farmers and its sister pub The Fox Revived at Upper Norwood make a donation of 5% to Surrey Hills for every portion of sausage and mash served during the course of their spring menu, and Robert and Edwards butchers (Reigate) is also donating 5% to the Surrey Hills from sales of the sausage.

To benefit from a **10%** discount off food at The Jolly Farmers and sister pub The Fox Revived, simply present your valid membership card. Excludes farm shop and deli purchases and may not be used with any other offers or promotions.

Find The Jolly Farmers on Reigate Road, Buckland, near Reigate, RH3 7BG www.thejollyfarmersreigate.co.uk

Phone: 01737 221 355 Twitter: @jollyfarmers

The Fox Revived, Upper Norwood, near Horley www.TheFoxRevived.co.uk

Another of our Enterprise members featured in an earlier edition of Views has this news to share:

Clandon Wood Voted the Best Natural Burial Ground in the UK

Clandon Wood Surrey Hills Natural Burial Reserve has been voted the 'Best Natural Burial Ground in the UK,' by the Association of Natural Burial Grounds (ANBG) Peoples' Awards run by the Natural Death Centre Charity, (NDC.)

Simon Ferrar, Clandon Wood's founder and manager said: "My wife Ailean and I are overwhelmed by this award. Nine years ago this was all just a dream that I had after attending my aunt's funeral, a natural burial. That dream is now very much a reality. I cannot thank the NDC enough for all their help and support over the last few years and guiding us to get it right.

It has been an incredible journey and a real privilege to help and support the families that come to Clandon Wood. I would like to thank all the families that took the time to write such inspiring words about us. It means so much knowing that we are providing something very special and making a real difference to people's lives."

Society News



Our New Sponsor – Stan Baring Solicitor

We are delighted to welcome our new corporate sponsor, Stan Baring Solicitor. Unusual for these days, he is a sole practitioner. Specialising in a very personalised service, he and his wife, Practice Manager, Sall have lived in Surrey for most of their adult life. The practice was originally based in Guildford before moving to Woodside Park, in Godalming, three years ago. He is a member of the Society of Trust Estate Practitioners (STEP) and the Law Society Conveyancing Scheme.

A fair proportion of the company's work comes from conveyancing and the other big area of

JustGiving www.justgiving.com/surreyhillssociety

One of our members – Angela Hume – has recently taken part in the classic Italian motoring event known as the Mille Miglia. A timed event (not a race), it takes 4 days and replicates the original race which took place between the 1920s and 1950s. It covers over 1000 miles and has driving sessions in excess of 15 hours at a time. The only cars eligible to participate are those which had entries in the original races or authentic cars of the same model as original entrants, making it a real endurance test. of our members since the early days of the Society and decided to nominate us as the beneficiary of her JustGiving page – www.justgiving.com/Angela-Hume. If you are taking part in an event – or know someone who is – why not set up a JustGiving page with SHS as the beneficiary? The Society page is already in place for you to link to. Our funds benefited from a 2013 JustGiving page set up by our entrants in the London –



work is around will writing. Each November the company supports "Will Aid" which encourages



Stan Baring Solicitor

people to make a will free of charge so long as they make a small donation of around £90 to one of the chosen charities. "Last year our company raised over £2000 for the charity", said Sall Baring.

Sall and Stan are thrilled to be able to support the Surrey Hills Society and are looking forward to getting involved with our members and getting out with us to enjoy our beautiful countryside.

Surrey cycling event and now Angela's page has boosted this further.

STOP PRESS We've just heard that we've got a couple of places for cyclists in this year's London – Surrey event and have found 2 young brothers who are delighted to take this up on our behalf, having been unlucky in the general ballot. More details on our website as we get a bit closer to the event in August.

What will we be doing with these funds, we hear you ask? It's early days to have very definite ideas but we are about to re-employ a paid administrator and also have outline plans to donate to a smallscale conservation project in the Surrey Hills – naturally!

Our thanks to Angela who has been one

New Generation (20s to 30s) group launched

Our 20s to 30s group had its successful first event with a walk to St Martha's Church and Chilworth Gunpowder Mills on Saturday 15 March.

Group leader, Pete Lambert said "I am really thrilled to be part of a team involved in promoting and protecting the Surrey Hills.

"It is also exciting being part of an organisation that is at the forefront of helping a new generation discover our beautiful landscape. I find the Surrey Hills inspiring and want to be able to share this with other young people. Going for a walk is the perfect antedote to today's society of smart phones, tablets, etc. Never underestimate what a boost being outdoors in the beautiful Surrey Hills is. You don't have to be a marathon runner to come along – if you are of reasonable fitness and want to explore the outdoors more but don't know where to start, come and join us". Pete is keen on walking and Taekwondo. His day job is working as a "Blue Cap" Ranger for Experience Guildford, the organisation responsible for town centre management. A born and bred Guildfordian, you can follow Pete on Twitter @Discovergfd. An event has been organised for the first Sunday of the month for the rest of the summer season. Check our website or call Pete on 07749 344616 for more details of each walk.

Pete is currently in training for a charity walk up Mt Kilimanjaro in September 2015.



@SurreyhillsAONB

lk up Mt Kilimanjaro in September 2015.

New Gen 20s to 30s events this summer

Sunday 8 June – Newlands Corner walk. Meet at car park at 11am. Finish: 3.30pm. Sunday 6 July – Surrey Hills Navigation Map reading event – see back page.

Sunday 3 August – Shere walk. Meet at Shere car park at 11am. Finish 3.30pm. Sunday 24 August – Pub crawl in the Surrey Hills. Details to follow.

Sunday 7 September – Shamley Green walk. Meet at Bricklayers pub at 11am, park in village. Finish at 3.30pm.



SurreyHills Society

Surrey Hills Society Warren Farm Barns Headley Lane Mickleham, Dorking Surrey RH5 6DG www.surreyhillssociety.org



Events programme June to December 2014

Visit our website for more information and additional events. Booking opens approximately two months before each event and all events must be booked in advance – even free ones. Non-email users can get more information by sending an SAE to the address above. We're now offering three different events programmes to cater to all age groups – our main calendar below, the new Family section (bottom of page) as well as our New Gen 20s to 30s group (on page 7). To join us visit www.surreyhillssociety.org Personal Membership tag.

Thursday 5 June

Guided tour around Polesden Lacey Gardens A guided tour around the formal gardens of the former home of Society hostess and philanthropist, Mrs Margaret Greville DBE. Tour explains how these beautiful gardens are being restored to their former glory.

Wednesday 18 June

Visit to Hannah Peschar Sculpture Garden A private view of this internationally acclaimed sculpture garden near Ockley, followed by optional visit to Okewood Church then lunch (optional) at the Scarlett Arms in Walliswood.

Saturday 21 June A Walk with the Dog

A specially created event for all our dog owning members. Bring your dogs along for this guided walk around the Peaslake countryside.

Sunday 22 June

Tales from the Surrey Hills

Join the Surrey Hills Society for a family visit to the Gatton Community Theatre's production of "Tales of the Surrey Hills" at Reigate Fort.

Saturday 28 June

Compton area walk

Join us for a morning's walk around the Compton area – a centre of the Arts & Crafts Movement. Visit Watts Chapel, plus optional visit to Watts Gallery in the afternoon.

SurreyHills Society Family

The Society 'Family' membership section is now up and running, with a number of activities planned for the year. Across Surrey, there are many activities for families already being run by other organisations, and it is our intention that we work with them, signposting to their activities when appropriate, rather than duplicating them. You will therefore see that in addition to a few of our own events, we are advertising activities from organisations such as the National Trust. sometimes adding our own activity to their day. You don't need to be parents with your own children to join in SHS Family activities. Many grandparents or other family members help with childcare commitments, so why not 'borrow' a child and come and support this new venture by joining a Family event this summer. If you have any ideas for events, contact us at info@surreyhillssociety.org

July (date to be confirmed) Presidents Day with Neil Maltby

An exploration of the woodland and other features of the Wotton Estate in this year which marks the 350th anniversary of the publication of John Evelyn's "Sylva".

Sunday 6 July

Surrey Hills Navigation

A walk around the Surrey Hills to practice map reading and compass skills under supervision. A follow on from the 'Map Reading for the Surrey Hills training session' on 22 March, but also open to others wishing to practice their skills during a 6 mile walk.

July/August

Atlantic Wall

A walk and visit on MOD land to be led by Denis Holmes, Society member and Rambler. Details to follow.

Thursday 7 August Visit to Spurfold Gardens

An evening visit with drinks to this wonderful mature 4 acre garden, with large herbaceous and shrub borders, formal pond with Buddha head from Cambodia, sunken gravel garden with topiary box beds and Indian urn water feature, plus other delights.

Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 June Reigate Fort Garrison Days

Join the 10th Essex Living History Group for marching, standing to attention, gunfire and explosions at Reigate Fort at this NT event.

Sunday 17 August

Teddy Bears picnic at Leith Hill Tower Bring along Teddy for an afternoon of storytelling and craft activities at this NT event.

Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 October Surrey Hills Wood Fair at Birtley House, Bramley

Come along to this Surrey Hills annual event with horse & wagon rides, bug hunts, coppice crafts, pond dipping and much more for children, along with many activities for adults.

Sunday 10 August

London-Surrey Cycle Ride. Cheer on our Society cyclists.

Thursday 4 September Titsey Place

A visit to this historic manor house in Oxted, former home of the Leveson and Gresham families, with a renowned collection of family portraits and acclaimed gardens with views across the Darent Valley.

Wednesday 24 September Durdens Racing Stable

A visit to experience the operation of this historic racing stable at Epsom Downs, followed by lunch at the 'Rubbing House'

Weekend 4 & 5 October Surrey Hills Wood Fair

Join in the fun for all of the family at this annual event with over 100 stalls, demonstrations and activities spread throughout the parkland and woodland with something for all ages to enjoy.

Early November.

Surrey Hills Society AGM. Details to follow on website very soon.

Monday 27 October

Fungi Fun Day at Leith Hill Place Join in with the craft and nature activities at this former home of Ralph Vaughan Williams

Monday 27 to Thursday 30 October October Activity week at Box Hill Children's activities from the National Trust during half term week

and the Wedgewood family. NT event.

December - Christmas Wreaths and crafts

Gather the materials and then make your own Christmas decorations, wreaths and crafts Further details to follow.

Saturday 20 December

Harvest your own Christmas Tree Choose and cut your own Christmas tree at this NT event on Hindhead Common.

'A County Remembers: Surrey in the Great War'. Surrey History Centre is developing a Heritage Lottery Fund bid and needs your help. Please help them by taking their research questionnaire: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YPJ96V2. For further detail contact them at acountyremembers@surreycc.gov.uk.