

East Surrey

Family History Society



Journal

Volume 44 number 3 September 2021 A plaque, at Teddington, showing the lower limit of the Thames Conservancy area

East Surrey Family History Society

Founded 1977 Registered Charity No. 286659

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The Society **Research & Advice centre** is at Lingfield & Dormansland Community Centre, High Street, Lingfield. It is open every month (except August and December) on the second Saturday from 10.30 a.m. to 3.00 p.m., and on the fourth Wednesday from 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

Journal of the

East Surrey Family History Society

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The deadline for the December 2021 Journal is 10.00 a.m. on 1 November

All contributions should be sent to the Editor, whose contact details appear opposite

Society News

Hilary Blanford (Chairman)

As I write this introduction, I am wondering whether the current relaxations really do herald the beginning of the end of a very stressful period in our lives. It is tempting to hope so, but I think many will wish to be cautious. While lockdown has encouraged many to develop their family history, it has also caused immense anguish to many people and I hope that any of you who have been affected are now in a better position to move forward and perhaps enjoy life again.

Our Society is also moving forward and elsewhere in the journal you will read of new developments in the Society. We have started a members' consultation process to see what it is that people want from the Society. The first stage, which asked former members why they did not renew their membership, is now complete and by the time you read this I hope that the pilot for stages 2 and 3 will also be finished

and you will all be able to contribute. We are also holding a competition for the best written article for publication and details of how to enter may be found on page 17. Another new venture is the provision for an online members' discussion list, which is described on page 10.

If this isn't enough, we are continuing with our programme of online talks as they have proved so popular, especially with out of county and overseas members. It has been lovely to 'meet' and talk to so many of you. And as a trial development, we are planning to share some of our talks with other Societies and our first reciprocal arrangement will have been with Kent FHS in August.

Major changes, such as these, have prompted rearrangements within the committee and we are pleased that Tamsin Abbey has agreed to be our new treasurer. I am sure that you will join with me in wishing her well in the role.

Group meetings

September

29 Local Suffragettes and Suffragists Rita Russell Lingfield

Please note the change of date

October

27 Secrets and Lies Frances Hurd Lingfield Some extra-ordinary and poignant stories uncovered whilst researching for clients

November

24 To the Manor Born Jane Lewis (SHC) Lingfield

Lingfield Group meetings start at 2.30 p.m.

Southwark Group

Southwark Borough Council has confirmed that it does not propose to re -open the meeting room at John Harvard Library in the immediate future. Restricted access is being provided to some meeting rooms within the borough. Regular attendees will be contacted when there is any further news, and details will be published on the website.

Members' Consultation Process

Those of you who have provided the Society with an email address will receive a questionnaire via email. Family members are welcome to submit more than one response!

We do not propose sending paper questionnaires to the 200 or so of you who have no known

email address but we would really like to hear from you. If you would like to make your voice heard or contribute to the future running of the Society, please send a stamped and addressed envelope (to take A5) to The Chairman ESFHS, 13 Larchcroft, Chatham ME5 ONL.

My aunt, Betsy **Burke** née **Heather**, was born and married in Croydon and spent much of the Second World War there. Over 25 years ago she set down her memories of life during the war before emigrating to Canada.

I had been married five months when, on the 3rd of September 1939, Britain declared war against Germany. We had been told that our Prime Minister would be making an announcement to the nation. Most people had turned on their radio sets. We knew full well what the news would be, but it came as quite a shock.

We accepted the fact that my husband, at 23, might be called up immediately. He and his two brothers had signed up for the police war reserves a year before – he would serve in this capacity until his call-up. To be a policeman in wartime was not quite the same as in peace time. One night he was assigned the job of baby-sitting a parachute bomb caught up in a tree in a residential area, just in case the wind shifted. As the bombing escalated the men's work became very stressful: tears, many times, were not far away.

By July 1940 I was pregnant. My husband, Jim, was given a few months deferment; from the time our son was born until he was six months old we were together as a family. It was to be, apart from a few days leave once in a while, all we would have, but our world was to fall apart.

As time passed, we became adjusted to our new way of life. Ration books and gas masks were issued to everyone. The children went off to school with their gas masks slung on their shoulders, along with their satchels. Babies had capsules into which they were strapped, with just their legs exposed; a strap came up between the legs and fastened with a clip. In the event of a gas attack a pump with a filter had to be worked by hand and we were taught how to operate it. Fortunately, gas was never used and the masks were handed in.

Rationing was not only for food, but also for clothing, fabrics, blankets and petrol. In time many things became in short supply, such as coal for heating, tropical fruits and, of course, luxury goods.

Children had extra milk and hot school lunches. Babies had imported concentrated orange juice and rosehip syrup. Candy was rationed also. Our children were well fed and very, very healthy.

Air raids by now began to take their toll. The parents of a school friend of mine were killed, and my next door neighbour and her four children died from a direct hit on the shelter in the back garden of their house while they slept. Her husband served in the navy, and survived the war serving in submarines. Another neighbour's house became a bomb crater; fortunately, the parents and their eight children were in a communal shelter at the time.

My son was born 3rd of January, 1941. My father-in-law died in March whilst undergoing surgery. A bomb blast blew the electricity out and he died shortly after. Jim was called up in July and was drafted into the 2nd Derbyshire Yeomanry and trained into a tank corps. He died on active service December 1st while en route to join General Montgomery's troops in the Middle East. The year that started with Brian's birth, a joy to us all,

was to become the worst year of my life.

British pensions are not known for their generosity. By January of 1942 I started work in the London office of the Ministry of Supply. At one point we were handling prisoners of war, both German and Italians. Some Germans working the mines in Sierra Leone had gone on strike for more cigarettes. London was asked how it should be handled. The message sent back "give them what they want". Another time I saw a lorry-load of Italian P.O.W.s sent to clear snow. They stood up waving, shouting and whistling at every girl on the street. It caused quite a commotion amongst the locals the girls loved it! It was a small human touch that I must admit I enjoyed.

As the years passed and raids eased up after the Battle of Britain, life became less stressful, and we started to think about the future. America had joined the Allies and Hitler made the mistake of attacking Russia, two events that were to help end the war.

As Brian was by now growing fast, I decided we would visit friends in Birmingham. They hadn't

seen him yet, and they urged me to stay as long as we could. It was all I needed. The raids had not been as bad as those around London. I managed to get a few months transfer of my job from London to Birmingham and away we went. It was a breath of fresh air; my small son was so excited. By now he was three years old and this was really his first holiday. It was while there we heard that Hitler had capitulated, the war in Europe was over, we could celebrate, and we did!

On V.E. Day Winston Churchill was to be in town during the morning and would be driving past my friend's house. As you can imagine, everyone was out on the street, the children couldn't control their excitement. Flags hung out of upstairs windows. The cheering started, and soon we could see the open car. As it drew closer we could see the Prime Minister sitting on the back seat smoking his usual cigar, one hand giving the victory sign and the other waving a bottle of brandy, the latter was a gift from our local publican. The children, after years of war, were wide-eved at all the excitement and noise that was

going on. My own son, born during an air raid, wasn't quite sure what was happening. At four years of age war was a way of life for him, as it had become for all of us.

There was quite a gathering of people at the house that day, with neighbours and relatives dropping by during the afternoon. By tea time we put on a party for the children. Goodies, hoarded for years, came to light. One donated a can of peaches, our local grocer produced a tin of biscuits and one or two other treats. It was wonderful to see the children having such a good time.

By early evening we had put the young ones to bed upstairs, they were soon sound asleep. It was now time for the adults to get together. We made sandwiches with whatever we had on hand. Bread was not rationed then, so we had quite a feast. My host had saved a bottle of Scotch for this day – we were all set for a toast. By then the house was full, but there was always room for one more. There came a knock on the front door and in walked Jordan Silver, a brother-in-law of my hostess. Everyone went crazy!

Jordan was serving with the Fleet Air Arm; we had no idea where he was. It was wonderful to have him home. He had hitch-hiked from his base to spend V.E. Day with us. The icing on the cake was, he had a bottle of Navy rum with him! It was a wonderful evening. The children had the beds upstairs so we did what had been done many times before, we slept on the floor. Jordan remembers now that he slept under the dining-room table.

In the morning when the children awoke, they were to see Jordan there. My son fell in love with his uniform cap. He was allowed to wear it, a picture was taken, and to this day it has not been found. After fifty years we don't hold out much hope that it will come to life. I hope that it will, who knows?

The time came for Jordan to leave – V.J. day was in the future – we hated to see him go. Brian was quite unhappy about it. As Jordan left, he put his hat on him and saluted: Brian stood very straight and saluted back. Jordan turned and walked away. Getting back to base without his hat was not a problem, after all it was V. E. Day!

Who cared about a mere dark blue peaked hat?

We stayed on in Birmingham for a few more weeks whilst I made arrangements for us to move back home to Croydon. My father was living in a senior's apartment at that time, but we were able to stay with my sister Mabs and her husband, Peter, until we could find accommodation. While there. Brian had his fifth birthday and started school. Eventually, through our local council, I was able to rent the ground floor of a house that had been requisitioned to accommodate homeless people. Lack of new construction, and the bombing, had caused a shortage of housing. A family of four lived on the upper floor. With an outside toilet and no bathroom, we were still luckier than some.

I gave my job up at the Ministry of Supply and went to work at a local hospital; this was to ensure that I would be home when Brian came home from school.

Life settled down somewhat now that the war with Germany was over and air raids were a thing of the past. Then came V. J. Day and people could get on with their lives and look forward to the

future. It wasn't going to be easy for many of us. I re-married on October 15th 1949. My husband was a Canadian veteran whom I had met in London in 1943. He returned to Canada to be demobbed and we kept in touch. After a while he decided to return to England and proposed.

My father had developed lung cancer, and as I was his caregiver, we decided to stay put for the time being. He died in 1951 and a year later, we made the move to Canada, much to Brian's delight. As for me, I found it to be a very traumatic experience leaving family and friends. Many things had to be left behind, it was very hard.

Many years have passed since then. Brian has made a good life here; he married and has a son. Brian is now a grandfather, which makes me the great grandmother of Katie Marie Smith. Jim, her great grandfather, would have been so proud. I have been widowed for a second time, for thirteen years. There is so much that one could tell of these years as they passed, but I have one story that I need to tell now.

My companion and I, in April and May of this year, 1995, made a trip to England and Wales. Birmingham was our first stop and during our stay all but a few who had died over the last fifty years came together to remember V. E. Day.

Jordan Silver at eighty-four hasn't changed at all — he is the same charming person he was then. His life is very busy; he works for the Heritage Society in his hometown of Lichfield. He cares for his wife who is in poor health and he looks after their garden. He is a very caring person.

During our first evening together, he asked me if Brian still had his hat. I thought it unlikely that it had survived the trip to Canada from England – we had to leave so much behind - but I would ask when I got home. I really had no idea if Brian still had the hat. On returning home from a wonderful visit, I asked Brian about the hat and was thrilled when he said of course. He called me later that week to tell me that he had sent it to Jordan by courier on the condition that it would arrive by V. E. Day fifty years after Jordan had put it on his head and saluted him.

Brian called the courier service and was told that it had arrived the morning of V. E. Day and it had been signed for. He received a letter from Jordan thanking him. The hat is on loan as Brian, when next in Birmingham, would like it back. I do hope that they will meet again. Brian, at 55, and Jordan at 84, should meet again. Fifty years ago, there was a bond that survived the years.

Events and Online Shows in September

East Surrey Family History Society will be represented at these events including the first two events, which are both on the same day!

Saturday 4 September, 11.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

Nunhead Cemetery Open Day, Linden Grove, London, SE13 3LP. No parking but stations at Nunhead and Peckham Rye plus buses. We shall be there.

Saturday 4 September, 10.30 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.

Lambeth Local History Fair, St Mark's Church, 337 Kennington Park Road, London, SE11 4PW. Opposite Oval Tube Station. We shall be there.

Saturday 25 September, 10.00 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.

The Family History Show Online. This is replacing the previously announced show at Kempton Park racecourse. We shall be there (virtually!) to answer any of your questions or just to say hello. Tickets are available from https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/online/tickets/

When we search through the records for our ancestor, we tend to concentrate on the task in hand, but it can be revealing to glance at other entries as we skim the pages. I was recently searching the 1881 census for a particular farm that was rumoured to be in the Ewell area.

I eventually found what I wanted, but then casually turned a few pages further on to Longdown Farm, where Thomas **Coote** was working 850 acres with 15 men and 2 boys. Apart from the usual shepherds, cowman, and numerous agricultural labourers, Thomas was clearly something of a local entrepreneur, employing his own lime-burner to produce lime for building purposes.

Although most of Thomas's employees were living in cottages

on the farm, I found that not all his ag labs were so fortunate. 48-year-old Charles **Barnes** and his 28-year-old wife Mary were recorded by the enumerator as 'living under haystack' on the farm.

With temperatures in March 1881 (when the census was taken) down to 2°C at night and only rising to a maximum of 10° during the day, life would not have been too comfortable for the couple, although the haystack was at least probably warm if they dug themselves a hole in it and could have given some shelter from the 1½ inches of rain that month.

The census can give a wonderful glimpse of life at that time, even if it is not of our immediate family.

New: Members' Discussion List

This is another new venture for the Society, and it will shortly be trialled by a small group of members before being made available to more of you. In the

first instance, participation will be limited to the first 100 members who sign up. This is because this level of service is free to the Society. If the scheme proves to be

Members' Discussion List

very popular then the Trustees will consider taking out a subscription to io, who provide the software, so that more of you can participate.

The aim of this members' list is to provide an opportunity for members who have a family history query, or other problem that they have not been able to solve, to share their question with others. For example, you might want some help to interpret a DNA result or perhaps you don't know where to look to find a particular set of records. Maybe you cannot read some old handwriting. If so, the programme allows small files to be shared and if you are lucky, somebody may be able to decipher the mystery words for you. You might need some advice about a family tree programme or help with entering old dates in your Excel spreadsheets. The opportunities are endless.

Members who join the scheme will be able to email their query to a single email address and then their query will be forwarded to the other group members. In some ways the scheme is similar to the old Rootsweb lists, except that it does not require a separate log-in

as the queries come straight into your normal email inbox. You can, if you wish, set up a separate folder, or even a new email address, to receive these emails but it is very easy to read them quickly alongside other incoming emails and chose to reply or delete the email if it is of no interest.

Any answers are automatically copied to the group so everybody can learn from the answers. Whether you chose to answer queries is up to you. You might know the answer, so why not use your knowledge to help us to provide what is effectively an online help desk? Or you might see a query as an opportunity to gain more practice using a database or other records that you haven't used much. Some people just enjoy the challenge of finding the answers! Whatever your response, this is another way to learn more about family research, and it can be fun!

A link to join the scheme will be provided in the Members' area of the Society's website once we have finished the initial trial. We look forward to your responses.

Postmen, Customs Officers and others of that ilk

Talk by Alan Ruston (on Zoom) in July

This was a lively talk, which gave us a good flavour of what we think of today as 'the Civil Service', (although this is actually a twentieth century term). Alan explained that in the eighteenth century there were a few thousand employees and that their appointments changed with successive parliaments, as we see in the USA today. After 1800 there was a massive increase in the workforce, which had an army of copying clerks (all male, as women were not employed until after WWI). The records for the main civil service departments – the Home Office, Board of Trade, Colonial Office, Admiralty and Navy Board, HM Treasury and the Royal Household – are all held at TNA.

The Post Office was founded in 1603; Customs in the twelfth century but mainly organised from 1671; and Excise (tax on home goods) in 1643. Income tax was introduced to fund the Napoleonic Wars, abolished in the 1820s and then later reintroduced, but records for police forces, local authorities and Poor Law officials are held by county record offices or local studies libraries. Knowing

what your ancestors did is the key to determine which set of records to consult and where to look.

Other useful sources are the Royal Kalendar (1767-1850) that listed all civil servants, the British Imperial Book (1810), and later the Civil Service Year Book, which was an annual publication, copies of which may be found in major public libraries. Staff had to sign an oath of allegiance so it may be possible to find a copy of one's ancestor's signature. The British Imperial Calendar lists civil servants employed abroad and these, together with pay sheets (which include the date of death), are held at the British Library.

The British Postal Museum and Archives hold good staff records and Alan recommended starting with the superannuation records, as it was then possible to trace careers backwards. Staff numbers in the 1850s were around 21,000, rising to 249,000 by 1914 because of extra duties such as administering the Old Age Pension and the Savings Bank.

Customs staff records have been retained to the early eighteenth century and Alan

Postmen, Customs Officers and others of that ilk

suggested talking to one of the TNA experts before consulting this collection. He also explained the reason for the small numbers of dissenters working in the services as it was obligatory to attend the Ascension Day services and complete an annual declaration. Then we looked at the work of the Excise Officers and Hams Year Books. There are also records for Customs staff held by the Society of Genealogists (1860 – 1910/15), and Findmypast has evidence of age for employees in England and Wales if they were born abroad.

We then passed on to Betting Tax followed by Coastguards, whose records are held by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and include details for Revenue Cutters, Riding Officers and Water Guards. Other sources to consider are some Admiralty and Home office papers held by the Department of Transport. Good starting points are GENUKI, the TNA research guides and the London Gazette. All in all, this was a whistle-stop tour of a wealth of information with some humorous anecdotes thrown in for good measure.

Extracts from Lambeth Bastardy Examinations 1808-1814

261/101b 17 Nov 1812 Mary Elizabeth WALTON – never married Edward GIFFORD, surveyor of Nunhead Green, Peckham [SRY] is the father of her bastard son Edgyff Horatio Nelson born 8 Sep 1805 in Mr MELLISH's house Neptune Place, Lambeth.

261/102a 17 Nov 1812 Mary Elizabeth WALTON – never married Edward GIFFORD, surveyor of Nunhead Green, Peckham [SRY] is the father of her bastard daughter Edwardrina born 9 Feb 1808 in Mrs REEKS house, White Hart Row, Lambeth.

Special Interest Group - DNA and Family History

Anne Ramon [4730]

Do you know that our Society has a Special Interest Group which is sharing and learning about how to use DNA results and DNA matches in our family history research?

We started meeting in person at Colliers Wood Library in 2019, but we now meet on a quarterly basis by Zoom. The meetings last for 2 to 2½ hours, with a short break in the middle. They are advertised on the Home page of the Society website; the meetings are free, and open to members and non-members. Use **Click here**

in the meeting detail to get the Registration Link.

Deeper in the website, but still available to all, are two menu tabs where further information about DNA, the use of DNA tools, useful web-links and past presentations are available.

How can you find this material? Log on to the East Surrey Family History Society website www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk and choose 'Resources' from the menu bar.



This will open a drop down menu. Click on the second item down for 'Family History and DNA News'. This will reveal the report on the most recent meeting and you can access useful web links and the

presentations that were given at the meeting.

If you then move sideways from 'Resources >Family History and DNA News' a further menu item will appear called 'Family

Special Interest Group - DNA and Family History

History and DNA Special Interest Group'. This page provides some historical background on the Group and links to presentations from earlier meetings and some recommended reading.

We are fortunate to have the help of DNA and family history expert Donna Rutherford at our meetings and she usually gives us an update on recent changes in the DNA websites and tools. We explore different tools and

techniques in the second half of the meeting and there's time for questions with Donna and general discussion.

I am hoping to introduce a 'DNA and Family History
Newsletter' on the website where I can provide help and information about understanding your DNA results and as this is a rapidly changing world, I'm hoping to make this fortnightly! Keep an eye on the East Surrey FHS website!

The Queen Victoria Medal

Mary Timmins



I found this medal sometime ago together with my father's war medals. We did not know what this was, but then we found it on the London Metropolitan Archives website where they had the one awarded in 1893.

The London School Board (LSB) was created in 1870 and the board was elected every three years. Between 1870 and 1904 the LSB was the single largest education provider in London. There were

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The Queen Victoria Medal



four divisions, representing the City, Southwark, Chelsea and Greenwich.

J. [John James Robert]

Roebuck, was my grandfather. He lived in St Olave, Bermondsey so he would have been awarded the medal for Southwark.

He was born in 1882, so I think it was wonderful that he was given a Silver Medal in 1892 when he was only 10! I am especially pleased, as he was not in the First World War (he was in a protected occupation – the Post Office) and so would not have won any war medals. A few years ago I visited the Post Office Archives and I found the records for both my grandfather and my uncle.

In 1996 my aunt had a stroke. I asked her what she remembered about the family history. Much to my amazement, she told me

AWARDED TO

J. ROEBUCK

FOR PUNCTUAL
ATTENDANCE EVERY TIME
THE SCHOOL WAS OPENED
DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR
ENDED AD 1892

something I did not know! She said her father, my grandfather, was responsible for the laying of the telephone cables between England and France (although he did not do the work personally). I found my grandfather in the 1911 census: he was at 14 Military Road, Dover, where he was a boarder. He was shown as a "cable jointer".

I think he must have travelled through Canterbury in Kent. My grandparents got married on 25th December 1912, at St. George The Martyr, in Southwark. Then they moved to Canterbury and my uncle was born there in 1913 and my father was born there in 1915.

My father did remember the First World War as he was a baby and he was woken by the bombs! His mother told him to stop crying and go back to sleep!

Colin Powell

Rita Russell

With sadness, we learnt of Colin's death on 12 July. He joined the Society in 1991 and was a regular member of the Sutton group together with his wife, Sheila, who died some years ago. He also became a stalwart of the Projects Team, being responsible for the production of our fiche records. He remained a member of the Team as we moved onto CDs and putting our records on the website and GenFair.

His other great interest was the Surrey County Small Bore Rifle Association. Here he was instrumental in the organisation of the Surrey Open at Bisley and other championships for many years.

Colin was a quiet unassuming man, a real friend and supporter of the Society. He will be missed by those who knew him.

ESFHS's New Competition

Do you have a mystery in your family? A skeleton on the cupboard, or an ancestor who simply disappeared? Maybe there are family stories of unexplained wealth or an emigration tale that has been passed down. Could you put pen to paper, or fingers to keyboard, and write up your story, thinking how it would best appeal to the reader?

The Society's cup will be presented to the person who submits the best article for publication in the Society's journal.

You may submit your entry at any time up to the entry closing date of 31 December 2021.

The competition rules, together with further information, appear overleaf.

ESFHS's New Competition

Competition Rules

- 1. The entrant must be a member of East Surrey Family History Society.
- 2. The article must not have been previously published.
- 3. The article should not exceed 2,500 words, excluding references. Shorter pieces are welcome.
- 4. It should be interesting to read, and include a family tree or other relevant illustrations.
- 5. It should show methodology, any problems encountered and their resolution.
- 6. Full references and sources must be included. Permission from copyright holders must be obtained before publication.
- 7. The cup must be returned in good time for future presentations.
- 8. For this year only, articles that have been published by the Society within the previous 12 months may be re-submitted for the competition.

Submitted articles will be judged by an invited panel, with a prize of a cup awarded for the article which, in the opinion of the panel, best meets the criteria. Certificates for second and third-placed entries may also be awarded at the judges' discretion.

The winner will be announced at the end of the Annual General Meeting in the spring of 2022, and the winning article will be published in the June edition of the Journal. Other submitted articles may be published in subsequent issues of the Journal at the editor's discretion.

Do not delay: the closing date for entries is 31 December 2021

Entries should be sent to chairman@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk or posted to East Surrey FHS, 13 Larchcroft, Chatham ME5 ONL.

Handwritten articles will be accepted if the writing is (in the eyes of the three judges) legible!

Please do not include your name in the article itself but use the first page to provide just your name, membership number, email address, phone number and address. This page will be separated from your article so that your entry will be anonymised.

The panel below appeared in *The Surrey Advertiser and County Times* of 30 November 1918. Contrast this with the recent shortage of Marmite (but during Covid it was a shortage of brewers' yeast, rather than bottles).

Influenza

Bovril Ltd. wish to express their regret at the shortage of Bovril during the recent Influenza epidemic.

The proprietors of Bovril, recognizing that those who are deprived of the body-building powers of Bovril may more easily fall victims to the epidemic, have done their utmost to increase the supply, but the lack of bottles has seriously hampered—and still hampers—their endeavours, Efforts are being made to collect empty bottles, and it is hoped that supplies will soon be increased by the release of men for the bottle factories.

It is suggested that those consumers who have a stock of Bovril should avoid purchasing at present, and thus leave the available Bovril for those who have more pressing need of it at this critical time,

Julian Pooley

I am optimistic that by the time this report is published in the early autumn Surrey History Centre may be able to offer a more comprehensive service of full opening hours and on-site events. Please keep an eye on our website and social media for all up-to-date reports on any changes to our service.

We have a busy programme of online talks planned for the Autumn. Please see the Heritage Events page on our website for full details and to book a place. All talks start at 5.30 p.m. and run to 6.45. Tickets for each talk are £5. After payment has been received you will be emailed a unique link and password to attend the talk on Zoom.



8 September

Richard III: A drama in Three Acts

England's most controversial king is not normally associated with Surrey. This talk explores how the dramatic events of his reign affected the county and its leaders, drawing on Surrey's experiences to shed light on the reasons for his downfall.

22 September

To the Manor Born: An Introduction to Manorial Records for Family Historians

When we talk about manors and manorial courts, we tend to think of a large country estate with the Lord of the Manor presiding over his lands in a despotic, albeit slightly avuncular, way. Whilst there is a certain amount of truth in this ideal, the actual was a lot

less romantic and more prosaic.
This talk introduces us to the manorial system, how that system worked, the documents it generated and how these records can be used by the local and family historian

6 October

The Gentleman's Magazine: A Panorama of Georgian Surrey for Family and Local Historians

A talk for National Libraries Week

Founded in 1731, The Gentleman's Magazine was the world's first magazine, reporting domestic and foreign news, announcing the latest discoveries in science, medicine and technology, reviewing books and recording freak weather, births, marriages and military promotions.

Its obituaries of the deceased laid the foundation for the later Dictionary of National Biography and are a major source for the lives

and deaths of thousands of 18th century people.

This talk provides an introduction to the magazine, explores its value for family and local historians and uncovers hidden stories of Surrey people and the county's history throughout the Georgian period.

Whether you live in 'modern' Surrey or in the ancient parishes that now form part of Greater London, this talk will include examples relating to your locality.

13 October

Netherne c. 1955: A Surrey Psychiatric Hospital in Focus

A talk for World Mental Health Day

Netherne Hospital, Coulsdon, was opened by Surrey County Council in 1909. Initially accommodating 960 patients, by 1950 numbers had increased to 2,000. The hospital closed in 1994. The surviving archive, now preserved at Surrey History Centre, includes 19,500 patient case files and c.10,000 photographs taken c.1955,

exploring all aspects of the hospital's life. From the wards to the airing courts, the art therapy unit to the operating table, these vivid images provide a rare glimpse of daily life inside a Surrey psychiatric hospital, allowing us to take a tour of the hospital on a day at a turning point in its history.

17 November

The Most Wretched Man in the World: The Life and Loves of the 5th Viscount Midleton

This talk traces the stormy life of George Brodrick (1806-1848), 5th Viscount Midleton, who married scandalously, patronised the great Catholic architect Augustus Pugin at Peper Harow, near Godalming, saw his Irish estates ravaged by the Irish potato famine, and finally committed suicide.

Surrey History Centre is at 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking, GU21 6ND.

Please book online at www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents, in person at Surrey History Centre, or any Surrey Library or phone 01483 518737.

Recorded talks to purchase

If you missed one of our online talks, why not purchase the talk recording to view in your own time?

The talks available are:

- Aladdin's Cave: Some Major Family and Estate Archives in Surrey History Centre
- Corsets and Cameras
- ♦ Sir William More of Loseley
- Who Do You Think They Were? Discovering the Lives and Experiences of our Ancestors
- ♦ Fashion and Folly
- Planting Ideas: Sources for the History of Gardening in Surrey.
- Out of Sight, Out of Mind? Sources for the History of Surrey's Mental Hospitals, 1700 - c.1990
- Portrait of a Surrey town between the wars: the photographic archive of Sidney Francis
- From Punishment to Pride: LGBTQ+ archives at Surrey History Centre
- ♦ The Book That Changed My Life

Each talk consists of a 45 minute to an hour illustrated presentation followed by questions asked during the live talk.

You can also email us with any questions you may have after the talk and we will pass them on to the speaker to answer. Price £5. To purchase a recording please visit

the Surrey Heritage online shop on our website.

Please note talks may contain references to historical legal terminology, sexual practices and crimes used in the historical context but which some viewers may find offensive.

Highlights of our recent new accessions include the following:

8867add5

David Taylor of Cobham, local historian: additional papers including preregistration deeds and papers relating to World's End Cottage, Cobham, 1927-1954; advertisement for The Alpine Railton motor car, 1934; album of photographs and postcards of Cobham collected by Mary Herbert, 19th-20th cent; photographs of children at the Cedar Road School, Cobham, 20th cent; aerial photographs of Pyports and Church Cobham, c.1930s; research file on the White Lion Inn, Cobham, 19th cent- 1954

9544add

Major John Michael Alan Tamplin (1927-2015): additional papers relating to The Queen's (Southwark) Regimental Association, 1950s-2000s

10201add1

John SL Pulford, local historian, of Walton and Weybridge Local History Society: additional research papers and collected documents and maps, 19th – 20th cent.

10229

Percy Rickerby (1907-1975), civil servant and ARP head warden of Abinger Common: operational papers of Abinger Common Air Raid Precautions (later Civil Defence Service), 1939-1945, and programmes of Abinger Common and Wotton Women's Institute, 1948-1956

10231

Hester Brinkley (c.1823-1906) of Kingthorpe, Church Road, Addlestone: diary with daily notes, 1896

10233

St Giles, Ashtead: burial registers, 1963-2004; marriage registers, 1990-2015; and service registers, 1995-2017 St George's, Ashtead: banns register, 1964-

2011; and service registers, 1993-2004 The Lanes, Ashtead: service register, 1995-2005

10235

Hilling family of 'Prestons', Bagshot Road, Chobham: photographs and papers 1900-1939

10236

Earlswood Asylum, Redhill: printed election cards and covering notes sent to subscriber soliciting votes on behalf of 3 candidates for admission, 1867-1868

10237

East Sheen Council School, Barnes: punishment books for mixed department, 1913-1965, and infants department, 1921-1935

10238

Old White House, 198 Old Woking Road, Woking: deeds and papers, 1906-1970

10242

Redhill Junior Technical School: panoramic photograph, nd [1930s]; Merton Church of England Secondary School for Girls: panoramic photograph, 1963

10243

Hale and Badshot Lea: additional parish records, including minutes of PCC and Annual Parochial Church Meetings, 1979-2016; Badshot Lea log books, 1781-2015; parish magazines, 1985-2021; St John's Hale church history, 1994

10245

Chase family, market gardeners and cloche manufacturers of Chertsey: glass slides depicting cloches in use at Chase establishment at The Grange, Chertsey, 1940s

10246

A Robins and Sons, Farnham: records including minutes of directors' meetings and AGMs of shareholders, 1907-1973; articles of association, 1934 and 1943; and annual accounts, 1924-1975 (incomplete)

10248

St Augustine, Aldershot: additional parish records, comprising baptism register, 1976-2003; marriage registers, 2001-2018; Friends of St Augustine minute book, 1984-1996; papers of the St Augustine branch of the Girls Friendly Society, mid 20th century; 'The English Country Dance', vol II, by Cecil J Sharp, 1913

10253

Dorothy May Noon (nee Larke), Queens Nurse and midwife of Guildford (1911 -2001): records including documentation of qualifications, register of cases, 1936-1938, photograph and obituary

10257

Burial grounds at Bagshot, Bisley, Eashing, Frimley, Godalming, Horsell and Lightwater: spreadsheets with transcripts of registers and plans of grave plots, 19^{th} - 20^{th} cents.

ESR/25add76

Regimental Quarter Master Sergeant William George Clarke MBE (1901-1984), East Surrey Regiment: certificates, army service and pay book, photographs, obituary, 1920-1984

ESR/25add77

Pte Alfred James Budd (d.1946), 1st Battalion, East Surrey Regiment, and other members of the Budd family of Esher enlisted during World War I and World War II: photographs c.1915-1968

ESR/25add78

Corporal Edgar Roy James Robertson (1918-1995), East Surrey Regiment: army service papers and photograph, 1939-1946

ESR/25add79

Thomas Blackwell, 'A' Company, 1/6th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment: photographs of the Company and Band at Agra, India

ESR/25add80

Lance Corporal George Stewart Webster, 1st Battalion, East Surrey Regiment: letter to his wife, written while with the British Expeditionary Force in France, 25 Apr 1940

ESR/25add81

Private Ralph Douglas Himsworth (1915-2000), East Surrey Regiment: Regular Army certificate of service book, 1935-1946

ESR/25add82

Serjeant F Kitch, 8th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment: signed acknowledgement of gallant conduct from his commanding officer, 1918

ESR/25add83

Private Ron Ghost, Anti-Tank Platoon, 1st Battalion, East Surrey Regiment: photographs of platoon in Salonica, Greece 1947-1948

ESR/25add84

Private Sam Weller, 1st and 2nd Battalions, East Surrey Regiment: photograph album of army entertainments in Shanghai, c.1938

ESR/25add85

Private J Reynolds, 2nd Battalion, East Surrey Regiment: postcard of HMT Somersetshire sent to [?his parents] en route to India, c.1930s

ESR/25add86

Major Cyril Theodore Williams, OBE (1887-1968), East Surrey Regiment: papers, including mention in a despatch for distinguished service, and award of Russian order of St Anne, 1919-1937

QRWS/30ad89

Company Quartermaster Sergeant Frederick George King (1905-1980), 1/5 Bn, Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regiment: additional papers and photographs, 1923-1954

QRWS/30ad90

Lance Corporal Frederick Woodings (?-1969), 2/4th Bn, Queens Royal (West Surrey) Regiment: service papers and photographs, 1916-1968

QRWS/30ad91

Lance Corporal Alfred Thomas Childs, DCM, Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regiment: photograph, 1916

QRWS/30ad92

Private Philip Gregory, 3rd Volunteer Bn, Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regiment: photographs and service certificate, c.1908-mid 20th cent Private Ernest Gregory, 1st Bn, Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regiment: photographs and papers, 1950s

QRWS/30ad93

Private J S (Sydney) Farrow, 1st Battalion, Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regiment: album (including photographs of Quetta earthquake, India), and letter to his mother about the earthquake, 1935

QRWS/30ad94

Private Charles W Barnes (b.1871), 2nd Volunteer Battalion, Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regiment: photograph, c.1914-c.1918

QRWS/30ad95

Private James Thomas Strudwick (1925-2007), 1st Bn, Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regiment: service papers and photographs, 1940s

QRWS/30ad96

Private J Flint, 6th Battalion, Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regiment: Clandon Park Hospital receipt for belongings, 21 Apr 1916

QRWS/30ad97

Acting Sergeant Charles Samuel Carter (1912-1944), 1st Battalion, Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regiment: photographs, 1930s-1940s

QRWS/90ad98

Private James (Jim) Henry William Forward, 1st Battalion, Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regiment: handwritten reminiscences of his army service in India, Burma, France, Palestine and Korea, 1938-1950

QRWSadd1

Captioned photograph of 'E' Company, 1st East Surrey Regiment, winners of the Inter-Company bayonet fighting competition, Feb 1911

QRWSadd12

Fully captioned photograph of members of the Sergeants' Mess, 2nd Battalion, The Queen's Royal Regiment, Allahabad. Officers and men with one civilian (Mr Bedford) are in four rows, with a selection of trophy cups and shields, 1924

Z/745

Estates of Henry Smith in Horsell, including Lane Land, otherwise Levers, Dockers and Membridge Mead: mortgage, (1687)

Centimorgans (cM)

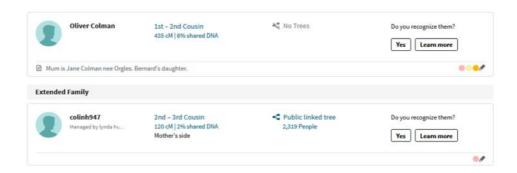
Anne Ramon [4730]

There are new terms to learn when examining your DNA matches and working out your genealogical connections. A key term is 'centimorgan' which is abbreviated to 'cM'.

I'm glad we don't need to understand the definition of the word 'centimorgan' to use it: we just need to appreciate that the number of centimorgans indicates the degree of relationship between two people or two sets of test results. 3500 cM is a big number and indicates a very close relationship like mother/child; 45 cM is a small number and indicates a much more distant cousin relationship. The test companies display those of your DNA matches

who have more than a minimum number of cM in common with you; they don't tell you about testers whose results don't meet these minima. A good idea is to start looking at the biggest cM numbers and you can leave until later, or maybe even ignore, any matches under about 20cM.

Here are two of my DNA
Match results from a test at
Ancestry. The first is for my
cousin's son (1C1R – First cousin
once removed) and he shares 435
cM with me. The second is a man
called 'Colin'. We share 120 cM
and I don't know who he is but his
Public Linked Tree with 2,319
people in it should give me some
clues.

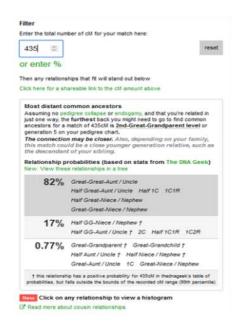


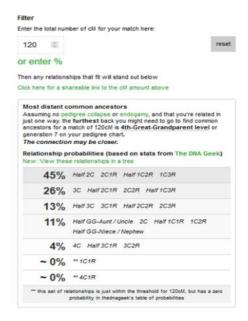
Centimorgans (cM)

How can we interpret these cM numbers? I recommend consulting the (free) tool at DNA Painter www.dnapainter.com/tools/ sharedcmv4website (Go to www.dnapainter.com, select 'Tools and WATO', then select the box headed 'Figure out how you're related to a DNA match'.)

Enter the cM numbers for each Match into the box. The tool

at DNA Painter displays the possible relationships, and the likelihood of that relationship, for each Match. In the cases I have shown the tool confirms that 1C1R is a likely relationship for my cousin's son and gives me some ideas for 'Colin' Who? All the suggestions have a 'Probability' so you may need to check fairly widely. Good luck!





Look out for further DNA articles on the East Surrey website and in future Journals.

British & Commonwealth Military Badge Forum

www.britishbadgeforum.com

This is for anyone with an interest in military badges, buttons and patches of the British Empire and Commonwealth. There are many pictures of insignia; just click each picture for more information and sometimes extra pictures. The level

of detail varies but there can be contributions from members of the forum associated with this site.

The forum is accessible from the menu at the top of the page and is still very active.

Regimental Army numbers

Continuing the military theme, www.northeastmedals.co.uk has a list of Army numbers from 1920 – 1942 at www.northeastmedals.co.uk/mm/army_service_numbers.htm

It has a brief history of Regimental and Army Numbers

followed by a list of Army Regiments and Corps, etc. It could be used to identify previous service in another unit if a medal number and regiment do not match in the list.

Dating a house

If you would like to uncover the history of a period house, particularly from 1750 to 1950, have a look at this site: http://bricksandbrass.co.uk

At the time of writing their house dating tool was not working, but there is a comprehensive guide

to dating various aspects of a house by style, era or an element such as windows and doors. Some sections appear a bit sparse at first sight but look at the sub-menus on the left-hand side, which list more topics for the section.

Website round-up

BBC "In our time"

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000wsxf

This BBC radio 4 discussion programme, hosted by Melvyn Bragg, looked at Charles Booth's 'Life and Labour Survey of the People'. The survey was published in 17 volumes between 1889 and 1903, and was a survey of every household in London in order to determine the level of poverty. The surveys gathered a great deal of information that provides modern

researchers with a rich source of material about the socio-economic conditions of the 19th century.

Remarkably, his 450 original notebooks still survive today and contain much information that was never published, more details can be found at https://booth.lse.ac.uk/learn-more/what-was-the-inquiry

Ancestry Trees

Bronwen Summers [10548] Aotearoa, New Zealand

Oh dear, those pesky trees on Ancestry. Yes, yes, I am not new to this and know that I must absolutely confirm that I have the right person by citing the registration of the person. But when you are looking at pre-1550 it is tempting, and believe it or not sometimes helpful, to try and confirm things that way. However, I have seen many mistakes in many trees and it is a shame I don't have

access to tell them "oops, this is incorrect for this and this reason."

My access to Ancestry comes from our marvellous newish library Turanga in the centre of Otautahi (Christchurch), where we have six – yes, six – dedicated computers for family research and free access to FMP, Ancestry and My Heritage. However, contacting people who have trees on-line is not available through these means.

Nga mihi.

Time to update your Members' Interests

Rita Russell (Members' Interests co-ordinator)

Looking through the data we hold, it is obvious that a lot of entries have been on our lists for some time. Are all these entries still relevant? Do some need to be removed or others added?

Now is the time to check through your entries and to make sure we have your correct contact details.

You can see the latest list of interests now on the DMI section

of our website under your membership number. If you would like to update your records, then please use the form on the next page or email me via the address inside the front cover.

I would like to be able to update the list again by the December Journal, so mid-October is the deadline.

Further changes can be made at any time.

Name

Do not include any forenames. Most name variants must be treated as separate entries, thus JEFFERY and JEFFREY are two entries; but e.g. THORP(E) is one.

County

Use the Chapman County Codes. A selection is shown on the form but a full listing can be found in many genealogical reference books or online. Please note that no attempt will be made to check that the county is correct for the parish or town shown.

Country

Use the standard 3-letter codes. The default entry is ENG (England). Do not insert ALL in this column.

Time period

Use centuries where possible, thus 18c, 18-19c, qualified if necessary by E, M or L thus E 19c = early 19th century. Specific dates may be qualified by pre, c or +; thus pre 1750, c1780, 1860+: date ranges may be used e.g. 1760-1890 but these should not be qualified.

Members' Interests form

Please use the form overleaf to register or to amend your surname interests; complete it using BLOCK CAPITALS. Ensure that your own details are entered in the boxes below.

If you wish to offer more than 15 interests then make a copy of the blank form first.

Entries should be regularly reviewed and updated, as any that are more than three years old may be deleted.

Name	Memb. No
Email	Date
Address	

By submitting this form and any subsequent entries you agree that your contact details may be passed to other members with a similar surname interest. You may withdraw consent at any time by contacting Rita (address below) and your Members' Interests will be deleted. Either detach this page and send the completed form to: Rita Russell (ESFHS), 1 Rose Cottages, Plaistow Street, Lingfield, RH7 6AU or email it as an attachment to membersinterests@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk.

NAME	PARISH or TOWN	COUNTY	COUNTRY	PERIOD

BDF	Bedfordshire	ESS	Essex	NFK	Norfolk	SSX	Sussex
BRK	Berkshire	GLS	Gloucestershire	NTH	Northamptonshire	WAR	Warwickshire
BKM	Buckinghamshire	HAM	Hampshire	NBL	Northumberland	WES	Westmoreland
CAM	Cambridgeshire	HEF	Herefordshire	NTT	Nottinghamshire	WIL	Wiltshire
CHS	Cheshire	HRT	Hertfordshire	OXF	Oxfordshire	WOR	Worcestershire
CON	Cornwall	HUN	Huntingdonshire	RUT	Rutland	YKS	Yorkshire
CUL	Cumberland	KEN	Kent	SAL	Shropshire	ERY	Yorkshire East Riding
DBY	Derbyshire	LAN	Lancashire	SOM	Somerset	NRY	Yorkshire North Riding
DEV	Devon	LEI	Leicestershire	STS	Staffordshire	WRY	Yorkshire West Riding
DOR	Dorset	LIN	Lincolnshire	SFK	Suffolk	LDN	City of London
DUR	Durham	MDX	Middlesex	SRY	Surrey	LON	London generally

AUS	Australia	ENG	England	NIR	Northern Ireland	USA	US of America
CAN	Canada	IRL	Irish Republic	SCT	Scotland	WLS	Wales

Freebord – The Deer's Leap

Max Lankester and Ron Crompton

I enjoyed this article in the recent *Friends of Richmond Park* magazine and I contacted the editors for permission to re-print it in our Journal. Your Richmond ancestor may have lived close to the Park and might have known the pathway around the enclosure, or you may have Title deeds which mention and recognise the Park's entitlement to manage the boundary line.

The royal connections to this park started with Edward (1272-1307), when the area was known as the Manor of Sheen. The name was changed to Richmond during Henry VII's reign. Charles I brought his court to Richmond Palace in 1625 to escape the plague in London, and he turned it into a park for red and fallow deer. At times our ancestors were allowed to walk through the Park and to collect firewood; at other times they were Locked Out.

Anne Ramon [4730]

Walk out of Roehampton Gate and turn immediately left down the alley towards Palewell Common, or leave Bishop's Gate and turn right along the passage. You're now on the Park's freebord.

The freebord is a legal term ('bord' being the same word as border) and is 'the right to a narrow strip of land outside the fence or wall around a park or forest', so that the owner of the park can inspect, maintain or repair it.

Richmond Park's freebord was established when it was enclosed in 1637 and is a 'rod' wide (the old medieval measurement, equal to 16 ½ feet or about 5 metres). More

romantically, it's also known as the 'deer's leap' – the story being that if an escaping deer managed to leap beyond the freebord it would no longer be on Park land and could not be recaptured.

Over the years some of the freebord has been sold off, for example most of the stretch between Petersham Gate and Ham Gate. Elsewhere it's been encroached on by developments but it is still Crown land and The Royal Parks licenses it for an annual fee to people who use it. The fee currently ranges from £10 a year for a few very old licences to £200-300 for more recent ones. The licence also has restrictions on

Freebord – The Deer's Leap

the use of the freebord, and on building and tree planting or felling on it.

There's a long list of residential properties, businesses, schools, cemeteries, public parks and gardens, allotments and public roads that have the freebord as part of the land they use. Part of the Alton Estate Junior School in Roehampton is on the freebord; the whole of the small back gardens of Florence Terrace next to Robin Hood Gate are on it and the trees on the Park side of Fife Road in Sheen are also on it.

In many areas the freebord forms an important green bridge between the Park and adjacent green spaces. There are about 1,000 trees on the freebord and The Royal Parks has the responsibility for managing them, so that they continue as valuable wildlife habitats and don't damage the wall or cause injury to local residents and the general public from falling branches.

The freebord may seem an archaic relic from 1637,

but without it the repair work that The Royal Parks plans on four stretches of the wall this year would be much more difficult.

Further details about the freebord are available in an article by Robert Wood published by the Richmond Local History Society; it is available at https://www.richmondhistory.org.uk/wordpress/history-of-richmond/the-deer-leap-of-richmond-park/



Photo: © Robert Wood. Freebord to Bishop's Gate, with Bishop's Lodge on the left and a house on Chisholm Rd on the righ

Membership information

New members

10678	Nicholas Wilkinson – nick@wilkinsonfamily.site
10679	Rosemary Jeffreys – rosemaryjeffreys@talktalk.net
10680	Marion Davies - marion.davies@btinternet.com
10681	Sarah Pettyfer - sarah@surreyancestry.co.uk
10682	Eve Cant – emcant@tiscali.co.uk

Change to email address

9042	Eileen Blair - eileen.blair@sky.com
9333	Alma Slayford - almajessie@googlemail.com
7284	Paula Burger - paulaburger@sky.com

Death of members

We are sorry to report that we have been made aware of the death of the following member. We extend our sympathies to his family.

3962	Colin Powell
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Members' interests – within Surrey

	•	1	
Badger	Shere	1520	10548
Bone	Dorking	1540	10548
Brown	Newdigate	1700	10548
Carpenter	Ashtead	1670	10548
Chennell	Shere	1490	10548
Collins	Ewhurst	1500	10548
Dale	Dorking	1480	10548
Davis	Dorking	1680	10548
de Burley	Surrey	1420	10548
Harding	Wimbledon	1600	10548
Heyveringden	ALL	ALL	10548
Knight	Burstow / Lingfield	1740 – 1780	10548
Mingham	Guildford	1600	10548
Noakes	Dorking	1410	10548
Parle	Dorking	1500	10548
Pearle	Dorking	1440	10548
Peter	Dorking	1680	10548
Phiers	Dorking	1520	10548
Plummer	Mickleham	1580	10548
Redford	Shere / Ewhurst	1525	10548
Shudd	Dorking	1490	10548
Shudd	Godalming	1490	10548
Ticknor	Shere	1550	10548
Waller	Dorking	1480	10548
Woods	Godalming	1555	10548

Members' interests - outside Surrey

Higham	SWK/LND	1660	10548
Goodall	MDX/LND	1730	10548

Please note that member number 10548 has amended her entries for Denby (as shown in our March Journal) to DENDY.

OVERSEAS REPRESENTATIVES

Australia Mrs Judy Woodlock

aumembership@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk

Canada Ms Kathy Baker

camembership@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk

New Zealand Please contact the Society Membership Secretary

membership@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk

USA Mr David Dexter

usmembership@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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The membership covers two or more related persons living at the same address, although only one copy of the Journal will be sent

All records of membership, including names, addresses, and subscription details, are held on computer.

Please inform the Membership Secretary if you do not wish your details to be held on computer and special arrangements will be made.

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