



Jutland Wood at Langley Vale

Military Heritage of the Surrey Hills



Reigate Fort

The Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) came into being as a result of some legislation created shortly after the Second World War (WWII) and entitled the 'National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949'. This had been enacted as a far-sighted and important part of the controls required to protect our special landscapes during a period of intense reconstruction and development.

We are now in another very significant era of development risk for our AONB. The recent

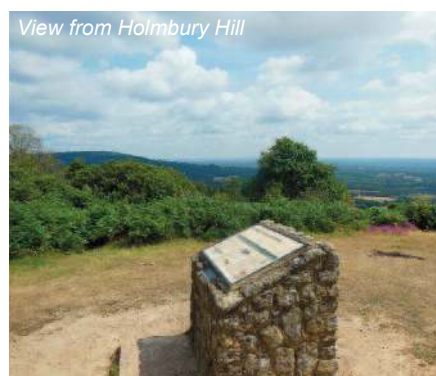
review of National Parks and AONBs (the Glover report) and the announcement that Natural England has commenced the Surrey Hills Boundary Review, highlight the fact that these landscapes are still under threat and that changes are probably required to make them fit for the future.

The Surrey Hills have faced many threats throughout the centuries but one that has left its mark all over the area is that of war, conflict and invasion. Whether it be the Iron Age hillfort at Holmbury Hill, the 19th century forts at Reigate and Box Hill or some other structure dating between these periods, they have all been absorbed into the landscape which is the Surrey Hills.

But it is not only physical structures which act as reminders of these conflicts and threats. Human activity has also triggered social change with lasting effects. For example, wars have led to recruitment of local males who have fought and died – or subsequently relocated elsewhere. This has had a lasting impact on the labour supply for agriculture and consequently driven mechanisation, importing of foodstuffs and general countryside management practices. Similarly, the post-WWII period led to a large number of people emigrating to other countries,

especially other parts of the Commonwealth, or remaining in the UK after service with the Allied forces.

In this edition of the newsletter we take a look at some of the structures, wartime remnants and human activities which have become reminders of 20th century conflicts across the area. So much of what we see today and enjoy as part of our wonderful landscape can be linked to these and similar causes. It is, therefore, timely to remind ourselves how important it is to defend our Surrey Hills from the excessive development and detrimental change that led to the creation of the AONB in the first place.



View from Holmbury Hill

Chairman's Views

On 31 July, we enjoyed our traditional Surrey Hills Volunteers' picnic. It was such a pleasure to see our wonderful volunteers in person again and to look forward to life without lockdown. Seeing everyone together caused me to reflect on the very broad range of the Society's activities. My diary over the last few weeks provides a snapshot of the variety.

In late June at Chilworth Station we launched four new Rail to Ramble leaflets researched and edited by Ken Bare and Chris Howard. Shortly afterwards, I was on the slopes of Denbies Vineyard attending the unveiling of

Radius, a new bench in the Inspiring Views series, with stunning views across the valley to Dorking and beyond.

The next Friday, I joined the AONB Partnership Tour at Newlands Corner. Here there is a collection of nationally important Yew trees. Guildford Borough Council's Geoff Monk explained the stress that they are suffering, possibly due to low water levels in the chalk aquifers. Then we headed to West Horsley Place and heard from Natural England about the proposed AONB Boundary Review.

At the weekend we were back at Denbies again with several of us manning the

Society's stall for the extremely successful Artisan Festival.

During July, Surrey County Council Countryside Officer, Conor Morrow, led us on a fascinating guided walk by the Lower Mole. Chairman's Day saw us at Buckland viewing the only surviving wind-powered sawmill in the UK, touring this pretty historic village and enjoying lunch overlooking Buckland Estate Lake – once a gravel pit but now managed for nature.

Last week, three separate trips were organised to the fabulous Grade II* listed 14th Century Tollsworth Manor in Chaldon and thereby raising £900 for St Catherine's Hospice.

Increased biodiversity and "Making Space for Nature" is a dominant theme at present with the Society planning tree and hedgerow planting at both West Horsley Place and neighbouring Clandon Wood as part of the Surrey Hills Champions Programme.

In the meantime, we have also been planning. I'm looking forward to the Surrey Hills Symposium on 24th November at Surrey University with chair, Jim Al-kalili, and lead speaker, Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta, who recently reported to the Government on the Economics of Diversity.

Everything we do depends on our volunteers! We always need more! If anyone would be interested in helping out, please do contact me at info@surreyhillssociety.org

Gordon Jackson



Volunteer Profile – Diane Cooper

I'm proud to have been involved with the Society since its very beginning. This was in October 2007 when people first met at Denbies to discuss forming a member-led charity to support the Surrey Hills AONB. The Society started in May 2008 with a very small team and has gradually grown to what it is today.

I have always been involved on the publicity/marketing side and helped with the very first newsletters – a mere two sides! As editor I then helped with seeking sponsors and developed a regular multi-page newsletter once we had more news to report. I now lead on marketing for the Society and I am glad we can get more back to normal – making sure the people of Surrey know who we are and encouraging more of them to get out and discover this amazing landscape.

My day job is working for Surrey County Council Countryside team as a marketing

officer where I've been for almost twenty years – which I find quite unbelievable. I've enjoyed the role I'm in and the way it has developed for me and there are many synergies to my continued volunteer role with the Society. I also volunteer for Ripley Farmers' Market on a monthly basis, as well as doing their website and social media. I'm quite a busy person as my family and friends would agree!!

I don't quite live in the AONB but am very close to it. However, I am passionate about protecting the beauty of Surrey's countryside for future generations (my own family included) and love being out and about discovering new areas on foot and learning about local history. My family heritage comes from around Chilworth and Albury, so I think the Surrey Hills are definitely in my bones!

Diane Cooper



Langley Vale Centenary Wood

This project is one of four woods across the UK planted by the Woodland Trust to commemorate the centenary of the First World War (WWI). It spreads over 640 hectares and since 2014 over 150,000 trees have been planted by various organisations, including local schools, to create new woodland next to the existing ancient woodland.

The area was once the site of Tadworth Camp where new recruits were trained in the basics of trench warfare in specially dug trenches, on how to shoot rifles and how to protect themselves from a gas attack. At its peak 8,000 soldiers were billeted across eight camp sites in a vast sea of tents.



The Sandstone Sculptures

To commemorate Lord Kitchener's inspection of the troops, sandstone soldiers (some wearing full uniform and carrying rifles), have been erected in a grid of 80 trees. Ironically, on the day of Lord Kitchener's visit, there were not enough uniforms and guns to go round. Added to that, the snow was eight inches deep and the soldiers had got up at 4am to march (without breakfast) to be in position on time. Kitchener did not arrive until 10.30am, by which time some of the soldiers had passed out with hunger and one died of hypothermia. His inspection lasted five minutes!

A new sculpture, 'Witness' by John Merrill, has recently been erected. It was constructed from about 35 pieces of oak, each six metres high and represents the desolate trees that stood in no-man's land. It was inspired by Paul Nash's war paintings that show the



View towards 'Witness' Sculpture

landscape of the Somme being bare apart from the twisted forms of dead trees. Carved into the wood are extracts from seven poems written during WWI including: 'Lights Out' by Edward Thomas, 'Afterwards' by Margaret Postgate and 'Futility' by Wilfred Owen.

Elsewhere on the site there is a sea of sail-like wooden memorials – the Jutland Wood. It contains some 6,097 saplings with each one representing a life lost from a British ship during the battle of Jutland. Spread across a field of wild flowers these look very much like a flotilla and provide a moving reminder of the many seamen who gave their lives during the war years.

Although the greatest publicity has so far focused on the memorial aspect, this is also an important land restoration and improvement project which will go on for many years. Existing arable land is being transformed into a natural wildlife haven, whilst hedgerow planting and woodland edge creation will provide corridors and habitats for plants, insects and larger creatures.

Sainsbury's is the lead partner for the WWI project with the Woodland Trust. In another part of the Langley Vale project they funded the planting of 147 apple, pear, cherry and plum trees, creating a unique community orchard. This Sainsbury's Community Orchard is a special site, where community groups will be encouraged to get involved with pruning and maintaining the orchard and will be able to enjoy harvesting the fruits.

If you haven't yet had an opportunity to visit and wander around, you may wish to know that the Woodland Trust have their 'First World War Month of Remembrance' self-led trail around the site throughout November. The dates are yet to be finalised but are expected to cover the majority of the month.

Gilly Coombes & Ken Bare



Memorial Bench, Langley Vale

The 'War Brides'

Although the Canadians, US and other nations contributed much to the allied war effort and left a physical reminder of their presence they also left a very strong human legacy. With the large number of Canadian troops in Surrey – and so many young men away on military service – it is not surprising that many developed relationships with the local female population! This was a nationwide situation

leading to the Canadian Government making arrangements for the post-war emigration of 'war brides' and their offspring to Canada.

Across England, some 43,500 brides and 21,000 children were transported to Canada. Many of them came from Surrey and reviewing a web article covering a single region in British Columbia, it highlights profiles of young women from Wrecclesham, Haslemere and Dorking. Indeed, the records of the Canadian Wives' Bureau – which

oversaw repatriation from 1944-47 – show specific folders covering Dorking, Epsom, Guildford, Reigate, Woking and, just over the border, Horsham. The implication being that there were significant numbers of 'war brides' as a consequence of military activity in and around these areas.

So if you have Canadian relatives or friends, why not find out when they emigrated – and where from. You may get a surprise.

Ken Bare

Hankley Common and the 'Atlantic Wall'

Hankley Common near Thursley is a very special place. Comprising about 1,400 acres, it is designated as both a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Protection Area. It supports native populations of all six British reptile species including the sand lizard and the slow worm. The Common has a diverse invertebrate fauna, including rare species of dragonfly and grasshopper. Protected heathland species such as woodlark, nightjar and Dartford warbler are also to be found.

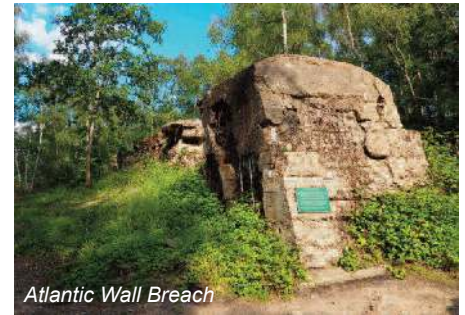
However, the area of the Common known as Lion's Mouth is home to some other rare species, which would not be there if it were not for a huge enterprise undertaken by Canadian soldiers during the latter part of WWII. As plans were made for D-Day, secret reconnaissance missions were made to gather intelligence about Hitler's 'Atlantikwall' – a coastal defence stretching from Spain to Norway to defend Nazi-occupied Western Europe. The Canadian soldiers were ordered to build as close a replica of the defences as possible and a 100 metre long section of wall was constructed – three metres tall and

over three metres thick – split into two sections by a set of heavy steel gates. To the side of the wall there were many other obstacles still visible today including dragon's teeth, railway track set vertically in concrete and concrete blocks.

Adapting tanks to take on Hitler's coastal defences was one of the main aims. Known as Hobart's Funnies, the Churchill tanks could perform a range of tasks using flame throwers, spinning flails for mine clearance and a petard mortar – a small bomb used for blowing up gates and walls when breaching fortifications. Clearly visible are the large breaches, more than three metres wide, caused by 'Double Onions', a steel framework with 1,000 lbs of explosives strapped to it



The Atlantic Wall



Atlantic Wall Breach

and then mounted to the front of a tank. The tank would place the charges at heights of up to four metres before backing off trailing a wire that would be used to detonate the explosive from a safe distance.

Today, nature has taken hold of the ruins of this once top-secret structure that sits in the tranquillity of the Common. Over the years the wall has become colonised by alkaline-loving lichens, mosses and ferns, which are found nowhere else in the locality because the concrete provides the lime-based substrate that these species require. Another reason for the heathland's protected designation.

Gordon Jackson

The Reigate Hill Air Crash

The early evening of 19 March 1945 was foggy. At around 5.40pm, the sound of an aircraft was heard flying over Redhill and Reigate. Local people were alerted to the sound of aero engines revving up at high power shortly after the aircraft disappeared into thick cloud as it approached the crown of Reigate Hill. Shortly afterwards the aircraft struck the tops of trees on Reigate Hill and a terrifying explosion was heard which led to the death of all nine Americans on board.

The aircraft was a 'Flying Fortress' of the 384th Bombardment Group, 8th USAAF, which was flying back to its base at Grafton Underwood in Northamptonshire after an

operation near the German/Czech border. Several key eye witnesses reported that one engine was trailing thick black smoke as it made its way at low level over the town. It is believed that a combination of combat damage and the appalling weather conditions led to the tragic loss of these young airmen.

As part of a project entitled Frontline Surrey Hills, two memorial benches made of local oak were commissioned from a local sculptor. The benches take the form of the wingtips of the 'Flying Fortress' and were unveiled at a memorial service held on 19 March 2015, the 70th anniversary of the fatal crash.



Reigate Plane Wingtips Now

The gap in the trees still reminds us of that fateful day whilst the two pieces of the memorial are spaced the same distance apart as the aircraft's wing tips. Buried deep in the sculpture is molten metal, recovered from the crash site.

The site of the memorial is just west of Reigate Fort along the North Downs Way, about 15 minutes stroll from the free car park at the top of Reigate Hill. This location means that it is passed by many walkers and visitors every day. One wonders how many actually notice these 'benches' or stop to look at the information board beside the track. Those that do will get a poignant reminder of the young age of the crew (average age 21), their short life expectancy – this was their 13th mission together against an average of 11 missions for a B-17 – and the fact that, only a few weeks later, the war was over.

Ken Bare



Reigate Plane Crash Memorial Dedication in 2015

Pill Boxes and Dragon's Teeth: Reminders of a Darker Time

Growing up on the other side of the world in 'Sunny Australia', WWII was just something we learnt about at school. I had no real experience of it other than a few whispered conversations about old men who had been in Japanese prisoner of war camps.

On arriving in the Surrey Hills during 1987, one of the first things that struck me was how real WWII still was. I could walk in the woods and still see bomb craters where German planes had emptied the last of their load before heading back to Germany after a raid. I saw many plaques to bombed-out buildings like the village school in Cranleigh or caves used as air raid shelters in Reigate.



Pill Box near Brockham

Most intriguing for me are the ominous, multi-sided, brick built structures called 'Pill Boxes' that I came across with great regularity right across the North Downs – one of my favourite walking areas. It still sends a shiver down my spine to think how

real the threat of the German invasion was back then. The Outer London Defence Ring was the last line of defence for London if the Germans had ever made it across the channel. In June 1940 under the direction of General Edmund Ironside, concentric rings of anti-tank defences and pill boxes were constructed in and around London, including the North Downs. The ring used a mixture of natural rivers and artificial ditches up to 20 feet wide and 12 feet deep, encircling London completely.

Other structures, that I did not originally associate with the war, are the strange lines



Dragon's Teeth near Spectrum, Guildford

of cement triangles or pyramids known as 'dragon's teeth'. An extremely good example can be found behind the Spectrum Leisure Centre in Stoke Park, Guildford. I came across another cluster when I was volunteering to clear the overgrown garden at Deepdene, Dorking. This was after the site had received HLF funding to restore their fascinating Italian style garden – one of the first in this country. These WWII remnants have now been removed to recreate the original garden but they were well documented before dismantling.

Whilst out walking in the Surrey Hills, once you have your 'eye in' you can spot signs of WWII all over the place. I have spotted 'dragon's teeth' in the Chilworth Gunpowder Mills site, at various locations on the side of roads, and right next to me sitting in traffic on the London Road in Guildford. There are also 'dragon's teeth' and other cement structures very visible at Box Hill – especially down near the River Mole. I am sure you can name many places across the Surrey Hills where you have spotted these WWII relics.

What is good, is that there is now a growing interest in preserving and interpreting these structures which perhaps our parents and grandparents, who lived through those dark days, preferred to forget.

Chris Howard

The Canadian Presence

Canadian troops played a significant role in WWII and many of them were based in Surrey for part of their English service. The 1st Canadian Division formed a mobile reserve ranging from Guildford to Westerham, with troops stationed in billets or under canvas, along the North Downs Way.

Headley Court, near Leatherhead, served as the senior Canadian field headquarters throughout almost the entire period until the Canadian army moved to France in 1944.



Albury Heath Memorial

Meanwhile, nearby Headley Heath was used as a training ground for engineers building airstrips and trench systems then demolishing them again.

There is plentiful physical evidence of the Canadian troop presence along or close to the North Downs. Amongst many other things, they built the hard surface track that runs across Netley Heath and which now forms part of the North Downs Way. This track formed the northern boundary of Netley House, which was one of many properties requisitioned for Canadian military use in the area. Nearby, at Dunley Hill Farm on Ranmore, there is still a wooden Canadian Army sentry box whilst a memorial on Albury Heath marks where Montgomery addressed the Canadian troops before departure for D-Day. Elsewhere in Surrey, Canadian Army engineers constructed Dunsfold Aerodrome for the Royal Canadian Air Force in just 18 weeks! An accommodation base for the troops was set up in 1941 near Thursley and was known as Tweedsmuir Camp. This gained a second life after the war as a home to 80 Polish families from the Polish Allied Forces who had

fought on the Western Front and refused to accept the communist takeover of Poland.

Ken Bare



Sentry Box on Ranmore

The Special Operations Executive (SOE) in Wanborough

Wanborough's St Bartholomews Church may be one of the smallest in Surrey, but take a look inside and you will see a plaque to commemorate some of the bravest men and women who fought in WWII. Over 100 SOE Agents passed through what was known as STS 5 (Special Training School 5) in Wanborough. Around half lost their lives but, in 1977, two of the survivors (Pearl Witherington and Yvonne Cormeaux) returned with the Commandant of the school (Colonel Maurice Buckmaster) to unveil the plaque.



After the fall of France in 1940, at the behest of Winston Churchill, the SOE was established under the then Minister of Economic Warfare, Dr. Hugh Dalton. The purpose of the SOE was to conduct espionage, sabotage and reconnaissance in occupied Europe (and later, also in occupied Southeast Asia) against the Axis powers and

to aid local resistance movements.

The work included experimentation and production of equipment (such as weapons, radios, explosive devices and booby traps), code and cipher development, camouflage (including the hiding of weapons, explosives or radios in innocuous-seeming items) together with forgery of ID papers, ration cards and currency.

And of course, training the agents who were going to be sent behind enemy lines. It was a joke that 'SOE' stood for "Stately 'omes of England" after the large number of country houses and estates it requisitioned and used, one of which was Wanborough Manor.

The SOE took over the Manor in January 1941 and designated it as STS 5 – French (F) Section. The first prospective agents came in February 1941 and parties of new trainees continued to arrive until March 1943 when new selection procedures were established at Winterfold House, near Cranleigh. Initially run by Major Roger de Wesselow and then by Colonel Maurice Buckmaster, Wanborough Manor's primary use during the war was to whittle out those not suited to undercover work and begin initial training for those who progressed.

Unarmed combat was taught in one of the Manor cellars, whilst firearms training took

place in the gardens. Even today, in a private section of the garden, the wall at the very back of the Manor has remnants of the metal arms that held up the targets, and bullet holes are clearly visible in the wall itself. If they passed, the trainees went on to other schools, but before they left Wanborough, recruits were also given tuition in Morse Code, night exercises and map reading.

Of the men and women passing through Wanborough, the better known include Peter Churchill (captured but survived), Francis Sutthill (captured, sent to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp and killed), Odette Samson (captured, sent to Ravensbruck, but survived), Noor Inayat Khan (captured, sent to Dachau and shot), Diana Rowden (captured, sent to Natzweiler-Struthof and killed by lethal injection).

The exhibition in The Great Barn of Wanborough includes many more details about the SOE at Wanborough Manor. Over Heritage Weekend – 18 & 19 September – members of The Secret WWII Learning Project will be giving talks in the Great Barn on some of the agents who trained at Wanborough. Check www.wanboroughgreatbarn.co.uk for details and for Open Day dates.

Stephen Callender – Chair of Wanborough Barns Management Committee

The Denbies Tank

In 2017 an extremely rare WWII tank was dug up at Denbies vineyard. It was in surprisingly good condition, with some paint and markings still showing, in spite of a large hole on one side of it and its years underground.

The tank was a Covenanter, a type of light cruiser tank that was the mainstay of the British Army in the early years of the war. Poorly designed, relatively lightly armed and under-gunned, they were almost obsolete as soon as they were introduced in 1938 and certainly were by 1940. They saw little active service outside of the UK and were mainly used to re-equip British units as the army rebuilt after Dunkirk and for training purposes by British and Commonwealth armoured units.

Relegated to defensive roles, including with the Home Guard, it is thought this particular Covenanter suffered the fate of many out-of-date tank designs – being used as a 'hard target' on gunnery ranges. The tank was probably used as target practice by Canadian gunners who were stationed at nearby Headley Court prior to the invasion of France in 1944.

It is believed that four tanks were buried in the area and one was excavated in 1983 when the site was still a piggery. Restored to its

former glory that one is now housed at Bovington Tank Museum in Dorset. The 2017 tank is now undergoing restoration by its discoverer (Rick Wedlock) and you can find details on a dedicated Facebook page @T18656

Ken Bare



Our New Sponsor



Firstly, let me introduce myself. My name is Kathryn May and I have been running Bury Hill Estate Management Ltd. from the historic Grade II listed building of The Bell House, Dorking since 2013.

Our dedicated team offer a bespoke Block and Estate Management service across South East England. We take care of the communal areas of developments of all sizes and pride ourselves on our more personal approach.

We are fortunate to be based in the heart of the Surrey Hills and are close enough to Box Hill for midday walking which I love to do. It is a privilege to be in one of the most glorious Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, thereby making the Surrey Hills Society the obvious choice for our sponsorship.

In keeping with your newsletter theme this time, my Property Manager, Jenny Harlow, has contributed the following article:

WWII not only had an impact on the Surrey Hills but on the lives of many children evacuated to the area.

One such child was my late father-in-law. His introduction to England was rather dramatic, having at the tender age of eight years old, boarded a train in Berlin to a foreign country of which he knew nothing. He arrived with a small suitcase and a label around his neck. He was one of the children of the Kindertransport (Children's transport), an organised rescue effort that took place during the nine months prior to the outbreak of WWII, saving some 10,000 children under the age of 17 from Nazi Germany. Imagine my father-in-law arriving in England, speaking only German, totally alone and away from his family and familiar surroundings. What a traumatic event this must have been and unbelievably hard for this little boy.

Until the Nazis had come calling, my father-in-law had no idea they would be persecuted for their very tenuous Jewish roots. His parents and sister all managed to flee Germany via separate channels. However, the most frightening part was that his father only just escaped to Bolivia the day before the Nazis knocked on the door of their house

to come to take him away. They saved their lives but everything else was lost and they were never together again as a family.

My father-in-law settled well in Surrey and made it his home, giving back to the community in an area that had so generously given him refuge and every opportunity to flourish. He took advantage of those opportunities, did well at school, worked hard and qualified first as a Chiropractor, then as a Doctor of Osteopathy opening his own clinic. He gave up his free time mentoring other professionals in his field, supported the Arts and many Charities, generously supporting others less fortunate than himself.

He was a truly philanthropic man who made an impact and never forgot how lucky he had been and how his life could have been so different.

Jenny Harlow – Property Manager, Bury Hill Estate Management Ltd.



Our Events are Back – Come Rain or Shine



Planning – Good News and Bad News

The good news is the Government's announcement that Natural England will assess extending the Surrey Hills AONB. Work has already started on a more collaborative and speedier process than has occurred elsewhere. Currently, the Surrey Hills AONB Office and representatives of the District and Borough Councils are involved. The formal public consultation on a possible new boundary is likely at the end of 2022. After analysis of responses, Natural

England's Board is hoping to submit the new boundary recommendations for formal approval by the Secretary of State in 2023.

The bad news is the sale of over 40 relatively small plots of land so far at Wanborough. These are in the AONB, on the open northern slopes of the Hog's Back, and the adjoining Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) to the north - possibly to be included in the new AONB boundary. It seems many new owners hope these may eventually

have development potential. To control lots of new fencing, small buildings, and ground works spoiling the open beauty of the landscape, Guildford Borough Council has issued an Article 4 Direction requiring planning applications for such normally permitted development. There have already been several applications and appeals against refusal of permission.



Clive Smith, Surrey Hills AONB Planning Advisor

Events Programme September – December 2021

Following on from all the constraints of the last 18 months, we are still rebuilding our events programme. New activities are being added to the list on a regular basis so **please visit our website for more information and additional events.**

Booking is essential – even for free ones. Bookings generally open about 6 weeks before each event. Non email users can get more information by calling our phone number.

Sunday 5 September

Explore Ewood  

Coffee, courtesy of one of our members, then view the site of 16th century ironworks and a guided walk through the surrounding woods and fields, near Newdigate.

Thursday 23 September

Discover Waverley House and Abbey



This is a rare opportunity to visit Waverley House, a Grade II listed Georgian mansion with the backdrop of the ruins of Waverley Abbey.

Saturday 25 September

Book Festival walk to Pewley Down  

A morning walk in association with Guildford Book Festival. Broadcaster and mental health campaigner Jake Tyler will talk during the walk about his book which chronicles his 3,000 mile walk around Britain to counter his own mental health problems.

Sunday 3 October

Explore Woking  


A free short guided walk around Woking with references to HG Wells.

Thursday 7 October

Dorking Museum Tour 

Guided walk from Dorking Museum around hidden Dorking. Optional lunch and afternoon Museum visit.

Friday 8 October

Walk and Talk on the AONB Boundary Review 


Rob Fairbanks will lead a two hour walk through Happy Valley and Farthing Down explaining the boundary review of the AONB.

Saturday 9 October

AGM at the Womersley Memorial Hall

Our 12th AGM will start at 11.00am. We will discuss the years activities followed by a tour of the village and optional lunch at the local public house.

Wednesday 20 October

Arbuthnot Hall 

A visit to this Arts & Crafts Hall in Shamley Green designed by Charles Harrison Townsend, with a lecture by architect, Sarah Sullivan.

Thursday 21 October

Kenley Airfield

A guided walking tour of the airfield established in 1917 and its importance during the Battle of Britain.

Sunday 7 November

Explore Bourne Wood  



A free guided walk just south of Farnham.

Friday 26 November

Surrey Hills Society Dinner at the County Club

Join our President, Chairman and various dignitaries for a social evening with musical entertainment and a meal produced from local Surrey Hills suppliers at this historic Guildford Town House.

Saturday 4 December

Belmont School Walk  

Our annual event starting from historic Belmont School and walking up to Holmbury Hill fort.

Saturday 11 December

Wreath Making

A popular Christmas event. We gather natural materials from a private woodland in Womersley then return to the hall to make your own natural door wreath (guidance given). Festive refreshments provided.

Monday 27 December

Walk off your Christmas Pudding

Our annual walk to blow the cobwebs away after the Christmas break. This year at Headley Heath.

Guildford Walkfest Surrey Hills Society is a sponsor and major contributor to Guildford Walkfest which takes place throughout September. Numerous local organisations provide free walks for this festival and those bookable via SHS are listed below – with further details available on the Surrey Hills Society website www.surreyhillssociety.org/events. The full Walkfest programme can be found at www.guildfordwalkfest.co.uk

Wednesday 1 September

Walkfest Launch followed by a walk around Ash Vale

Friday 3 September

Chilworth Gunpowder Mills & St Martha's Church

Wednesday 8 September

Sutton Green & the Wey

Thursday 9 September

Artington, the Loseley Estate & Watts Gallery

Friday 10 September

Ripley to the River Wey via Papercourt Lake

Saturday 11 September

Walkfest Chairman's Walk around Albury Heath and Shere

Monday 13 September

From Shere To Netley Park

Friday 17 September

In The Shadow of the Workhouse – With David Rose

Saturday 18 September

Street Angels Sponsored Walk – Guildford to Farnham

Wednesday 22 September

Walk around Pirbright, Sheets Heath and Basingstoke Canal

Saturday 25 September

The Writers Walk around Guildford Town



Dog friendly but kept on a short lead throughout the walk



Family Friendly



Signposting for events where SHS will be present



Easy/flat



Moderate



Challenging



1st Sunday Walk of the Month

To join us go to www.surreyhillssociety.org or phone 07530 949302