



Farming in the Surrey Hills

It is frequently mentioned that 40% of the Surrey Hills AONB is wooded but not many people realise that an equivalent amount is classified as agricultural land.

Since this tends to be in more open areas, farming plays an enormous part in shaping the landscape. It would be fair to say that farmers are not only custodians of a large part of the Surrey Hills but play a pivotal role in its appearance, maintenance, accessibility and many other aspects.



Until the mid-nineteenth century, a high percentage of the local population would have had links to farming – either on the land or through associated trades – today, only about 800 people are recorded as

directly employed farm labour force in the Surrey Hills (DEFRA data). With about 300 land holdings recorded, this implies that most farms have minimal staffing. This is reinforced by the fact that there are significantly more part-time farmers than full-time ones.

Our local farms are generally smaller than the national average of 88 hectares (215 acres) and about three-quarters are less than 50Ha (125 acres). There are, of course, a small number of farming estates with holdings of over 400 Ha (1000 acres). These holdings – and indeed most farms across the Surrey Hills – are not entirely farmed for food production. However, about 10% of the AONB is laid to crops or bare fallow whilst about 23% forms some form of grazing – sheep, cattle, horses etc. Farming the Surrey Hills is not easy! With agricultural produce prices being subject to national or international competition, there are significant constraints on successful farming in the area – soil quality is generally average to low and hence yields are constrained, labour costs are high and thus mechanisation or low intervention farming is needed and the value of land in the



area makes alternative use an attractive proposition.

To be financially viable agricultural businesses whilst also looking after the countryside, our local farmers have had to adapt. Economies of scale, diversification, specialisation and niche markets have all been key to the continued existence of their farms and have shaped the countryside which surrounds us. In our middle pages we take a look at two farms from different parts of the area to see how they have approached the challenges of farming in our beautiful Surrey Hills.

Chairman's View



Mark Banham rounding up sheep on Chairman's Day



Tractor ride at Priory Farm on Chairman's Day



Shabden Farm Shop visit on Chairman's Day



Anthony Wakefield handing over cheque to Patchworking Garden



Goddard's - special Arts & Crafts house visit in June, courtesy of Lutyens Trust



Lady Wedgwood discussing her lovely garden at Pixham with members

Welcome to the Autumn/Winter edition of the Surrey Hills Society newsletter. I hope you enjoyed the summer as much as I did. We have had some extraordinary events this summer, so instead of writing about them, I am going to share with you some of this summer's photos. Thank you to all the people that put in many hours of preparation to make these events happen. Remember these events are used to promote the AONB, any profits and fundraising goes to support projects within the Surrey Hills and hopefully, by promoting the area, we are helping people to value and protect this special place as well.

I look forward to seeing you at one of our autumn events.

Special Birthday for oldest house in the Surrey Hills

I wish to give a special thank you to Anne and Glyn Powell-Evans and their family for nominating the Surrey Hills Trust Fund as

one of their chosen charities for their wonderful event to celebrate their home's 1000th birthday. A pageant highlighting the history of this special house within the Surrey Hills in Wonersh, was staged over two evenings in June. It is possibly the oldest residential property in the UK, still in use as a domestic dwelling. The event raised over £6,000 for the Surrey Hills Trust Fund.



Great Tangley Manor's 1000th anniversary

MEMBERS' DAY AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, 29th October 2016, 2 – 5pm

You are invited to the Surrey Hills Society Members' Day and Annual General Meeting to be held at the Wilfrid Noyce Centre, Crown Court, High Street, Godalming, GU7 1DY on Saturday, 29 October 2016.

The afternoon will begin with the formal business of the Annual General Meeting with updates on the Society's progress followed by an afternoon tea and a Surrey Hills quiz.

Attendance at the AGM is without charge. Please confirm your attendance at the meeting and refreshments on arrival by emailing us at info@surreyhillssociety.org.

Afternoon tea **must** be pre-ordered: we regret it will not be possible to pay on the day.

Godalming is bursting with places to see and visit before the AGM. Why not make it a day out and get to know this lovely town little better? See www.surreyhillssociety.org for details.

Capability Brown Tercentenary Project at Gatton

Last year, we decided to support this project in 2016. At our visit in February, we heard more about the plans and chose to fund one of the pieces of work included in the project to open up some of the views in the park which have become obscured over the years. This tied in well with the Inspiring Views work that the AONB has been doing recently.

On the border of the Great Lake is a small group of trees which spoil the vista across the water. The sum associated with their removal is £1,000, just the amount we wanted to donate. So in June, a cheque was presented to Louise Miller,

the Chief Executive of the Gatton Trust.

The work will actually be undertaken in the autumn/winter but all is in place now for the view to be opened up.

The Trust have been granted the HLF application they made to support the whole project, and this was helped by the support they have received from many local organisations, including the Society.



From left to right: Peter Salisbury, SHS Administrator; Louise Miller, Gatton Trust; Stella Cantor, SHS Membership Secretary; Rosie Challis, SHS volunteer.



Useful Gifts for Christmas

Remember you can order our grey fleeces, white polo tops, badges, notelets, keyrings and our membership gift packs to give as special gifts this Christmas.

Phone Jeff Holliday on 01483 894437 to place your order

CowParade Surrey raising funds for local charities

CowParade, the world's largest public art event, saw over 60 full-size, fibreglass cows uniquely decorated by artists and placed around Surrey during the summer months. The idea behind CowParade is that cows are sponsored by businesses, decorated by artists and auctioned off to raise lots of moooola for charities!!

Now that the autumn is upon us each cow will be auctioned off by local auctioneers Ewbanks to raise funds for many local

Surrey charities and the Surrey Hills Trust Fund. Auctions will take place in London and Surrey in October and November.

Each cow sponsor gets to choose a charity of their own to benefit from the auction



Inspiring Views

People of all ages and abilities have been getting inspired creating artworks, poetry and sound in response to Surrey viewpoints. This is a result of the 'Inspiring Views' project which has involved five sculptors and designers who have been commissioned to create sculptural benches at viewpoints along the Greensand Way. Funded by the Mittal Foundation, artworks were installed during the summer at Gibbet Hill, Reynards Hill, Holmbury Hill, Winterfold and Hascombe Hill.

The Inspiring Views project is opening up hidden views along the Greensand Way, improving access, and engaging with communities. A series of creative workshops have taken place in schools, helping to inspire and engage children in the project. Russell Jakubowski has given children in the Cranleigh area an insight into his own

work and passion for layered sculptural pieces. Students have been involved in the process of designing layered sculptures, building clay walls and creating plaster casts.

Russell comments; 'The students made some lovely sculptures, worked hard, stayed focussed and we got some wonderful results.'

Russell has created a unique 'contour' bench as part of the Inspiring Views project which will be sited at Reynard's Hill viewpoint in the Hurtwood.

'These are just some of the many activities this project has generated and I'm so excited to be witnessing such focussed creativity from local people and their individual observations on looking at their local landscapes more closely.' Ali Clarke, Programme Manager said.

Surrey Hills Arts is a partnership between Surrey Arts, Surrey County Council and the Surrey Hills. It aims to engage and

proceeds of their cow, with a percentage going to the Surrey Hills Trust Fund. The fund in partnership with the Community Foundation for Surrey helps to protect the Surrey Hills for future generations.

Wendy Varcoe, Executive Director of the Community Foundation for Surrey comments; "The Surrey Hills Trust Fund is an exciting local initiative enabling local residents to donate now to protect and conserve the stunning natural landscape and help local communities to access and enjoy the Surrey Hills for generations to come."

If you are interested in bidding for one of the CowParade Surrey cows visit www.cowparadesurreyhills.com to register your interest.

inspire people with the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and its unique natural, cultural and industrial heritage through the arts. For more information visit www.inspiringviews.org.



The Surrey Hills Wood Fair is back!

The Surrey Hills Wood Fair returns for the 7th year, taking place at the Birtley Estate, Bramley on Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 October from 10am – 5pm.

Discover a range of interesting stalls to browse and buy from, as well as great local produce and a variety of refreshment stands. Come and see some truly talented and interesting people who work with wood. We have a team of coppice workers who will be showcasing their skills from basket weaving and willow demonstrations to sculpting and charcoal making. You'll have the opportunity to have a go yourself as well as buy a whole host of wood products.

There are local bands co-ordinated by the Academy of Contemporary Music in Guildford as well as the ever popular horse and wagon rides and chainsaw demonstrations. There's lots for children – from tree climbing and a zip wire to storytelling, theatre workshops, face painting, craft making, archery and more. The Wood Fair is FREE for children under 12!

Tickets can be purchased at the discounted rate of £7.50 in advance on-line (£10 on the gate). Tickets are available to Surrey Hills Society members at the discounted rate of £5 (please show membership card at gate). The fair also welcomes dogs on leads and parking is FREE. To book tickets and for more information visit; www.surrey-hillswoodfair.co.uk.

Farming – food production *PLUS*

Countryside Stewardship in the Surrey Hills

It's not just profit margins that concern Surrey Hills farmers – many are committed to another form of margin, safeguarding threatened flora and fauna.

DEFRA's Environment Stewardship Scheme (ESS) has been adopted by a number of Surrey Hills farmers and a prime example is Manor Farm in Wotton, a holding of 3,100 acres.

Tenant farmers Laurence and Paula Matthews have turned over six per cent of their arable land – around 45 miles – to six metre field 'margins' providing space and inter-connecting wildlife corridors for endangered wild plants and flowers and associated insects, birds and mammals to thrive. Also on a rotational basis 100 acres of stubble is left for ground nesting birds.

It's a complex undertaking, as Paula explained: "We have many different types of margins provided for different wildlife; DEFRA demands a raft of criteria that has to be satisfied and if we don't come up to standard, we can be fined." She added: "We spend a lot of time and effort keeping to the ESS and some farmers have decided not to continue with it because of the complexity of its rules."

Laurence and Paula joined the Countryside Stewardship Scheme in 1999 and moved into the Entry Level Scheme in 2009 and now take part in six Higher Level Stewardship Schemes across the farm holding in nine parishes from Westcott to Normandy.

Paula explained how part of the stewardship works: "Demand for woodland products is all but gone and livestock is no longer enclosed by hedges, but rural skills still continue on

the farm for the benefit of flora and fauna." Projects include hedge laying, re-planting an English orchard, coppicing, pond restoration and the reversion of arable land to 'low-input' grassland – creating the six metre margins referred to above.

Manor Farm's current DEFRA agreement runs until 2021. Although the farm is compensated for giving over part of its arable land for conservation purposes, it's a hit and miss affair.

"The compensation on a yearly basis does not necessarily make up for the loss of income had the land been grown for crops; known as land foregone and it does not cover the cost of some of the projects such as pond restoration and hedge laying. But we are committed to the DEFRA programme and our additional conservation projects", Paula said.



1. Hedge laying undertaken at the end of winter (2016). This year 150m of hedge were laid in a field at Wotton.

2. Wildflowers growing on 6m margin, crop to the left of picture and hedgerow on the right. The field margin provides wildflower mix to encourage nectar species.

3. Wildlife headland; the crop to the left of the picture is being harvested, hence its golden colour. However the headland or 6m margin has been sown with wheat at a later stage so that it is green in this picture. The green wheat will ripen later but will NOT be harvested. Instead it continues to stand in the margin through the winter to provide birds with winter feed.

4. Belted Galloway cattle grazing chalk land

Images courtesy of Manor Farm.

The farm is now operating under an uncertain future, following the BREXIT result and what this will mean in the long term regarding the European Common Agricultural Policy. "We just don't know what's going to happen over the next five years. Obviously things will change, but we don't know yet what those changes will be in

terms of the single market and how DEFRA interprets new rules," Laurence explained.

At the moment, the tenant farmers are happy to continue breeding their famous belted Galloway cattle, which graze the chalk grasslands of the North Downs and help maintain a habitat rich in a variety of rare flora.

Paula stressed: "Our family has farmed

here for 80 years and are proud of the farming and countryside stewardship we undertake, to benefit this farmland and the environment. We sincerely hope to be able to pass on a sustainable business to future generations of farmers, as well as conserving and enhancing the conservation of the whole area."

Mary Bishop



Imbhams at Haslemere Farmers market



Maggie Barlow serving her local breakfast



Jacob Sheep at Imbhams Farm

The Family Farm

Surrey farms are of varying sizes, histories and business models, but the need for change is a constant factor. Imbhams Farm, near Haslemere, forms part of the Furnace Place Estate which now covers about 1,000 acres and has been held by the same family (the Barlows) for well over a century. Originally run as a sporting estate, Imbhams served as a "home farm" with most of its production being geared to supplying food and fodder for local use.

Less than 50 years ago, the approach changed and commercial farming commenced. The early days saw the establishment of a dairy herd and, in the 1980's, several acres were given over to market gardening and "pick-your-own" crops. Times, fashions and markets alter so in the early 1990's, the farm changed direction again. This resulted in a major farm sale and the redundancy of most of the 13 staff.

The future required a low intervention business model to keep the farm viable. This was achieved by contracting out the 350 acres of arable land (previously farmed themselves) and using the limited resources to run the over 100 acres of pasture and very large areas of woodland. In this phase, a suckler beef herd grazed on the pasture,

pigs made an appearance and, more recently, a flock of Jacob sheep took up residence. The sheep are still grazing and haylage has become a key crop in its own right.

Margaret Barlow is also passionate about the need to get children engaged with the countryside and farming so that they understand and appreciate it – becoming the custodians for its future. One of the straplines to be found with the estate logo reads "Farming diversification supporting: Educational, Environmental and Local Food Plans" and Margaret really has followed through on this.

Scouts can be found camping on the farm during the summer and taking part in activities which help them relate to what goes on. Children in local primary schools participate in learning projects – milling flour to make bread and even make their own "Munchie Muesli". The concept of "Field to Table" teaching is key to making children understand the link between what they see in a field and what they find on their plates.

The farm has a business plan to bring large areas of the woodland back into effective management and together with their general farming approach and conservation activities are clearly ticking the "Environmental" box.

The aspect of Imbhams which is most seen by the public is another diversification – Imbhams Farm Granary. This joint venture sees the use of home grown, local and other high quality UK grown organic grains being converted into flour, muesli and many other products which are sold at farmers markets, shows, etc. These grains also find their way into Margaret's school sessions and demonstrations at places like Shalford Mill.

Overall, the Barlow's farming ethos has been one of conservative progress that allows them to remain in control of investment (rather than chasing grants which might suddenly disappear). They have embraced the need for ongoing change whilst retaining a traditional mixed farming model. Most importantly, they strongly believe in farmers shaping and looking after the countryside whilst running a viable business, being an integrated part of the local community and supporting their tenants and others impacted by their activities.

Ken Bare

 **Surrey Hills Society**

Registered Charity number 1125532
www.surreyhillssociety.org



Anthony Wakefield & Co
 Protecting what's important to you

National Trust woodworking volunteers make oak furniture for the countryside estates

A team of National Trust volunteers based at Landbarn Farm are using their woodworking skills to produce a wide range of oak furniture for National Trust countryside estates within the Surrey Hills. The team which was started several years ago have received training in the safe use of power tools such as morticers and band saws. Landbarn Farm behind Westcott at the foot of the North Downs provides a base for both the team of rangers and teams of volunteers. There are two workshops and a large barn where timber is stacked to season.

All the timber comes from sustainably managed woodland. Most of it is oak which is generated when tree thinning takes place on National Trust countryside estates; Bookham Commons have ensured a plentiful supply in recent years.

A mobile saw mill is used which comes onto site and cuts the timber into the various sizes required, the oak timber is then stored in the barn at Landbarn Farm until it is ready for converting into estate furniture.

The team of volunteers have received professional training at the furniture craft school in Kent. They are a mixture of retired engineers, accountants and an array of other backgrounds, but all are very practical and enjoy working with wood.



Most of the items produced are for the National Trust, the team do not do private work – but some local community work has been carried out in the form of oak memorial gates for the local church. Other items which have been produced include: picnic tables, benches, gates, a variety of notice boards and many other bespoke projects.

Rob Hewer, Lead Ranger, says: “The teams are amazing; they enjoy variety and a good challenge like the recent medieval wheelbarrow for Bodiam castle. Some lathe training has been provided and even offcuts can be turned into beautiful bowls and chopping boards – we have a small sale table outside the farm. We hold events which the public can book onto to make bird

boxes and trugs. People just love to work with wood.”

He continues: “We are very fortunate in having these skilled and motivated volunteers, and we are fortunate in that Landbarn Farm provides us with suitable workshops and storage for the timber. And like all volunteer groups – there is the social side and the banter; it’s all part of the volunteering experience, whilst helping us to keep the Surrey Hills estates presentable for all our visitors, oak seats to rest tired legs and notice boards which provide all the information visitors need to help them get the most from their visits. We thank them all.”

Rob Hewer,
NT Lead Ranger and SHS Trustee

Tales and Trails of the Tillingbourne Valley – update

As the summer draws to a close, the team is busily putting the finishing touches to various aspects of the project, including the stories, puppets, trail mapping and gallery items. Shalford in particular has participated in events throughout the summer which have featured the project and its outputs, including its annual Scout Fete in June and special picnic in the gardens of the Mill in July. Now, the Tillingbourne Tales team and its various partners, including the Surrey Hills Society, Chilworth2gether and National Trust at Shalford Mill, are hard at work



Elaine Campling and Jess Howard creating the puppets

preparing for the string of events over the Heritage Weekend (September 10th-11th), as well as the Community Celebration in Shere Village Hall on October 16th.

In particular, these autumn events will feature the seven completed puppets of the historical characters (some for the first time), all of whom have been researched and characterized through the words of our storyteller Jim and hands of our artist Elaine and costume-maker Jessica. The results are very unique creations, intricately crafted and ready to take to events across the valley, when not on display in the gallery at Shere Museum.

A small team of walkers has also been busily trekking up and down the Tillingbourne, mapping out heritage-based walking routes for each of the seven villages. These walks average between 4 and 5km in length (1.5-2.5 hours), with a range of scenery from churches and historic village-scapes, heathland, parkland, meadows and woodland, all which follow the course of the river. The

trails are set to be launched in October, both as downloadable pdf files and printed flyers which will be distributed by the Society.

The local people are very welcome to come along to the Community Celebration of the project, where many of its outputs will be launched, including the Tillingbourne Gallery next door at Shere Museum, on Sunday October 16th from 13:00-16:00 in the Village Hall. This event will be free to the public, and will feature a pageant of live actors taking on the role of the characters (undertaken by the Yvonne Arnaud Youth Theatre Group), storytelling, industrial displays and demonstrations (including corn-milling, wood carving and spinning), children’s activities, and more. The day will start with a walk ‘Discovering Tales of the Tillingbourne’, led by the Society and running from Shere to Albury and back, from 11:00-13:00. All welcome! For more updates, follow www.tillingbournetales.co.uk.

Dr. Anne Sassin

Sponsor's View

I am starting to get swept into the contagious magic of the Surrey Hills Society!

Not only are the outings stimulating and well organised, getting to know my fellow Members is such a delight.

Helping to organise our recent "Pixham Perambulation" allowed me to appreciate the hard work that Ken, Jeff, Chris and the other Members of the Events Team put in to assuring us of a continuous programme of exciting excursions.

As the Society's membership grows I hope that new ideas will be put forward and destinations recommended to help us to make the most of our lovely countryside!

Anthony Wakefield



SHS group at Patchworking Garden Project

If you have an idea for a suitable event or a place you would like to visit, please contact the Chairman of the Events, Jeff Holliday. Or, if you would like to become involved with the Events Committee, please get in touch through info@surreyhillssociety.org or call Jeff on 01483 894437.

Smart Homes – Forward to the Future!

I was surprised, when I arrived for a valuation survey that I had organised for Clients of mine in London, to find that the recently refurbished Listed Property contained some distinctly modern and unusual features.

While retaining the character and style of an "Arts and Crafts" building, this home is now a castle that can be defended remotely whenever the owners are away from it.

"Smart Homes" save money in numerous ways. The heating and other systems in the house can be controlled via a mobile phone or tablet computer "App". If any kind of alarm message is sent to a mobile device belonging to my Clients, or to their representatives, they can check that all is

well in their house via the cameras they have installed and if necessary alert the necessary authorities to deal with an emergency.

This must have been a comfort to my Clients recently, when they were taking a summer break.

And it does not stop there. Think of arriving home to a warm and well-lit house, with perhaps your supper already cooking in



the oven! Gardeners can benefit as well, with independently controlled irrigation systems now becoming available.

"Smart" devices can also cut the running costs of a home by limiting energy use to when it is needed.

While many houses have benefitted in the past from wired-in intruder or fire alarms, connected to a Central Monitoring Station or direct to the Police or Fire Brigade, I believe that these will soon be made redundant and replaced by more sophisticated systems that are multi-functional and less prone to being triggered by mistake.

We are adjusting our insurance policies to embrace these new technologies. We expect them to enable us to offer lower premiums to our Clients.

How ready are you for the future?

Anthony Wakefield

Planner's view from the AONB Board

This summer period has been most marked by the public consultations on the emerging Guildford and Waverley Local Plans. Both Councils can be applauded for taking steps in their plans to conserve the landscape and scenic beauty of the Surrey Hills AONB, for not proposing any development sites within it and generally recognising the importance of the adjacent Areas of Great Landscape Value.

The first main proposal likely to have a

significant impact upon the AONB are the 1,800 proposed dwellings at Blackwell Farm, west of the Guildford Research Park and below the Hogs Back where the proposed access road and junction works would be within the AONB. The other is the 2,600 dwellings proposed in the Waverley Plan at Dunsfold Aerodrome. Although the latter is outside, but within the setting of, the AONB, the main concern is the increasing rat running along several unsuitable country lanes within the AONB which would arise from congestion along the A281.

Both Councils are under pressure to

provide for development growth in their local plans I consider not to be sustainable. Future generations may not thank us for the likely impact on the environmental quality of the area and inability of the infrastructure to cope.

The Surrey Hills AONB Board continues to express concern to Natural England on the lack of any start on their proposed Surrey Hills AONB boundary review of this nationally important landscape. The uncertainty this causes is beginning to create problems.

Clive Smith, Surrey Hills AONB Planning Adviser

Events Programme October 2016 – February 2017

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.

Sunday 25th September

Surrey Hills Challenge

Signposting

A series of walks and runs in the Surrey Hills in aid of the Surrey Hills Trust Fund. More details at www.surreyhillschallenge.com.

1st & 2nd October

Surrey Hills Wood Fair



Signposting

See page 3 and for more details visit www.surreyhills.org/events/the-surrey-hills-wood-fair

Saturday 1st October

Tillingbourne Valley Tour



This circular walk visits the Chantries, St Martha's, Postford and Waterloo ponds and Chilworth Gunpowder Mills. Meet at Chilworth Station at 10.30am for an 11am start. Walk in partnership with Guildford WalkFest and Discover Guildford. More information on www.guildfordwalkfest.co.uk

Sunday 2nd October

Guildford Town and Pewley walk



This easy walk takes you round the key sites and hidden treasures of the town then on a climb for spectacular views. Walk in partnership with Guildford WalkFest.

Wednesday 5th October

Sponsored Walk along the North Downs Way



Join the Mayor of Guildford on all or part of this sponsored walk along the Guildford Borough stretch of the North Downs Way from The Sands (Seale) to Albury, or just join us for lunch.

Saturday 15th October

A Day in Brockham

Learn more about this fascinating village near Dorking and discover some of its community activities that are making a real difference to people's lives locally.

Sunday 16th October

Tillingbourne Tales Community Celebration



Be part of the free festive celebrations for all of the communities involved in this wonderful local HLF project. See page 6 and more details at www.tillingbournetales.co.uk

The day starts with a SHS walk from Shere recreation ground's car park at 11am.

Saturday 22nd October

Map Reading to enjoy the Surrey Hills

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

Saturday 29th October

Surrey Hills Society Annual General Meeting

To be held at Wilfred Noyce Centre, Godalming from 2pm to 5pm.

Sunday 6th November

Explore Gomshall



Join us for a brisk 2 hour walk around this interesting area. Free guided walk. Meet at Gomshall station at 10.30am for an 11am start.

Thursday 17th November

Highways Agency Control Centre

An afternoon visit to the Highways Agency Regional Control Centre at Godstone to discover how the traffic control systems across our major routes are monitored and incidents managed.

Wednesday 23rd November

Visit to Mt Brown Guildford, Headquarters of Surrey Police.

Rare opportunity to explore this historic house and garden and learn a little bit about the history of Surrey's Police force, now based there. Morning visit.

Saturday 3rd 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.

Saturday 10th December

Christmas decoration and wreath making



A repeat of last year's very successful event when we went out into the countryside to collect materials and then returned to base to make them into Christmas decorations.

Tuesday 27th December

Walk off your Christmas puddings



Join walk leader Pete Lambert for a brisk walk and take in the beautiful views along the River Wey. Free event. Meet at The Parrott in Shalford at 10.30am for an 11am start.

Sunday 8th January 2017

Explore Godalming



Join us for a winter walk through Godalming and its surroundings. Free guided walk for those who enjoy a faster pace. Meet at Godalming Station at 10.30am.

Saturday 21st January

Winter walk around Shere and tea at Tillings



Come and enjoy the breathtaking views over the Tillingbourne Valley and savour marvellous cakes at the Tillings Café.

Thursday 26th January

Wine tasting at Guildhall in Guildford

The Mayor of Guildford will be joining us for a Surrey wine tasting evening in the glorious Tudor building which is not regularly open to the public.

Sunday 5th February

Explore Cranleigh



Join us for a brisk walk around England's largest village. Free guided walk. Meet at Cranleigh Village Hall at 10.30am for an 11am start.

Wednesday 8th February

Grayshott Pottery

A guided tour and lunch at this wonderful pottery on the edge of the Surrey Hills near Hindhead.

Thursday 23rd February

A Day Out in Dorking

Dorking - a guided walk round this beautiful historic town, including a visit to its captivating Museum.



Dog friendly



Family Friendly



Open to everyone who enjoys faster, fitter pace but particularly suitable for our 20's-30's group. For more details on 20's-30's events check out Facebook - Discover Guildford, Twitter @DiscoverGfrd or Email: pete@discoverguildford.co.uk