



SHS members exploring Devil's Punchbowl, Hindhead

## Writers of the Surrey Hills

A lot of people know that Lewis Carroll had strong links with Guildford but there have been many other writers who either lived locally or used the Surrey Hills as the inspiration for their work.

If you drop into your local library or one of the better bookshops, you are likely to find a range of books and booklets about Surrey and, in particular, about the Surrey Hills. In the non-fiction section these will include numerous items focusing on specific locations or areas, often researched and written by local people. Such texts and images are a wonderful record of how our Surrey Hills used to be.

Across the years, other local authors with a wider readership have written either factual or fictionalised books with a Surrey Hills theme. William Cobbett (Farnham) documented his Rural Rides whilst another political radical, Frederick Ernest Green (Limpsfield & Oxted, Reigate then Newdigate), wrote about the Surrey Hills and the lot of the agricultural labourer at the turn of the 19th – 20th century. Shortly afterwards, George Sturt (Farnham) was writing about village life at Bourne with a central character called Bettesworth. As social histories, these and other authors remind us how recent it was that the Surrey Hills were very much an impoverished agricultural area.



But the Surrey Hills have also been home to many writers of fiction, poetry, etc. Some have remained as well-known names whilst others who were important at the time have become less commonly read. One example of this would be Fanny Burney who lived for a number of years in Camilla Cottage at Westhumble. Fanny published her first novel, *Evelina*, anonymously in 1778. During this period, novel reading was frowned upon as something that young women of a certain social status should not do. Novel writing was therefore out of the question. When the book's authorship came to light, it brought Burney almost immediate fame and she went on to write several more books. Her books' popularity declined after she died but have recently had a renaissance – and still make an excellent read.

The Box Hill area has been a magnet for writers especially during the time of George Meredith. Of all the literary figures associated with Box Hill, none had a better feel for the place than this novelist and poet. From 1867 until his death in 1909, he lived in a flint and brick house built off the Zig-Zag road at the bottom of the hill. It seemed that all the literary world came to his door – JM Barrie, Henry James, Max Beerbohm and Robert Louis Stevenson were just a few of those who visited.



Several other parts of the Surrey Hills also attracted authors and in our centre page spread we focus on the community which formed around Hindhead and Haslemere in the late 19th Century. We hope you enjoy learning about them and will want to sample the writings of some of our many local writers.

## Chairman's Views

Our Society was set up as a charity in 2008 to support, promote and enhance the AONB. Focus was on raising awareness and promoting the area - including developing our volunteers for shows, fêtes, talks programme and creation of our newsletters. An Events programme was started, so our members could learn more about the hills; its issues, projects, activities and enterprises.



Chris Howard, SHS Chairman with Jeff Holliday, the Event Committee Chairman

As we have developed and attracted more volunteers, we have been able to focus on other areas and are now able to give support to projects happening across the AONB, in partnership with other organisations. We have supported successful Heritage Lottery



Funded Project bids e.g. Reigate Fort, Deepdene's "Hope Springs Eternal", Inspiring Views and Gatton Park Trust's Capability Brown project.

More excitingly, we have gained the confidence to develop our own HLF bid, in partnership with the Surrey Hills AONB Board, with the "Tales of the Tillingbourne" (TTTV) project. We are currently progressing several projects for 2017-18 with Ali Clarke from Surrey Hills Arts and Dr Anne Sassin, the Co-ordinator for the TTTV project. We have also secured further funding for the Yvonne Arnaud Youth Theatre to continue the schools engagement element of the TTTV project. Read more about the project on our website <https://www.surreyhillsociety.org/news/>.

Our Trustees are currently working on our next three year Business Plan as well as doing some deep thinking as to where we see the organisation in ten years' time. We

will be sharing our thoughts with you at this year's AGM. Do please join us.

Our volunteers are now busy planning activities to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the designation of the Surrey Hills AONB, the 40th Anniversary of the dedication of the North Downs Way as a National Trail and, of course, our own 10th Anniversary in 2018. We have been awarded funds from the Heritage Lottery Fund to create an inspirational book celebrating the Surrey Hills. Many thanks to Ken Bare, our vice-Chairman who led on this bid. Surrey Life magazine's calendar for 2018 will highlight the Surrey Hills Anniversary (see p.3) and we are planning a big occasion or two so that you will be able to join us for this important milestone.

I hope you enjoy our latest newsletter, the programme of events, and our lovely Surrey Hills during this autumn-winter season.



SHS volunteering day at Gatton park in March 2017

## Thank you to the Chairman of Mole Valley District Council

A huge thank you to Cllr David Mir for his support for the Surrey Hills during his year as Chairman of Mole Valley District Council. David raised £2,508.33. He is pictured here on last year's Surrey Hills Challenge with our President Neil Maltby (L), SHS Chairman (R), Cllr Gordon Jackson and Lavinia Sealy. See [www.surreyhillschallenge.com](http://www.surreyhillschallenge.com) for more details.



## Volunteer Profile – Peter Salisbury

Having always lived in Reigate or Redhill I have a great interest in the Surrey Hills. My wife and I joined the Society soon after it was formed and are Founder Members.

Attending events and getting to know members were my first motivation. The great variety of events, walks, visits to houses

and gardens (often opened especially for us) and of course ever popular food and drink gatherings makes it fascinating to be part of.

After a few years, I felt the urge to do more and in my present role as the Society's Administrator, I enjoy helping manage the Society.

I take the Minutes of the Trustees, Management and Events committees' meetings and send round the monthly emails telling members about forthcoming events. I also help producing the confirmations for our events and have recently agreed to manage the Society's shop which forms part of our web site. My role evolves according to my wishes and availability.

Away from the Society, I have several other interests to keep me busy, including being a volunteer at the National Trust's Leith Hill Place and on the Bluebell Railway. I have also been a member of the Scout Association for over 40 years and have held a variety of leadership and administrative roles.

## Summer Lightning Bike Trail extended



Cllrs David Mir and Mike Goodman launching the trail extension

The Surrey Hills continue to be one of the top destinations in the Country to Mountain Bike. Cyclists are having a major impact on the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The popularity of mountain biking has created some tension with landowners and other leisure users.

To proactively manage the impact and ensure that all user groups are able to enjoy the hills without spoiling it for each other, the Surrey Hills AONB Board co-ordinated the creation of a Mountain Bike trail 'Summer Lightning' on Leith Hill. This trail offers bikers a segregated route which

reduces conflict with other users and protects the wildlife of the commons. It has proved very popular, attracting high numbers of cyclists and a very noticeable reduction in the proliferation of wild trails.

The addition of the new section sees the trail extended to an 8.5km loop starting and ending at Leith Hill tower. New signage and way marks have been installed by a National Trust volunteer work party to clearly mark the route. See more <http://www.surreyhills.org/discover-route/summer-lightning-mtb-trail/>.

## Surrey Hills Arts

**Surrey Soundscapes** runs until November. A 6-mile section of the North Downs Way National Trail, between Chantry Woods near Guildford, and 'The Silent Pool' has been brought to life with seven listening posts containing site specific sound tracks. Sounds through different seasons including the humming of thousands of wasps on Holmbury Hill and the underwater recordings at Silent Pool present a new way to experience the Trail in the Surrey Hills. Visit [www.surreysoundscapes.com](http://www.surreysoundscapes.com) to find out more.

*Neil Cahoon, artist behind the sound trail*



Small Blue Butterfly

## Saving Surrey's Small Blue

Patches of wildflowers are being grown in Surrey as part of a project to help join up areas of habitat where the county's smallest butterfly is found. The population has declined by 38% since the 1970s. It is restricted to just a handful of patches of chalk grassland on the North Downs where Kidney Vetch, the plant the butterfly's caterpillar feeds upon, is found.

Wildlife charity Butterfly Conservation (BC) is launching a project to link up these habitats

by growing additional areas of Kidney Vetch and other nectar sources on the area between Guildford and Dorking. The project is supported by the Veolia Environmental Trust and has received contributions from the Surrey Hills Trust Fund, Lower Mole Trust, local parishes and from private donations.

If you would like to get involved in the project by carrying out conservation work contact Butterfly Conservation for further information [www.butterfly-conservation.org](http://www.butterfly-conservation.org).

## Photography Competition

The Surrey Hills have teamed up with Surrey Life Magazine to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Surrey Hills AONB in 2018. The theme of the photography competition is 'capturing the very best of the area from countryside views to architecture/sculpture in towns and villages.'

Open to both amateurs and professionals, photographers can submit as many pictures as they like via [surreylife.co.uk/photos](http://surreylife.co.uk/photos) or [feedback@surreylife.co.uk](mailto:feedback@surreylife.co.uk). Deadline is Friday October 14.

The winner will receive £500 and membership to the Surrey Hills Society. The winning image will also be the Surrey Life annual calendar's cover shot, joining images from both adult and children's competitions. It will also take pride of place at "The Surrey Life" annual photographic exhibition to be held at Denbies, next January.



# Hill-top writers By Marion Dell

The Surrey Hills have long been a powerful source of inspiration, and a quiet retreat, for writers. But towards the end of the nineteenth century there was a particular flowering of literary creativity in the area around Hindhead. As contemporary observer, Flora Thompson, wrote, there were

*many writers and artists both well-known and lesser-known, and just at that time it was the writers who were supposed to confer its special distinction on the locality.*

(Flora Thompson *Heatherley*)



*The statue of Alfred Lord Tennyson at Aldworth, looking out over 'green Sussex fading into blue'. Author's own photograph.*

*Barbarians* is set on Hindhead, 'this earthly paradise of pure love, undefiled'. However contemporary readers were outraged by his celebration of free love in this and his next novel, *The Woman Who Did*. Flora Thompson noted the reactions of Allen's neighbours who

*felt a burning desire to read his book and copies were bought and handed round and practically everyone of mature age in the village had read and passed judgement on it. The first reaction was shocked but delighted amazement.*

(Flora Thompson *Heatherley*)

The Surrey Hills was not just an area of creative writers but of avid readers!

It was Grant Allen who persuaded Hindhead's most well-known writer to move here. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was concerned about his consumptive wife Louise. He hoped that 'the salvation of the soil and air of Hindhead', as Allen described it, would be beneficial. It would certainly be cheaper than long visits to Switzerland and Egypt. With customary impetuosity he

*rushed down to Hindhead, bought an admirable plot of ground [and] put the architect to work.*

(Sir Arthur Conan Doyle *Memories and Adventures*)



*Grant Allen's house "The Croft"*



*Sir Arthur Conan Doyle dressed as a Viking at the fancy dress ball he and his wife Louise, hosted at the Beacon Hotel Hindhead in December 1898. Courtesy of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, Lancelyn Green Bequest, Portsmouth City Council.*

The area's peace, seclusion and cheap property made it the ideal writer's retreat. As a bonus, the coming of the railway to Haslemere in 1859 enabled easy access to their London publishers and Clubs. Many like Christina Rossetti were inspired on brief visits to friends, others like George Eliot rented cottages for several months. The Poet Laureate, Alfred Lord Tennyson's choice of Aldworth on Black Down as his summer residence gave the area a seal of approval and increasing recognition as a literary location.

Then an early resident on Hindhead, science writer and famous alpine climber, Professor John Tyndall, asserted that the air there was as pure and beneficial as that of Switzerland. Writers began to also come for their health.

Grant Allen, who suffered from consumption, built his home, The Croft, on the rim of the Punch Bowl. He coined the term 'The Hill-top Novel', linking the purity of the air and landscape with the moral purity expressed in his writing. His science fiction novel *The British*



Hindhead, the view from the Gibbet Cross. Late nineteenth century post card. Author's own collection.

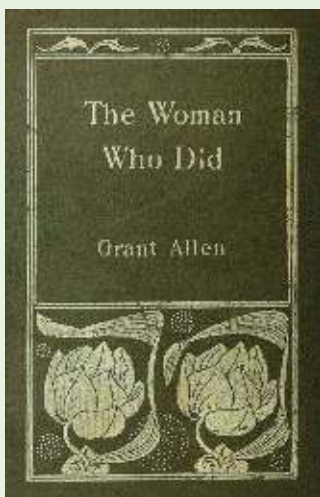
While living at Undershaw he published an acclaimed account of the Boer War and historical novels such as *Sir Nigel* set partly at Tilford and Waverley Abbey. Most popularly he resurrected Sherlock Holmes, thought to have died at the Reichenbach Falls. And he threw himself energetically into the social, political and sporting life of the neighbourhood.

Other, now lesser known, writers on Hindhead included Richard Le Gallienne, Margaret Oliphant and Sabine Baring-Gould. H.G. Wells visited often, setting part of *The Wheels of Chance* here.

Conan Doyle's near neighbour at Blen Cathra was dramatist George Bernard Shaw. He had been a reluctant convert to rural living. In his satirical article 'A Sunday in the Surrey Hills' he describes visiting friends one rainy day and being

*marched to the summit of some scenic imposture called Hind Head, and there shown the downs of the south coast, the Portsmouth road (the Knightsbridge end of which I prefer), and above all the place where three men were hung for murdering someone who had induced them to take a country walk with him.*

(Pall Mall Gazette 28th April 1888)



The cover of the first edition of Grant Allen's 1895 Hill-top novel, *The Woman Who Did*. Author's own collection.

One of the many travel writers to celebrate this area was Thomas Wright who in 1898 published *Hind Head or The English Switzerland and its Literary and Historical Associations*. He included accounts of his visits to local writers in 'this remarkable place' and rhapsodised over

*its wonderful Devil's Punch Bowl, peopled by a picturesque race of aborigines who get their living by the poetical fashion of working the landscape into brooms.*

But increasing tourism and a building boom in residential and holiday accommodation meant that the area was no longer the secluded retreat which had first attracted writers. In his guide for



The title page of Thomas Wright's 1898 guidebook, *Hind Head or the English Switzerland and its Literary and Historical Associations*. Author's own collection.

cyclists, *Some Literary Landmarks for Pilgrims on Wheels* (1901), F.W. Bockett snobbishly bemoaned the fact that Hindhead was

*being overrun not only by people who are merely rich, but also lodging house keepers and hotel proprietors.*

George Bernard Shaw set his play *Misalliance* very precisely 'at the house of John Tarleton on Hindhead 31st May 1909'. In it he predicted

*The Writing is on the wall! Rome fell! Babylon fell! Hindhead's turn will come!*

Hindhead never again attracted such a cluster of celebrity writers, though some, like Monica Edwards in the 1960s, continued to praise the 'diversified loveliness' of the area which Robert Hunter had written of in his Introduction to the 1903 *Haslemere and Hindhead Guide*.

There are still many writers working in the Surrey Hills. Haslemere Writers meet regularly. Find us on Facebook.

**Marion Dell's book *The Rise and Fall of the English Switzerland* is available in person or by mail from The Haslemere Bookshop, 01428 652952; [books@haslemere.com](mailto:books@haslemere.com).**

The author will give a lecture on 4th October at Undershaw (Stepping Stones School) on "We could not have hit upon anything more perfect" - Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and his family and friends at Undershaw.

 **Surrey Hills Society**

Registered Charity number 1125532  
[www.surreyhillssociety.org](http://www.surreyhillssociety.org)

#### Surrey Hills Society's Annual General Meeting, 28th October 2018

You are invited to the Society's AGM to be held at Undershaw, Hindhead GU26 6UE. The meeting will be followed by a fascinating talk about Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The event details and official paperwork can be found on our website <https://www.surreyhillssociety.org/about/agms/> in due course. Show your support and see for yourself at the same time!



# Surrey's Public Paths Network

We all love Surrey for its many open spaces, woodland and overall green environment, but do we ever consider what it takes to keep it that way for residents and visitors?

There are over 2,000 miles of public paths across the county. Public paths may be footpaths, bridleways or byways and any of these might be permissive paths, which means they are open with permission from the private landowner, and maintained by them.

But the majority are looked after by Surrey County Council's Countryside Access team of 7 people. A small and very busy team who deal with path closures, permanent or temporary diversions and public inquiries.

There is a statutory duty for the council to

maintain and keep the public paths network open for public enjoyment. Unfortunately the latest budget was cut in the region of 60% down from last year – which makes it very hard-going to keep the network even in a basic state, with vegetation cuts now barely happening even once a year. They also need to keep 10,000 waymarks and signage in place and ensure 5,000 stiles and gates are in good condition.

The team also looks after more than 1,400 bridges across the county. One creative idea they've come up with is to 'adopt a bridge' and then agree to look after its basic maintenance and report issues back.

Volunteer groups play a huge part in helping to check up on and provide basic maintenance

on public paths and the Countryside Access team would struggle to cope without their ongoing help. SCC have an arrangement with conservation groups and regularly provide training and tools for Volunteer Path Wardens who commit to looking after a particular section of path, usually in their local area. Some local Ramblers Groups have recently agreed to make annual donations towards the provision and installation of new kissing gates where required.

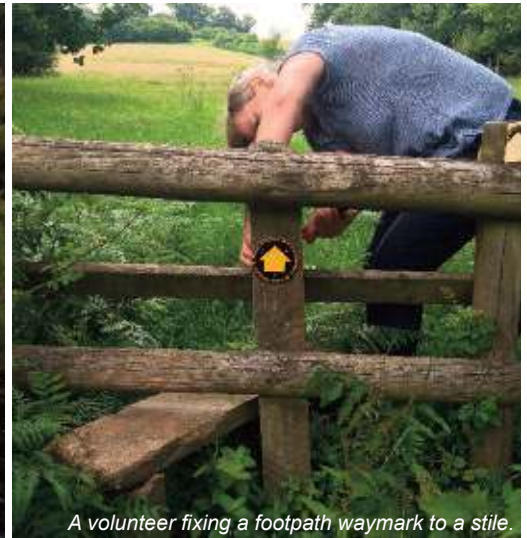
If you come across an issue on a public path that you think should be reported, use the online reporting form found on SCC's website.

**Diane Cooper**  
SCC Countryside Marketing Officer

**Editor's note:** This article can be read in full on our website <https://www.surreyhillssociety.org/news/>



Volunteers helping with a broadwalk at a moat in Elstead.



A volunteer fixing a footpath waymark to a stile.

## Planner's view

At the time of writing, the Hearing into the Waverley Local Plan is taking place. It appears that the Hearing Inspector is proposing even more housing than the



'A Voice for Leith Hill' family event last autumn to raise awareness about drilling © Jacob Winterbourne.

substantial provision already in the plan. It does not bode well. As it is, this is the only local plan in the Surrey Hills AONB allocating housing sites within the AONB. Even, the Guildford Local Plan avoids any housing allocations within the AONB.

Another indication of the increasing pressure for development in the Surrey Hills is reflected in the tripling in the number of consultations from Councils on planning applications referred to me over the last 8 years. They now total about 300 a year.

With the exceptionally high property values within the Surrey Hills, the financial incentive for people to maximise the value of their properties is substantial. This includes larger replacement dwellings, house extensions and the residential conversion of agricultural and other rural buildings. A multitude of numerous

incremental developments, each possibly relatively small, over the years will increasingly impact upon the character of the landscape.

We need to take a longer term approach towards the Surrey Hills AONB for future generations rather than succumb to shorter term arguments to allow more development. That is why I urge Councils to be especially vigilant and strictly control development in the Surrey Hills. But with Government pressure for substantially more housing I fear I am not winning.

There is no news when the exploratory oil and gas drilling at Leith Hill might commence. The operators are currently seeking the County Council's agreement to numerous details.

**Clive Smith, SHAONB Planning Officer**

## Sponsor's view: Similarities between the Grenfell Tower and Clandon Park Fires

Fire is everyone's worst nightmare. The speed with which it can spread is quite frightening.

As an Insurance Broker I have to deal with a number of fire claims. These can be caused by bizarre circumstances such as refraction of sun light or a cigarette dropped down the side of an armchair. However, by far the most regular of losses that we have to deal with are caused by some form of electrical fault.

Fortunately we are not involved in the arrangement of insurance for National Trust or Local Authority properties, but the lessons learned from the Grenfell Tower disaster and the Clandon Park inferno need to be impressed upon those of us that live in flats or houses.

As far as we know at the moment, the primary cause of the Grenfell Tower fire was a faulty fridge freezer. According to the

Surrey Fire and Rescue Report on the Clandon Park fire the "probable cause was a resistance heating fault on a neutral bar in the electrical distribution board in the basement catching fire which was not contained through adequate fire compartmentation, spreading quickly throughout the entire building." The board is estimated to have been between 20 and 25 years old.

In both circumstances the fire was detected and reported almost immediately. The response of the Fire and Rescue teams was fast and heroic, but the fire itself spread rapidly and consumed almost all of the buildings. In the case of Clandon Park, the fire was out of control in less than two hours, despite 16 appliances attending. The fire at Grenfell Tower raged for over twenty four hours before it was brought under control. 250 fire fighters and 45 Fire engines attended.



Clandon Park after the fire

It is not sufficient to have adequate smoke alarms and fire extinguishers in your home, although these can be vital to preserve life. Old electrical appliances need to be regularly checked and replaced as necessary.

Please ensure that your home electrics are checked by a qualified electrician if they are over ten years old.

**Anthony Wakefield, SHS Newsletter Sponsor**



## The New Society Website

Have you checked out our new website? It has now been running for a couple of months. We hope that you all enjoy the new online booking and purchase opportunities. Feedback from members has been very positive, but if you do experience any problems do contact me to assist you.

But the website is not only about event bookings, we also explain our aims and present key volunteers, including Trustees and Management team. It is always nice to know what the people that you deal with via email look like in real life. It also gives you an idea of the diversity we have in our committees. Everyone brings something new and their own personal knowledge and talents.

Looking along the tags on the top of the website, we highlight current volunteering opportunities for you to consider. We are constantly looking for new pairs of eyes and hands. New event ideas, helpers and leaders are always welcome. Don't worry, we will mentor and support you all the way.

Have a look at our News page from time to time. All your lovely comments about our events and other activities are included there, with pictures to give you an idea what the event looked like if you weren't able to join us. We are also hoping to attract new members by letting them know how enjoyable our activities can be!

In the shop section, you will find our well-recognisable grey fleeces and white polo shirts to purchase. Our notelets and gift packs remain favourites. They make ideal presents and promote our Surrey Hills at the same time. The Society has also got silver coloured membership badges and keyrings available at our events and show stalls. Look out for them next time!

All our supportive partners are listed in the Partners section with a link to their websites. The list is getting longer and longer!

A big thank you to all the volunteers who assisted with the development of this new website, especially Stella and Martin Cantor, Peter Salisbury, Ken Bare, and in fact the entire Management Team. Big thank you also to Akiko for the design and creation of our lovely new site.

**Marika Elzinga, SHS Coordinator**



## Event Programme September 2017 – February 2018

Visit our website for more information and additional events.

Bookings generally open about 6 weeks before each event and must be booked in advance – even free ones.

Non-email users can get more information by sending an SAE to the address above.

**Saturday 9th September**

### Explore the heritage of the Tillingbourne river

A free, guided walk through the history of the Rivers Wey and Tillingbourne. Meet our Chairman, Chris Howard at the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre Millbrook, Guildford GU1 3UX at 10.30am for a prompt 11am start.

**Wednesday 13th September**

### Hidden surprises in Chiddingfold - FULL

**Saturday 23rd September**

### Discovering Silent Pool including visit to Gin Distillery

On this Guildford Walkfest walk, discover one of the Surrey Hills most popular areas and visit the mystical Silent Pool - home to Silent Pool Gin and Albury Organic Vineyard and learn about the Tales of the Tillingbourne HLF project. Meet at Guildford Bus Station at 11.15am or 12md at Gomshall Railway station car park GU5 9NX.

**Sunday 24th September**

### Surrey Hills Challenge

A series of walks and runs in aid of the Surrey Hills Trust Fund. More details on our website and at [www.surreyhillssociety.org/challenge.com](http://www.surreyhillssociety.org/challenge.com).

**Friday 29th Sept**

### Walk the North Downs Way from Guildford to Dorking

On this Walkfest walk follow in the footsteps of Pilgrims along the North Downs Way National Trail with Pete Morris, the Trail Manager. Meet us at Shalford Park Playing Fields Car Park GU4 8AA at 10am. All day walk.

**Sunday 1st October**

### Millennium Trail

Guildford Walkfest walk around Shere Millennium Trail. Discover this picturesque part of the Surrey Hills starting at Gomshall, visiting Shere, Peaslake and the surrounding area. Meet us at Gomshall Railway Station car park GU5 9NX at 11am.

**Sunday 1st October**

### Explore Corner of Four Counties

Our FREE guided, monthly walk. Discover the far east of Surrey on this lovely walk at the corner of four counties around Dormansland. Meet us at 10.30am for 11am start.

**Friday 6th October**

### Visit to Mount Browne, Headquarters of Surrey Police

We return to this historic house and garden and learn a little about the history of Surrey's Police Force. Waiting list priority.

**Friday 20th October**

### Dinner at the County Club

An evening of excellent local food and good company in the surroundings of one of Guildford's jewels. Lounge suits.

**Wednesday 25th October**

### Visit to Ripley

Come to discover the beautiful town of Ripley with us. This unforgettable afternoon will include walk, historic talk, food and wine.

**Saturday 28th October**

### Surrey Hills Society Annual General Meeting

To be held at Stepping Stones School, Undershaw, Hindhead – the home of Sherlock Holmes' author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Followed by a fascinating talk about the author.

**Sunday 5th November**

### Explore Thursley Common

Our FREE guided, monthly walk. Explore this fascinating, watery wonderland in the west of the county. Walk on purpose built boardwalks to discover the boggy hidden world of this area of special scientific interest. Meet at Moat Car Park, Thursley Road, GU8 6LW at 10.30am for 11am start.

**Saturday 9th December**

### Pre-Christmas Visit and Walk at Belmont School

We return again for this popular pre-Christmas event with a walk followed by mulled wine and mince pies at this interesting Arts and Crafts house that now houses the school.

**Saturday 16th December**

### Christmas Decoration and Wreath making

A successful event that has become a tradition. We go out into the countryside to collect materials and return to base to make them into Christmas decorations.

**Wednesday 27th December**

### Walk off Christmas puddings

Join our walk leader Peter Lambert for a brisk walk and take in the beautiful views of the Surrey Hills. Free, guided event.

**Sunday 7th January**

### Explore Reigate

Our FREE guided, monthly walk. During winter months we will be exploring towns to keep our feet dry. Join us for this simple walk with some inclines around Reigate at 10.30am for 11am start.

**Sunday 4th February**

### Explore Dorking

Our FREE guided, monthly town walk. We will follow smaller paths and narrow lanes to discover more about Dorking. Far from flat, Dorking is full of steeper hills. Meet at Dorking Halls Car Park, Reigate road, RH4 1SG at 10.30am for 11am start.

**Saturday 10th February**

### Map Reading to enjoy the Surrey Hills

A training day for those who want to get out and appreciate the hills, but do not have the confidence and experience to use Ordnance Survey maps and a compass. Based in Wotton.

### Bloc Eyewear – Walkfest 2017 Surrey Hills Society Discount Code

If you visit [www.bloceyewear.com](http://www.bloceyewear.com) and enter the discount code WALKFEST17 then a 20% off discount is applied to the sale.



Dog friendly



Family Friendly



Signposting for events where SHS will be present



Our FREE guided monthly walk on 1st Sunday of the month. 10.30am for an 11am start, finishing about 1pm.

To join us go to [www.surreyhillssociety.org](http://www.surreyhillssociety.org) and click on the Personal Membership tag