

For the Record...

To start the new year, Jim Allen concocted a fiendish quiz to kick start our brains after the Christmas break. He managed to test us with 50 questions where all the answers had a Surrey connection, and a good time was had by all as we tried to work out the various answers. There isn't room here to revisit the full 50, but a selection is below (with answers!) so you can test your own Surrey knowledge.

- 1 What is the name of our Member of Parliament?
- 2 Which film features a jeep containing soldiers, turning from Church Road into Mill Lane?
- 3 Who was the TV/film director who lived at Park Barn Farm?
- 4 In which road did H G Wells live in Woking
- 5 "Byfleet was in a tumult; people packing and a score of hussars, some of them dismounted, some on horseback, were hunting them about. Three or four black government wagons, with crosses in white circles, and an old omnibus, among other vehicles, were being loaded in the village street". From which book does this extract come?
- 6 Where did George F Wilson of Weybridge buy 56 acres in the 1870s?
- 7 Which of Queen Victoria's sons lived at Bagshot Park before he died in 1942?
- 8 Who lives at Bagshot Park now?
- 9 By what name with Surrey associations is heptohydrated magnesium sulphate better known?
- 10 Which Queen of England was born at Woking Palace?
- 11 15 towers were built by the Admiralty between London and Portsmouth to transmit messages by semaphore until 1847. Which is the nearest to Byfleet?
- 12 What was the name of the hotel opposite Wisley Lake that was a popular stop for travellers along the London-Portsmouth Road?
- 13 When was the Shah Jehan mosque built in Woking?
- 14 What is the connection between the multi-millionaire Paul Getty and Sir Richard Weston, the man behind the building of the Wey Navigation canal?
- 15 Since the time of King Henry III to the present day, how many Rectors have there been in Byfleet?
- 16 Which motorcyclist was known as 'The Wizard of Brooklands'?
- 17 Which breed of cattle is normally found at Manor Farm wildlife area?
- 18 Who was the cricketer born in Byfleet in 1870 who played for England against Australia?
- 19 Who was instrumental in starting the first branch of a Surrey County Library in Byfleet?
- 20 Mr E Trevor Williams lived at the Clock House from 1900 to 1918. What piece of household equipment did he introduce to England?

Jonathan Lord	13	1889
The Belles of St Trinian's	14	They both lived at Sutton Place, near Guildford.
Pennington Richards	3	62
Maybury Road	4	
The War of the Worlds	5	Bert Le Vack
These were the first area of Wisley Gardens	6	Belted Galloways
Tom Richardson	18	
Arthur, Duke of Connaught	7	Tom Richardson
The Earl & Countess of Wessex	8	Ebenezer Mears
Epsom Salts	9	The gramophone; he was associated with the Gramophone Company for over 50 years, of which he was chairman for 30 years.
Mary Tudor, daughter of Henry VIII by his first wife, Katherine of Aragon.	10	
Chatley Heath	11	
The Hut	12	



In February we welcomed **Julian Pooley** from Surrey History Centre to tell us about **Making Archives Matter**.

Surrey History Centre preserves Surrey's past. It is actually larger than the average records office, and employs a wide range of skills and disciplines to protect, preserve and make available items relating to Surrey history. As well as documents, there are archaeological artefacts from digs, but also items found by members of the public and brought to the Finds Liaison Officer for identification. There is also a Historic Buildings officer, and their website, Exploring Surrey's Past, makes Surrey's history available to anyone in the world.

Julian believes that history matters to people. Many explore their family history, try to find out the history of their house, or even take part in local digs. Julian's team is particularly responsible for preserving, discovering and making accessible the county's written heritage. On the History Centre's six miles of shelving, you will find books, maps, and engravings as well as documents. What may seem like a dry document can often turn up an interesting story. For example, in the Parish burial register for Stoke, an entry for July 12th 1748 records the sad double drowning of Amos Tuck and his lover, Anne. Anne had fallen into the lock and drowned, while Amos met his end trying to save her. Rather than a dry list of burials, the register records the stories about ordinary people that, pre-newspapers, would otherwise never be saved. Maps, such as one of Bletchworth Manor from 1634, record individual buildings in the fields; this is vital evidence for people researching the history of their home. A very special letter exists in the More-Molyneux archive. The family has lived at Loseley since the 16th century and, luckily for the History Centre, thrown very little away. As the family held high office, there are letter from the Privy Council and royalty, including a letter from Jane Grey asking for support on her accession. Sir William More did not answer, and remained true to Mary Tudor, but the letter is a rare example of the signature of the Queen of Nine Days.

The History Centre also holds a large collection of illustrations of Surrey, including engravings, sketches and 800 18th century water colours by John and Edward Hassall. These include many of Surrey's churches, and prove an invaluable record of their appearance before the extensive renovations and alterations made by the Victorians in the 19th century.

The closure of many of the country's mental hospitals has released a huge amount of records into archives like Surrey's, making made them available for others to study. Julian and his team have rescued a vast array of records and photos from closing hospitals such as Epsom and Brookwood. First of all these were used by academics, but later family historians have looked into them to discover about troubled ancestors of their own. The History Centre uses these archives in more imaginative ways too. They took pictures of Brookwood Hospital along to a meeting of Woking Mind, and found that people there, who had been largely unresponsive, saw the pictures, recognised people in them and became interested. The outpouring of memories this caused led to the History Centre holding a seminar on Brookwood, where it was demonstrated how important the hospital had been to the people who had lived and worked there. The seminar brought together many people who might not otherwise have met, and in handling and discussing the archive, people who might otherwise feel excluded from society were able to feel useful. The Centre has also worked with the Freewheelers Theatre Company, a group of disabled and non-disabled actors and performers, to produce a series of "talking heads" pieces on the patients, which can be seen on the Freewheelers website.

These projects need funding and in order to secure this any bid has to include a blend of archiving, conservation and promotional outreach. The Centre works with universities, charities and schools when applying for funds and tries to demonstrate their commitment to bringing the archives to a wider audience. They also try to make sure that the archives are relevant to all aspects of society, leading to work on the LGBT community, as well as travellers and the different religious communities in Surrey.

The History Centre's current project, and one that demonstrates why archives matter, is Surrey in the Great War—A County Remembers. 17,500 stories about Surrey people in the First World War have been collected—and a family reunited. One aspect of the project was listing the names on Surrey's war memorials. One name that appeared on four memorials was William Medhurst, who was killed at Gallipoli. Messages started appearing on the project web site from people who were related in some way to William, leading to a family reunion at the Surrey History Centre of over 90 Medhurst relatives from all over the world, all made possible by Surrey's historical archives.

We thanked Julian for his demonstration of why archives matter.



Our March meeting took a look at the work of the District Registrar with the help of Sally Hodson, a Church Warden at St Mary's Church, but also a Registrar for the local area.

Sally had been working in banking, but not really enjoying it. She attended a wedding and wondered what the job of the Registrar entailed. She chatted to the Registrar who had just performed the wedding and was told that banking was a good background to have—you had to have attention to detail, deal with the public and distribute information. Sally was encouraged to apply—and to send a handwritten application in ink, as all entries were made in ink. Sally applied, and duly got the job.

Jim asked what qualities you needed as a Registrar. Some public speaking training was given to help with performing marriages, but Sally thought the most important quality was patience! You are dealing with people at some of the most difficult or emotional times of their lives—bereavement, wedding nerves or baby hormones—and you often need to be sympathetic but firm in order to obtain the information to fill in the register.

Sally will deal with a number of births, deaths and marriages throughout a typical day, but her diary will mainly be organised around the weddings, as registrars travel to various hotels and other venues as well as performing marriages at the Registry offices. Many rules surround the three events that require registering, and Sally took us through some of the most important.

Mothers have 42 days in which to register a birth. Dad may or may not come to the registration, but if the couple are unmarried, and he wants his name on the certificate, then he has to attend. Sometimes couples have decided on the first name, but not the middle names, and Sally learnt very early on not to get involved in any discussion. Undecided couples are sent to the waiting room to sort it out! There are no restrictions on the number of names, and, as long as parents do not want numbers or symbols in the name, any name is allowed. Anyone present at the birth can register the child, so if the parents were unavailable for any reason, the midwife or medical staff could register a birth. If parents decide they have made a mistake, you can amend the name within the first year at the Registry office. After a year you can change the name at baptism and then use the certificate of baptism to alter the birth certificate.



Marriages take up a large part of the Registrar's time. Two Registrars attend and they can perform as many as three marriages a day. They arrive half an hour before to check the room, and interview the bride and groom, and each ceremony can only take up to half an hour as the couple are not allowed any readings or extra vows. Interestingly, you do not have what people consider the traditional vows, for instance "in sickness and in health"; these words belong to the church service, and cannot be used outside an actual church. The room for the marriage needs a lectern for the Registrar reading the words, and a side table for the Registrar who records the event. The Registrar who does the writing is the one who actually performs the marriage, and they need to clearly hear the words in order to deem the marriage valid. If the speaking Registrar sees the writing Registrar look up from their writing, then they know to ask the couple to repeat the words in order to be clear. Anywhere with a licence can hold marriages. You can marry in your back garden, but you will have to pay £1300 for a licence, and also advertise your garden as a wedding venue for three years. By law the couple can take either name, or any combination of both as their married name. Some care needs to be taken when double-barrelling; for instance one lady decided she did not want to be called Mrs Keeler-Over. For same sex marriages, the couple can be wife and wife, or husband and husband, but not husband and wife. Sally said that bogus weddings to allow a person to stay in the UK were usually fairly easy to spot. Any couple must attend the registry office 28 days before the wedding to complete the notice of marriage, and if this arouses some suspicions the Home Office can be informed.



Deaths should be registered within five days, but if it is difficult to get an appointment in time, such as in the winter when it is busy, or if the coroner is involved, then that is not rigidly enforced. Registration of death needs to occur before the funeral can be arranged. A Cause of Death form will have been recorded by the Doctor in attendance at the death, or if the death was sudden or unexplained, the Coroner. The Registrar has to copy out exactly what is on that form— including spelling mistakes. Sometimes the Registrar can be the first non-family member the family has seen since the death occurred, but Sally and her colleagues are there to guide them through the process. If a person sadly dies in hospital without any known next of kin, the Patient Affairs Office will advertise in the press to see if anyone comes forward. If no-one does, someone from the Council will register the death and arrange cremation.



Sally also performs Citizenship ceremonies and says that these are often very emotional affairs, as the participants have spent lots of time and money to become British Citizens, so they are very proud and pleased. The Registrar is not involved in the terms and conditions of citizenship, but just gets to do the nice bit!

Finally, after a fascinating talk, Sally told us about some of the amusing incidents in her work. While most weddings are traditional, themed weddings also occur, and Sally has performed a Three Musketeers wedding, and a Hula wedding which was barely legal, as the law states that participants have to be "solemn and dignified". A new Dad who was a Star Wars fan, and who was registering the baby on his own as his wife was ill, wanted Sally to complete a draft certificate as a joke showing his son's middle name as Chewbacca. And Sally finished with the couple who wanted to record their son's second Christian name as Danger—so later in life he could state "Danger is my middle name." Sally did ask them if they were sure they wanted to go ahead—and they did!

We thanked Sally for a fascinating and interesting tour of the life of a Registrar.

Surrey History Centre, Goldsworth Road, Woking, GU21 6ND is holding an Open Day on Saturday 13th May between 11am and 3.30pm. There will be an opportunity to go behind the scenes, with tours every hour between 11.30am and 2.30pm. Entry is free but donations are welcome to the Woking & Sam Beare Hospice.



Don't forget—we are still hoping to help Bob French find the location of a house called The Stunt, home of Dan "The Wizard" O' Donovan who worked for the Norton motorcycle team at Brooklands. We know the house was on Oyster Lane near the entrance to Track Gates, but does anyone know exactly which house it was? If you have any ideas, please let us know. You can either contact Tessa Westlake (01932 351559 or Tessa@westlakesystems.co.uk), tell a committee member at one of our meetings, or leave a note at Byfleet Community Library. Thank you.



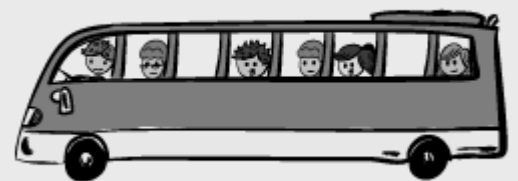
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THURSDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER	EASTBOURNE	Tickets £17
THURSDAY 7TH DECEMBER	LONDON LIGHTS	Tickets £15

LOOK OUT FOR INDIVIDUAL POSTERS FOR EACH TRIP WHICH WILL GIVE DEPARTURE TIMES AND FURTHER INFORMATION.

TICKETS & INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM:

Mrs Mary McIntyre – 01932 341586
OR AT OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS



Here's a Byfleet coach trip from days gone by. This picture is labelled "Sanway Summer Outing 1924 or 5", and features members of the Casemore, Alexander, Edes and Denly families.

We don't know where they were going, but they all look happy enough, and we expect a good time was had by all!

