



West Surrey Family History Society

ROOT and BRANCH



Amanda Boote, Mayor of Woking, accompanied by her consort David Walsh being presented with a cyclamen by members of our West Surrey Family Executive Committee at our Stall

December 2025

Vol 52 No 3

WEST SURREY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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THE OBJECTIVES OF WEST SURREY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

As a registered charity the Society's formal objectives are: "To collect, index, co-ordinate, publish and make accessible in the interests of genealogy any documents or records, with particular reference to documents or records relating to the ancient County of Surrey; to promote the preservation of such documents and records; to encourage the study of genealogy; to assist educationally by lectures or otherwise in record research."



"Taking the Past into the Future"

ROOT and BRANCH is the quarterly journal of the **WEST SURREY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY [WSFHS]** which is a member of the Family History Federation and a Registered Charity [Number 278091]

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Front Cover - Mayor Amanda Boote at the WSFHS stall

Rear Cover - Views of the Surrey Family History Fair

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WSFHS Information

Website: www.wsfhs.co.uk

Find us on  <https://www.facebook.com/groups/WestSurreyFHS>
 <https://twitter.com/WestSurreyFHS>

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY - Annual Subscriptions until 31st March 2026: £13 Ordinary Membership (or £12 for Senior Citizen); £13 Joint Membership (two members living at the same address); and £16 Overseas Membership. The Subscription year commences 1st April 2026 and the new rates approved at the AGM will apply from then.

Annual subscriptions can either be paid direct to the Membership Secretary by sterling cheque payable to West Surrey FHS, or through GenFair, the internet-based online family history fair, using the secure Credit/Debit Card payment facility; a 50p administration fee is added for UK Members. GenFair can be accessed either through its own website <https://genfair.co.uk> or through the Society's website, www.wsfhs.co.uk where there is a link on our publications page. Those with a UK bank account can alternatively arrange an annual Banker's Order if desired.

OVERSEAS MEMBERS - Annual subscriptions can either be paid direct to the Membership Secretary by sterling cheque, or through GenFair, both as described above.

GENFAIR - As well as providing a means to pay subscriptions, this facility can also be used to purchase West Surrey FHS publications. Purchases via GenFair are VAT free for all purchasers.

SOCIETY CORRESPONDENCE - General correspondence should be sent to: Secretary@wsfhs.org. Membership enquiries should be sent to the Membership Secretary. An SAE or three IRCs, or equivalent, should be enclosed for postal reply. All genealogical enquiries should be sent to the Editor. Please state if you are agreeable to your enquiry appearing in Root and Branch.

Root and Branch

Contact with Authors - Readers wishing to contact the author of an article published in Root and Branch are invited to send their communication with a covering letter and a SAE to the Editor for forwarding to the author. Alternatively, if an email address has been published then please mention Root and Branch in the subject line if using email to make contact.

All material submitted for publication must be the original work of the person submitting it. Articles should not have been published elsewhere, and where necessary, copyright clearance should have been obtained e.g. for pictures and photographs. The opinions expressed in the articles and notices are those of their authors and not necessarily those of the society.

NEXT ISSUE - The next issue of *Root and Branch* is planned for the beginning of March 2025. Deadline for receipt of material for that issue is 31st December 2025. Articles for *Root and Branch* should be sent to editorial@wsfhs.org ■

WSFHS PUBLICATIONS

by Alison Durkin

Featured Publication:

CD22 – The London Telephone Directory 1911

This CD is now also available as a **download from Genfair** and contains a scan of the 753 page London Telephone Directory from January 1911.

The introduction to this CD gives some interesting facts about the complex cost of making a phone call in this early period. Costs varied according to distance; 1d for anywhere in the London Exchange Area up to 3s 6d for a distance of 300 miles.

Using your ancestor's occupations from both the 1911 and 1921 censuses this directory can be very useful in pinpointing their place of work. For example, my paternal grandfather was employed as a porter for a pianoforte makers in 1911 and although he was out of work ten years later he stated that his previous employer had been John Broadwood & Sons, Pianoforte Manufacturers in Stour Road. The entry in this directory confirms that the factory was in Stour Road and that the company offices were in Great Conduit Street.

Another branch of the family conveniently noted on the 1911 census that they were blouse and shirt machinists employed by Debenham & Freebody. The entry for this company states that their shop was at Nos 17-37 Wigmore Street and the manufacturing department was at No 91 Wimpole Street. Their telephone number was Mayfair 1.

Some professionals had an entry for both their home and business addresses.

The directory is searchable so you can look for other businesses in the same street or search for a particular type of business to see how local they were to where your ancestors lived.

CDs can be purchased via the WSFHS website or GenFair - £6.00 (plus P&P)

Also available as a download from GenFair

Full details and prices can be found on the WSFHS website. Please make cheques payable to WSFHS and send to WSFHS Bookstall, c/o 42 Selwood Road, Old Woking, Surrey GU22 9HT. WSFHS publications may also be purchased through GENfair, <<https://genfair.co.uk>>, using a secure Credit or Debit Card transaction facility.

Overseas customers are advised to order from <<https://genfair.co.uk>>

Editorial

by Richard Weatherhead



The Executive Committee and the Fair Committee have just completed their busiest quarter of the year, having organised the AGM in September and the Surrey History Fair in November. On behalf of all members of the Society, I should like to thank them for organising these events and also for arranging the variety of talks and meetings throughout the year. There are vacancies on both of these Committees so if any of you would like your Society to flourish in 2026 please consider how you can help! Reports of the Fair, the AGM and the Trustees' Annual report are included in this edition. The Treasurer's Report will appear in the March magazine.

As was reported in the last issue, the existing Members' Interests' list has become out of date and hence unfit for the purpose of putting members in touch with each other. The Committee therefore proposed to refresh the list and requested all members to submit new lists. Thirteen members have so far taken up the challenge and two hundred names have been submitted so far to start the new list. These new names and the contact details of their submitters are published in this issue of Root and Branch [p.120 - 126] **Please would the other four hundred and fifty members of the Society submit their Members' Interests as well!!!**

As this issue covers the Remembrance period, I had asked members to submit articles concerning their family recollections of VE or VJ day and I would like to thank Robin Brand for his contribution on p127. I look forward to receiving more members' responses in the New Year.

Elsewhere in this magazine, Tony Kelly questions your knowledge of Surrey, we continue Cliff Webb's abstracts of Dorking PCC wills and Jenny Mukerji extends her series of Tales from Green Lane Cemetery

The AGM also marked the end of Ann Sargeant's presidency of the West Surrey Family History Society. I am sure all members would like to thank her for her stewardship of the Society from December 2004 when she became Secretary and wish her well for the future.

As we head to the turn of the year, I hope all readers will set themselves a New Years' resolution of writing something for Root and Branch. One of mine will be to find a new desktop publishing program to replace Publisher which Microsoft are retiring later in 2026. So if anyone out there has knowledge of alternatives please share it with me! Finally may I take the opportunity as editor to wish all my readers **a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**



Letter from the Trustees

We hope many of you will have enjoyed the AGM and our annual Fair this autumn and that people have already come forward with offers of help. There is scope for involvement at many levels of help needed. Can you spare an hour or two a month? Examples of where you might be able to assist us are shown separately in this issue.

At the AGM it was confirmed that the new rates of membership subscriptions from April 2026 will be as follows:

Electronic copies of Root and Branch.

Ordinary, Family and Overseas membership £13 per annum.

Senior membership £12 per annum.

Paper copies of Root and Branch.

Ordinary and Family membership £18 per annum.

UK Senior membership £17 per annum.

Overseas membership £21 per annum.

Please look out for the annual subscription renewal form in the March Root and Branch and ensure that if you pay by Standing Order these are updated from April 2026 as otherwise you will receive an electronic copy of Root and Branch.

The current Trustees were re-elected at the AGM. Our Treasurer, Jean Follett, gave an impassioned plea for more members to come forward and help to run the Society and perhaps stand as Trustees themselves.

A lot of work went into the Fair in November and we would like to thank all of you who helped with this both beforehand and on the day. A report of the Fair can be found on p131 of this issue.

We put a form in the September issue of the journal about Members' Interests. Please take a few minutes to complete the form and update yours and send in to Sue Warner whose address appears on the inside back page of the journal.

The Centre Co-ordinators are currently planning talks for 2026 meetings. Do come along and support these Centre meetings if you can. Plan ahead and make a note in your diary of the meeting dates and times for virtual and physical meetings.

We wish you a happy Christmas and hope you have the opportunity to meet up with family and friends either in person or virtually over the festive period. Our very best wishes to you all for 2026.



Can you spare an hour or so a month?

Examples of where we need help include the following:

Worldwide opportunity! Help needed to maintain links to electronic Exchange Journals.

Opening a hall for a monthly Centre meeting.

Writing a short article for Root and Branch.

The Trustees

Diary of Events around the UK

by Jane Thomas

There are very few activities this winter. Most are online but there are a few Face to Face. I have included later events if they have an early bird offer or booking closes near to early March 2025.



3 Dec: GOONS The Helpful Pub (every early Thursday morning 00.01 UK time.) Free to all a wide-ranging chat and occasionally a talk. This is a weekly occurrence but is only listed here once.

5 Dec: GOONS Friday Virtual Pub Crawl – Now Every Friday at 2 P.M. Eastern US Time. That is usually 8p.m. UK.

NB US moves its clocks forward on March 8th. UK moves on Sunday, March 29, 2026 so a difference of 4 hours for 3 weeks.

6 Dec: GOONS (virtual) **8:00 pm UK** Guild TNG (The Next Generation Website). Learn more about your TNG Website creation - Get Tips and Tricks for preserving your One-Name Study. These are monthly meetings

All the above have the same link. <https://one-name.org/events>

24 January 2026: East Surrey FHS Virtual Family History Fair. 2 sessions 10.00 and 14.00. Different family history societies, will each have their own breakout room for you to visit, plus a DNA Discussion Group and a Map Help Room

For details: <https://www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk/index.php/event>

To register and list of attending societies <https://www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk/index.php/fair>

WSFHS will be there

7 February: The Family History Show, Online 2026 Event 10:00 -16:00

<https://thefamilyhistoryshow.com/online/> Early bird tickets £7

WSFHS will be there

21 February: GOONS Seminar “From Waterways to Railways 2026” 10:00 am - 4:45 pm

at Colonel Dane Memorial Hall, Church St, Alwalton, Peterborough PE7 3UU

<https://one-name.org/events/?cid=mc-3579a3365862c7d16daf0346c6726875&month=2&yr=2026>

6-8 March: ROOTSTECH 2026, in person in Salt Lake City or Online Worldwide: 200+ new online sessions in over 26 languages. Free Registration

Simple details <https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/registration/>

24 – 26 April: GOONS “Navigating the Future” conference at Marriott Hotel, Portsmouth. The latest developments of tools and techniques for use in One Name Studies, how they are likely to develop and how members could change their approach to reflect these.

Early Bird closes Dec 1st <https://one-name.org/guild-conference/>

Other FHS might have some virtual talks that non-members can attend, so look at any areas, you are interested in.

Society of Genealogists have many events including walks and visits. There are some virtual events. https://portal.sog.org.uk/event/list_

The National Archives: Talks and Webinar. <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/visit-us/whats-on/events/>

There may be more details of other Open Days and special subject meetings:

<http://geneva.weald.org.uk/> and www.familyhistoryfederation.com (scroll down to view)



51st Annual General Meeting

by Richard Weatherhead

The 51st Annual General Meeting of the West Surrey Family History Society took place at the Trinity Methodist Church in Brewery Road Woking on the afternoon of Saturday 27th October at 3.30 pm. Prior to this, a talk was given by Dr Nick Barratt entitled 'The Forgotten Spy: The secret life of Ernest Oldham' who, as it became evident, was the great uncle of the speaker.

Ernest Holloway Oldham was a British figure whose life intertwined with espionage and treachery during the early 20th century. Born in Edmonton, he served in the First World War and later became involved in the Paris peace conference that led to the Treaty of Versailles. His career in the Foreign Office saw him working in the Communications Department, ensuring the secure coding of top-secret material amidst the rising ideological threat of the Soviet Union.



Dr Nick Barratt

Ernest married Lucy Wellsted in 1927 and both developed a taste for the highlife which caused them to live well beyond their means. In 1929, Oldham was implicated in espionage when it was revealed that he had been selling cipher codes to the Soviets under the alias "Charlie". This betrayal led to a dramatic chase across Europe as Soviet agents sought to uncover his identity. Once unmasked, Oldham's life spiralled into decline. By 1933, under Soviet pressure, he attempted to steal cipher codes from the Foreign Office, leading to his ultimate downfall. His treachery had lasting repercussions for his family and country.

Oldham's story is documented in MI5 surveillance files, including KV 2/808, and is explored in greater detail in Nick Barratt's book, *The Forgotten Spy*.

The AGM itself commenced with apologies for absence followed by the approval and signing of the minutes of the previous AGM. Sue Turner then read the Trustees Annual Report for the year ending 31st March 2025. A copy of the report can be found on p.108 of this issue of Root and Branch. It was then intended to proceed to the presentation of the Accounts for the year 2024-2025, but as these were not yet ready, it was agreed that they would be published in the next edition of Root and Branch.

The business then moved on to discuss a proposal to increase the Society's membership fee. It was acknowledged that these rates had not been increased for ten years but that most of the Society's costs had increased with inflation over this period. ►

The following membership rates, to commence from April 2026 were agreed unanimously:

Electronic copies of Root and Branch.

Ordinary, Family and Overseas membership £13 per annum.

Senior membership £12.

Paper copies of Root and Branch.

Ordinary and Family membership £18 per annum.

UK Senior membership £17 per annum.

Overseas membership £21 per annum



The members' discussion this year focussed on the subject of 'How can members' ensure that the Society fulfils its Charitable Objectives as set out at the beginning of the Trustees' Report. This sparked an interesting discussion of what members did do and what they as individuals had achieved particularly in supporting Surrey History Centre projects. A suggestion was made for members to help index Root and Branch and a meeting will be held in February at Woking to consider this. The meeting then proceeded to the election of the Trustees. As only eight candidates had stood for the twelve possible positions, they were all automatically re-elected, with Sue Turner, Jean Follett and Jane Thomas agreeing to stand as Officers of the Society in the roles of Chair, Treasurer and Secretary respectively. A plea was made for any members present to consider standing for the four vacant positions but nobody volunteered themselves. The next item, the re-appointment of Dr David Lewis as Independent Examiner was passed unanimously. There being no further business, the meeting was closed. A full copy of the AGM minutes will be available shortly.

How well do you know Surrey?

by Tony Kelly



Questions for December

- 1) Which Cantuar came from Woking?
Hint Guildford had one in 1611.
- 2) In 1928 who or what was Eric? It came from Shere by the way

Answers to the September questions

Q) When did oil come to Sutton Place ?

A) J. Paul Getty, purchased the estate in 1959 for around \$840,000 (equivalent to around £8,550,000 today according to ChatGPT.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sutton_Place%2C_Surrey

consulted 23 June 2025

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/1999/07/01/sutton-place-the-surrey-estate-owned-by-a-succession-of-america-art-collectors-has-appeared-on-the-market>

consulted 23 June 2026

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._Paul_Getty

consulted 21 September 2025

Q) Who was bricked up in Shere in 1329

A) Christina Carpenter, The Anchoress of Shere

[https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ckgyyzz9j0jo?](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ckgyyzz9j0jo?at_format=link&at_link_type=web_link&at_link_id=B7B4E742-D5C0-11EF-BA4A-DCA7241862E3&at_bbc_team=editorial&at_medium=social&at_campaign_type=owned&at_campaign=Social_Flow&at_ptr_name=facebook_page&at_link_origin=BC_Radio_Surrey)

[at_format=link&at_link_type=web_link&at_link_id=B7B4E742-D5C0-11EF-BA4A-DCA7241862E3&at_bbc_team=editorial&at_medium=social&at_campaign_type=owned&at_campaign=Social_Flow&at_ptr_name=facebook_page&at_link_origin=BC_Radio_Surrey](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ckgyyzz9j0jo?at_format=link&at_link_type=web_link&at_link_id=B7B4E742-D5C0-11EF-BA4A-DCA7241862E3&at_bbc_team=editorial&at_medium=social&at_campaign_type=owned&at_campaign=Social_Flow&at_ptr_name=facebook_page&at_link_origin=BC_Radio_Surrey)

consulted 23 June 2025

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christina_Carpenter

consulted 23 June 2026



News from Surrey Heritage

By Julian Pooley, Surrey History Centre



Working with archives is hugely rewarding. Alongside the thrill of handling historic materials every day, helping family and local historians to discover the lives of their ancestors and explore the layers of the history in their neighbourhood through a range of documents, maps, illustrations and rare printed books, there is the added value of using these precious materials to inspire creative responses and contribute to people's wellbeing. We are currently working with a Surrey charity called 'It's Not Your Birthday, But...' who have received Lottery funding for a project called 'What Keeps Us Well'. Working with three groups across the county: Halow, a charity supporting young adults with learning disabilities to lead independent lives, Woking Youth Clubs and the Surrey Gypsy Traveller Communities Forum, we are exploring collections in the archive that demonstrate how people have kept themselves well and the means and ways they have used to maximise their wellbeing through history.

The archives we hold show how ordinary people across the centuries have improved their wellbeing through food, exercise, belonging, hobbies, coming together and recreation. These unique documents are an untapped resource of personal experience that resonate with us today. Early food and medicinal recipes, records of walking clubs, early photographic societies and the meticulous accounts of Surrey's wildlife kept by amateur birdwatchers and environmentalists show that there is a long and rich tradition of being active and curious, of observing and discovering the world around us that resonates with modern concerns about climate change and the environment. The project will raise awareness of Surrey's heritage by actively engaging people who might not otherwise encounter archives in discovering the deep relevance of historical documents for our own lived experience today.

Our role at the History Centre is to draw on our knowledge of our collections to find items in the archive that we can use with each of these groups in specially curated workshops. By using these archives, participants will gain skills on how to handle, read, research, and use historic materials that, however ancient, fragile and ephemeral, can connect with their own personal experiences. The creativity and ideas inspired by their encounters with these documents will enhance the visibility of our collections and their relevance to a modern audience. The results will be showcased in an exhibition at the History Centre and other venues across the county, a digital wellness guide which can be shared freely online and, for me, a greater understanding of the huge potential of the materials in our care for exciting projects like this which can really inspire those taking part.

I've just run the first couple of workshops, with Halow and the Woking Youth Clubs, and it was fascinating to see how both groups took a particular interest in the simplest of things: a collection of pressed flowers meticulously mounted on lavishly headed paper from Claremont Park in Esher by members of the Royal family in the 1890s; scrapbooks recording everyday ►

life in 1965 compiled by members of the Women's Institute in villages across Surrey; a letter written by a young girl in Morden during an air raid in World War Two in which she describes the family's shelter and draws what she sees around her to take her mind off the fear caused by bombs dropping nearby, and an album of beautifully coloured Victorian and Edwardian seed packets, compiled by the Head Gardener at Brookwood Hospital when planting the flower beds in the grounds for the patients to enjoy.

We may only be open to the public three days a week and one Saturday a month, but project work like this is planned and delivered throughout the week with a range of community and university groups throughout the year, ensuring that our amazing collections are accessible and relevant to people across the county.

Stock Check and Christmas Opening Times

Surrey History Centre will be closed for our annual stock taking between Monday 1 and Friday 12 December.

We will be open on Saturday 13 December and on 16 to 18 December as normal.

Tuesday 23 December 9.30-12.45 and 1.45-5.00

Wednesday 24 December: 9.30-12.45 only

Thursday 25 December: Closed

Tuesday 30 December: 9.30-12.45 and 1.45-5.00

Wednesday 31 December: 9.30-12.45 and 1.45-5.00

Thursday 1 January: Closed

Recent Accessions

Highlights of our recent new accessions include the following:

1289

Major PC Fletcher, sub-controller, civil defence, Borough of Godalming: notebook, 1936-1945

10469add3

St John the Baptist, Loxwood: graves register, compiled by the Rev Roland Braley, 1940

10639add

Major Guy Olliver (1892-1936), MC, 2nd Battalion, Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment: additional correspondence, 1903-1936



10769

Cotterell's Farm, Shere, and Brook Farm, Albury: accounts ledger, wages books and photographs, 1905-1931; Proctor family and other photographs, c.1907-1949; title deeds and papers relating to Fairlee and Merrylands, Farley Green, 1926-2006; Smithfield Cattle Show catalogue, 1915

10772

St Mary's Send: churchyard index and related papers, 1940s

10773

Elmwood and Hollies, Woldingham: sale particulars, plans and photographs, 1965-1995

10774

ORQMS Arthur R Scriven, MBE, East Surrey Regiment: papers and photographs, c.1930-c.1975

10775

Dorking Lamp Committee: small bound note book containing minutes and accounts, 1828-1831; 8 Norfolk Road, Dorking: title deed, 1913 and abstract of title and 4 plans, 1913-1932; Dorking Villa Building Company: reports of the Directors and Statement of Accounts for 1880, 1882, 1891 and 1892

10776

Papers of the Wyatt and Chitty families of Ashted, including the wills of Edward and James Chitty, and records of ownership of properties in Rectory Lane and The Street, Ashted, 1860-1960

10777

All Saints, Weston Green: additional parish records, 1900-2015

10780

St John's, Wonersh, with St Martin's, Blackheath: additional parish records, including Parochial Church Council minutes, 1967-1978, parish magazines, 1933-1946, 1960-1961, 1981-2024; and files relating to church fabric and property, including log book, 1954, quinquennial inspection reports, 1958, 1963, Rural Dean's visitation, 1972, and boundaries, 1987-1992

10783

Photograph album of Stroatley Rough School reunion, 17 May 1992, compiled by host and former pupil, Franceska Rapkin, née Amerikaner (1936- 2001); ¶Scrapbook of illustrations, letters and reunion photographs, 1939-1991, compiled by former Stroatley Rough pupil, Lili (Putti) Wronker, née Cassel (1924-2019)



10784

Southey Hall School, Great Bookham: photographs, postcards and reminiscences, 1941-1954

10785

The Pioneer Players (Women's Suffrage propaganda theatre group): subscription card listing the names of the President (Miss Ellen Terry) and the Advisory Committee members, including Mrs Auerbach (Helena Auerbach of the Reigate and District NUWSS), along with names of some of the members and dramatists who have promised support, c.1911

BYadd

St Mary's Church, Byfleet: burial register, 30 Nov 1961-12 Aug 1987

CC98ret

Constable's Order Book (CC98/14/23) and presentation book for Capt. Sant (CC98/14/34), 1888-1930

ZA7

Letter from Corporal John R Wendt, 351st Infantry Regiment, American Expeditionary Force, with envelope postmarked at Bullswater Camp, Woking, 30 August 1918, and envelope of Benjamin Everitt at same camp, 3 Sep 1918

Forthcoming Events

At Home in History – reflections on writing the history of domestic life.

A talk by Jane Hamlett, Professor of Modern British History at Royal Holloway College, University of London

Wednesday 10 December 5.30-6.45 on Zoom

The homes we live in have a powerful influence – shaping our behaviour, relationships and values. In this talk Professor Jane Hamlett will explore how the home has become an important category for understanding the past, drawing on her own research on the domestic lives of women, men, children and animals in 19th-century Britain. House history is now increasingly popular with our customers at Surrey History Centre and reflecting on this growing interest, Jane will ask 'What can histories of home tell us, and why are they important today'?

Tickets: £6.

Please book a place at www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents

Netherne, c.1959 – A Surrey Psychiatric Hospital in Focus

A talk by Julian Pooley for the RH7 History Group at the Jennings Hall, Lingfield and Dormansland Community Centre, High Street, Lingfield, Surrey RH7 6AB ►

Monday 12th January 2026

8.00 p.m. (doors open 7.30 p.m.) -there is a charge of £2.50 for non-members

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 several thousand photographs taken c.1959, 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 typical day at what was a turning point in its history.

The Swing Riots in Hampshire

A talk by Jane Harris, Archivist at Hampshire Record Office

Wednesday 21 January 5.30-6.45 on Zoom

Tickets: £6.

Please book a place at www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents



Recent Additions to the Reference Library

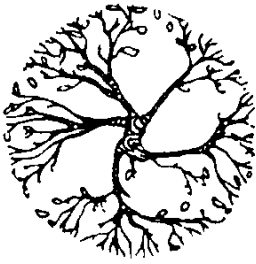
A History of the Early English Text Society - Volume 1 - Frederick James Furnell : Early Life and Career (1825-c1864) - donated by Dr Helen Leith Spencer (author)

We Cannot Park on Both Sides - Reading Volunteers in the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) Reading's International Brigades Memorial by Mike Cooper and Ray Parkes

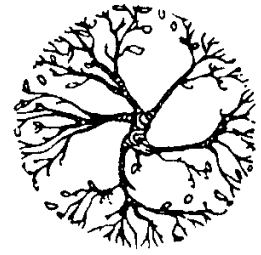
Pigot & Co 1839 Royal National and Commercial Directory and Topography of Kent, Surrey and Sussex (donated by a WSFHS member)

Alan Turing - Guildford's Best Kept Secret (donated by a WSFHS member)





WEST SURREY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



Registered Charity No. 278091

Trustees Annual Report

for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

taking the past ...

...into the future

Administrative Details

Principal Address:

42 Selwood Road, Old Woking, Surrey GU22 9HT

Trustees:

Trustees during the year were:

Ms S Turner (Chair)

Miss J Follett (Treasurer)

Mrs J Thomas (Secretary)

Dr L Hall (from 1.4.2024 to 19.10.24)

Mrs C Leech

Miss A Ross

Mrs M Sellars

Dr R Weatherhead

Mrs A Welch

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity is constituted as a Trust and is governed by its constitution adopted on 20 June 1979 and amended on 2 November 1990, 27 June 1997, 25 July 2003, 6 July 2005 and 6 July 2006.

Trustees are elected by the members at the Trust's Annual General Meeting.

Objectives and Activities

Objects of the Trust are:

- a) To collect, index, co-ordinate, publish and make accessible in the interests of genealogy any documents or records, with particular reference to documents or records relating to the ancient county of Surrey;
- b) To promote the preservation of such documents and records;
- c) To encourage the study of genealogy; and
- d) To assist educationally by lectures or otherwise in record research.



Activities during the year

During the past 12 months the Trustees have overseen the activities of the Society:

1. The Society bookstall has provided a valuable outlet for the sale of books and publications and for promoting the profile of the Society under its manager, Jean Follett, aided by Joyce Sampson who also managed the internet sales on Genfair. The Bookstall has been present at a number of Family History Fairs and Open Days during the year under review, including the Hampshire GS 50th anniversary event, The Family History Show run by The Genealogist at Kempton Park and the Society represented at a number of online events.
2. The Society was started on 27th April 1974 and we marked the milestone by a 'Tea and Talk' event at Surrey History Centre in May 2024 which was attended by over 40 members.
3. The WSFHS Monumental Inscriptions Online Index produced by Tony Kelly and a group of volunteers contains over 157,000 names from 296 churches and graveyards across the Historic County of Surrey and makes our research material available to members across the world.
4. During the year the Society's main Facebook Page has been managed on our behalf by Sue Warner and brings our work to the attention of members and non-members who use social media.
5. In person talks have taken place at our three Centres in Camberley, Walton on Thames and Woking. In addition, talks on Zoom have been given monthly for members.
6. The Society was pleased to again hold the in person Surrey Family History Fair at Woking Leisure Centre in November 2024. This was well received and is an important occasion which gave us the opportunity for members and the general public to use the Society's research material and aids to investigate their family trees and to view the research material available from other family history societies with stalls at our Fair. Our Bookstall was also present as well as other commercial organisations with family history related wares. The date had to be changed at short notice and we would like to express thanks to all those who helped to rearrange the Fair and all the stall holders who attended.
7. Our journal, Root and Branch, continues to be distributed to members on a quarterly basis keeping them informed of the Society's activities. Richard Weatherhead, our editor, had another successful year. However, he is particularly keen to encourage all members to contribute articles about Surrey people and places, and also welcomes articles on topics of genealogical interest and the use of unusual resources. A publication like Root and Branch is the product of the work of a small team of dedicated volunteers and we are indebted to past and current contributors of articles, to the writers of regular features and to our proof readers for all their valuable efforts.
8. The Society website (www.wsfhs.co.uk) provides information on Surrey and on the Society's publications for the general public to view. The website includes an extensive area containing information for members only including over 40 electronic Exchange Journals from other family history societies worldwide. ►

9. The Society has participated in the activities of the Family History Federation with online attendance at meetings and seminars whenever possible.

10. Research efforts of the Society have continued under the leadership of Cliff Webb, who has co-ordinated a keen group of volunteers. We are currently extracting all names in the PCC Wills transcribed by Cliff Webb.

11. The Society has fostered relationships with numerous local studies libraries and museums in Surrey, including the Farnham Museum and the Heritage Gallery in Camberley where we have a display. The Society enjoys an excellent relationship with Surrey History Centre – the Surrey county archive.

12. The Society is continuing to provide research data through Findmypast.

13. Joyce Sampson has continued to manage the sales of our publications online through Genfair. During the year we have continued to make more of our Parish Register transcriptions and indexes available as downloads.

This is what we have done and what we have achieved during the past 12 months.

Our Thanks

The Trustees must emphasise that the Society does not have any paid employees and the work of the Society is carried out entirely by volunteers without whom its objectives could not be achieved. We always welcome more volunteers to help continue our work and to bring in new ideas and expertise.

We would like to thank all those who have given their time to the Society, including:

- Publications sub-committee – Cliff Webb, Chris Willis, Tony Kelly, Joyce Sampson, Jean Follett, Anne Welch and Alison Durkin.
- Co-ordinators of all our various Centres – Lesley Hall (Camberley to December 2024), Sue Turner (Camberley from January 2025), Lesley Cowing (Walton on Thames), Chris Leech (Woking) and Jane Thomas (Zoom).
- Steve Welch for the production of our CDs.
- Sue Turner for managing and improving the Society's website and Membership system and also acting as digital data archivist.
- Richard Weatherhead, the editor of Root and Branch, and the team of regular helpers and all contributors.
- Jane Thomas for co-ordinating the speakers at Centre meetings and Zoom events and looking after the Society's Help Register.
- Anne Ross for maintaining the membership records.
- Sue Warner for maintaining the Total Descent Charts. ►

- Sue Warner for maintaining the Members' Interests.
- Tony Kelly for looking after the Monumental Inscriptions Library.
- Alison Durkin for looking after the Reference Library and providing information to members.
- Joyce Sampson for managing sales on Genfair.
- Alison Durkin for continuing to add downloads of our publications onto Genfair.
- Sue Warner for managing the Society's Facebook Page.
- All those responsible for the extraction and compilation of data for publication, including the checkers, editors and proof readers.
- Chris Leech for being the Trustees' Minutes Secretary.
- All who have helped the Society, particularly those who helped at the annual Surrey Family History Fair, the AGM and with Centre meetings.
- Those who have represented the Society at online Family History meetings during the year.

Finance

Membership of the Society stands at 513 members.

The Trustees are continuing to monitor the financial position. Thanks go to Jean Follett for managing the accounts in her role as Treasurer.

At the last AGM Dr David Lewis was appointed Independent Examiner for the year to March 2025.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees recognise that there could arise the need for substantial funds at relatively short notice if an urgent need arose, for example to have the publications produced commercially. They are therefore deliberately retaining a contingency for such an eventuality and in addition aim to have sufficient funds available as they believe would defray one year's routine expenditure on the Trust's day to day activities in the event that there would be insufficient income from subscriptions and publications.

Safeguarding Policy

The Trustees reviewed and agreed the formal Safeguarding Policy in September 2024 and this is attached in the Appendix.

Chair

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees

Appendix
WEST SURREY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
Registered Charity No. 278091
SAFEGUARDING POLICY

All members of West Surrey Family History Society have a responsibility to provide a safe and secure environment for everyone and that everyone will work within the WSFHS safeguarding policy.

We recognise that:

- The welfare of all people is paramount, regardless of age, disability, gender, race, marital status, religion or belief, or sexual orientation.
- All people have the right to equal protection from harm or abuse no matter where it occurs.
- All people have different levels of vulnerability and each and every one of us can be deemed to be vulnerable at some time in our lives.

We will foster a culture in the Society that:

- Allows everyone to feel welcome, safe and respected.
- Respects and encourages everyone to participate and contribute to the functioning of the Society.
- Enables all people to be alert to the dangers of abuse or harm.
- Enables concerns to be raised and encourages an open and consistent response to actively protect any person who may be at risk of actual or potential harm.
- Does not keep allegations of suspected abuse or potential harm secret.
- Entrusts that the Society's Safeguarding Policy is reviewed by the Executive Committee at least yearly and is documented in the Trustees' Annual Report.

When concerns are raised we will:

- Respond without delay to each and every concern that any person may have been harmed or may be at risk of harm. If there is an immediate risk to life the police will be notified. Other concerns will be referred to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), telephone no. 0300 470 9100 (available 09.00 – 17.00 Monday to Friday)
- Co-operate with the local authority, police or other official bodies in any ensuing investigation.
- Challenge any abuse of power, particularly by anyone in a position of trust.
- Inform members of the Executive Committee if any safeguarding issue has come to light within the Society without compromising matters of confidentiality.

Formally agreed by the West Surrey Family History Society Executive Committee in September 2024.



Dorking PCC Wills to 1700 [Part 4]

By Cliff Webb



Sarah Bothell 9 Jul 1650 to my brother William B. my house etc. paying the 5 children of my brother John: Jane, Susan, Elizabeth, John and Ephraim £20 each per my father's will and paying to my brother Samuel £100 at 24, paying to my uncle John Hamon £4 p.a. for life given him by his mother; residue to my brothers and sisters Ephraim B., William B., Thomas B., Samuel B., Susan Bignall, Jane Hallowaie, execs.; friends Henry Payne, John Heather and Henry Gosden, overseers (3s 4d each)

Witnesses: Henry Gosden; Henry Payne

Proved: 9 March 1654/5 to execs. William and Samuel, power reserved to other execs. PROB 11/249/135

John Stillwell, yeoman 4 Apr 1655 (to be buried in the churchyard; to poor of this parish £1) to my daughter Joan wife of Edward Rownd £5 and to her 4 children Edward, John, Mary and James R. £10 each at 21 or marriage; to my daughter Mary Hoton £5 and to her child £5 at 21 or marriage; to my servant John Nettlefold £4; to my servant Abraham Nettlefold £3; to my servant William Dudley £2; residue to my wife Joan, exec.; son in law Edward R. and Thomas Bowcombe, overseers

Witnesses: Richard Constable; William Margesson

Proved: 19 June 1655 to exec. PROB 11/248/201

Henry Payne, citizen and skinner 17 Apr 1654 to the eldest son of my brothers and my sister Hardy 1s each; residue to my wife Jane, exec.; brother in law John Skeete of Effingham; cousin Henry Lucas of Mickleham, overseers (5s each)

Witnesses: William Rose; George Rose (X)

Proved: 31 August 1657 to exec. PROB 11/267/205

John Mersh (X), husbandman 1 Jun 1657 to my daughter Eunice wife of James Briggs 5s; to my daughter Agnes wife of Thomas Filewood furniture; debt owed to me by William Rowley of Leigh £10 by obligation of 28 Dec 1637 which to the children of Thomas F.; to my daughter Ellen wife of Thomas Chasemore 2s; to my grandson Timothy son of Timothy Dible and my daughter Joan his wife livestock, execs. and to them residue

Witnesses: Thomas Hyll (X); Robert Younge

Proved: 10 December 1658 to exec. Timothy, power reserved to other exec. PROB 11/285/252



Eleanor Lee (X), widow 25 Oct 1658 to my son William Warner £5 if he receives it peacefully, if not just 5s; to my daughter Ann Michell £5; to my grandson William Warner 5s; to my granddaughter Eleanor W. £1; to my other grandchildren Thomas, Elizabeth, Jane and Mary W. and Ann and Henry M. 1s each; residue to my grandson John M.; daughter Ann M., exec.; friends Frances Buttricke and Anthony Over of this parish, overseers (10s each)

Witnesses: Samuel Freeman; William Bayly (X)

Proved: 19 January 1658/9 to exec. PROB 11/286/259

William Lancaster, yeoman 9 Oct 1658 to Vince wife of Robert Jarvis of Dorking £5; to Samuel son of Robert J. £5 at end of his apprenticeship and to Robert's other children £1 each; to my son Samuel Lancaster all my messuage late in occupation of Thomas East, deceased in Dorking which I live in and all my copyhold messuage and 6 acres in Mickleham now in occupation of Emery Gyles and my 2 acres of copyhold land Cocklers Green, Dorking; to my son William L. all my messuage and 16 acres in Milton now or late in occupation of John Foster, deceased and all my messuage in East Street, Dorking now in occupation of Richard Dikes and widow Hall and the two messuages Butterhill, South Street, Dorking; to my granddaughter Jane daughter of Abdiah Martin £20 at 14; to my son Samuel and my daughter Mary wife of Abdiah Martin £1 each for a ring; residue to my wife Ellen, exec.; friends Lawrence Marsh of Dorking, esquire and John Spencer of D., gentleman, overseers (£1 each)

Witnesses: ... Thorp (X); William Edwards; Edward Sheffield

Proved: 4 February 1658/9 to exec. PROB 11/286/494

John Watts, collarmaker 16 Feb 1658/9 to my son John all my messuage and land Squires, Dorking now in occupation of Thomas Bawcombe at 21 and all my messuages on the north side of West Street, Dorking now in occupation of William Hill, John Mathew, Edward Eede, widow Bynt and others after the death of my wife Catherine; to my daughter Catherine W. all my freehold land Shotter Hills which I late bought from John Nettlefold in Logmore, Dorking and all the parcel of land Upper Shotter Hills, Logmore and now in occupation of John Mills and my 3 messuages in Dorking in occupation of me, Ann Bushell, widow and Tobias Hatton, butcher all after the death of my wife; to my wife all my timber on my farm in occupation of Thomas Bawcombe; to my wife Squires until John is 21; to my cousin William Warner, snr. 1s and to his son William 1s at 21; to my kinsman Thomas son of said William W. 1s at 21 and to William's other children 1s each at 21; to my cousin Ann Michell, widow 1s and to her 3 children 1s each at 21; to my godson John Nettlefold £1 10s at 21; to my godson Richard Disnoll son of Richard £1 10s; if my children died all my messuages after the death of my wife to my brothers in law John, Daniel and William Steer; wife, exec.; father in law Daniel Steer, snr., and friends Henry Gosden and James Ridge, overseers (11s each for a ring)

Witnesses: Thomas Hill; William Bothell; John Coxe (X)

Proved: 15 April 1659 to exec. PROB 11/290/180

William Poe 20 Oct 1658 (to be buried in the churchyard) to my nephew William son of my brother Richard P. of Newark, deceased after the death of his mother, Richard's wife and all my interest in Richard's house in Newark, Nottinghamshire for life and then to his children with remainder to Richard son of Richard P.; to Mrs Mary Jewkes, Mrs Eleanor Spence, Mrs Margaret Holman and Mrs Sibella Holman 10s gold ring each; to Colonel John Holman another 10s gold ring; I have left a list of other friends to get 10s gold rings; residue to my nephews Thomas Hodgson and Martin Steads; Thomas Hodgson, exec.

Witnesses: Peter Browne; Philip Beere; William Kempe

Proved: 3 May 1659 to exec. PROB 11/291/48

Robert Neale of Combe, yeoman 12 Oct 1658 [nuncupative]

all to my son Richard

Witnesses: Thomas Mathewe (X); John Lee

Proved: 5 May 1659 to son and principal legatee PROB 11/291/93

Daniel Nettlefold or Nettlefold, yeoman 25 Apr 1659 I promised to my son Daniel £50, of which he has had £27; to my son John, snr. £50, furniture and goods; to my son Abraham £50 and the chest of linen his mother gave him; to my daughter Mary £50; to my son John, jnr. £50 at 21; to my son Samuel £40 at 21; to my son James £40 at 21; to my son in law John Stone 1s; to my granddaughter Rebecca daughter of John Stone 1s; to my granddaughter Mary Churington 1s; to my granddaughter Mary Nettlefold 5s; residue to my wife Mary, exec.; brother John N. and cousin Edmund Round, overseers

Witnesses: Edward Round, jnr.; John Nettlefold (X); Edward Round, jnr.

Proved: 21 May 1659 to exec. PROB 11/291/273

Ellen Lancaster, widow and exec. of William L. 26 Dec 1658 [nuncupative] to my sons Samuel and William L. 2 silver spoons each; residue to my daughter Mary now wife of Abdiah Martin, exec.

Witnesses: Robert Jarvis; Edward Rogers

Proved: 21 June 1659 to exec. PROB 11/293/323

John Forster 25 Jul 1658 [nuncupative] speaking to James Ridge and Daniel Cole, his neighbours that they to look after his estate for his children and to be execs.

Witnesses: Ephraim Forster (X); Mary Stillwell (X)

Proved: 22 June 1659 to execs. PROB 11/293/373

John Hooker, yeoman 29 Dec 1659 (to be buried in the churchyard) to my son John £5; to my daughter Joan £5; to my daughter Mary £10 all at my wife's marriage if she remarries; ►

residue to my wife Joan, exec.; friends Daniel Cole of Milton and cousin Miles Dudley, overseers

Witnesses: Miles Dudley; Stephen Stilwell (X); Benjamin Stilwell (X)

Proved: 14 December 1660 to exec. PROB 11/302/583

John Peake, yeoman 20 Apr 1660 (to poor of parish I am buried in £2) to my now wife Elizabeth £5 and the bond of £10 I had with her at our marriage which Giles Cuddington of Worth owes me and Francis C. of Horley owes me to be delivered to her at my burial with all my household goods in Dorking (except my chest and writings which to my son John) for her life and then to her daughter Elizabeth; to my eldest son John of Westerham, Kent all my land in Rudgwick called Hastons and Haines; to my son John and my daughter Ann Heathfeild now wife of Walsingham Heathfeild of Reigate £5 p.a. out of my land Dortles (70 acres), Worth, Sussex now in occupation of James Souter by deed of 1 Oct 1649 between Richard Woodgate late of Hatton, gentleman and me and after death of Ann H. to her 6 children; to my son in law Walsingham H. my seal ring; to my son Thomas P. £80 which Mr Joseph Ryely of Mitcham owes me on surrender of my copyhold land in Dorking; to my brother Abel P. all my clothes; to my son's son Benjamin P. a lame boy £40 at 21; residue to my eldest son John, exec.

Witnesses: Thomas Peake; Susan Harman (X); John P., jnr.

Proved: 4 February 1660/1 PROB 11/303/206

Samuel Cousen or Cosen, vicar 17 Dec 1659 (to be buried in the south aisle of Dorking church) to my cousin Mainwaringe of Whitemore, Staffordshire, esquire and my cousin Edward Stephens of Sadbury, Gloucestershire, esquire all my marsh lands in Chislet, Kent (50 acres) in occupation of Major Thomas Foch of Monkton, Kent paying Grace wife of captain Richard Goodwin £10 p.a. in Middle Temple Hall; to my godson Samuel Cousey Wood son of Thomas Wood, minister of Hayes, Kent all my marsh land in Chislet (23 acres) now in occupation of Edward Reynolds for life and then to poor of Dorking; to Temperance wife of James Finch of this parish, cordwainer all my messuage in D. where James lives for life and then to their daughter Temperance F. with remainder to Samuel son of James Browne late of this parish, weaver, deceased; to Susanna Hewet of this parish, sp., my servant all my tenement in D. which I bought from William Dudley £200; to Peter Browne of Headley, Surrey, rector all my books except those of physic which to my servant Susanna H. and to her furniture; to my cousin Isabel daughter of Arthur Crome of London, salter £100; to Exeter College, Oxford £120 for divinity books for the College Library; John Heather of this parish, yeoman and Henry Gosden of same, mercer, overseers (£2 each); residue to Zachary Lee, alderman of Canterbury, exec.

Witnesses: Francis Buttery; Joseph Buttery; Thomas Hall

Proved: 27 May 1661 to exec. PROB 11/304/346



Walter Arnold, yeoman 11 Oct 1661 to my wife Ann my gatehouse with chamber over it, slaughterhouse, barn, stable and gateroom with all my freehold land in Dorking in my own occupation bounding on East Street, Dorking on south, my copyhold messuage I live in on west and messuage or inn of William Tudham called *The George* and backside on north and east; to my son Daniel A. £20; to my son Samuel A. £5 at 21; to my daughter Ann Tibbs £1; to my granddaughter Ann daughter of John Tibbs, deceased £5 at 21; residue to my wife, exec.

Witnesses: William Mose; Thomas Hill

Proved: 7 January 1661/2 to exec. PROB 11/307/23

Michael Jeall, yeoman 24 Apr 1660 (to be buried in the churchyard; to poor of Dorking £1 10s) to my wife Elizabeth all my goods in the parlour and use of chamber and goods; to my eldest son William and my son Michael goods; to my youngest son William £10; to my daughters Rebecca, Sarah and Abigail J. £80 each but my wife to have use of money while they live with her; to my 4 grandchildren born of my daughter Elizabeth wife of William Tudham of Dorking, butcher viz. William, John, Michael and Elizabeth T. £2 each; to my granddaughter Mary daughter of my daughter Mary wife of Nicholas Constable and £2 to any child she has within a year of my death; to my brother Richard 10s p.a.; to my eldest son William £50; residue to my sons William and Michael, execs.; brother in law Gilbert Bustone of D., yeoman, cousin Overington J. of Ewhurst and friend William Bothell of D., chandler, overseers (10s each)

Witnesses: John Ede (X); William Bothell

Proved: 2 September 1662 to execs. PROB 11/309/61

Edward Piper, chirurgion 18 Sep 1662 (to poor of this parish 10s) to my son Edward all my goods; wife Ann, exec. until son 16 when he to be exec.; to my sisters Ann and Margaret P. 10s each for a ring

Witnesses: Tobias Hatton (X); Mary Cox (X); John Spencer

Proved: 4 November 1662 to exec. PROB 11/309/321

Jane Holman, widow wife of the late Richard Holman execs. in her will were Christopher Wormall and Rowland Jewkes, jnr. re daughter Eleanor Spence; nephews Lawrence Richardson and William Holman and Elizabeth Exbell and Sarah Holman, nieces

Witnesses: Rowland Jewkes, Robert Colbrand, James Baker, Thomas Langley and Richard Oakeley

Proved: 26 May 1666 PROB 11/320/454

■

Calls for Assistance

We are looking for volunteers for the roles listed below:

Executive Committee Members*

Four additional members are required to join the committee which oversees the affairs of the Society. Your initial commitment will be to attend up to six meetings a year which are held either on Zoom or in person, and to undertake any administrative tasks necessary for the smooth running of the Society.

Speaker bookers for the Camberley, Woking and Zoom Groups*

A small group of volunteers is required to book the speakers for our group meetings. Training will be provided in how to identify suitable speakers and in how to ensure that a broad range of family history topics are covered. The volunteers will be encouraged to build up a database of speakers who in the case of Zoom talks may not necessarily be located close to Surrey. An ideal task for any member to undertake as it can be done from any location!

Publicity Officer*

A publicity officer is wanted to ensure all WSFHS activities and events are well presented and advertised in as many ways as possible. Our aim is to raise the profile of the Society, to increase attendance at Centre and Zoom meetings, to generate publicity for new publications and to keep the Society's name in the public eye.

This is an opportunity to be creative and innovative. As most of the work will involve contacting news sources, radio stations, Surrey based organisations etc., by emails and publicity shots, the volunteer(s) do not need to live locally. This position could be shared by two people and should require about an hour or two a week.

Monumental Inscriptions Co-ordinator*

A volunteer to expand our collection of Monumental Inscriptions from burial grounds and churches in the County of Surrey.

Zoom Co-ordinator(s)*

Do you fancy joining an organising group – a group with no Earthly bounds? You can stay at home, live anywhere, as can the Zoom speakers. The times of meetings are flexible – could fit in with optimum times world wide (though a somewhat comfortable time for UK is a good idea). Enthusiasm for searching out new and unusual speakers is desired. A small group of helpers is better so that no one has to be tied to every month.

*Please contact Jane Thomas secretary@wsfhs.org for further details and please put Volunteer in Subject Line.



The Help Register

Are you willing to undertake up to one hour's research for a fellow member?

Are you in need of help in finding a record of your family?

The Help Register aims to put in touch those members *requiring* help with those who can *offer* suitable assistance. There is a data base and communication is mainly by email. The scheme is intended to be reciprocal if possible and is designed neither for lengthy research nor for paid genealogical research. This reflects the beginning of the Society when members helped each other and the society – many did transcribing of records for the good of all.

For example, I have a Surrey member who would like a look-up in early Northampton records and occasionally visits Southwark Archives and would be willing to do a look-up there for a completely different member.

I have a few “local to Surrey” volunteers and a few others in UK and abroad. The idea is that members can call on other members to help when the information they seek has not been found on the internet or the image/transcript needs to be clarified. *We still need more, especially Metropolitan London look-ups and other county records.*

Do you live near to your local record centre?

or

Do you regularly (not necessarily often) go to a record centre away from your home?

If yes, please send:

- your current email address or your address,
- the record centres or sources of information you can access
- a rough estimate of your expenses,

If you would like some help please include **full details** of what you would like looked up and *where you have already looked.*

*For further details, please email: **HelpRegister@wsfhs.org***

Please note that this service is only available to WSFHS members



Members' Interests December 2025

The Members' Interests section has played an important role ever since the foundation of the Society in bringing together members who are researching a particular family name with other members who share a common interest. Over the years as more members have joined the Society, many additional names have been added to the list but little effort has been given to removing the submitted names from the list once the member has left the Society or has become uncontactable. As a result the members' interest list has become somewhat unwieldy and unfit for purpose and therefore not in compliance with the Data (Use and Access) Act [2025]. As a result, the Society has now decided to withdraw the old list.

ALL MEMBERS are now invited to update their MEMBERS' INTERESTS using the form printed on p63 of the previous issue of Root and Branch or by downloading or completing electronically a form from <https://wsfhs.co.uk/Members/descent.php> and sending to Sue Warner whose contact details are on the inside back cover.

Name	County	Town, village, area	Date	Number
ADAMS	ESS	Thaxted	17 th C	5991
ANDREWS	DOR	Marnhull	1750-2000	2024
ARMITSTEAD	YRKS	Clapham	1700-1800	7158
ATKINSON	WES	Underbarrow	1758-1816	7158
ATTFIELD	SRY	Addlestone	1600/2000	5623
ATTFIELD	SRY	Chertsey	1600/2000	5623
BAIGENT	SRY	Addlestone	1600/2000	5623
BAIGENT	SRY	Chertsey	1600/2000	5623
BAKER	HAM	Havant	1800-1895	5179
BARTLETT	SRY	Farnham	18 th C	7295
BARTRAM	SRY	Addlestone	1800/2000	5623
BARTRAM	SRY	Chertsey	1800/2000	5623
BATCHELOR	SSX	North Chapel	19C	2472
BECK	MDX	Marylebone	1800+	5991
BEST	SRY	Crowhurst	18 th C	2024
BEVINGTON	WOR	Worcester	18-20C	2472
BLACKMAN	SRY	Frensham	C1750	5179
BLAKE	BRK	Reading	18-20C	2472
BLUNDY	WIL	Shalbourne	17 th C	7295



Name	County	Town, village, area	Date	Number
BLUNDY	HAM	Headley	20 th C	7295
BOOBY	SOM	West Coker	1802-3	2024
BOUTLETT	DOR	Marnhull	18 th C	2024
BOXALL	SSX	Various	1650/2000	5623
BOXALL	SRY	Various	1650/2000	5623
BRAND	ESS	Writtle	18 th C	1116
BRAND	SSX	Hove	20 th C	1116
BRAND	SRY	Southwark	19 th C	1116
BRAND	SRY	Walton-on-Thames	18 th C	1116
BRANWOOD	ESS	Writtle	18 th C	1116
BRIDGETT	SRY	Egham	1800+	5991
BROWN	SRY	Chertsey	Any	7059
BUCKMAN	MDX	Isleworth	1800+	5991
BUDDEN	HAM	Bitterne	1820-1930	5179
BUDDEN	HAM	Botley	1700-1800	5179
BULL	LEI	All	1700+	1121
BULL	HUN	All	1700+	1121
BULL	BDF	All	1700+	1121
BUNDY	Various	Various	1500-2000	5623
CARPER	MDX	Stepney	18 th C	5991
CARTWRIGHT	DOR	Bryanston	18 th C	2024
CARTWRIGHT	GLS/WOR	Ashton under Hill	18 th C	2024
CATER	SRY	Southwark	1850-1930	5179
CHANDLER	SRY	Frensham	1780-1850	5179
CHOAT	Various	Various	1600/2000	5623
CHRISTMAS	SRY	Farnham	Pre 1600	7333
CHURCH	BRK	Hungerford Area	18 th C	7295
COCHRANE	LKS	Hamilton	1800-1830	7158
COLEMAN	BKM	Denham	18 th C	7295
COLLIS	HAM	Bishops Waltham	17 th C	7295
COLLIS	HAM	Petersfield Area	18 th C	7295
COLLYER	SRY	Various	1600-2000	5623
COLLYER	KEN	Various	1600-2000	5623

Name	County	Town, Village Area	Date	Number
COOKMAN	DOR	Sutton Waldron	18 th C	2024
COPE	GLA	Porth	1800+	1121
CRAWLEY	HRT	Baldock	19 th C	2024
CURTIS	SSX	Various	1750-2000	5623
CURTIS	SRY	Various	1750-2000	5623
DABORN	SRY	Various	1600-2000	5623
DAY	Various	Various	1750/2000	5623
DAY	KEN	St Werburgh	18 th & 19 th C	2024
DENYER	SRY	Various	1650/2000	5623
DEWFALL	DOR	Child Okeford	1780	2024
DIMES	ENG	All	All	1121
DREW	DOR	Marnhull	1780-1830	2024
DYMES	ENG	All	All	1121
DYSON	MDX	Poplar	17 th C & 1800+	5991
FENNER	KEN	St Werburgh/Frindesbury	18 th & 19 th C	2024
FIELD	GLS	Bourton	18-19C	2472
FRITH	Various	Various	1700-2000	5623
GODFREY	SRY	Thorpe	1735-1810	5179
GONNER	MDX	Stepney	18 th C	5991
GORING	SSX	Worth	1750-1900	7214
GORING	SSX	Maresfield	1550-1750	7214
GORING	SSX	Fletching	1550-1750	7214
GOSDEN	SRY	Various	1500-2000	5623
GOWER	SRY	Crowhurst	19 th C	2024
GREGORY	HAM	Odiham	18-20C	2472
GROVER	HAM	Binstead	18-20C	2472
GUNNER	SRY	Various	1650/2000	5623
HANKINS	SRY	Wonersh	18 th C	7295
HARVEY	SRY	Southwark	1750-1850	1116
HEALEY	OXF	Witney	1700-1880	1121
HEARN(E)	BKM	Denham	18 th C	7295
HILL	SOM	Churchill	1745-1830	2024
HORNER	SRY	Farnham	Pre 1600	7333
HORTON	ESS	Standon	17thC	5991
HOUSDEN	BDF	Eaton Socon	1700-1900	1121



Name	County	Town, Village, Area	Date	Number
HUNT	SRY	Chertsey	Any	7059
HUNT	LIN	Belton	1700-1860	1121
HUNT	LIN	Sempringham	1700-1860	1121
HUTCHINS	BRK	Kintbury	18 th C	7295
JELL(E)Y	SRY	Wandsworth	1650-1900	1736
JELL(E)Y	SRY	Shere	1650-1900	1736
JELL(E)Y	SRY	Albury	1650-1900	1736
KEMMISH	HAM	Bucklers Hard	1800+	5991
KETCHER	SRY	Wonersh	18 th C	7295
KINSLEY	LIN	Various	1700-2000	5623
LANGRISH	HAM	East Meon	15 th C	7295
LAWRENCE	HAM	Binstead	18-20C	2472
LAWRENCE	SRY	Bramley (area)	18-20C	2472
LEGGETT	SSX	Various	1650/2000	5623
LEGGETT	SRY	Various	1650/2000	5623
LEW(U)COCK	SRY	Reigate	18-20C	2472
MARSH	HAM	Petersfield Area	19 th C+	7295
MATHEWS	SRY	Chertsey	1750/2000	5623
MEATYARD	DOR	Stour Provost	1718-1792	2024
MEESON	MDX	Stepney	1800+	5991
MITCHELL	SRY	Thursley	1700-1800	1736
MONTGOMERIE	AYR	Ayr and South Ayrshire	1800-1850	7158
MORRIS	LIN	Barrowby	1700-1900	1121
MORRIS	LIN	Grantham	1700-1900	1121
MOSS	HAM	Bramshott	18-19C	2472
MUNDEN	DOR	Dorchester	1700-1880	1121
NUNN	BRK	Reading	1850-1950	1121
NUNN	NFK	Rushall	1700-1900	1121
NUNN	NFK	Dickleborough	1700-1900	1121
OSBORN(E)	ESS	Writtle	18 th C	1116
OTHEN	Various	Various	1700-2000	5623
PAIN	DOR	Child Oakridge	1785-1870	2024
PARSONS	MDX	Sunbury	1750-1850	1116
PEITO	SRY	Chiddingfold	Pre 1600	7333
PEN(NI)FOLD	Various	Various	1650-2000	5623
PHIPPS	GLS	Aston Subedge	18-20thC	2472
PINK	HAM	Binstead	C1780	5179
PINK	SRY	Frensham	1800-1830	5179



Name	County	Town, Village, Area	Date	Number
PITHERS	SRY	Chertsey	Any	7059
PLANNER	BRK	Winkfield	1820-1910	5179
PLANNER	SRY	Egham	1700-1820	5179
PLEDGE	SSX	Warnham	18-19C	2472
POOK	SRY	Various	1750/2000	5623
POOK	HAM	Various	1750/2000	5623
POOK	All	Any	Any	2024
PRAGNALL	HAM	Various	1600/2000	5623
PRITCHARD	SRY	Egham	1800+	5991
PURFLEET	KEN	Eltham	19 th C	2024
PUTTICK	SRY	Hascombe	1750-1900	1736
RANGER	SRY	Chertsey	1800/2000	5623
READ	WIL	Silton	18 th C	5991
REEVES	GLS	Bourton	18-19C	2472
REYNOLDS	NFK	Aslacton	1775	2024
RISBRIDGER	SRY	Charlwood	Any	7214
ROAKE	Various	Various	1550-2000	5623
ROWE	SRY	Chertsey	Any	7059
RUSSELL	KEN	Various	1750/2000	5623
RUSSELL	SRY	Various	1750/2000	5623
RYALL	SOM	Henstridge	18 th & 19 th C	2024
RYALL	DOR	Stalbridge	18 th & 19 th C	2024
SAUNDERS	HRT	Baldock	1785	2024
SELWAY	SOM	Burrington	1785-1830	2024
SEWEL	NFK	Forngett	1795	2024
SILLY	DOR	Blandford	18 th & 19 th C	2024
SINGYARD	LND	Bermondsey	Any	7059
SINGYARD	SRY	Chertsey	Any	7059
SIZMUR	SRY	Chertsey	1650-2000	5623
SKEET	SRY	Woking (area)	18-19C	2472
SKILTON	SRY	Dorking	18-20C	2472
SLOWLEY	MDX	Stepney	18 th C	5991
SMITHERS	SRY	Chertsey	Any	7059
SPICER	DOR	Anderson	1785	2024



Name	County	Town, Village, Area	Date	Number
SPONG	SRY	Chobham	1650-2000	5623
STEPTOE	SRY	Various	1700/2000	5623
STRADWICK(E)	ENG	All	1400	4132
STREDWICK(E)	ENG	All	1400	4132
STRUDWICK(E)	ENG	All	1400	4132
SWINYARD	SRY	Shalford	1800-1900	1736
SWINYARD	SRY	Guildford	1800-1900	1736
TANNER	Various	Various	1500/2000	5623
TATNALL	MDX	Stepney	18 th C	5991
TAYLOR	SRY	Various	1650/2000	5623
TAYLOR	BRK	Various	1650/2000	5623
TEAGUE	HAM	Froxfield	18 th C	7295
TEGG	HAM	Froxfield	18 th C	7295
THAI(YE)R	SSX	Various	1700/2000	5623
THORN	SOM	East Coker	19 th C	2024
THORPE	MDX	St Giles	1800+	5991
TICKNER	SRY	Various	1500/2000	5623
TIGG	HAM	Froxfield	18 th C	7295
TRASK	SOM	East Coker	1772-3	2024
TRIGG	Various	Various	1800/2000	5623
TRIMMER	SRY	Frensham	1780-1870	5179
TRUS(S)LER	SSX	Fernhurst	19-20C	2472
TURNER	SRY	Various	1500/2000	5623
TURNER	SSX	Various	1500/2000	5623
UNDERWOOD	SRY	Various	1750/2000	5623
WARD	SRY	Southwark	1895-1930	5179
WARD	LEI	Burton Overy	1775-1895	5179
WATTS	DOR	Blandford	18 th & 18 th C	2024
WELSHMAN	SOM	Stogumber	17 th & 18 th C	2024
WHITE	SOM	Stogumber	1780C	2024
WICKENS	SRY	Horley	1850-1900	7214
WOODFORD	NTH	Great Creaton	18 th C	1116
WYLIE	AYR	Kilmarnock	1840-1920	7158



Contact Details

The Contact Details are only available to Members of the Society.

If you are interested in any of the above, please contact **interests@wsfhs.org** with the number of the Members (from the last column) and the surnames you are interested in.



Remembering VE Day

By Robin Brand (WSFHS member 1116)

It is notoriously difficult to discover details about those who have fought in various conflicts such as WWI and WWII, either through the lack of records or a reluctance of people to recall personal memories. I am therefore privileged that my late uncle wrote a splendidly detailed and very readable account of his experiences in World War II from 1939 to 1946.

This allows me to recount the activity and feelings of a British Royal Artillery Field Regiment on VE day the 8th May 1945, having fought their way across North Africa and up through Italy:

On 8th May we moved about 11 am to an Italian cavalry barracks at Tolmezzo. It had a soil parade ground rather than the tarmac-type with which we were more familiar. Perhaps it was a regular feature of cavalry barracks.

“Eighth Army News” on 8th May was headlined GERMANY OUT! TODAY IS V-E DAY: OFFICIAL. Germany has surrendered unconditionally. A Reuter dispatch from Rheims, Headquarters of General Eisenhower, said that at 0241 hours yesterday (French time) Colonel-General Gustav Jodel, the new German Army Chief of Staff, signed the Instrument of Surrender.

It was officially announced in London that today will be treated as victory day in Europe. The Prime Minister, Mr. Winston Churchill, will broadcast at one o'clock. The King will broadcast to the peoples of the British Empire and Commonwealth at five o'clock this afternoon. Parliament will meet at the usual time.

Victory! This was the day we had been working and fighting for.

We had come a long way since joining up at Handel Street in 1939. Some hadn't completed the journey, for in its campaigns the regiment had suffered more than 240 casualties which, although slight compared with infantry battalions, was high for an artillery regiment.

Honours and awards to the regiment totalled 59. These included DSO 3; MC 10; MM 15; MBE 2; BEM 1; Mentioned in Despatches 26, Croix de Guerre 2.

From landing in Algeria up to the end of the Sicilian campaign the regiment had fired more than 156,000 rounds. During the Italian campaign more than 174,000 rounds were fired which gives total of roughly a third of a million rounds fired in action, or approximately 14,000 rounds from each of the 24 guns.

At nine o'clock in the evening we gathered around a wireless truck in the open air at the barracks. We listened to the recorded speeches of King George VI and Winston Churchill. We had nothing to drink to celebrate the occasion. Someone had two spare Very lights, so he fired them off. The occasion went off like a damp squid and there was a feeling of anti-climax. We all went to bed soon afterwards. It must have been very different in London.



Some background: My late uncle who wrote this was John Bush (1918-2002), always known as Jack. As a young man he started work in the City of London, where in April 1939 he joined up. He was demobbed in April 1946, and returned to his company 'Consolidated Goldfields of South Africa' in the City. In 1947 he married my aunt, and they settled in Caterham in Surrey, from where he spent the rest of his working life commuting into 'town' – having had one imagines, quite enough excitement during the war! In the early 1980s he was persuaded to write his 'reminiscences', the result being a 104-page document "Once a Gunner...", his view of the story of the 138th (City of London) Field Regiment R.A. – "The years of animation", in which the above extract appears on page 93. The complete document acted as the regiment's memoir, and copies were accepted by the Imperial War Museum and the Royal Artillery Library, and dozens more distributed to those involved during the war.



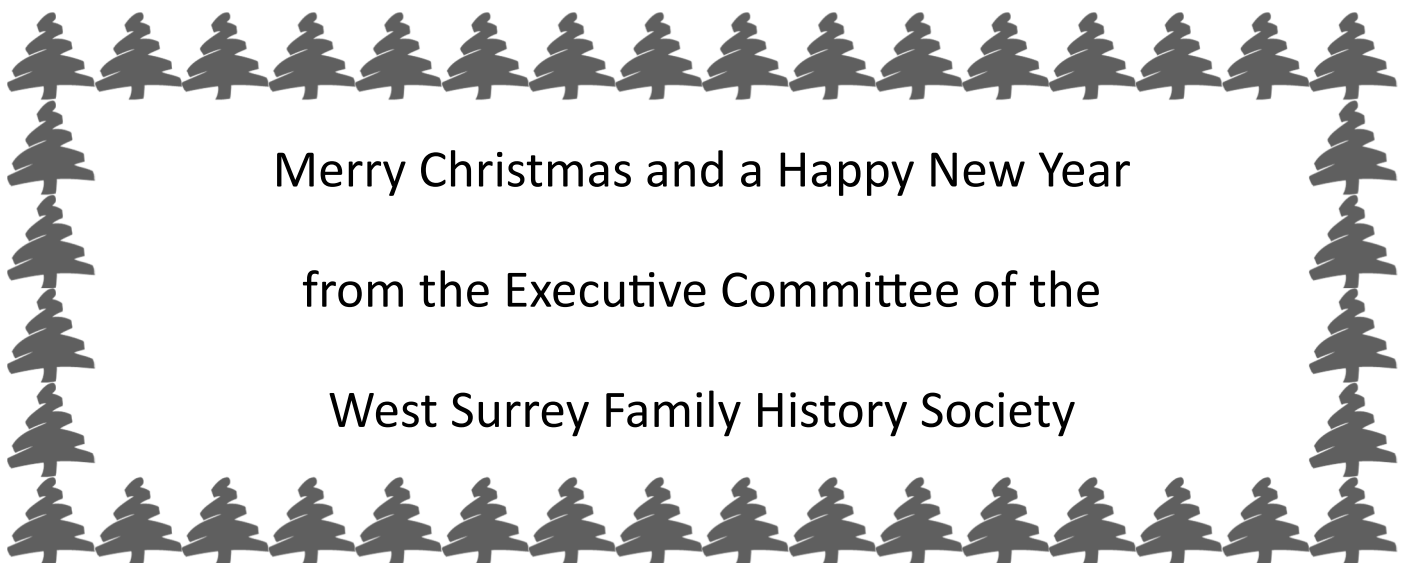
Superstition

by Cliff Webb

Parish registers have a great interest for us, of course, and those with little extra remarks from the clerks can be amusing, interesting or plain eccentric.

I don't remember one before which combined a superstition with potentially extremely important genealogical data. But, at St Saviour Southwark, John Carkoe was baptised on the 19th May 1655, son of Nicholas, a silk weaver. A very standard entry for the parish and period. But the note in the margin says: 'the seventh son of a seventh son'.

The superstition that there is something special about the seventh son of a seventh son is fairly worldwide. However, it varies in alleged meaning. Rather like the black cat walking across your path lucky one side of the Atlantic and unlucky the other, these beliefs contradict one another. In Ireland, for example John Carkoe would have been expected to have powers of healing whereas in some Latin American countries he would be cursed to become a werewolf!



Tales from Green Lane Cemetery

By Jenny Mukerji

Mary Alice Robin O'BRIEN (1873-1942)

Emily Laura O'BRIEN (1874-1948)

Mary and Emily were the daughters of Rev Arthur Evanson O'BRIEN (1849-1877) and his wife Alice Margaret Eliza, née BRAITHWAITE (1851-1916). They were born in Barrow-in-Furness and Emily had a twin brother, Arthur William O'BRIEN (1874-1903). Both of these sisters lived at Swingate, in Swingate Road and played important roles in the history of The Bourne, Farnham.

Their father, Arthur was a Church of England clergyman who was born in Norwood, Surrey on 25 January 1849. Arthur's father was the Irish Mathematician Matthew O'BRIEN (1814-1855) (see <https://mathshistory.st-andrews.ac.uk/Biographies/OBrien/>). I have been unable to trace Arthur's marriage to Alice, who was born in Bideford, Devon. It probably took place in Jersey as that is where they had family connections and where Matthew died on 22 August 1855. He is buried in Petit Ménage, Jersey. Arthur's family home had been at 35 Storey Square, Barrow-in-Furness when his children were born. He had been the curate at St George's Church there and two memorial windows in its Ramsden Chapel commemorate him. He died at Claremont House, St Helier on 30 June 1877 and is buried in St Saviour, Jersey (see Findagrave 221119657). Arthur had a sister, Ellen Jane O'BRIEN (1842-1903) who was born in Cambridge and lived with various members of her family in Jersey, however, by 1901 she was with Mary and Alice at Swingate. Ellen died on 9 June 1903 and was buried in the Old Churchyard in The Bourne on 12 June. She had a loyal servant by the name of Fanny Jane COUTANCHE (1847-1921) from at least 1871. When Ellen died, Fanny, who was born in Jersey, married gardener Eli Ingram FRY (1846-1921) in 1903 in Farnham. They were both buried in the Old Churchyard in The Bourne in 1921 and have a memorial on their grave.

Mary and Emily's mother, Alice came from a large family of at least 13 children. Her father was Rev William BRAITHWAITE (1819-1871) and her mother was Laura Elizabeth, née PIPON (1826-1916) whose father was Commissary-General PIPON, Seigneur of Noumount Manor, Jersey. One of Alice's brothers was General Sir Walter Pipon BRAITHWAITE (1865-1945) who is buried, with his wife Jessie Adine, née ASHWORTH (1868-1950) in the cemetery at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. In 1901 Jessie, who was born in New York, USA was visiting Alice at Swingate with her son Valentine. Valentine Ashworth BRAITHWAITE (1896-1916) was a Lieutenant in the Somerset Light Infantry when he was killed on the second day of the Battle of the Somme (2 July 1916) and is commemorated on the Thiepval memorial. Alice's brother Rev Canon Philip Richard Pipon BRAITHWAITE (1849-1933) was a canon at Winchester Cathedral in 1916. Alice's sister, Mabel Wilmet (1870-1940) married Admiral Charles Pipon BEATY-POWNALL RN (1872-1938) in 1905. His mother was Edith Phillipa, née PIPON, daughter of James Kennard PIPON (1809-1868), who was probably a relative. ►

Mabel and her husband were buried in Chawton Churchyard, Hampshire when their home was in Alton.

After leaving Barrow-in-Furness, Alice took her family to 4 Claremont Terrace, St Helier by 1881. In 1891 they were living at 44 Chaucer Road, St Paul, Bedford. By 1901 they had moved into Swingate. Ellen Jane and her servant Fanny were with them, along with Jessie and Valentine. Also in the household was Louisa HACK (1867-1947), their cook who came from a large family that included her brother George HACK (1870-1934) who was the superintendent at Green Lane Cemetery. His story is for another time. She was still at Swingate in 1911 and died at Laurel Cottage, Middle Bourne, aged 79 in 1947. She was buried in plot A349 in Green Lane Cemetery on 3 April with Rev Ouvry officiating. Also at Swingate in 1911 was Harriet HACK (1884-1968) who married Charles T NORMAN in Farnham in 1913. They may have been the parents of a stillborn child buried in plot B662 in Green Lane Cemetery in 1920.

Mary and Emily had two brothers: Arthur William O'BRIEN (10 August 1874 - 28 July 1903) and Rev William Braithwaite O'BRIEN (1876-1960). Arthur, Emily's twin, died in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada and was buried in the Edmonton Municipal Cemetery. (Findagrave 178488068). In his memory Alice and Arthur's siblings paid for the St Thomas on the Bourne Institute to be built. It opened its doors on 11 October 1904 and was the venue for many plays, clubs, dances and events in the village for a number of years. Alice died on 26 February 1916 and was buried in the Old Churchyard in The Bourne on 29 February. She is named on the plaque inside St Thomas on the Bourne Church under the window that was installed in her memory.

When Mary died at Swingate on 19 February 1942 she had lived in The Bourne for over 40 years. Her death was reported in the *Farnham Herald* on 29 February where it said that she was a keen parish worker and helped at the Boy's Club and Class. It also said that she was a warden sister for the Society of Watchers and Workers*, a society for the drawing together of invalids who were members of the Church of England for mutual help. Her funeral took place in St Thomas's and she was buried in plot A243 in Green Lane Cemetery on 23 February with Rev GRIFFITH officiating.

Emily's death on 20 January 1948 was reported in the *Farnham Herald* on 30 January. She was 73. After a service at St Thomas's at 2pm on Friday 23 January, she was buried in plot A243 (with Mary) with Rev HUDSON officiating. The windows in the west of St Thomas's were given by the friends of Mary and Emily with affection and remembrance of their lives and work of 50 years as parishioners. Their brother was living in Ascension Clergy House in West Ham in 1911 and died in Oxford in 1960.

*Upon looking up this society I see that it was founded by Edith Sophia JACOB (1849-1919) or (1836-1915) whichever website you use. However, Probate records state that she died at Verulam House, St Albans on 31 March 1918. Family Search has her baptised at Crawley, Hampshire 10 June 1836. This year of her birth runs through all the census returns.

Another example of people not checking primary sources is that of the T S Eliot site *tseliot.com* who quote Rev William Braithwaite O'BRIEN's dates as 1896-1960 having ►

picked up another William Braithwaite O'Brien born in New York in 1896. They have, in their collection, a letter to William from Eliot.

The lesson here is that primary sources take place in chronological order, something that is not always the case with secondary sources, especially those lifted from websites and repeated.

SURREY FAMILY HISTORY FAIR 2025

Our annual Fair was held on Saturday 8th November at its usual venue, the Woking Leisure Centre. Over 90 tables were booked by a wide variety of Stallholders and by the West Surrey Family History Society itself. We were pleased to welcome Family History Societies from Bristol and Avon, Wiltshire, Oxfordshire, Suffolk, London Westminster and Middlesex, West Middlesex and East Surrey as well as representatives from the Family History Federation. Visitors were also able to get help from the Society of Genealogists who provided two experts to form our team of Census Detectives who offered half hour timed slots to help visitors locate those hard to find ancestors and there was also help from the Surrey History Centre.



Society Stalls from West Middlesex, Oxfordshire, Suffolk and East Surrey

Societies representing wider interest groups included the Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives, Elmbridge U3A, the Family and Community Historical Research Society, the Families in British India Society and the Guild of One Name Studies.

This year the Fair was attended by Councillor Amanda Boote, the current mayor of Woking and who had also attended last year in her role of deputy mayor. She was accompanied by her consort Mr David Walsh [see front cover]. She was very interested in her own family history and spent two hours going around the fair and talking with the various stall holders.

Our Society had a series of tables promoting its services and publications. Our Reference Library which now occupies seven tables was attended by Alison Durkin and Joyce Sampson who were kept busy answering many of our visitors' questions and finding relevant



Mayor receiving Souvenir from the Family History Federation



Surrey Lookups and Reference Library

information in the books and pamphlets on display. Tony Kelly and Chris Willis brought along their computers with Sindex, and Surrey BMDs. Our Exchange Journals service was represented by Linda Dart. Brian Swann was there to answer visitors' DNA questions, Ruth Mathewson answered questions regarding Irish and Scottish ancestry, Sue Turner provided general help and advice and Jean Follett and her helpers brought our Bookstall. We should also like to thank a long term member Vincent Tickner for his donation of books to our second-hand book stall.

Local History was also well represented. Iain Wakeford *wokinghistory.org* brought a display of Woking and district history featuring his series of Heritage Walks [there is a series of walks scheduled for 2025/26], Brookwood Cemetery Society presented their latest updates and events, as did the Friends of Woking Palace. We also welcomed from Guildford Workhouse, locally known as the Spike, members of the Charlotteville Jubilee Trust who provided details of what life was like for the inhabitants and information about former occupants.

For visitors interested in local house history, there was a display from Pirbright House Histories explaining their plans to document the past of all old properties in the village and providing tips for how to investigate your own abode.

Also present were a mixture of more commercially focussed stall. 'The Crafty Genealogist' offered a range of coasters mugs table and mouse mats printed with your family names. Eve McLaughlin offered her wide range of guides books and maps. Displays of a wide range of postcards and photographs covering both local and national areas arranged by place or topic for purchase by visitors were offered by Andy Punshon, P J Duncan and Surrey Postcards whilst R A Longley and This Way Books and Cassini Historical Maps offered a range of pamphlets, books, CDs, maps, supplies, stationery and storage items. Anyone who has an old book or document in need of repair would have found plenty of advice and practical information at the stall of 'The Book Fixer'.

We had many positive comments both from visitors and stallholders as they departed and assured us that they would return next year. A typical comment was that from the Chair of Brookwood Cemetery Society "Please pass on our thanks to all of you who organised the event. I feel we who attend do not appreciate the amount of work you all do to make it happen and run so smoothly".

More photographs, provided by the editor, can be found on the covers of this magazine. ■

Zoom and Centre Talk Reviews and Schedule

We have four meeting groups, one virtual and three face to face venues in West Surrey; Camberley, Walton on Thames and Woking. Please check the WSFHS website for any changes.

CAMBERLEY – Adult Education Centre, France Hill Drive, Camberley. GU15 3QB. Meetings on third Saturday of the month. Doors open at 1.30pm, meeting starts at 2pm.

Co-ordinator: Sue Turner

Email: camberley@wsfhs.org

From January 2026, all the meetings will be held on the 3rd Saturday of the month. Those for January to March already are, but now April to June and September to November will also be on Saturdays.

In **September**, for our first talk of the 2025-2026 season, we welcomed Stephen Cranstone, who gave a very interesting talk about ‘*Sidney Herbert Sime*’, an artist whose work can be found at the Sime Gallery, upstairs in the Memorial Hall in Worplesdon.

Sidney was born in 1865 in Hulme, Manchester to David and Elizabeth Sime, but she died after giving birth to her 8th child and his father was left with seven children to bring up. Sidney was sent to Kirkby Industrial School, Liverpool, from where he was sent to work in the mines in Mirfield, where he spent five years. He also worked as a baker, a shoemaker and a sign writer and eventually went to the Liverpool School of Art. By 1891 he was in London at the Camden Studios as an Illustrator and he used to create caricatures of actors in plays, drawn during the performance.

In 1898, he inherited money and a house in Scotland from an uncle, William Sime, with whom he had stayed when a boy. In that year he also married his wife Mary, also a painter, in Edinburgh. In 1904 he sold the house in Scotland and bought Crown Cottage in Worplesdon which had been the Crown Inn until it closed in 1903. He continued as an illustrator, working for Lord Dunsany, an Irish Lord who wrote fantasy novels, and painting pictures, many of them were bought by the 8th Baron Howard de Walden.

Sidney used to visit the New Inn in Worplesdon and draw caricatures of the local people who came there. These pictures are in the Gallery in Worplesdon and are not named; Stephen showed us all the pictures and described the work needed to identify them. One of them is labelled Bottle and turned out to be William Buckle the publican of the New Inn. Cecil Charles Newman was identified by a tuft of hair on his forehead after finding a photograph of him.

Sidney Sime died in 1941 and was buried in St Mary's churchyard in Worplesdon. His widow, Mary, bequeathed his artworks and funding to create the gallery for them at the Memorial Hall. We thanked Stephen for a very interesting talk.

Report by Sue Turner ►

Forthcoming Meetings

- Dec There will be no Meeting in December
- Jan 17 Saturday 1.30pm. Penny Walters - '*Mixing DNA results with a paper trail - Demystifying DNA.*' Have you done a test and you're not sure what the results mean? What would the benefits of doing a DNA test be when you've already done a thorough paper trail? This presentation will walk you through the initial stages of understanding your DNA test results and potential ethical dilemmas will be discussed.
- Feb 21 Saturday 1.30pm. Margaret Taylor '*Clandon Park – a heritage project like no other*'. Margaret has been a volunteer for the National Trust at Clandon Park since 2013. When the fire broke out in April 2015 she was on duty in the house and has been involved in giving talks about the fire and aftermath ever since. They are now moving towards having final plans to share so she will give an overview, highlighting why Clandon Park has always been special through to current ideas of how it will be seen when it reopens. Margaret and her husband Alan, who gave a talk in October 2025, have been members of the West Surrey FHS since 1976 and have served the Society in many different roles in the earlier years of their membership.
- Mar 21 Saturday 1.30pm. Informal Meeting - *Stranger Things (Co-incidences, strange happening and odd people in your tree)*. This informal meeting will be led by Sue Turner who has some strange families, with odd co-incidences that could provide answers to her brick walls. Bring along your stranger things to share your discoveries or to ask how they could help.

WALTON ON THAMES – Hersham Centre for the Community, Queens Road, Hersham Village KT12 5LU. Access is to the rear of the building, and free parking is available adjacent to the centre. A map is available on the Walton on Thames Centre page of WSFHS website. There is good disabled access including parking spaces. Meetings on fourth Tuesday. Doors open 7.30pm for 7.50pm.

Co-ordinator: Lesley Cowing

Email: Walton@wsfhs.org

In **September** Sally Gardiner gave us a really interesting, informative and entertaining talk about Newspapers, what you can find and how to find it.

Newspapers began in the late 16th century as simple sheets giving news and gossip and developed when tea and coffee houses in the late 17th century started to print their own news sheets. One of the most important was the Gazette which still prints official announcements. By 1711 the growth of papers prompted the government to put stamp duty on them; this was increased in 1819 to try to contain the publishing of anti government views to the working ►

classes. The duty was abolished in 1855 and following the advance of the railways and industrial printing the number of newspapers grew.

There were Sunday papers that specialised in scandal and sensation and magazine style papers for hobbies etc. Provincial papers which also covered national issues in the earlier years will give you the best chances of finding your ancestors and their families. Newspapers, national and local, can give us a fresh perspective on our ancestor's lives. Birth, Deaths, Marriages and Engagement notices sometimes give amazing details, including what the bride wore, which can put flesh on those bones, and colour to B/W photos of those old weddings.

Accidents and inquests will be featured; sometimes the only details available for these incidents are in the newspapers. Bankruptcy was announced in the gazette and accounts of trials sometimes run into many columns. National events feature which can give you a sense of what was happening at certain times of your ancestors lives. Employment advertisements can tell you what wages were paid to workers. Estate agents advertisements can help with houses histories.

The vast newspaper collection of the British Library is gradually being scanned and is available at britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk and Find My Past (available at Surrey Libraries), but there are many more originals still only available in person at the British Library, you must request them in advance and they are sent down from Yorkshire to London to view (readers ticket required).

Ancestry has now partnered with newspapers.com which is good for overseas newspapers; this is a premium service. The Genealogist has a good selection for the WW1 period (available at Surrey History Centre). Welsh newspapers on line, from the National Library of Wales is free.

Sally's tips on searching: Use husbands or fathers name if no reference comes up for a woman. Common surnames are challenging so try putting in additional information. Get to know individual sites search engines. Repeat your searches at regular intervals as many newspaper editions are coming online progressively. Wikipedia has a worldwide list of newspaper titles and where they are available.

Report by Susie Pearce

Forthcoming Meetings

Dec 23 NO MEETING

Jan 27 Tuesday 7.30pm How to use Family Search with Sharon Hintze.

Feb 24 Tuesday 7.30pm Crimea War with Major Paul Whittle.

Mar 24 Tuesday 7.30pm Aircraft manufacturing history with Andy Richardson



WOKING – Trinity Church, Brewery Road, Woking. GU21 4LH. Meetings on second Thursday of the month. Doors open at 7.45pm for 7.50pm.

Co-ordinator: Chris Leech

Email: woking@wsfhs.org

The talk at our meeting in **September** after the summer break was an excellent one given by Simon Fowler on '*Researching Ancestors who were in the World Wars*'. Simon Fowler worked at The National Archives (TNA) for many years and is now a freelance researcher specialising in military records. He has written several guides to the records.

The closer the person you are searching for was to the action in war the greater chance there is of finding material. Sadly there is usually more information to be found about ancestors killed in action. Most records are kept at TNA with key WW1 records now online and an increasing number of WW2 records online too. It is worth looking at the relevant TNA Research Guide to help you decide what records to access. Other records are held at the Imperial War Museum, National Army Museum, RAF Museum and Royal Naval Museum and Regimental Museums www.armymuseums.org.uk.

WW1 army records for other ranks are online at Ancestry and Findmypast but many are missing as 75% were destroyed in the Blitz. Where they do survive the enlistment papers contain interesting information and casualty forms are not only about casualties. The records for Army Officers are not online but are at TNA where 85% survive but are heavily 'weeded'. The London Gazette reported appointments of officers, promotions and demotions. War Diaries were compiled for army units serving overseas only and are online at Ancestry and Findmypast and at TNA in WO95. The War Diaries can be quite detailed but rarely mention individuals. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has details of service personnel who died in action www.cwgc.org. Newspapers can also be a good resource.

Service records from 1920 are held by the MOD and are free to veterans and next of kin on application but can take some time to arrive. They are to be transferred to TNA by 2030 and will eventually be on Ancestry 115 years after an individual's date of birth. Other records for WW2 are similar to WW1 with many records online at Ancestry and at TNA some online such as recommendations for Gallantry medals.

Reports by Chris Leech

Forthcoming Meetings

Dec 11 Thursday 7.45pm Jane Lewis – '*Crofts, Castles, Trades and Professions*'. This is a quick guide to highlight some of the sources and resources we can explore to find out more about where our ancestors lived and how they made a living. It will touch on some of the sources which we might already be familiar with but also explore some records which might not be so well known.



- Jan 8 Thursday 7.45pm Sue Turner – *'Follow the Money'*. For family trees Wills can provide a lot of information, confirming or refuting what has been found and sometimes including interesting snippets that require further investigation. Sue's talk will look at how Wills show the money flowing within and between a set of families not always related by marriage and also at the Wills of two spinsters which provided information about their families that could not have been found any other way.
- Feb 12 Thursday 7.45pm *Informal Meeting*. An opportunity to help with a project to index the names appearing in articles in Root and Branch over the years. Work has been done to extract the names from some magazines but checking is needed. This evening we hope to progress some of this checking which will be done in groups of two or three and should be very straightforward and hopefully enjoyable. An evening of practical help which aims to produce this index useful to those wanting to know if previous issues might have mention of names that could be relevant to their research.
- Mar 12 Thursday 7.30pm David Rose and Geoff Burch – *'A Romany Lifestyle'*. A joint talk about gypsies, travellers and itinerant workers in the local area in days gone by. Where they made their camps, their work on farms, market gardens, hop picking, their ways and traditions. Geoff Burch whose mother was born in Old Woking in 1918 has traced this side of his family's history and has uncovered some fascinating stories of several generations in Chobham and in and around Old Woking.

ZOOM Meetings on the Internet

To join our Zoom meetings you will need to register for the talk in the member's area of WSFHS website. If you do not have a password apply to the webmaster. There are different days and times for the talks. 'Doors' open 30 mins before the talk. The meeting starts 10 mins before the hour.

Co-ordinator: Jane Thomas

Email: secretary@wsfhs.org

There have been no responses to my request for your thoughts on subject, speakers and times of meetings. or, unfortunately, any offers of help. Status quo rules or laissez faire?

In **September** Dr Colin Chapman gave us a detailed talk on *'Migration'*, to help us track elusive ancestors whether they migrated internally, entered as an immigrant or emigrated. Colin pointed out that people could migrate vertically (socio-economically) or horizontally by changing occupation and geographically from a mile or so to a different country within the kingdom, including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man (crown protectorates).



People moved to find food (19th century Irish famine and other bad harvests) work (change of working practices brought about by industrialisation) or a spouse. Local markets were good places to meet people (cattle, produce, annual fairs, Mop or hiring fairs). People would flock to central markets possibly over county borders. When hiring, employers would often take on workers for 364 days rather than 365 as the latter gave right of settlement under the Poor Laws.

Some changes were imposed or chosen by influences - judicial, political, religious, health (e.g. to a Spa to take the waters or to the seaside). Transportation of criminals prior to 1776 was to the Americas and after to Australia. (Peter Coldham's book has indexed lists, 1614 to 1775).

Internal migration had legislative conditions - in 1285 strangers could be arrested if out after sunset! Poor meant unemployed. Migration was enabled by parishes and poor law unions, whilst emigration was encouraged by individuals, governments (whether welcoming or "waving goodbye") religious groups, e.g. Huguenots and Mormons and specific societies. Many of these records are not digitised so searches of record offices are necessary. TNA Discovery catalogue may help.

The modes of travel changed with industrialisation. Originally roads were poor, especially in winter. By foot or horse was often cross country or using old trackways along the hills. Water, rivers and the sea were also used. Until the railways long distance travel in Britain was quicker by sea. Canals and railways made travel easier and faster. Steam replacing sail shortened long sea journeys. Some passenger manifests of voyages are available online. Colin also showed examples using censuses, parish and court records, employment and education listings, land records and newspapers. This talk was not recorded.

Report by Jane Thomas

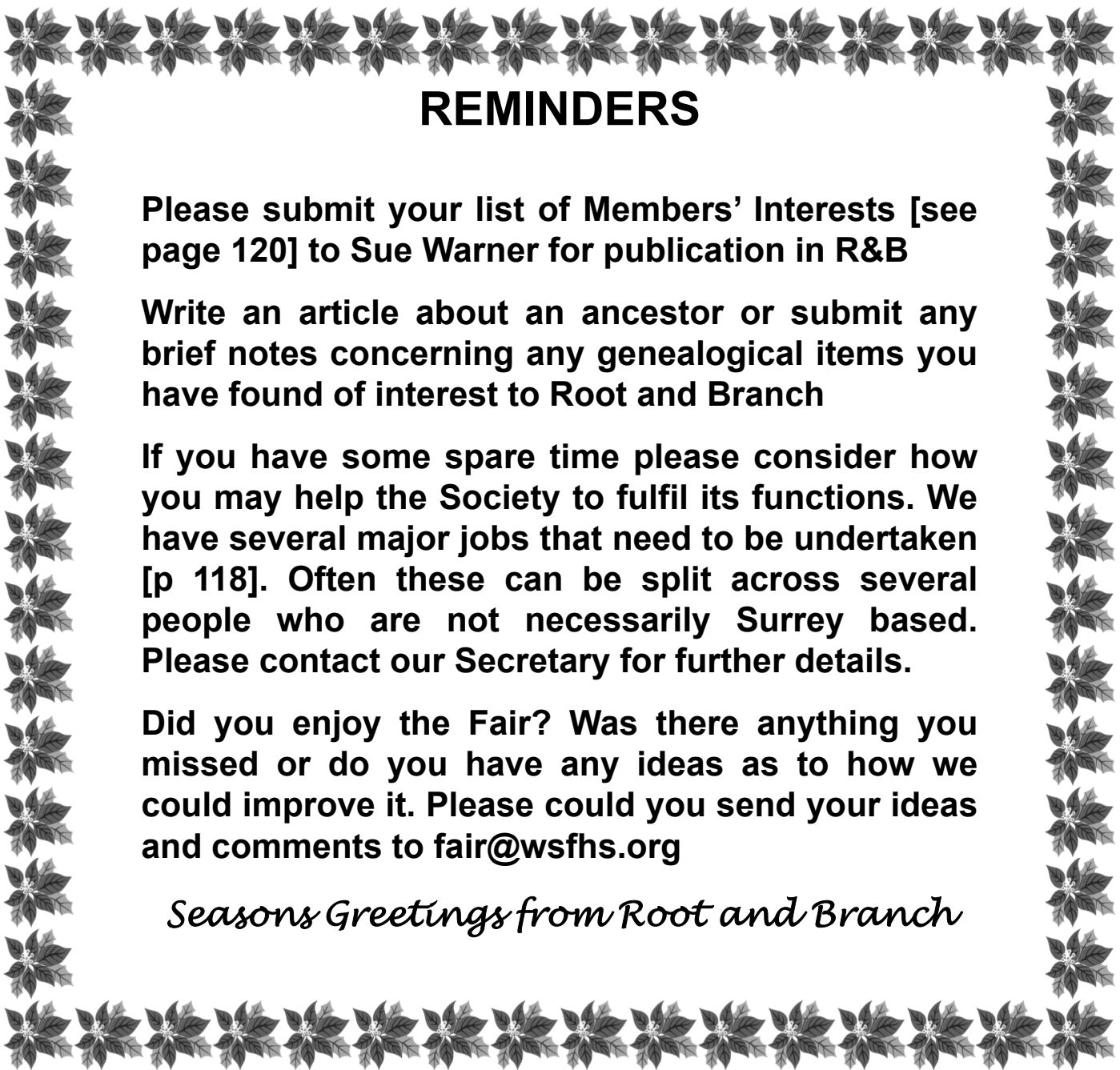
Forthcoming Meetings

- Dec 3 Wednesday 7.30pm for 7.50pm. Chris Broom – '*Humour in Genealogy*'. Chris is a tutor at the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies, Canterbury, and runs a genealogical research and education business from Suffolk. The talk is a light-hearted walk through a variety of genealogical records, reinforcing the value of scrutinising original documents.
- Jan 13 Tuesday 9.30 am for 9.50am **NB a morning meeting!** David Cufley - *Workshop*
Subject Still to be decided. We hope to run this as a proper workshop. It depends on the number of attendees.
- Feb 3 Tuesday 7.30pm for 7.50pm. Denise Bates – '*Breach of Promise to Marry*'. Denise has a degree in history, with a focus on the period c1800-1952 in Britain. Breach of promise was a claim for damages following a broken engagement. Using newspaper reports of cases heard in court c1780-1970, Denise considers how the cases reflect the society in which plaintiffs and defendants lived, how social assumptions changed over time and how a claim for breach of promise gave some women redress for wrongs that other laws denied them. When men behaved badly, hell had no fury like a woman scorned. ►

Mar 10 Tuesday 7.30pm for 7.50pm. Ian Currie – ‘*Droughts, Deluges and Dust Devils*’. an is a full-time weatherman, broadcaster, author, columnist, speaker and editor of Weather Eye magazine. He is a Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society. His forecasts to gardeners and growers are on BBC Radio Surrey and Sussex. Ian correctly forecast the October 1987 storm! His talk covers several centuries of weather with particular reference to SE England. From Seven metre high snowdrifts, cricket ball sized hail, blazing summers to violent tornadoes or devastating floods.

If you have questions regarding any Zoom Meetings please contact Jane Thomas by email, zoom@wsfhs.org.

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REMINDERS

Please submit your list of Members' Interests [see page 120] to Sue Warner for publication in R&B

Write an article about an ancestor or submit any brief notes concerning any genealogical items you have found of interest to Root and Branch

If you have some spare time please consider how you may help the Society to fulfil its functions. We have several major jobs that need to be undertaken [p 118]. Often these can be split across several people who are not necessarily Surrey based. Please contact our Secretary for further details.

Did you enjoy the Fair? Was there anything you missed or do you have any ideas as to how we could improve it. Please could you send your ideas and comments to fair@wsfhs.org

Seasons Greetings from Root and Branch

Future Meetings of the Society

Please refer to ‘Zoom and Centre Talks, Reviews and Schedule’ on the preceding pages for previews of the following meetings and for the location of each Centre along with times of the meetings and the names and telephone numbers of the Centre Co-ordinators. The **times given below are door opening times.**

Please check the WSFHS website for any changes.

December

Wednesday 3	7.30pm	Zoom	Chris Broom	Humour in Genealogy.
Thursday 11	7.45pm	Woking	Jane Lewis	Crofts, Castles, Trades and Professions
Wednesday 17	-	Camberley		NO MEETING
Tuesday 23	-	Walton on Thames		NO MEETING

January

Thursday 8	7.45pm	Woking	Sue Turner	Follow the Money
Tuesday 13	9.30am	Zoom	Davd Cufley	Workshop – Subject to be decided.
Saturday 17	1.30pm	Camberley	Penny Walters	Demystifying DNA.
Tuesday 27	7.30pm	Walton on Thames	Sharon Hintze	How to use Family Search

February

Tuesday 3	7.30pm	Zoom	Denise Bates	Breach of Promise to Marry
Thursday 12	7.45pm	Woking	Informal Meeting	Root and Branch Indexing
Saturday 21	1.30pm	Camberley	Margaret Taylor	Clandon Park – a heritage project like no other
Tuesday 24	7.30pm	Walton on Thames	Major Paul Whittle	Crimea War

March

Tuesday 10	7.30pm	Zoom	Ian Currie	Droughts, Deluges and Dust Devils
Thursday 12	7.45pm	Woking	David Rose and Geoff Burch	A Romany Lifestyle
Saturday 21	1.30pm	Camberley	Informal Meeting	Stranger Things
Tuesday 24	7.30pm	Walton on Thames	Andy Richardson	Aircraft Manufacturing History■

SERVICES FOR MEMBERS

The following are details of the services available to Members. The Members Area of the website provides exclusive access for members to the Surrey Monumental Inscriptions Index, electronic copies of Root and Branch, electronic copies of Exchange Magazines from other Societies, copies of AGM minutes, the constitution and other important documents.

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

Free Search Service. Over 140,000 names recorded. The index is on-line in the Members Area of the Society website

ELECTRONIC COPIES OF ROOT AND BRANCH

The current issue of Root and Branch is available electronically in the Members Areas of the website. Past copies are also available and more are being added.

ELECTRONIC EXCHANGE JOURNALS

The Society exchanges journals with other Societies and Organisations. They are available in the Members Area of the website.

HELP REGISTER and HELP FOR MEMBERS

Contact for members requiring help and members who can assist by looking up specific enquiries in their local Record Office, library or other information service

REFERENCE LIBRARY

Free access to information from the books and some other resources. For list of items see website

EXCHANGE JOURNALS

Journals from other family history societies are available to view online.

MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Interests, Forms, Updates and Enquiries. A free service to enable contact with other WSFHS members researching the same surnames in all parts of the world (not only Surrey). List of names in members' area of website.

ONLINE INDEX TO GENEALOGICAL DATABASES

This is an extensive reference guide.

SURREY INDEX OF NAMES [SINDEX]

An online index to Surrey names from a variety of sources. Available on Society's website.

RECIPROCAL BENEFITS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Events and visits and information available through local organisations.



This Way
Books

Cassini Maps

FIBIS

Census Detectives
courtesy of the
Society of
Genealogists



Surrey Postcards

East Surrey Family
History Society

Suffolk Family History
Society



Wiltshire Family History
Society,

The Family and
Community History
Research Society

The Book Fixer

