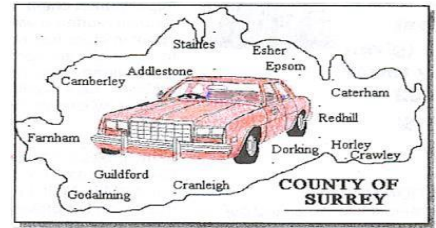


Surrey Group

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 6th November – Meet for lunch at 12.15 at The Chessington Garden Centre, Leatherhead Road, Chessington KT9 2NG. After lunch there will be plenty of time to look at plants and then return to the café for cups of tea.



On **Saturday 23rd November** we will be gathering at 12.30 for lunch at **The Watchman in Burlington Road, New Malden**, followed by an afternoon of fun, games, cups of tea and coffee and cakes in the nearby **United Reformed Church Hall**, starting at 2pm.



On **Thursday 12th December** we will be meeting for our **Christmas lunch** at 12.15 at **The Woodman, 238 Barnett Wood Lane, Ashted KT21 2DA**. This may be a new venue for some of you. There is a very large car park and then Ashted Station is about 5 minutes walk away and the 479 bus from Epsom passes the pub. We do hope you will be able to join us and start your Christmas festivities. Norman has provided an order form which is with this Newsletter and, as you will see, he is asking for your detailed order and payment to reach him by Saturday 16th November.



FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 7th January – Meeting for lunch at 12.15 at **The Queen Adelaide, Kingston Road, Stoneleigh KT19 0SH**. After lunch it will be possible (weather permitting) to have a walk in **Ewell Court Gardens, Lakehurst Road, Ewell KT19 8EB** or go to the nearby **Court Farm Garden Centre** in Tolworth.

Saturday 25th January – A visit to the **The Watchman** and the **United Reformed Church Hall** in New Malden.

Wednesday 5th February – A visit to **The Toby Carvery, Cheam Road, Ewell KT17 1QZ** – meeting at 12.15. Then it is good to go up to Nonsuch Gardens in Nonsuch Park for a stroll or just a cup of tea or coffee and possibly cake!

Saturday 22nd February – Meeting at 12.30 at **The Watchman** in New Malden and then fun and games in the **United Reformed Church Hall**.

Thursday 6th March – keep the date – more information later.

Brenda's D's Blog:

On Wednesday 4th September, seven of us met at The Pheasantry Café in Bushy Park – a common hunting ground for Henry V111 rather a few years ago. Although the schools had just returned, the café was well frequented with mothers and their younger children, and grandparents, making our own usually continuous chattering a bit difficult. So - we concentrated on eating a varied fare of snacks and some hot food , eg, fish and chips for £16.50 and my sole, only warm, sausage roll for £4.75. Norman ordered a splendid pizza but was forced to offer some slices to us, such was its size.

Following this lunch, Bob had to leave us so our remaining 6 [Barbara, Edna, Brenda J, Norman, Paul and self] decided to explore the surrounding woodland via meandering pathways and alongside the stream and ponds, and across various mini wooden bridges, all very picturesque. Not much colour at this time of year but many birds including a few parakeets, wildfowl, squirrels and, delightfully, a curious robin posing in front of us on a post as though ready for its photograph.

There are two parts to these gardens. The first 20 minutes very well maintained with a lot of new features which I could not recall from my last visit about two years ago. The second part has wilder vegetation but ultimately we reached the pond overlooked by the Totem Pole which was given to the Park by Canadian troops who had been stationed in the Park during WW2. Just a few yards away led us to the final bridge and greater pond, partly "dressed" with pretty water lilies. There used to be an Old Pumping House at the edge of this pond but it seemed to have disappeared. Perhaps became too decrepit and removed by H and S Regs! We rested for a while and then made our way back to our respective [free] car parks. The area was known about from Bronze Age artefacts about 4000 years ago – but its recent history comes from 1925. A memorial stone in the northern section of the park records the part played in WW2 by a USA/Allied Command station.



On **Thursday 19th September** five of us and two guests joined up at a new establishment recommended by Bob. This was The Well House Inn, a charming rustic building surrounded by a delightful terraced garden, ideal for outside eating in more clement weather. We chose from a wide menu and I indulged in a huge jacket potato full of tuna and amply draped in an umbrella of cheese sauce, coleslaw and side salad. Service was prompt and cheerful.

Following lunch, Bob and Anna and Phil and Dee had to leave us but Paul, Doris and I drove off to Oaks Park near Carshalton for a walk among the trees and parkland. Some years ago I was a local resident so have visited the park several times before. I was particularly pleased to see that one part of the derelict ancient outhouse now entertains an active artists' studio. Nearby was the much extended local café where we eventually enjoyed coffee and cakes in the outside seating area as the sun was, by then, shining on us.

There is a plaque in the garden outside The Well House which clearly sets out its history. The Well was named after St. Margaret and mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086. Way back in the 1560s there were three cottages but these were demolished by a flying bomb in the 1940s and the site was transformed into a Bass Charrington public house in the 1950s.



On **Tuesday 8th October** seven of us met up in fine weather at another new venue, suggested by Paul, at the Morden Brook pub [formerly known as The Beverley] in Lower Morden Lane, parking conveniently and free across the road in the Assembly Hall where local vaccinations for flu and Covid were also taking place. This is a very popular establishment as the local crematorium is located nearby. The food and service was good and prices very reasonable but the general jolly atmosphere made conversation difficult for us. However the pub holds a long history and I enjoyed looking at the several black and white photographs on the walls illustrating Times and Scenes long gone by.

There were two options for further activity – either a walk in the nearby Morden Park or a visit to the nearby garden centre. No prob – we all congregated amongst the plants, garden equipment and huge array of gifts and general unmissables where I purchased a packet of mixed crocus bulbs. We finally met up at the indoor café and indulged in refreshments and chat. We always ask each other about missing members and prospects for future gatherings – so from Paul, Barbara, Glenys, Norman and Brenda J, James and me we send you all good wishes.



The Garden Centre

Just for Fun Quiz 30 General Knowledge – Answers

1. Butterfly
2. Victoria
3. Oxford
4. 1902
5. Barley
6. Sheep
7. Graceland
8. 1997
9. Olivia
10. French
11. Marathon
12. Mercury
13. Portuguese
14. Amazon
15. Sting
16. 4

Just for Fun Quiz 13 – Christmas

1. What is traditionally hidden inside a Christmas pudding? _____
2. Which fruit is traditionally put inside a Christmas stocking? _____
3. What name is given to small sausages wrapped in bacon? _____
4. Which English ruler allegedly banned mince pies in Britain in the 1600s? _____
5. Stollen is the traditional fruit cake of which country? _____
6. What is roasting on an open fire in the famous song? _____
7. In Tudor times what did women, who wanted to find a husband, eat in the hope of finding a partner? _____
8. What did turkeys in Norfolk wear in Victorian England when they were walked to London?

9. Which creature replaces turkey on the Christmas menu in Hungary? _____
10. What was the original colour of Father Christmas' suit? _____
11. What country is Lapland, Father Christmas' home, located in? _____
12. What is the biggest selling Christmas single of all time? _____
13. Which carol was sung by British and German soldiers in the trenches during the 1914 truce?

14. How many gifts in total were given in the 12 days of Christmas song? _____
15. Which country annually sends a Christmas tree to be erected in London's Trafalgar Square?
