

Surrey Heath Museum & Heritage Services 2020/21 Report



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

Tel: (01276) 23771, Email: museum@surreyheath.gov.uk

Open Tuesday 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 Autumn 2017, a council decision saw the closure of this site with view of creating a 'pop up' museum and on line presence. At this time, the museum agreed to create a community partnership with Surrey Heath Museum Action Group who already occupied a unit in The Square, Camberley. The Museum closed down at Surrey Heath House in Feb 2018 and reopened at 33 Obelisk Way, Camberley in June 2018.



Newstead, Knoll Road



Frimley and Camberley UDC Offices, London Road



33 Obelisk Way, Camberley

2.0 Mission Statement

The service adopted a new logo and became Surrey Heath Museum & Heritage Services.

The 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”.

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 (water colours by George Kenner, WWI German prisoner of war based in Frith Hill).

COVID PANDEMIC WORK

The museum closed from March to July 2020 and again in October 2020. Museum volunteers were not able to work, however we hosted two ladies, Jane Harden and Wendy Ashwood from Windle Valley Day Care Centre who were relocated to the museum. They worked through the un-accessioned costume collection, entering over 1250 items into the collection. The museum store at Bagshot was also relocated to a storage container in the works area of London Road Recreation Ground. This saved the service c. £3,000 in internal charges.

The main museum stores are still the basement of Surrey Heath House and now, the storage container at London Road Recreation Ground. The stores were cleaned and reorganised by museum staff to create a costume section plus the picture store was reorganised.

A selection of new acquisitions for 2020/21

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

Sign from Spark's Garage

Sign from Fortuna Ice Cream Shop in Bagshot

Model of HM Prison, Coldingley

Family bible

4.0 2020/21 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	2019/2020	2020/2021
Visitor Numbers	8574	804
School Children taught	450	210
Care Homes Reminiscence		510
Web Hits	10843	25042 *(24828)
Events attendees		142
Enquiries	289	336
Income		
Schools	305	60
Sales of items	2355	1222
Donations/Other	188	61
Grant	0	2492
Commission	52	0
Fees & Charges	1593	294
Total Income	4493	5070

5.0 Staffing

Gill Riding, Senior Heritage Officer – 30 hours week.

Kathy Joice – Heritage and Outreach Officer – 30 hours.

Natalie Morgan – Heritage and Outreach Assistant – 21 hours.

6.0 Heritage Supporters' Group/SHMAG and FOSHM

The Friends of Surrey Heath Museum disbanded in March 2018 and were replaced by Heritage Supporters' Group. We were unable to run any events this year due to the pandemic. The 2020 programme was prepared, however, never printed and ran over to 2021/22.

7.0 Exhibitions and Events



The poster for 'Project Isolation' features three images at the top: a large Victorian-style building, a historical black and white photograph of a woman on a bicycle, and a modern-day person in a blue shirt holding a Union Jack flag. The background is decorated with stylized virus particles. The text is set against a red and blue background.

18 July to 31 October 2020

PROJECT ISOLATION

An exhibition covering the history of social diseases, their local impact and lessons learnt. A celebration of isolation with the diverse and brilliant 'at home' projects of local residents.

Surrey Health Museum and Gallery, 23 Obelisk Way, Camberley, Surrey GU15 2SG
Tel: 01276 22771 Email: museum@surreyhealth.gov.uk
www.surreyhealth.gov.uk/obeliskmuseum
Covid 19 reduced opening hours, 11am-3pm Wed-Fri and Sat via appointment only. Free admission

The Museum was only able to run one exhibition – Project Isolation. It featured our volunteers and the projects they were involved in. These included;

- Mathematical workings on the likelihood of Tsunami.
- Photography project documenting listed buildings in Camberley.
- The Diary of Irene Bentley, 'Rene', a volunteer's mother in 1900 Yorkshire.
- A Volunteer continued to paint all his grandchildren.
- A Volunteer's wardrobe and where in the world the clothes originated from.



The poster for 'Generational Rocks' features a group of diverse young people and an older woman. The background is colorful with abstract shapes. The text is arranged in a structured layout with different colored boxes.

GENERATIONAL ROCKS

A SURREY HEATH MUSEUM PRODUCTION TO CELEBRATE THE SHARED EXPERIENCE OF PRE-TEEN AND TEENAGE YEARS

Are you aged 8-18yrs or in your 70s or 80s? We want to hear about your adventures and memories of growing up

We are looking for Old Dean residents (young and old) to take part in a big conversation on the shared experiences of growing up on the estate – from the music you listened to and the clothes you wore to the places you hung out.

A stage production 'Generational Rocks' will be created from your shared conversations and memories. The performance will be part of a mini music festival celebrating local musical heritage in Spring/Summer of 2022.

The project will run from Autumn 2021. Get in touch by 30 August if you're interested in taking part.
Tel: 01276 22771 or email: museum@surreyhealth.gov.uk
SurreyHealthMuseum [SurreyHealthMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/SurreyHealthMuseum)

SURREY HEALTH
MUSEUM FOR THE FUTURE

The Museum received £6500 from SHBC and £100 from Community Fund for Surrey to organise a Generational Rocks project focussed on the Old Dean; themes of isolation and opportunities for the young. The project was designed around young and old people talking together on the shared experience of growing up on the estate. The conversations were to turn into a mini music festival with performances. Regrettably after a number of stops/starts the project was abandoned as access to care homes and schools was impossible. Two Project Officer's were involved, David Bedward and Julia Curnock. David took the lead and worked closely with schools and visited local community leaders. The funding was reallocated for Free French workshops in 2021/2022.

8.0 Outreach and Websites

The Covid Pandemic made running the service near impossible, however, important adaptations were made. The Education Officer, Kathy Joice, focussed her time on creating a digital service, where workshops were recorded and schools booked a loan box with the recording on a memory stick. This has created an important online provision.

School loan boxes and reminiscence boxes were still delivered to schools/care homes, however, the service was much reduced. The Museum team focussed on an online presence, continuing to develop the museum website with a focus on making areas of the collection available online. Kathy also focussed on Facebook posts and our on-line presence generally.

Surrey Heath Museum Calendar 2021 – Celebrating the Trees of Surrey Heath.