

70 favourites from our collection
1948-2018





Foreword

In this anniversary year for Surrey Heritage, I am delighted to introduce this fascinating compilation of treasures to be found in Surrey History Centre. Many have been selected by users of the Centre or groups with whom Surrey Heritage staff have worked over the last twenty years and this booklet is as much a showcase of the achievements of the Centre and the partnerships it has forged as a gallery of historical delights.

2018 marks the 20th anniversary of the creation of Surrey Heritage and the opening of its new headquarters, Surrey History Centre, in Woking. It also happens to be the 70th anniversary of the appointment of Surrey County Council's first professional archivist in 1948 to care for the ever growing collection of unique and precious archives committed to the Council's custody. The Centre provides a state-of-the-art home for the archives, previously divided between Kingston, Guildford and Ewell, but also for the county's local studies library, archaeological unit and museums advisory service, bringing together Surrey County Council's expertise in caring for and promoting our county's rich past.

Today, the collections at Surrey History Centre, spanning nine centuries and filling six miles of shelving, tell the extraordinary story of Surrey, its people and communities over nine centuries. They document the lives of countless residents through

prosperity and hardship, sorrow and joy, and their experience of the impact of social change and great events. As Surrey has changed over the centuries, the collections have developed and are as revealing of the modern county in all its rich and dynamic diversity as they are of the distant past.

To mark the anniversary, 70 of Surrey History Centre's users, depositors, volunteers, partners, supporters and staff (past and present) have been invited to nominate their favourite document or archaeological find with the reason for their choice. Here you will find their choices, each with its own story to tell.

Heritage is inspiring and gives us all the opportunity to come in contact with past lives and understand more about our personal history and place in the world. The thrill of discovering our shared past through a document, photograph or archaeological find can be an extraordinary, life-enhancing experience. In dipping into this selection, I am sure that you will agree with me that Surrey should be very proud of its History Centre and Surrey Heritage's dedicated staff and volunteers.

I hope that you enjoy reading the contributions as much as I have.

With best wishes

Peter Martin
Chairman Surrey County Council



Introduction

In this significant anniversary year for Surrey Heritage, we are delighted to take the opportunity to showcase some of the historical riches in our care. The wealth of our collections, range of our partnerships and breadth of our work is wonderfully encapsulated by the seventy treasures in this booklet, chosen by past and present members of staff, searchroom users, volunteers and partners.

Surrey's concern for its documentary heritage has a long and proud history. Although 2018 marks the seventieth anniversary of the County Council's first appointment of a professional archivist to oversee the 'cataloguing, indexing and filing of County Muniments', the Council had begun investigating what ancient records had survived within the county as far back as 1924. Assisted by Surrey Record Society, it launched a series of groundbreaking surveys, and also began to accept private deposits of records, starting in 1926 with the ancient court rolls of the manor of Ashted (three years before it was granted official recognition by the Master of the Rolls as a repository for manorial records). After the war, in 1948, the Council appointed Miss K M Longley as its first salaried, professionally qualified archivist, and she was quickly followed by the first County Archivist, Dr C H Thompson, who took up his post in 1951 after bomb damage to County Hall had been repaired and a store and small reading room created.



Actually Surrey Record Office in Kingston was not the first local authority record office in the county. That honour belonged to Guildford Muniment Room, established by the Borough Council in Quarry Street in 1928 with the support of Surrey Archaeological Society. Among the treasures taken in at Guildford were the extraordinary archives of the More-Molyneux family of Loseley House, which had been piling up in the Tudor mansion for over 350 years. An archivist remembered removing 'deeds thickly coated with grey fur and paper bills stuck together in solid slabs' and a conservator likened the smell produced by the great mass of mouldering papers to that of a battlefield. Guildford Muniment Room became an integral part of Surrey Record Office in 1971.

The closing decades of the twentieth century were a 'Golden Age' for record collecting, cataloguing and preservation. Many of the most important collections featured in this booklet came in at this time, at such a rate that when two of us first joined the service in 1989, the Record Office and Muniment Room were already full to bursting. We staggered on, occupying new (and not always wholly suitable) storage in basements and outbuildings, until Heather Hawker, chairman of the County Council's Libraries, Leisure and Countryside Committee and the County Archivist, Dr David Robinson, persuaded the Council that the answer lay in constructing a new, purpose-built repository which could house all the historic collections in the County Council's care on one site and provide a hub for a greatly expanded heritage service.





With the opening of the History Centre in 1998, its facilities enhanced by a generous grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), Surrey had a record office and local studies library which ranked among the finest in the land, graced with state-of-the-art computers, online catalogues, a new conservation room, space for exhibitions and events - all a far cry from the days (only a decade before) when catalogues and letters were written in pencil and sent to a typing pool and when one modest display of copies of records was mounted each year.

1998 also saw the birth of Surrey Heritage, as the History Centre provided a new home for the museums engagement officer and for the Surrey County Archaeological Unit (SCAU), which left its base in County Hall for the Centre's custom built archaeological facilities. The unit primarily carries out archaeology fieldwork in advance of development and over the years has excavated Neolithic ring ditches, Romano-British temples, Saxon cemeteries and Tudor palaces, to name but a few; many of its major excavations have been interpreted for the public through the unit's 'Spoilheap' series of reports.

Since the move, Surrey Heritage has been able to promote our collections and Surrey's rich heritage across the world and use them to draw in new audiences and engage in innovative and exciting projects. This potential has greatly increased since 2002 with the establishment (aided by an HLF grant) of a Community Archaeologist post, allowing SCAU far greater scope to share with others the thrill of archaeology, through community digs and exhibitions to publicise discoveries. Our combined service, working together, continues to demonstrate how heritage



is such a powerful tool in enhancing people's wellbeing and sense of community. We take great pride in having helped thousands of Surrey residents and people across the country and indeed worldwide, in their quests for information, understanding or volunteer involvement, and also in making heritage fun and relevant to young learners.

Two other anniversaries should also be mentioned. Twenty years ago the Surrey History Trust was set up as a charity to support our work and help us in our projects and in purchasing unique records coming up for sale so they would always be available for researchers to enjoy. Ten years ago our pioneering website, Exploring Surrey's Past, was created, which provides a portal to information about not only our collections but those of museums across Surrey and to the county's Historic Environment Record.



That is five anniversaries to celebrate in 2018, making it a perfect opportunity to reflect on what we have achieved and look forward to a future of new challenges and opportunities. May Surrey History Centre and Surrey Heritage continue to go from strength to strength in the mission to preserve the county's past for present and future generations to enjoy.

Mike Page, County Archivist
Julian Pooley, Public Services and Engagement Manager
Nowal Shaikhley, County Archaeological Unit Manager



Seal on deed of settlement of Nonsuch by the Earl of Arundel, 1556 (2238/10/137)

Woking Mind

Woking Mind came to us ten years ago to help identify photographs of Brookwood Hospital. It became evident that members knew much more about our rich mental health collections than we did and at informal coffee mornings we recorded their memories to enhance our catalogues. The memories were then turned into a play by youth theatre group Peer Productions to tackle mental health stigma in schools. We have continued to work with Mind ever since. In 2015 the group explored our medieval seals whilst thinking about the history of Magna Carta. They were amazed by this seal of the Earl of Arundel with a fingerprint forever marked on the back.



Mrs Brushfield's photograph album of Brookwood Asylum, c.1867-1881 (3043/1/20/7)

Alison Craze, searchroom user

There is nothing like the excitement of holding a precious object from the past. Mrs Brushfield's album holds a collection of photographs of Brookwood Asylum. Her husband, Thomas Brushfield, became its first Superintendent in 1866. Here are the buildings - in 1866 a huge monolith dominating a landscape of scrub and gorse, rapidly developing with plantings of shrubs to ivy-clad Victorian respectability. Here too are the people: old lady patients in plaid shawls, whiskery old men, thin young attendants with caps and keys, a small dog, awkwardly posed doctors' children. What shines through these images is pride in the beautiful new buildings and a sense of purpose in the humane treatment they sought to offer.



Map of the manors of Blockfield, Ford and Dormans, Lingfield, early 17th century (2192/1)

Dr Nick Barrett, director, Senate House Library

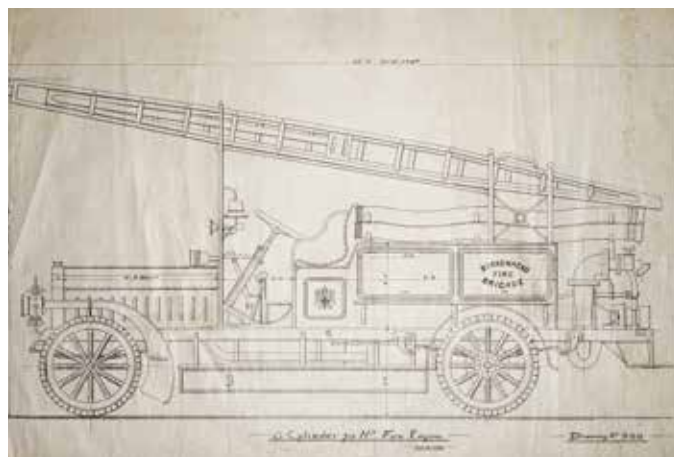
This manuscript map of Lingfield probably dates from between 1608 and 1613 and seems to have been commissioned by the Gainsford family. It is a stunning example of early map-making, with incredible detail of topographical features, roads and paths, and field boundaries as well as names of tenants. The information it contains makes it of great use to family, local, topographical, cartographical and house historians, as well as students of the seventeenth century. A beautiful item with a depth of research value: truly, a treasure from the archive!



Saxon burials in Godalming

Rob Poulton, Surrey County
Archaeological Unit

The important church of St Peter and Paul at Godalming has architectural features dating back to the late Saxon period and a cemetery next to it. It was, therefore, a major surprise to find in 2013 that, between around AD 850 and AD 1200, the graveyard lay on the opposite side of the road to the church. Over 300 burials were excavated in advance of new development, part of a cemetery of several thousand individuals. Burials of this date are an extremely rare discovery and scientific study will provide major new insights into the health and lifestyle of the population.



Drawing of 6 Cylinder 70 HP fire engine made by Dennis Bros of Guildford for Birkenhead, 1909 (1463/P/1451)

Bob Bryson, Surrey Industrial History Group

This ink on linen engineering drawing of a very early Dennis fire engine dates from before World War I. In my opinion the drawing itself is a work of art requiring far more time and effort to produce than one in pencil on paper or today's computer plotted prints. The drawing illustrates in considerable detail the layout and construction of one of the first types of fire engines built in the Dennis factory in Guildford. Such traditional fire engines, where the firemen sat on the outside, either side of the large ladder, were used extensively until after World War II.



Watercolour of Merrow church by Edward Hassell, 1829, from albums compiled by Thomas Thorp, Guildford booksellers (8877/1-2)

David Calow, secretary, Surrey Archaeological Society

Thomas Thorp established his Guildford bookshop in the late 19th century. Some years after the shop closed in 2003, two fine albums containing over 700 original and well-preserved drawings, watercolours, prints and ephemera relating to Guildford and surrounding villages and dating from 1738-1897 came up for sale. The collection was to be auctioned in London. At 10.57am on 24 May 2011, with just 48 hours to go, Mary Alexander, collections officer at Guildford Museum, launched an urgent campaign to raise £10,000 to keep it for the public. Surrey History Centre, Surrey History Trust, Surrey Archaeological Society, Guildford Museum and a benefactor collaborated to secure the funds. The bid succeeded. A wonderful resource saved by local heritage organisations working together.



Map of Surrey, attributed to William Smith, c.1602-3 (M/150)

Carole Garrard, local studies librarian

This early printed map, 'Surriae Comitatus Continens in Se oppida mercatoria VII Ecclesias parochiates CXL', is one of a series of county maps of c.1602-3 attributed to William Smith, a member of the Elizabethan Society of Antiquaries. It was engraved in the Netherlands by Jodocus Hondius, although no contemporary prints of the map have survived. This copy was published c.1655 by the map sellers J. Overton and P. Stent who had obtained the plates in a sale. The similarity of the map to John Norden's survey of the county of 1594 suggests that Norden may have passed his surveys to Smith when he was arrested over his association with the Earl of Essex, who was executed in 1601. Norden's map of Surrey, engraved by William Kip, was first published in Camden's Britannia of 1607.



Account book recording Thomas Molyneux's personal expenditure, 1680-1750 (LM/1087/2/3)

Catherine Carey, former conservator

This little notebook recording Thomas Molyneux's personal expenditure at Oxford also contains household notes of linen, candles and chimney sweeping at Loseley House, 1680-1750. This small item in a limp vellum binding is a perfect example of the fun and excitement I have experienced working as an archive conservator. Repairing this booklet enabled me to explore multiple conservation techniques and enjoy the use of various materials such as calf skin and Japanese tissue.

William More's accounts relating to the wedding of his daughter Elizabeth More to Richard Polsted, 1567 (LM/2021)

Dr Catherine Ferguson, searchroom user



This 'account' of the Blackfriars wedding of Elizabeth and Richard is no narrative account of the festivities between 3rd and 17th November. The bride isn't mentioned, the groom simply logged as paying for the ring. Instead, we get jewels of detail. Opening pages list gifts in order of donor status (a rare window on patronage). Gifts are edible creatures large and small, some alive, including many (now highly protected) waterfowl from Norfolk. Further ingredient expenses indicate these were served spiced, in aspic, gilded, grand and elaborate. Behind the scenes, we encounter a myriad Londoners: egg-bearing widows, pot-scourers and night-soil shifters. This glorious document makes me think about Elizabethan England like none other.



Old Woking High Street, Empire Day, early 20th century (PC/160/ALB1/157)

Children's choice

Surrey History Centre has been welcoming families to explore our collections with our family activities for over 10 years. These free drop in activities showcase some of our collections whilst offering the opportunity to do simple cut and stick crafts. We wanted families and children to have a chance to vote for their favourite item from the collection. The popular choice was this photograph showing school children being led on parade by a gruff policeman in Old Woking High Street on Empire Day (24th May) in the early 1900s.



Architectural drawing of Royal Dramatic College, Maybury, Woking, by William Webbe, 1861 (9759/1)

Richard and Rosemary Christophers, searchroom users

The Royal Dramatic College for retired actors, founded in 1859, was among several institutions attracted to Woking by cheap land near London. This drawing for the entrance depicts a remarkably ambitious and elaborate building for the residents. Unfortunately William Webbe's proposals proved too expensive for the sponsors and a more modest scheme was adopted, from which only the large stained glass windows of the hall survive in the collections of Woking's museum, The Lightbox. The College closed in 1877 and the building later became the Oriental Institute – leading to the building of the nearby Mosque, such a notable feature of today's town. It was demolished in the 1990s and the site is now the Lion Retail Park.



List of pikemen, billmen and bowmen in each parish in Woking hundred, 1570s (LM/1330/20)

Bob Shrigley, former conservator

The Loseley House manuscript collection presented a great challenge in my time as a conservator at the Centre. In the past a significant part of the collection had been stored in damp conditions. These documents were affected by mould, causing discolouration and rotting of the paper fibre structure. Many of the documents that came my way for repair were in a very delicate fragmentary state and required great patience to carefully piece together the jigsaw. It was a great satisfaction to me to be able to unlock the information which the fragments contained and convert them into something which could be safely handled by the public.



Letters of cricketer Jack Hobbs to the Revd F S Girdlestone, 1931-1963 (3035/11/1)
Dr David Robinson, county archivist 1975-2002

When I came to Surrey in 1975 I joined the county cricket club. During the Oval Test, through Richard Leveson Gower of Titsey, I began negotiating deposit of the club's archive. These letters of legendary Surrey and England batsman Jack Hobbs, which arrived in a later deposit, reflect Hobbs' friendship, modesty and team spirit. In 1931 he felt thankful 'that I am able to carry on and score runs at my age ... Days in the field completely tire me out.' In 1954 he lamented that bowlers in his day had been 'willing to take a 50-50 chance with the batsman but today they shut up the game by bowling in-swingers and leg theory as soon as the bat looks like getting on top'.



Copper alloy strap end found at Woking Palace
Hannah Potter, community archaeologist, in memory of David Williams, finds liaison officer for Surrey and East Berkshire

This copper alloy strap end was found during the 2014 excavations at Woking Palace as part of the Heritage Lottery Funded Woking Palace and its Park project. Over 1,800 volunteers helped during 3 years of excavations, supervised by archaeologists from Surrey County Archaeological Unit. The strap end dates to the late 15th to early 16th century and would have been used to finish a flat piece of leather or fabric. Small bells or tassels could have hung from the wire loops. The strap end may have been made in a workshop at Trump Street in the City of London where similar examples have been found.



Patient photographs from Royal Earlswood Asylum for Idiots, Redhill, 1860s (4645/16/11)
Professor David Wright, McGill University, Canada, searchroom user

John Langdon Down was the second superintendent of the Earlswood Asylum, which constituted the first dedicated institution for children with intellectual disabilities in the English-speaking world. While chief medical officer, Down mastered the technique of glass plate photography, which he used to capture many of his residents who had been admitted to the imposing Victorian building near Redhill. A large collection of his photographs date from the mid-1860s, the time that Down was formulating his classification of 'Mongolism'. Eventually, the condition would be renamed after Down, and the era of institutionalization would give way, after World War II, to community care.



Photograph album of The Sunbury Leather Company, c.1910 (8015/1)
Di Stiff, collections development archivist

I've always had a soft spot for industrial history and this album is an astonishing survival, in more ways than one. Good quality photographs showing the interiors of industrial premises and their processes are incredibly rare. Here, the workmen's attire and tools of the trade can be seen, and even risqué posters and postcards on the workshop walls! The album, and its owner, Stanley C Sutherland, narrowly avoided a watery fate, as a ticket to sail in the Titanic in April 1912 was purchased but cashed in to travel in October that year. The album returned to Surrey nearly 100 years later, presented by Stanley's grandson.



Photograph by Lewis Carroll of Dodgson family at Croft Rectory, Yorkshire, 1860 (DFC/B/4/3)

Caroline Luke and Beth Mead, on behalf of the Dodgson family, depositors

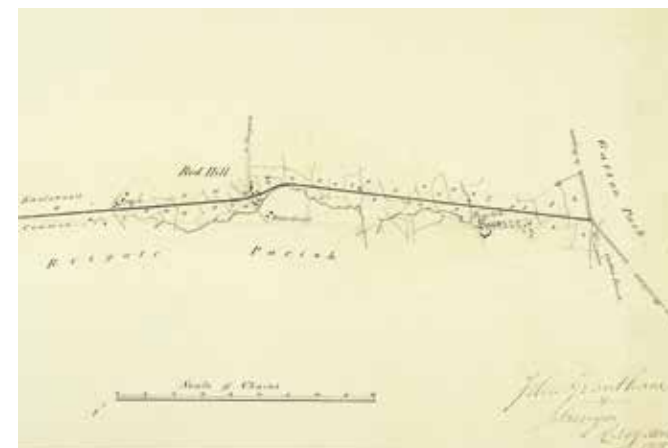
Charles Dodgson (aka Lewis Carroll) is widely regarded as one of the most important amateur photographers of the Victorian era. Introduced to the new art of photography in 1856, he quickly became a keen photographer. This photograph was taken by him in 1860 on one of his visits home to Croft Rectory in Yorkshire. Few early pictures remain of the Dodgsons together but this photograph captures his close-knit and caring family enjoying a peaceful afternoon in their garden, prior to Charles' ascent to fame. In order to capture the image everyone would have had to hold the pose for several minutes. The photograph shows Archdeacon Dodgson seated, with his sister-in-law Lucy Lutwidge, and his four sons and seven daughters, playing croquet.



Aerial photograph of the rectangular double ditched enclosure of 'Caesar's Camp', Staines, 2012 (HER 884)

Emily Brants, Historic Environment Officer

Surrey holds several complete aerial photographic surveys of the county, from the RAF survey following World War II to surveys made every decade since the 1970s. These are a key resource for archaeologists interpreting the landscape and provide a wonderful means of visualising the landscape around us and how this changes over time. From the Historic Environment Record's perspective, studying these images enables us to monitor changes in known monuments, as well as identifying new sites. This can generate further research to verify whether visible markings are archaeological rather than, for example, marks created by vehicle movements or temporary structures. Where appropriate these images will be scanned and indexed for our database. Excavations in 1989 established that this feature is medieval rather than Roman. The feature is now a Scheduled Monument.



Plan of the Turnpike Road from Gatton Park to Povey Cross, 1815 (QS6/8/86)

Dr Gerry Moss, chairman of Surrey Local History Committee

Surveyed by John Grantham of Croydon, this deposited plan for Brighton Road, between Gatton Point on the right to 'Red Hill' on the left is the key to why the town of Redhill ended up within its present centre after the railway was built. In 1815 Redhill was the hill. After this turnpike road was built it was thought the hamlet was going to be where Mill Street/Hooley Lane crosses. The map also shows features which can still be seen by a visitor in a sliver of Monson land cut off from the rest of the estate by the road.



Letters of Margaret Lushington from the Lushington family archive, 1893 (7854/4/5/1-6)

Dr David Taylor, chairman of Surrey History Trust

Within the gold mine that is the Lushington archive there are some exceptional nuggets. One is a collection of letters written by Margaret Lushington in September 1893 from Talland House, St Ives, Cornwall, where she spent several childhood holidays with the young Virginia Woolf and her family. Woolf later used these holidays as the basis for her novel 'To the Lighthouse' and the engagement of Margaret's sister Kitty, which took place later at Talland House, provided Woolf with an episode in the book. Margaret's letters describe people and events at Talland House and offer a unique and intimate backdrop to the novel.

**Sale
particulars
of Norbury
Park,
Mickleham,
1930
(2116/1/12)**
Heather Hawker
DL, chairman
of Surrey
County Council
1997-2000



Norbury Park is part of the County Council's countryside estate, managed by Surrey Wildlife Trust. Previous owners included Leopold Salomons who gave Box Hill to the National Trust. He had intended to give Norbury to the nation but death intervened and in 1930 the estate was for sale. Amid public concern that it would be bought for speculative building, James Chuter Ede, chairman of the County Council, personally secured an option to purchase. As a direct result, pioneering legislation was passed enabling local authorities to buy land to protect and preserve it for its own sake, and the Council relieved Chuter Ede of his commitment. Generations since have benefitted. Norbury Park is dear to my heart - I chaired the Council's Libraries, Leisure and Countryside Committee; was a trustee of Surrey Wildlife Trust; and a director of Norbury Park Wood Products.



**Papers of Alice Goldberger
of Berlin and Weir Courtney,
Lingfield, 1897-1986 (Z/634)**

Janet Bateson, RH7 History Group
and searchroom user

Alice Goldberger was a Jewish refugee from Germany who lost most of her family in the Holocaust. The collection records Alice's extraordinary work on behalf of twenty-four orphaned Jewish children rescued from Nazi death camps in 1945. Weir Courtney, a large house in rural Lingfield, was the sanctuary where Alice Goldberger embraced the roles of matron, guardian, teacher and ultimately stepmother of the fearful and often hostile children. The archive is a valuable record for students of the Holocaust. Acquired in 2014 it was unfortunately too late for my own research for *Around Lingfield at War*, published in 2010!



**Photograph of Brookwood
Hospital, Woking, Surrey's
second county asylum,
c.1867-1881 (3043/1/20/7)**

Dr Jane Hamlett, Royal Holloway College,
searchroom user and partner

This photograph of a female ward – showing patients and staff and furniture and fittings – is particularly striking as it presents a calmer, more ordered and homely view of the Victorian asylum than the image we often have of this institution. The photograph is typical of attempts by asylums in this period to treat patients by creating domestic material worlds in wards and day rooms. Of course, the room has probably been arranged and staged for the photograph, patients and staff are neatly posed and everything looks tidy. It is easy to imagine how the room could have looked very different at other times.



**Photograph albums of the
Queen's Royal West Surrey and East
Surrey Regiments (QRWS and ESR)**

Jeanette Macrae, volunteer

The photograph albums and scrapbooks in the archives of the Queen's Royal West Surrey and East Surrey Regiments cover the movement of the regiments around the world and the day to day life of the men both in their army camps and in their free time. As a collection it has significance to me for the personal documents it contains as well as the photographs that are in the albums. To open each new album and find the variety of photographs and documents as well as being able to bring together information from across albums by identifying the same photographs (with varying annotations) was fascinating. This photograph shows a souvenir napkin commemorating the return of prisoners of war in 1919.



Godalming Hundred Court book, 1636-1640 (LM/S/8/15)

Jeff Dowse, conservator

The repair of this volume from the Loseley manuscripts required a range of techniques and materials. The volume comprised a limp vellum binding with seventy paper folios sewn in as a single gathering. The cover with its sewn fore-edge turn-ins comprised an earlier vellum deed into which the folios had been sewn using twisted strips of parchment. Six parchment strips were fastened by octagon shapes to secure the volume. There was extensive damage to the cover and paper by water and insects. Repair necessitated the cleaning of all surfaces and the removal by washing in water baths of dirt deposits, water-soluble stains and acids in the paper. The pages were repaired with Japanese tissue. New parchment was used for missing sections of the cover and for the ties, octagon fasteners and strips for sewing.

Marden Park estate survey, 1761 (K61/3/2)

Jenny King, volunteer and searchroom user

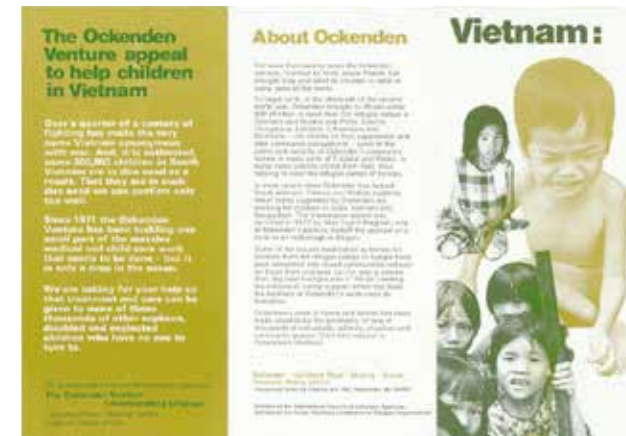
One of the great joys of Surrey History Centre's collections is their ability to transport you back several hundred years, in this case to the elegant park in Godstone, created by Sir Robert Clayton in the late 1600s. In 1761 his successor, Sir Kenrick Clayton, commissioned a survey of Marden Park and his other Surrey lands. The survey is a marvel of faintly coloured detail. Here is the mansion house built by Sir Robert in the 1670s, the stable yard with the horse watering pond, the walks and allees, each tree delineated; statues at the end of vistas. The temple on the hill, long gone, appears on the elegant cartouche which names the cartographer as the little known William Chapman. Sir Robert had ideas well above his social station and created a Restoration deer park; each park pale is shown, together with gates. Pleasingly, descendants of his fallow deer are still in Marden Park. In my prime I have often walked all this ground. I open the map and can walk it now in my mind, surely one of life's small pleasures.



Photograph of Henry Holland, c.1862 (4123/1/30)

Jeremy Harte, curator, Bourne Hall Museum, Ewell

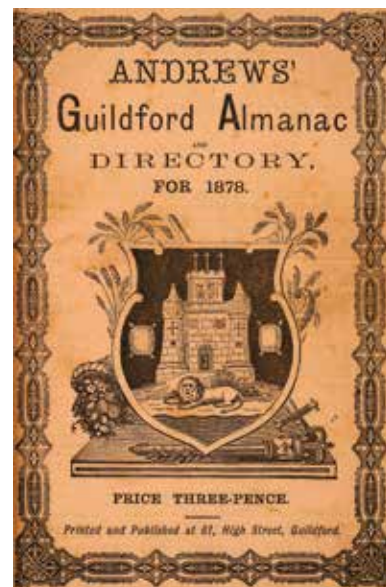
The Cuthbert Hopkins collection of Epsom photographs, c.1860-79, provides a wonderful glimpse of the great and good of a small Surrey town, a snapshot of Mrs Beeton's world on the brink of modernity. Whiskered old gentlemen, young fellows dressed to the nines, girls in their best frocks and wriggly babies. After years working on Victorian civic and business archives, I know these people like neighbours. This photograph shows Henry Holland. He died in his teens and was buried in the family vault at St Martin's, Epsom, established by his father Augustus Holland of Abele Grove in Dorking Road.



The archives of Ockenden International (7155)

Jill Hyams, archivist

The records of Ockenden International, which I catalogued as part of a project supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, tell the remarkable story of a refugee charity founded by three schoolteachers in Woking in the early 1950s. From its early days as the Ockenden Venture, helping children from Displaced Persons camps in Germany, the charity grew to help refugees around the world, and is particularly remembered for its role in the resettlement in Britain of Vietnamese boat people in the 1970s and 1980s. The records offer a wonderful insight into the reception of refugees into the UK in the 20th century. Ockenden sometimes provoked fierce criticism but also inspired profound devotion, as is shown by the many people who have contacted us to consult the records or offer their own memories.



Local Directories

John Janaway, former local studies librarian

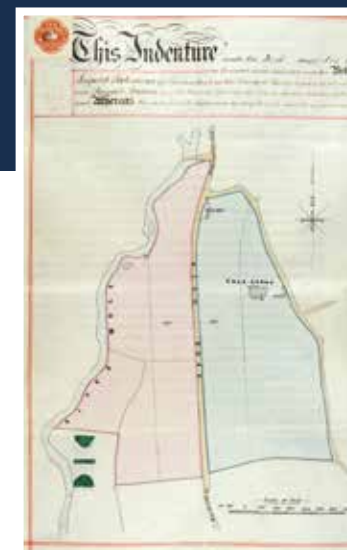
Surrey History Centre has a major collection of local, county and national directories, both originals and microfiche copies, going back to the late 18th century. During many years of local history research and writing I have found such directories invaluable. They list the traders, businessmen and principal inhabitants of each town, providing information which is not easily located elsewhere. From 1841 to 1911 they help bridge the gaps between the decennial censuses. The many advertisements they contain are also a good source of illustrative material. Despite the acknowledgement that directory compilers made mistakes, the Surrey History Centre's collection is something to be treasured.



Evacuation officer badge of Mrs Lindsay, c.1939 (5380/2/1)

Kate Jenner, learning and communities officer

One of my favourite items is this World War II Chief Evacuation Officer badge made by Mrs Marion Lindsay of the Dorking Women's Voluntary Service for Civil Defence. It is homemade on a flimsy bit of cardboard, lovingly lettered using pencil guidelines and tied with a little piece of ribbon at the top for pinning to clothes. I love the pride taken in creating this badge so neatly, even at a time of turmoil and great stress. I like to think the smudges on the badge show that Mrs Lindsay was willing to be a welcoming face to children even in the cold and rainy weather.



Deed of covenant for the preservation of the amenities of the Norbury Park area, 1902 (2116/1/6)

Professor Keith Grieves,
Kingston University and searchroom user

The documentary sources available for the study of Leopold Salomons of Norbury Park, who purchased part of Box Hill for the National Trust in 1913-14, are not extensive. His generous gift might be illuminated by this deed of covenant, with plan, which sought by private agreement with his neighbour to forbid building either side of the Leatherhead to Dorking Road. It reveals a highly localised initiative to restrict roadside development in advance of Salomons' quest to save Box Hill from the sale of building leases. The deed and plan provide some context for more complex later negotiations to save the hill. Knowledge of this single piece brings greater understanding for all who continue to journey between the two towns and enjoy the open spaces nearby.



Photograph of Maud Lipscombe, patient at The Manor Hospital, Epsom, 1901 (6282/14/6)

Kirstie Arnould, searchroom user and member of Love Me Love My Mind charity, Epsom

Seeing Maud's photo for the first time had a profound effect on me. She looks almost defiant, like she is challenging the pejorative descriptions her family and doctors have given in the case book. Maud's own words have not been recorded. Her story spoke to me down over a century, and inspired me with a passion to enable people with mental health problems to tell their own story.



Private Teddy Cutt and Nellie Dabbs, a World War I love story (ESR/25/CUTT)

Kirsty Bennett, Imogen Middleton and Alex White, 'Surrey in the Great War' project staff

Teddy Cutt of Shalford, a private in the 9th Battalion, the East Surrey Regiment, was killed at Loos in September 1915, aged 18, within weeks of arriving in France for the first time. His story is told by an extraordinarily poignant collection of papers kept by his fiancée, Ellen (Nellie) Dabbs. A little notebook among the papers begins as a diary of their courtship and becomes a chronicle of Nellie's desperate, year-long search for news of her missing fiancé. Nellie remained devoted to Teddy and never married, a fate shared by many women of her generation. The Cutt papers reflect both the human cost of the Great War and an enduring love story.



Signet letter from Lady Jane Grey, 15 July 1553 (6729/3/4)

Lauren Stevens, events and promotions officer

Signed 'Jane the Quene', this letter was written from the Tower of London in July 1553, during the brief 'reign' of Lady Jane Grey, the Nine Day Queen. Jane's letter to the sheriff, justices of the peace and gentlemen of Surrey urges them to stand firm in allegiance to her instead of the rightful heir Mary. Within days Jane's support crumbled, Mary was proclaimed Queen and we all know Jane's terrible end! It is fascinating to speculate how Jane may have been feeling as a 16 year old signing this letter, one of the last she would write as Queen.



Wooden bowl from Wey Manor Farm, Weybridge

Surrey County Archaeological Unit volunteers

This unfinished Bronze Age wooden bowl was found at Wey Manor Farm near Weybridge. The wood is maple, and tool marks, probably made with a bronze axe, can still be seen on the inside of the bowl. This artefact was chosen by the volunteers who give up their time each Wednesday to help Surrey County Archaeological Unit (SCAU) with a variety of tasks. Alongside marking pottery, sorting environmental samples and assisting with cataloguing, the volunteers recorded 4,445 artefacts in 2017 alone. Their input into our community archaeology projects has been vital in uncovering what life in Surrey was like in the past.



Album presented by the Surrey County Federation of Women's Institutes to Mrs Helena Auerbach, 1930 (3410/4/1)

Linda Oliver, Surrey Federation of Women's Institutes and volunteer

The records of the Surrey Federation of Women's Institutes record over a century of the history of the Women's Institute from its beginnings under the aegis of the Agricultural Organisation Society in 1916 to the present day. Combined with the archives of individual WIs, the collection has a wide geographical coverage, exceeding the modern county of Surrey. These archives show how the WI was an intrinsic part of village life, most clearly seen in the wonderful scrapbooks which many WIs made in 1965 to celebrate the golden jubilee of the National Federation. However the beautiful album illustrated here was presented by the County Federation to its recently retired president, Mrs Helena Auerbach, in 1930.



Lost and Found: papers of Hutches Trower, political economist of Shalford (2148)

Maggie Vaughan-Lewis, county archivist and heritage manager 2003-2007

My favourite document was always the one, long thought lost, which arrived out of the blue - from a parish register that wandered over to the US and back, to the asylum case books used on a film set and saved by an actress who took them home. On show is an item from a collection of letters and draft speeches of the notable political economist Hutches Trower (1777-1833) of Shalford which was sent home from a Canadian government library, wrapped in a blue tablecloth. An archivist never gives up hope that 'something will turn up'.



Map showing property in Shalford owned by the Austen family, early 17th cent (G111/2/3)

Margaret Dierden, searchoom user

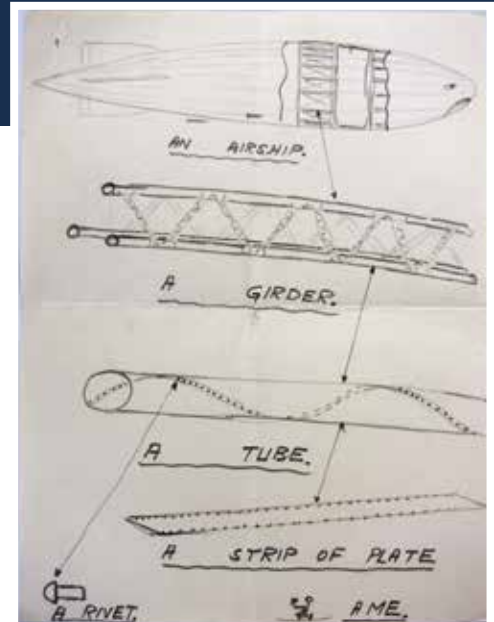
I find this map of c.1600, the earliest to show Shalford, mesmerizing. The village lies almost hidden among meadows and closes and the strips of the medieval common fields. Many features are still recognisable today: the church, the mill, the cottages along The Street, and The Chantries and Shalford Park and Meadows. Footpaths crossing the fields towards Guildford still run between the gardens of modern houses. Some field names hint at earlier phases of settlement before the village and common fields were laid out. The accompanying rental names some of the villagers. It is like looking down a telescope into a vanished world.



Photograph of gardeners at Jackman's Nurseries, Woking, 1880s (1216/14/2)

Margaret Griffiths, senior archivist

As a keen gardener, I'm fascinated by the collection of nursery records held at Surrey History Centre. The easily worked sandy soils of west Surrey and good rail communication with London made the area ideal for the raising and hybridisation of plants to meet the demand of the new suburban gardens in the 19th century. Rhododendrons (at Waterer's nurseries in Knaphill and Bagshot and at Goldsworth Nursery in Woking) and clematis (at Jackman's Nursery) were especially noteworthy. This wonderful photograph shows 18 gardeners and 2 boys who worked at Jackman's Nurseries, St John's, Woking, in the 1880s. The principal foreman carries a measuring rod as staff of office.



Letters written by Lady Mary Wallis of Effingham, 1920-1979 (9456)

Marion Edwards, volunteer

Mary Wallis ('Molly'), wife of the great engineer Sir Barnes Wallis, wrote an enormous number of frank and engaging letters to her friend Mary Turner (later Morris) over six decades. Not only do these letters reveal a good deal of Sir Barnes' life, as seen through Molly's eyes, that has not been previously widely known (for example, he kept bees for honey, was an accomplished wood carver and liked to sleep outdoors on summer nights), but his handwritten notes and diagrams, preserved for posterity from 1943 by Molly as wartime notepaper (a practice that she continued until his death in 1979), provide valuable insight into the mind of one of Britain's unique engineering geniuses. Here we have a cartoon drawn by Barnes in 1925 to illustrate how an airship was constructed.



Photograph of post-war housing at Shepherds Hill, Stoughton, Guildford, 1925 (6316/14444)

Martin Stilwell, volunteer

The day after the ceasefire in 1918, Lloyd George promised returning soldiers that they would have the opportunity to rent quality houses as a reward for doing their duty during the war. This was a typical promise that the politicians expected the civil servants to implement with all due speed. As with all political promises, the implementation was difficult and lengthy due to shortages of labour, building materials and funds. But many of the Surrey urban and rural district councils responded magnificently and much of the housing they built, particularly in rural areas, was of the highest quality.



Map of Guildford, early 17th century (G111/2/3)

Mary Mackey, former archivist

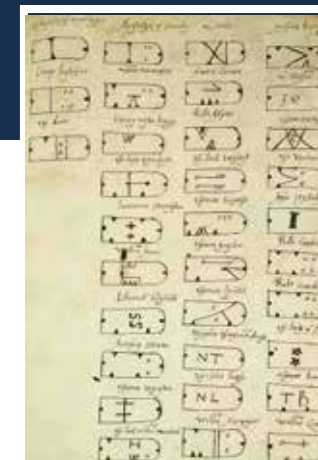
2018 is the 90th anniversary of the establishment of Guildford Muniment Room, later a branch office of Surrey Record Office. I have chosen a map of Guildford town from this volume as I worked at Guildford Muniment Room from 1989 to 1998 and this map reminds me of my happy time there. It is attached to a page depicting the adjoining parish of Shalford (see contribution by Margaret Dierden). Although Guildford is not described in the volume, the Austen family lived in the town before they bought their Shalford estate. They had hoped to build their big house on the site of the Friary ('fryrre') but had to give up the lease in 1609. The map is exquisitely detailed, depicting Guildford Castle, the churches of Holy Trinity, St Mary's and St Nicholas and mills on the River Wey.



The Medhurst family and family tree in the History Centre foyer

Anne Medhurst, 'Exploring Surrey's Past' website user

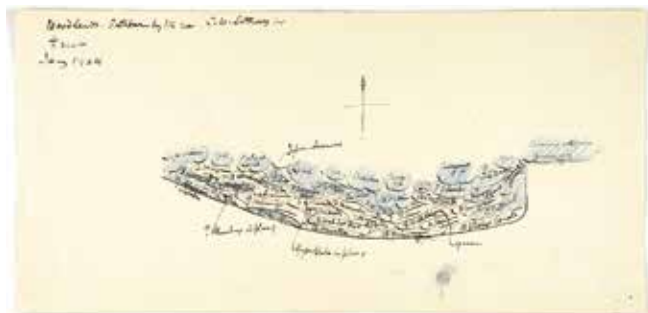
The collection that means the most to our extended family is the 'Surrey Remembers....' gallery of men from Woking who lost their lives in the First World War. These were photographs originally published in the Woking News and Mail and included a photograph of our ancestor, William Edward Medhurst who was killed at Gallipoli on 25th April 1915. As a result of the publication of his photograph, we have been united with members of our family whom we never knew existed, including two in Australia. We have had three annual meetings at Surrey History Centre and another one is planned for June 2018.



Notebook of Sir William More, containing copies of swan marks and instructions for executing the office of Master of the Game of Swans, 1580s-1600 (LM/1327/6)

Michael More-Molyneux, Lord Lieutenant of Surrey and depositor

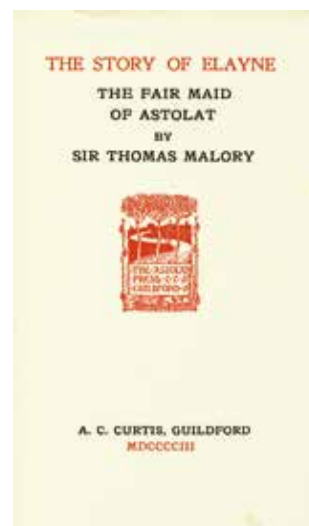
Our family's time at Loseley dates back to the beginning of the 16th century. Over generations and centuries, a great deal of correspondence, estate agreements, maps and other family information has been gathered. However, over the centuries many of these important and significant documents, including letters from Queen Elizabeth I, have suffered from damp and poor storage conditions. The extraordinary skills of the Surrey History Centre over many years, have managed to restore and bring to life many that would have otherwise been lost. Both the family and the many people around the world that now research these documents, are extremely appreciative of all their efforts to preserve these important parts and glimpses of history.



Gertrude Jekyll's plan for the garden at Woodlands, Saltburn by the Sea, Yorkshire, for Mr C W Littleboy, 1924 (4113/7/24)

Professor Michael Tooley, depositor and searchroom user

Gertrude Jekyll (1843-1932) transformed the style of gardening in a way that is as fresh today as it was in the late nineteenth century. Her garden layouts and planting plans were informed by her profound knowledge of horticulture and the cultural requirements of plants and her skills as a painter of landscapes and buildings, an interior designer, embroiderer, artist blacksmith and wood carver. She communicated her ideas in fourteen books and over 900 articles in *The Garden and Gardening Illustrated*. Every generation produces a conspicuous individual who stands head and shoulders above their peers; in garden design Gertrude Jekyll was such a person. This plan, of a small garden at Saltburn by the Sea, is typical of her working practice. The plants the client wishes to keep are shaded blue.



The Astolat Press

Miriam Farr, former local studies librarian

The influence of the Arts and Crafts movement on printing and publishing can be seen in the founding of private presses such as the Astolat Press by AC Curtis, a Guildford stationer – so-named because Astolat is identified as Guildford in Sir Thomas Malory's *Le Morte d'Arthur*. Fine examples of Astolat Press publications in the library at Surrey History Centre include Elizabeth Barrett Browning, *Sonnets* (1901); Geoffrey Chaucer, *The prioresses tale: from the Canterbury Tales* (1902); Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam, translated by Edward Fitzgerald (1902); Mary S Watts, *The Word in the Pattern: a key to the symbols on the walls of the Chapel at Compton* (1905); and Sir Thomas Malory's *The Story of Elayne the Fair Maid of Astolat* (1903).



Raja family Qur'an, handwritten in Arabic, late 18th cent (Z/454/4/11)

Mohammed Ilyas Raja, depositor and trustee of the Shah Jahan Mosque, Woking

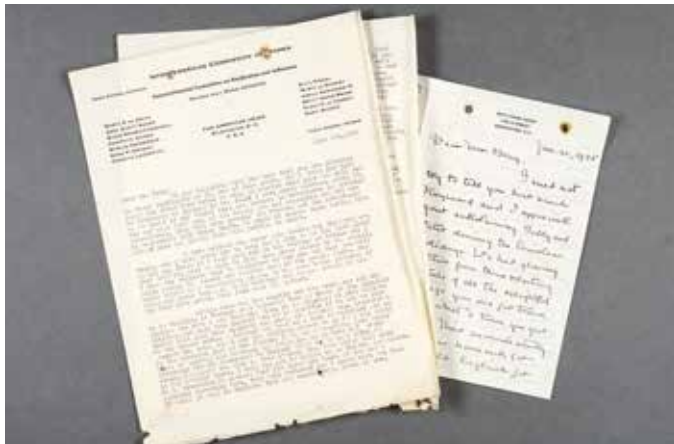
This most ancient, holy and precious book was handed down to my father, Major Raja Alaf Khan, from his grandparents in Mirpur, Azad Kashmir. I brought it from the Raja family home there in 2012 and placed it with Surrey History Centre so that it could be preserved for future generations, and be a source of pride for the Muslim community. Handwritten Qur'an are extremely rare and it is important that this volume is available for researchers and visitors to study.



Map of the manors of Preston and Burgh, Banstead, c.1615 (9468/1/1)

Angela Fraser DL, chairman of Surrey County Council 2007-2009

I have been delighted to support the History Centre and act as a trustee since I was present at the laying of the foundation stone, and subsequently at the official opening by HRH the Prince of Wales. This delightfully quirky map appears to have been produced around the time that Christopher Buckle bought the manors in 1615. It must be one of the earliest maps to show the area. However, it is not a measured survey and the orientation (with west at the top) and scale are both erratic. Of great interest are the ancient barrows and tumuli on the Downs which acted as boundary markers and no longer exist.



Estate correspondence of the Bray family of Shere (G85/38)

Nigel Balchin, Ewhurst Local History Society and searchroom user

These correspondence files comprise letters received by the Bray estate in the period stretching from the 1890s through to the late 1940s, a period covering two world wars. They provide a fascinating and, probably, unique insight into the day to day workings of the estate and its interaction with tenants, suppliers and the authorities, interspersed with personal touches. For my research concerning Ewhurst it has provided me with an invaluable and alternative perspective on the lives of the people living in the various 'big houses' up on Pitch Hill owned and leased out by the Bray estate. The letters shown here were written by the militant American suffragist Betty Gram Swing who lived for several years in Coneyhurst, Ewhurst, with her husband and struck up a warm friendship with Sir Reginald Bray.

160 RICHMOND UNION.		Parish of * MORTLAKE.		The Application and Report Book.	
No. of Poor	Sex	Age	Occupation	Reason for applying for relief	Remarks
1	M	45	Labourer	Widow of a labourer, no other means of support.	Admitted to relief.
2	F	35	Domestic	Widow of a labourer, no other means of support.	Admitted to relief.
3	M	25	Labourer	Widow of a labourer, no other means of support.	Admitted to relief.

Application and report book, Richmond Poor Law Union, 1890-1891 (BG10/55/43)

Naomi Weatherhead, trustee of West Surrey Family History Society and volunteer

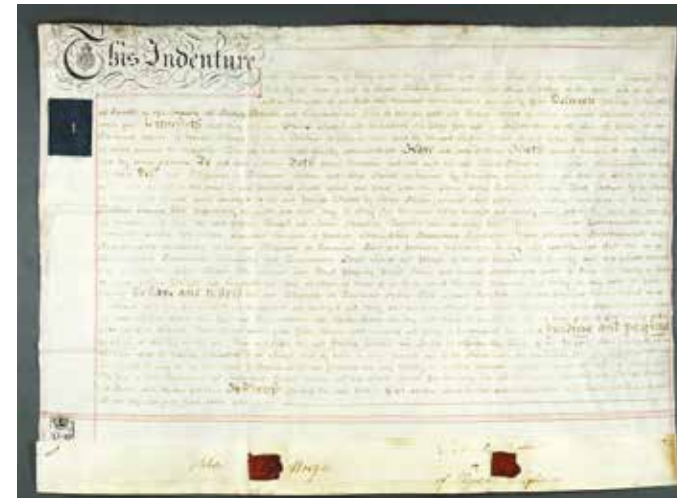
Poor Law Union application and report books are a treasure trove for family historians. Turning the pages reveals a wealth of information about those seeking poor relief. Names, ages, occupations, family members, reasons for applying for relief and the aid granted are recorded. The fate of families, who endured a daily struggle against poverty, can be followed as they faced hardship caused by unemployment, sickness, childbirth, old age or loss of a spouse without savings to fall back on. These records form a fascinating primary research source and give us invaluable insight into the lives of our poorer ancestors.



Print of the Battle of Dettingen, 1743, at which the XXXI Foot, later the East Surrey Regiment, fought alongside King George II (ESR/1/12/3/p29/2)

Penny James, volunteer

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment archives found a safe and permanent home at Surrey History Centre in 2003. They can be found in catalogues QRWS, ESR and QRS. They mean a lot to me as I was curator of the Regimental Museum until retirement in late 2002. I spent a great deal of time digitising, sorting and cataloguing the museum's collections. The archives became an extremely valuable resource to the museum for answering the many queries received from all over the world from descendants of regimental members, military and family historians etc. Thanks to the Surrey History Centre, they continue to be so.



Lease for a year of property in Ewell, 1794 (8636/1)

Phil Cooper, Exploring Surrey's Past officer



In 2010 Surrey History Centre received a very unusual item, a deed which had been made into a lampshade, complete with sticky plastic covering and decorative frill. Amazingly, the conservation team managed to remove the covering, unpick the stitches holding the frill, relax the document in a humidification chamber and flatten it using light weights. The deed, a lease by Philip Wright of Ewell, brewer, and Elizabeth his wife to Robert Street of Ewell, butcher, of property in Ewell near the Green Man Alehouse, has been added to the archive where anyone can see it.



Inventories of the Chaundler family of Bramley, 1636 and 1654 (5410/33/1/12 & 17)

Phil and Sally Gorton, searchroom users

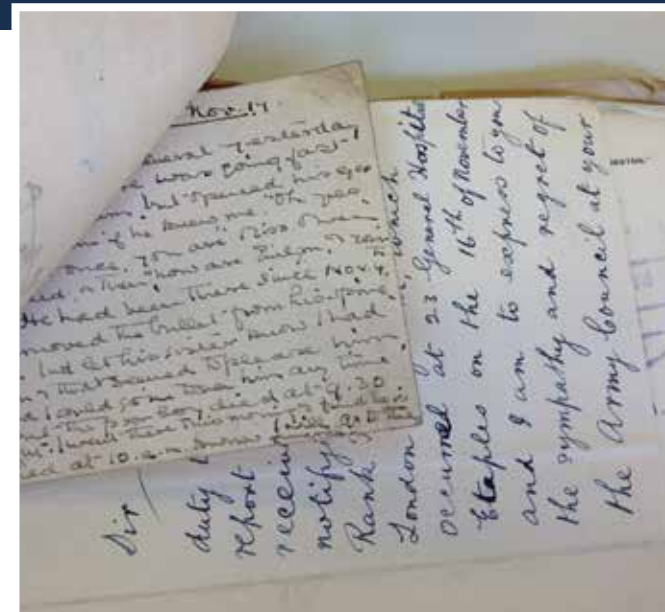
These two inventories of Peter Chaundler and his son John were drawn up after their deaths in 1636 and 1654 respectively. They lived and farmed in Thorncombe Street, Bramley, and their house still stands. Probate inventories are comparatively rare in Surrey and, as house historians, we found it particularly thrilling to be able to assign them to an existing building. Moving from room to room, the appraisers have left a description of the house and its contents, as well as the farm and its assets, which give an intimate insight into the lives of two generations of the Chaundler family.



William Gilpin's sketchbook of Painshill Park, Cobham, 1772 (6701/1)

Rhona Elstone, heritage assistant

Having enjoyed visiting Painshill myself, I was fascinated to discover this sketchbook of views of the famous gardens created by Charles Hamilton (1704-1786) as they were in the late 18th century. William Gilpin, headmaster at Cheam School, 1752-1777, produced the sketchbook during a visit to Painshill in 1772. It includes drawings of a number of the garden's landmarks - the ruined abbey, lake, grotto, tower, hermitage and the temple of Bacchus. Gilpin's theory of the 'Picturesque' was very influential in changing the way people responded to landscape and his published tours and sketches encouraged many to travel in search of picturesque views.



Insurance claims on behalf of Surrey County Council Education Department employees killed in action, 1915-1918 (CC7/4/4)

Barrie Higham, heritage manager 2013-2018

What might appear to be a rather dry collection of local authority insurance files includes some extraordinary original items that shed light on the lives lost during the Great War - for example, this postcard from Nurse Gladys Owen sent the day after the death of Private John William Parry of the London Regiment to his sister. In peacetime he had taught at a school in Richmond and Nurse Owen tended him as he lay dying, shot through the spine: "I told him I would let his sister know I had seen him, and that seemed to please him".



Album of early railway photographs, 1884 (7436/2/9)

Robert Simonson, archivist

This album of 46 black and white photographs shows navigators ('navvies') constructing the London and South Western Railway line from Guildford to Surbiton, via Cobham, and the Effingham Junction to Leatherhead line, via Bookham, in 1884. These rare large scale photographs of railway construction work capture the immense effort required on the part of large numbers of un-named men to build the bridges, cuttings and embankments which formed the new railway lines on which we still travel today and which are part of the Victorian-era infrastructure on which we still rely.



Still image from the film *The Road Back*, 1937 (2332/6/11/3)

Roland Wales, searchroom user

After the worldwide success of his play *Journey's End*, Surrey author R C Sherriff went to Hollywood, and in 1932 Universal Studios asked him to adapt *The Road Back*, the sequel to *All Quiet on the Western Front*. Having already written his own sequel to *Journey's End*, the subject was perfect for him, and his initial script was pronounced 'magnificent'. It would take another 5 years before the film hit the screens, delayed by financial problems and the opposition of the Nazis in Germany. But it had given him his start, and there followed a string of classics - including *The Invisible Man* (1934), *Goodbye, Mr Chips* (1939), *The Four Feathers* (1939) and *The Dam Busters* (1955) - which would make him one of Britain's most successful and highly rated screenwriters.



The *Suffragette*, newspaper of the Women's Social and Political Union, 13 June 1913

Rosie Everitt, project archivist, 'The March of the Women: Surrey's Road to the Vote'

This copy of *The Suffragette*, edited by Christabel Pankhurst, commemorates Emily Wilding Davison, who suffered fatal injuries at the 1913 Epsom Derby, where she stepped out in front of the King's horse. The paper was sold during Davison's funeral procession and provides a wealth of insight into the event, including eye-witness accounts, details of the inquest and the worldwide tributes that followed. When I first began to investigate our sources relating to the suffrage movement in Surrey, what struck me most about this item was its significance, not only for Surrey, but for women everywhere in this centenary year of women first gaining the vote.



Plan of the Parsonage Walk, Ash, 18th century (AS/15/1)

Sally Jenkinson, volunteer and digital delivery officer

This delightful little plan of the Parsonage Walk at Ash shows detailed buildings, hedges, gates, and fences. The carefully recorded gates at points A, C and anciently at B, probably reflect disputes over access. In 1657 Judith Chewter remembered when posts stood in the lane and that in winter the curate Giles Harrison would rise before day and hinder the carts going through the lane and at night he would watch them again and make them leave the road. The footpaths shown led to neighbouring farms and are no longer there, but the walk is still a public footpath, now called Church Lane.



Photograph of RAF pilots, from the archives of George and Herbert Bunce, photographers of Caterham and Purley, September 1940 (4209/3/115/1)

Sarah Gray, archivist

Whilst searching our holdings for material to use in a display to mark the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, I came across this photograph taken at RAF Kenley showing 25 pilots of 501 'Fighter' Squadron in front of a Hawker Hurricane, September 1940. Personnel shown include S/Ldr Harry Hogan, Sgt J H 'Ginger' Lacey and Polish P/O Stanislaw Skalski. It has stuck in my memory, having researched these men's incredible bravery and dedication to the almost insurmountable task they were faced with, and it is particularly poignant to wonder how many of these 'few' actually survived those raging battles in the skies.



Bronze Age urn from North Park Farm, Bletchingley
Surrey County Archaeological Unit staff

Pottery is a common archaeological find in Surrey, although complete vessels are rare. This Bronze Age urn from North Park Farm is a hand-made, simple-rimmed cup in a coarse flint-gritted fabric, finished with a rough wiping of the exterior surface. When discovered, this pot had been used as a funerary urn and still contained cremated bone. Originally identified by the late Phil Jones, who made a huge contribution to pottery studies in Surrey, this vessel is a lovely, tactile object, and offers a direct link to the inhabitants of Surrey some 3,500-3,000 years ago.



Records of Guildford Area Gay Society (9745)

The GAGS archive was voted for by attendees at our 2018 LGBT History Month event at which we displayed this scrapbook report of the 1985 Pride march and the actual banner carried on the march. GAGS was one of the UK's earliest gay community groups, and Surrey's longest established, running from 1976 until 2016. Informal meetings were held at members' homes, providing a relaxed forum in which gay people could socialise, which was vital to those who could not 'come out' publicly. The unique archive includes a wonderfully entertaining series of scrapbooks of photographs and often amusing reports of social events and activities.



Archives of Woking Film Makers (8070)
Ine van Dooren, moving picture archivist,
Screen Archive South East

Screen Archive South East is the region's public sector moving image archive and our partnership with Surrey History Centre dates back to 1992. I myself have been in post since 1995 and I have seen many interesting films featuring places, work and lives of people from Surrey. It is very difficult to choose a favourite. I like cine club films as they portray so well the true meaning of amateur: love for film-making. The Woking Cine Club, established in 1959, who later became Woking Film Makers, is no exception. SASE cares for some 24 films related to this Woking group of enthusiasts and several can be viewed online.



Broadwood Porters' book, June 1848 (2185/JB/42/42)
Steve Misener, Stockholm,
South Dakota, USA, searchroom user

The archives of John Broadwood and Sons, piano manufacturers, are significant in the history of western music. At one time Broadwood was a world leader, building the most technically advanced keyboard instruments anywhere. Broadwood pianos were used by Haydn, Clementi, Beethoven, Chopin and Mendelssohn and all of these musicians, and many others, are mentioned in the firm's records. From the serial numbers of pianos manufactured, the archives can be searched to connect individual instruments to their various owners. I am a piano technician from the United States with a passion for the history and conservation of keyboard instruments. I have found information in these records regarding the seven Broadwood pianos which are part of my personal collection.



The Lovelace Tankard, 1696
Steve Johnson, curator, Surrey Infantry Museum

The Lovelace Tankard is a solid silver late William and Mary tankard dated 1696 which was presented to the 2nd Royal Surrey Militia by Colonel the Earl of Lovelace in 1870. It was on display in the Surrey Infantry Museum in Clandon Park on the night of the terrible fire of 29 April 2015. It suffered extensive damage in the fire but was recovered and, heavily contaminated with toxic fire residue, taken for cleaning and assessment. The result is remarkable: a testament to skill and craftsmanship by Farcroft Restoration that gives hope that many of the items previously considered to be beyond repair may be salvageable. Since the fire, staff and volunteers of the Museum have found a temporary home in Surrey History Centre, which also cares for the regimental archives.



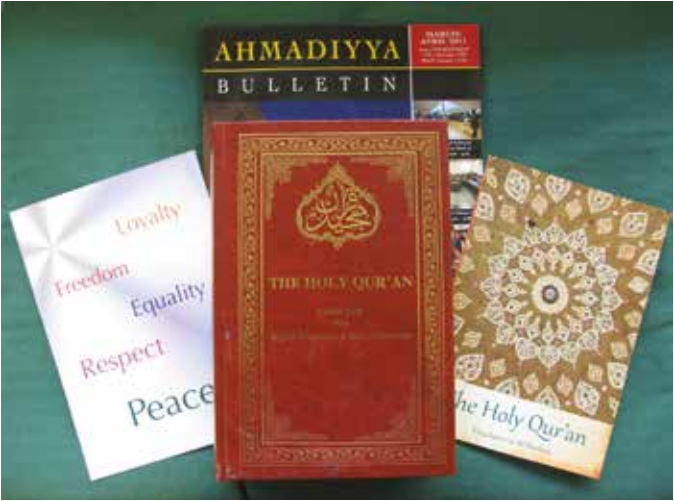
Admission register of Royal Philanthropic Society, Redhill, 1871-1875 (2271/10/16)
Dr Sue Hawkins, Kingston University and searchroom user

John Gibbons can't quite bring himself to meet your eye. He stares out of the page, a little boy in crumpled clothes, grubby little hands clutching nervously at his trousers. In November 1873 John stole chestnuts and was jailed for 7 days; a couple of months later he stole 2/6d. He got 3 months in jail and 5 years at the Royal Philanthropic Farm School, Redhill. He was only 13. The detail in these registers (of past crimes, behaviour at the school and fate on leaving) offers a unique window into the so-called 'criminal classes', regarded as beyond redemption by large sections of Victorian society, but by a few deemed capable of being 'saved'. Open the registers anywhere and stories of pathos and survival against the odds emerge.



Casebook of Holloway Sanatorium, Egham, 1885-1889 (3473/3/1)
Susan Sidlauskas, Professor of History and Theory of Modern Art, Rutgers University, USA, and searchroom user

My research life as an art historian permanently shifted when I saw the first casebook produced by the Holloway Sanatorium. Nothing could have prepared me for the surprise of seeing what looked to be family portraits in what was supposedly an objective medical document about mentally ill patients. As I learned from working at the History Centre with Julian Pooley, these photographs are different from any other institutional portraits made during the 19th century. That set into motion an entire book project about the medical portrait, with the Holloway casebooks - most of which are at the Centre - at its heart.



Woking Ahmadiyya archive (8859)
Woking Ahmadiyya, depositor

Having an Ahmadiyya Muslim Community collection at the Surrey History Centre is important as press statements, publications, and other forms of material can be preserved and made available for future generations. As a worldwide religious organisation it ensures that the work of the local branch is reflected in the archive of the county it is a part of.



Memorandum prepared by Sir Reginald More Bray of Shere for the Select Committee on the Moveable Dwellings Bill, 1909 (G85/29/8)

Alan Wright, volunteer

Sir Reginald Bray, High Court Judge and Surrey landowner, was the leader of several pre-First World War initiatives to control Gypsies and nomads in the county. His detailed typescript memorandum is the most comprehensive attempt to articulate evidence-based arguments for controlling the so-called 'Gypsy Nuisance', as it was perceived at the time. His struggles to do so encouraged me to ask some basic questions about who they were, their numbers, favoured locations and just what problem landowners believed they actually posed in the county. The end – and unforeseen - result was my recently-published book 'Their Day Has Passed': Gypsies in Victorian and Edwardian Surrey.



The Staff of Surrey Heritage

Dr Pat Reynolds, heritage manager 2007-2013

I have suggested a photograph of the staff as a tribute to the professionalism, skills, and dedication of those who have worked in the Surrey History Centre over the years. This photograph was taken by a colleague from County Hall, as part of a submission for an award for equalities work. Our work got an honourable mention. It is important to me because of the many achievements of the staff in bringing down barriers – from tackling the stigma of mental health to providing equipment to enable those with sight loss to see archives to encouraging diversity in the workforce.



I am delighted that, in this year of anniversaries, Surrey History Trust has been able to sponsor the production of this fascinating celebratory booklet. Since 1998, the Trust has served as Surrey Heritage's friends' organisation, enabling the service to purchase archives at risk and supporting it in its mission to rescue, preserve and celebrate our county's history.

Several of the treasures chosen by contributors to this booklet, including Thomas Thorp's scrapbooks (p.10), the wonderful drawings of the Royal Dramatic College in Woking (p.13) and the Cuthbert Hopkins photographs of Epsom (p.21) were acquired with the financial assistance of Surrey History Trust. Not only that but volunteers recruited through the Trust have created detailed indexes to Surrey World War I recruitment registers and to people coming before the Surrey court of Quarter Sessions, 1780-1820. These indexes have been published on CD and also on the Find My Past website, helping to generate valuable income.

This income, together with members' subscriptions has enabled us to help to fund many of Surrey Heritage's projects. For example, in 2013 we contributed to the project 'To Journey's End and Beyond' which opened up the papers of Surrey playwright, novelist and screenwriter R C Sherriff, including his letters home from the Western Front, of which there are many echoes in his great play, 'Journey's End'. We are currently supporting both 'Surrey in the Great War: A County Remembers', which explores the impact of the global conflict upon the people and communities of our county, and 'The March of the Women: Surrey's Road to the Vote' which celebrates the achievement of the parliamentary vote for women over 30 in 1918.

Recently, too, our funding has supported the pioneering project 'Learning on My Doorstep', undertaken by Surrey Heritage and Surrey Museums Partnership, to demonstrate how primary and secondary schools can use the rich collections at the History Centre and the county's 43 museums in their teaching and stimulate young people to pursue a career in the heritage sector.

Our support for Surrey Heritage becomes ever more vital. If you are not a member, please join us so we can continue this support for another 20 years – and beyond.

Dr David Taylor, MA, FSA
Chairman, Surrey History Trust

Surrey *Heritage* 70 Years

Discovering Preserving Celebrating

Surrey Heritage
Surrey History Centre
130 Goldsworth Road
Woking
Surrey
GU21 6ND

Tel: 01483 518737
Email: shs@surreycc.gov.uk
Web: www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreyhistorycentre
Twitter: @SurreyHeritage
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