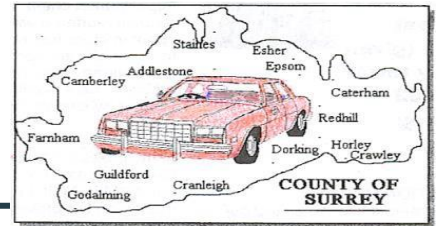


# Surrey Group

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

March/April 2025 Edition

Issue 203



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***(PLEASE NOTE: Please can you take over the production of the Newsletter? We need a volunteer now. If you would be able to do so please contact Paul or Barbara )***

On **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March** we will be meeting at 12.15 pm at **Dobbies Garden Centre, 4A Woodmansterne Lane, Wallington SM6 0SU** for lunch and a wander around this large garden centre. They also have cups of tea and coffee and cakes during the afternoon. Use the small entrance nearest the main road to find the café we use – as there is another one near the main entrance.



On **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March** we will be gathering at 12.30 for lunch at **The Watchman in Burlington Road, New Malden**, followed by an afternoon in the nearby **United Reformed Church Hall**, starting at 2pm. The first part of the afternoon will be our **Annual General Meeting**. Then, unless there is an emergency, the Fire Service will be coming to give a talk. **Please do come** as we need to have **10 members present for the AGM to be valid and, therefore, to allow us to continue as the Surrey Group** and you will have the bonus of hearing from the Fire Service.



On **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April** we will be meeting at 12.15 for our lunch at **The Goat, Shepperton, Upper Halliford Road, Upper Halliford TW17 8RX**. After lunch we can go on to the nearby **Squires Garden Centre on Halliford Road TW17 8SG** for gifts, plants and cups of tea and cake.



On **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April** we will be meeting for lunch at 12.15 at **The Rose of York, Petersham Road, Richmond TW10 6UY** (Register your car as you enter the pub). After lunch we can drive up into **Richmond Park** to enjoy a visit to the **Isabella Plantation**. Parking is on Broomfield Hill in the Park and then it is a walk down to the plantation which we hope will be in its full glory. Blue badge holders can park much closer.



On **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May** we will meet for lunch at 12.15 at **Thames Court, Towpath, Shepperton TW17 9LJ**. After lunch we can walk (or drive) the short distance back to Shepperton lock to the small café on the island. It is also possible to walk along the river and there is a café on the mainland as the road bends back towards Shepperton if the weather does not encourage you to have a drink in the open.



## FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May** – Meeting for lunch at **12 noon** at Bill's riverside restaurant in Kingston. Then a short walk to the Turks jetty to catch a boat up to Hampton Court. Return journey can be by boat or by bus.

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June** – Meeting for lunch at 12.15 at The Beehive, Woodhatch and then driving to Earlswood Lakes where there are cups of tea/coffee and a lovely wander around the two lakes.

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June** – Meeting for lunch at 12.15 at The Fairmile and then on to Garsons

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July** – Meeting for lunch at 12.15 at The Windmill Café on Wimbledon Common followed by a short or longer walk.

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July** – Meeting for lunch at 12.15 at the Toby Inn – Park Place, Mitcham followed by a visit to Morden Hall Park. The car park is free for NT members and the park is free for all.

## Brenda's D's Blog:

For the first outing of the year on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January, 7 members met up with each other together with three (very welcome) guests for lunch at the (dog friendly) Queen Adelaide pub in Tolworth. It was some time since we last visited this venue and it was clear it has been given a refurbishment in the interim. We found a table for all 10 of us, lit intermittently by sunlight through the windows and we soon embarked on wide-ranging conversations, not having met since last year! There was also a wide choice of menu and prices not too disturbing. The only drawback was the slow service from the outset despite there being few other customers and those of us who had not ordered starters had a very long wait until the main (tasty) meals were served, especially Edna and Bob.

Although Barbara had suggested optional nearby walks, most members decided to leave in the chilly weather conditions [personal health must always be the top priority]. While Doris and Janet accompanied Barbara to the Court Farm Garden Centre about 10 minutes' drive away, I decided to, firstly, renew acquaintance with the nearer Ewell Court House and gardens, a venue which we have visited in the past. This is a Grade 2 listed building, in historical grounds and surrounded by an attractive lake and water features including rock pools and a grotto and mini bridges over cascades. Also inevitably wild life but the pathways were well maintained. There is also a secret Garden café, open Tuesdays to Sundays 10am to 4pm [3pm in winter], next to the Library, which looked inviting for any future visit here.

Following this exploratory stroll round I decided to join my colleagues at Court Farm and found them sitting snugly round a glowing fire in the comfortable café, cuppas in hand! To my coffee cupppa I quickly added a most delicious slice of carrot cake. Fortunately I have made no dietary New Year resolutions so my conscience was clear!

So ended our first 2025 outing, a happy and cheerful occasion leaving us looking forward to the rest of our year's programme.



Our first indoor meeting for 2025 took place at 2pm on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January in our usual location of the United Reformed Church Hall in New Malden, following some members having lunched together at the nearby Watchman pub. It was an encouraging turnout in dull January weather – 10 members – all of whom we will need at our AGM on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March in order to satisfy a quorum requirement.

As our Mini-Olympics were on the agenda there was a lot to set up for the various activities brought in by Norman and Brenda J. Why doesn't my playing card stay on the table instead of sliding off? Why do my balls jump out of the bucket although originally hitting the inside depths? Even experienced golf players couldn't persuade their balls to find their way through the narrow entrance ... and as for the electric serpent, I could only achieve a constant pinging and nil points! However, all good fun with chocolate prizes being given to the winner and to the runner up.

Tea time – well deserved so hands to the deck to set out the usual appetising array of cakes brought in by Edna and serve up teas and coffees, relaxing chat and then the washing up.

However, still with time in hand, Paul then offered us a special treat of telling us about his recent trip to the USA illustrated by photographs of the many sites visited and relatives whom he met for the first time. Unfortunately I had to leave just as he was reaching Tampa which I visited in mid 1990s, but hopefully Paul can show me these photos at a future outing.

As an Addendum, since we are a motoring organisation, may I recommend a fresh look at the latest version of the Highway Code. (A lot of new information and signage!)



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On a dry but cool day on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February ten of us (plus one guest) met at the Toby Jug in Ewell to enjoy their regular Carvery meal [with some choosing options] with which we are familiar. The prices for the drinks were noticeably higher but the cost of meals was still reasonable, and the self service portions plentiful. The only drawback was that we were not able to sit at one table – thus limiting our usual jolly communal conversation.

Following lunch several members bade farewell as they had to be elsewhere but the remaining five “eager beavers” drove on to Nonsuch Park and its Mansion with the specific aim of viewing the early carpet of snowdrops. We were not disappointed, indeed cheered up by this actual evidence of approaching spring. A short stroll round other parts of the parkland followed but we saw no sign of any other spring flowers so we assembled at the small indoor café for refreshments, few resisting the cakes on offer. With Barbara, James and Edna we enjoyed a relaxing chat, much about our personal experiences of genealogy.

Then time to head homewards before the daylight faded.

For the historical buffs amongst us, the Mansion House originated as a Tudor Palace called Nonsuch [i.e. non-pareil] built by Henry VIII for his hunting activities but the Palace was pulled down by one of Charles II's mistresses to whom it had been given – but she preferred the money.

It is now a popular wedding venue [indeed my own daughter held her wedding reception here in 1996] amidst 300 acres of picturesque parkland and gardens. The site of the original Palace is not too easy to find as it is some distance from the Mansion. A museum opens every Sunday [currently from noon to 4pm]



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### **Barbara's Words:**

On Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 9 of us met for food at The Watchman in New Malden and, then, went across to the United Reformed Church Hall for our Saturday indoor meeting. Our numbers then increased to 10.

We were in for a treat. Brenda D had offered to tell us about her childhood growing up on Tyneside during the war. For those of us with some similar memories, it was like stepping back in time. Tyneside was a very vulnerable area and her father originally rented a property in the country so that the family would be safer. He managed to visit at weekends but it was a long walk to school for Brenda and a long way to the shops. On returning home, as Brenda told it, life went on as "normal" – even spending time in air raid shelters seemed so. School took up much of her time, although she did say that they had tried to get on to the beach. That was virtually impossible with barbed wire, explosive devices and fencing everywhere. Rationing meant that food was rather uninspiring but she didn't remember feeling hungry. Eventually the war in Europe ended and she could sleep without the sirens almost constantly sounding. Like many areas that were heavily bombed there were then years of waiting for new buildings to appear and in all parts of the country the buddleia plant became a constant reminder as it flourished in the bombsites.

Discussion went on after Brenda had finished speaking and we all went for a cake and cuppa with differing memories.

After the cuppas and the washing up (and thanks to everybody that makes the tea, brings the cakes and clears it all away) Brenda J had brought two quizzes. One was entitled True or False and the other was on 20<sup>th</sup> century British history. As always they tested the brains and the memory and I am in awe of those who got full marks.

### **Just for Fun Quiz 32 – Either/Or Answers**

1. Meerkat
2. 'The Hobbit'
3. Left
4. Moscow
5. 3 inches
6. Facebook
7. Rotterdam
8. 18 inches
9. Edinburgh
10. Oxford
11. The George Cross
12. New Forest
13. Cedar
14. Bundle
15. February

### Just for Fun Quiz 33 - Weather Words

1. A strong storm of snow and wind (B, 8) \_\_\_\_\_
2. A prolonged dry period with no rainfall (D, 7) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Ice crystals that cover a surface when it's below zero degrees (F, 5) \_\_\_\_\_
4. A place where facts about weather are recorded and studied (WS 7, 7) \_\_\_\_\_
5. Small droplets of water that form when water vapour or steam touches a cold surface (C, 12)  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. The amount of water vapour in the air (H, 8) \_\_\_\_\_
7. A mixture of gases that surrounds the Earth (A, 10) \_\_\_\_\_
8. A hurtling mass of snow, ice or rock descending a mountainside (A, 9) \_\_\_\_\_
9. A layer of gas in the atmosphere that absorbs most of the ultraviolet rays from the sun  
(O, 5) \_\_\_\_\_
10. Moisture falling from the sky in the form of rain, snow or hail (P, 13) \_\_\_\_\_
11. A seasonal wind in Southern Asia that often brings heavy rain (M, 7) \_\_\_\_\_
12. The weather of a place considered over a long period of time (C, 7) \_\_\_\_\_
13. A severe, often destructive storm, with a wind force of 12 or above on the Beaufort scale  
(H, 9) \_\_\_\_\_
14. A cloud of any substance in the atmosphere reducing visibility (F, 3) \_\_\_\_\_
15. A strong, cold, dry wind that blows through the Rhone Valley and South of France to the  
Mediterranean coast (M, 7) \_\_\_\_\_
16. A leading edge of an advancing cold air mass that is underrunning and displacing the  
warmer air in its path (C, F 4, 5) \_\_\_\_\_
17. A period of abnormally and uncomfortably hot weather (H, W 4, 4) \_\_\_\_\_
18. The perceived decrease in our temperature felt by the body on exposed skin due to the flow  
of air (W,C,F 4,5,6) \_\_\_\_\_

**With many thanks to Brenda J for all her quizzes.**