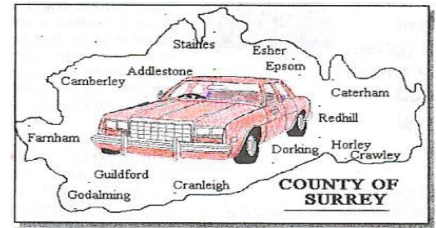


Surrey Group

boundless.co.uk/surrey

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(It would still be helpful if you could let us know in advance if you are planning to join us on any of our usual weekday outings so that we can book tables.)

Thursday 9th May – Meet 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 plan to drive into Richmond Park and park at Broomfield Hill to walk to the Isabella Plantation - or for blue badge holders there is a closer parking area. We just need a lovely sunny day to get the best views of the Plantation.



On **Tuesday 21st May** we will be gathering at 12.15 for lunch at the **Heathside pub, Brighton Road, Tadworth KT20 6BW.** Weather permitting we will drive to the top car park on Epsom Downs (at Tattenham Corner) for a walk on the Downs. This is a new venue for us which is exciting.

(Photograph on next page)



Heathside

On **Wednesday 5th June** we will meet at 12.15 for lunch at **The Beehive, 90 Doversgreen Road, Woodhatch RH2 8EG**. After lunch we will be driving the short distance to Earlswood Lakes where there are drinks and nibbles as well as lovely walks round the two smallish lakes. There are also many swans and other birds. In sunshine it is a lovely place to be.



On **Thursday 20th June** we will be meeting for lunch at the Windmill Café on Wimbledon Common at 12.15. There are a variety of walks – short and longer – on the Common which we hope the weather will allow us to enjoy!



FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 9th July – Bill's in Kingston and a boat ride to Hampton Court.

Wednesday 24th July – This is a date that we discussed with you at the AGM as the Committee were looking to see if we could go to Kew Gardens but eat elsewhere. This is still being investigated and, I am sorry to say, the Committee has not yet organised dates for our outings in August and later. Don't forget to check your next Newsletter for more information!

Brenda D's Blog:

On Tuesday 12th March 2024 ten of us met in the Hogsmill, Old Malden Lane, Worcester Park for lunch, fortunately missing the regular showers which seem to have visited us just too often in February and early March. The pub has a comfy feel and provides an attractive, reasonably-priced menu although most of us opted for the substantial Carvery. Some of us managed a traditional pudding to follow whilst others decided to wait until later. Our usual jolly mood was tempered by several of us having attended the funeral of "our Jean Finch" the preceding day and our thoughts being with Paul.

We "lost" two of our number who were elsewhere committed when we drove off the short ride to Court Farm Garden Centre where welcome cuppas and cakes were available. Edna and I immediately began to look for early spring suitable plants for house and garden but found the prices were not so welcoming! We then joined the others to lounge round a good square low table which soon became almost too comfortable, conversation flowing leading to other enjoyable experiences such as within the local U3A groups, information about the nearby historical, literary connection with the artist Millais, and the Hogsmill (a chalk stream) Nature Reserve nearer to Ewell Court and the stroll along to Six Acres Meadows – perhaps an idea for another day in the summer season. Then homeward bound, content with another convivial get-together.

Barbara's Words:

On Saturday 23rd March 2024 a small group of us met for lunch at the Wetherspoons pub The Watchman in New Malden. As usual the food was good and the prices were very reasonable. We then crossed to the United Reformed Church Hall and got enough tables and chairs out to allow us to hold our AGM. There were just 10 of us by the time the Meeting started – so we were able to continue with our Surrey Group. The meeting confirmed my stepping down as Chairman and Paul Finch becoming Chairman. Brenda Denby agreed to become Secretary and I agreed to become Minute Secretary and to continue with the Newsletter. Brenda Jinks was appointed to the Committee. Our further trips were mentioned and we are still seeking ideas. The meeting closed at 3.20 pm which allowed us to have a welcome cup of tea/coffee and some delicious cakes. After the refreshments we all enjoyed playing the games of card bingo and beetle that Norman had brought along and the winners looked as though they enjoyed their winners' chocolate bars.

Brenda's D's Blog:

On Tuesday 9th April, seven of us braved a windy but dry morning for lunch at The Weir Hotel almost opposite Sunbury Weir on the River Thames. We toasted those of our members unable to join us and then indulged in a variety of main meals. For once not even Paul could manage a pudding and after some chatting (including the rising costs of dental treatment!) most of us decided to take some exercise by toddling along the well-known public riverside pathway, fortunately sheltered from the wind by high trees and bushes.

We soon reached the bridge over to the island but it is now closed for repair work so onward, passing by the ancient Lockkeeper's Cottage at Sunbury Lock and continuing to a suitable photo spot so that Barbara could get her camera out as usual to record this, our latest adventurous outing!



For the historians amongst us, Sunbury Lock was first built in 1813 and after some reconstructions, the banksides were completed by 1927 and it has since become part of the Lock complex of the River Thames. Its location opposite Walton's Riverside Arts Building on the north bank, is used as the starting point of His Majesty's annual Swan Upping in May. There is also a nearby RNLi (Teddington) Station which is recorded as having saved the local lockkeeper who fell into the river on 14th July 2016. The river, with strong currents, carries a red warning, prohibiting swimmers but Sunbury Lock is a popular venue for pleasure and commercial boating and there is a ferry service for reaching each side of the river. (weekends and bank holidays only)

Returning eventually to the Weir Hotel, we all decided to make our ways directly homebound, rain having been forecast. So we had all enjoyed a good meal, some exercise and plenty of chat. We must make up for our usual cake and cuppa at our next meeting on 24th April.

On Wednesday 24th April a select few of us (5) met at a regular favourite, Thames Court, Shepperton for lunch, in some sunshine but still cool, happily the threatening rain clouds holding off until long after our departure. Although clearly the prices were higher, the food was good and almost all the tables were soon fully occupied, creating a warm and jolly atmosphere.

After two courses we needed some exercise so three of us decided to toddle along the towpath towards the Lock. The river levels were very high, too much for a ferry trip, and the usual adjoining café across the lock was closed, so we found a table in the nearby Ferry Café, a delightful "water-hole" called Nauticalia based exactly opposite the ferry landing stage. Almost unseen from the road, this was to me quite a treasure house, a welcoming café with a splendid menu, a large variety of unexpected artefacts on display round the walls and on tables, including a fine model of HMS Hood, so tragically sunk by the Bismark during WW2. Outside and behind the café were an assortment of individual store holders showing a variety of their home-made craftwork, jewellery, ornaments and clothes which would make most attractive presents. Then, finally, there was the adjoining boatyard but we resisted further exploration and wound our way back alongside the quiet river bank and a couple of moored vessels, to our cars, tired but very satisfied with our interesting time together.

The village of Shepperton itself and its church in the Square are well worth visiting. The website records it, as from early Saxon times, being in the Domesday Book as a settlement of shepherds, later associated with much historical, military and literary history and connections up to today's Shepperton film studios. The Lock was built in 1813 when the new lockkeeper decided to run a ferry service. Another well-known resident, Sir John Gibson, was responsible for the construction of the Mulberry Harbours so effective in WW2.



JUST FOR FUN QUIZ 28 Answers – Homophones

1. Sheer/shear
2. Metal/mettle
3. Vain/vein
4. Profit/prophet
5. Waive/wave
6. Dough/doe
7. Bruise/brews
8. Sleigh/slay
9. Teem/team
10. Mote/moat
11. Sealing/ceiling
12. Maize/maze
13. Seas/seize
14. Rain/reign
15. Brake/break
16. Mail/male
17. Bow/bough
18. Coarse/course
19. Bolder/boulder
20. Maid/made

Just for Fun Quiz 29 (part 1) – Things we Remember from School

1. Pupils often first learn to play music using this simple wind instrument (R – 8)

2. A curved body of water formed when a meander is cut off from a river (OL – 5, 4)

3. The accepted rules by which words are formed and combined into sentences (G – 7)

4. Verse form comprising lines of five metrical feet, each with two syllables (IP – 6, 10)

5. Rapid development, in the 18th Century, brought about by the introduction of machinery (IR – 10,10) _____
6. Process by which green plants use sunlight to create nutrients from Co₂ and water (P – 14)

7. A protozoan able to change shape because of the movements of cell processes (A – 6)

8. Right-angled triangular plate used to draw lines and angles (SS – 3, 6)

9. System of conventional marks, such as commas and full stops, used in a text to clarify its meaning (P – 11) _____