

# Surrey Heath Museum

## 2018/19 Report



Surrey Heath Museum, 33 Obelisk Way, Camberley, GU15 3SG.

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Open Wednesday to Saturday 11.00 a.m. – 4.30.00 p.m – free entry

**Great Place • Great Community • Great Future**

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## 1.0 Brief History of the Service

Surrey Heath Museum dates back to the 1930s, when it was known as Camberley Museum and based on the collection of Mr. George Poulter, who was the first Curator. It was housed in the Frimley and Camberley Urban District Council Offices on London Road. In the 1960s the museum moved to Newstead, a Victorian house on Knoll Road in Camberley. In the 1970s it was closed and Newstead demolished. At that time a team of staff were employed to catalogue the whole collection. In 1987, the museum reopened in an annex of Surrey Heath Borough Council offices with a permanent display, exhibition area and on-site storage facilities. In December 2017 the service closed in the council offices and reopened in partnership with Surrey Heath Museum and Action Group in its current location in June 2018, 33 Obelisk Way, Camberley. This strategic move is a key development in the museum's history opening a venue in the town centre and working with community groups. The first year went well with over 50% more visitors than 2017 and good working relationship with SHMAG.



Newstead, Knoll Road



Frimley and Camberley UDC Offices, London Road



33 Obelisk Way, Camberley

## 2.0 Mission Statement

“The Preservation, management and enhancement of a representative local collection for the Borough of Surrey Heath”.

Replaced in Dec 2017 – “ 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”.

### 3.0 The Collections



West End, c.1900



Painted Ostrich Egg  
– late 1800s



George Kenner W/C - 1915

The collections reflect the social and industrial history of the Borough's past and fit into the following categories – costume, furniture, accessories, craft, art, photographs, industrial, archaeology, geology, education, military and natural history. There is also a large amount of reference material. There are over 30,000 objects in the collection. Nationally important art collections include Percy Harland Fisher (1865 to 1944), George Edward Lodge (1860 to 1954) and George Kenner (1888 to 1971). The museum has connections with San Francisco University (photographs by Edward Mendell, international wildlife and tribespeople, who lived in Windlesham) and the Imperial War Museum (collections by George Kenner, WWI German prisoner of war based in Frith Hill).

The new museum displays include a WWI and WWII room settings and local history displays. The displays have 50% more objects on display than in Surrey Heath House. However, like all museums, a very small percentage of the museum collection is on display at any one time, although the exhibitions programme has 2 to 3 collection based exhibitions yearly.

There are 2 collection stores – one in the basement of Surrey Heath House and the second at the back of Bagshot Library. The museum was removed from the Arts Council registration scheme in October 2010. The reasons are unclear - possibly due to legal ownership, responsibility of the collection and cataloguing standards. For the last 5 years the museum team and group of volunteers have been auditing the collection and preparing the museum for registration. The Museum is planning to apply for Accreditation in the next couple of years, depending on progress made with the collection backlog.

The Ron Francis and Information files indexes are online and the collection is on an in-house database, due to be transferred to a cloud base database.

#### **A selection of new acquisitions for 2018/19**

The Museum has been kindly given a number of objects in the last year which are important to the heritage of the area.

- Percy Harland Fisher ephemera and paintings
- Fortuna ice cream sign
- 1880 Family Bible
- Local Historian, Alf Tarry, archive

## 4.0 2018/19 Performance Indicators

The performance indicators we collect help illustrate the work we are involved in, but also enable us to plan for future events, exhibitions and county engagement.

Performance Indicator	2016/17 (up to Dec)	2017/18	2018/19 (from June 2018 to April 2019)
Visitor Numbers	3364	2721	6112
School Children taught	1058	297	556
Web Hits	undetermined		
Events attendees	1670 (49)	1387	1387
External Talks attendees	183	173	No. figure, combined in above.
Enquiries	423	327	228
<b>Income</b>			
Schools	1726	1190	2279
Sales of items	653	2109	2042
Donations/Other	1100	1157	565
Grant	513	1848	6231
Commission	1000		0
Fees & Charges	1008	992	446
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£6000</b>	<b>7296</b>	<b>11563</b>

N.B (number) = number of events or talks.

## 5.0 Staffing

Gill Riding, Senior Heritage Officer – 30 hours week.

Kathy Joice – Heritage and Outreach Officer – 28 hours.

Matt Bacon – Heritage and Outreach Assistant – 14 hours.

There are 30 volunteers helping with archive work, collection work, front desk duties and exhibition/events. Three volunteer 'get togethers' have been organised seeking their feedback on progress - summer picnic, Christmas meal and bacon and bagels morning. Volunteer hours equate to c. 1000 staff hours per year.

We have also taken on work experience placements from a number of schools locally including Farnborough College of Technology, Travel and Tourism and Coppice Spring School.

## 6.0 Heritage Supporters' Group

The Friends of Surrey Heath Museum disbanded in March 2018. A new group was organised in this year (two talks), with some events taking place in 2018; the first full programme is due to be released in 2019.

### Surrey Heath Museum Action Group (SHMAG)

SHMAG was set up to prevent the feared closure of the Museum and to expand Museum facilities by providing greater display areas (including art, photography and archaeology), research facilities, and increasing local involvement.

Since Aug 2009 SHMAG has run a Heritage Gallery in the Mall in vacant premises leased to Surrey Heath Archaeology and Heritage Trust. They have had four locations (The Mall Square, Park Street and 3 units in Obelisk Way) and were closed for 18 months in 2012/13 when the Mall lacked vacant commercial premises. The group exists to promote the museum and had a two floor display area with local history, art and photography displays from over 45 local societies.

## 7.0 The reopening of Surrey Heath Museum and Heritage Gallery

The Gallery, Museum and SHAHT were due to enter a community partnership from June 2018 onwards, however, SHAHT chose to withdraw on the day of opening. This would have had much bigger implications for the heritage gallery section as public liability insurance was removed, SHBC agreed to extend their insurance to the heritage gallery area and with no 'official' lease signed between the heritage gallery and The Mall, Camberley at this time, it meant the museum and heritage gallery were able to open. SHMAG made a decision to apply for charitable status to allow the unique community partnership to continue in the future and were hoping to negotiate a 10 year lease with Montague Evans who manage The Mall, Camberley.

The Heritage Gallery site at 33 Obelisk Way is now the joint site of the museum and action group. The Heritage Gallery have moved to the first floor and the museum taken over the ground floor.

## 8.0 Exhibitions and Events

### Exhibitions

#### What Lies Beneath (30<sup>th</sup> June to 22<sup>nd</sup> September) -

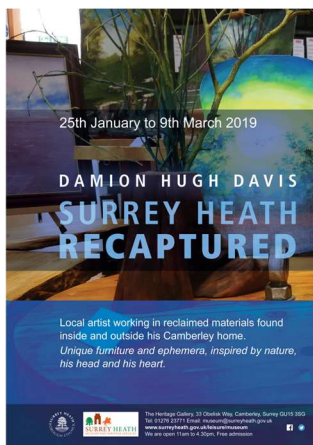
The opening exhibition of the museum's new location was a joint display with Surrey Heath Archaeology and Heritage Trust.



An exhibition looking at the battles of the First World War and how the conflict developed.



Exhibition of photographs by Windlesham and Camberley Camera Club welcoming spring.



Craft Exhibition - local crafts person, Damion Hugh Davis hand crafted furniture using whatever lying around.

## Events

The museum's programme began from October onwards, 1387 attendees.

# EVENTS

**CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES**  
Thursdays 10.30am to 12.30pm £3 Book or drop in.

**Sat 6th October**  
'Fun Palaces' joint event with Camberley Library - turn Camberley Library and the museum into your own palace (please ask for more details).

**Thurs 25th October**  
10.30am to 4.30pm  
Craft Activities - make a bat clip and a peekaboo ghost.

**Fri 21st December**  
10.30am to 4.30pm  
First World War, Christmas 1918. Make Christmas crafts and discover Christmas celebrations from a 100 years ago.

**TODDLER SESSIONS**  
Saturdays & Tuesdays, 10.30am to 12.30pm, 50p donation. Hands on activities and games for the under 5's.

**Sat 22nd & Tues 25th September**  
Doodle Fun for National Doodle Day.

**Sat 27th & Tues 30th October**  
Halloween Crafts

**Sat 24th & Tues 27th November**  
The Highwayman Craft, story and activity as part of

National Novel Writing Month).

**Sat 15th & Tues 18th December**  
Christmas Crafts and come and search for Rudolph's footprint.

**LOCAL HISTORY EVENTS / TALKS**  
**(£2.50 Museum & Gallery, book in advance)**

**Thurs 13th September** (7.30pm - 9.00pm)  
Talk by Tom Croft of ATD Fourth World - 'Grace Goodman, of Frimhurst - a local hero'.

**Wed 17th October** (No charge)  
'My Life' book launch with Ken Clarke (4pm-6pm).

**Thurs 8th November** (7.30pm - 9.00pm)  
Talk by Stuart Mitchell, Senior Lecturer RMA War Studies Dept - 'The Battles of the First World War'.

heritage open days

**HERITAGE OPEN DAYS**  
A busy programme of open venues and events is planned for this year. Please ask for more details.

**Sat 8th September**  
**Bagshot Chapel**  
1.00pm to 4.00pm (2 Chapel Lane, Bagshot, Surrey, GU19 5BX)  
An attractive early 20th century chapel of rest, set in a closed cemetery containing the grave of Emily Jane).

For further details visit our website  
[www.surreyheath.gov.uk/museum](http://www.surreyheath.gov.uk/museum)

**Camberley Library**  
2.00pm - 4.00pm (Knoll Road, Camberley, Surrey GU15 3SJ)  
Two presentations (2.30pm and 3.30pm) on the local history library, the collection, how it is sourced & what is included.

**Sun 9th September**  
**Bisley Village Hall**  
10.30am to 2.30pm (School Close, Bisley, GU24 9EG)  
An event to celebrate Bisley School & Chapel (aka Shaftesbury School) in Bisley Hall, the original school church featuring tours of the building, talks and unveiling of a blue plaque.

**TWO HISTORIC WALKS**  
**6.00pm to 7.30pm (Please book in advance)**

**Thurs 13th September**  
Bagshot led by Phil Stevens.

**Fri 14th September**  
Camberley North led by Ken Clarke.

**Sat 15th September**  
**Frimhurst Family House**  
1.00pm to 5.00pm (Guildford Road, Deepcut, GU16 6NU)  
Tours of the original building with talks, performance on Ethel Smyth and unveiling of a blue plaque.

**Sun 16th September**  
**St. Michael's Church**  
2.00pm to 4.00pm (London Road, Camberley, GU15 3JP)  
A chance to find out about the works to the Church Spire and enter the Bell tower. Cream teas will also be available.

## Outreach

Schools - The Heritage and Outreach Assistant, Kathy Joice has continued to run workshops in schools with 2279 children were taught. The service also runs a loans scheme. She has also continued to develop the Reminiscence Service loan boxes and dementia handling sessions in care homes. We have regular group visits from disabled people both in Camberley and further afield. The ageing population and engagement with disability initiative groups is key for the service's development and enables us to work with other organisations (e.g. the sessions have been featured Surrey County Council Dementia Strategy).

