

## Surrey Heritage Volunteering 2019

Surrey Heritage volunteers gave a staggering 13,433 hours between April 2018 and March 2019

Thank you so much!

### Archives and Local Studies

This year Katharine, in addition to transcribing the Gentleman's Magazine, has listed and packed a large collection of journals to be added to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association collection (ref: 8859). She also undertook a major reworking of an old box-list of Surbiton Hill Methodist Church and Kingston Methodist Circuit records (ref: 2826). Thanks to her hard work the records are now individually numbered and described making them much more accessible to researchers, as well as giving Katherine first hand cataloguing experience which is beneficial for her archives course.

Bridget, Naomi, Jenny and our new volunteers, Mary, Sue and Julia, are continuing to painstakingly index the Board of Guardians' General Minutes. All union minute books are now in progress or have been completed. Mike finished the Guildford minutes earlier this year and his index has been uploaded to our website. It is currently in great demand, being used continually by the volunteers of the '*More Than Oliver Twist*' project, to discover more about the lives of the Guildford poor and destitute. Marcus left project in the autumn, after a year of working on the Reigate union minutes, having successfully completed his Duke of Edinburgh award and heading off to University. Staff have also been supporting the team by indexing other BG records - all of which will go on our website to attract lots of new people to come and use the centre, and increase our revenue by being hosted on the Find My Past website.

Looking for a new challenge, indexer extraordinaire Mike, is currently working through the annual reports of Ockenden International, formerly The Ockenden Venture (ref: 7155). The reports contain a wealth of information about the refugee children helped by Ockenden as well as its staff and supporters. The index will be a valuable finding aid for anyone researching the refugee charity.

Guy has completed his work on the Gentleman's Magazine project, indexing the transcripts that have been created from 1755 up to 1779, and has also been continuing his work on the hospital records. Earlier in the year he completed the indexing of 18 boxes of patient case files from Botleys Park Hospital in Chertsey. The records are now far more accessible and will prove to be a valuable resource. Guy recently started work indexing another Brookwood Hospital admission register, and is also cataloguing a collection of care home records. His hospital indexes are proving to be an essential aid for staff when dealing with customer enquiries.

Continuing his research and writing about the history of Surrey's Gypsy, Romany, and Traveller community, Alan has been methodically working on the text for forthcoming Surrey Record Society publication featuring the 1913 Surrey Constabulary 'Gypsy census', which will be available in 2020.



Marion has given us a fantastic output of cataloguing work over the year, as usual. Her work on the voluminous correspondence and papers, 1902-1938, of Evangeline Farrer (Eva), wife of Thomas Cecil, 2nd Baron Farrer (ref: 9793), has added new depth to the documentation of the life of the Farrers of Abinger Hall and the many interests of Eva, including Leith Hill Musical Festival (of which she was a co-founder), war work during World War I, Abinger School, Dorking High School for Girls and the Girl Guides. She has also been cataloguing some of the Broadwood family letters in detail.

Linda and Barry have made a tremendous start on the unlisted Local Studies photographs, indexing the photographs from A to D. An incredible 1106(+) photos have been added to CALM. As ever, their attention to detail is exemplary and much appreciated. In addition, they undertook the detailed listing of the Bishop of Guildford's Registry faculties for the years 1965-1985. The Registry papers (ref: 9274) had been passed to us by the LMA but the faculties for these years had never been individually listed and some were in quite a state of disarray. Thanks to their painstaking work it is now possible to electronically search all the faculties we hold for the diocese from 1927 to 2006. Barry has also continued to work on the indexing of the Broadwood customer ledgers, completing a further 6 ledgers during the course of the year, and adding thousands of new names to the index.

Undeterred by having already cleaned and digitised hundreds of Sidney Francis glass plate negatives (refs 7095 and 9424), Alan is now tackling a further 400 or so negatives of Brookwood Cemetery taken in the 1920s (ref 10053). The images, which are primarily of civilian memorials and WW1 military graves, will be a valuable resource for family and local historians.

Sheila has followed up the completion of her work on the Loseley correspondence with a detailed catalogue of the letters of the Rev John Butler to his friend and patron George Onslow (1731-1814), latterly 4th Baron then 1st Earl of Onslow, 1766-1802 (ref: G173/2/1-2). The letters relate in detail an association of two men engaged in political affairs, stimulated by all the issues at the forefront of public life during the Wilkesite crises, the American War, the French Revolution and the beginning of the Napoleonic Wars. The collection has long been a part of our holdings but Sheila's catalogue now makes this important material properly accessible to researchers.

Throughout the year, Rachel has continued to catalogue building plans submitted to Chertsey Urban District Council (ref: 3452). Her catalogue now covers 1895 to 1920. The plans include private houses, shops, chapel, pubs, clubs and schools, and notably illustrate the development of Addlestone over the period. The years of World War I show the building of a rifle range at Lyne and the Lang Propeller Works factory at Addlestone.

David has made a tremendous start this year on indexing the case books of male patients at the Royal Earlswood Hospital, Redhill. With four volumes completed, covering 1854-1868, he has listed over a thousand patients admitted to this pioneering hospital of learning disability during its earliest years.

Mary is indexing the staff registers of The Manor Hospital, Epsom, one of the LCC's Cluster of psychiatric hospitals. We have indexed many of the patient case books but her work will be of enormous value for the many people who are interested in the lives of members of their families who worked at these huge institutions. So far this year Mary has worked through nearly two volumes, indexing the name of nearly 500 staff, their dates of employment and the jobs that they did.

We hold the pocket diaries of William Bray (1736-1832), lawyer and antiquary of Shere. He is remembered today for his completion of the Rev. Owen Manning's History and Antiquities of the County of Surrey 3 vols (1804-1814). He kept pocket diaries for much of his very long life, from at least 1754 until his death. From 1758 they are in the form of the small, leather-bound 'week to view' printed diaries that are still popular today. Although several people have used his diaries to study his career, interests, friendship networks and his research into Surrey's county history, no one has yet studied the extraordinary range of *printed* information that was included in these commercially produced pocket diaries. It was clearly aimed to provide the gentleman, lawyer, merchant or politician who used it with everything he needed to know for his professional and personal life: lists of public holidays, names of insurance offices, list of preachers at the Chapel Royal etc. Robyn has made a great start in the task of capturing this information on a spreadsheet, which will be of enormous value to anyone interested in the social and mercantile history of Georgian England.

The 800 or so watercolours of Surrey buildings painted by John Hassell and his son, Edward, in the 1820s are one of the gems of our collection. Covering churches, cottages, country houses, market-places and street scenes as well as schools, bridges, workhouses, prisons, almshouses and other charitable institutions, they present an extraordinary visual record of the face of Georgian Surrey. Although thumbnails of each watercolour can be seen on Exploring Surrey's Past, and although Surrey Record Society is planning to publish a selection of them in a forthcoming volume, our catalogues are currently mostly limited to the briefest of titles based only on the annotation on each watercolour. Sheila has bravely stepped forward to help us provide short, accurate narrative descriptions of key items in this collection which will soon start to appear on ESP and will contribute greatly to the planned Record Society volume.

Nick continues to do tremendous work for our 'Surrey in the Great War' project, tirelessly creating valuable indexes to the Absent Voters lists in the electoral registers of Chertsey, Eastern Surrey, Epsom, Farnham and Guildford. He has recently completed those for Mitcham and is currently working on Reigate. Alongside this he is also working on indexes for a number of parish registers, notably those for St Peter's Old Woking, Christ Church, Woking and St Anne's, Bagshot

## **Work Experience**

Back in the summer, the HA's team acted as mentors for several college leavers wanting to pursue careers in the Heritage sector. They were given training in how to search the archive catalogues, and use the other resources available in the search-room, as well as being given the opportunity to answer enquiries and help with finds processing in archaeology.

Jack joined us for work experience in November and is tackling a large collection of nineteenth century sale particulars and business records of White and Sons, auctioneers and land agents of Dorking (ref: K99). He is cleaning and flattening the records prior to cataloguing them in detail, adding to the extensive database which Penny and Jess worked on for some considerable time. The records include not only property sale particulars but often auction catalogues of house contents too. Previously these had been listed only by year so the ever expanding detailed catalogue will be a great asset to researchers, and will provide Jack with valuable experience for his chosen career in information management.

Jake, a placement student from the University of Reading, has joined us for one day a week helping Simon to record archaeological finds from Surrey for the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

Similarly, Sophie has joined us on a work placement scheme from the University of Surrey at Guildford. With her expert knowledge of clinical psychology, she is helping us to sort and understand the significance of the thousands of photographs taken of daily life at Netherne psychiatric hospital in the mid-1950s. Her detailed catalogue will be of significant value for anyone interested in the history of mental health care in Surrey in the mid-twentieth century.

### **The March of the Women: Surrey's Road to the Vote**

Summertime this year saw the end of our Heritage Lottery funded '*The March of the Women*' project celebrating the centenary of the vote. Two volunteers stayed on to help finish the cataloguing, newspaper indexing and suffrage biographies. Rachel painstakingly worked her way through the vast collection of papers of Reigate and Banstead Conservation and Unionist Association (ref: 353/-), highlighting all the references to the involvement of women, the suffrage campaign, and first General Election in which women could vote, in December 1918. The enhanced catalogue entries are now available on our archive Collections Catalogue SURCAT.

Lewis has used his expert knowledge of Dame Ethel Smyth to create additional online sources for her life, and in particular, her role in the suffragette movement, and has now started detailed cataloguing of his own research papers about her for us. Jackie ploughed her way through the final years of Common Cause, 1911-1914, the newspaper of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, indexing all the references to Surrey-based suffrage societies, events and people – all crucial in the absence of any surviving formal branch records.

Miriam used all her librarian skills to track down material relating to key players in the Surrey suffrage campaign and produce some wonderful biography pages for the website. The biographies, many of which represent the first time information published about a person, greatly advance our knowledge and understanding of Surrey's role in the suffrage campaign. Both the indexes and biographies can be found on our Exploring Surrey's Past website, under the Theme of 'Women's Suffrage.'

<https://www.exploringsurreypast.org.uk/themes/subjects/womens-suffrage/>

We've already had some great feedback from academics, researchers and family historians about this new ground-breaking resource and would like to thank all of the project volunteers over the last two years for their dedication to the project, helping to make it such a success!

### **Museums**

Rosamund has been helping Surrey Museums Partnership with quite a mix of work this year including collating specialist schools data and logging evaluations, gathering content for websites and research for workshops among many other tasks. We truly value Rosamund's weekly commitment and her enthusiasm to help with any tasks that save us time. She is a wonderful support and such great company!

## **Surrey County Archaeological Unit**

This year, the Surrey County Archaeological Unit (SCAU) volunteers have been busy working on several different projects, as well as continuing post-excavation work for community archaeology projects. Every Wednesday we are joined by 10 volunteers to carry out a variety of tasks, with additional fieldwork and outreach opportunities in the summer months. This year, volunteers have developed their skills in many different areas as well working with a range of artefacts.

### **Witley Camp**

This year Godalming Museum was awarded £63,900 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to carry out an exciting new community archaeology project at Witley Camp; once a bustling military camp in the First World War, home to 20,000 British and Canadian soldiers and a veterinary hospital, the area today has returned to woodland with little trace of any remains. Volunteers from the local community were invited to join professional archaeologists from SCAU to carry out landscape surveys and excavations, learning new skills, meeting new people and increasing awareness about the site. Throughout the summer, the National Trust owned site was recorded for the first time, ensuring specific areas of interest from both the First and Second World War are identified and preserved for future generations.

In total, 30 participants volunteered for 58 days to help SCAU carry out a landscape survey of the site. This helped us identify areas that were thought to have a high potential for archaeological remains. During the excavations of the site, 63 participants volunteered for a total of 246 days over the summer months at Witley Camp. The finds we brought back to Surrey Heritage and have now been washed by volunteers.

While cleaning a metal spoon found during the excavations, it was discovered that a service number had been stamped in to the handle. Using these numbers, volunteers were able to track down information about Canadian John Baxter, who enlisted on 1st Jan 1915 and lost his spoon whilst at Witley Camp. We look forward to finding out more about John Baxter, and cleaning more personal artefacts over the coming months. Each object will be carefully processed and analysed so they can be used to create a permanent exhibition at Godalming Museum about the camp.

### **Woking Palace**

Volunteers have been busy preparing the Woking Palace archive to be deposited with The Lightbox. The transfer of finds, paperwork and digital files from the excavations at Woking Palace is a huge task, and everything must be catalogued before being sent. In total, there were over 40,000 finds in 160 boxes from 3 years of excavations as part of the Woking Palace and its Park project. After several years of hard work the archive is now complete and ready for transfer to The Lightbox.

### **North Park Farm**

Excavations at North Park Farm Quarry in Bletchingley, took place between 1997 and 2014, and revealed the development of a landscape through ten millennia. An array of Mesolithic tree-throws and purposefully dug pits were identified in the areas surrounding the enormous flint scatter that lay within a valley hollow. Important and rare evidence of Early Iron Age ironworking was identified but little evidence of later Iron Age or Roman usage. There was a greater amount of earlier Saxon occupation, indicated by a well and a number of pits. In the early medieval period, trackways and

a field system, integrated with discrete areas of industrial and domestic activity, were developed.

The final publication of the site is now available to purchase, and the volunteers spent the spring sorting and checking the archive so it can be sent to the local museum in the New Year, creating shelving space for future projects.

### **Denbies Family Archaeology Workshop**

During the summer we were asked by Denbies Wine Estate to run two archaeology workshops for children. 4 volunteers offered to help with the activities, and in total 40 children were trained up as 'mini-archaeologists'. A great day was had by all, and the café discount was particularly well received!

### **SCAU Reports**

Using the information on the SCAU project Database, volunteer Jennie has been preparing OASIS forms. These documents provide the data on our archaeological projects, which along with the report, are submitted to the Grey Literature Library which is hosted by the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) website. This allows our fieldwork reports to be more widely available to the public.

### **Thank you!**

Everyone at Surrey County Archaeological Unit would like to say a big thank you to all those that have volunteered with us in 2019. We have had an eclectic mix of volunteering opportunities this year, and a great set of enthusiastic volunteers. Our community archaeology work would not be possible without you. Thank you and see you in 2020!

### **Surrey in the Great War: A County Remembers**

2019 has seen continued excellent progress on Surrey Heritage's project *Surrey in the Great War: A County Remembers* (SGW for short!). This Heritage Lottery Fund-supported, four-year project has been investigating the impact of the First World War on the county. Contributions from volunteers have been crucial to the project's success and volunteers have once again been busy across a wide range of activities during this, the project's final full active year.

Many volunteers have continued to spend time indexing the WWI-related content in eleven digitised local and county newspapers from the years 1914-1922. We now have 83,701 index entries published on the SGW website; these provide an invaluable research tool. Working on newspaper indexing over the year have been Andrew, David, Denise, Elizabeth, Gavin, Helen, Helen, James, Jonathan, Malcolm, Mary, Monevra, Penny, Peter, Phil, Rakshanda, Richard, & Rosemary. Special mention is due to Jeannette, who is helping to check indexes and mentoring other indexers, and to Penny and Linda, who as well as indexing are helping to check indexes.

Our volunteers have continued to create for our website, biographical profiles of Surrey-linked people who played a role in WWI. Our thanks to all who have been involved in this work, including Alasdair, Ann, Claire, Gary, Gavin, Ian, Jeannette, Jill, Moira, Phil, Richard, Rosemary, Sarah, Viv and the team at Redhill Local and Family History Centre. The database now holds over 28,000 records: thank you all!

The *Surrey in the Great War* team has continued to work with and to support a number of volunteer researchers. Research has been carried out by many, including Ann on the WWI dead of Weybridge; Geoff on extraordinary stories found in Surrey's WWI newspapers; Jenny on the Farnham and Woking areas; Jill on Surrey's WWI hospitals, nursing & Belgian refugees; Phil on families linked to the project's oral history interviews; Marion on many different topics; Martin on Surrey's wartime industry and the experiences of returning servicemen; Moira on the Windlesham and Lightwater areas; Nick on absentee electors in 1918. The Cobham Remembers group (led by Victor, ably assisted by David, David, Graeme, Joyce and Marilyn) has done much to illuminate that area's Great War history.

Our *SGW* oral history project has made further great strides this year towards our aim of collecting oral testimony about Surrey life in WWI and the decades following. It has now recorded over thirty interviews. We're extremely grateful to our lead oral history volunteer, Stephen, and to our project administrator, Moira, for the very significant amount of time they have devoted to training the team, ensuring the project's paperwork and processes are managed effectively and efficiently, advising on policy and process and conducting interviews. Gary, Jill, Malcolm, Mike, Phil and Viv have been busy undertaking interviews and all of the associated tasks. We're grateful to them all.

The project has continued this year to benefit from the generosity of Surrey groups and individuals who have already carried out Great War research and have offered to share it with the project. Thanks are due to Chertsey Museum, Dorking Museum, Redhill Local and Family History Centre, RH7 History Group & Surrey Infantry Museum.

A key aim of the *SGW* project is to collect images of all memorials on which a Surrey-linked person is remembered, and we're grateful to all of those from across the county who have taken photos for us on their travels.

Viv has again been busy this year on many fronts. Her involvement in the British Red Cross WWI VADs transcription project has led to an abiding interest in those who volunteered for the charity during WWI and she has led a couple of researchers (Lynn & Lynne) working to investigate these volunteers in more depth. She has also delivered talks both at *SGW* events and to other groups, lent a hand at our stalls at events, and is a member of both our oral history group and our project steering group. Viv has played a key role in our school workshop offer. Without her help, we would not be able to enable Surrey's young people to engage with their local World War I heritage.

2019 has seen the production of several of the project's final outputs. The input of our volunteers into these has been significant. July saw the project's finale event, held at Dorking Halls. It was a huge success, attracting nearly 400 members of the public over the course of the day. Behind that frenzied six hours lay many more hours of work from volunteers including Barry, Jill, Gary, Linda, Mike, Moira, Paul, Phil, Sarah, Stephen & Viv, who organised displays of their work, baked trench cake and generally supported Kirsty in the preparation of the event. With the autumn came the publication of the project's book, *In the Shadow of the Great War: Surrey 1914-1922*. It contains a goodly amount of material that has been generated by volunteers over the course of the project. The editors would like to thank Moira and Sarah for proof-reading some of the chapters.

We are grateful to the members of the project steering group, Abdul-Wahid, Asad, Chris, Jean, Jenny, Linda, Karl, Keith, Nick, Paul, Phil, Steve and Viv, for their support.

And last but not least, a huge thank you to everybody who has contributed their research and stories to the SGW website. It now holds over 1,200 stories!

As the *Surrey in the Great War* project draws to a close, the project team would like to express its utmost gratitude to our volunteers past and present for their marvellous contribution to the project's success. Over 28,000 volunteer hours have been given to the project since 2015, a statistic that shows the amazing dedication of our volunteers, yet does not communicate the enthusiasm, patience, initiative, cheerfulness and camaraderie that they have brought to our project. Thank you to you all!

### **Surrey Record Society - Surrey in 'The Gentleman's Magazine'**

This project for Surrey Record Society is preparing full transcripts of all references to Surrey in the Gentleman's Magazine between 1731 and 1868. The transcripts include Surrey people, places, institutions, buildings, charities, weather, crime, births, marriages, deaths, civil and ecclesiastical appointments, rural customs and beliefs and will cover the whole of the ancient county, including Croydon, Lambeth, Southwark, Rotherhithe, Wandsworth, Kingston and Richmond.

Excellent progress has again been made this year, thanks to the continuing diligent and hard work by our volunteer transcribers, Jan, Christine, Katharine, Suzie, Sally, Katie and Kirsten; the research skills of our volunteers Sheila, Paula, Sheila, Barbara and Janet; Guy's meticulous indexing and the willing and patient help of Rose, who is helping to prepare their work.

To date, 119 volumes have been transcribed, covering 1731-1819 making a running total of over 900,000 words so far.

Footnotes (confirming identities of people, providing context etc) have been added to 1731-1790 (69 vols).

The first volume, covering the editorship of the magazine's first editor, Edward Cave, who died in 1754 is being prepared for publication by Surrey Record Society. This will contain an introduction to the magazine under Cave's editorship, copious footnotes to provide context and clarification to the transcripts, together with an index and bibliography. It is hoped that this will be ready for publication in 2020. The name-rich index for 1731-1745 already runs to over 15 pages or 21,000 words, allowing Surrey's family and local historians to have easy access to the extraordinary information preserved in the pages of the magazine for the first time.

As there are many engraved plates relating to Surrey, each volume will also contain illustrations. We are digitising these as we go. So far, they include sculpture, churches, bridges, inscriptions, portraits, maps of Lambeth and Southwark and music and song sheets for the latest popular tunes sung at Vauxhall Gardens. Twenty one illustrations have been identified and digitised for the first volume, 1731-1754.