Feb 2024

SURREY HEATH
MUSEUM AND HERITAGE SERVICES

Issue No. 3

Run Down of 2023

We finished the year on 6382 visitors, c. 1000 increase on 2022. We staged the following;

Make A Wish – celebrating the UK charity, first established in Camberley in 1986. This display has now been moved to Camberley Library for 2024. We worked closely with founding members to create content and events - an emotional & proud reunion for many.

Climate Change – a thought provoking exhibition in partnership with our Climate Change Officer and Surrey Museums Partnership. The museums was one of 7 in Surrey taking part in HLF funded Wild Escape project with workshops and events promoting collections and the natural world.

Nepali Connections - an updated version of a 2013 exhibition with local Nepali objects and craft works. The exhibition text was available in English and Nepali.

Paulo Gherri – return of our local art collector, Luciano Cassaro.

Music Makers – celebrating the musical associations of Surrey Heath.

We also welcomed a special display in partnership with **The Sandhurst Collection** which continues in 2024.

Our Projects
George Kenner paintings from his time as a POW in Frimley, 1915 were on loan to Knockaloe on the Isle of Man. Whilst on holiday, Gill Riding went over to the island to talk on George Kenner to their supporters.

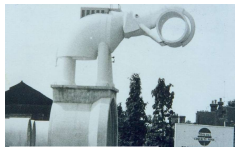
Free French Blue Plaques – we organized a community engagement project on the Old Dean Estate working with local schools and the community to place two blue plaques on buildings within the WWII Free French Forces Camp. The unveiling on 11th Nov attracted over 250 people from French Embassy, French War Graves Commission, French Cadets, Councillors, RMA Sandhurst and the local community. It was a privilege to have been involved in this emotional act of remembrance.

WELCOME to our first newsletter of 2024 containing information on SHBC Heritage Service and the activities we have been involved in.

Our Aim - "Surrey Heath Heritage Services exist to preserve, manage and document the heritage of this Borough. We will promote our unique heritage via public exhibitions, events, outreach and research access".

The Free French Blue Plaque remembrance event, Old Dean.

Our Education Officer teaching at a local school


The Concrete Elephant, 1960s

Surrey Heath Museum & Heritage Service is part of Surrey Heath Borough Council and has existed since the 1930s, collecting, interpreting and displaying items from Surrey Heath's past.
Staff: Gill Riding – Senior Heritage Officer (foreground)
Kathy Joice – Education & Outreach Officer (background)

Heritage Open Days in Sept – we again worked with local organizations and organized walks, talks and tours to celebrate the heritage of our area. We are grateful to them all – St.Michael's Church, Chobham Museum, Windlesham and Camberley historians.

Events – in 2023 we ran historic village walks and exhibition talks plus school holiday children's workshops. All attracting good audiences and feedback. C.250 people attended our events.

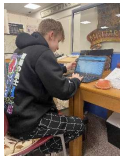
Our Digital Presence - we have seen a large shift in people engaging with our website and Facebook with figures between 80,000 to 100,000. We are looking to improve both for 2024.
We finished a great year by welcoming BBC South to the museum to film our archive on the Concrete Elephant, London Road for a programme on 19 the Dec celebrating a 60th birthday. We attracted over 500,000 online audience!

Surrey Heath Museum & Heritage Gallery, 33 Obelisk Way, Camberley, GU15 3SG. Open 11 to 4.30, Tues to Sat. Tel: 01276 23771 Email: museum@surreyheath.gov.uk and website: www.e-voice.org.uk/surreyheathmuseum

Education & Outreach Service
Our Education & Outreach Officer, Kathy Joice, worked with over 1000 school children and 200 care home residents. It is a slow return to pre- pandemic bookings with more organisations booking digital workshops and loan boxes (packed full of interesting and handleable objects). In 2024 we are offering special National Curriculum workshops which tie in with national events on a local level (Black History Month, Local Democracy, Pride Month and British Science Week).

Our Volunteers and Work Experience
We are fortunate to have c.40 volunteers helping with care and improving access to our collections and welcoming visitors. Their support and loyalty enables the museum to develop and improve.

1. Alf Tarry was a local historian and his archive was kindly left to the museum by his family. The archive has been listed and available on our website.
2. We have a group of volunteers who have patiently worked through the collection for over 10 years – auditing, collecting information and improving collection care and access.
3. They help with exhibition work, events and outreach programmes.
4. They create a welcoming face to our visitors and assist with researchers and visitor enquiries.
5. We created our annual Museum Calendar this year matching 1916-1920 Camberley News adverts with contemporary photographs.
6. We had 5 work experience people from local schools and colleges. Although most are only with us for a short period (usually a week), they help with all aspects of museum work; engaging young people in their local heritage is an important part of our work. We welcomed Duke of Edinburgh participants for longer term periods and people on DWP employment schemes.


D of E volunteer Hadley working on the collection.

Volunteers Summer Picnic – we hold three volunteer get togethers annually.

Surrey Heath Museum entrance

Surrey Heath Museum & Heritage Foundation
The Museum is based at 33 Obelisk Way in Camberley, we partnered with Surrey Heath Museum & Heritage Foundation in 2018 to create a unique museum/community group partnership. The Foundation is made up of various local organisations. For the last two years, the museum team have been focused on setting up the displays, outreach, collection access and ensuring the site meets specific standards (this ultimately takes additional work and financial commitment). We are grateful to our SHBC colleagues and The Foundation for their continued support.

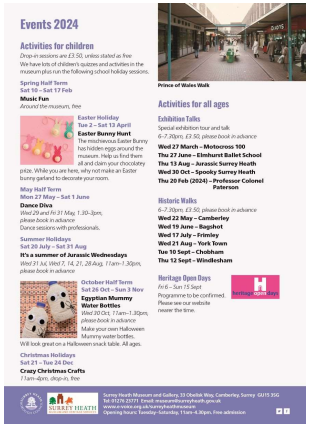
Heritage Supporters' Group
The Group supports our work and the events/exhibitions we run. Group visits were arranged to a number of local historic properties including Tudor Hall (Camberley) Coldingley Prison (Bisley) Frimhurst (Frimley), The National Rifle association and West Horsley Place. Our 2024 programme includes a visit to Camberley Mosque, Odiham, RMA Sandhurst, Minley Manor and Rural Life Living Museum, Tilford.

West Horsley Place – Heritage Supporters' Group

Exhibition Talk at the museum

2024 Exhibition and Events
We are looking forward to delivering another programme of exhibitions and events this year.

Exhibitions 2024
Sat 2 March – Sat 4 May
Motocross 100
Celebrating the birth place of motocross, March 1924, Camberley. In 1924 a historic off road motorbike race took place from Camberley on nearby military land. The 25-mile route became known as Southern Scott Scramble and the sport, motocross. Camberley is known as 'the birth place of motocross'. The exhibition covers the development of the sport and its origins in Camberley.
Exhibition talk
Wed 27 March, 6–7.30pm, £3.50
Special Display for March & April
Year Street in Surrey Heath
Photographic exhibition to mark the 50th Anniversary of Surrey Heath Borough Council.
Sat 18 May – Sat 13 July
Elmhurst Ballet School
Camberley was the home of the prestigious Elmhurst Ballet School from 1923–2004, before it moved to Edgbaston, Birmingham. Many famous actresses, ballerinas and singers attended the school which was much part of Camberley life. The exhibition is a celebration of this one time Camberley establishment.
Exhibition talk
Thu 27 June, 6–7.30pm, £3.50
Special Display for May
Local History and Community Month
Mystery Object Quiz
Come and have a go at our Mystery Object Quiz.
Special Display for June
Happy 60th Birthday – The Camberley Elephant
Sat 20 July – Sat 21 Sept
Jurassic Surrey Heath
An exhibition celebrating all things prehistoric in Surrey Heath – with geology, fossils, mammals and humans.
Exhibition talk
Thu 13 Aug, 6–7.30pm, £3.50
Sat 28 Sept – Sat 19 Oct
The Art Collection of Luciano Cassara
A return of our much loved local art collector and another of his carefully selected collections. Paintings will be for sale.
Sat 26 Oct – Sat 30 Nov
Spooky Surrey Heath
Our area has many ghost stories and 'happenings'. These have been collected by museum staff and residents over the years to create our 'ghost archive'. Come and find out about the 'smiling man' the out of control stagecoach and the 1700s Duke.
Exhibition talk
Wed 30 Oct, 6–7.30pm, £3.50
Sat 7 Dec – 22 Feb 2025
The Watercolours of Professor Colonel Paterson: Scenes of Mar and Surrey Heath, 1850s – 1880s
A unique exhibition featuring the watercolours of Major Paterson 1700 – 1760 who was a tutor at RMC Sandhurst. His work captures the area over 250 years ago and the early days of RMC Sandhurst.
Exhibition talk
Thu 20 Feb, 6–7.30pm, £3.50
Surrey Heath Museum and Gallery, 33 Obelisk Way, Camberley, Surrey GU15 3SG
Tel: 01276 23771 Email: museum@surreyheath.gov.uk
www.e-voice.org.uk/surreyheathmuseum
Opening hours: Tuesday–Saturday, 11am-4.30pm. Free admission


Events 2024
Activities for children
Drop-in sessions are £3.50, unless stated as free. We have lots of children's quizzes and activities in the museum plus run the following school holiday sessions.
Spring Half Term
Sat 10 – Sat 17 Feb
Music Fun
Around the museum, free
Easter Holiday
Tue 2 – Sat 13 April
Easter Bunny Hunt
The mischievous Easter Bunny has hidden eggs around the museum. Help us find them all and claim your chocolatey prize. While you are here, why not make an Easter bunny garland to decorate your room.
May Half Term
Mon 27 May – Sat 1 June
Dance Divs
Wed 29 and Fri 31 May, 1.30–3pm, please book in advance
Dance sessions with professionals.
Summer Holidays
Sat 20 July – Sat 31 Aug
It's a summer of Jurassic Wednesdays
Wed 31 Jul, Wed 7, 14, 21, 28 Aug, 11am-1.30pm, please book in advance
October Half Term
Sat 26 Oct – Sun 3 Nov
Egyptian Mummy Water Bottles
Wed 30 Oct, 11am–1.30pm, please book in advance
Make your own Halloween Mummy water bottles.
Will look great on a Halloween snack table. All ages.
Christmas Holidays
Sat 21 – Tue 24 Dec
Crazy Christmas Crafts
11am-4pm, drop-in, free
Prince of Wales Walk
Activities for all ages
Exhibition Talks
Special exhibition tour and talk
6–7.30pm, £3.50, please book in advance
Wed 27 March – Motocross 100
Thu 27 June – Elmhurst Ballet School
Thu 13 Aug – Jurassic Surrey Heath
Wed 30 Oct – Spooky Surrey Heath
Thu 20 Feb (2024) – Professor Colonel Paterson
Historic Walks
6–7.30pm, £3.50, please book in advance
Wed 22 May – Camberley
Wed 19 June – Bagshot
Wed 17 July – Frimley
Wed 21 Aug – York Town
Tue 10 Sept – Chobham
Thu 12 Sept – Windlesham
Heritage Open Days
Fri 6 – Sun 15 Sept
Programme to be confirmed. Please see our website nearer the time.
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Our Collections
The museum collection covers the heritage of Surrey Heath and consists of c. 30,000 items small and large donated by local people; from fossils to paintings and photographs to road signs! Parts of our archives are online with links from our website e-voice.org.uk/surreyheathmuseum/.

We handle up to 200 research enquiries a year looking into house history, events and photographs. We have 'Working towards Accreditation' status with the Arts Council and hope to complete the process this year. The process improves our collection care and access and strengthens the future service provision.

Some new acquisitions (L-R) – WWII American airmam's boot found under a floor board, Cold Stream Guard Uniform, SHBC commemorative plate (celebrating 50th anniversary 2024) and 2 traditional jig dolls made crafted in Mytchett