



East Surrey

Family History Society



The Reception desk at the new
Lambeth Archives location. See page 33

Volume 47
number 1
March 2024

East Surrey Family History Society

Founded 1977

Registered Charity No. 286659

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Members must quote their Membership Number in all correspondence

The Society **Research & Advice centre** is at Lingfield & Dormansland Community Centre, High Street, Lingfield. It is open every month (except August and December) on the second Saturday from 10.30 a.m. to 3.00 p.m., and on the fourth Wednesday from 10.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

Journal of the

East Surrey Family History Society

www.eastsurreyfhhs.org.uk

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The deadline for the June 2024 Journal is 10.00 a.m. on 1 May

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

From the chairman

Hilary Blanford

By the time you read this I hope the weather has improved. Dire warnings of Sahara dust, icy winds, snow and storms seem to have become the norm at the moment. Hopefully the weather will improve and you will feel more inclined to venture out to join us at our annual study day and AGM on 23 March in Sutton. We have an excellent team of experienced and knowledgeable speakers, so why not bring a friend or neighbour along with you? Last year's event was a very friendly and enjoyable occasion. Come and join us for 'Soup of the Day'.

We are still looking for somebody to manage the bookstall programme. This entails booking tables and sometimes arranging payment for them, as well as finding a team of volunteers to man the stall on the day, for around six events each year. We are very fortunate that Monica Polley is willing to hold the stock and drive it to venues, and Alan Essex provides a home for various display items. As well as this valuable assistance we have a small team of knowledgeable members who try to answer queries from the public at events. Maybe you'd like to join them? It's a good way to meet people who have similar interests, to

learn more about family history, and to visit other Societies.

Lynn Gunter has joined the committee and has used her professional skill to re-design the poster for our annual Study Day. You can see her handiwork on page 12. It would also be helpful to have a member, or members, who could improve our publicity, using social media. Membership of the committee is not a requirement although it could be useful.

Our Christmas 'Just a Family History Minute' has generated a number of items for this journal, so once you've read them you might like to join us in 2024?

We have continued to strengthen our links with Surrey History Centre: firstly, by transcribing the Netherne Burial Registers, as described on page 13, and secondly, the Society is not just hosting a 'Talk with Tea', but for the first time one of our members, Anne Ramon, will be sharing the stage with Jane Lewis and Julian Pooley. Details are on the next page.

Our talk on Zoom from Abby Matthews of Sutton Archives has resulted in an agreement to explore the possibility of having some form of Help Desk at Sutton Library.

From the chairman

Whether this will be face-to-face or using Zoom (or a combination of both methods) remains to be decided but we will keep you updated. If you live in or near Sutton and might be interested in becoming an advisor please get in touch.

Do your New Year resolutions include some of your brick walls? Mine includes a visit to the Cheshire

Archives before they close on 27 June (in preparation for the moves to two new Archive sites, due to open in the winter of 2025/26).

Maybe yours could be a visit to the new Lambeth Archives or the Society of Genealogists' new premises not far from St Pancras station? Happy hunting.

Talk with Tea

The next Talk with Tea at Surrey History Centre will be 'Stepping Stones Through the Archives', on Thursday 25 April, 2.00 - 4.00 p.m. Anne Ramon will be explaining the basics of analysing your DNA and the

importance of pairing this with robust paper trails. Then Jane Lewis and Julian Pooley will be discussing how to use their finding aids and a range of different sources to pin down your ancestors.

Zoom meetings

Links for live talks and recordings will be emailed to members.
Links for live talks *only* will be found on the Society's website.

March: Monday 11, 10.00 a.m. (*recording played Monday 11, 8.00 p.m.*)

A Genealogist's Nightmare: tracing the Smith family of London Janet Few

This talk uses the Smith family of London as a case study to introduce sources and techniques that will help with the challenge of researching a common surname in a densely populated area. A wide range of resources will be covered, many of which will also be applicable to those researching outside London.

April: Tuesday 9, 8.00 p.m. and Wednesday 10, 10.00 a.m.

Women on the Railways

Richard Marks

In the past we have enjoyed Richard's passionate interest in railways and his entertaining and knowledgeable presentations. Both talks will be live and shared with members of Kent Family History Society.

May: Tuesday 14, 10.00 a.m. and Tuesday 21, 8.00 p.m.

With whom did your ancestors meet?

Colin Chapman

Queen Victoria, a Judge at the Assizes or the Hangman? Colin is well known to us and never fails to disappoint. Both talks will be live and shared with members of Kent Family History Society.

June: Tuesday 11 8.00 p.m. (*recording played Wednesday 12, 10.00 a.m.*)

Emigration at the end of the 19th century and the ocean liner Judy Hill

Members enjoyed Judy's talk on earlier emigration so requested this follow-up talk.

Group meetings

Lingfield Group

- Mar 27 Women's Land Army Ian Everest
Ian's mother was one of the 80,000 Land Girls in WW2. His talk contains some of her memories and a potted history of the role of women on farms in both World Wars
- Apr 24 Basic introduction to Scottish research Ian Waller
This talk details information about basic research: it is suitable for beginners, and also a timely reminder to the more seasoned researchers
- May 22 Bridging the gap Jackie Depelle
Before the 1921 census there are plenty of records to cross-reference and roll back family research. What material can we use to go back to 1921 from more recent years?

Southwark Group

- Apr 8 Jones & Higgins Department Store Lisa Soverall
- Jun 10 Walk around Camberwell (with a café stop) Len Reilly
Places are limited. Please book with the Southwark Secretary (email address shown below)
- Aug 12 Film and Sound archives for Family Historians Kathy Chater

Group details

Lingfield: Secretary: Rita Russell 01342 834648 {lingfield@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk}
Lingfield & Dormansland Community Centre, High Street, Lingfield RH7 6AB

Southwark: Secretary: Hilary Blanford 01634 685219 {southwark@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk}
John Harvard Library (211 Borough High Street, London SE1 1JA)
Doors open 11.30 a.m.; meetings start at 12.00 noon

Please check the Society website www.eastsurreyfhs.org.uk for future meetings and last-minute alterations.

The National Library of Scotland map collection

Christine Peel

This is the report of the talk given by Laragh Quinney on 8 January

Laragh is the Maps Reading Room manager at the National Library of Scotland (NLS) in Edinburgh. An important part of her work is helping people to use the maps held there in personal research projects and to locate maps that might assist in that. The purpose of her talk was to describe the types of map available and to show how the online resource can be used in family history research.

The NLS is a legal deposition site, meaning they are allowed to claim a free copy of everything published in the UK, including books, newspapers, music and maps. Other such sites are the Bodleian Library in Oxford, Cambridge University Library, the National Library of Wales, Trinity College Library Dublin and the British Library. This right includes the duty to hold a copy of all maps in the public domain. The NLS also has a budget to purchase maps published abroad and antiquarian maps to expand the collection, which now includes over two million maps: these include book maps, folded maps, gazetteers, books about map-making and increasingly digital mapping. There

are map chests for storing flat maps and, although there is a particular interest in maps of Scotland, the collection is international, covering the whole of Great Britain and Ireland. There is also a sheet series of the rest of the world. As well as world maps and atlases, there are astronomical maps and also maps of imaginary places like Middle Earth, Treasure Island and Sodor. The collection includes a small number of very early manuscript maps.

The atlases held at the NLS cover Scotland and the world, the former from as early as 1694 and the latter from 1525. The British Library holds the ones for England.

There are 270,000 digitized maps available online. Laragh concentrated on those possibly of interest to us as family historians. The earliest maps were produced in 1579 by Christopher Saxon. Unfortunately, NLS did not get a copy as they were only a library at the time, so Laragh began by showing us the early map of Kent, Middlesex and Surrey remotely from the British Library collection, followed by another county map of the same area. The early maps were

Using the National Library of Scotland map collection

very much focussed on capturing settlements and details of rivers, but the one she showed us included the early road system and had a key to the features. Next up was a map from *Blaeu Atlas Maior 1662-1665*, volume 5 for “Surria vernacular Surrey”. The cartographer had set himself the task of publishing the most up-to-date and comprehensive world atlas, which resulted in this beautiful work. Various symbols show churches and mills on the rivers. Landscape features are indicated only around the larger properties.

We were then shown John Cary’s 1789 map of the county of Surrey (“Surry”), showing much more detail. One can get a sense of the size and layout of Guildford in that period. The network of roads connecting to it is shown and details of things like turnpikes are marked on the major roads. The navigable river between Godalming and Guildford is also shown. The relief of the landscape is indicated, and the names of farms and smaller settlements. The forestry and woods are indicated and one can get a feeling for how people lived in the period. A good key shows what the various features mean. Such maps

are a useful resource prior to the production of OS maps. Few of the county maps for Surrey have been digitized and the maps that we were shown were of photographs taken over the map tables. Live Zoom or Teams share sessions can be booked by anyone interested.

With this limitation in mind, Laragh moved on to discuss OS maps, beginning with the OS 6-inch maps (1:10560), first produced in the 1830s to 1940s for Scotland, England, Wales and Ireland. The mapping captures both man-made and natural features: street layouts, roads, paths and railways as well as hills, mountains, tree cover and coastline details. The map shown was for Surrey in 1870/71, published in 1873. Not all maps were completed at the same time, of course. The map was revised in the 1890s and 1900s. It shows Guildford railway station, and prominent buildings like the brewery, mill and gas works, as well as some street names, but not each individual building. In the rural areas there are field layouts, information on tree cover, post office, smithy, etc. Because of the updating there should be two editions for any place in which you are interested. After

Using the National Library of Scotland map collection

the early 1900s updates were done for major changes, mostly in urban and industrial areas. Later maps show London Airport and Croydon Airport. After WWII, 6-inch maps were replaced by those with a scale of 1: 10000, based on National Grid squares and covering the entire country.

More useful are maps with a scale of 25 inches to the statute mile. These largely have the same publication dates as the 6-inch maps, but are mostly for cultivated areas; they were not produced for the wilder areas of the Lake District and rocky coastlines. NLS holds all these for England, Scotland and Wales, but not Ireland. Each map covers a smaller area but in greater detail. Individual buildings and more street names are shown. The railway line also shows each individual track. For historic sites there are also more details like moats, fishponds, etc. This scale is very useful for industrial buildings, even showing if a building has a glass roof. They were produced after WWII on a county-by-county basis, but were gradually replaced with maps at a scale of either 1:2500 or 1:1250. Such maps showed Post Offices, ambulance stations, but it was only after WWII

that house numbers appear. A useful resource from earlier times is, however, the existence of town plans, showing garden layouts and entrance points, together with the capacity of churches and theatres. For example, on the town plan of Guildford in 1869, published in 1871 on a scale of 1:300, one can see St Nicholas church and its capacity, the lamp post at the corner and where the others in the street were situated. The railway station, engine shed and terminus are shown, together with other station buildings. These were published in both colour and line versions. The library mostly holds the latter. As well as other features, underground passages are indicated and the position of hydrants – essential for fire safety. It is worth noting that only maps out of copyright can be made available on the website, however prints of these can be provided by contacting the library.

Smaller scale, less detailed maps are also available that might be useful for tracing the routes of canals, railways, or roads to follow family peregrinations. One-inch maps can be compared to the early county maps. The website also has a number of aerial photographs, used

Using the National Library of Scotland map collection

by OS after WWII to correct their mapping and some are being digitized. Other types of map might be of interest if one is tracing something in particular. The 1911 map of Richmond Park shows all the trees and paths at that time, for instance, and other park maps show individual trees, or just the tree variety. Maps at a scale of 10 miles to the inch showing the railway network, as well as land use mapping, can provide information for those studying such topics.

Laragh concluded her fascinating and most useful talk by demonstrating the use of some features of the online system. The good news is that all OS maps of 1973 and earlier are now out of copyright and have been added to the digitized list. Recent additions are shown under the dark blue button at the top left of the maps.nls.uk screen. The trip through

the various types of map and search available was very detailed and impossible to replicate here, but there are research help screens available and with some perseverance one can find what one is looking for. The most irritating thing is, of course, if one's area of interest covers two maps, or worse is in the corner of four maps, but it is possible using the facilities of the system, via the georeferencing tab, to join adjacent maps together seamlessly. Being able to overlay new maps on the old is very useful for locating the site of features that may have changed or disappeared.

For further information, a telephone call or email to the library will provide any help you need and between 14.00 and 16.00 there is a chat line that can be used to type in a question while you are looking at a map.

ESFHS Open Day and AGM, Saturday 23 March

North Cheam Baptist Church, Ridge Road, Sutton, SM3 9LY

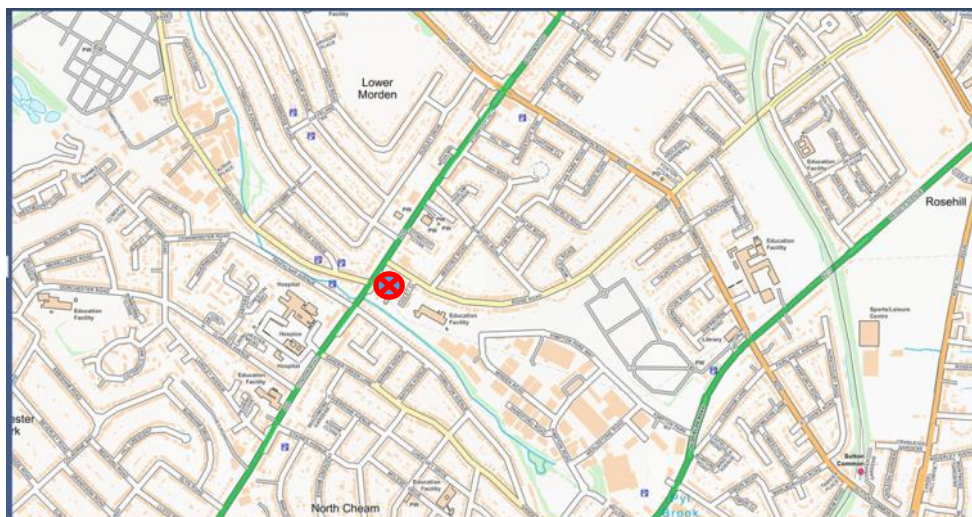
The church is marked with a red cross on the map below. It has its own car park with spaces for 24 cars, including four disabled spaces.

If you are **coming by car**, approach Ridge Road from the main A24, Stonecot Hill (as there is a barrier in the middle of Ridge Road when approaching from Sutton Common Road). The church is about 50 yards on the right from the main road.

If you are using **public transport**, the following buses run along the A24 with bus stops just round the corner from Ridge Road (labelled Stonecot Hill / Garth Road).

- ♦ 93 from Putney to North Cheam via Morden underground station
- ♦ 293 from Morden to Epsom via Lower Morden and Garth Road
- ♦ 413 starts at Morden, though it goes a long way round to get to the A24 via Tudor Drive. From Garth Road bus stop it will go to Sutton via Gander Green Lane and West Sutton station, stopping near Sutton mainline station. (Civic Centre bus stop to Sutton station and Grove Road bus stop from Sutton station – because of one-way system.)

If you are coming from the Croydon area, trams from Beckenham via East Croydon to Wimbledon stop at the Morden Road tram stop where you can change to a 93 bus.



ESFHS Study Day: 23 March 2024

At the Study Day the theme will be 'Rich man, poor man, beggar man, thief' and we have a stunning team of speakers for the day.

We will start the day with Kathy Chater speaking on 'Poor lunatics' and she says, 'The rich have always been able to buy care for the mentally ill or those who through disability were unable to look after themselves, but what happened to the poor? How were they treated, both therapeutically and in institutions over the centuries?'

Kathy Chater is a family historian and professional genealogist who has been tracing her forebears for some 40 years. She has written a number of articles and books, including *My Ancestor was a Lunatic* (Society of Genealogists, 2014).

After lunch we will have Julian Pooley's talk entitled 'Paupers, Beggars, Criminals and Aspiring Gentlemen: Georgian Society Preserved in Print, 1731-1820' and he is planning to speak on poor men, beggars and thieves as well as the rich: bankrupts are listed every

month, giving a good insight into trades across Surrey and even dynasties of failing businesses; beggars (especially those posthumously found to have accumulated considerable riches!) are frequently noticed in the news and death columns; and plenty of thieves are listed in the crime and punishment reports. He writes, 'I can also say something about wealthy Londoners moving into Surrey and also how the births, marriages and death listings take especial note of privilege, dowries and the accumulated wealth of a successful tradesman.'

The day will end with Dave Annal speaking on 'Crime and Punishment in the 19th Century: the records, the people, the stories . . .'

You can find more information about this on the talks page of Dave's website: <https://lifelinesresearch.co.uk/talks/>

As usual, we will be inviting other family history and historical groups to join us.

See further details on the next page

Rich man, Poor man, Beggar man, Thief

Three **FREE** talks on social history at
North Cheam Baptist Church
Saturday, 23 March 2024
hosted by the East Surrey Family History Society



The poor and insanity

Kathy Chater

Paupers, beggars, criminals and aspiring gentlemen

Julian Pooley

Crime and punishment in the 19th century

Dave Annal

10:00 - Doors open

10:40-11:40 - Kathy Chater

11:40-12:00 - Break

12:00-13:00 - Society AGM

All are welcome to attend

13:00-14:00 - Lunch

14:00 - 15:00 - Julian Pooley

15:00-15:30 - Break

15:30 - 16:30 - Dave Annal

16:30 - Close

Research material, bookstall and
help desk available

Tea, coffee and biscuits
available throughout the day
with soup at lunchtime
(free of charge
but donations very welcome)

North Cheam Baptist Church, Ridge Road, Sutton SM3 9LY

The church is off Stonecot Hill (A24) with buses from
Morden, Epsom and Sutton.

Parking for 24 cars at church, otherwise available in side streets.

Online Transcriptions – Netherne Burial Register

Hilary Blanford {chairman@eastsurreyfhs.org.uk}

In the September journal I appealed for 40 members to help with transcribing the burial register for Netherne Hospital. The final number of volunteers was 25. They couldn't all come at the same time so we worked a morning and an evening shift. We held two practice sessions, with everybody transcribing page 1 in pairs, using a scanned page of the register and an Excel spreadsheet. People were able to see both the image of the page and the transcribed entries by using the screen-share facility available in Zoom. This enabled team members to check their transcriptions at the end of each session. Most people opted to keep their 'practice partner' as their co-worker for the actual transcription sessions, although this wasn't always possible.

I sent six pages to all participants for the first sessions, so with eight entries to a page the workload was not arduous and we managed to transcribe 488 records in just over an hour. However, that was not enough for 'the gang', who wanted to complete the job, so we arranged two more shifts and by the end had transcribed the whole register – 1280 entries.

We finished each session with a brief discussion about some of the findings. We were helped by the plan of the burial ground that Surrey History Centre had scanned for us. This was very useful because the grave numbers were the same as the numbered entries in the burial register, and we were able to see how the early burials were in single graves. Later burials were three to a grave and it was clear how the hospital staff had planned to maximise the burial spaces by using the verges and in-filling.

We all enjoyed it, as the task was provided in manageable 'bites' and people wanted to transcribe more records. Rita Russell is considering the records for the Westminster Lying-in Hospital that Sylvia Dibbs described in the last issue of the journal as a possible dataset, as this would help the small team who have been working on this project for a while.

The Society and Surrey History Centre are very grateful to everybody who participated in this project. We couldn't have done it without you! Well done everybody, and thank you.

If you are interested in joining the team, please send me an email.

Unusual Forenames

Marda Dixon

We are used to seeing changing trends in the naming of children. Some traditional names, such as George and Elizabeth, have lasted throughout the generations while others have a shorter appeal.

After an event in history, names like Horatio (Nelson), Winston (Churchill) and Florence (Nightingale) appeared, as did names from fiction such as Sherlock or Scarlett. Orange and Lemon made an appearance through the 17th and 18th centuries. Apple came in the 20th century.

More recently, parents have used seasons, months, days and weather-related words in their name

choices: for example Summer, June, Tuesday, Storm. Christmas and Easter have also been used.

In Victorian times names with religious qualities became popular and hence we find Mercy, Thankful, Patience, Comfort, Precious and True in the records.

But what about names that we see having a more negative context? Faster, Mortify, Silence and Faintnot have all been used. Think of the poor children who had to go through life being called Enough (did the parents have one too many children?) or Fleefornication!

What unusual names have you come across in your research?

East Surrey Family History Society AGM 2024

Notice of the 2024 AGM of East Surrey Family History Society

The AGM will be held on March 23 at 12.00 pm in North Cheam Baptist Church, Ridge Road, Sutton, SM3 9LY. Please note this is earlier in the day than in previous years.

The trustees will be proposing a reduction in the required quorum for an AGM from 25 to 20 people.

The first motoring fatality

Sylvia Dibbs

While discussing the recent speed restrictions imposed on motorists around the country recently, a friend told me about Mrs Bridget Driscoll of Old Town, Croydon.

She has the distinction of being the first motoring fatality recorded in Great Britain, and Crystal Palace has the honour of being the location for this tragic event.

The ill-fated lady was walking in the park with her teenage daughter

May and a friend, Elizabeth Murphy, on 17 August 1896 when Arthur Edsell, employed by the Anglo-French Motor Co. hit Mrs Driscoll while driving a Roger-Benz car giving demonstration rides on behalf of the company. The careless driver was doing a reckless 4mph! The victim's skull was fractured and she died. The car had a maximum speed of 8mph, but had been restricted to 4mph.



The picture, which is taken from the Wikipedia entry, is copyright free and is credited to www.roadsafety.cardiff.gov.uk.

News from Surrey Heritage

Julian Pooley (Public Services and Engagement Manager, Surrey History Centre)

Each year our fortnight's closure for stock taking allows us the opportunity to forge ahead with large listing projects that we cannot undertake when our search room is open, and 2023 was no exception. The large document tables and tithe map table were all piled high with boxes and crates as staff delved, sorted and listed a wide range of collections. Major successes included the following:

- Records of Christ Church C of E Infant School, Virginia Water, comprising governor minutes, log books, admission registers, examination schedules, inspectors' reports, plans, photographs, scrapbooks, prospectuses and newsletters, (CC1288/-)
- Warlingham and Caterham UDC war records, comprising details of houses damaged during WWII, and information regarding the establishing of the Civil Defence under Stanley Baldwin, and later Neville Chamberlain's governments. The collection also includes lists of ARP wardens, which until now were believed not to have survived, (3385/2/-,)
- 42 registers of operations of Rowley Bristow and St Peter's Hospitals, 1922-1997 (10534/-)
- A full review of the remaining boxes of the vast Evelyn estate archive and further cataloguing, bringing the total of documents described to over 1400. Newly described material includes evidence for the financial activity of the family: such as the entrepreneurial success of John Evelyn the diarist's grandfather John Stansfield, a draper who expanded to deal in a large turnover of iron and timber in the early 17th century; and the young John Evelyn's less canny investment in the Irish expedition of 1642, which well illustrates the warning that investments can go down as well as up (6330/-)
- Completion of digitising, identifying and cataloguing 80 glass plate photographs of male patients of The Manor Hospital, Epsom, 1899-1910. Thumbnail images have been added to our online catalogue (6317/3/-).
- A complete revision and update to our Guide to Parish registers, now made into an accessible file and uploaded to our website.

News from Surrey Heritage

- Over 100 digitised images from slides and negatives catalogued, 76 illustrations, 100 postcards and 200 local directories and telephone books catalogued
- Strongroom book collection re-organised to create future expansion space.
- A catalogue of a large archive of Thames Ditton, including the historical papers of AJ Style, churchwarden, illustrations and other records relating to the church structure and monuments, 1746-2015, (9535/-)
- A catalogue of records of Godalming United Church, including newsletters and orders of service, and records illustrating connections with the ecumenical Churches Together in Godalming and District, 1986-2016 (9942/-)
- A catalogue of Civil Defence records which detail how the county prepared for WWII and coped with wartime operations. Includes records of flying bomb incidents, taking of premises for wartime activities, air raid precautions and evacuations (CC777/-)

But it was not all hard work. We also found time to celebrate the amazing work done by our team of volunteers over the course of the past year. I often think that archives and local studies collections are a 'slow burn'. It takes time to rescue, preserve and catalogue our collections, and even longer to understand them and make them accessible to new audiences. The indexing, transcription, digitisation and research that is done each week by our volunteers underpins that process and we simply could not do what we do without them. We are still crunching the numbers for 2023, but in the year between April 2022 and March 2023 our volunteers gave us over 9,000 hours of their time and their work has included:

- indexing the minute books of the Surrey poor law boards of guardians
- indexing the admissions registers of Brookwood hospital, 1973-1979 – 5000 names so far, and counting
- indexing 48 bundles of atrociously written admission papers to Earlswood Hospital

News from Surrey Heritage

- indexing the case books of the Royal Earlswood Hospital
- reading and making notes about the letters of Joseph Jekyll, a lawyer in Georgian England, whose vivid observations and comments on the society and world around him will be of enormous value to social and cultural historians
- creating an interactive WW2 bomb map for all of 1945 Surrey, using research material in the archives at Surrey History Centre, Local Studies Centres, local museums, TNA, and online resources to plot and research every bomb, crashed aircraft, V1, V2 and unexploded AA shell that fell on Surrey
- cataloguing building plans submitted to Chertsey Urban District Council, and covering Chertsey, Addlestone, Ottershaw and the surrounding area.
- indexing the Broadwood Piano Company's customer ledgers
- cataloguing the correspondence of Evelyn Broadwood and his many relatives from the late 19th and early 20th century
- indexing Guildford Outlook, a monthly free news magazine delivered to people in the borough and covering the years 1934-1957. Of particular interest are all the war years and immediate post-war events, which include so much local detail about life during the war and records of individual members of the armed forces and their achievements. The material from the 1950s is also invaluable as it covers the plans for the post-war housing boom and creation of new estates around Guildford and the introduction of more photographic content of local people and events
- cataloguing the plans of Peper Harow mansion, and creating finding aids for local authority deposited building plans relating to Chipstead and Woodmansterne, in the former Croydon Rural District, 1897-1914, and photographs of 1920s-1930s prestige houses constructed by a small Guildford builder's firm
- indexing the Guildford petty sessions court registers, 1916-1921
- identifying the signatures and text from the Clandon Park War Hospital Signature Album

News from Surrey Heritage

- indexing the pupil registers, 1890s -1920, of the Chertsey School of Handicrafts for Destitute Boys
- researching Surrey's Gypsy Roma Traveller community, looking in particular at material relating to the 1921 Census and the inter-war years
- indexing the Guildford Symphony Orchestra concert programmes c.1919-1940
- indexing the Royal Philanthropic Society emigration letters book, 1857-1874, and uncovering a number of fascinating stories among them through tracing the histories of the boys who bravely faced new lives on the other side of the world.
- indexing the staff character books of the Epsom Cluster hospitals

Work has also continued on our project 'Surrey in the *Gentleman's Magazine*' for Surrey Record Society. To date, 173 volumes have been transcribed, covering 1731-1843, making a running total of over a million words so far. Footnotes (confirming identities of people, providing context etc.) have been added to the years 1731-1812.

Finally, although the *Surrey in the Great War* project formally ended in August 2020, work continues in earnest, gathering memorial data, finalising the SGW oral histories working on the Surrey VADs and WW1 nurses and researching the lives of individuals and adding them to the website.

Recent Accessions at SHC

10354add2

Claud Waterer, estate agent, Chertsey: sale particulars, inventories and valuations, sale posters, correspondence and papers relating to properties in Surrey, 1842-1907

10469add1

St Nicholas, Alfold: additional parish records, including parish accounts, 1889; standing committee minutes, 1962-1974, papers about proposed union of parishes of Alfold and Loxwood, 1977, annual accounts, 1948-1949, 1973-1983, parish magazines, 1926, 1933, 1941, 1949-1951

10535

St Mary's Church, Reigate: *Viewpoint* parish magazine, 1966-1971

10537

Mr Michael Collyer (b.1931) of Horsell: research papers relating to the history of shops in Maybury, 1930-1950

10538

Deed relating to land and property abutting the Portsmouth Road, Cobham, 13 Apr 1876. With accompanying notes by David Taylor, 2004

10540

Sgt Roy William Pogbee (1922-2022), of Ewhurst: scrapbooks of service in the Royal Air Force, chiefly in India, with his personal 'dog tags' [identity badges], 1941-1946

10541

John Evershed (1864-1956), astronomer, and Mary Acworth Evershed (1867-1949), astronomer and Dante scholar, of High Broom, Moon Hall Road, Ewhurst: copy diaries, photographs and papers relating to Kashmir, where John Evershed was Director of the Kodaikanal Observatory, and relating to Ewhurst, including garden diary and visiting cards from High Broom; also Guildford Grammar School for Girls school photographs, 1950 and 1952, probably relating to Susan Stephens, niece of John Evershed's second wife Margaret, c.1913-2000

10542

Edith Deeks of Reigate: certificates awarded by Borough of Reigate Education Committee, Reigate County School, Band of Hope Union, Sunday School Union and Royal Drawing Society, 1918-1922

10543

Holloway Sanatorium, Egham: volume of annual reports, 1895-1898

Recent Accessions at SHC

10544

Farnham historic buildings interiors: descriptive and photographic survey, 2022-2023

10546

Deeds of property of William Blenheim at Grange Road, Egham, 1895-1910, with abstract of title of John Boshier Baigent to premises at New Road, Station Road, Egham, 1895

10560

Art E Arthur (d.1990) of St Leonard's Road, Claygate: letters to his parents while serving in France with 11th Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, 1916-1918 and related family papers, c.1914-1965

10561

Surrey Militia: return of officers, 1780

10565

Lushington family: additional correspondence including letters to Sir Stephen Lushington relating to his parliamentary career, and letters to members of the Lushington family from Joanna Baillie, her sister Agnes and sister-in-law Sophia, 1806-1850

10569

Walter Rose (1857-1954), photographer of Westcott: glass plate negative collection, 1890s-1930s

CC1300

Malvern House, Kenley: photograph album and films, 1955-1979

ESR/25add9

2nd Lieutenant John Naylor, 2/6th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment: photograph of inspection of 2/6th Battalion at Richmond Green prior to joining the British Expeditionary Force in France, 1940

PXadd/10

Watercolour of Sheen House, East Sheen, by Caroline Pearson, 1830s

SP/add13

Properties in Great Bookham, Leatherhead, Milford, Stoke d'Abernon and Thames Ditton: sale particulars, 1840-1913

Z/762

Metropolitan Police report into the actions of suffragette Emily Wilding Davison at the Epsom Derby, Jun 1913; Photograph of Emily Wilding Davison at her graduation in 1908, with the caption, the Late Miss E W Davison, c.1913

Online and In-Person Surrey Heritage talks 2024

At the time of writing (January 2024) we are planning our programme for the coming year. Please keep an eye on the Heritage Events page of our website for further information. In the meantime, we are already booked up to give many of our talks to groups across the county, and may well be in your area.

Recordings of many of our talks are also available for purchase via our online shop and there is a list of them, with a link to the shop, on the Heritage Events page.

Sat 2 March, 2.30 p.m. Holy Trinity Church Hall, Claygate KT10 0JP

Who Do You Think They Were? Discovering the lives and experience of our ancestors

A talk by Julian Pooley to Esher and District Local History Society. The talks are open to all and are free of charge for members; £3 for non-members

Friday 8 March, 1.30 p.m. The Horton Arts Centre, Epsom

Discovering the Story of Your Home: a talk by Julian Pooley

Tickets £10. To book a place go to <https://theHortonEspom.org> and click on their 'What's On' page

Thursday 14 March, 7.30 p.m. Hampshire Genealogical Society

Life and Labour in a Country Village, or, Learn to love Your Ag Labs

An online talk by Jane Lewis. Please contact the Society via their online form at <https://www.hgs-familyhistory.com/groups/fleet-and-farnborough/> no later than 24 hours prior to the talk to be added to the invitation list. Remember to include your membership number or indicate if you are a guest

Saturday 16 March

Maps for Family Historians, 1.30 for 2.00 p.m. Camberley Adult Education Centre, France Hill Drive, Camberley, GU15 3QB

A talk by Jane Lewis to the Camberley branch of the WSFHS

Online and In-Person Surrey Heritage talks 2024

Saturday 23 March

ESFHS Family History Day

Paupers, Beggars, Criminals and Aspiring Gentlemen: Georgian Society
Preserved in Print, 1731-1820

A talk by Julian Pooley to be given at the East Surrey Family History Day

Saturday 13 April

Surrey History Centre

Surrey Photography

Surrey Local History Committee Spring Meeting at SHC; details tbc

Friday 19 April, 1.30 p.m.

The Horton Arts Centre, Epsom

Beginning Research on Your Family History; a talk by Jane Lewis.

Tickets £10. To book a place go to <https://theHortonEpsom.org> and click on their 'What's On' page

Thursday 25 April, 2.00-4.30 p.m.

Surrey History Centre.

History Stepping Stones Through the Archives

A Tea and Talk with Julian Pooley and Jane Lewis. Tickets £5.00. Places are limited to 30. For details of how to book, please see our Heritage Events page

Tuesday 7 May, 7.30 p.m.

Surbiton and District Historical Society

Gertrude Jekyll, Gardener and Craftswoman

A talk by Julian Pooley at The Cornerhouse Arts Centre, 116 Douglas Road, Surbiton, KT6 7SB. All are welcome: visitors fee is £4.00

Saturday 11 May

Surrey History Centre

A Burden on the Parish: Sources for The History of Poor Relief in Surrey

A Tea and Talk with Julian Pooley and Jane Lewis to celebrate the WSFHS 50th Anniversary; timing and details tbc

Online and In-Person Surrey Heritage talks 2024

Tuesday 21 May, 8.00 p.m.

Normandy Historians

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

A talk by Julian Pooley at Normandy Village Hall, Manor Fruit Farm, Glaziers Lane, Normandy, Guildford GU3 2DD; guests are welcome

Saturday 8 June

Surrey History Centre

Victorian Memorials Day

A joint event between Surrey Arts and Humanities Network and Surrey History Centre, comprising activities and talks exploring the ways in which our Victorian ancestors mourned their dead. Please see our Heritage Events page for more information

Finding a mother's maiden name

Robin Brand [10684] {robin@nfel.co.uk}

This 'Handy Tip' shows you how you might find a mother's maiden name back as far as 1837. It works, and is free. It is aimed at those people using UK (England & Wales) GRO birth indexes in researching and

compiling their family histories, and is based on my practical experience towards the end of 2023.

When searching back from the known children of a family to their parents' marriage, it is often very

Finding a mother's maiden name

useful or even essential to know their mother's maiden surname, and so identify the correct marriage. However, obtaining birth certificates can be a slow and expensive business, and even the instant and cheaper (£2.50) digital versions are only available for 100 years from 1837. A free and faster alternative can be to use one of the several available online birth indexes to find the mother's maiden name.

The problem is that most online indexes do not include the mother's maiden name before Q3 1911. In the author's experience, this applies to *FindMyPast*, *Ancestry*, and *FreeBMD*. This seems to be because the original 'paper' indexes before this

date do not include the mother's maiden name. One way to get round this is to use the GRO online index lookup service, as this provides the mother's maiden name back to 1837.

I was searching for the maiden surname of the mother of one Thomas Taylor, born 1848 to Alice Taylor in the Bolton area of Lancashire (this information came from the census return). None of the online indexes listed above provided his mother's maiden name, but the GRO look-up index did. (This is presumably because the GRO online indexes are based on original certificate information rather than their paper indexes.)

How to do it:

1. Visit the official GOV.UK website <https://www.gov.uk/order-copy-birth-death-marriage-certificate>
2. if you have already registered with this site go to step (3), otherwise select "Start now" and follow the instructions to register
3. Log in and select "Search the GRO indexes"
4. Select "Birth", and enter as much information as you have, and click on "Search". One or more results should appear, complete with mother's maiden name.

Our Virtual Family History Fair

Here's what some of the visitors and stallholders said about the event . . .

"I just wanted to contact you to say a big thank you for the fabulous family history society heritage fair on Saturday 27th January. Attending both morning and afternoon sessions, I was able to visit a good number of societies and to benefit from the friendliness, expertise and knowledge of the stall holders. I had the opportunity to get answers to my own questions, and also was able to learn about the social and geographical history of the areas whilst listening to other people's queries. It has given me lots of 'leads' to follow up -along with renewed enthusiasm to continue researching my ancestors."

"I have now joined several of the family history societies, which I probably should have done years ago!"

"Just a quick thank you for all the hard work and commitment arranging Saturday's Fair. It was a great day with an excellent opportunity to speak to so many knowledgeable people. Really pleased the technology worked this time! Thanks to all your helpers too! Hope you have recovered now."

"Clearly an event like this takes a lot of planning and organisation, as well as the time involved on the day, so please pass on my thanks to all involved."

"Congratulations to you and your team for your Virtual Fair on Saturday. It was a pleasure to be there and to enjoy a few hours chatting to visitors with family history problems and at the same time learning something new ourselves. Everyone was happy and enjoying themselves which was great."

"Already looking forward to next year's event. Well done and a big thank you to you all."

"Congratulations on Saturday's Virtual Family History Fair which looked to be a great success. It was a great event and I dealt with a number of interesting enquiries, including from a woman in Texas. Wonderful how Zoom shrinks the world and provides a great opportunity to talk to many different people from the comfort of our own homes!"

Our Virtual Family History Fair

“Thank you to you and your fellow Fair organisers for doing such a great job again yesterday (and for the training sessions).”

“There were visitors to all the rooms and the 'congregation' at the end of Show wash-up was spectacular. Well done Hilary and all the support team.”

“It was all very orderly and well managed, thanks. Two sessions of two hours each made it all very easy to host.”

“I just wanted to take the opportunity to say a big thank you to

you, your team and all the family history societies who volunteered to provide this free virtual family history fair today.”

“I really enjoyed it, learnt so much from so many knowledgeable family historians and ran out of time! as I could only attend the morning session. My sincere thanks for all the hard work that goes on to provide such a successful event.”

“I managed to speak to four FHS and have lots of ideas and leads for further research and also gained lots of information from other people's questions too.”

Next year's fair will be on Saturday 25 January. Why not put the date in your diary now?

From the Membership Secretary (June Hayles)

I offer a very big Thank You to all who have forwarded their renewals so promptly. As the new Membership Secretary, I find it very rewarding to find how many members wish to continue with the Society. It might be a colloquialism, but it does make it all worthwhile knowing we are achieving the aim to promote and encourage interest in East Surrey's social and family history. Having said that, always feel free to come forward with ideas to keep us on our toes!

I should particularly thank all who have offered a donation with your renewal, including those who donate through Gift Aid. Such donations help continue the success of the Society for another year. As a reminder, if you are unsure whether you have in the past signed the Gift Aid form, this will be indicated by a GA on the envelope in which you

received your printed journal. For those who receive the journal via email, feel free to contact me and I can check our Membership Database. Should your circumstances change such that Gift Aid is no longer applicable, let me know and I will inform our Treasurer.

For those still thinking about renewing there is still time. But please note that this March issue will be the last you will receive if I do not hear from you by 31 March. We will be very sorry to see you go and thank you for contributing in the past.

I wish you all success and enjoyment with your research during 2024, and hope that the Society can offer you a sense of community along the way, whether at events or through the Journal.

Coronation medal or the Guild of St Faith

Rosemary Turner

I became a member of Westminster Abbey's Guild of St Faith over 40 years ago.

We are a voluntary group who care for the vestments and furnishing at the Abbey; the work that we do enables the things to continue in use. Churches and cathedrals all over the country rely on volunteers to do the same. My training is in embroidery and textile design, but I have always made my own clothes so this covers most of the varied tasks that we undertake.

The work is always varied: we can be repairing a cassock or conserving aged vestments or furnishings, making a 20-foot long black curtain for the unveiling of a new stained glass window, or sewing tape on to a Union Jack so that the Queen Mother could reveal a new plaque in memory of the people that worked in the Secret Service. One of our ladies at the time worked at the Abbey during the war. Some years ago we were asked to attach Bobby Moore's cap to a cushion so that it could be carried in procession; and we also did the same for the regalia

of the King of Norway. That was doubly interesting for me, as my local church is dedicated to St Olaf.

Over the years we have been making large sets of vestments to be worn by the Dean and Chapter. Recently they have been worn at the Memorial service for Prince Philip, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, her funeral and (on the latest occasion) the Coronation. The Dean was wearing a cope made for the coronation of Charles II.

King Charles has had medals made and these were presented to members of the abbey involved with the Coronation service. We were kept busy for months doing repairs and checking things that were to be used that day. On 5 January we were presented with our medals by Fr Robert Latham, who oversees our group. We had a short service in the Chapel of St Faith (after whom we are named).

We were told that 5 January was the date on which Edward the Confessor died, and it was from when his tomb was built that future Coronation services were held there.

Just a Minute Christmas Zoom (1)

Marion Attew [4169]

The person in my family I most wish to meet is my great-grandmother Betsy, as I have some questions for her.

Betsy's first husband, Robert Gray, died at the family home in Lambeth in 1881 and I knew from family stories that she later married a Mr Ledger. On the 1901 census she is the wife of Joseph Ledger and living in the family household are two daughters with the surname Gray, Phoebe and my grandmother Mary Ann. Their ages indicate births after the death of Robert Gray but I cannot find registrations for them

anywhere. It's a family mystery. Betsy, who was their father? Perhaps she doesn't know!

On the 1911 census Betsy and Joseph had been married for 23 years but, although Banns were called in 1887, there is no evidence of a wedding. Betsy's death certificate records her name unusually as 'Betsy Gray otherwise Ledger'. Another family enigma. Maybe proof of a non-marriage? Betsy, did you ever marry Joseph and if not, why not? Please help me break down these brick walls in my family research!

Just a Minute Christmas Zoom (2)

Hilary Blanford

My grandfather, Henry John Parrott, was described as a 'jobbing gardener' on his death certificate, although I believe he worked for a single employer when he was younger. He lived in Southend, with

my grandmother and their three daughters.

My mother described how he would lift the two older girls into one of the charabancs parked on the seafront while he went to his next

Just a Minute Christmas Zoom (2)

garden, and sometimes the girls would get separated as the various drivers, or their passengers, would find a small girl playing hide-and-seek under the seats. They would be lifted down before the charabanc was driven off and put in an adjacent charabanc until work in the garden was finished, and my grandfather would then have to walk up and down the promenade looking for the pair of them. Occasionally they would end up at opposite ends of the promenade. When the girls went to school they would have to wait until he came home from work before they could have their tea, and they always knew when to put the kettle on because they could hear the rumble of his large garden roller as he pulled it through the streets.

His own garden was a haze of wonderful flowers, standard roses fed with a compost of his own design, and a wonderful patch of hollyhocks near the back door, surrounded by snap dragons. He used to get cross with me when I

made their 'noses' waffle like a rabbit. I loved to stroke the velvety leaves of one of his plants but I never knew its name. It had dark red flowers. The front of the house was graced with two or three large tubs, filled with fuschias.

Then there was his greenhouse, which had a fantastic smell. Occasionally I find a National Trust greenhouse that has the same smell and I am instantly transported back to Southend. Next to the greenhouse was his small sunken rock garden, which had a resident toad. Sometimes I could touch him as he, or she, did not seem to be fazed by humans. My grandfather was pleased to have him in the garden to keep the slugs at bay. In later years there was a hedgehog which, I think, lived under the garden shed. My grandfather used to feed him (or her) bread and milk every evening around six o'clock. I've since learned that cow's milk is not good for hedgehogs but this one somehow survived.

Just a Minute Christmas Zoom (3)

Christine Peel

My uncle, Herbert George Hewett, was the firstborn of George Hewett and his wife Eliza, née Peat. Herbert was born in Deptford and by the time he was four he lived at 26 Bolina Road, Deptford.

By the age of 14 he had joined his father at Watneys Brewery, and the 1901 census records him working there as a labourer. At this time the family had moved to 52 Upcott Street, also in Deptford. The following January he joined the Royal Navy, serving on the *Impregnable* and travelling to India amongst other destinations, serving until 1909, when he purchased his exit from the navy on condition that he would be called up to the RNVR in the event of hostilities.

On 5 March 1911 (at which time he was a Police Constable) he married Ada Jane, born Newbold, and moved to Hammersmith. His daughter, Ruby, was born the following year. By this time he had transferred to the river police and moved to Greenwich. With the

outbreak of WW1, he was called up by the Navy and served on the DAMS – Defensively Armed Merchant Ships. During that time, he was demobilised and remobilised, and was finally demobilised from the navy on 17 January 1919.

His son, Stanley, came into the world on 15 November 1916 in Islington. On demobilisation, Bert returned to Greenwich and his previous employment, and by 1920 was promoted to inspector, being inducted as a Freemason that December. In the 1921 census he is recorded as being “in charge of a motor launch” and as a visitor, with his whole family, in a property in Ramsgate – possibly on holiday.

When he retired, he moved to Lewes, Sussex and was licensed as publican of the Rainbow Tavern in the High Street. By 1940 he had retired from that occupation and moved to a residential house in Lewes, where he died at the age of 87, just a week after my father, his younger brother.

Lambeth Archives is re-opening

Anne Ramon

Lambeth Archives is completing the move of its historic collections to a new purpose-built archive facility at 16 Brixton Hill, SW2 1ET. For further details see <https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/libraries-archives/lambeth-archives/lambeth-archives-reopening>

They re-open to visitors from Monday 12 February 2024, initially by appointment. They are bedding-in the systems so a cautious start is advised. If you are keen to explore

the place or pick up your research send an email to archives@lambeth.gov.uk or phone the Archives on 020 7926 076 to make a booking.

The archives are easy to reach by public transport, as Brixton underground (Victoria Line) and National rail stations are just a short walk. Bus stops are close by for a number of routes.



Jean Tooke

Rita Russell

Jean Tooke, who died on 18 November 2023, was the last surviving founding member of the Society. Jean was born Jean Sheppard on 6 October 1932 in Brentford and was a graduate of the University of Birmingham, a member of the Society of Genealogists and of the Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives.

Jean became interested in family history early in life, fascinated by many items of interest that belonged to a great-aunt. This lady, a Miss Ethel Norris, had in her home 'a treasure trove of family souvenirs'. After her death, many family papers were found relating to the Norris family, who were well known in Hackney life when it was little more than a village on the outskirts of London. Details were also found about the Edkins family, prominent in City of London affairs in the late 18th century. Also featuring in Jean's family tree was the Hicks family from the Chipping Camden area, of which the most interesting member seems to have been the Revd Baptist Hicks, vicar of Stretton-on-Fosse.

Jean married Derek Tooke at Ealing in 1958 and they moved to Caterham, where they lived for the rest of their lives and where their

children Elizabeth and Paul were born in the 1960s.

Derek and Jean had, for many years, been members of the Society of Genealogists when it was the only society for family history, long before the hobby became so popular. It was at the SoG's AGM in 1977 that a chance conversation between Derek Tooke and Don Steel discovered that several members present who lived in the East Surrey area were interested in forming a local society.

At the end of the AGM Don Steel called an informal meeting of people interested in forming an East Surrey Family History Society and 19 people attended. Within a very short time a brand-new society was under way and seven of those present found themselves on a Steering Committee. Jean became Treasurer and Derek also offered to serve. Jean described it as a very surprising, but very satisfying, end to a busy and enjoyable day.

The first committee meeting was held at the Tooke's Caterham home on 5 July 1977. At this meeting the aims of the society and its proposed constitution, the boundaries of the area to cover, and the production of the society's

Jean Tooke

journal were discussed, and the East Surrey Family History Society was officially born. The Society was publicised, and subscriptions began to flow in with Jean becoming member number 8 (Derek was member 7).

Jean remained actively involved in the Society throughout her life and made a point of attending the

AGM and Lingfield group meetings until Covid brought them to a temporary pause. But her interests extended to other branches of history, and she was a prolific author and contributed to many of the publications of the Bourne Society, as well as producing two books of her own.



Celia White's Grindery

Geoff Fairbairn

I recently posted on Facebook a photograph of my new giant fridge magnets that show sections of Horwood's 1799 map of London, including Bermondsey and Rotherhithe. This prompted a comment from my friend Karen (whom I have known for many years) that she thought her grandma's shop had been in Rotherhithe, and she had vague recollections of it being near a park.

I had never known that Karen has a Rotherhithe connection. I

couldn't resist the challenge, so I asked for details. Karen knew only that her grandma's name was White, that she had an old-fashioned hardware shop which may also have sold leather stuff, and she might have lived above the shop.

I started by knocking up a Q&D [*Quick and Dirty* — ed] family tree, which confirmed the name Celia White, née Cecilia Isaacs, then went quickly on to trade directories that revealed that Celia's hardware shop was at 258 Jamaica Road. This was

© London Metropolitan Archives. London Picture Archive image No 51948



Celia White's Grindery

one of the buildings in the row between Christ Church Gate and Paradise Gate of Southwark Park. All of them were acquired and demolished by the Greater London Council in the 1970s for the purpose of extending Southwark Park right up to Jamaica Road.

Whilst that is bad news insofar as the building is not extant, the good news is that the GLC continued the long-standing practice of its predecessor, the London County Council, of despatching a photographer to record the scene prior to the commencement of any major work (this does mean however that buildings are invariably looking at their worst in the photos).

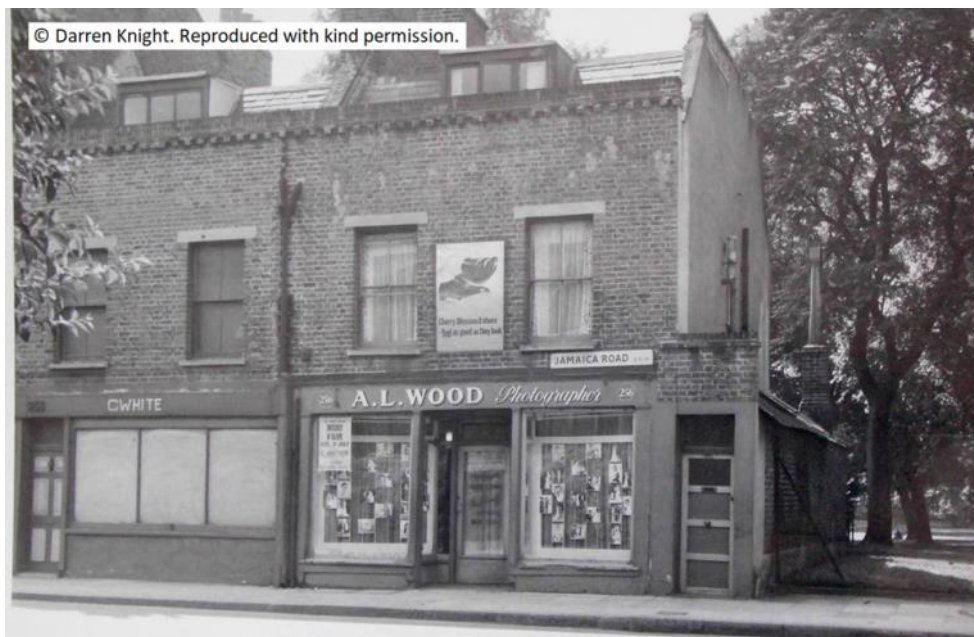
The LCC photos are held at the London Metropolitan Archives, and many have been scanned and can be viewed online on their London Picture Archive website. Image No 51948 (on the previous page) shows Celia's shop boarded up ready for demolition, A.L. Wood's photographic studio also boarded up, and a gap to the right through which Southwark Park is glimpsed with Christ Church Gate just out of frame.

Electoral registers, however, list Celia as living at No 256 – apparently she lived in the flat above Mr Wood's shop, accessed through the door to the right. This seemed like a strange arrangement, until I found in older trade directories that her shop had previously been at No 256, so at some point she had moved her hardware business from 256 to 258 but continued to live upstairs at 256. That explains why there is an advertisement for Cherry Blossom shoe polish above the door to a photographic studio!

Celia's having been a neighbour of Arthur Wood is another piece of luck. Alongside his regular work at weddings, etc., Arthur recorded local scenes for posterity. Unsurprisingly, he photographed his own shop before it closed down. His grandson Darren has inherited the archive. Unfortunately, Celia's shop had already closed.

Even earlier trade directories list Celia's shop (at No 256) under her husband's name, Maurice White (né Morris White), and as a grindery, so Karen's recollections of leather were correct: the shop sold leatherworkers' materials and tools as well as general hardware

Celia White's Grindery



(Maurice White's father was a shoemaker). Maurice – Karen's grandfather – died in 1938; Karen recalls her grandmother telling her that he died of pneumonia as a consequence of also being a market trader.

I also noticed that the trade directories listed an Aaron Isaacs running a haberdashery five doors up the road at 248 Jamaica Road. Was it co-incidence that Isaacs was Celia's maiden name? It was not – Aaron was her father (Karen's great-grandfather). No 248 is one of the shops on the ground floor of Millstream House, a block of council

flats built in the late 1930s; it has recently – since the most recent time that Google Street View drove past – become a Thai massage parlour. But after Aaron's and before the masseuses' occupation, No 248 was Arthur Wood's photographic studio having moved from No 256. And of course Arthur took a photo of his new shop – formerly Aaron Isaacs' haberdashery.

Aaron and his wife lived at Flat 17 Millstream House. That flat is at the rear of the block around the corner in Prospect Street which was fortunate for them as the front corner of the block was badly

Celia White's Grindery

damaged in an air raid in 1940. Older trade directories tell us that before Millstream House was built, Aaron traded from a shop more or less on the same site, at 244 Jamaica Road which was 34 Union Road before the latter road was incorporated into Jamaica Road in 1937.



The Past on Glass (ten years on)

Abby Matthews

This talk, on the David Knights-Whittome Photography Collection in the London Borough of Sutton Archives, was given in November

Abby Matthews, now the Archives Manager at Sutton Archives, has spoken before about the *Past on Glass* project and this is an update.

For those for whom this was a new subject, Abby commenced with an introduction to the project. It started in earnest in 2016, supported in part by two Heritage Lottery grants. Abby showed us delightful self-portraits of the photographer and one of High Street, Sutton in

1908 with Christmas decorations and the notice above Knights-Whittome's studio proclaiming that he was "Photographer to H. M the King". David was born in 1876, died in 1943 and had a studio at 18 High Street from 1904 to 1918. There was an outpost in 24 Station Road, Epsom from 1911 to 1915. The Sutton shop was demolished in 1988.

The work of the project involves the digitising of David Knights-

The Past on Glass (ten years on)

Whittome's photography collection. They are all on glass plates and cover subjects from the royal family to local events, from the pets of the wealthy to young women who spent a life in service. The collection was discovered in the damp basement of 18 High Street in 1976 and the conditions there were recorded in a photograph from 1978. The plates were piled high and some of the shelves had collapsed, obviously causing breakage to the glass. Further damage was caused by the damp conditions and the pressure on the plates at the base of the piles caused the gelatine to adhere to the envelopes or the neighbouring plates. Despite the poor state of much of the material, there was clearly a treasury to be investigated and from 1980 to 2012 much thought was put into deciding what was to be done with it. In all there were 7,500 plates as well as proofs, albums, ledgers and publicity material.

Once the material was investigated more closely, it was found that there were other problems apart from the obvious ones. Some of the images had discolouration in the dark areas, some suffered from oxidation,

striations, or de-laminations, as well as more evident cracks and scratches. The plates had first to be stabilized and then digitized in a way that was relevant to a specific audience and to assist in story-telling.

The examples of the images in the collection that Abby showed presented a fascinating cross-section of life in the early years of the twentieth century. Naturally there were images of soldiers and nurses from WWI but also some named ladies, a named family, children, schools, some humorous ones of children in fancy dress and actresses in costume. Events pictured included both aristocratic house parties and car accidents. There were publicity images for various businesses, as well as photographs of houses both grand and not so grand.

The plan for the project had to be logical so that best use was made of time and other resources. First, partnerships were formed with conservation facilities –at the time there was no university department specialising in the subject. The technique used was multispectral imaging microscopy, and skill using this increased over time. Next, one had to prioritise the material. That

The Past on Glass (ten years on)

which was firmly stuck to the enclosing envelope would cost too much to retrieve, for example.

The next stages were to assess, clean, scan, catalogue and cross-check each image, before researching the subject. This last was done by means of blogs and other forms of outreach and enquiries are still ongoing for unidentified subjects, something which the public can assist with. Much of the work done was by volunteers, attracted to the project for different reasons: learning a new skill, forming friendships, well-being, contributing to a wider cause or for personal research.

Some of the items had text attached to them – details of orders or requests for adjustments to the final image – the ‘photoshopping’ of the day – done by the photographer etching on the plate. There were challenges in transcribing these, as the ink had frequently run due to the damp.

Abby then showed us some images where research had enabled identification and background information. A photograph of a woman in uniform in 1913 was identified as Winifred Garmin by one of the project volunteers, who

realised it was her aunt and whose diary she had access to. This gave an immense amount of background information about her life as a parlourmaid, with much personal and contemporary detail. These made the story more accessible to everyday audiences. Winnie was the ‘cover girl’ for the exhibition *Women in the Frame*.

A man who visited the exhibition recognised a photograph of his grandmother, Florrie, at the age of 22. She was also recognised as the aunt of another gentleman and a blog was set up so that details of her life could be assembled. She was born in 1891 and had been christened Florrie (not Florence). She, too, had worked in service all her life and her favourite brother had succumbed to influenza at the end of WWI. The images of her are charming and natural with an immediacy that makes them feel modern, despite the clothing and hairstyle. The connection between the sitter and the photographer is also evident and again, more modern than in many images of the same date.

The next image, of Rose Berkley, shows her in nurse’s uniform in May 1917. She died at

The Past on Glass (ten years on)

the early age of 31 and it was difficult to find information about her at first, but Kevin, one of the researchers, traced her to New Zealand. She was the daughter of a notorious bigamist, Letitia Cumberland “Berkley”, who had a colourful history. She left her first husband and three surviving children and at 31 married Francis Berkley, without divorcing her first husband. They had four children before he died in 1899. Letitia took to drink and Rose was put into care. Her aunt in Sutton sent for her, intending to adopt her. Letitia only agreed on condition she could bid her daughter farewell, but was arrested the day before Rose sailed for England. Letitia died in 1927 and Rose a year later in Paris, but no more information could be found about her.

Two other stories centre round firstly J. A. Cheston, photographed 9/3/1915, a man with a military career. His brother, Horace Charles Forbes Cheston was more interesting in that he promoted the foundation of Alcoholics Anonymous in Britain, having been assisted by the organization in the USA. He also championed the acceptance of homosexuality and wrote a book on

the subject under the name Robert Hutton in 1958. Secondly there was Amy Margaret Hartley, photographed 18 December 1916 in the uniform of a VAD nurse. She worked in various places, at one time at Clandon, and died aged 90. Her great-nephew contacted the archive and was able to give sight of a lovely letter to her from a grateful soldier.

The work continues: skill-sharing, the encouragement of other archive collections, community projects (such as one with Mencap), workshops and exhibitions (such as one recording the dead of the Somme) and the provision of material for publicity (for example the film *1917*). So far some 2,500 glass plates have been stabilized and conserved, 700 subjects researched and nearly 11,000 plates cleaned, digitized and made available online.

The archive’s email address is local.studies@sutton.gov.uk, website libraries.sutton.gov.uk/ and the images are accessible by keying in <https://www.flickr.com/photos/pastonglass> where one can search for images, but also provide identifications and other information.

Odds and ends

Local History Walks in South London

The latest programme is available now. Walks start 1 April 2023 with 'Celebrating the Chartist Rally on Kennington Common 175 years ago'. See the following pdf for all the details:

<https://www.lambethlocalhistoryforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/LLHF-walks-2023.pdf>

Lambeth Country Show

Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 June (celebrating their 50th anniversary), 1.00 – 9.00 p.m. Admission is free. Brockwell Park. See the following link for details <https://www.lambethcountryshow.co.uk/about/>

Lambeth Local History Fair – from 7 September

The Opening Day will be hosted at St Leonard's Church, Streatham and this kicks off a month of events, walks and talks. More information will be available in the next Journal (but save the date).

Lambeth Archives

See a short article about the new archive facility on page 33.

The History of the Society of Genealogists

Marda Dixon

On 8 November 2023 I attended an online talk given by Mike Sharpe, a member of AGRA, about the history of the Society of Genealogists. It offered a fascinating insight into the development of genealogy over the last 112 years. Mike has given permission for me to outline this for you now.

In the 19th century there were very few resources and virtually no indexes or catalogues. There was a proliferation of periodicals, mainly focusing on the upper classes (only they were deemed worthy to trace their ancestors); and therefore there were publications on the peerage and baronetage.

Gradually, new institutions came about to hold official records. Firstly, in 1837 the General Register Office was established when birth and death registrations became compulsory. This was followed a year later by the Public Record Office (now housed in the National Archives). In 1858, the District Probate Registries opened to deal with wills.

But there were no genealogical societies, despite repeated efforts by a few. There was a snobbish attitude surrounding those who asked questions about their predecessors,

and in addition commercial expediency and inaccuracies were the order of the day. But attitudes were changing, with people like John Horace Round asking for a more professional, evidence-based approach.

In 1910 correspondence began to appear in *Notes and Queries* (a weekly periodical founded as an academic correspondence magazine in 1849) about the need for a specialist society to encourage accurate genealogical research. In June 1910, Lord George Tudor Sherwood had initiated a meeting of interested parties and in August of that year a prospectus was issued. February 1911 saw notice of a licence published in the Times (with objections being made by the College of Arms) leading to the Incorporation of 'The Society of Genealogists of London' on 8 May 1911. The founder members consisted of 49 men, 1 woman and 7 professional genealogists under the Presidency of the Marquess of Tweeddale. He was replaced after his death in December of the same year by Lord Raglan.

Their first home was at 227 Strand; this address was the offices of George Sherwood, a professional

The History of the Society of Genealogists

genealogist, who published 'The Pedigree Register'. Sherwood became the first secretary. But within three years it was obvious that there was not enough room to house all the books, documents and manuscripts that they had acquired, so in 1914 they moved to 5 Bloomsbury Square on the first floor of a Georgian house.

The 1910s saw many early successes with the arrival of the Great Card Index, the 1841 and 1851 censuses and 'Apprentices of Great Britain', and then came the restrictions of World War 1. Membership required sponsors to recommend prospective members but, to their credit, women were admitted from the start.

Since 1911 "Quarterly Queries" submitted by members had been published in the Pedigree Register. Then, in April 1925, "The Genealogists' Magazine" was launched as a separate publication – and has been published ever since.

Between the wars, the Society acquired many new records but no research was undertaken for members, with few visiting. Efforts concentrated instead on indexing projects and producing the magazine. It was more like a

gentlemen's club, with tea being served at 4 p.m. 1937 produced the Catalogue of Parish Registers and an exhibition to celebrate the coronation of King George VI.

By 1933 more space was needed to house all these new indexes and newly-acquired collections. So the Society moved again to Chaucer House, in Upper Malet Street. Kathleen Blomfield was the secretary. This was the period of Percival Boyd, the prolific producer of many indexes and collections such as Boyd's Marriage Index, Boyd's Citizens of London and Boyd's Family Units.

In 1937 the Society acquired a portable filming unit and began to microfilm all its registers. The Second World War disrupted many of these activities. Elsewhere, as a precaution, the PRO moved 600 lorries full of its records out of London. In 1951 a niche group of well-to-do members celebrated the 40th anniversary of the SoG.

1954 saw the need for yet more space and so the Society moved to its fourth home, 37 Harrington Gardens in South Kensington, a converted private residence. 370 tea chests were transferred and they introduced some new technology

The History of the Society of Genealogists

when they bought a microfilm reader for £200. A few publications were available for sale and members could pay for research. The 1950s was the period of the 'Young Turks' when new blood joined the Society including names such as Cecil Humphery-Smith, Jeremy Gibson, Don Steel and Anthony Camp – names we all know well today.

In 1961 the Society celebrated its 50th anniversary with a sherry and cocktail party, a special issue of the magazine and a Jubilee Exhibition. Sponsors were still needed for people to join the Society. The 1960s and 1970s saw divided opinions about the direction of this society and the need for other more local interest groups as well. With a membership that had grown to 3,000, with many now living outside London, the SoG now entered a time of crisis. Critics argued that the Society was too large for 'genuine fellowship' and there was a provincial movement to set up organisations away from London. The Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry was the first in 1963, closely followed by others. In 1974, the Federation of Family History Societies was set up to foster co-

operation between the local societies. The SoG had missed an opportunity to co-ordinate these local groups and, instead, found itself competing against them.

Then the late 1970s brought a family history boom following two television series. Firstly in 1977, there was *Roots* telling the story of Alex Haley's family's journey from slavery in Africa to his current life in America. Then from 1979-80, Gordon Honeycombe hosted a series on 'Family History'. Don Steel wrote an accompanying book in which he said "Family history is a life sentence. However much you have done, there is always more to do." How true we have all found this to be.

1984 brought the next move to the Society's fifth home at 14 Charterhouse Buildings in the City, in the 'Golden Triangle' close to many other record offices. It was a former silk warehouse with reinforced floors. It was probably at this time that proposers and seconders were no longer needed for membership. For their 75th anniversary in 1986, the Society ran a seven-day congress in Oxford. They also received a Grant of Arms from the College of Arms.

The History of the Society of Genealogists

In 1990 there were 26 members who had belonged for over 50 years. The 1990s saw the beginning of computerisation, which in itself brought more public engagement and a rising demand for e-commerce. 1993 was the year of the first SoG Family History Fair at the Royal Horticultural Hall in Westminster. This was absorbed into the *Who Do You Think You Are?* shows in 2005. The Society moved online in 1999 with its first website, which has gradually evolved.

The 2000s created a 'New Mission' for the Society with the National Library and Education Centre for Family History having its own publications; courses, talks and walks; e-Learning; commercial fairs; and social media.

The Covid pandemic of 2020-21 introduced us all to Zoom – a new medium for presenting talks and courses – which all local Family History Societies have adopted.

Finally, 13 December 2023 has seen the opening of home number six at 40 Wharf Road near the Angel, Islington.

The hobby of genealogy has much evolved over the last century or so with the Society of Genealogists being at the forefront of changes. The post-meeting discussion prompted many personal recollections from those present. I wonder when you began your foray into this field and what changes you have seen in this time.

Membership and Members' Interests

New members

10760	Barbara Milne	barbaramilne2@ntworld.com
10761	Nicola Corcoran	nicola.c.corcoran@gmail.com

Changes to email addresses

9125	Ken Read	kenread1939@gmail.com
10654	Stephen Ennis	stephen_ennis@btinternet.com
10746	David Gough	goughdw63@gmail.com
10523	Mary-Anne Burns	mabbie@outlook.com
10330	Gemma Roulston	gemmaroulston@gmail.com
10681	Sarah Pettyfer	sarah@spfhistory.co.uk

Members' Interests in Surrey

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FLOWER(S)	Rotherhithe	All	8032
FLOWER(S)	Southwark	All	8032

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Newdigate, St Peter 1634-1978

Nutfield, St Peter & St Paul 1631-1979

Outwood, St John 1819-1984

Redhill, St John 1807-1981

Reigate, Friends Meeting House 1802-1982

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