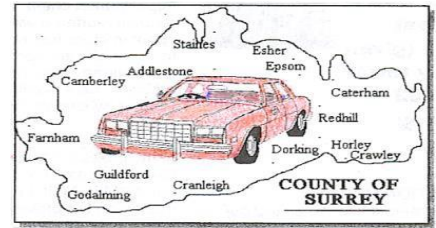


# Surrey Group

[boundless.co.uk/surrey](http://boundless.co.uk/surrey)

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*(It would be helpful if you could let me know if you have ceased to be a member – or you no longer wish to receive our Newsletter. Thankyou - Barbara)*

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September – Meet for lunch at 12.15 at The Pheasantry Café in Bushy Park.**

After lunch there will be walks in the Park. The Pheasantry Café car park can only be reached from the north end of Bushy Park but a short walk will take you from the Diana car park at the south end to the café. (You can no longer drive all the way through Bushy Park) Both car parks are free.



On **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September** we will be gathering at 12.15 for lunch at a new venue. It is the Well House Inn, Chipstead Lane, Coulsdon CR5 3SQ. After lunch we are planning to go to Oaks Park, Croydon Lane, Carshalton SM7 3BA for a stroll/walk followed by a cup of tea or coffee.



On **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October** we plan to meet at 12.15 at the **Morden Brook in Lower Morden Lane, Morden SM4 4SS**. After lunch Lower Morden Garden Centre is just down the road and there are also walks possible in Morden Park which is nearby.



On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October we will be returning to our winter visits and meeting at **12.15** at the **Wetherspoons pub The Watchman in Burlington Road New Malden** followed by an afternoon of fun, games, cups of tea or coffee and cakes starting at **2 pm** at the nearby **United Reformed Church Hall KT3 6DD**.



## FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Wednesday 6th November** – This will be a visit to the Chessington Garden Centre at Malden Rushett. We had planned to have lunch at the Beefeater “The Monkey Puzzle” but this has now closed.

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November** – A visit to the The Watchman and the United Reformed Church Hall in New Malden.

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December** – Our Christmas Lunch. The venue has not yet been arranged as The Haywain in Epsom has also closed. Details will be in the next Newsletter.

## Brenda's D's Blog:

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July** was an ideal day for ducks but not for CSMA members. Nevertheless, Barbara and Brenda D ventured out to meet up by noon at the riverside restaurant, Bill's, in Kingston, still hoping that the boats might be running as, despite her best efforts, Barbara could not obtain confirmation of the advertised timetable. From our table during our meal we could not see any riverboat traffic, but lots of umbrella-carrying pedestrians outside and the restaurant itself was crowded. During the course of our enjoyable meal James joined us – so suddenly we became a jolly threesome!

Still hoping to catch the 14.00 boat, we wound our way to Turks Jetty and to our delight, despite the rain, found our boat [The Yarmouth Belle] almost ready for take-off. Also delighted to see John arrive with his camera. Departure was prompt and we soon swung round to face westwards and upstream to Hampton Court. As I usually drive along Portsmouth Road past bushes hiding the river it is particularly interesting to see this historic locality from the river itself. Very impressive were the houses and bungalows built well away from the water's edge, some, wisely on stilts, many with their own moorings and some well decorated with pots of flowers or well tended lawns and colourful flower beds. As we approached Hampton Court the bank sides gave way to parkland, a walking pathway and bench seats and, finally, swarms of Canada geese munching the fresh grass.

We could have spent time wandering round Hampton Court but the weather was still most inclement so we decided to stay on board until the next departure although John did bravely go ashore for a few minutes to take some photos. The northern banks of the river offer quite different views from the other side, much more rural with a long footpath along which several runners and walkers, undaunted by the rain, jogged and strode along. We four had the whole boat to ourselves apart from the three crew members.

Back safely to Turks Jetty by 15.45 and we all decided to leave for our respective homes. Just as well as a real downpour soon came over as I stood [joined by Barbara for a while] for 40 minutes waiting for my bus. As I arrived at my front door the sun emerged but, in spite of the weather, we all said we had enjoyed our outing – a bit of fun really. Just what we needed!



**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July** saw us heading to a new outing location for us, thanks to Barbara. Firstly six of us met in the dry and sunny weather at the King's Tun near the railway station in Kingston. We were quickly served a variety of meals and beverages. Sadly Edna had to leave us at this point. Our minds were then focussed on catching the nearby 65 local bus in order to visit Kew Gardens which is now free to CSMA members - a bargain as the entry price is £22. The bus stops at several entrances but we continued to the main (Victoria) Gate which contains a number of facilities as well as the buggy train. It was very busy with tourists and their children so we had to wait for the next train (14.40). Norman and James then went off to visit Kew Palace within the grounds whilst Barbara, Brenda and I explored individually until it was time to catch the train at a cost of £6.50. One nearby site I climbed up to was the Temple of Bellona, named after the Roman goddess of war, a counterpart to the male god of war, Mars. Built between 1756 and 1763 by Sir William Chambers, the stone appearance is actually wood and it has survived – contrary to Sir William's other structure named Peace!

Joining up at the train, Barbara, Brenda J and I then surveyed in relative comfort all that the gardens had to offer, memorial pathways, trees, ponds, individual structures and sites such as the Japanese Gateway and the Nash Conservatory. The two drivers/guides commentated throughout, but we could also refer to our own freely-issued Plan and Guide leaflet. No way could we have seen so much had we been walking. We then joined up with Norman and indulged in some well-needed refreshments at the café.

James was still exploring elsewhere and finding the pagoda tree.

Time to catch the nearby bus back but our delightful tour continued from the top deck via Richmond, Petersham Meadows, Ham and finally to Kingston, from where we all went our separate ways. All well satisfied and in sure certainty of a future [free] group or individual visit.

Final observation: I noticed on a memorial park bench the words "nearer to God's heart in a garden than anywhere else on earth".

**Remarkable trees**  
*Styphnolobium japonicum*  
**Pagoda tree**

Remarkable trees map

Native distribution

Planted in 1760, this pagoda tree (*Styphnolobium japonicum*) used to stand 15 m tall. Today, only the lowermost branch survives.

One of Kew's Old Lions, this tree is a relic from Princess Augusta's (1719–1772) original five-acre arboretum.

This pagoda tree is now over 250 years old. While we know that some of its branches came down during a storm in the 1930s, why this tree has grown this way remains a mystery. Behind you is an example of a much younger, straighter pagoda tree that was planted in 1982.

The tree is fenced off to prevent damage and soil compaction, and the metal supports provide stability. The brickwork and expanding foam used to fill in the holes around the trunk are examples of historic horticultural practices that are no longer used or recommended.

Foliage: This species is deciduous; its leaves fall in autumn.  
 Flowers: Pagoda trees bear fragrant yellow and white flowers in the summer and autumn.  
 Fruit: Pagoda trees produce long seed pods that can contain up to six seeds. The seeds are poisonous if eaten.  
 Height: This tree is 5 m tall.

A botanical illustration by Matilda Smith, from 1918.



The weather was, initially, cool and cloudy when 6 of us met up at Denbie's Wine Estate just north of Dorking on **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> August**, our select number being added to after lunch by John who was particularly looking forward to the planned walk. The Conservatory Restaurant soon became very busy with individual families and other groups and I was disappointed with the limited choice of menus for both hot and cold meals, the former being quite cool by the time one reached the till! However, what we did eat was tasty.

As rain was forecast by 4 pm, after lunch we decided to follow Barbara as she strode outside into the vineyard area. I have been to Denbies several times and always spent my time [after eating] in the attractive gift shop, garden centre and home food shed, and never looked further afield apart from one train ride. Today was delightfully different, as we meandered through lanes of early growing grapes on their supporting frames, before reaching and being confronted by an upward-sloping pathway on the edge of the estate. How far could we manage to climb? And where would be the next available exit footpath back to the car park? All rather exciting as we ventured, slowly, onwards and upwards, finally being rewarded with an impressive, panoramic view of Denbies' fields and buildings far below us, normally only visible if one took the estate train ride with commentary [now £10.50]. We also passed by a lot of fauna in the woodland and promising reddening black brambles.

However, the clouds began to look more threatening so at a crossroads in the pathway, after taking some photographs, we began our descent, arriving at base camp[!] at the same time as the rain. John strode off to examine the outer buildings whilst Barbara, Glenys, Paul, Brenda J, Norman and self hurried to our cars, foregoing a final cuppa and chat, but well reinforced with vitamin D!

A particularly interesting and healthy outing, thank you Barbara.



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On a cooler but fortunately totally dry day on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August**, 8 of us met at The Goat in Shepperton, a long-time favourite for its reliable service and menus. However, on this occasion due to a gas - related problem, the only main meal available was a limited carvery. Nevertheless, we all enjoyed the warm, comfortable surroundings and the usual non-stop chatter.

Not stopping for desserts, we then drove the short distance to Squires Garden Centre, for lots of browsing around! Each one of us had our priorities – Edna for crocus bulbs and me for Top Soil. Garden centres are now an attractive treasure store of seasonal and round the year goodies and a challenge NOT to buy! We finally congregated – surprise/surprise in the airy and recently renovated Café Bar and feeling we deserved our selection of beverages and cakes. Spread across two tables, Norman and Brenda J, Doris, Paul, Barbara, Glenys and I all exchanged final reminiscences and began to concentrate on possible venues for our Christmas lunch. We do like eating!

For those interested, the first Squires Garden Centre was set up in 1936 at Twickenham by Colin Squires OBE and other centres rapidly increased. The company is still being run as a family business by Colin's son and daughter. With free parking, long may it do so.



Squires Café

### Just for Fun Quiz 29 (part 2) Answers – Things we Remember from School

1. Osmosis
2. Reproduction
3. Van de Graaf Generator
4. Cross Country
5. Pathetic Fallacy
6. Home Economics
7. Trigonometry
8. Equilateral Triangle
9. Bunsen Burner

### Just for fun Quiz 30 – General Knowledge

1. Which swimming stroke is named after an insect? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Which British queen has the same name as a type of plum? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Which university did Stephen Hawking go to first? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Which year was Marmite invented? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What type of grain is used in brewing beer? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Which animal has the most mentions in the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What is the name of Elvis Presley's home? \_\_\_\_\_
8. In which year did Tony Blair become British Prime Minister? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What was the most popular girls name in the UK in 2019? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Which Tennis Grand Slam is played on a clay surface? \_\_\_\_\_
11. What was the old name for a Snickers bar before it changed in 1990? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Which is the smallest planet in our solar system? \_\_\_\_\_
13. Which language is spoken in Brazil? \_\_\_\_\_
14. Which company is also the name of one of the longest rivers in the world? \_\_\_\_\_
15. Gordon Sumner is the real name of which famous British musician? \_\_\_\_\_
16. How many actors have played 'M' in the official James Bond series? \_\_\_\_\_