



East Surrey Family History Society

e-Newsletter No 2 February 2013

WELCOME to the second issue of your Society's new **e-Newsletter!**

I hope you will enjoy reading the news items and do remember that contributions and questions are welcome from readers. You may like to share a new source you've found – see my notes below on the BBC's Your Paintings web site, for instance – or mention a useful library collection you've discovered.

The Society holds regular meetings at five different venues in East Surrey and we look forward to seeing you at any of them - see the listings below – and don't forget our AGM on April 20th at the URC Church Halls, Addiscombe Road, Croydon. Further details below.

We have better news on the fate of the Croydon Archives! See below.

We are in the process of setting up an email distribution mechanism for the e-newsletter and it may take a further month or two to bed in so please accept my apologies. In the interim the e-newsletter will be published on the Society web site www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk.

Remember to let us know if you want us to use a different email address. Please see the 'Administration notes' at the end of the newsletter for further information. If you have any comments or contributions, please email these to: enewseditor@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk

ESFHS UPDATE

Don't miss out on our Journal and the regular meetings at five venues across East Surrey! If you need help please contact the Membership Secretary at membership01@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk

Forthcoming ESFHS meetings include:

CROYDON – Tuesday 19th March at 7.45pm Family History from Education Records - Colin R Chapman

LINGFIELD- March meeting tba

RICHMOND – Saturday March 9th at 2.30pm - Child employment in 19thC Kingston - Dr Helen Goepel

SOUTHWARK – Monday April 8th at 12.00 noon - The Life, Times & Contents of Bishopsgate Library - to which the Bishopsgate Institute has offered free public access since 1895. Talk by Stefan Dickers. Stefan is Librarian & Archives Manager at the Institute - he will talk about the Library's unique history & the collections he looks after relating to the history of London, the early labour movement, radicalism & co-operation.

SUTTON – Thursday March 7th at 7.45pm -Pleasures and pastimes in Victorian Britain – Ian Waller. Ian is a Family Historian who specialises in Social History

See the Journal or the website www.eastsurreyfh.org.uk for location details.

AND

CROYDON – SATURDAY 20th APRIL.

The 2013 AGM of the East Surrey Family History Society will be hosted by the Croydon Group in conjunction with the Croydon Local Studies Forum Conference at the East Croydon United Reform Church halls, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon CR0 5LP, on Saturday 20th April in the Small Hall. Doors Open 10.00 am.

Conference Talks include:

10.05am An Introduction to Local History: focusing on South Norwood, by local historian John Hickman

11.00 am: The Paperchase: Documentation of a Life by professional genealogist Ian Waller

12 noon: Dating & Understanding Family Photographs 1840 -1930: how to date, analyse & interpret all kinds of photos from the family archive, a talk by Jayne Shrimpton Professional Dress Historian & Picture Specialist

1.00 pm Lunch

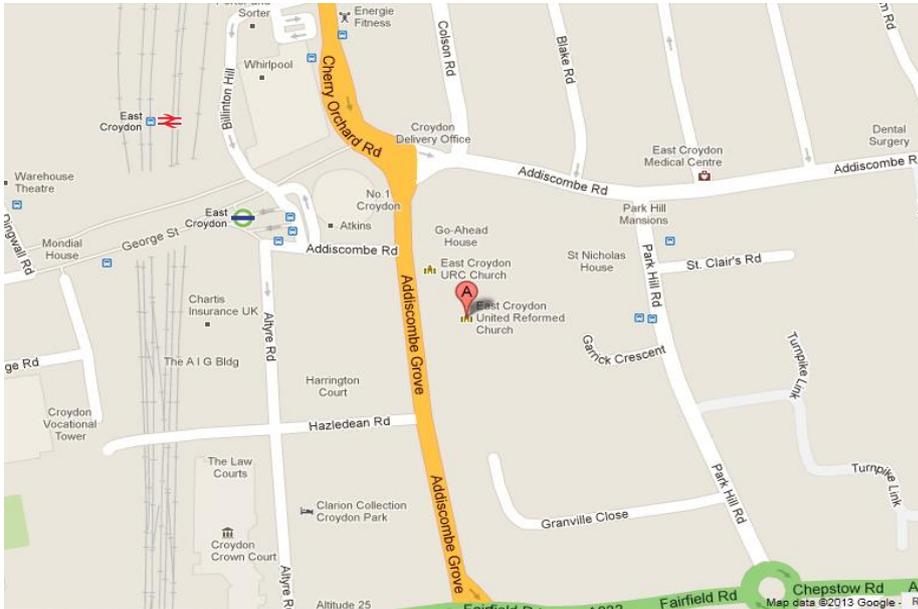
2.00 pm Professor Elizabeth Edwards discusses the themes of her book: The Camera as Historian:

3.00 pm Tea

3.30 pm ESFHS AGM

4.30 Close

Venue: East Croydon United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon, CR0 5LP



WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE LIVE show at Olympia, 22-24 February 2013.

I hope you were able to visit the Show. Here are a few photos.



Croydon Archives UPDATE

In last month's e-Newsletter we told you about the proposed budget cuts to Croydon Archives. Following some vigorous protests, including by representatives of your Committee, I am pleased to advise that, instead of being cut back the Archives are being located to the Ground Floor of the Library, and in the fullness of time, may enjoy extended opening hours!

Here are some extracts from Councillor Pollard's latest update (8 February)

I wrote to or emailed all the people who contacted me in December/January with an interim update last month, in which I outlined my hopes that my officers would be able to put together a proposal which both gives a secure future to the local Studies Library and enables it to make the saving necessary to help the council balance its budget. I am pleased to say that I have been able to announce that we have been successful in that endeavour and can give more details now on the proposal.

At the council meeting at the end of January I was finally able to explain exactly how this was to be achieved and, I hope, set the users' minds at rest. In essence this involves relocating the service to a more accessible location on the ground floor of the central library complex and synchronising the management with that of the museum service. This will enable, in the fullness of time, the opening hours to be not just retained, but potentially increased. I am hoping that, when the integration is complete, we will be able to open Monday to Saturday, instead of the current hours of Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and every second Saturday.

....I am really delighted that the proposal I am putting forward will actually improve overall levels of access to the borough's archives and to our significant art collection.

....we are now proposing to move the local studies room from its current location on the 3rd floor of the Central library to the vacant exhibition gallery on the ground floor. Its new location will place it much more at the heart of the Clocktower complex and, I hope, allow it to be discovered by a new generation of users.

The space will be refurbished and this will allow us to fully integrate the Museum and Archive services into one.....

Up until now the council's extensive art collection has not been on permanent display due to the lack of a suitable gallery. Through this proposal we will be able to use the refurbished space to put some of the council's many works of art onto public display, some for the very first time. These art works will be displayed by rotation to ensure that they are both preserved for posterity and also made more accessible to current residents.

We are also committed to ensuring that temporary art exhibitions can continue. We propose to use the court area of the Clocktower for this and we will be investing in the necessary furniture and fittings to make this possible.

I hope that this outcome sets your mind at rest: certainly it has been warmly welcomed by many of the key user groups.

End

We may need to help fight this battle again in two years' time but in the meantime you can help by visiting and using the Archives at Croydon. The current contact details are:

Telephone 020 8726 6900

Fax 020 8253 1012

Email localstudies@croydon.gov.uk

Level 3
Central Library
Address Croydon Clocktower
Katharine Street
Croydon CR9 1ET

Useful websites for Family History

The National Archives produces a list of useful English and Welsh web sites. Some are Subscription or Pay-per-View and these are marked (£). Here are some 'Census' and 'Wills' Websites you might like to try: (hover over the link, press CTRL and 'click' Enter together).

Census

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/census links to official Census websites

www.freecen.org.uk Free transcription database for the UK censuses 1841- 1891 (incomplete)

www.censusfinder.com More than 34,000 links to census resources worldwide

Wills

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/willsdeathduties.asp Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills 1384-1858, Death Duty registers, wills of Royal Naval seamen (£)

www.yourarchives.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php?title=Online_Probate_Indexes

Links to online probate indexes

www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk/cms/wills.htm The Probate Service for England and Wales; wills and probate since 1858.

Let us know how you get on with these sites and if you have any tips for fellow members!

New BBC web site 'Your Paintings'

www.bbc.co.uk/arts/yourpaintings/

The BBC has just launched a new site that aims to show the entire UK national collection of oil paintings (212,000 paintings!), the stories behind the paintings, and where to see them. It is made up of paintings from thousands of museums and other public institutions around the country.

There is a search function - 'Find a Painting' - which you can use to find an individual or a place. I entered 'Bletchingley' where my ancestors lived and this brought up four paintings of places in the village. I also entered some family names and found four images of an illustrious ancestor!

You are invited to 'tag' elements in the paintings and you can see and use some of the tag terms that have already been used in the 'Paintings' tab to narrow down your searches.

Beware the copyright rules! (These are explained on the site)

The screenshot shows the BBC 'Your Paintings' website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the BBC logo, a search bar, and links for News, Sport, Weather, iPlayer, TV, Radio, and More... The main header features the 'YOUR PAINTINGS' logo and the tagline 'Uncovering the nation's art collection'. Below this, there is a navigation menu with links for Home, Paintings, Artists, Galleries & Collections, Guided Tours, About Us, and Events. The main content area is divided into several sections: a large featured image of a man's face with the text 'Your Paintings Over 210,000 oil paintings are now online'; a 'Find a painting' search box with a search button; a 'Discover activities near you' section with a colorful illustration; a 'Help us to tag the nation's paintings' section with a 'Start tagging paintings' button; a 'Latest updates' section with three news items; a 'Teachers' section with a 'Resources for art, history and more' button; and a 'See paintings in real life' section with a 'Find galleries to visit near you' button. The 'Find a painting' search box and the 'Paintings' navigation link are circled in red.

Family History Conference

‘EXODUS – Movement of the People. ‘British Migration from the 16th century’.

This residential conference has been organised by the Halstead Trust and will take place from the 6th to the 8th September 2013 at the Hinckley Island Hotel, Hinckley, Leicestershire. It will give the genealogy community an opportunity to increase their knowledge of migration and to meet other family historians. Speakers from both sides of the Atlantic are in the Programme, including ESFHS President Paul Blake, who will be giving two lectures at the Conference:

Crime, Criminals and Transportation to America and the West Indies, 1615-1776;

and,

Americal Loyalists, Land Grants and Claims

Details of the conference can be found on the website www.exodus2013.co.uk together with many stories of migration to, from and within the British Isles.

Survey of London Online

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/research/buildings/survey-of-london/survey-of-london-online/>

All 45 of the Survey of London Main Series volumes up to Clerkenwell are available in a fully searchable form online on the Institute of Historical Research's [British History Online website](#) following a four-year project funded by English Heritage to make them freely available. For South London these include:

Vol 22 - Bankside (the parishes of St. Saviour and Christchurch Southwark)

Vol 23 - Lambeth: South Bank and Vauxhall

Vol 25 - St George's Fields (The parishes of St. George the Martyr Southwark and St. Mary Newington)

Vol 26 - Lambeth: Southern area

The volume on Battersea is at the presses.

Are you related to Richard III?

If you couldn't get to the WDYTIA show or couldn't get a ticket for the talk, see this You Tube video of the University of Leicester's announcement that the 'body in the car park' was indeed the last Plantagenet King of England. DNA analysis (Dr Turi King) and genealogical research (Prof. Kevin Schurer) played crucial parts in the investigation and you may be particularly interested if you have the surnames IBSEN or SPOONER in your family tree!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=91R-LkW2x3s>

Website Update

Please be careful! You have to subscribe, and pay, to use some of these web sites. If you need any help or advice please speak to a Committee member at any of the Society meetings. To open a site, click on the blue address then press both the CTRL key and click (Enter) on your keyboard simultaneously.

The National Archives www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ have two new Podcasts of interest. In a podcast you hear the speaker's voice only, there are no visuals. (Click on the link then press CTRL and Enter):

[Where there's a will...: probate records for family history at The National Archives and beyond](#)

[Tracing battalions or regiments of the British Army during the Great War](#)

Ancestry (£) www.ancestry.co.uk/ has:

- Added Civil Divorce application records 1858-1911 for England and Wales
- Published Manchester births, baptisms, marriages, banns, deaths and burials, some from as early as 1541

Unsubscribe and Change of Email address

We hope you have enjoyed reading this **e-Newsletter**, if not, please let us know how we can improve it. If you no longer wish to receive it please click [unsubscribe](#). (Please note this facility is not working at the moment.)

If you need to advise us of a changed email address please contact the Membership Secretary at membership01@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk
