

Digital Editions

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Guide to Rural England

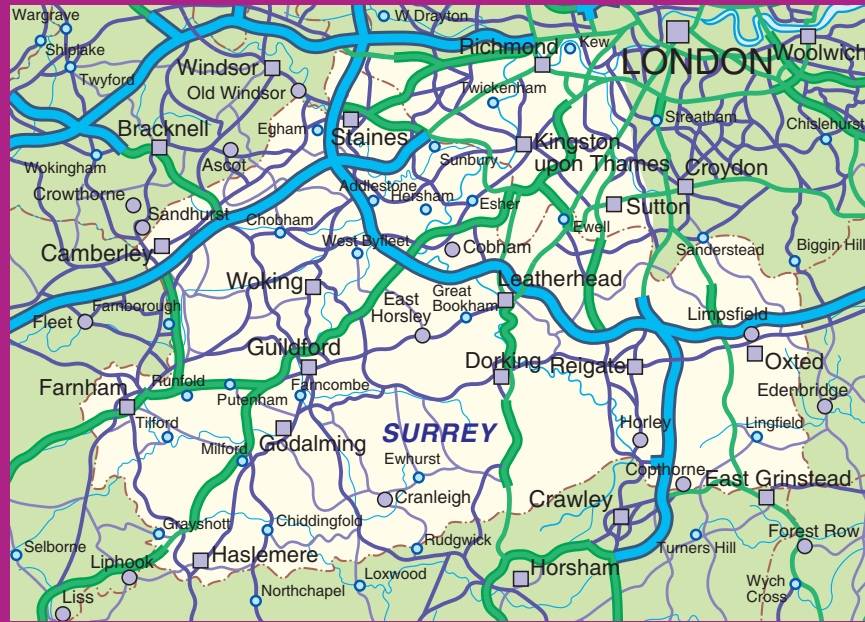
SURREY



WHERE TO GO | WHAT TO SEE | WHAT TO DO
WHERE TO STAY | WHERE TO EAT | WHERE TO BUY

Fully illustrated with detailed directions and maps

LOCATOR MAP



Towns and Villages

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Surrey

Surrey's proximity to the capital and its transport links have defined much of its history. The Thames winds through Surrey, and many of the present-day villages and towns developed as riverside trading centres in the medieval period or earlier. As the Thames led to the development of earlier villages, the arrival of the railway in the mid 19th century saw new ones spring up, while others expanded out of all recognition. Rail lines and major roads fan put through the whole area from London, with the latest contribution to the road system being the M25.



However, Surrey is full of historical traces. Great houses, as well as royal and episcopal palaces, were built here from medieval times, and many villages have evidence of Saxon,

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Celtic, Roman and even late Stone Age settlements. The site of one of England's defining moments, the signing of the Magna Carta in 1215, is at the riverside meadow of Runnymede. The most impressive of all buildings along the Thames is Hampton Court, where Henry VIII expanded Cardinal Wolsey's already magnificent palace.



Hampton Court

Farnham, with its lovely Georgian architecture and 12th-century castle, is the largest town in southwestern Surrey, while Guildford, the ancient county town of Surrey, is an obvious base for travellers interested in exploring Surrey. Guildford has been the capital of the region since pre-Norman times, and the remains of Henry II's castle and keep provide commanding views over the surrounding area. The old Georgian cobbled High Street incorporates the Tudor Guildhall, with its distinctive gilded clock. Woking, like many Surrey towns, was transformed by the arrival of the railway in the 19th century. The Victorian influence is evident in many of the larger houses built by Norman Shaw and other proponents of the Arts and Crafts style. The more ornate style of Victorian architecture, designed to reflect the prosperity of a confident imperial power, is also represented in the two massive buildings funded by Thomas Holloway - Royal Holloway College and the Holloway Sanatorium, which are near Egham in the north. The best of Edwardian architecture is well represented throughout Surrey by the

work of Sir Edwin Lutyens, often working in partnership with the eminent gardener Gertrude Jekyll.

This varied architectural heritage belies the notion that Surrey is nothing more than a collection of anonymous suburbs of London. Much of Surrey is indeed the capital's commuter belt and conurbations like Kingston and Croydon spread out into a vast hinterland of suburbia. However, around Guildford and Dorking, and near the Sussex border, there are small towns and wayside villages amid rough Down and Weald uplands or thickly wooded hillsides. The countryside is varied, from the well-maintained plantation of Kew Gardens, possibly the most famous gardens in the world, to numerous parks, greens, heaths, commons and open land. Rich farming areas give way to expanses of heath and woodlands with networks of paths for walkers and cyclists. The famous Hog's Back section of the A31 is one of the most scenic drives in the southeast, with excellent views north and south as it follows the ridge between Farnham and Guildford through some of Surrey's most unspoilt countryside.

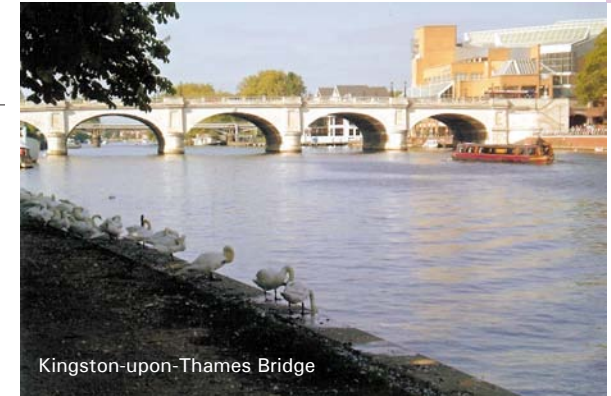
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Northeast Surrey

Surrey's proximity to London often leads people to assume that it is nothing more than a collection of anonymous suburbs extending south and west from the capital. Indeed much of what had originally been (and which steadfastly continues to consider itself)





Kingston-upon-Thames Bridge

Surrey was absorbed by London in the boundary changes of 1965. Growing conurbations such as Kingston and Croydon house and employ thousands. Rail lines and major roads fan out through the area from London.

However, this northeast corner of Surrey is also full of historical traces, some well known and others truly hidden gems. Great houses, as well as royal and episcopal palaces, were built here from medieval times, and many villages have evidence of Saxon, Celtic, Roman and even late Stone Age settlements. The countryside is varied, from the well-maintained plantation of Kew Gardens to the rough Down and Weald uplands to the south, and numerous parks, greens, heaths, commons and open land in between. The sound of birdsong ringing through the woods and the click of a cricket bat on a village green are as much a part of this stretch of Surrey as the whirring suburban lawnmower.

Kingston-upon-Thames

 Chapel of St Mary Magdalene  Museum

The first impression most people have of Kingston is of high-rise office blocks and its

famous by-pass, giving it the sense of being totally urbanised and something of a modern creation. However, Kingston has been a thriving market town since the Middle Ages, the first of only four Royal Boroughs in England and Wales. In AD838 it was referred to as 'that famous place called Cyningestun in the region of Surrey'. The Guildhall, built in 1935, is solid and functional but, nearby, beside the 12th-century Clattern Bridge over the River Hogsmill, stands the Coronation Stone, said to have been used in the crowning of up to seven Saxon kings. Records show that Kingston was a prosperous town in Anglo-Saxon times. In the Domesday survey of 1086 it is recorded as having a church, five mills and three salmon fisheries.

Kingston has been a river crossing place since medieval times, the present stone bridge replacing the old wooden bridges in 1828. Regular street markets have been held on a site by the bridge since the 17th century, and around the market a well-preserved medieval street plan can be explored. Kingston parish church was completely rebuilt in neo-Gothic style in the 19th century, but its interior still contains many medieval monuments. On the London Road, however, is a real medieval relic

- the **Chapel of St Mary Magdalene**, dating from the 14th century.

Guided walks of Kingston's historical heritage start from the Market Place every Sunday in summer. The **Kingston Museum**, in a Grade II listed building in Wheatfield Way, tells the story of Kingston from earliest times to the present in the 'Ancient Origins' and 'Town of Kings' galleries. The new Eadweard Muybridge Gallery examines the life and work of the man whose work on animal locomotion was instrumental in the development of cinematography, and the Art Gallery showcases the work of professional artists and amateur groups. The Museum is open daily, except Wednesday and Sunday.

The district of Coombe, to the east of Kingston, was rebuilt by prosperous Victorians. Large houses, built in a variety of architectural styles, came to symbolise the solid financial standing of their owners. Unfortunately, few of these houses survive apart from their impressive gate lodges, but






there are a few exceptions such as Coombe Pines in Warren Cutting.

John Galsworthy began the development of Coombe Hill, and two of his own houses survive - Coombe Leigh, which is now a convent, and Coombe Ridge, today a school. Galsworthy's son was the famous novelist and set Soames Forsyte's house in Coombe.

Around Kingston

TWICKENHAM

4 miles N of Kingston on the A310

-  The Twickenham Museum  Museum of Rugby
-  Ham House  Orleans House and Gallery
-  Marble Hill House

Lying on the west side of the Thames just a few miles north of Hampton Court Palace, Twickenham is a thriving community that makes the most of its riverside setting. Perhaps more than anything else Twickenham

The Museum of Rugby

Twickenham Stadium, Rugby Road, Twickenham, Surrey TW1 1DZ
Tel: 020 8892 8877 Fax: 020 8892 2817
website: www.rfu.com

Few would dispute that sport has an appeal that crosses gender, age and racial barriers. But few people would connect the thrills and spills of top level competition with the standard museum environment.

How can a museum compete with drama, excitement and appeal of live sport? The answer is simple: today's sports museums with their hands on exhibits and interactive screens and sounds are more than just testaments to facts and figures, but living breathing ways of connecting with the unrivalled excitement that only sport can provide.

You can find out all about rugby, its history and its star players by visiting **The Museum of Rugby**, Twickenham. The world's finest collection of rugby memorabilia is housed at the Museum of Rugby, which takes visitors through the history of the sport from 1823 to the present day. The Museum also offers fans a tour of Britain's most famous Rugby Stadium.



is renowned as the headquarters of Rugby Union Football in Britain, a role it has played since 1907. The recently rebuilt stadium hosts England home internationals as well as the annual Varsity match between Oxford and Cambridge. The **Museum of Rugby** allows visitors to savour the history and atmosphere of the sport. Running through the

players tunnel is enough to get many people's blood rushing, and the museum provides a full account of Twickenham right up to its latest renovations. Located in an 18th-century waterman's cottage on the Embankment, **The Twickenham Museum** celebrates the rich local history of Twickenham, Whitton, the Hamptons and Teddington.

Montpelier Row and Sion Row, wonderfully preserved 18th-century terraces, are some of the fine old houses in the heart of Twickenham. At Strawberry Hill, just to the south of Twickenham, is the villa bought by the author Horace Walpole in 1749 and remodelled into a 'gothic fantasy', which has been described as 'part church, castle, monastery or mansion'. It is internationally recognised as the first substantial building of the Gothic Revival. Strawberry Hill is now St Mary's University College, a teachers' training college, but it is open for pre-booked tours, any day except Saturday, in summer. Those eager to pursue other historical associations from that era can find the tomb of the poet Alexander Pope in the Twickenham churchyard.

Orleans House and Gallery, which houses one of the finest art collections



Marble Hill House, Twickenham

outside London's national collections, enjoys an enviable location in a woodland garden on the riverside between Twickenham and Richmond. The charming 18th-century garden pavilion is named after its most famous resident, Louis Philippe, Duc d'Orléans. The original house was demolished in 1926 and the outbuildings converted in 1972 to house the Borough art collection established by Mrs Nellie Ionides. Next door is **Marble Hill House**, a Palladian villa designed by Roger Morris and completed in 1729 for George II's mistress, Henrietta Howard. Visitors can walk in the 66 acres of riverside grounds, take a look at the furniture and paintings displayed in the house, and enjoy a cream tea in the café.

On the opposite riverbank, accessible by passenger ferry for most of the year, is **Ham House**, built in 1610 and enlarged in the 1670s. Now in the hands of the National Trust, Ham's lavish Restoration interiors and magnificent collection of Baroque furniture provide a suitable setting for the popular summer ghost walks. It has extensive grounds, including lovely 17th-century formal gardens.

RICHMOND*5 miles N of Kingston on the A307*

 Museum  Richmond Hill

Richmond is an attractive shopping centre with the usual chain stores and a number of small specialist and antique shops. However, the lovely riverside setting along a sweeping curve of the Thames, and the extensive spread of Richmond Park, help to retain a strong sense of its rich and varied history.

A good place to get acquainted with old Richmond is Richmond Green, a genuine village green, flanked on the southwest and southeast edges by handsome 17th and 18th-century houses. The southwest side has an older, and more royal, history. It was the site of a palace that passed into royal possession in 1125, when it was known as Shene Palace. The palace was destroyed by Richard II in 1394 but subsequent kings had it rebuilt in stages. The site, right by the green, made it an ideal spot for organising jousting tournaments. The rebuilding and extensions reached their peak under Henry VII, who renamed the palace after his favourite Earldom, Richmond in Yorkshire. Elizabeth I died in the palace in 1603. Sadly, the only surviving element of the palace is the brick gatehouse beside the village green.

Just off the northeast flank of the green is Richmond Theatre, an imposing Victorian building with an elaborate frontage facing the street. Richmond Riverside, a redevelopment scheme dating from the late 1980s, stretches along the Thames. It comprises pastiche Georgian



Richmond Bridge

buildings complete with columns, cupolas and facades and includes houses, offices and commercial premises. Among the modern buildings, however, there remain a few of the original Georgian and Victorian houses, including the narrow, three-storey Heron House, where Lady Hamilton and her daughter Horatia came to live soon after the Battle of Trafalgar. The riverside walk ends at Richmond Bridge, a handsome five-arched structure built of Portland stone in 1777 and widened in the 1930s. It is the oldest extant bridge spanning the Thames in London.

Richmond's Old Town Hall, set somewhat back from the new developments at Richmond Bridge, is the home of the **Museum of Richmond**, a fascinating privately-run museum that provides a unique perspective on Richmond's history and has special significance in English life. The museum's permanent displays chronicle the story of Richmond, Ham, Petersham and Kew - communities that grew and prospered along the Thames downstream from Hampton Court. The collections of the Museum of Richmond concentrate on different aspects of this history, detailing the

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rich heritage from prehistoric times through to the present.

Special features and detailed models focus on some of the most noteworthy buildings, such as the Charterhouse of Shene, which was the largest Carthusian Monastery in England. The information about Richmond Palace is a bit of English history in microcosm. A number of displays concentrate on the luminaries who have made Richmond their home over the years. Among the roll call of the great and the good are Sir Robert Walpole, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Lady Emma Hamilton, George Eliot, Virginia Woolf, Gustav Holst and Bertrand Russell.

The steep climb of **Richmond Hill** leads southwards and upwards from the centre of Richmond. The view from Richmond Terrace has been protected by an Act of Parliament since 1902. The Thames lies below, sweeping in majestic curves to the west through wooded countryside. Turner and Reynolds are among the many artists who have tried to capture the essence of this scene, which takes in six counties. A little further up the hill is the entrance to Richmond Park. These 2,500 acres of open land, with red and fallow deer



Kew Palace

roaming free, were first enclosed by Charles I in 1637 as a hunting ground. Set amidst this coppiced woodland is the Isabella Plantation, noted for its azaleas and rhododendrons. The Park was designated a National Nature Reserve in 2000.

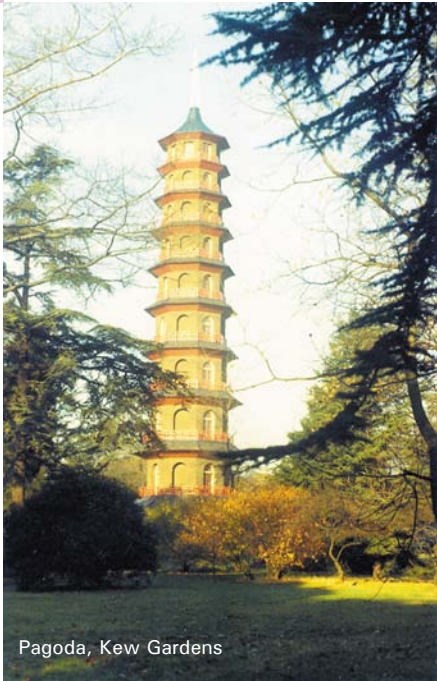
KEW AND KEW GARDENS*7 miles N of Kingston off the A310*

 National Archives  Royal Botanic Gardens

Kew, lying just a couple of miles north of Richmond, on a pleasant stretch of the Thames, is a charming 18th-century village, favoured by the early Hanoverian kings. They built a new palace here and the handsome 18th-century houses, which still surround Kew Green, were built to accommodate the great and the good of the royal circle. The **National Archives** in Kew holds 900 years of historical records, including the *Domesday Book*.

However, Kew is best known for the **Royal Botanic Gardens**, arguably the most famous gardens in the world. Princess Augusta, mother of George III, laid out an eight-acre botanical garden on the grounds of Kew Palace in 1759. Tranquil and spacious, this garden, now extending over 300 acres, has

become an important botanical research centre. Over a million visitors a year are attracted to view the 40,000 species of plants and 9,000 trees that grow here in plantations and glasshouses. The most famous and oldest glasshouse, built in 1848, is the Palm House, which includes most of the known palm species.



Pagoda, Kew Gardens

Nearby is the Water Lily House, full of tropical vines and creepers overhanging its lily pond. The Princess of Wales Conservatory, which opened in 1987, houses plants from 10 different climatic zones, from arid desert to tropical rainforest.

Here at Kew is Britain's smallest royal residence. The three-storey Kew Palace built in 1631, sometimes nicknamed the Dutch House because of its Flemish-bond brickwork, measures only 50 feet by 70 feet. Queen Caroline acquired it for her daughters in 1730. The only king to have lived in this tiny royal residence was George III, confined here in 1802 during his infamous madness. Behind the palace is a restored 17th-century garden, with labels identifying the herbs and their uses.

Another Kew landmark is the octagonal, 10-

storey Chinese Pagoda standing 163 feet high. Originally, the building was flanked by the Turkish Mosque and the Alhambra, all designed by Sir William Chambers, Princess Augusta's official architect. The ground floor is 50 feet across, with each storey reducing in size until the 10th storey is 20 feet by 10 feet. Built as an exotic folly in the fashion of the times, it now serves a more practical purpose as a landmark for visitors. The co-founder and director of the gardens, Sir William Jackson Hooker and his son Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker, are both buried in the churchyard of St Anne, Kew Green. Here, too, lie the artist Thomas Gainsborough and the portrait painter John Zoffany.

MORTLAKE

7 miles N of Kingston on the A205

Mortlake is best known as the finishing point of the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race. Although it was once an attractive riverside village, it is now dominated by a large brewery building. However, a series of handsome 18th-century houses stand along Thames Bank, towards Chiswick Bridge, and the famous Victorian explorer Richard Burton is buried in an unusual tent-shaped tomb in the cemetery.

WIMBLEDON

3 miles E of Kingston on the A219

All England Lawn Tennis, Croquet Club & Museum

Wimbledon Common

To most people Wimbledon is synonymous with the All-England Lawn Tennis Championships held each year at the end of June and in early July. However, the grounds of the **All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club** are open throughout the year and the **Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum** has a range of exhibits from the languid era of



long flannel trousers, to nail-biting tie-breaks and disputed line calls. But there is more to Wimbledon than tennis. In fact, the Championship fortnight is a time to avoid Wimbledon, since tennis fans throng the streets and every route in and out is clogged with traffic.

The centre of Wimbledon is a thriving commercial area, with stores lining the High Street. Here, cheek by jowl with anonymous 1960s buildings, are a few gems. Eagle House, just west of the National Westminster Bank building, was built in 1613. Its Jacobean appearance, with three large bay windows by its central entrance, still conveys a harmonious grandeur, which in its day would have dominated its neighbours. From Wimbledon itself, Wimbledon High Street climbs steeply to the west towards Wimbledon Village, which has more of a boutique and bistro feel to it. Handsome residential streets lead off the High Street on its climb, and there are expansive views looking east across South London.

Further above Wimbledon Village is **Wimbledon Common**, covering more than 1,000 acres, criss-crossed by walking and riding trails, home of the Wombles and one of the capital's largest areas of public access. At the southwest corner is an Iron Age mound called Caesar's Camp, although it is not Roman, but dates from around 250BC. Archaeological evidence indicates that people have occupied this area since the Paleolithic era, some 3,000 years ago. However, it did not become common land with legal public right of access until the Wimbledon and Putney Commons Act of 1871, after local residents opposed Earl Spencer's intention to enclose it.

NEW MALDEN

2 miles S of Kingston on the A2043

Just a few miles east of Hampton Court, and just south of both Richmond Park and Wimbledon Common, lies New Malden. Excellent road and rail connections link this neat suburb with Central London as well as points south. New Malden makes a good base for exploring the nearby sights, particularly easy by public transport, avoiding traffic and parking problems.

There are a few surprises lurking in this corner of suburbia. Just by the church on Church Road is the redbrick Manor House, dating from the late 17th century. Further along, to the northeast, is a duck pond, flanked by the Plough Inn. This pub seems modern, but its core was built more than 500 years ago.

SURBITON

1 mile S of Kingston on the A307

Surbiton is a well-heeled suburb adjoining Kingston, which escapes much of the traffic and commercial build-up that bedevils its northern neighbour. Handsome properties and good transport connections to London and the south coast make Surbiton one of the most desirable locations in the London commuter belt. Surbiton was called Kingston New Town and Kingston-on-Railway as it developed in the early 19th century. Most of the public buildings date from this period and the architecture of churches such as St Andrew and St Matthew are good examples of the Gothic Revival that was so dominant at the time.

The A307 follows the course of the Thames through Surbiton, with lovely views of Hampton Court Park on the opposite bank of the river. Hampton Court Palace is just over a mile away.

Kingston to Croydon

CHEAM

5 miles E of Kingston on the A217

Lumley Chapel

Roughly equidistant between Kingston and Croydon, Cheam is one of the prettier suburbs of this area, retaining a green and leafy feel, largely due to the number of substantial houses with large gardens. Several houses in Cheam open their gardens as part of the National Gardens Scheme Charitable Trust.

As with so many other parts of Surrey where London has encroached, Cheam has lost much of its overtly medieval elements, but careful detective work can lead to some pleasant surprises. St Dunstan Church, built in the 1860s, is a large and uninspiring Victorian building, but its courtyard contains the surviving portion of the medieval parish church - the **Lumley Chapel**, which was the chancel of the old church. The roof inside was remodelled in 1582 by Lord Lumley, who also commissioned the three finely carved marble and alabaster tombs. A series of delightful and well-preserved brasses commemorate Cheam notables from the 15th and 16th centuries.

Whitehall is a timber-framed building built around 1500. The history of the house and of those who lived in it over its 500 years is displayed inside.

CARSHALTON

6 miles E of Kingston on the A232

Honeywood Heritage Centre

The heart of old Carshalton is clustered around two ornamental ponds, which were created in the 18th century from the old mill pond and an

adjoining area of wetland. The Portland Stone bridge was probably designed by the Italian architect Giacomo Leoni for Thomas Scawen, who owned nearby Stone Court. Part of his estate remains as Grove Park, bought by the council in the 1920s "to preserve it as an open space ... and to obtain control of the beautiful ornamental waters which form such an attractive centre to the area?". Around this area are several fine old houses with grounds that are open to the public.

One of them, Carshalton House, now Saint Philomena's School, was finished in 1713 for Sir John Fellowes, a governor of the South Sea Company. The house is imposing, especially when first seen on the road from Sutton. It is a solid affair of red and yellow brick standing two storeys high, with an attic storey above the cornice. The harmonious, yet restrained look of the house is exactly the effect that so appealed to architects at the time of Queen Anne. The porch, built about 50 years later, with its Corinthian columns reflects a renewed love of classical embellishment. Outside is an impressive early 18th-century water tower, which blends in with the architecture of the main house. It housed a water-powered pump that lifted water from the river into a cistern, which fed the house.

The **Honeywood Heritage Centre** stands beside the upper pond. The original building is 17th century, but was considerably extended at the turn of the last century. Inside it is furnished in Edwardian style, including the paint colours, and has displays on local history including stucco and pottery from Nonsuch Palace.

Two miles south of Carshalton, on the Downs, is a public park with some majestic trees. These formed part of the grounds of a stately home, The Mansion, which was

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destroyed in an air raid in 1944. It was the home of the 12th Earl of Derby, founder of the famous horse race that bears his name.

BEDDINGTON

7 miles E of Kingston off the A235

Carew Chapel

Croydon Airport, which was located east of Beddington village, closed down in 1959, leaving room for the development of several housing estates, which tend to dominate the village. However, traces of Beddington's past are visible in its Church of St Mary, a large building, which was probably begun in the 11th century. The local landowner, Sir Nicholas Carew, left money for rebuilding the church in the late 14th century, and the **Carew Chapel** bears his name. He, along with many of his descendants, is commemorated in brasses in this chapel and in the chancel of the church. One of the most attractive later additions is the organ gallery, built in 1869. The player's space is screened like a minstrel's gallery.

CROYDON

9 miles E of Kingston on the A23

The Palace St John the Baptist Church

Waddon Caves Fairfield Halls

Looking at the high-rise flats and offices, one-way systems and traffic lights and trams, it is hard to imagine that Croydon was not much more than a large village less than two centuries ago. That historic past seems to have been obliterated in a headlong rush to development.

Yet, as with so many other large British towns, first impressions can be deceptive. Nestling beneath some of the most modern high-rises are some much older buildings, including some brick almshouses built in 1599 and now overshadowed by their modern neighbours. More intriguingly, and certainly

worth seeking out, are the remains of the palace that was the summer residence of the Archbishops of Canterbury. **The Palace** was built in the 11th century by Archbishop Lanfranc. It was considerably altered and expanded in subsequent centuries but remained an official residence until 1757. The Palace is now part of the Old Palace School for girls, but the public can see some of the oldest surviving elements, including the Norman undercroft and the 15th-century banqueting hall.

St John the Baptist Church is the largest parish church in Surrey, with a two-storey porch and fine tower. Its enormous size puts it in a league with St Mary Redcliffe in Bristol and St Martin in Salisbury. The 15th-century church burnt down in 1867, but was rebuilt by 1870 on the old foundations in a style that largely matches the earlier church. Some original elements of the medieval church remain in the restored tower and the south porch.

Croydon also has a handsome arts complex, the **Fairfield Halls**, which flank one edge of a modern flower-filled square in the heart of Croydon. It comprises a main concert hall, the Peggy Ashcroft Theatre, the Arnhem Art gallery and a general-purpose lounge that doubles as a banqueting hall. **Waddon Caves**, along Alton Road, was the site of late Stone Age and Iron Age settlements, which were inhabited until the 3rd or 4th century AD.

Epsom

Epsom Downs

The old market and spa town of Epsom is a prosperous residential centre that lies on the edge of London's southwestern suburbs. In the early 17th century, it was observed that cattle were refusing to drink from a spring on the common above the town and subsequent

BUMBLES

90 The Street, Ashted, Surrey KT21 1AW

Tel: 01372 276219

website: www.bumblesofashted.co.uk

Gifts, greeting cards and gems, presents of all kinds, homeware and lifestyle ideas – all this and more await shoppers at **Bumbles**, which stands on the main street of the busy market town of Ashted, near Epsom on the A24. Barbara Kay founded the shop in 1991, since when she has built up a great reputation for seeking out items that are a bit out of the ordinary, and with the stock changing all the time every visit will unearth new delights and

surprises. Typical of the unique appeal of the place are silver and well-sourced fashion jewellery, while other items range from unusual gift ideas for men & women, handmade baby shoes, Welsh love spoons, heat-resistant glass trays, plus photo frames, toys and teddies to Bronnley products, bags, and jewellery boxes as well as a variety of stationary, writing products and clocks.



tests revealed the water to be high in magnesium sulphate, a mineral believed to have highly beneficial medicinal properties. As the fashion for 'taking the waters' grew towards the end of the century, wealthy people from London came in increasing numbers to sample the benefits of Epsom salts and the settlement grew from a small village to a town with its own street market, a charter for which was granted in 1685.

By the end of the 18th century, the popularity of Epsom's spa was on the decline, but by this time, the town's pleasant rural location within easy reach of the City of London was already starting to attract well-to-do business people; a number of substantial residential homes were built in and around the town during this period, several of which survive to this day. A lively street market continues to be held every

Saturday in Epsom High Street, a wide and impressive thoroughfare, which contains some noteworthy old buildings, including a Victorian clock tower.

Epsom's other main claim to fame is as a horse racing centre. Each year in early June, the Downs to the southeast of the town take on a carnival atmosphere as tens of thousands of racing enthusiasts come to experience the annual Classic race meeting and the colourful fun fair that accompanies it. Informal horse racing took place on **Epsom Downs** as long ago as 1683 when Charles II is said to have been in attendance. Racing was formalised in 1779 when a party of aristocratic sportsmen led by Lord Derby established a race for three-year-old fillies, which was named after the Derbys' family home at Banstead, the Oaks; this was followed a year later by a race for all three-year-olds, the Derby, which was named

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after the founder himself, although only after he won a toss of a coin with the race's co-founder, Sir Charles Bunbury. (Had Lord Derby lost, the race would have become known as the Bunbury.)

The Oaks and the Derby were a great success and soon achieved classic status along with the St Leger at Doncaster, the earliest to be

established in 1776, and the 1,000 Guineas and 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket, established in 1814 and 1809 respectively. The Derby family has maintained its connection with the Derby and the Classics down the years, and in 2004 the 19th Lord Derby won the Oaks with Ouija Board, who was to become one of the best and best-loved mares ever to race.

Around Epsom

EWELL

2 miles N of Epsom on the A240

Bourne Hall Museum

It comes as something of a surprise to find shades of Xanadu in this leafy town lying just north of Epsom. Nonsuch Park is a reminder of a grand plan that Henry VIII had to build the finest palace in Christendom. The magnificent Nonsuch Palace was almost finished at Henry's death. Unfortunately, it was demolished in 1682 and all that remains is the fine park, which surrounded it, noble in stature and perspective, but singularly lacking



Bourne Hall Museum, Ewell

its intended focal point.

A few other historical attractions make Ewell worth visiting. There is an ancient spring, which was discovered in the 17th century. The 18th-century Watch House, on Church Street, was once the village lock-up. It is shaped like a small cube, with two narrow doorways under an arch. Its mean and spartan appearance alone must have deterred would-be felons.

Ewell Castle, now a school, is not a medieval fortification. It was completed in 1814 in what was known as the Gothic style. Crenellated and stuccoed, it gives the appearance of a real castle, but the effect is somewhat lessened by its location so close to the road. In addition, **Bourne Hall Museum** is well worth a visit. Overshadowed by the trees of a Victorian park, the museum is housed in a striking circular building that was considered revolutionary when it was built in the 1960s. The open-plan galleries have displays drawing on a collection of more than 5,000 items acquired over the years through the generosity of local people.

BANSTEAD*3 miles E of Epsom on the A217*

 All Saints Church

Banstead is one of the many small towns of Surrey that alert travellers from London that they are entering the real countryside. With the expansion of the southeast, particularly since World War II, new suburbs have emerged, and even towns that were themselves once suburbs have now created their own ring of smaller satellites.


Banstead is one of the exceptions to this creeping urbanisation, and the Green Belt Act of 1938 has helped it retain much of its original country feel. It stands at the edge of the rolling green Downs that provide ideal riding country. The high street has its fair share of nationally known outlets, but there is still a sense of local flavour and pride in its locally-run firms.


All Saints Church is a small flint and stone parish church, which was built in the late 12th century and early 13th century. It has a squat appearance, with a low, broad tower and a shingled spire. Like many Surrey churches it was renovated in the 19th century. In this case, the Victorian intervention was restrained, and




Chipstead Church

COULSDON*7 miles E of Epsom on the A23*

 St John the Evangelist Church

 Farthing Down

 Downlands Circular Walk

Coulsdon is a pretty village that has managed to keep recent housing developments - notably Coulsdon Woods - discreetly removed from the traditional centre. There are pretty cottages in the heart of the village and some of the

the church now looks much as it must have done in the late Middle Ages. Just north of the church is a circular well. With its large roof, it formed something of a focal point in medieval times.

The Downs near Banstead are ideal for rambling. Traces of late Stone Age huts were found here, and the Galley Hills are formed by four bowl barrows from the same period.

CHIPSTEAD*7 miles E of Epsom on the A23*

A mixture of architectural styles give Chipstead an unusual appearance, as it constitutes a mixture of Victorian model village combined with a few older houses and a good measure of suburban development. Some handsome cottages border a crossroads and there is a pretty ornamental pond in the centre. For a taste of real Victoriana though, it is worth making a short detour about half a mile south to view Shabden, a mansion built in the French Renaissance style but with a large timber porch added. The overall effect is a jarring mixture of styles that contrives to make an unattractive house out of potentially attractive ideas.

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more substantial farmhouses nearby can be traced to the 15th century. **St John the Evangelist Church**, on the corner of the village green, was built in the late 13th century. The tower and spire were built more than 200 years later, but the interior has some well-preserved elements from the original church. Most notable of these is the sedilla, with its circular piers and pointed arches. A sedilla was a seat for (usually three) priests and always located on the south side of the chancel.

The countryside around Coulsdon has more than its share of history. Traces of a 2nd century AD Romano-British settlement have been found on the ridge along **Farthing Down**, and 14 barrows on the ridge are the evidence of a 6th-century Saxon burial ground. A number of iron knives, swords and other weapons have been dug up from the site. Coulsdon Common, on the way to Caterham, is a tranquil and largely undeveloped spot. Since Saxon times it has been common land given over to grazing, its soil deemed too poor for cultivation.

The **Downlands Circular Walk** conveniently begins and ends at The Fox, an attractive pub facing Coulsdon Common.

CHALDON*8 miles E of Epsom off the A23*



It is well worth making the detour to Chaldon, two-and-a-half miles to the west of Caterham, to have a look at the 11th-century church of St Peter and St Paul, which stands within striking distance of the old Pilgrim's Way. An unassuming flint-built structure with little to



Chaldon Church

commend it (other than, perhaps, its south tower and shingled spire), the interior contains one of the most outstanding medieval wall paintings still in existence in Britain. Executed in creamy white on a deep red-ochre background, the mural covers the entire west wall of the church. It is believed to have been painted around 1200, but was covered over during the Reformation and remained undiscovered until 1870. The Chaldon Doom, as it has become known, depicts gory scenes from the Last Judgement; a 'Ladder of Salvation' can be seen reaching up to the Kingdom of Heaven from purgatory, a place where horrific punishments are meted out by fork-wielding devils to those guilty of having committed the Seven Deadly Sins. Realistic looking cauldrons, manned by infernal kitchen staff, await the wicked.

CATERHAM*8 miles E of Epsom on the B2031*

 East Surrey Museum  Tupwood Viewpoint

The route into Caterham town centre from the south passes close to Foster Down, a section of the North Downs Way, which incorporates the impressive **Tupwood**

East Surrey Museum

1 Stafford Road, Caterham, Tandridge, Surrey CR3 6JG

Tel: 01883 340 275

e-mail: es@emuseum.freemove.co.uk

website: www.eastsurreymuseum.org

The East Surrey Museum is a museum at the heart of the Tandridge community with an exciting display of archaeology, social history and geology as well as an ongoing programme of fun events and temporary exhibitions. There is a Junior room with lots of games and educational activities for young children. Open Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10am - 5pm and Sundays from 2pm - 5pm or other times for group bookings and school groups.



Viewpoint; good views can also be enjoyed from the nearby 778 foot Gravelly Hill.

Caterham itself is a modern and prosperous residential town, which at first glance seems to have little to offer the casual visitor. On the other hand, the town is something of a time capsule. Until 1856 Caterham was a remote Downs village. The arrival of the railway in that year changed everything and the town developed around it and the barracks, which were built in the 1870s. The railway was never extended, so Caterham is a terminus rather than a through station. As such, the 19th-century town plan remains unchanged. Near Caterham Railway Station is the **East Surrey Museum** (see panel above) in Stafford Road, which offers an interesting insight into the natural history and archaeology of the surrounding area, as well as a collection of objects that recall the area's rural past.

WARLINGHAM

8 miles E of Epsom on the B269

Successful enforcement of Green Belt policy since World War II has helped Warlingham retain much of its green and leafy look, and it is hard to imagine that it lies just a few miles south of bustling Croydon and its built-up

suburbs. Warlingham's real fame stems from its church, All Saints, or more specifically two historic events that took place in it. The new English prayer book, authorised by Edward VI, was first used in the parish church. Its compiler, Archbishop Cranmer, attended the service. Four centuries later Warlingham parish church was chosen to host Britain's first televised church service. The church itself was restored and enlarged in Victorian times, but dates from the 13th century. It still contains many old elements, including a 15th-century wall painting of Saint Christopher and a 15th-century octagonal font.

Modern housing has replaced most of the traditional cottages in the heart of Warlingham but there are a few survivors from past centuries. The Atwood Almshouses, a two-storey cottage flanked by single-storey cottages, were built in 1663. The vicarage nearby was built in the same year.

TATSFIELD

10 miles E of Epsom off the B269

Tatsfield, high up on the Downs, is something of a curiosity as well as testament to the enduring power of hyperbole in advertising. In the 1920s a group of small, unassuming

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North Surrey

The Thames winds through Surrey to the north of Weybridge and many of the present-day villages and towns developed as riverside trading centres in the medieval period or earlier. Romans marched through this part of Surrey during their conquest of Britain, possibly following the trail of the Celts who were already ensconced there. Saxons left their mark later, bequeathing a number of place names, which duly entered the Domesday Book in the 11th century. The most impressive of all buildings along this - and perhaps any - stretch of the Thames is Hampton Court. Here, Henry VIII, England's larger than life monarch acquired and substantially expanded Cardinal Wolsey's palace until it was fit to match his own personality.

The human mark is much in evidence on this landscape, and for every area of suburban sprawl there seems to be a corresponding architectural gem. It might be a sensitively preserved church, as in Thorpe, or even an unlikely high street survivor such as the Salvation Army Youth Centre in Sunbury-on-Thames, the newest incarnation of an impressive mansion.

Just as the Thames led to the development of medieval and earlier villages, so too did the arrival of the railway in the mid 19th century. New villages sprang up, while others expanded out of all recognition. The 20th-century's contribution to the regional transport theme is the M25, which provides the western and southern border for the area covered in this section.

Relatively compact, yet full of interesting detail and constant surprises, this north-central section of the county is a microcosm of Surrey itself.

cottages sprang up in the wooded landscape just north of the old village green. The verdant setting, combined with the hilly location, led to a promotional campaign urging prospective house buyers to "Come to London Alps".

South of the green is St Mary's, the parish church, which dates from about 1300. It stands on its own, commanding panoramic views south over the Weald.

WALTON ON THE HILL

5 miles S of Epsom off the A217

The Hill referred to in the name of this village is one of the many rolling hills that comprise the North Downs. Travellers heading south from London have a real sense of space by the time they reach Walton, and the upland farms strengthen this impression. Buildings - both residential and commercial - have the harmonious redbrick look so typical of this part of Surrey. They were built mainly in the Victorian era, but some of the earlier buildings were constructed from flint, hanging tiles and weather-boarding.

Walton Manor, built in the 1980's, is a good example of the tile-hung style and it was built in the 1890s. Its appearance shows the influence of the decorative Arts and Crafts movement, typified by architects such as Norman Shaw. Embedded in one end, however, are the walls of a stone-built manor house of the 14th-century; a two storey hall and chapel protrude from the east of the house.

The view south from the centre takes in the extent of the Downs, with the North Downs Way - the traditional Pilgrim's Way to Canterbury - running along the ridge on the other side of the broad valley. In the foreground are the rolling grounds of the championship golf course.

Weybridge

 Elmbridge Museum  Brooklands Museum

Although in many people's minds the epitome of a comfortable and modern commuter belt settlement, Weybridge is a surprisingly long-established settlement. The town takes its name from the bridge over the River Wey on the highway to Chertsey, and there is evidence of such a bridge existing as early as 1235. Tradition also links Weybridge with Julius Caesar, and many historians believe he crossed the Thames near here in 55BC.

The town once possessed a palace, Oatlands Park, in which Henry VIII married his fifth wife, Catherine Howard, in 1540; 110 years later, the building was demolished

and the stone used in the construction of the Wey Navigation. Weybridge stands at the northern end of this historic inland waterway, which was one of the first examples of its kind when it was completed in 1670. It extends for almost 20 miles southwards to Godalming and incorporates large sections of the main river.

The middle of the 17th century, during the interregnum, also saw a remarkable development in Weybridge. The Diggers, a radical left-wing group, attempted to build a commune on St George's Hill, although they were thwarted by angry commoners.

Elmbridge Museum, situated in the library in Church Street, is an excellent source of information about the history - and prehistory

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houses a collection of Brooklands-built aircraft including a World War II Vickers Wellington, salvaged from Loch Ness and carefully restored.

Around Weybridge

WALTON-ON-THAMES

2 miles NE of Weybridge on the A244

 Church of St Mary

Standing almost directly opposite Shepperton on the other side of the Thames is Walton-on-Thames. This unassuming London suburb has a surprisingly long and varied pedigree. As with many of the riverside communities along this stretch of the river, Walton has a claim to be the site where Julius Caesar forded the Thames during his second invasion of Britain. Hard archaeological evidence for this claim is scant, but there is ample proof that there was a settlement here during the Saxon period. Walton appears as Waletona in the Domesday Book when the town was recorded as having a church, a fishery and two mills.

In 1516 Henry VIII granted the residents two fairs a year, and they continued until 1878. Walton's relations with Henry were ambivalent. However, in 1538, Walton along with surrounding communities, became incorporated with Henry VIII's Chase of Hampton Court, into what amounted to a private royal hunting preserve. Walton was outside the perimeter fence, but it was forced to comply with forest law, which had a detrimental effect on cultivation. Luckily for the residents of Walton, this arrangement was discontinued when Henry died.

Until 1750 the Thames could only be crossed by ferry or ford, but in that year the first bridge was built. This original structure, a

- of Weybridge. A wide range of exhibits takes in archaeological artefacts, old maps, photographs and paintings of the district. The costume collection is particularly interesting, as it consists of clothes worn by local residents from the late 18th century to the present day.

In 1907, the world's first purpose-built motor racing track was constructed on the Brooklands estate near Weybridge, and in the years that followed, this legendary banked circuit hosted competitions between some of the most formidable racing cars ever made. A frequent visitor in the 1920s was Count Zborowski, racing a series of cars he designed; they were all called Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. The first British Grand Prix took place here in 1926, when the fastest lap was achieved by Sir Henry Seagrave in a Talbot. The Campbell Circuit was designed by record-breaking driver Malcolm Campbell in the 1930s. With the outbreak of World War II, the site was given over to the production of aircraft, including Hurricane fighters and Wellington bombers; racing came to an end, the track fell into disrepair and Brooklands never again regained its once pre-eminent position in British motor racing.

In recent years, the circuit has undergone something of a revival with the opening of the **Brooklands Museum**, a fascinating establishment centred on the old Edwardian clubhouse, now restored to its pre-war elegance. There is a collection of the famous cars that raced here, and archive film and memorabilia of the circuit's heyday. Bicycles also raced on this circuit and a display of Raleigh bicycles and accessories charts the company's story from its inception in 1886 to the present day. The Wellington Hangar, built across the finishing straight of the track,

CROCKFORD BRIDGE FARM SHOPgrowing more everyday

New Haw Road, Addlestone, nr Weybridge, Surrey KT15 2BU

Tel: 01932 852630

e-mail: info@crockfordbridgefarm.co.uk website: www.crockfordbridgefarm.co.uk

Home-grown and local produce brings customers from all over the area to **Crockford Bridge Farm Shop**, which is situated on the A318 between Addlestone and Byfleet. Over 20 seasonal home-grown crops can be bought in the shop or picked in the fields, from rhubarb and asparagus in late spring to summer soft fruits and vegetables, squashes and pumpkins in the autumn - and customers can even dig their own Christmas trees! Owner Caroline Smith sources many of the top local suppliers of specialist country produce for lovers of 'Real food'. This includes home baked cakes, savoury pies, farmhouse cheeses & deli, pickles and preserves and their own Crockford Bridge honey. A glass fronted working hive is a point of great interest in the shop.

Local Butcher, Maurice Jones & Son, has joined the farm shop and runs an outstanding fresh meat counter selling a large variety of fresh meat, poultry and BBQ specialities. The peak season brings a local fishmonger to the site, selling beautiful fresh fish as well as the famous ice cream parlour 'Gelateria Danielli' who uses Crockford's fruit for his sublime ice cream. There are plants galore at the Garden Centre next door with a Restaurant and Coffee Shop.

This is a growing business - new ideas are continuously sprouting so keep checking their website for more news!



wooden toll bridge built by Samuel Dicker, was replaced by several other bridges until the present iron one was built in 1864.

The part Norman **Church of St Mary** stands on the highest point of the town. It contains a remarkable memorial to Richard Boyle, the Viscount Shannon, which was sculpted by Louis Roubiliac in the mid 18th century.

In Manor Road is the handsome and imposing Manor House of Walton Leigh, a timber-framed brick building that dates from the medieval period. Old records indicate that John Bradshaw, President of the Court that sentenced Charles I to death, lodged here.

EAST & WEST MOLESEY

3 miles NE of Weybridge on the B369

Molesey Hurst

Molesey can trace its history to the 7th century, when grants of land were made to Chertsey Abbey. Among the abbey's estates was 'Muleseg', which meant Mul's field or meadow. The identity of Mul is lost in the mists of time, but his name is commemorated in two riverside communities.

The prefixes east and west, relating to Molesey, were not used until the beginning of the 13th century. In the *Domesday Book* Molesey was recorded as comprising three manors tenanted by knights who had arrived with William the Conqueror. East Molesey was originally part of the parish of Kingston-upon-Thames, but its growing independence led to its separation from Kingston under a Special Act in 1769.

East Molesey's location just opposite Hampton Court Palace provided a valuable source of income for residents, and ferries did good business until the first bridge spanned the Thames here in 1753. The Bell

Inn, one of the loveliest inns in Surrey, dates from the 16th century, right at the beginning of Molesey's links with Hampton Court. Matham Manor, about four centuries old, is another link with the past. The Old Manor House, although handsome and impressive, is something of a misnomer. It originally served as the parish workhouse and was never a manor.

West Molesey is a continuation of East Molesey. It is much larger than its parent, but it occupies an even prettier stretch of the Thames. The parish church stands on a site where there has been a church since the 12th century. The present church is largely a legacy of the Victorian era, although the 15th-century tower remains. Inside are some other artefacts from the medieval era, including the piscina. This is a small basin in a wall niche by the altar and was used for cleaning sacramental vessels.

Molesey Hurst, a low, open stretch of land, lies along the Thames in the north of the parish. The land was once used for sporting activities such as archery, cricket, golf and even illicit duelling. It can also claim a cricketing first. It was here, in 1795, that a player was first given out leg-before-wicket.

HAMPTON COURT

4 miles NE of Weybridge on the A309

Palace

Hampton Court Palace occupies a stretch of the Thames some 13 miles southwest of London. In 1514, Thomas Wolsey, the Archbishop of York, took a 99-year-lease on the buildings at Hampton Court. Wolsey created a magnificent residence with new kitchens, courtyards, lodgings, galleries and gardens. Until 1528 he maintained Hampton Court as his home as well as for affairs of

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Bushy Park, nr Hampton Court

state. However, by then, Wolsey had fallen from favour with Henry VIII and found himself forced to appease the monarch by giving him his house. Henry comprehensively rebuilt and extended the palace over the following 10 years to accommodate his wives, children and court attendants. Although much of Henry VIII's building work has been demolished over time, the Great Hall and the Chapel Royal survive, the latter still in use as a place of worship. The Great Hall, which Henry had completed in 1534, having forced the builders to work night and day, has mounted stag heads and fine tapestries lining the walls beneath the intricate hammerbeam roof. It was the scene of theatrical productions during the reigns of Elizabeth I and James I, and among the performing troupes was that of William Shakespeare. Also intact are the enormous Tudor Kitchens, with the huge fireplaces and assortment of ancient cooking utensils that would have been used in the 16th century to prepare a feast fit for a king. During the 17th century, the Stuart kings lived here both as monarchs and prisoners. James I enjoyed the hunting in the park, while

terracotta roundels with the images of Roman emperors, which date from Wolsey's time. Anne Boleyn's gateway, opposite Base Court, is carved with the initials H and A, for Henry and Anne. The many courtyards and cloisters cover six acres in a mixture of Tudor and Baroque styles, with fascinating curiosities such as Henry VIII's Astronomical Clock.

William III and Mary II made the first major alterations to the palace since Tudor times. They commissioned Sir Christopher Wren to rebuild the king's and queen's apartments on the south and east sides of the palace, although the queen's apartments were left unfinished at the queen's death. King William's apartments remain one of the most magnificent examples of Baroque state apartments in the world. Almost destroyed in a terrible fire in 1986, there followed an ambitious restoration project to return them to the way they were when completed for William in 1700. They can now be seen in their original glory, still furnished with the fine furniture and tapestries of the day. An exhibition under the colonnade in Clock Court near the entrance to the King's Apartments

details the history of the state rooms including the restoration.

The grand Queen's Staircase leads to the Queen's Guard Chamber. The Queen's state rooms run along the east wing of Fountain Court and include the Queen's Drawing Room and the Queen's Bedroom. The Queen's Gallery contains ornate marble fireplaces with mantelpieces decorated with images of doves and Venus. Gobelin tapestries, on the theme of Alexander the Great, hang from the walls. Life-sized marble guardsmen flank the main chimneypiece. Hampton Court Palace contains a large part of the Royal Collection of art works, including many 16th, 17th and early 18th-century pieces.

There are over 60 acres of gardens to explore at the palace including the Great Vine and the newly restored Privy Garden. Shrubberies that were allowed to grow in the Privy Garden in the 19th century have been removed to reveal the ancient formal beds and pathways. An exhibition on the East

Front tells the story of the gardens and explains the restoration of the Privy Garden, opened in 1995. From the Privy Garden you can visit William III's magnificent Banqueting House and the Lower Orangery where Andrea Mantegna's Triumphs of Caesar are displayed. The Broad Walk runs from the Thames for half a mile past the east front and is lined with herbaceous borders. Just off the walk to the left and inside is the Tudor Tennis Court, a Real Tennis court built for Henry VIII, who was a keen player. To the north of the Palace is the famous Maze, planted in 1714 within William III's 'Wilderness' of evergreen trees. The Maze is extremely popular and can be surprisingly difficult to negotiate. Further along the Thames Path stands Garrick's Temple. Commissioned by the actor David Garrick to house a statue of Shakespeare, it now contains a replica of the statue and an exhibition celebrating Garrick's career and life in Hampton.



Hampton Court

historic building museum and heritage historic site scenic attraction flora and fauna

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THAMES DITTON

4 miles E of Weybridge on the A309

St Nicholas' Church

Thames Ditton is one of the two Dittons that lie along the Thames south of Hampton Court. The name probably derives from the 'dictun', or farm by the dyke, and there were already a Saxon church and five manors in the area at the time of the Domesday Book. The heart of Thames Ditton dates mainly from the 19th century, but the harmonious blend of redbrick and occasional black-timbered buildings along the High Street helps put visitors in mind of the town's earlier history.

A flower-decked path leads to **St Nicholas' Church**, which was first mentioned in the 12th century - roughly the time when Ditton was divided into two parishes. The building is of flint and stone and the interior contains a font decorated with mysterious motifs that still puzzle historians.

Thames Ditton benefited from its proximity to Hampton Court Palace and the church contains the grave of Cuthbert Blakeney, "Serjeant of the confectionary to King Henry the Eighth".

LONG DITTON

5 miles E of Weybridge on the A309

There is a peculiar lack of logic in the naming of the two Dittons; Thames Ditton is actually longer than Long Ditton, but this more easterly village has a longer history than its neighbour. St Mary's Church, in the heart of Long Ditton, is a relative newcomer, having been built in 1880, but it stands close to the site of a Saxon church built long before the Dittons separated into two parishes.

Long Ditton is a scattered parish, with only a few vestiges left of its extensive history. Much of that history, however, can be gleaned

from a close look inside St Mary's. The interior of the church features monuments to the Evelyn family, who put Long Ditton on the map in the 16th and 17th centuries. George Evelyn, grandfather of the famous diarist John Evelyn, acquired the local manor in the late 16th century and set about establishing gunpowder mills in the area. Business for gunpowder was booming, so to speak, in this turbulent period and the Evelyns amassed a huge fortune, eventually spreading their business further afield within Surrey.

OATLANDS

1 mile E of Weybridge on the B374

'The land where oats were grown' gave its name to the Tudor palace in Oatlands Park. This was already an established residence when Henry VIII forced its owner to cede him the title in 1538. Henry was in a rush to build a palace for his new queen, Anne of Cleves, although Anne never lived at Oatlands. However, the palace did become the home of subsequent monarchs, including Elizabeth I, James I and Charles I. In fact, it was Charles who is said to have planted the proud cedar tree that stands beside the drive of what is now the Oatlands Park Hotel; he was celebrating the birth of his son, Prince Henry of Oatlands.

HERSHAM

2 miles E of Weybridge on the A307

Anglo-Saxons were the likeliest first settlers of Hershams, although prehistoric flint tools have been found on what is now Southwood Farm. In the 12th century, the village was spelt Haverichesham and probably pronounced 'Haverick's Ham'. Two major events have shaped Hershams's history. The first occurred in 1529 after Henry VIII acquired Hampton Court from Cardinal Wolsey. Henry decided that his new estate lacked one of its necessities -

stories and anecdotes famous people art and craft entertainment and sport walks

THE DINING ROOM

10 Queens Road, The Village Green,
Hersham, Surrey KT12 5LS

Tel: 01932 231686

website: www.thediningroom.co.uk

Anyone who thinks that great British cooking is a thing of the past has clearly never experienced the delights of a visit to **The Dining Room**. This wonderful restaurant is a

conversion of two Victorian village shops, and the five interconnecting parlour-like rooms are decorated in warm, highly individual style, with Indian silk colours, candles, chandeliers, fireplaces, shelves filled with old books, cabinets filled with country artefacts and bistro-style cutlery and crockery on scrubbed wooden tables. There are seats for 50 in the delightful patio garden. In this buzzy, relaxed atmosphere the menu is a tribute to the very best of British cuisine, with old favourites such as cheese pot, steak & kidney pudding, lamb & mint pie, smoked haddock with a mustardy cheese rarebit, spotted dick & custard, marmalade pudding and gooey toffee crumble. Other dishes have a more contemporary ring, including cod in a bag with pea pesto, goat's cheese tartlet with red onion marmalade and caper & polenta scone topped with Scottish smoked salmon. The superb food is complemented by an excellent wine list. The Dining Room is located by the village green at Hersham, a short drive from the A3. It is open for lunch and dinner Monday to Friday, dinner Saturday and lunch Sunday.



a deer park - so he set about buying adjacent land and encircling the area with a perimeter fence. Other villages, including Weybridge and Esher, were on the edge of the park and escaped being enclosed, but Hersham was not so lucky. Not surprisingly, Hersham had a well-developed anti-royalist streak by the time of the Civil War, and one of Cromwell's prominent aides, Captain John Inwood, lived there.

Politics and warfare apart, Hersham continued largely untouched by the outside world until the 19th century. Until 1804, when it was enclosed by Act of Parliament, much of the land around Hersham Green was open heathland. The arrival of the railway in 1838 - the second major event to shape Hersham - led to a huge rise in its population. Development accompanied this boom and much of Hersham's original appearance was altered completely. Local residents, however,

would not let the process rip the heart out of their village and Hersham Green was actually enlarged in 1878. Despite extensive redevelopment of the centre in 1985, the charm of the village has been maintained in many of the older buildings around the village green. The village green is still used for a variety of local functions, including a popular Summer Fayre with traditional entertainment.

CLAYGATE

4 miles E of Weybridge off the A3

Standing on a rich geological seam where dense London clay meets Bagshot sand, Claygate is well named. For many years this rich earth provided a living for many local men, who would have to bear the brunt of jibes from neighbouring villagers about working in the Claygate 'treacle mines'. Taunts notwithstanding, Claygate did supply the raw

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material for countless bricks and fireplaces.

Claygate can trace its origins to the Saxon times when it was a manor within the parish of Thames Ditton. In the early Medieval period the estate passed into the ownership of Westminster Abbey, which retained possession until Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries. Henry simply added it to his estates in Hampton Court.

Constrained for centuries by monastic, then royal control, Claygate remained largely unchanged as a tiny community until the 19th century. In 1838, however, Claygate Common was enclosed, enabling residents to

enlarge the village considerably. One of the first orders of business was to erect their own church, Holy Trinity, to save the two-mile walk to Thames Ditton.

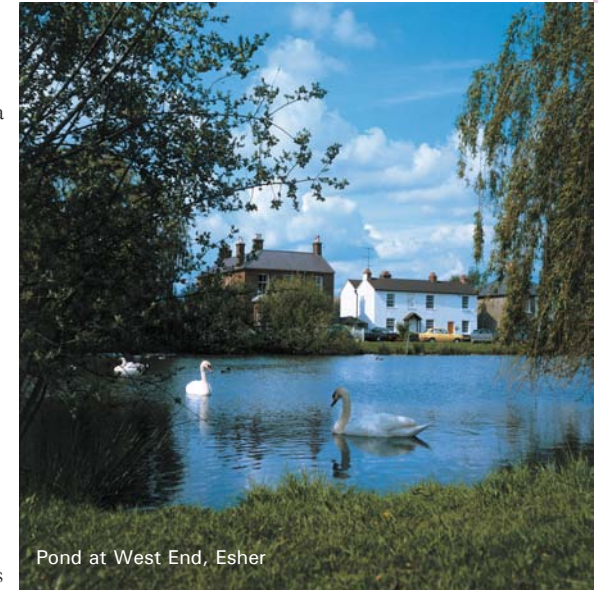
Ruxley Towers is an interesting building that dates from around the same period. It has a Gothic tower, built in 1830, which is decorated with a frightening display of gargoyles.

ESHER

4 miles E of Weybridge off the A3

- Claremont House Sandown Park
- Claremont Landscape Garden

Esher's recorded history goes back to Anglo-Saxon times. During the reign of Henry VIII, Hampton Court dominated all the surrounding manors including Esher. The railway arrived in Esher during the 19th century, after which it quickly became a popular residential area for wealthy city businessmen.



Pond at West End, Esher

Esher is the home of **Sandown Park**, where high-class horse racing is staged all year round. Created in 1875 by Sir Wilfred Brett, it soon attracted all the great and good of the racing world including the royal family. This part of Surrey nearest to London is well supplied with racecourses, with, in addition to Sandown, Kempton Park near Sunbury and Epsom.

Near here, and well worth a visit, is the beautiful National Trust-owned **Claremont Landscape Garden**, which lies on the southern side of the A307 Portsmouth road within a mile of the town centre. Begun in 1715, it is believed to be one of the earliest surviving examples of an English landscape garden. Later in the century, it was remodelled by William Kent, whose work was continued by Capability Brown. Over the years, some of the greatest names in garden history, including Sir John Vanbrugh and

Charles Bridgeman, were involved in its creation. The grounds were designed to include a number of striking vistas and contain a grassed amphitheatre, grotto, lake and an island with a pavilion. Nearby **Claremont House** was designed in the 1700s by Vanbrugh and substantially remodelled in 1772 for Clive of India. Capability Brown, Henry Holland and John Soane all had a hand in this work, which Clive had little opportunity to enjoy, as he died by his own hand in 1774. In 1816 the house was acquired for the Prince Regent's daughter and her husband, the future King of the Belgians. Queen Victoria was a regular visitor, and worshipped at St George's Church on the estate. The part 16th-century church has an unusual three-tier pulpit, a very grand pew designed by Vanbrugh for the Duke of Newcastle, and a marble monument to Princess Charlotte of Wales. The Princess was George IV's heir and would have succeeded him had she not died in childbirth at the house in 1817.

COBHAM

4 miles SE of Weybridge off the A3

 Painshill Park  Bus Museum

Cobham, now a busy residential town, with densely settled residential streets, is found in the *Domesday Book* as 'Coveham'. However, it does possess some fine period buildings, which dominate a bend of the River Mole on the southeastern side of the town. An impressive 19th-century water mill stands on the site of earlier mills dating back to the Middle Ages. The redbrick building has now been restored to full working order. Cobham is also home to the **Cobham Bus Museum**, which houses the largest collection of London buses in the world. Cedar House, built in the

mid 18th century, is a solid and well-proportioned brick building, which actually changes height halfway along its front. To the rear is a medieval section, which includes a large tracery window. About a mile north of Cobham is Foxwarren Park, a bizarre house with eerie gables and multi-coloured bricks. It was built in 1860, and contemporary Victorian architects were known to introduce a bit of macabre humour into some of their designs. In this case it is hard to decide whether the intended effect was self-mocking or whether the gloomy appearance conformed to the owner's tastes.

One mile west of Cobham is **Painshill Park** (see panel on page 330), a white 18th-century house in a fine setting on a hill. The house is impressive, but Painshill is more noted for its grounds, which were laid out by the Hon Charles Hamilton, son of the Earl of Abercorn, in the 1740s. These grounds were a talking point in the mid 18th century and were praised by luminaries such as Horace Walpole. Hamilton had let his imagination conjure up a series of landscapes and ornaments that created a profoundly Romantic atmosphere. An ornamental lake lay in front of a Gothic brick abbey, while on an island in the lake were various tufa sculptures and perpendicular cliffs leading down to the water. Hamilton even built a hermitage, and then went one stage further by installing a hermit in it. The mounting catalogue of expenses took its toll on Hamilton, however, and he eventually went bankrupt. Although many of the features in the grounds are gone, it remains an amazing spectacle. The walk around the lake, takes in a Gothic temple, Chinese bridge, a ruined abbey, a Turkish tent, and a waterwheel. The planting at Painshill makes it a gardener's

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Painshill Park

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This once barren heathland was transformed by the celebrated plantsman and designer, the Hon Charles Hamilton, into one of Europe's finest 18th-century landscape gardens. Hamilton conjured up a mysterious and magical place in which to wander the equivalent of a 20th-century theme park where fashionable society could wander through a landscape theatre. Staged around a huge serpentine lake there are surprises at every turn - a Gothic Temple, Chinese Bridge, Ruined Abbey, a Grotto, Turkish Tent, Gothic Tower and a magnificent waterwheel.

When Hamilton eventually ran out of money, he discharged his debts by selling the estate in 1773. It then had a succession of owners and was eventually sold off in lots in 1948. By 1981 the gardens were derelict and overgrown, but Elmbridge Borough Council, conscious of the importance of Painshill, purchased 158 acres with a view to restoring them and opening them to the public. The subsequent ongoing restoration has been a great success and most of the principal features of the garden are open for viewing. The restoration has been a slow process requiring lots of detailed and painstaking research, including archaeological excavation, documentary research and the identification and dating of trees, tree stumps and historic paths. From this, detailed plans are created to show what the estate would have looked like in the 18th century and all the later stages to the present day.

Now the historic circuit is a signposted two-mile long route that an 18th-century visitor would have followed to view all the attractions of the garden. A shorter path round the lake passes delights such as the ruined abbey, boat house and crosses the Chinese bridge. The new visitor centre restaurant is named Hamilton's after the man who made it all possible. The shop is a cornucopia for present and souvenir buyers containing everything from trugs and dibbers to umbrellas, food, china, books, honey and beeswax candles and Painshill wine.



delight as it changes with the seasons. The landscape is enhanced by cedars and original 18th-century plantings, including tiers of shrubs, flowerbeds and a vineyard.

OXSHOTT

4 miles SE of Weybridge off the A3

Oxshott Woods

Taking its name from the Old English for Occa's Wood, Oxshott's history as a settlement stretches back thousands of years. A flint found on Oxshott Heath is believed to date back to 8000BC, making it the oldest tool ever discovered in the area. Another fascinating find in **Oxshott Woods**, now displayed in the British Museum, is an intricately carved Anglo-Saxon bronze brooch of the early 10th century. Oxshott remained a small hamlet set in woods and heather until the 1880s, when the completion of the Surbiton to Guildford Railway ushered in an era of growth and development. Some stretches of woodland have withstood the tide of new roads and houses, notably Oxshott Heath and Princes Coverts, which is a woodland owned by the Crown Estate. In the middle of Princes Coverts is a square redbrick building that was erected in the 18th century over a medicinal spring known as Jessop's Well. The mineral content of the spring water was said to compare with that of Cheltenham, but despite the Royal connection and the salubrious waters, Oxshott somehow never achieved true spa status.

Perhaps Oxshott was considered a bit too dissipated, because for many years it was mildly notorious for having two public houses but no church. This imbalance between sacred and profane was partly offset in 1912, when St Andrew's Church was erected.

STOKE D'ABERNON

5 miles SE of Weybridge off the A3

St Mary's Church Slyfield Manor

Like Cobham, the northern part of Stoke d'Abernon is undistinguished; however, the older southern part, which reaches down to the River Mole, contains a fine mid 18th-century part-Palladian, part-baroque manor house, and an exceptional parish church that is believed to be among the oldest in the country.

The south wall of **St Mary's Church** is believed to date back to the days of St Augustine in the 7th century, and indeed it has been found to contain brickwork and cornices belonging to a Roman structure, which once stood on the site. There are also traces of an early Saxon lord's gallery and one of the oldest monumental brasses in Britain, that of Sir John d'Abernon who was buried in 1277. The church, with its wonderful mixture of styles is part-medieval with the magnificent walnut pulpit dating back to the early 17th century.

About half a mile south of Stoke d'Abernon is **Slyfield Manor**, which was built in the 17th century but incorporated a late medieval timber-frame building. Garden walls, with original archways, blend with the painstaking brickwork of the house to create an effect that reminds many visitors of the work of Inigo Jones, particularly in Covent Garden.

WHITELEY VILLAGE

2 miles SE of Weybridge on the B365

A mile-and-a-half to the southwest of Weybridge, and close to the St George's Hill residential area much-favoured by famous media personalities, lies the remarkable Whiteley Village. This unique 230-acre model

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village was founded on the instructions of the proprietor of a famous Bayswater department store, William Whiteley, who was shot in 1907. He left one million pounds in his will to house the elderly poor. The charitable community was designed to be entirely self-contained with its own churches, hospital and shops, and was laid out in an octagonal pattern around a green containing a memorial to the project's benefactor. The buildings are Grade II listed and of great architectural interest. The site has been planted with a great many trees and flowering shrubs, and is at its best in late-spring and summer. It is a private estate and not open to the public.

CHERTSEY

3 miles NW of Weybridge on the A320

Museum

Chertsey is an ancient riverside town, which has altered almost beyond recognition over the centuries. The town once boasted a formidable abbey, whose influence stretched over a wide area of southern England. When it was demolished following the Dissolution of the Monasteries, its stone was used to build Hampton Court Palace and later, the River Wey Canal.

One of the abbey bells now hangs in the parish church, St Peter; at one time it was used to sound the evening curfew and is associated with a local romantic legend concerning Blanche Heriot, a young Chertsey woman who, on hearing that her lover was to be executed at the sound of the curfew bell, climbed into the tower and clung onto the tongue until his pardon arrived. This heroic action was commemorated in the ballad *The Curfew Must Not Ring Tonight* by the American poet Rose Hartwick Thorpe.

Chertsey Museum, housed in a fine

Regency building near the Thames, has a large collection of items of both local and national interest including a 10th-century Viking sword and a fascinating costume display exploring 300 years of high fashion. The museum closed for a time recently for a programme of renovation and extension but has now re-opened.

Despite the upheavals that Chertsey has undergone, it still manages to preserve some lovely woodland scenery, with a number of green fields and commons including Chertsey Mead. A well-proportioned, seven-arched bridge spans the River Thames in the centre of the town.

THORPE

6 miles NW of Weybridge off the M25

Many of the streets in Thorpe are walled, screening residential buildings and small parks, and planning authorities succeeded in preserving this feature - unique in Surrey - despite a postwar building boom. There are some ancient elements in St Mary Church, including a plain 12th-century chancel arch. An 18th-century monument to Elizabeth Townsend features a praying cherub designed by Sir Robert Taylor. Old brick cottages line Church Approach. Some of the larger buildings in Thorpe betray its farming background. Spelthorne St Mary, on Coldharbour Lane, is a solid 18th-century residence with a half-timbered barn dating from a century earlier. The Village Hall, to the east of Church Approach, was converted from a 17th-century brick barn.

SHEPPERTON

3 miles N of Weybridge on the B376

Over the centuries Shepperton has capitalised on its strategic riverside location, and today's thriving market town is testimony to the

entrepreneurial spirit of previous generations. It grew from its origins as a straggling collection of homesteads to become a bustling way station for west-bound traffic from London. This status was firmly established by the 15th century, and many of the lovely houses around the Church Square Conservation Area date from that period, or shortly afterwards.

This century brought a new wave of development, as the famous Shepperton Film Studios were built in the 1930s. Handy for London's Airport, first at Croydon then at Heathrow, Shepperton presented itself as an ideal site for a film venture. International stars were collected from their transatlantic flights or from their Mayfair flats. Moreover, Shepperton's position at the edge of the Green Belt meant that "rural" location shots could be managed just a few miles from the studios themselves. Recent films made here include *Shakespeare in Love* and *Hilary and Jackie*.

STAINES

6 miles N of Weybridge on the A30

 Museum  Great Thorpe Park

The ancient town of Staines stands at the point where the old Roman road from London to the southwest crossed the Rivers Thames and Colne, and in the 17th and 18th centuries, it became an important staging point on the old coaching routes to the West Country. When walking beside the Thames, look out for the London Stone that was erected in 1285 to mark the boundary of the



Staines Riverside

city's authority over the river. The old part of Staines contains some noteworthy buildings, including the part 17th-century church of St Mary and the town hall built in Flemish-style on the Market Place.

The **Spelthorne Museum**, located in the old fire station of Staines, tells the story of Staines and its extensive history. Archaeological excavations in the 1970s confirmed that Staines stood on the site of the Roman settlement of Pontes.

The museum contains Iron Age and Roman artefacts and archaeological evidence, as well as re-creations of life in Roman times, and provides a useful chronology for the successive riverside settlements on this site. There is a re-creation of a Victorian kitchen, a collection of brewing and bottling equipment and the Staines Linoleum display devoted to the company that first made linoleum.

The M25 to the south of Staines passes close to **Great Thorpe Park**, a 500-acre leisure park that has been built on an area of reclaimed gravel pits. The park incorporates a shire horse centre, a series of historic reconstructions of life in ancient Britain, and


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a permanent theme park containing some of the latest roller coaster rides and fairground attractions.

LALEHAM

5 miles N of Weybridge on the B376

 Riverside Park

Located only a few miles from bustling Staines, and only minutes north of the M3, Laleham sits on the banks of the Thames, with one of London's larger reservoirs backing onto it. A triangular green lies near the river, reached by Ferry Lane. It is a pretty village with many 18th and 19th-century houses. Facing the green is a pair of early 18th-century houses, Muncaster House and The Coverts.

Parts of All Saints Church at Laleham are 16th century, but it is said to stand on the site of a Roman temple. Laleham's best-known son is Matthew Arnold, who is buried in the churchyard. **Laleham Riverside Park** was formerly the grounds of Laleham Abbey, which belonged to the Lucan family. Water understandably plays a large part in activities here, with boat hire available just a few hundred yards west of the trim Victorian centre.

LITTLETON

5 miles N of Weybridge on the B376

Littleton has undergone a number of dramatic changes in the past four decades and today it is hard to find much of the original village lying south of the huge reservoir serving the capital. New houses, car parks and a school have replaced what had been a harmonious medieval ensemble of church, rectory, manor farm and manor house.

Luckily, of this group, the church remains intact. St Mary Magdalene is built of brick and dates back to the 13th century. The brick is a 16th-century addition, the original nave and

chancel had been made of ragstone and flint rubble. This modification constituted a decided visual improvement. The west tower was built at a later date; like the earlier modifications it is of brick, giving the church a cohesive appearance. Inside there are a number of curiosities, including a late medieval locker and a complete restored set of pews from that same period. The ornate choir stalls are said to have come from Winchester.

SUNBURY-ON-THAMES

3 miles N of Weybridge off the M3

With its high-rise office blocks and modern shopping precincts, today's Sunbury-on-Thames seems a far cry from its origins as a 10th-century 'burgh' built by the Saxon Lord Sunna. It developed as a medieval market town for a riverside district stretching from Chertsey all the way to Kingston, and these bastions of commerce have simply kept pace with the passing of time. The local inhabitants seem happy enough to have retained the town's trading essence, even if it does mean that many of Sunbury's period buildings have long since been replaced.

However, few of the town's period buildings remain, including the Salvation Army Youth Centre, which had been Sunbury Court, an 18th-century mansion with Ionic decoration. A yew tree in the churchyard of the 18th-century St Mary Church featured in *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens. Between Sunbury Court and the church are some handsome Georgian residences.

Northwest Surrey

The northwest corner of Surrey, lying to the west of the M25 and stretching westwards to the Berkshire and Hampshire borders and

given a southern limit by the A3, shows the county's countryside coming into its own. Rich farming areas give way to expanses of heath and dotted woodlands, once the haunt of highwaymen but now safe for rambles - as long as they steer clear of the well-marked military areas.

Woking is the principal town in this area, like many Surrey towns an established centre that was transformed by the arrival of the railway in the 19th century. The Victorian influence is strong throughout this part of Surrey, evident in many of the larger houses built by or under the auspices of Norman Shaw and other proponents of the Arts and Crafts style, which blossomed as a reaction against poor-quality, mass-produced building materials.

The more ornate style of Victorian architecture, which seemed to be the embodiment of a prosperous nation flexing its imperial muscle, is also represented in the two massive buildings funded by Thomas Holloway, Royal Holloway College and the Holloway Sanatorium, which are near Egham in the north. That same northern extremity contains the site of one of England's defining moments, the signing of the Magna Carta in 1215 at the riverside meadow of Runnymede.

Woking

Woking is a commuter town on the main railway line to Waterloo. In fact it was the railway that defined the present appearance - and location - of Woking. The original village was what is now called Old Woking, and when the railway arrived in 1838, the station was built two miles away in what was then open heathland. Most of the heart of Woking dates from the middle of the 19th

century, but among these Victorian-era buildings is an unexpected 'first'. The first purpose-built mosque to be founded in Britain - Shah Jehan Mosque - can be found in Woking's Oriental Street. The construction of this unusual onion-domed structure was largely financed by the ruler of the Indian state of Bhopal who visited the town in 1889. Woking was involved in another first, the beginnings of science fiction. H G Wells' Martians, in his 1898 novel *War of the Worlds*, landed on Horsell Common in Woking. The impressive Martian sculpture in the town centre was raised to commemorate the centenary of the book. Standing seven metres tall, the alien sculpture dominates its location. Even the paving around it is patterned to represent shock waves from the impact of the alien pod landing.

Old Woking is a former market town, which is now incorporated into the southeastern suburbs of its more modern neighbour. This is an old settlement, dating from the Saxon period and mentioned in the Domesday Book. Old Woking had the good fortune to be listed as a personal possession of the king and therefore it did not need to pay taxes. Its streets contain some noteworthy old buildings, including the 17th-century old Manor House, and the part Norman parish church of St Peter, which has a late-medieval west tower. On the western edge of Woking is the largest cemetery in the country. Brookwood Cemetery was opened in 1854 by the London Necropolis and National Mausoleum Company to relieve the overcrowded cemeteries of London. It was served by special funeral trains that ran from Waterloo Necropolis Station, next to the main Waterloo Station. The service soon built up to a train a day, each carrying up to 48 bodies (as well as

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grieving friends and relatives) on what the railway workers called the 'stiffs express'. This station was bombed in 1941 and was never rebuilt. Brookwood is a good place for spotting famous graves: among its many thousands of occupants are St Edward the Martyr; Margaret, Duchess of Argyle, the society beauty who was the subject of Cole Porter's song *You're the Top*; the bandleader Carroll Gibbons; the painter John Singer Sargent; the writers Rebecca West and Dennis Wheatley; Alfred Bestall, for 30 years the illustrator of the Rupert Bear stories; and the murderess Edith Thompson. (The body of Dodi Fayed was buried here briefly before being moved to the Fayed family estate.)



Newark Priory, Pyrford

south wall of the nave contains some unusual wall paintings of the Flagellation and Christ's Passion, which were painted around 1200. Research work carried out in the 1960s uncovered some even earlier murals beneath these paintings. The murals depict horsemen, as well as a mysterious procession of men carrying staves.

About half a mile along the B367, to the south of Pyrford, is **Newark Priory**, an evocative ruin set in fields along the banks of the Wey. The priory was a house of Austin Canons who founded it in the 12th century. Like other monastic settlements, it was a victim of the dissolution under Henry VIII. Unlike others, however, it was never converted into a private residence. Instead its walls were broken down for use in local buildings, although some of its features - including the east window - are said to have been taken to Ockham. Today, only the walls of the south transept and those of the presbytery still stand, and visitors must use their imagination to work out where in the surrounding corn fields there might once have been the remainder of the monastic buildings.

Around Woking

PYRFORD

1 mile E of Woking on the B382

Church of St Nicholas Newark Priory

Located roughly midway between Woking and Byfleet is Pyrford, which manages to retain many aspects of its village character despite being no more than a couple of miles from its larger neighbours. It is set in meadows along the River Wey, with most of its original redbrick cottages still forming a core near the church. This parish church, the largely Norman **Church of St Nicholas**, has been preserved over the centuries without being the victim of intrusive restoration work. The

WISLEY*3 miles E of Woking off the A3*

RHS Garden

The Royal Horticultural Society's internationally renowned **Wisley Garden** (see panel below) lies on the north side of the A3, one mile to the northwest of Ockham. As well as containing a wide variety of trees, flowering shrubs and ornamental plants, this magnificent 250-acre garden incorporates the Society's experimental beds where scientific trials are conducted into new and existing plant varieties. Wisley also acts as a centre for training horticultural students, and offers a

wide range of plants, books, gifts and gardening advice at its first-class plant centre and shop.

RIPLEY*2 miles E of Woking off the A3*

Just a mile or so to the southwest of Wisley is the attractive village of Ripley, a former staging post on the old coaching route between London and Portsmouth. The main street contains a number of exceptional brick and half-timbered buildings, including the charming Vintage Cottage with its unusual crown post roof.

RHS Garden Wisley*Woking, Surrey, GU23 6QB**Tel: 0845 260 9000**website: www.rhs.org.uk*

The Royal Horticultural Society's garden at **Wisley** has 240 acres of beautiful and practical garden ideas. A gardener's paradise, the richly planted borders, luscious rose gardens and exotic glasshouses are a joy to wander through. But the garden also provides a test bed for countless cultivation methods and in a series of model gardens various growing conditions are applied. When the RHS was given Wisley in 1903, only a small part of the estate was cultivated as a garden, the remainder being woods and farmland. George Ferguson Wilson designed the original garden in 1878 as the 'Oakwood experimental garden' to try to grow difficult plants. Over the years as the garden expanded it has still remained true to the original concept.

Recent developments include the Walled Garden (West) planted with tender perennials, shrubs and climbers. The rich selection of plants from around the world has been chosen for their foliage. Cascades of water, streams and pools, terracotta pots and wrought iron work set against mellow York paving add to the architectural planting. Wooden seating designed by Julian Chicester allows visitors to enjoy the sights and scents of this unusual garden. The Temperate Glass House has been recently re-organised with a section of dry bright conditions, a central section for temporary displays and the remaining part designed around a waterfall and pools with damp, shady conditions. A new feature for Wisley is a bonsai collection in a minimalist Japanese style garden. It is on the site of the former Garden for the Disabled and is easily accessible for wheelchairs.



Most of the attractive houses lie on the gracefully curving High Street. Unusually, the long and wedge-shaped village green lies beside the street on the west side. The village seems to have grown away from the green rather than around it as in most English villages.

SUTTON PLACE*2 miles SE of Woking off the A3*

Sutton Place

Sutton Place was the creation of Sir Richard Weston, a protégé of Henry VIII who was a Knight of the Bath, a Gentleman of the Privy Chamber and eventually Under-Treasurer of England. He had accompanied Henry to France for the famous meeting at the Field of the Cloth of Gold in 1520, so in every respect he had the right to expect to live in sumptuous surroundings that reflected his high standing.

The house he had built, after receiving the grant of the Sutton estate in 1521, is seen by many critics as one of the most important English houses to be constructed in the years after Hampton Court was completed. It was built to describe almost a perfect square, with sides measuring about 130 to 140 feet surrounding a central courtyard. The north side was demolished in the 18th century, so today's house appears to comprise a two-storey, redbrick central building with two long projections. Symmetry is important in **Sutton Place**, as English architects were busy putting to use the elements of the Italian Renaissance in their buildings. Doorways and windows are balanced in each wing.

The Italian influence is particularly evident in the terracotta ornamentation of the windows, and even more dramatically in a series of terracotta panels depicting cherubs over the entrance. Terracotta had been first

used as an architectural feature, mainly as faience, in Hampton Court in 1521. Sutton Court was built probably no more than a decade later - records show that Henry VIII was a guest in 1533 - so it was obviously at the forefront of this style of ornamentation. It is the exterior, with its strict adherence to Renaissance tenets, that makes Sutton Place so fascinating. Inside, there have been alterations and additions that make the effect less wholly linked to one period.

Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe, the most renowned British landscape gardener of the century, partially completed a visionary garden for Sutton Place's then owner, the oil tycoon Stanley Seeger. Inspired by the philosophy of Carl Jung, Jellicoe created a series of symbolic gardens around the grand Elizabethan house. The most notable survival is the yew-enclosed garden, which contains a vastly enlarged marble abstract 'wall' sculpture based on a small maquette by Ben Nicholson. The yew walk is one of the garden's finest features.

WORPLESDON*3 miles SW of Woking on the A322*

Worpleston retains a sense of its rural past in its setting on the edge of heaths, despite the threat posed by the expansion of Guildford, which is just a couple of miles to the south. A number of brick houses dating from the early 18th century surround the triangular green, which is up on a hill. One of these houses displays a brick front, of around 1700, tacked on to a timber frame, creating an unusual effect.

St Mary's Church, standing above the village, was mentioned in the *Domesday Book*. Although clumsily restored in the Victorian era, the oldest part is 11th century and it retains a number of interesting features from

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Horti. Halcyon sells over 60 varieties of vegetables, herbs and fruit grown on site or locally throughout the year. Horti is short for Horticultural and Halcyon is the first name of the senior partner Halcyon Broadwood, who runs the enterprise with her daughter Miranda. The land on which they grow has been in the same family since 1935 so is guaranteed never to have been intensively farmed. As a company Horti Halcyon has been growing and selling since 1996, starting with a small market stall in Worplesdon. Currently they deliver more than 100 organic boxes per week, regularly attend Farmers' Markets to sell their vegetables and baked goods, and also offer a catering service for buffets, parties and weddings using organic ingredients (see website for further details).

They try to put themselves in the position of the customer, knowing that no customer wants to pay for a box that contains items they don't like. All new customers are invited to give notice of any produce that they dislike which will be kept on record so that it is not included in their boxes. They are also concerned about miles and emissions, so they ensure that bought-in produce is sourced as locally as possible. They offer essentially two box options:

The Standard Box, an ongoing weekly or fortnightly box containing at least seven types of seasonal vegetables chosen from a wide selection.

The Special Orders Box is where the customer supplies us with their shopping list and we will deliver what has been ordered –subject to availability. This can be set up as a standing order or we will await your order and only deliver when an order is received.

Customers can pay by credit/debit card over the phone or by cash or cheque on delivery. The website gives up-to-date information on prices, recipes, maps and information on organic farming.

Outside the delivery area, customers can come in person and buy from the farm, where the shop is open from 9 to 4 Monday to Friday. The easiest way into the farm is from the B3032 Fox Corner-Pirbright road.



the medieval period. Chief among these is the late 15th-century tower, which is compact and well proportioned. At its base is a tower arch over an intricately carved door.

PIRBRIGHT

3 miles W of Woking on the A324

Pirbright is a village that is first recorded in 1166 as Perifrith, a compound of the two words 'pyrige' (pear tree) and 'fryth' (wooded country). It remained a hamlet of scattered homesteads until the 19th century, when the railway's arrival in 1840 led to a boom in the population and a corresponding burgeoning of new construction.

Despite the rapid increase in the village population, and thanks also to the enlightened Green Belt policies of this century, Pirbright has managed to keep most of its rural aspect. The huge village green that forms its core is in fact a wedge of the surrounding heathland. Pirbright contains many listed buildings, including several medieval farmsteads. Information about these, as well as a selection of excellent walks, is contained in a lovingly produced booklet available from the vicarage.

FARNBOROUGH

7 miles W of Woking off A331

Air Science Museum

Farnborough lies just over the border in Hampshire and although it is largely a commercial and shopping - rather than historical - centre, it is worth visiting for its links with the Royal Aircraft Establishment. These ties are explained fully at the **Farnborough Air Science Museum**, with its interactive displays and historical material. Other attractions include the bi-annual Air Show, a working monastery, and the tombs of Napoleon III, his wife and his son.

FRIMLEY



7 miles W of Woking off the M3

Basingstoke Canal Visitors Centre

Frimley is an extremely old village on the Hampshire border and a site of several important prehistoric and Roman finds, which are displayed at the Surrey Heath Museum in Camberley. Much of the more recent history, unfortunately, has been less well-preserved and the old sense of the village's coaching significance has been erased with a series of housing developments over the past four decades. The area around Frimley Green, however, gives some indication of what Frimley looked like in the late medieval period. Cross Farmhouse is one of the oldest surviving houses, its timber and brick structure containing elements dating from the 15th century. The parish church of St Peter dates only from 1825, but its churchyard contains the graves of many famous people. Among them is Francis Bret Harte, the American novelist whose wanderings around the world led him to settle eventually in England.

Just south of Frimley, and also hugging the Hampshire border, is the village of Mytchett, which has also suffered from some unthinking urban planning.

The **Basingstoke Canal Visitors Centre**, which lies just east of Farnborough and only five minutes from the M3, offers a tranquil and relaxing way in which to discover the charming countryside. Visitors can take a leisurely trip on a narrowboat, gaining a fascinating insight into the points of interest from the informative guide. The Canal Exhibition provides an in-depth account of how barge skippers lived a century ago and how the Basingstoke Canal, and its wildlife habitats, have been conserved more recently.

CAMBERLEY*7 miles W of Woking off the M3*
 Sandhurst
  Surrey Heath Museum

Prior to 1807, when the famous Sandhurst Royal Military Academy was relocated nearby, the substantial town of Camberley did not exist, and indeed its oldest part, the grid-patterned York Town, was constructed to house the academy's first instructors. (Lying just across the Berkshire border, **Sandhurst Academy** is set around a group of buildings designed in neoclassical style by James Wyatt.)

Although now resembling many other large towns with its High Street chains and modernised pubs, Camberley still displays much of the care and attention that marked its development in the mid-Victorian era. Unlike other towns, which sprang up willy-nilly, usually with the advent of the railway, Camberley had a measured growth and the town expanded along the lines of the grid shape of York Town. Shops and workers' houses predominated north of the railway line, while to the south were the larger houses of prosperous merchants set among stands of mature trees. These latter houses, many of which are good examples of the Arts and Crafts style of architect Norman Shaw and his followers, still stand, although recent housing developments have encroached on much of the wooded areas.


The story of the development of Camberley and the surrounding area is well told at the **Surrey Heath Museum** on Knoll Road. Most of the exhibits have been designed to tell this story from a child's point of view, but adults will also enjoy seeing some of the curiosities and original documents from the 19th century. There are also displays on heathland crafts, the

archaeology of the area and the notorious highwaymen who preyed on unwary travellers.

BISLEY*3 miles W of Woking on the A322*

Surrounded by farmland and heaths, Bisley remains resolutely small-scale and unassuming. It is within easy reach of Camberley to the west and Woking to the east, but luckily much of the traffic comes in the form of ramblers who are equipped with the well-marked books of pub walks in the vicinity. Bisley's contribution to the pub supply is the Fox Inn, which stands opposite Snowdrop Farm, where a well-marked trail crosses the A322. Having crossed the A322, the trail cuts southwestwards across Bisley Common, where annual marksmanship competitions are held on the rifle ranges, past the pretty little Stafford Lake and into Sheet's Heath. Even making this short walk, which in fact is part of one of the longer pub trails, gives a good indication of the native landscape. Here the land is more or less in its natural state, with scrubby low bushes and bracken indicating why it was the more fertile soil east of the A322 that was so sought after for cultivation.

The attractive church of St John the Baptist likewise stands to the west of most houses in Bisley, giving it an almost lonely appearance. It is built of local sandstone with a short tiled spire topping its wooden tower.

LIGHTWATER*7 miles W of Woking off the M3*
 Country Park

For many Londoners, Lightwater represents the first taste of countryside outside the metropolis. It has the advantage - from the visitor's point of view - of lying within easy

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reach of the M3. By turning south off the motorway, instead of north to Bagshot, drivers soon enter a countryside defined by heaths and scattered woodlands. Bagshot Heath, once a rough area peopled by highwaymen and duellists, begins at the western edge of Lightwater, and the village of Donkey Town lies just to the south, its name providing some confirmation of the area's rural nature.

Lightwater Country Park is over 57 hectares of countryside, with two colour-coded trails guiding walkers across open areas of natural heath, and through pine and birch woodlands. There is also a Trim Trail fitness circuit set among pine woods. The steep climb to the summit of High Curley is rewarded by panoramic views of the surrounding countryside. Heathland Visitor Centre has a fascinating collection of exhibits about the history and natural history of this stretch of West Surrey countryside.

BAGSHOT*7 miles W of Woking on the A30*

On the western edge of Surrey, on the Berkshire border, lies the ancient village of Bagshot, which Daniel Defoe described as "not only good for little but good for nothing". Bagshot today largely bears out Defoe's description, but the village centre and the Church Road area are now Conservation Areas. The village was on the main coaching route from London to the west and was a bustling post stop, catering for thousands of travellers every year. In 1997, two wall paintings, dating from the turn of the 17th century, were discovered in a 14th-century building. The paintings, which had been concealed behind wall panels, cover

two walls and are now protected behind glass.

WINDLESHAM*7 miles NW of Woking on the A30*

Windlesham, lying in a setting of heath and meadow, is far prettier than its larger southern neighbour Bagshot. Victorian brick buildings - including some larger examples of the 'prosperous merchant' variety - line the heath, and one of the most attractive houses in Windlesham is Pound Cottage on Pound Lane. This timber-framed, 17th-century cottage has a lovely thatched roof, which comes down in hips to the ground floor ceiling. Like much of Surrey Heath, Windlesham was once part of Windsor Great Forest and developed as a traditional farming community centred around several manors and the church. Like Bagshot, Windlesham contains two conservation areas.

CHOBHAM*3 miles NW of Woking on the A3046*

Enjoying a peaceful location just five minutes drive from Woking town centre is the attractive community of Chobham. The village is a Conservation Area and the High Street has developed over the centuries into an attractive and generally harmonious stretch of buildings, the oldest dating back to the 16th century. The street itself curves up a hill, with the parish church of St Lawrence punctuating the row about halfway along. The original church was built in the 11th century, but a restructuring in 1170 was the first of many alterations, including the tower, added around 1400, and the Victorian extension of the side aisle, that have left the church of St Lawrence more of an assembly of disparate elements than a harmonious whole.



CHOBHAM RIDER & THE SADDLE ROOM

98/100 High Street, Chobham,
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website: www.chobhamrider.com



Chobham Rider & The Saddle Room is a family business that was established in 1986 and is now owned and run by three sisters, one of whom is married to a successful show jumper.

The large shop is staffed by a professional and friendly team who are all fully trained in the fitting of safety equipment and available to offer advice on all aspects of horse care.

The stock includes an impressive selection of all equipment and clothing for horse and rider and anyone that enjoys country living. Leading brands include Dubarry, Le Chateau, Hunter, Ariat and Sergio Grasso boots. Clothing brands include Musto, Barbour, Ariat, Pikeur, Cavallo and Joules.

The premises also has its own workshop where a Master Saddler makes bespoke leather items and carries out repairs and there is also a Saddle room which stocks a wide range of leather and synthetic saddles including Jeffries, Kieffer, Ideal and GFS (Fieldhouse).

Also on-site is a Rug Room where an impressive range of Fal-Pro, Rambo and Thermatex Rugs are stored and displayed. Chobham Rider is open 9am to 5.30pm Monday to Saturday or goods can be ordered online via the website www.chobhamrider.com.

VIRGINIA WATER

7 miles N of Woking on the A30

Windsor Great Park Valley Gardens

Savill Garden

From Camberley, the A30 runs along the northeastern border of the county to Virginia Water, a surprising diversion, which lies in the heart of the Surrey stockbroker belt. The 'water' referred to is a mile-and-a-half long artificial lake, which is set within mature woodland at the southern end of **Windsor Great Park**; it was created by Paul and Thomas Sandby, two accomplished Georgian landscapers who were also known for their painting. The picturesque ruins standing at the lakeside are genuine remains of a Roman temple that once stood at Leptis Magna in Libya. The **Valley Gardens** also contain an unusual 100-foot totem pole, which was

erected here in 1958 to mark the centenary of British Columbia. A little further to the north, the **Savill Garden** is renowned as one of the finest woodland gardens in the country covering around 18 hectares. Begun by Eric Savill in 1932, it has continued to develop with various additions over the years, including herbaceous borders, a bog garden and a temperate glasshouse.

Holloway Sanatorium, now renamed Crossland House, was designed by the Victorian architect W H Crossland for the eminent businessman and philanthropist Thomas Holloway. It was built to house middle-class people afflicted with mental disease. Holloway Sanatorium looked to the continent for inspiration, to the architecture of Bruges and Ypres. The result was a brick and stone Gothic structure that stood as the epitome of high Victorian fashion, ironically



constructed after the popularity of that overblown style had begun to ebb. This Grade I listed building had fallen into dereliction, when in 1998, it was sensitively restored as part of a prize-winning housing development at Virginia Park.

ENGLEFIELD GREEN

8 miles N of Woking on the A30

The green that gives Englefield Green its name is large and attractive, flanked by a number of interesting houses, including some several centuries old. The aptly-named Old House dates from 1689, and most of it is a tribute to the redbrick symmetry so beloved of that period. Next to it is Englefield House, built in the late 18th century. This is more of a curiosity, since it seems that the architect was unclear whether his brief called for something classical, neo-Gothic or Venetian. Castle Hill is the largest building around Englefield Green. Extended in the 19th century, the original building was a 'Gothic' structure, built for Sir John Elwell. When the common lands were enclosed in 1814, the green survived as open land on account of the wealth and influence of its surrounding residents.

EGHAM

8 miles N of Woking on the A30

Royal Holloway College

Skirted by the River Thames and the historic fields of Runnymede, Egham is near a number of points of real interest. The centre of Egham is not particularly noteworthy, although the area by the Swan Hotel at the Staines Bridge is attractive, with a pretty row of old riverside cottages.

The Swan Sanctuary at Egham took over an area of disused land at Pooley Green in 1989 and consists of nursing ponds, rehabilitation

lakes, and various facilities for cleaning and caring for injured swans. All birds are returned to the wild as soon as they are fit.

Between Egham and Englefield Green is one of Surrey's more memorable buildings, **Royal Holloway College**. It is a huge Victorian building, modelled on the Chateau du Chambord in the Loire Valley in France. Opened by Queen Victoria in 1886, it was one of the first colleges for women in the country. Like the Holloway Sanatorium at Virginia Water, it was designed by W H Crossland for Thomas Holloway. Holloway made his fortune from Holloway's Patent Pills in the 1870s. He was an entrepreneur and philanthropist, his wife a passionate believer in women's education. Holloway's generous ideas on lodging - each student was allocated two rooms - dictated the enormous size of the building. In the form of a double quadrangle, it measures 550 feet in length and 376 feet across. Inside, the formal rooms include a remarkable library, and a picture gallery housing a collection of Victorian paintings by artists such as Millais, Landseer and Frith. It is now part of the University of London.

RUNNYMEDE

10 miles N of Woking on the A30

Magna Carta Site Air Forces Memorial

A meadow beside the River Thames to the north of Egham is where King John was forced to sign the **Magna Carta** in 1215. The historic Runnymede Site and nearby Cooper's Hill are contained within a 300-acre tract of land that is now under the ownership of the National Trust. Runnymede was an open space between the King's castle at Windsor and the camp of the rebel barons at Staines. The king was forced to agree to protect the barons from certain injustices, but the

important principle was established that the king, as well as his subjects, could be governed by the law.

The area contains three separate memorials: a domed neoclassical temple that was erected by the American Bar Association to commemorate the sealing of the world's first bill of democratic rights, a memorial to John F

Kennedy, and the **Air Forces Memorial**.

Many come to see this memorial commemorating the men and women of the Commonwealth Air Forces killed in World War II who have no known grave. From its position on Coopers Hill, above the river, it commands splendid views over the Thames Valley and Windsor Great Park. The river below is populated by slow-moving motor cruisers and pleasure craft, and river trips to Windsor, Staines and Hampton Court can be taken from Runnymede, daily between May and October, and at weekends during winter. The nearby Runnymede Pleasure Ground offers a range of children's leisure activities in a pleasant riverside setting.

Farnham and the West

Farnham, with its lovely Georgian architecture and battle-worn castle, is the largest town in southwestern Surrey, where the heel of the county extends westwards into Hampshire. Apart from Farnham, however, there are no large towns in this corner of the county, and its charms lie more in the array of attractive villages, scattered farmhouses, woodlands and



Runnymede Site

open heaths in some of the hilliest parts of the southeast.

History plays an important role in this area, with Civil War battle cries still almost audible from the walls of Farnham Castle, and the hint of plainsong hanging in the still air around the ruins of Waverley Abbey. "Stand and deliver" would seem to be a more appropriate sound to hear in the wilder sections of the southern extremity, and the Gibbet Memorial on Hindhead Common is a tangible reminder of the fate that awaited those highwaymen who had the misfortune to meet the long arm of the law.

The famous Hog's Back section of the A31 forms the northern edge of the area covered in this section. This lovely stretch of road is one of the most scenic drives in the southeast, affording excellent views north and south as it traverses the ridge between Farnham and Guildford. Indeed, looking south from the Hog's Back provides an aerial perspective of many of the sites covered in the following pages, or at least the countryside surrounding them. The panorama is best viewed from the grassy verge by the side of the A31 at one of the many lay-bys.

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Farnham

Castle Museum Maltings

The most westerly town in Surrey is Farnham, a market town of particular architectural charm with its 12th-century castle overlooking Georgian houses in the river valley below. This fine old settlement stands at the point where the old Pilgrims' Way from Winchester to Canterbury crosses the River Wey, and it has long been an important staging post on the busy trading route between Southampton and London. Remains of Roman, Saxon and Stone Age dwellings have been found within its boundaries. The town first became a residence of the Bishops of Winchester during Saxon times and, following the Norman conquest, the new Norman bishop built himself a castle on a pleasant tree-covered rise above the centre of the town. The castle is a blend of

the fortified and residential. It underwent a number of alterations, most notably in the 15th century when the decorated brick-built tower was added, and it remained in the hands of the Bishops of Winchester from the 12th century until 1927.

Farnham Castle has been visited on a number of occasions by the reigning English monarch and was besieged during the English Civil War. Today, it is approached along Castle Street, a delightful wide thoroughfare of Georgian and neo-Georgian buildings laid out to accommodate a traditional street market. The old Norman keep, now owned by English Heritage, is open to the public at weekends during the summer, and guided tours of the Bishops Palace take place on Fridays. The residential part of the castle is now occupied by Farnham Castle International Briefing and Conference Centre.

HENNY'S

5 Downing Street, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7PB
Tel: 01252 728254 Fax: 01252 715910
e-mail: info@hennyscafe.co.uk
website: www.hennyscafe.co.uk

Farnham is a charming market town, with a 12th century castle, a fascinating museum and a thriving arts and community centre. **Henny's** is one of the favourite places in the town to take a break or meet friends for a coffee, a snack or a light meal. The warm inviting atmosphere and calming surroundings at Hennys makes it the most talked about place in Farnham. Owner Henny (Henrietta) Corker takes great pride in serving freshly prepared food, locally sourced as far as possible, and she has the assistance of very friendly, welcoming staff. The menu has 30 covers, with some relaxed window seats for sipping a cup of coffee while looking out on Farnham life. The menu offers sandwiches, baguettes and paninis filled to order with a variety of freshly prepared homemade fillings along with fresh, appetising salads, homemade soups and hot jacket potatoes. For the sweet tooth Henny's can offer a good selection of delicious cakes baked fresh daily, including flapjacks, chocolate brownies and Henny's famous millionaire slices, all accompanied by a variety of teas, coffees and other hot and cold drinks. Henny's is open from 9 to 4.30 Monday to Saturday.



THE LIGHTING AGENCY

Lion & Lamb Yard, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7LL

Tel/Fax: 01252 719192

e-mail: info@thelightingagency.co.uk

website: www.lightingagency.co.uk

The Lighting Agency is located in a charming, atmospheric building in a classic English cobbled yard. The display area is filled to the brim with an amazing selection of all kinds of lighting, from new and vintage chandeliers to table lamps, wall lamps, bathroom fittings, ceiling fittings and outdoor lanterns and lamps in bronze, nickel, crystal, glass and other materials. One of the most sought-after lines is the Olive range – a simple, contemporary collection for today's cosmopolitan lifestyle. Many of the new items on display are unique to the Lighting Agency, most of which can be modified to individual customer's requirements. There's always an interesting collection of revamped and electrified chandeliers, lamps and lanterns, with up to 100 on display at any one time.

Some of the table lamps have a classic look that's perfectly in place here in the Surrey/Sussex borders, while others have a smart, edgy contemporary appeal, offering a sophisticated 'London' look at provincial prices. A wide range of lampshades complements on the spot purchases or can be personalised and sent to the buyer. The Lighting Agency was founded by Alistair Henderson in 2001, since when he has maintained its individuality and its reputation for quality, service and its unique range of decorative lighting, whether new, vintage or reconditioned.

Alistair also owns sister establishment **The Curtain Agency**, specialising in made-to-measure curtains and blinds, quality secondhand curtains, fabrics, wallpapers and accessories. One branch is just round the corner at 103 West Street (Tel: 01252 714711), another at 231 London Road, Camberley (Tel: 01276 671672).



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Farnham Castle

Farnham contains a number of other interesting historic buildings, including a row of 17th-century gabled almshouses. The informative **Farnham Museum** is housed in Willmer House in West Street, an attractive Grade I listed townhouse dating from 1718. The house has many original features

including a pleasant walled garden at the rear. As well as some fine wood panelling, carvings and period furniture, the museum contains some interesting archaeological exhibits and a unique collection of 19th-century glass paperweights.

Farnham Maltings (see panel below) in Bridge Square is a thriving arts and community centre, which is housed in a listed early

18th-century building, thought to have been a tanyard. The writer and agriculturalist William Cobbett (*Rural Rides*) was the son of a Farnham labourer. He was born in a hostelry - now named after him - on Bridge Square and is buried beside his father in the churchyard of St Andrew.

Farnham Maltings

Bridge Square, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7QR

Tel: 01252 726234 Fax: 01252 718177

e-mail: info@farnhammaltings.com

website: www.farnhammaltings.com

Over 300,000 people visit **The Maltings** every year. They come to performing and visual arts events, courses and workshops; visit the monthly markets, trade fairs; or belong to one of the 40 or so societies which meet regularly there. But, whilst the Maltings has built up its reputation as an arts and community centre only since 1975, its history stretches back to the 18th century.

The earliest surviving document relating to the Maltings is dated 1729, but there is evidence of two previous owners. In those days it was a tanyard. In 1830 Robert Sampson set up as a maltster in the then separate East Wing. He was succeeded in business by his son, Sampson Sampson, whose sign can still be seen on the end of his cottage at 18 Bridge Square. Meanwhile, the tanyard was sold to John Barrett, who converted it into a brewery.

The building stood empty for 12 years before it was turned into an arts and community centre. The conversion so far comprises the Great Hall, the Barley Room, Malt Room, Tannery, Main Bar, Forum, Maltings Gallery & Studio, Long Kiln Room, Dance Studio, South West Kiln, the East Wing Studios, Dressing Rooms, and Playgroup Studio. In 1991 fully retractable theatre style raked seating in the Great Hall was installed.



Around Farnham

WAVERLEY ABBEY

2 miles E of Farnham on the B3001

Abbey

Lying within easy striking distance of Farnham are the atmospheric ruins of **Waverley Abbey**. Dating from the 12th century, this was the first Cistercian abbey to be built in England. The first church was completed in 1160 and destroyed during the Dissolution of the Monasteries. Its monumental floor plan was only revealed after excavations this century. There is little in the way of architectural detail remaining at the site apart from some frater arches. However, architectural historians have suggested that this early church might well have inspired the famous Gothic churches of Tintern, Fountains and Rievaulx abbeys.

The Abbey remains are open during daylight hours and are said to have provided the inspiration for Sir Walter Scott's romantic novel, *Waverley*, published in 1814 during his stay at the nearby Waverley Abbey House, whose imposing structure was built with stone taken from the abbey in 1723.



Waverley Abbey

historic building museum and heritage historic site scenic attraction flora and fauna

TILFORD

3 miles E of Farnham off the B3001

Rural Life Centre

A lovely two mile riverside walk from Waverley Abbey leads to Tilford, an attractive village that stands at the confluence of the two branches of the River Wey. The monks of Waverley are believed to have been responsible for rebuilding Tilford's two medieval bridges following the devastating floods of 1233, during which the abbey itself had to be evacuated. At the heart of Tilford stands a triangular village green, which features a 900-year-old oak tree with a 25 foot girth that is known as the King's or Novel's Oak; a pleasant early 18th-century inn can be found nearby. Tilford's parish church of All Saints hosts a regular spring festival of early church music. In Reeds Road to the southwest of Tilford is the **Rural Life Centre** (see panel on page 350). The centre, a great place for all the family to visit, is a museum of past village life from 1750 to 1960, set in 10 acres of gardens and woodland and housed in purpose-built and reconstructed buildings, including a chapel, village hall and cricket pavilion.

Among the crafts featured is wheelwrighting, of which the centre's collection is probably the finest in the country.

RUNFOLD

2 miles E of Farnham on the A31

Runfold marks the beginning of the large tracts of woodland that dominate much of the landscape between Farnham and Guildford. A well-marked turning off the A31 indicates the small road

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Rural Life Centre

Old Kiln Museum, Reeds Road, Tilford, Farnham, Surrey GU10 2DL
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e-mail: info@rural-life.org.uk
website: www.rural-life.org.uk



The Rural Life Centre is a museum of past village life covering the years from 1750 to 1960. It is set in over 10 acres of garden and woodland and housed in purpose-built and reconstructed buildings, including a chapel, village hall and cricket pavilion. Displays show village crafts and trade, such as wheelwrighting, of which the centre's collection is probably the finest in the country. An historic village playground provides entertainment for children, as does a preserved narrow gauge light railway that operates on Sundays. There is also an arboretum with over 100 species of trees from around the world where walks can be enjoyed.

The centre is open 11am-5pm, Wednesday to Sunday and Bank Holidays from March until October and during winter months it is open 11am-4pm, Wednesday and Sunday only. Picnic areas can be found around the site and there is also a cafe and a gift shop.

that winds south into the village. Runfold, like its immediate - and even smaller - neighbour Seale, was essentially a mixed farming community in the medieval period, and this way of life is displayed in Manor Farm, which lies between the two villages.

TONGHAM

2 miles E of Farnham on the A31

Tongham lies at an important junction where Surrey meets Hampshire. Aldershot lies just west across the border, which is marked by the A331. With the busy A31 linking Farnham and Guildford lying just to the south, Tongham is hard pressed to retain any sense of the country. That it manages to do so is to the credit of the planners, who have ensured that many of its timber-framed cottages are still seen to good effect. Look out for the distinctive curved braces (the timbers linking walls and roof) on some of these cottages. Tongham boasts its own brewery, called the Hogs Back Brewery, which can be seen after the hill to the east of

the town and the stretch of the A30 that continues to Guildford. It is famous for its TEA (or Traditional English Ale) and is based in an 18th-century barn where they brew the beer in the traditional way.

HOG'S BACK

4 miles E of Farnham on the A31

The Hog's Back is the name given to the ridge that dominates the landscape between the level ground surrounding Guildford (looking north) and the wooded, more undulating terrain looking south towards Hindhead. Motorists refer to this stretch of the A31 as the Hog's Back, and the four-mile stretch between Tongham and Compton is well served with picnic stops and the occasional lay-by from where you can admire the views.

The hamlet of Wanborough on the northern side of the A31 contains one of the smallest churches in Surrey. Built by the monks of Waverley Abbey, it stands in the

stories and anecdotes famous people art and craft entertainment and sport walks

shadow of a massive monastic tithe barn.

The old manor house was constructed between the 15th and 17th centuries on the site of a pre-Norman manor and was used during World War II to train secret agents.

PUTTENHAM

5 miles E of Farnham off the A31

The Hog's Back village of Puttenham lies stretched out along the route of the old Pilgrims' Way. An attractive mixture of building styles, the village contains a restored part Norman church, several fine 15th and 16th-century cottages, an 18th-century farm with a number of period outbuildings and oast houses, and an impressive Palladian mansion, Puttenham Priory, which was completed in 1762.

The mixture of building styles arose because of Puttenham's location, where chalk gives way to sandstone. Cottages use one or other, or both these materials, and the effect is enlivened with brickwork, usually dating from the 18th century.

ELSTEAD

5 miles E of Farnham on the B3001

The attractive village of Elstead lies surrounded by farmland and crossed by the River Wey. In fact it is this crossing that makes Elstead noteworthy. Its rough stonework bridge dates from the medieval period, crossing the river in a series of five graceful arches. It has a brick parapet, making the overall effect one of solidity and strength. Unfortunately, the medieval effect is lessened somewhat by the modern bridge that runs parallel to it on the north side. Nevertheless, the bridge marks a delightful entrance to the village itself.



On the lane leading from the old bridge to the village green is the Old Farm House, a


large timber-framed building that was completed in the 16th century. The green itself is compact and triangular and a small cul-de-sac leads from it to the 14th century Church of St James, which was overly restored in the 19th century.

Just west of the centre is Elstead Mill, an 18th century water mill. It stands four storeys high, its brick structure topped with a Palladian cupola. Six classical columns support a small lead dome at the very top. It is now a restaurant, and much of the machinery, including a working water wheel, is displayed within.

PEPER HAROW

6 miles E of Farnham off the A3

 Church of St Nicholas  Peper Harrow House

 Peper Harrow Farm

Peper Harow is a small village lying just west of the A3 in completely rural surroundings. It has a number of interesting cottages reinforcing its rustic charm, as well as one of the best collections of Surrey farm buildings at **Peper Harow Farm** just outside the centre of the village. Of particular interest is the large granary, built around 1600. It stands - resting on its 25 wooden pillars - at the centre of a quadrangle at the heart of the farm.

The **Church of St Nicholas**, in the centre of the village, was built in Norman times but was massively restored in the 19th century. The restoration, however, was conducted by A W N Pugin, and there is great care evident throughout. St Nicholas represents something of a find for students of architecture since it appears to be one of the few churches where Pugin sought to create a Neo-Norman effect, rather than the higher-flown Gothic style. The ancient yew tree in the churchyard is probably more than 600 years old.

Frensham Common

Distance: 5.8 miles (9.3 kilometres)

Typical time: 180 mins

Height gain: 45 metres

Map: Explorer 145

Walk: www.walkingworld.com ID:1059

Contributor: Tony Brotherton

ACCESS INFORMATION:

Car parking is at Frensham Great Pond car park. Access is from lane to west of pond: signs from A287 for Frensham Great Pond are unobtrusive, but signs for Frensham Pond Hotel are rather less so. Car park is extensive in its woodland setting and it may be possible to park facing the pond.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Frensham Great and Little Ponds were created some 800 years ago as fish ponds. The surrounding lowland heath supports rare creatures such as the Dartford warbler, sand lizard and silver-studded blue butterfly. The entire area of Frensham Common is an SSSI.

DESCRIPTION:

This is a truly satisfying walk of great variety, embracing water features, rolling green hills and National Trust heathland, with glorious views.

FEATURES:

Hills or fells, river, lake/loch, pub, toilets, National Trust/NTS, wildlife, birds, flowers, great views, butterflies, food shop.

WALK DIRECTIONS:

1 | From car park walk, downhill to bottom right-hand corner to locate sandy waterside path. Follow path, with Frensham Great Pond on left, to reach lane. Lane bends left. At stream and sign 'Bacon Lane', cross to bridleway.

2 | Follow bridleway through woods, with first lake, then River Wey to left. At fork, either take lower, or keep to higher path - they merge further on. Proceed as far as arched bridge.

3 | Cross river and continue along path to stile at minor road. Turn right along road as far as pair of cottages, then take bridleway on left and follow path winding gently uphill. Path eventually joins lane at Orchard End, then continues as bridleway, still rising, to reach The Blue Bell pub.

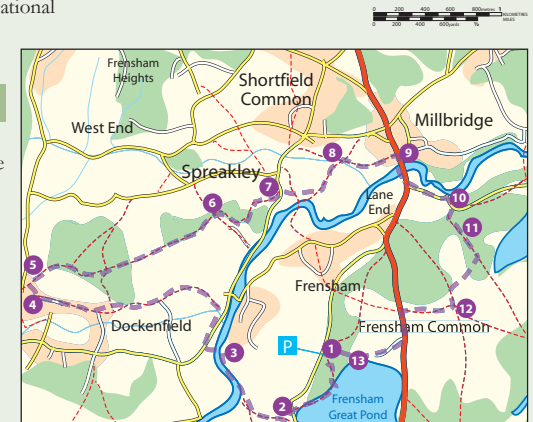
4 | Continue walk to road at Batts Corner. Turn right, then right again along gravel drive at 'Highlands' sign, as far as footpath signed to right over stile.

5 | Cross couple of paddocks before entering woods via stile in corner. Proceed along woodland path with fields to right, emerging onto open ridge with fine views on either side of wooded Surrey Hills.

6 | Follow line of trees to re-enter woods, now on descending path. At stile, enter field and go left to near corner and further stile at entrance to woods.

7 | Enter woods once more, to exit by stile into field. Keep to right-hand side round field until, just past house, crossing stile and passing through wooden latch-gate onto drive and lane, to reach crossroads.

8 | Cross here and go ahead. Road becomes track, then footpath leading to bridge over stream. Now climb bank and bear half-right into field to reach three-way signpost. Go ahead on path into next field, with barbed-wire fence on left; t ninth and last stile, descend through wooded strip to main A287 road at The Mariners pub.



9 | Resume walk by crossing road and going downhill to bridge over river. Continue along to Priory Lane. Walk down lane until it bends sharp left; here turn right into sandy car park leading onto Frensham Common.

10 | At top of small rise, turn right to follow orange arrows denoting Two Ponds Way Trail.

11 | For climactic finish of this walk, follow path across common with Frensham Little Pond coming into view on left. With Great Pond now visible to right, continue along main or parallel subsidiary path through heather and gorse until, at highest point of common, you reach sign for 'Path 43' on right.

12 | Descend on 'Path 43', then go left along 'Path 1', which runs alongside main road. Cross with care to reach path across common leading to refreshments and information room by Frensham Great Pond.

13 | Car park is now close by.

The other big attraction in the village is **Peper Harow House**, a Grade I listed building dating from 1768 and now converted into flats. It is a cube-shaped manor house, the bottom two storeys soberly classical. An extra floor was added in 1913 along with some Baroque ornamentation that clashes with the style of the original building. The outbuildings



Little Pond, Frensham

are almost as impressive as the house itself, in particular the three-sided stables. The park surrounding the house was designed by Capability Brown in 1763.

FRENESHAM

3 miles S of Farnham off the A28

St Mary's Church was moved in the 13th century from its previous site on low ground beside the River Wey. The chancel walls were part of the original building. The tower is 14th-century, with massive diagonal buttresses, but the whole church was subject to a major restoration in 1868.

The village of Millbridge lies just to the north of Frensham, and like Frensham it is set in heaths with occasional farmland dotted around it. The A287 to the south of the village runs between Frensham's Great and Little Ponds, two sizeable National Trust-owned lakes which provide good bird-watching and recreational facilities. These are now contained within a 1,000-acre country park that incorporates four prehistoric bowl barrows and the Devil's Jumps, three irregularly shaped hills whose origin, like many other unusual natural features, is attributed to Satan.

THURSLEY

6 miles SE of Farnham off the A3

 St Michael's Church

Thursley is an exceptional village, which takes its name from the Viking god Thor and the Saxon word for field, or lea. The settlement was once an important centre of the Wealden iron industry and a number of disused hammer ponds can still be seen to the east. These artificial lakes

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THE BLUE BELL INN

Batts Corner, Boundary Road, Dockenfield, nr Farnham, Surrey GU10 4EX

Tel: 01252 792801

e-mail: alexneil@hotmail.co.uk

website: www.bluebellpub.com

The Blue Bell is a family-run country pub located off the A325 at Batts Corner, Dockenfield, a few miles south of Farnham. It stands in two attractive acres that include a large beer garden and a terrific children's play area made of wood. The Neil family aim to produce the best home-made food in the area with service to match and a lovely relaxed atmosphere. The pub is not tied to any brewery or company, so it can offer a unique menu and dining experience that breweries and chains cannot match.

Alex Neil has more than 35 years experience in the trade, having been head chef in some of London's top hotels. He was apprenticed in France and Switzerland and started his main career in London's Park Lane Hilton Hotel. Quality and value for money are paramount, and their aim is more than fulfilled with an exceptional choice of food to cater for all tastes and appetites.

Everything is made on the premises, with no short cuts: sauces come from their own stock, reduced the proper way, with no flour and definitely not a packet or cube to be seen. Sandwiches made with a variety of breads provide tasty, satisfying quick meals, with interesting fillings like smoked bacon and field mushrooms or sirloin steak on ciabatta with chunky chips and a salad garnish. The all-day blackboard menu proposes pub favourites such as steak & mushroom pie, sausages with fried onions and mash, the Blue bell burger and battered cod with chips, mushy peas and tartare sauce, along with Cajun chicken Caesar salad or seared salmon with a saffron cream sauce. Friday brings an additional fish menu with the likes of tuna niçoise salad or sea bass with sun-dried tomato risotto and a lemon cream sauce. The children's menu, with small portions of 'grown-ups' dishes, rightly treats children as budding gourmets, and everyone should leave room for a scrumptious dessert – perhaps rich chocolate sponge or lemon tart. Meals can be enjoyed in the main restaurant, the bar, the snug or, when the sun shines, at picnic benches out in the garden.

The fine food is complemented by an excellent selection of fine wines, and local real ales include Tongham Tea and their own Blue Bell Bitter. Alex's son, also called Alex, does a great job front of house, with a warm welcome for all who come to this exceptional pub.



ART & SOLD, MISCELLANEA, THE SCULPTURE PARK, BROKENBOG AND ART & INVESTMENT

Crossways, Churt, nr Farnham, Surrey GU10 2JA

Tel: 01428 714014 Mob: 07831 500506

Fax: 01428 712946

e-mail: eddiepowell@miscellanea.co.uk

website: www.artandsold.co.uk

Art & Sold is the umbrella name for a variety of enterprises founded by Eddie Powell. Miscellanea on the A287 north of Hindhead offers a unique one-stop shopping experience for all interior and exterior design and decoration requirements. The well-laid out space is filled with items large and small for the house and home or for a very special gift. Art & Sold incorporates **Miscellanea**, specialising in the design of bespoke bathrooms, bedrooms and kitchens. The choice of bathrooms is perhaps the largest in the world, with every conceivable option from 14th century medieval style to 21st century high tech and everything in between; the choice includes rare and discontinued colours that are unavailable elsewhere.

Apart from the furniture, there's a bewildering choice on display, including glassware, mirrors, paintings, prints and photographs, sculpture, metalwork, lighting, textiles, fabrics, ceramics, rugs, tiles, murals and quirky items such as twirly glass vases, pictures on glass or cloth, strange headdresses and Spitting Image puppets. The thousands of items available for delivery or collection from the warehouse share Eddie's traditional values of quality, reliability and service for today's lifestyle.

The businesses are open from 8.30 to 5 Monday to Friday, 9.30 to 4 Saturday. **Art for Investment** proposes a variety of ways to invest through discretionary purchases of paintings, prints, photographs and sculptures.

Brokenbog is a vast warehouse where they endeavor to supply any colour and style ever made in bathware.

THE SCULPTURE PARK

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e-mail: eddiepowell@thesculpturepark.co.uk

website: www.thesculpturepark.com; www.miscellanea.co.uk;

www.brokenbog.com; www.artandinvestment.com

Close to the warehouse, in Jumps Road, Eddie has one of the chief visitor attractions in the area. The **Sculpture Park** is considered the most atmospheric sculpture park in Britain, with 150 renowned sculptors, living or dead, responsible for over 200 sculptures for sale within ten acres of arboretum and wildlife-inhabited water gardens. From classical to conceptual, they cater for all budgets, from private or commercial ornamental to serious investment. The Park is open from 10 to 5 Monday to Sunday and on Bank Holiday Mondays.



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provided power to drive the mechanical hammers and bellows in the once-bustling iron forges. Today, the village is a tranquil place arranged around a green containing an acacia tree that was planted as a memorial to William Cobbett, the Georgian traveller and writer who is best remembered for his book describing riding tours of England, *Rural Rides*, which was published in 1830. Thursley is also the birthplace of the celebrated architect Sir Edwin Lutyens who, at the age of only 19, converted a row of local cottages into a single dwelling, now known locally as the Corner.

Thursley's two principal thoroughfares, the Lane and the Street, contain a wide variety of noteworthy domestic buildings. The latter leads to **St Michael's Church**, a part Saxon structure that was heavily restored by the Victorians. The spire and belfry are 15th-century and are supported by massive timber posts with tie-beams and arched braces, a good example of late-medieval engineering.

The churchyard contains the grave of a sailor who was murdered on Hindhead Heath in 1786 by three men he had gone to help. Although the villagers never discovered the victim's name, they gave him a full burial and erected an inscribed stone over his grave.

Two interesting old buildings stand near the church, the half-timbered and tile-hung Old Parsonage and the part timber-framed Hill Farm, both of which date from the 16th century.

THE DEVIL'S PUNCHBOWL

7 miles S of Farnham off the A3

The Devil's Punchbowl, probably Surrey's best-known natural feature, is a steep-sided natural sandstone amphitheatre through which the busy A3 Guildford to Petersfield road passes four miles to the southeast of

Frensham Great Pond. It was formed by springs cutting down into the soft rock. As usual, Lucifer's name is invoked in the place name, but the origins might have more to do with real events than with superstition. The deep valley provided excellent cover for thieves and highwaymen, and even in coaching days passengers would look on the natural wonder with a mixture of awe and apprehension. On one of the paths is a memorial to the brothers of W A Robertson, both killed in the World War I. The Robertson family gave the Devil's Punchbowl to the National Trust to commemorate the men's sacrifice.

HINDHEAD

7 miles S of Farnham on the A28

Hindhead stands near the top of a ridge and, at 850 feet above sea level, is the highest village in Surrey. Perhaps surprisingly, it has only been in existence since the late 19th century. Before that it was known primarily as a site for highwaymen planning their next heist while taking cover in the steep wooded countryside.

The town grew up along the Portsmouth Road (now the A3) and the buildings date mainly from a concentrated period in the 1890s. Shops were built along the Portsmouth Road, and a number of comfortable residences were dotted through the surrounding woodlands. Most of these houses still enjoy leafy settings, even if today the appearance is somewhat tamer. The late-1890s construction date means that these residences reflect the influence of the Arts and Crafts movement. Most of them derive from the designs of Norman Shaw, the movement's great proponent. One of the best examples of this style is Thirlestane on the Farnham Road. Making the most of the south-facing situation,

as well as the height, this V-shaped house faces southwest so that most of it acts as a suntrap. A deliberately rough exterior, combined with the hanging tiles, typify the attention to quality materials, while the deliberately asymmetrical nature of the two wings suggests the freedom of spirit associated with that period.

HINDHEAD COMMON

7 miles SE of Farnham off the A3

Hindhead Common

Lying just to the east of Hindhead itself is **Hindhead Common**, comprising a largely untamed collection of wild heathlands, pinewoods and steep valleys. The National Trust owns 1,400 acres of Hindhead Common and maintains a series of trails and paths that takes visitors through evocatively named sites such as Polecat Copse, Golden Valley, Hurt Hill and Stotley Green. On the summit of Gibbet Hill is a granite monument marking the spot where the gibbet stood. The glorious views across both the North and South Downs were the last earthly memories of the thieves and murderers who were executed here.

Guildford and the South




Guildford, with its prominent setting on a hill visible from the A3, is an obvious base for travellers interested in exploring the southwestern section of Surrey that extends down to, and then traces, the West Sussex border. Like the area around Farnham, this area contains some of Surrey's most unspoilt countryside. Rough, hilly, thickly wooded in places, the landscape comes as close as anywhere in the county to fitting the descriptive term 'wild'.


The interaction between landscape and

human society provides the background for some of the most interesting sights covered in the following pages. From time-worn remnants of prehistoric hill forts to medieval bridges along the Wey Valley, and even including some of the modern architecture to be found among Guildford's hilly streets, the imprint of necessity-driven design is everywhere. Is it any wonder that Sir Edwin Lutyens cut his teeth, architecturally speaking, with his designs for houses occupying hilly sites or tucked in narrow valleys?

The settlements become decidedly smaller and more scattered as the Sussex border is neared. It is in these villages, many no more than hamlets, that visitors can appreciate just how even the earliest settlers scraped a living, and how later inhabitants developed crafts that exploited the rich natural surroundings.

Guildford

 Cathedral  Castle  Museum

 River Wey Navigations

The route into Guildford from the northwest passes close to **Guildford Cathedral**, one of only two new Anglican cathedrals to have been built in this country since the Reformation (the other is Liverpool). This impressive redbrick building stands on top of Stag Hill, a prominent local landmark that enjoys panoramic views over the surrounding landscape. The building was designed by Sir Edward Maufe with a superb high-arched interior and begun in 1936. However, work was halted during World War II, and members of the local diocese had to wait until 1961 for the new cathedral to be finally consecrated. Guided tours and restaurant facilities are available all year round. In 1968, the University of Surrey relocated from London to a site on



THE MAD HATTER

12 Castle Street, Guildford,
Surrey GU1 3UW
Tel: 01483 566845

e-mail: jonescarolien@hotmail.com

website: www.themadhattermillinery.com

The Mad Hatter is a rare and wonderful treasure haven offering a dizzying collection of hats, cocktail pieces and fascinators for every imaginable occasion. Featuring a wide range of international designers, the hats come in an amazing array of colours. Alternatively, milliner Carolien Jones can design and create a truly unique hat especially for you or re-trim hats to perfectly compliment your outfit. Whatever the event, be it a wedding, a day's racing at Ascot or Henley Royal Regatta, you are sure to find the perfect hat here.

Other luxurious accessories and finishing touches are also available at the Mad Hatter. A range of pashminas and stunning Italian double skin umbrellas anticipate the unpredictable elements of a British summer, whilst the beautiful straw and linen sun hats will keep you cool should the sun decide to make an appearance. The winter months are also taken care of with a range of fashionable winter and rain hats. Even gentlemen will be pleased to find a selection of trilby and panama hats. The Mad Hatter also stocks a range of non-irritant and super soft sun-block hats to protect delicate skin through hair loss in a variety of fashionable styles.



THE DRESS BOUTIQUE

10 Castle Street, Guildford,
Surrey GU1 3UW
Tel: 01483 306103

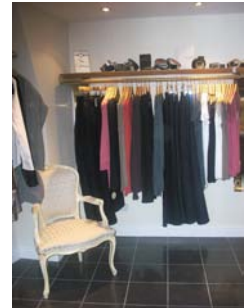
e-mail: info@thedressboutique.co.uk

website: www.thedressboutique.co.uk

Dress, a delightful independently owned boutique, first opened its doors on Castle Street in November last year. The shop aims to provide an alternative to the host of chain stores that now dominate Guildford by offering individual yet highly wearable collections from a carefully chosen range of designers. To do this they have brought together a stunning variety of talent from the world of women's fashion. Affordable yet unusual day wear from the likes of Legatte, Splendid and Nanette Lepore combines comfort with fashion and style.

Exciting and innovative statement pieces have been selected from labels such as Marithe Francois Girbaud, Heymann and Ischiko. Timeless and sophisticated, their designs are perfect for the ageless woman who wants clothing that will make a statement for more than one season.

And a shop called Dress wouldn't be complete without an outstanding evening wear range. Dresses by Dina Bar-el are often seen gracing the red carpet and are the epitome of chic femininity. Service is friendly and helpful styling advice is always available from experienced staff. The shop is open six days a week and you are assured of a warm welcome.



a hillside to the northwest of the cathedral. Pleasant and leafy, the campus contains a number of striking buildings including the university library and art gallery.

From the university, it is only a mile to the heart of Guildford, the ancient county town of Surrey. Guildford has been the capital of the region since pre-Norman times, and in the 10th century it even had its own mint. Henry II built a **Castle** here on high ground in the 12th century, which later became the county jail. Today, the castle remains and the ruined keep provide a fascinating place from which to view the surrounding area. Those visiting the town for the first time should make straight for the old High Street, a wonderful cobbled thoroughfare of Georgian and older buildings that rises steeply from the River Wey. Perhaps the most noteworthy of these is the Guildhall, a Tudor structure with an elaborately

decorated 17th-century frontage, which incorporates a belltower, balcony and distinctive gilded clock.

Abbot's Hospital, a little further along, is an imposing turreted almshouse, which was built in 1619 by the Guildford-born Archbishop of Canterbury, George Abbot; at the top of the High Street, the Royal Grammar School dates from the early 1500s and was subsequently endowed by Edward VI.

A number of interesting streets and alleyways run off Guildford High Street, including Quarry Street with its medieval St Mary's Church and old Castle Arch. The latter houses the **Guildford Museum**, an informative centre for local history and archaeology, which also contains an exhibition devoted to Lewis Carroll, the creator of *Alice In Wonderland* who died in the town in 1898. He is buried in Mount Cemetery. A charming

LITTLEFIELD MANOR

Littlefield Common, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3HJ
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e-mail: john@littlefieldmanor.co.uk
website: www.littlefieldmanor.co.uk

Littlefield Manor is a listed Tudor and Jacobean manor house, full of character and enjoying a scenic setting in a large garden surrounded by 400 acres of farmland. Resident owner John Tangye, whose father bought the property, has three en suite rooms for Bed & Breakfast guests, large, traditional and atmospheric, with unique period features and modern amenities such as flat-screen TV, fridge and hospitality tray. The day starts with an excellent English or Continental breakfast served in the Tudor dining room. As well as being an ideal spot for enjoying a well-earned break, Littlefield is an ideal venue for wedding receptions – a marquee on the lawn can seat up to 200 – and Littlefield Manor livery holds horse shows throughout the year. The manor is located three miles west of Guildford, a short drive from J10 of the M25 (signposted off the A323) or J3 of the M3 (off the A322).



🏠 historic building 🏛️ museum and heritage 🏰 historic site 🌳 scenic attraction 🌿 flora and fauna

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bronze memorial to Lewis Carroll (real name Charles Lutwidge Dodgson), which is composed of a life-sized Alice chasing the White Rabbit into his hole, can be found on the far bank of the River Wey, midway between the two footbridges. The well-known Yvonne Arnaud Theatre stands in a delightful riverside setting at the foot of the castle mound on the town side of the river. As well as offering top-quality productions, the theatre has an excellent bar, coffee lounge and restaurant, which remains open throughout the day. On Wharf Road, the Visitor Centre at Dapdune Wharf is the centrepiece of one of the National Trust's most unusual properties, the **River Wey Navigations**. Exhibits and displays tell the story of Surrey's secret waterway, one of the first British rivers to be made navigable. It was opened for navigation in 1653, connecting London to Guildford, and was extended to Godalming in 1764. The 20-mile stretch of navigations and towpaths between Godalming and the Thames at Weybridge is popular with walkers, cyclists and boaters. Visitors can see where the great Wey barges



Clandon Park House

📖 stories and anecdotes 🌟 famous people 🎨 art and craft 🎭 entertainment and sport 🚶 walks

were built, and climb aboard one of the last survivors, *Reliance*. See also under Shalford.

Around Guildford

CLANDON PARK

5 miles E of Guildford on the A247

🏠 Clandon Park

Set in the farming countryside east of Guildford and south of Woking is the National Trust-owned **Clandon Park**. This magnificent country mansion was designed in the 1730s by Giacomo Leoni, a Venetian architect, who combined Palladian, Baroque and European styles to create one of the grandest 18th-century houses in England. The interior is renowned for its magnificent two-storey marble hall, sumptuous decoration and fine Italian plasterwork depicting scenes from mythology. The Gubbay collection of furniture and porcelain is also housed here, along with the Ivo Forde collection of humorous Meissen figures. The surrounding parkland was landscaped by Capability Brown in characteristic style, and includes a parterre,

grotto and brightly painted New Zealand Maori house.

GOMSHALL

5 miles E of Guildford on the A25

This once industrialised community has a Victorian heart and was an important centre of the tanning and leather-working industries. The old packhorse bridge over the River

THE COMPASSES INN

Station Road, Gomshall, nr Guildford,
Surrey GU5 9LA
Tel: 01483 202506
website: www.thecompasses.co.uk

'Purveyors of Fine Food, Ale and Music'

For the locals and a growing band of regulars from farther afield, all roads point to **The Compasses Inn**, a lovely pub nestling under the North Downs in fine walking country. Landlady Fiona Morley has a warm, genuine welcome for all who pass through the door, whether it's for a drink, a snack or a leisurely evening meal. Food is served all day from 12 to 9 (12 to 6 on Sundays and Bank Holidays) in the bar or in the restaurant, which can be reached through the bar or direct from the pub's roadside entrance. The all-day choice includes sandwiches, jacket potatoes, ploughman's platters and 'meals for little people' – cod goujons, honey roast ham and super steak and chicken pies served in smaller portions for smaller appetites. Bigger portions of those super pies, along with burgers. Steaks and fish specials, make up the locally sourced homecooked traditional pub menu. To accompany the food or to enjoy on their own are fine wines and real ales, including three brews from the Surrey Hills Brewery in Shere, near Guildford. Friday night is music night, with live performances from top local groups.



Tillingbourne dates from the 1500s, and the manor house at the southern end of the village from the early 1700s.

SHERE

6 miles E of Guildford off the A25

Church of St James Museum

Shere is one of the loveliest, and consequently most visited, villages in Surrey. Thankfully now bypassed by the A25, it lies at the foot of the North Downs in the river valley that is particularly known for the growing of watercress, a plant that requires a constantly flowing supply of fresh water. The village **Church of St James** dates from the 12th century and was tastefully restored in the 1950s. Among its many noteworthy features are the 13th-century Purbeck marble font, the St Nicholas Chapel, and an unusual hermit's

cell built in the 14th century for a local woman who asked to be confined there for life.

The churchyard is entered through an impressive lych gate designed by Lutyens, and close by stands the White Horse Inn, one of the many fine 16th and 17th-century buildings to be found in the village. The **Shere Museum** in the Malt House contains an interesting collection of local artefacts, and the Old Farm behind the church is an open farm, which, at weekends, offers hands-on demonstrations of traditional farming techniques.

ALBURY

4 miles E of Guildford on the A28

Albury Park

Albury dates largely from the last century and was constructed in fanciful neo-Gothic style as an estate village for nearby **Albury Park**.

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SHALFORD

3 miles S of Guildford on the A281

Water Mill Great Tangley

Wey & Arun Junction Canal

The residential community of Shalford contains a fascinating **Water Mill** that operated from the early 1700s right up to World War I. Once powered by the waters of the Tillingbourne stream, this exceptional tile-hung, four-floored structure retains most of its original machinery. During the 1930s, it was bought and restored by Ferguson's Gang, a secretive group of conservationists who hid their identities behind eccentric *noms de plume* and who eventually donated the water mill to the National Trust.

Shalford stands near the northern entrance to the **Wey and Arun Junction Canal**, an ambitious inland waterway constructed in 1816 to connect the Thames with the English Channel. Conceived during the Napoleonic wars as a way of avoiding attacks on coastal shipping, unfortunately it opened too late to fulfil its function and was soon superseded by the railways. A towpath providing some delightful walks runs along almost two-thirds of the canal's 36-mile length, a significant proportion of which has now been fully restored by enthusiastic teams of volunteers.

About a mile south of Shalford is **Great Tangley**, one of the finest 16th-century half-timbered houses in Surrey. The exterior is made up of roughly square panels each with four curved diagonal braces. This combination creates a star shape for each panel, which is repeated across the sides of the house.

BLACKHEATH

4 miles SE of Guildford off the A248

Set in the hills above Albury, this tidy Victorian hamlet gives the visitor a sense of

This large country mansion was built on the site of a Tudor manor house in the early 18th century and was much altered by Pugin in the 1840s. (Pugin also designed the south transept chapel in the Church of St Peter and St Paul, which stands on the estate. It was a mortuary chapel for Henry Drummond, the estate's owner.) The most eccentric feature of the house is its collection of chimneys, 63 of them built for only 60 rooms in an amazing variety of shapes and sizes. Although the mansion has now been converted into flats, the estate gardens are open to visitors and are well worth a look. They were laid out by the diarist John Evelyn at the turn of the 18th century, and feature a series of terraced orchards that rise above the house to the north. A number of smaller communities nestle around Albury.

CHILWORTH

3 miles E of Guildford on the A28

Chilworth Manor

Chilworth is a former munitions and paper-making centre whose church, St Martha on the Hill, had to be rebuilt in 1850 following an explosion in the nearby gunpowder works. The result is a genuine success and shows great flair and sensitivity. There was no attempt made to copy the original exactly, but the resulting reconstruction remains true to the Norman spirit of the destroyed church. On the hill to the south of the church are five circular banks, each about 100 feet in diameter, which have been identified as early Bronze Age henge monuments.

Chilworth Manor was built in the 1600s on the site of a pre-Norman monastic house. The exterior is a medley of styles, but its 17th-century gardens are complete, running up the side of the hill in terraces.

remoteness despite being within easy striking distance of Guildford. Blackheath has some fine late-Victorian buildings. One of the most interesting is Greyfriars, a Franciscan monastery built in neo-Gothic style in 1895. The church and dormitories of this stone-built structure are contained under one roof. Another Victorian curiosity is the somewhat austere timbered residence, the Hallams.

WONERSH

4 miles SE of Guildford off the A248

Chinthurst Hill

Wonersh is a former weaving centre with a fine 16th-century half-timbered inn, the Grantley Arms, located along the high street, which presents a cheerful and harmonious appearance with its medley of brick, stone, tile-hanging and half-timbered buildings. An imposing Lutyens house, **Chinthurst Hill**, is

just a few minutes' walk northwest of the heart of the village. Lutyens used the local Bargate stone to create a Tudor effect, the work being completed in 1895, before he had developed his own distinctive style. The house occupies a lovely hillside site and the terraced garden was planted by Gertrude Jekyll.

BRAMLEY

3 miles SE of Guildford off the A248

Millmead

Despite being largely Victorian, Bramley has some attractive Georgian and Regency residential buildings. These appear somewhat haphazardly through the long winding street that forms the nearest thing to a core of the village. There are two Lutyens houses in Bramley. The small, L-shaped **Millmead**, a National Trust property, is located south of Gosden Green. It was built for the gardener

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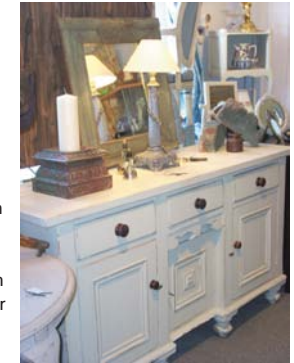
MEMORIES ANTIQUES

High Street, Bramley, nr Guildford, Surrey GU5 0HB
Tel: 01483 892205 Mob: 07790 121037
website: www.memoriesantiques-andcurtains.co.uk

Wendy Camfield has been operating in Memories Antiques since 1985 and has built up a large and loyal clientele. Her commitment is to provide ideas and inspiration for people to add the finishing touches that make a house a home.

Memories specialises in

period brown and painted shabby chic furniture for any room setting plus silver, jewellery and lighting. But there's much more besides with an ever-changing stock of designer secondhand curtains (Colefax and Fowler, Nina Campbell etc) and seasonal garden furniture and accessories. Wendy also offers a free search and find service so if customers have seen something they like - perhaps in a magazine - she will do her best to trace it. The National Trust has two attractions nearby, Winkworth Arboretum and Shalford Mill, which are both one and a half miles from Bramley and many people combine these with a trip to Memories Antiques for a special gift or personal treat. The shop is open from 10 - 5 Tuesday to Saturday and also by appointment on Sunday or Monday. Bramley is located on the A281, three miles south of Guildford.



KATHERINE LETTS INTERIORS

103 High Street, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1AQ
Tel: 01483 860106
Fax: 01483 428484

Since the mid-1980s, **Katherine Letts Interiors** has established itself as one of the leading outlets for

interiors and homeware. Owner Kate Christopherson who has many

years' experience in the design industry runs the shop with the valued assistance of her mother Sue and sister Diana. Their presence allows Kate to visit clients in their homes with advice on all aspects of soft furnishings, helping them to add the finishing touches that make a house a home.

The shop is stocked with a wide variety of wallpaper, curtain and upholstery fabric books (Colefax and Fowler, Jane Churchill, Osborne & Little, Zoffany, Romo) offering a bespoke curtain, blind, upholstery and soft furnishings service. Also in stock at this excellent shop are accessories for the home, including china and decorative gifts (Emma Bridgewater, East of India, Bombay Duck).



JENI WREN COOKWARE & KITCHEN GIFTS

The Old Forge, Shamley Green, Surrey GU5 0UB
Tel: 01483 894567 Fax: 01483 894687
e-mail: jenni.monks@tiscali.co.uk

A Cookshop with a Difference

On the picturesque village green at Shamley Green, **Jeni Wren Cookware & Kitchen Gifts** is stocked with a vast array of cooking and kitchen supplies and accessories. Owner Jenni Monks prides herself on sourcing unusual and individual products that you won't find in other cookware shops, in addition to a fine range of goods from leading brands from around the world. Cooks, from amateurs to experts and professionals, will find anything from kitchen knives and cutlery to salt and pepper mills, pots and pans and coffee makers. But what makes Jenni Wren so different is that it is also the perfect place to find a present for anyone with an interest in cooking. The shop, which is open from 9 to 5.30 Monday to Saturday, is very striking in appearance, being housed in what was formerly the local blacksmith's forge. Shamley Green is located five miles south of Guildford on the B2128 road to Cranleigh. Jenni Wren also offers fresh coffee, tea, hot chocolate and nibbles to takeaway or sit outside and enjoy in the warmer months.



Gertrude Jekyll between 1904 and 1907 and traces of her original garden still survive. About half a mile north is Little Tangle, a late 19th-century house to which Lutyens added a porch and staircase hall in 1899. The Stables, which is now a private house called Edgton, was one of the architect's first works.

Godalming

 Munstead Wood  Charterhouse
 Museum  Winkworth Arboretum

The old market town of Godalming was once an important staging post between London and Portsmouth and a number of elegant 17th and 18th-century shops and coaching inns can still be found in the High Street. A market was established here in 1300 and the town later became a centre for the local wool and textile

industries. Perhaps the most interesting building in the old centre is the former town hall, affectionately known as The Pepperpot, which was built at the western end of the High Street in 1814. This unusual arcaded building once contained an interesting museum of local history, but the **Museum** is now opposite the Pepperpot at the fascinating Wealden House, parts of which date from the 15th and 16th centuries, but which also has Victorian and Georgian additions. The museum has displays on geology and archaeology as well as local history, including a display detailing Godalming's claim to fame as the first town to have a public electricity supply. Two of Godalming's most renowned former residents – Gertrude Jekyll, the gardener, and Sir Edwin Lutyens, the architect – are celebrated in a gallery exhibition and there is a Jekyll-style garden. The timber-

JEWELLED LTD

*89 High Street, Godalming,
Surrey GU7 1AW
Tel: 01483 869838
website: www.jewelled.info*

Opened in September 2001, Jewelled of Godalming offer a refreshing and energetic approach to the design and manufacture of stylish, contemporary jewellery. New and innovative designs are handmade in the workshop on the premises in platinum, gold, diamonds and silver.






Jewelled also specialise in making jewellery to customers specification, creating pieces as individual as you are from engagement rings to civil wedding rings, following your ideas from conception to creation.

Expertise, quality of work and the all important personal touch that accompanies everything they do have established Jewelled as a leader in its field.

From the careful re-design of the Georgian listed building to the relaxed and friendly atmosphere within you will find something special at Jewelled.

The shop is open from 9am to 5pm Monday to Saturday.



 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna

Guildford to Godalming

Distance: 5.0 miles (8.0 kilometres)

Typical time: 180 mins

Height gain: 50 metres

Map: Explorer 145

Walk: www.walkingworld.com ID:31

Contributor: Daisy Hayden

ACCESS INFORMATION:

Train from Waterloo to Guildford 40 mins. Return from Godalming to Waterloo 50 mins. 2 or 3 trains per hour.

DESCRIPTION:

This is a beautiful, relaxing and easy walk along the River Wey, including the Godalming navigations. The open valley is National Trust Land, and the scenery is varied and unspoilt. There are plenty of pubs and tea shops for refreshments in Guildford and Godalming, and toilets two thirds of the way along the walk at Farncombe Boatyard. (There is also a tea shop here, unfortunately it is usually closed.) Wear boots or wellies as the path is muddy.

FEATURES:

Toilets, National Trust/NTS, birds.

WALK DIRECTIONS:

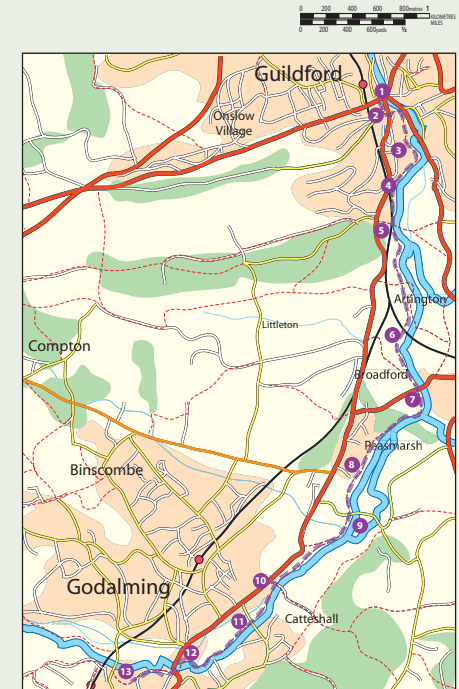
- 1 | Turn right out of Guildford Railway station (you only need to cross over the line if arriving at Guildford on the train towards London). Walk 200 yards down Park Street, crossing Farnham Road to arrive at the church seen in the distance.
- 2 | Turn left into High Street and pass in front of the Church, to reach a pub, The White Horse, on your right. Turn right down steps in front of the pub (the steps are just before this bridge). Go through the beer garden, and take the riverbank path to the right (behind pub sign and evergreen tree). Continue along the riverbank for 100 yards until you reach a white bridge. Cross this bridge towards Millmead Lock
- 3 | Do not cross Millmead Lock. Stay on the path, following the sign to the right (sign says Godalming 4½m) Pass the Jolly Farmer pub on the opposite

bank. Cross this bridge, past the boathouses, and follow the path. Here the river loops to the left, then curves right (along line of trees on horizon). Follow the path on the right to join the river by a bridge, or take the longer way round, following the bend of the river to end up at the same bridge. Turn right to cross this bridge to follow the path along the riverbank.

4 | Continue along the path on the right. This part of the walk is particularly peaceful and charming, and only 15 minutes from Guildford town centre. Path gets muddy here.

5 | Continue over this bridge and along the path, looking back towards Guildford at St Catherine's Lock. Cross the bridge to visit the nature reserve, otherwise continue on the riverside path

6 | The Gomshall line crosses the river here on this impressive bridge. Continue on the path under the bridge.



7|Not a very pretty view, but a landmark anyway. Cross over the A248 at Broadford bridge and keep following the path ahead. Beware: fast traffic!

8|Opening Unstead lock. Children may want to watch or help boatpeople operate the lock gates.

9|Cross the road over a bridge to follow this footpath sign. Caution; fast traffic!

10|Continue past this old brick footbridge.

11|Looking back towards Guildford at Farncombe boathouse (boat hire here). Carry straight on over the bridge towards Godalming.

12|Follow the path to the car park, then turn left over the bridge. Just after the bridge, go straight ahead and up this street. Turn right at the top for the main high street and shops and refreshments. Follow signs to station, which is right at the far end of the high street.

13|Alternatively, just after the bridge, turn right along Bury Road for 200 yards. Take the path right off the road, on the left of St Peter and Paul Church, for the train station.

framed house once belonging to Gertrude Jekyll can be found in dense woodland on the opposite side of town. **Munstead Wood** was designed for her by Lutyens in characteristic rural vernacular style and partially constructed of Bargate stone, a locally quarried hard brown sandstone that was much loved by the Victorians. Lutyens also designed the tomb in which Gertrude Jekyll is buried in the churchyard at Busbridge, just south of Godalming.

Godalming's part Norman parish church of St Peter and St Paul is also built of Bargate stone, as is **Charterhouse**, the famous public school, which moved from London to a hillside site on the northern side of Godalming in 1872. Among its most striking features are the 150-foot Founder's Tower and the chapel designed by Giles Gilbert Scott as a memorial to those killed in World War I.

THE GREENHOUSE

73 High Street, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1AW

Tel: 01483 414853

e-mail: thegreenhouse@live.co.uk

website: www.godalminggreenhouse.co.uk

One of the oldest commercial premises in Godalming is home to **The Greenhouse**. Owners Marna Bigg & Holly Parker have established a great reputation throughout the area for creating beautiful bouquets and exquisite arrangements from the very finest flowers. Trading for over 30 years, the shop sells a wide variety of flowers and plants along with vases, baskets, greeting cards and other accessories and flower-related gifts. Marna and Holly create arrangements for all kinds of special occasions, from romantic to new baby, birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, private functions and funerals, as well as corporate and contract work – let them know the occasion, the style, the colour choices and the budget, and they will create it for you. Marna, Holly and their staff are always on hand with help and advice on flower arrangement (both inside and outside), seasonal planting and choosing the most appropriate match of various plants. Flowers and arrangements can be ordered directly from the shop or on line, with same day delivery in the area, and national/international deliveries can be arranged through Interflora. The Greenhouse is open from 9 to 5 Monday to Friday, 9 to 4 Saturday, closed Sunday.



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Three miles along the B2130, to the southeast of Godalming, lies the renowned **Winkworth Arboretum**, a 95-acre area of wooded hillside, which was presented to the National Trust in 1952. The grounds contain two lakes and a magnificent collection of rare trees and shrubs, many of them native to other continents. Hascombe, one mile further on, is another characteristic Surrey village with great charm.



Winkworth Arboretum

Around Godalming

LOSELEY PARK

3 miles N of Godalming off the B3000

Loseley House

Loseley Park, a handsome Elizabethan country estate, was built in 1562 of Bargate stone, some of which was taken from the ruins of Waverley Abbey. **Loseley House** is the former home of the Elizabethan



Loseley House and Rose Gardens

statesman, Sir William More. Both Elizabeth I and James I are known to have stayed here, and the interior is decorated with a series of outstanding period features, including hand-painted panelling, woodcarving, delicate plasterwork ceilings, and a unique chimney-piece carved from a massive piece of chalk. The walled garden is a beautiful place to take a stroll, the surrounding gardens contain a terrace and a moat walk, and the nearby fields are home to Loseley's famous herd of pedigree Jersey cattle. Visitors can take a trailer ride to the traditional working dairy farm, where they can see the Jersey herd being milked every afternoon and discover the history of the estate.

COMPTON

4 miles N of Godalming off the B3000

The historic community of Compton was once an important stopping place on the old Pilgrims' Way. The village possesses an exceptional part Saxon church, St Nicholas, with some remarkable internal features, including a series

of 12th-century murals, which were only rediscovered in 1966, an ancient hermit's, or anchorite's, cell, and a unique two-storey Romanesque sanctuary, which is thought to have once contained an early Christian relic.

Compton is also renowned for being the home of the 19th-century artist G F Watts, a largely self-taught painter and sculptor whose most famous work, *Physical Energy*, stands in London's Kensington Gardens. At the age of 47, Watts married the actress Ellen Terry, but the couple separated a year later. Then, at the age of 69, he remarried, this time to Mary Fraser-Tyler, a painter and potter 33 years his junior who went on to design Watts' Memorial Gallery, which today contains over 200 pieces of the artist's work, along with the Watts Mortuary Chapel, an extraordinary building that was completed in 1904 and is decorated in exuberant Art Nouveau style. The Watts Gallery is a fascinating place to visit, housing a unique collection of his paintings, drawings and sculptures. The nearby memorial chapel is also worth visiting.

EASHING

1 mile W of Godalming off the A3100

The Meads

The tiny hamlet of Eashing is noted for the lovely medieval Eashing Bridge, which has segmented arches and uses cutwaters, pointed upstream and rounded downstream, to stem the flow of the river. It is one of several surviving Wey Valley bridges of that period, the others being at Elstead and Tilford. Just to the east of the bridge is **The Meads**, an ancient house of two distinct parts. Half of it is 16th century, with timber framing and an original Tudor doortcase. The other is 18th century and brick and stone, with small dark chips of stone set in the mortar.

WITLEY

4 miles S of Godalming on the A283

Old Manor Tigburne Court

Witley Common Information Centre

The historic village of Witley comprises an attractive collection of fine tile-hung and half-timbered buildings loosely arranged around the part Saxon church of All Saints, a much-altered structure that contains some rare 12th-century frescoes and a delicately carved 13th-century font, and incorporates a 17th-century tower. The present village inn, the White Hart, was constructed in Elizabethan times to replace an even earlier hostelry. It is believed to be one of the oldest inns in the country, and at one time stood adjacent to a market place, which hosted a busy Friday market.

Witley's **Old Manor** was visited by a number of English monarchs, including Edward I and Richard II, and the village centre contains some delightful 15th and 16th-century timber-framed houses, many of which are hung with characteristic fishtail tiles. These include the Old Cottage, Red Rose Cottage (so-called because the lease granted on Christmas Day 1580 called for an annual rent of one red rose), and Step Cottage, a former rectory that was once the home of the Reverend Lawrence Stoughton; this worthy gentleman died aged 88 after serving the parish for 53 years and outliving five wives.

At one time, Witley was a summer haven for artists and writers, the best known of whom is perhaps George Eliot, who wrote her last novel, *Daniel Deronda*, here between 1874 and 1876. Her home, the Heights, was designed by Sir Henry Cole, the architect of the Royal Albert Hall, and was visited by a series of eminent guests, including the novelist Henry James. Today, the building has been

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converted into a nursing home and is known as Roslyn Court.

A large proportion of the common to the north of Thursley is a designated nature reserve, popular for its unusually large and varied population of dragonflies. The **Witley Common Information Centre** lies a few minutes' drive from Thursley Common on the eastern side of the A3. This purpose-built nature centre is managed by the National Trust and is set in woodlands at the edge of a substantial area of Trust-owned heathland. Inside, there is an audio-visual display and an exhibition outlining the history, geology and natural history of the area. The common is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Tigburne Court, which is regarded by many as Lutyens's finest work, is just over a mile south of Witley, standing right on the main Milford to Petworth road. It was built between 1899 and 1901 for Sir Edgar Horne. Lutyens was 30 years old when he designed Tigburne Court, and the house shows him at the height of his powers, yet still full of youthful exuberance. He playfully mixed Tudor styles with 18th-century classicism and used horizontal bands of tiles with the Bargate stone to create a powerful geometric effect. The gardens, like those of so many of the best Lutyens houses, are by his collaborator, Gertrude Jekyll.

HAMBLEDON

5 miles S of Godalming on the A283

Hydon's Ball

This scattered settlement contains a number of interesting buildings, including the tile-hung Court Farm, which stands near the part 14th-century church, the Old Granary, School Cottage, and Malthouse Farm and Cottage. The National Trust owns a small timber-

framed dwelling in Hambledon known as Oakhurst Cottage, which has been restored as an old artisan's home and is open in the summer by appointment only.

A memorial to one of the Trust's founders, the social reformer Octavia Hill, stands at the top of nearby **Hydon's Ball**, an unusual conical hill, which at 593 feet above sea level, offers some fine views over the surrounding landscape.

HASLEMERE

9 miles S of Godalming on the A286

Educational Museum

The genteel town of Haslemere lies in the southwestern corner of the county. Now a quiet and comfortable home for well-to-do commuters, it has central streets filled with handsome Georgian and Victorian buildings, most of which were constructed following the arrival of the railway in 1859. The building styles, including stucco, redbrick and tile-hung, combine to form an attractive and harmonious architectural mix. Some of Haslemere's finest pre-Victorian structures include the Town Hall, rebuilt in 1814, the Tolle House Almshouses in Petworth Road, Church Hill House, the Town House, and two noteworthy hotels, the Georgian and the White Horse.

Towards the end of the last century, Haslemere became something of a centre for the arts. Alfred Lord Tennyson settled nearby, and a group known as the Haslemere Society of Artists was formed whose number included Birket Foster and the landscape painter Helen Allingham. At the end of World War I, the French-born musician and enthusiastic exponent of early music, Arnold Dolmetsch, founded what has become a world-famous musical instrument workshop.

OBJETS D'ART

2 High Street, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 2LY

Tel: 01428 643982 Fax: 01428 658438

e-mail: angela@objetsdart.biz

website: www.objetsdart.biz

Objets d'Art is one of the most interesting shops in Haslemere, occupying one of the oldest commercial premises in the town.



It has been owned by the French family for 32 years, founded by Helen and Bill French and joined by their daughter-in-law Angela in 1981 who is a trained jeweller.

The aspect of the shop has changed over the years and although still stocking a large range of antiques including silver, glass, ceramics, bronzes and paintings the main focus is jewellery. This ranges from very modern silver and stone set items starting at very modest prices up to more valuable diamond and gem set jewellery.

There is also a full repair service including jewellery, watches, silversmithing, glass and china restoration.

Whether you are looking for a personal treat, something for the home or a very special gift, Objets d'Art is definitely a place to visit where there is undoubtedly something for everyone.



MEEKA

8-10 West Street, Haslemere,

Surrey GU27 2AB

Tel: 01428 644911

e-mail: enquiries@meeka.biz

website: www.meeka.biz

Meeka is a highly regarded ladies clothes shop in the centre of Haslemere which stocks a wide range of prestigious fashion clothing.

Brands stocked include Esprit, Fransa, Quba & Co, Joules, RM Williams, Aigle, Darling, Sea salt, In Town, Not The Same, The Barn, Nice Things, Calla Lily, Adini and Amari. New brands are added each season.

In addition to clothing, meeka also sells accessories including belts, boots, sandals, jewellery, hats & gloves together with other seasonal goods.

We look forward to welcoming you to our shop in the near future!



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Dolmetsch's family went on to establish the Haslemere Festival of Early Music in 1925; it is still held each year in July.

Another of Haslemere's attractions is the **Educational Museum** in the High Street, an establishment that was founded in 1888 by local surgeon and Quaker, Sir James Hutchinson, and which now contains an imaginative series of displays on local birds, botany, zoology, geology, archaeology and history.

CHIDDINGFOLD

6 miles S of Godalming on the A283

St Mary's Church

With its three-sided green, waterlily-filled pond, part 13th-century church, medieval pub and handsome collection of Georgian cottages, this attractive settlement contains all the features of a quintessential English village. During the 13th and 14th centuries, it was an important centre of the glass-making industry, a once flourishing trade that used local sand as its main ingredient and employed skilled craftspeople from across northern Europe. Some fragments of medieval Chiddingfold glass can be seen in the small lancet window in **St Mary's Church**, below which a brass plaque is inscribed with the names of several early glass-makers. The church itself was much altered during the 1860s. However, its west tower is 17th century and contains a peal of eight bells, one of which is believed to be around 500 years old. The churchyard is entered through an exceptionally fine lych-gate, a covered gateway with a wide timber slab that was used to shelter coffins awaiting burial.

Of the many handsome buildings standing around Chiddingfold's village green, the Crown Inn is perhaps the most impressive.

This is another hostelry that claims to be the oldest in England, its existence having first been recorded in 1383. The structure is half-timbered and incorporates a medieval great hall; Edward VI is reported to have stayed here in the 15th century. Other buildings in the village worthy of note are Chantry House, Manor House and Glebe House, the last two of which have elegant Georgian facades.

DUNSFOLD

6 miles S of Godalming on the B2130

Church of St Mary & All Saints

From Chiddingfold, a pleasant journey eastwards through country lanes leads to another settlement with fold (a Saxon term meaning 'forest clearing') in its name. Dunsfold is a narrow ribbon of a village, which lies on either side of a long unmanicured green. It contains a number of fine old brick and tile-hung cottages and houses, several of which date from the late 17th century, and an excellent pub, the Sun Inn, which stands beside a towering oak tree that is said to have a girth of over 20 feet.

Dunsfold's finest feature, however, is situated half a mile from the village on top of a raised mound, which may once have been the site of a pre-Christian place of worship. The **Church of St Mary and All Saints** dates from around 1280 and, apart from the addition of a 15th-century belfry, has remained virtually unchanged since. The structure was much admired by William Morris, the Victorian founder of the Arts and Crafts Movement, who particularly approved of the simple, rough-hewn pews, which were made around 1300 by the inhabitants of the surrounding farms. A leafy glade at the foot of the mound is the location of a holy well, whose water is

reputed to be a cure for eye complaints and even blindness. The site of the holy well is marked by a timber shelter erected in the 1930s.

ALFOLD

9 miles S of Godalming on the B2133

Countryways Experience

A former clearing in the Wealden forest, Alfold is an exceptionally attractive village that was once an important glass-making centre. It reputedly supplied material for the windows of Westminster Abbey. Evidence of the medieval glassworks can still be made out in the woods on the edge of the village. The area around the church contains a number of interesting features, including an ancient yew tree in the churchyard, a charming Tudor cottage, and an old village whipping post and set of stocks. Just at the edge of the village is the **Countryways Experience**, a series of interactive exhibits that covers the history and natural history of this area, giving visitors some perspective on how living conditions adapted to new styles of farming over the centuries. Visitors can feed a range of animals,

including lambs, goats, piglets, calves and chickens, with food from the farm shop.

ELLEN'S GREEN

9 miles SE of Godalming on the B2128

This tiny hamlet on the Sussex border is one of the best preserved Surrey villages. It is set in unspoilt Weald country, with thick woodlands giving way to small fields. Cottages line the green but in a way that has no suggestion of excessive self-consciousness. Although singularly lacking in dramatic sights, Ellen's Green offers the visitor the chance to see an example of the small villages that were once typical of the area, but are now much rarer.

CRANLEIGH

7 miles SE of Godalming on the B2128

The parish church, St Nicholas, in the quiet residential town of Cranleigh, contains a carving of a grinning feline that allegedly provided the inspiration for Lewis Carroll's Cheshire Cat. The town also contains the country's first cottage hospital, opened in the 1850s, and a public school founded by local

CROMWELL COFFEE HOUSE

Oliver House, 97 High Street, Cranleigh,
Surrey GU6 8AU
Tel: 01483 273783 e-mail:
lynn@cromwellcoffeehouse.co.uk
website: www.cromwellcoffeehouse.co.uk

The building occupied by **Cromwell Coffee House** has an interesting history. It was built in the 16th century and a century later housed Oliver Cromwell's troops while Cromwell was at nearby Knole House. 350 years on, Oliver House dispenses hospitality as a very pleasant coffee house owned and run by Lynn and Mark Koch. Open Mon-Sat 8.30-4 (5 in summer), it serves a selection of snacks and home baking with daily specials such as parsnip soup and chicken & leek pie. There are two cosy rooms inside, and tables are set out in the front garden during the summer.



General Store & Café

Licensed Café - Coffee, Lunch, Tea, Sunday Lunch

Womenswear - Menswear - Accessories -
Gifts - Homewares - Florist

Open 9am-5.30pm Mon - Sat
10am-4pm Sunday

www.oneforty.co.uk

140 High Street, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 8RF. ☎ 01483 272627

FENESTRA INTERIORS

222 High Street, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 8RL
Tel/Fax: 01483 277722

e-mail: info@fenestriainteriors.com website: www.fenestriainteriors.com

Fenestra was established by Hilary Solt and moved to these premises in Cranleigh's High Street in 2005. Hilary studied interior design in London then set up her own workshop, where she was joined by business partner Louise Osborn. Their premise is that 'people should love where they live, and that's where we come in'. They are well established as leaders in the field of interior decoration and furnishing consultants, providing a comprehensive soft furnishing service of bespoke curtains, blinds, loose covers and upholstery, with, if required, an installation service.

They also supply a full range of designer furnishing fabrics, trimmings, wallpapers and paints, along with home accessories including lighting, lamps, cushions, throws and gifts to complement the soft furnishing service.

Opening hours are 9am to 5pm Tuesday to Friday, 9am to 2pm Saturday, closed Sunday and Monday.



YOUNGS OF CRANLEIGH

Unit 24, Hewitts Industrial Estate, Elmbridge Road, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 8LW Tel: 01483 274965

e-mail: sales@youngsofcranleigh.co.uk website: www.youngsofcranleigh.co.uk

Youngs of Cranleigh are one of the largest suppliers in the area of soft furnishings to the trade and to private customers. Owner Beverley Sale adds the personal touch to a business that caters for everything relating to home furnishings, fabrics and accessories. The shop sells carpets, curtains, cushions, blinds and fabrics (cotton, felt, buckram, canvas, calico, muslin, hessian), along with accessories ranging from brackets, hooks, pins and needles to tracks and poles, lampshade components, cushion foam & duck feathers.



farmers in 1865, which still incorporates a working farm.

EWHURST

8 miles SE of Godalming on the B2127

Church of St Peter & St Paul

Ewhurst is a long village containing a sandstone church, **St Peter and St Paul**, whose nave and south door are considered to

be among the finest examples of Norman church architecture in the county. The rest of the structure would have been of a similar age had it not been for an unfortunate attempt to underpin the tower in the 1830s, which resulted in the collapse not only of the tower, but of the chancel and north transept as well. The structure was eventually rebuilt in Norman style with an unusual shingled broach

historic building museum and heritage historic site scenic attraction flora and fauna

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DRAGONFLY

2 The Street (Unit 2), Ewhurst, nr Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 7QD

Tel/Fax: 01483 278750

Ewhurst is an attractive village on the B2127 under the Surrey Hills. The sandstone Church of St Peter & St Paul brings many visitors to the village, which also boasts some fine 18th and 19th century buildings, but for anyone looking for a special gift or something to enhance the home the place to head for is **Dragonfly**, a wonderful boutique shop filled with an extensive selection of lifestyle ideas.

Jacqueline Miller and Derry O'Kelly, owners since 2007, source a range of goods from all over the country, some familiar, others you might not find in any other similar outlet. Dragonfly is a major stockist of Cath Kidson toiletries, and other items on display range from unusual pieces of jewellery to hand-made cushions, mirrors and furniture – in particular painted pieces.

With the stock changing constantly, every visit to Dragonfly will uncover new delights and surprises. Shop hours are 10 to 5 Tuesday to Saturday.



THE RUG CENTRE

68 South Street, Dorking, Surrey RH4 2HD

Tel: 01306 882202 Fax: 01306 882131

website: www.rugcentre.co.uk

Fine hand-woven Oriental rugs are the speciality of **The Rug Centre**, located in handsome bow-fronted premises on South Street. The Centre has been in Dorking for only about 15 years, but owner Michael Woodman is an acknowledged expert, a 'rugman' with 40 years' experience. He finds rugs from all over the Middle East and Far East, from Turkey, India, Pakistan, Persia, Afghanistan, Tibet and Nepal. The sizes and styles vary enormously: exquisite silk or wool pieces from the famous towns of Isfahan and Qum; tribal-made rugs full of ethnic charm; chunky gabbeks in vibrant colours from Southwest Persia; rich-red Afghans from pillow-size pushtis to room size; round rugs; hearth rugs; kelims; tapestry-woven and needlepoint rugs; no-nonsense child-and pet-proof rugs; rugs for warmth, colour and sound insulation; rugs to cover worn patches; rugs for investment; heirloom rugs to be treasured down the generations. The rugs are beautifully displayed, with sizes and prices clearly marked. Michael has a fine eye for colour – customers can bring a fabric sample and ideal dimensions and he'll set off on a rug hunt, a hunt that usually ends in success! Customers can also try a chosen rug at home before making a purchase. Michael and manager Sheena Bamforth welcome one and all to come and see the wonderful range of rugs at the Centre, which also offers repair, cleaning, restoration and valuation services.



stories and anecdotes famous people art and craft entertainment and sport walks

spire. Inside, there is a carved 14th-century font and a Jacobean pulpit, and outside, the churchyard contains a number of mature trees native to North America.

The remainder of the village, part of which is set around a small square, contains some fine 18th and 19th-century residential buildings, including the Woolpit, built for the Doulton family in the 1880s. The 843-foot Pitch Hill is situated a mile to the north and can be easily reached from the village along a pleasant footpath.

Dorking

[North Downs Way](#) [Holmwood Common](#)

Dorking is a long-established settlement, which stands at the intersection of Stane Street, the Roman road that once connected

London with Chichester, and the ancient Pilgrims' Way, the east-west ridgeway route, which is roughly followed by the course of the modern **North Downs Way**. Despite evidence of Saxon and Viking occupation, present-day Dorking is a congested commuter town that owes most of its character to the Victorians.

There are a small number of older buildings, most notably the part 15th-century former coaching inn, the White Horse, and the shops and houses in North Street, West Street, and at the western end of the High Street. One of the houses on West Street belonged to William Mullins (born 1572), one of the Pilgrim Fathers who, in 1620, sailed to America in the *Mayflower*. However, the town's two most distinctive architectural features are characteristically 19th century: the unexpectedly grand Church of St Martin with

THE ROYAL OAK

Chart Lane South, Stonebridge, Dorking, Surrey RH5 4DJ
Tel: 01306 885420

Starting life as a cottage in the 17th century and later a tax collector's office, this fine old property is now a homely, friendly country pub with the traditional appeal of low ceilings, oak beams, wood panelling and warming winter fires.

The **Royal Oak** has two main bars, the locals' bar at the front for drinking and darts, the other at the back where the meals are served, with its own bar and doors opening onto the enclosed lawned garden with a children's play area. Landlord Paul Smalldon attracts a wide cross section of patrons, some of them loyal locals, others taking a break from a walk or a drive. Paul does all the cooking, using fresh local ingredients as far as possible for his dishes, which range from quick bar snacks to full meals. The bars are open all day, seven days a week.

The Royal Oak overlooks open farmland a short drive from J9 of the M25 – take the A24 round Dorking; Stonebridge is signed to the left on the southern outskirts of the town



[historic building](#) [museum and heritage](#) [historic site](#) [scenic attraction](#) [flora and fauna](#)

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its soaring spire, and the Rose Hill housing development, an assortment of Victorian villas arranged around a green and entered from South Street through an unusual neo-Gothic arch. St Paul's Church in Dorking is a fine piece of architecture, designed by Benjamin Ferray and constructed in 1857.

Perhaps Dorking's most attractive feature is its close proximity to unspoilt countryside, a testimony to the success of the southeast's Green Belt policy. As well as the open spaces in the Downs to the north, **Holmwood Common**, two miles along the A24 to the south, is another tract of National Trust-owned land, which offers some pleasant way-marked walks through mature oak and birch woodlands, and disabled access to the pleasant picnic area around Fourwents Pond.

Around Dorking

BOX HILL

2 miles N of Dorking off the A25

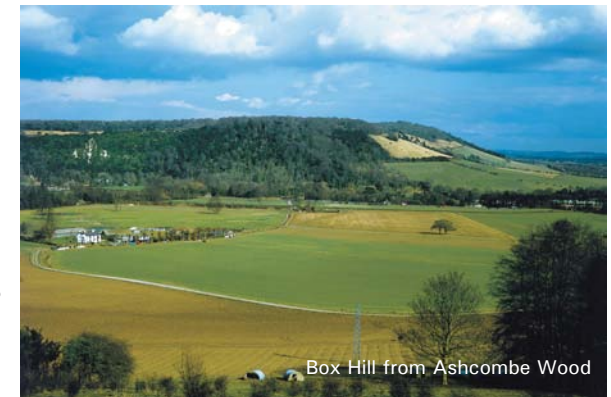
[Box Hill](#)

The 563-foot **Box Hill** lies a couple of miles from Polesden Lacey on the eastern side of the River Mole. This popular local landmark, probably the best known part of the North Downs, rises sharply from the valley floor to an impressive tree-covered summit high above. The hill takes its name from the mature box trees that once grew here in profusion, but which were seriously depleted in the 18th century to supply the needs of London wood-engravers. By then, the site had already been known

for over a century as a beauty spot and had been visited and recorded by, among others, the diarist John Evelyn.

Today, the National Trust owns over 800 acres of land around Box Hill, which has now been designated a country park. The area around the summit incorporates an exhibition centre, a late 19th-century fort and a café, and can be reached either by a footpath or by a narrow winding road leading up from Burford Bridge. The hillside is traversed by a series of nature walks, and there are several picnic sites, which enjoy breathtaking views across the Weald to the South Downs. Many species of orchids grow on the chalk grassland and butterflies abound, including the Adonis blue and the silver spotted skipper.

The Burford Bridge Hotel stands on the banks of the River Mole at the foot of Box Hill and is connected to it by stepping stones across the river. In the early 19th century, the establishment was known as the Hare and Hounds and it was here in 1805 that Admiral Nelson said his farewells to Lady Hamilton prior to the Battle of Trafalgar. Keats is also believed to have completed his second volume of poems, *Endymion*, here in 1818. Chapel




Box Hill from Ashcombe Wood

[stories and anecdotes](#) [famous people](#) [art and craft](#) [entertainment and sport](#) [walks](#)

Farm at nearby West Humble is an open farm, where visitors can see at close quarters how a livestock farm works.

MICKLEHAM



3 miles N of Dorking on the A24

 Church of St Michael

Mickleham is a highly picturesque village with a good pub, the Running Horses, and a restored Norman church, **St Michael's**, containing a rare Flemish stained-glass window. It is worth examining the churchyard because this is one of the few parish churches to preserve the Surrey tradition of grave-boards. These are wooden tombstone planks carried between two posts. Most of the grave-boards in St Michael's are 19th century and have been carefully preserved and renovated where necessary.

LEATHERHEAD

5 miles N of Dorking on the A24

 Museum of Local History  Fire and Iron Gallery

Leatherhead is a pretty Mole Valley town that manages to retain some measure of tranquillity despite being crossed by a number of major trunk routes.



Several buildings in the narrow streets of the old town are worthy of note, including the 16th-century Running Horse Inn and the attractive part 12th-century parish church of St Mary and St Nicholas. The grave of Anthony Hope (real name Sir Anthony Hawkins), the author of *The Prisoner Of Zenda*, can be found in the churchyard, and a short distance away in Church Street, the informative **Leatherhead Museum of Local History** is housed in a charming 17th-century timber-framed cottage with its own small garden.

On Oxshott Road stands the **Fire and Iron**

Gallery, the world's leading metal art gallery, featuring spectacular work by top international blacksmiths and jewellers.

GREAT BOOKHAM

4 miles N of Dorking on the A246

 Church of St Nicholas  Polesden Lacey

Although heavily built up since World War II, the residential area to the west of Leatherhead manages to retain something of its historic past. The earliest mention of a settlement in the area dates back to the 7th century, when a manor at Bocheham is recorded as belonging to Chertsey Abbey.

Present day Great Bookham contains an exceptional parish church, the **Church of St Nicholas**, which has an unusual flint tower with a shingled spire dating back to the Norman era in the 12th century. A substantial part of the building, including the chancel, is known to have been rebuilt in the 1340s by the Abbot of Chertsey, and the church was again remodelled by the Victorians. Inside, there are some fine 15th-century stained glass windows and a number of noteworthy monumental brasses and memorials to the local lords of the manor. An early 18th-century owner of the Bookham estate, Dr Hugh Shortrudge, left an endowment in his will to four local churches on condition that an annual sermon be preached on the subject of the martyrdom of Charles I. St Nicholas continues to uphold the tradition of the 'Shortrudge Sermon', which is preached each year on the final Sunday in January.

Nearby Little Bookham has a small single-roomed church with a wooden belfry that is believed to date from the 12th century. The adjacent 18th-century manor house now operates as a school. Bookham Common and Banks Common to the northwest of Little

TASTE DELI & CAFÉ

27 High Street, Great Bookham, nr Leatherhead, Surrey KT23 4AA

Tel/Fax: 01372 457066

e-mail: deli@tastecontractcatering.co.uk

website: www.taste-deli.co.uk

Taste is a high-quality delicatessen, coffee shop and caterer in the heart of Great Bookham, owned and run by Alison Brown and Suzanne Ailes. The ladies and their staff serve an excellent selection of snacks and meals to eat in or take away, including soup, jacket potatoes, salads, sandwiches served in a variety of breads, pies and pasties. Cottage pies, fish pies and quiches from individual to family and party size are made in the kitchen on the premises. There's an enticing array of cakes and pastries, biscuits and chocolates, oils, vinegars, pickles and preserves, pasta, fruit juices and great coffee. From the deli section come cooked and cured meats, pâtés, 30+ cheeses, olives, marinated peppers, sun-dried tomatoes and anchovies. Taste will also make up individual hampers and caters for parties, celebrations, business lunches and other functions for up to 100. Among the specialities are lovely party canapés such as smoked salmon blinis or baby Yorkshire puddings filled with beef, crème fraîche, horseradish and chives.

Taste is open from 8am to 4pm Monday to Saturday.



Bookham provide some welcome relief from the commuter estates and offer some pleasant walking through relatively unspoilt open heathland. The commons are recorded in the Domesday Book as providing pannage, the right to graze pigs on acorns, for Chertsey Abbey. Now in the ownership of the National Trust, they are particularly known for their rich and varied birdlife.

Another National Trust-owned property, **Polesden Lacey** (see panel opposite), stands on high ground two miles to the south of Great Bookham. The estate was once owned by the writer R B Sheridan, who purchased it in 1797 with the intention of restoring its decaying 17th-century manor house. However, a lack of funds prevented him from realising his ambitions and, following his death in 1816, the building was demolished and the estate sold. During the 1820s, the architect Thomas

Cubitt built a substantial Regency villa in its place, which was subsequently remodelled and enlarged by successive owners throughout the 19th century.


In 1906, the estate was acquired by Captain Ronald Greville and his wife Margaret, the daughter of a Scottish brewing magnate and a celebrated high society hostess. Over the following three decades, they invited a succession of rich and influential guests to Polesden Lacey whose number included Edward VII, and George VI and Queen Elizabeth (later the Queen Mother), who spent part of their honeymoon here in 1923. The Grevilles carried out a number of alterations of their own during this period and the extravagant 'Edwardian-Louis XVI' internal decoration remains as a testimony to Margaret Greville's taste - or lack of it.

Whatever the perspective, the house

contains an undeniably fine collection of furniture, paintings, tapestries, porcelain and silver, which the Grevilles accumulated over 40 years, and Margaret's personal collection of photographs provides a fascinating record of British high society at play during the early part of the century. The surrounding grounds amount to over 1,000 acres and incorporate a walled rose garden, open lawns, a youth hostel and a large area of natural woodland. An annual festival in late June and early July is held in the charming open-air theatre. This has expanded over the years and now presents a variety of theatre and entertainment, including Gilbert and Sullivan, light operetta, grand opera, ballet, classical concerts, jazz, big bands, music hall, folk dancing and spectacular fireworks. The programme always includes a Shakespeare production.

RANMORE COMMON

1 mile NW of Dorking off the A2003

 Ranmore Common

Lying mainly to the south of Polesden Lacy, **Ranmore Common** enjoys excellent views

Polesden Lacy

*Great Bookham, nr Leatherhead, Surrey RH5 6BD
Tel: 01372 452048*

website: www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Polesden Lacy is an exceptional regency house remodelled by the Edwardian hostess The Hon. Mrs Greville DBE, with displays of her paintings, furniture, porcelain and silver. The Duke and Duchess of York (later to become King George VI and Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother) spent part of their honeymoon here in 1923. In an exceptional setting on the North Downs, there are extensive grounds, lawns and a walled rose garden. A free easy-to-use map is available to guide you on country walks across woodland and farmland. There is also a free children's guide and activity sheets for the house and the garden, as well as seasonal trails and tracker packs. To complete your visit, refreshments are available at the tea room and there is an extensive National Trust gift shop and plant sales. A programme of family fun events runs throughout the year.



from its location on top of the Downs. This unspoilt setting, which can feel remote in bad weather despite its proximity to Dorking, is a testament to enlightened Green Belt policy. The common is in reality a long green, with only a few houses dotted around it, thereby preserving its exposed nature. Owned in part by the Forestry Commission, it is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and provides an excellent habitat for wildlife. Butterflies, including purple hairstreak, white admiral and silver-washed fritillary, can be seen in the rides and clearings, as well as birds such as sparrow hawks and green, lesser and greater spotted woodpeckers.

EFFINGHAM

5 miles NW of Dorking on the A246

Effingham is an old village that was famous as the home of the Howards of Effingham, one of whom was the Commander-in-Chief of the English fleet that defeated the Spanish Armada in 1588. His home was Effingham Court Palace, which survives only as remnants at Lower Place Farm. There were two other

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important manors in Effingham. One is the moated grange in Great Lee Wood, once the manor of Effingham la Leigh. The other was the medieval property of the Earls of Gloucester, East Court, which is now incorporated in a boarding school, St Theresa's Convent.

EAST HORSLEY

6 miles NW of Dorking on the A246

 East Horsley Towers

Suburban building has caught up with East Horsley, leaving the town centre bereft of the sort of charm associated with Ranmore Common or some of the other villages that are nearer Dorking. It does, however, possess one of the more dramatic country houses in Surrey, at least as it is viewed from the road. **East Horsley Towers**, built in the 1820s,

seems to capture the spirit of the 19th-century imagination as it moved from Romantic to the nostalgic re-creations so loved by the Victorians. A long entrance leads to the house, which presents itself with a huge round tower by the entrance. Another tower, to the west, is built in the Gothic style. The house itself displays Tudor influences, but has multi-coloured vaulting ribs throughout for support. Another tower, this time Germanic looking with a pointed roof, dominates the east wing of the house. It now operates as a luxurious management training centre.

OCKHAM

10 miles NW of Dorking on the B2039

 All Saints Church

Ockham once possessed a fine Jacobean mansion, Ockham Park. A serious fire in 1948

F CONISBEE & SON

*Park Corner, Ockham Road South, East Horsley, Surrey KT24 6RZ
Tel: 01483 282073 Fax: 01483 248859
website: www.fconisbee.co.uk*

In a distinctive three-storey pebble-fronted building on a corner site in East Horsley, **F Conisbee & Son** are high-class butchers, poultryers, graziers and caterers who have been masters of their trade since 1760. The current head Conisbee is Neil, who runs the business with his sons Stephen and James.

They source the very best meat from local farms, from the Polesden Lacy Estate where they farm and from their own farms at Fetcham, Bookham and Shere, where they rear beef, cattle, sheep and prize-winning turkeys. All their meat is hung as carcasses or quarters, allowing the meat to mature naturally, ensuring tenderness and improved flavour without the tainting or discoloration often found in vacuum-packed meat. The business has a resident chef, Robert, who makes an excellent range of award-winning meat pies. He also produces meat platters, salads and specialities such as Beef Wellington – part of the full catering service offered by this outstanding firm. Another of the Conisbee specialities is a range of superb sausages in over 20 varieties (one is gluten-free) and they are widely known for their barbecues and spit roasts, providing whole or part pigs cooked on a spit over a bed of hot coals, with all the trimmings, all the equipment and all the staff to ensure a great occasion for up to 1,000 people. Shop hours: Monday 8am to 1pm; Tuesday 8am to 1pm & 2pm to 5pm; Wednesday 8am to 1pm; Thursday 8am to 1pm & 2pm to 5pm; Friday 7.30am to 1pm & 2pm to 5.30pm; Saturday 7.30am to 1pm & 2pm to 3.30pm.



destroyed everything except for the orangery, stables, kitchen wing, and a solitary Italianate tower. The **Church of All Saints** still stands within the grounds of the estate; this largely 13th-century building was constructed on the site of a pre-Norman structure and is known for its remarkable east window, a surprising combination of seven tall pointed lancets finished in marble with distinctive carved capitals. The window dates from around 1260 and is thought to have been brought here from nearby Newark Abbey following its dissolution in the 16th century. The church incorporates a brick chapel, which contains a robed marble effigy of the first Lord King, a former owner of Ockham Park who died in 1734. The name of Ockham is chiefly associated with the expression Ockham's Razor. William of Ockham was a 13th-century Franciscan intellectual whose maxim was that every hypothesis should be sliced to its essentials, and all unnecessary facts in the subject being analysed, should be eliminated. William is commemorated by a small stained-glass window in the church.

On Chatley Heath, a mile to the north of Ockham, there is a unique Semaphore Tower that was once part of the Royal Navy's signalling system for relaying messages between Portsmouth and the Admiralty in London. Although the semaphore mechanism soon fell into disuse, the structure has remained in good order and is open to the public at weekends. As well as offering outstanding views over the surrounding landscape, the Chatley Heath Semaphore Tower houses an interesting exhibition and model collection. It can be reached along a pleasant woodland pathway and is open throughout the summer at weekends and Bank Holidays.

EAST CLANDON

7 miles W of Dorking on the A246

Hatchlands Park

This attractive small village straddles the A246 Leatherhead to Guildford route. The road zig-zags between brick and half-timber cottages, several of which are clustered around the Norman church of St Thomas. This small church was extensively restored at the end of the 19th century, but the architects ensured that one of its most distinctive features - the bulky shingled bell tower - retained its original appearance.

The village also contains an interesting old forge and a lovely old manor farmhouse dating from the late 17th century. A striking National Trust property is located one mile to the northeast: **Hatchlands Park** is a distinctive brick-built house designed in the mid 18th century for Admiral Boscawen after his famous victory in the Battle of Louisburg. Inside, there are some splendid examples of the early work of Robert Adams, some fine period furniture and paintings, and a wonderful assortment of historic keyboard instruments, the Cobbe collection, which was moved here in 1988. Among the pianos are those owned or played by Beethoven, Mahler, Mozart, Chopin, Marie Antoinette and the Medici family. Elgar's piano is the very one on which he composed the *Enigma Variations*. The grounds, originally laid out by Humphry Repton, were remodelled by Gertrude Jekyll. In recent years, parts of the garden have been restored to the original designs and planting plans of Jekyll and Repton.

WESTCOTT

2 miles W of Dorking on the A25

Westcott is a tidy village that lies on the main road linking Dorking with Shere. Although

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BURY HILL FISHERIES

The Boathouse, Old Bury Hill, Westcott, nr Dorking, Surrey RH4 3JU

Tel: 01306 883621

e-mail: info@buryhillfisheries.co.uk

website: www.buryhillfisheries.co.uk

Surrey's premier coarse fishery, **Bury Hill Fisheries** forms part of a beautiful 200-year-old estate, which lies in a secluded valley at the foot of the Surrey Hills. Although just 20 miles from Central London, Bury Hill is far removed from the stress of modern working life, a haven of peace and quiet amongst mature woodland and diverse wildlife.

Widely regarded as one of the finest day ticket coarse fisheries in the country, Bury Hill is an ideal venue for both beginners and experienced anglers of all ages boasting four lakes totalling 22 acres offering the finest sport for every discipline. If your aim is a genuine 40lb English carp, a bag of tench and bream, a big pike or double-figure zander, or simply a net of quality roach and perch, Bury Hill is a fishery where dreams are realised.

The Old Lake with its wooded island and prolific beds of lilies and irises is a traditional mixed fishery where carp top 35 lb with doubles and 20s commonplace, plus quality tench, bream, crucian, roach, rudd, pike and zander. The two lakes in the lower valley are Milton and Bonds Lakes, bordered by irises with large lily beds, Milton has a huge head of crucian, tench, roach, golden rudd and perch whilst Bonds is home to hundreds of carp to 10 lb plus. The latest addition to the Bury Hill portfolio is Temple Lake, a purpose built specimen carp water, which is home to hefty English carp, which average close to 29lb and which top the magical 40 lb barrier.

And if you are new to fishing or a long time angler wanting to improve your skills, Bury Hill's Pro-Fish Angling Courses run May to September. With tackle and bait provided there is no easier way to be introduced to the fun of fishing.


Facilities are also first class with ample car parking, lakeside café with fantastic views over the Old Lake, a well stocked tackle and bait shop providing everything for an action packed day from floats, hooks and shot to boilies, groundbait, pellet and maggots and clean heated toilets which are also disabled friendly. Flat banks and gravelled paths also allow disabled access to large comfortable, purpose built swims. Add friendly, helpful staff and it's easy to see why Bury Hill attracts visitors from far and wide time and time again.



most of the houses are from the same Victorian period, they display a variety of building styles. This diversity stems from the fact that Westcott lies almost exactly at the junction of the chalk North Downs and the sandstone Surrey Hills. Both of these stone types figure in the design of the cottages, and sometimes both are used in the same house. Churtgate House, built in the 16th century, pre-dates nearly all the other buildings in Westcott; it is located on the main road at the corner of Balchin's Lane.

ABINGER

4 miles SW of Dorking off the A25

 Church of St James

The parish of Abinger contains two villages, Abinger itself (or Abinger Common), which lies one mile west of Friday Street at the southern end of the parish, and Abinger

Hammer, which lies on the A25 Dorking to Guildford road to the north. Abinger claims to be one of the oldest settlements in the country, having been settled by Middle Stone Age people around 5000BC. The remains of a Mesolithic pit-dwelling were discovered in a field near Abinger's old Manor House, which, when excavated in 1950, revealed over 1,000 tools and artefacts that are now on display in an interesting little museum.

Abinger's parish **Church of St James** is an unlucky building. This part 12th-century structure was largely destroyed by an enemy flying bomb during World War II. It was rebuilt, with great sensitivity, but was severely damaged in 1964 after being struck by lightning. In the churchyard is a war memorial designed by Lutyens, and in the corner of the three-sided village green, a set of old wooden stocks and a whipping post.

THE STEPHAN LANGTON

Friday Street, Abinger Common, Surrey RH5 6JR
Tel: 01306 730775






e-mail: cal@stephan-langton.co.uk
website: www.stephan-langton.co.uk

Standing in a tranquil valley in the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the **Stephan Langton** is a cosy, friendly inn with open fires, wooden floors and a timeless appeal. Hosts Chris and Rosie Robinson extend a warm welcome to all who pass through the door, whether it's for a drink, a quick snack or a relaxed meal.

Food is a very important part of the inn's success thanks to chef Simon Adams, who uses fresh local, seasonal produce in his dishes. The choice runs from bar classics like ploughman's, pork pie and corned beef hash to game from the Wotton Estate, Abinger watercress soup, rack of lamb, steaks and the Sunday roasts. Everything is made on the premises, including the bread, the pasta, the pickles and the ice cream. Meals can be enjoyed in the bar, in the restaurant or, when the sun shines, at tables in the courtyard or by the stream at the back. The excellent food is accompanied by fine local ales and a well-chosen wine list. The bar is open from 11am to 3pm (not Monday) and 5pm to 11pm, Saturday 11am to 11pm, Sunday 12noon to 9pm. Restaurant hours are 12.30pm to 2.30pm and 7pm to 9pm (no food Sunday evening or all Monday).

Stephan Langton was a reforming Archbishop of Canterbury who was instrumental in limiting the excesses of the monarch King John by means of the Magna Carta, signed at Runnymede in 1215. Langton was the fourth signatory to the document, a copy of which can be seen in the bar. Friday Street is a tiny hamlet a short drive west of Dorking – leave the A25 at Wotton.



 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna

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KINGFISHER FARM SHOP

Abinger Hammer, nr Dorking, Surrey RH5 6QX
Tel: 01306 730703 Fax: 01306 731654
e-mail: kfwatercress@btconnect.com

Kingfisher Farm Shop is famous for its home grown watercress. This family business has been growing this uniquely English product at Abinger Hammer since 1854. It is grown in natural spring water, which provides all the necessary nutrients without the aid of fertilisers or insecticides.

The Farm Shop has become an increasingly important part of the business since the family started selling fruit and vegetables in 1971 and the watercress shed at Abinger Hammer became the present shop in 1999. The shop provides high quality food for the discerning customer, sourcing as much regional and local food available.






An abundance of fresh vegetables and fruit greets the visitor and nearby shelves groan with locally produced breads, cakes and pies alongside jams and chutneys. Fresh meat from a local butcher is delivered six days a week. A selection of English wines, beers from Surrey and Sussex and cider from Herefordshire are stocked. Whether it's for breakfast, lunch or dinner, it is possible to gather all the ingredients in your basket from fresh produce to a ready made pud!

Outside are seasonal displays of herbaceous, perennial and bedding plants, herbs, pumpkins and squashes, and Christmas trees.

The latest addition to the offerings of this outstanding farm shop is the adjacent Flower Shop, which opened in October 2003. Fresh-cut British-grown seasonal flowers are sold as well as exotic stems, hand tied bouquets and spray arrangements (to order), growing mediums, terracotta pots and garden accessories. The experienced team of florists offer flowers for weddings, events, private parties and funerals.

The Farm Shop is open every day, the Flower Shop every day except Sunday and Monday. The small community of Abinger Hammer lies on the A25 Dorking-Guildford road in the Tillingbourne Valley.



 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks



'Jack the Smith' Clock, Abinger Hammer

Abinger Common is a delightful hamlet that lies one and a half miles north of Leith Hill, the birthplace of the first Archbishop of Canterbury whose name lives on in the title of a delightful pub, The Stephen Langton Inn.

Abinger Hammer, just over a mile to the northwest, lies in the valley of the River Tillingbourne, a fast-flowing stream, which, in the 15th and 16th centuries, was used to power the mechanical metal-working hammers from which the settlement takes its name. At one time, the village was known for the manufacture of cannon balls and a busy blacksmith's workshop can still be found here. Abinger Hammer's industrial past is reflected in the famous 'Jack the Smith' hammer clock, which was erected in 1909. This unique clock overhangs the road on the site of an old iron forge and is characterised by the figure of a

blacksmith who strikes a bell with his hammer every half hour.

HOLMBURY ST MARY


6 miles SW of Dorking on the B2126

Until 1879 the village was called Felday and was a hideaway for smugglers, and many of the oldest stone cottages have unusually large cellars dug into the hillside - perfect for hiding goods in transit! Holmbury St Mary was the invention of well-to-do Victorians, one of whom, the eminent George Edmund Street, designed and paid for the church in 1879, giving it to the parish in memory of his second wife. The village is ideally situated for access to the 857-foot Holmbury Hill, an upland with an altogether wilder feel than Leith Hill, its taller neighbour across the valley. A pleasant walk leads to the remains of an eight-acre Iron Age hill fort whose fading earthwork fortifications lie hidden amidst

the undergrowth on the hillside

COLDHARBOUR

5 miles SW of Dorking off the A29



 Anstiebury Camp

A remote hamlet set 700 feet up in the Surrey Hills, Coldharbour has an atmosphere that is light years away from most people's preconception of Surrey as a county of cosy suburbs and fertile farmland. Sturdy, stone-built houses cling to the hilltop, from which there are magnificent views sweeping south over the Weald.

Just to the north of Coldharbour is **Anstiebury Camp**, an Iron Age fort probably dating from the 1st or 2nd century BC. The fort is oval in plan, covering more than 11 acres, and is defended by triple banks with double ditches to the north and northeast.

LEITH HILL

5 miles SW of Dorking on the B2126


 Leith Hill Place  Leith Hill

The 965-foot National Trust-owned **Leith Hill** is the highest point in the southeast of England. In 1766, a 64-foot tower was built on the tree-covered summit by Richard Hull, a local squire who lived at nearby Leith Hill Place. He now lies buried beneath his splendid creation. Present-day visitors climbing to the top on a clear day are rewarded with a panorama that takes in several counties and stretches as far as the English Channel.

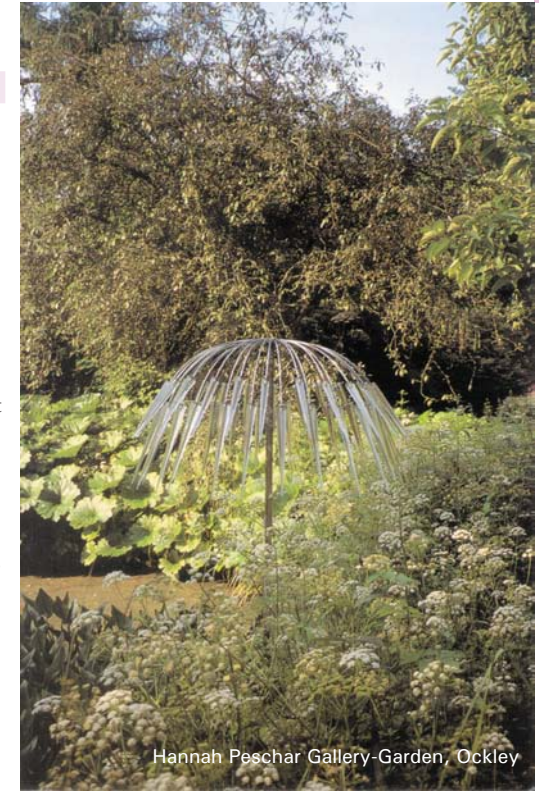
The part 17th, part 18th-century **Leith Hill Place** stands within beautiful rhododendron-filled grounds that are open to the public throughout the year. In its time, the house has been owned by the Wedgwood and Vaughan Williams families, and contains a fine collection of Wedgwood pottery and paintings by such eminent artists as Reynolds and Stubbs. An Edwardian country house designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens can be found on the northern slopes of Leith Hill. Goddards on Abinger Common, now the centre of activities of the Lutyens Trust, stands within attractive grounds laid out by Gertrude Jekyll.

OCKLEY

8 miles S of Dorking on the A29

 Hannah Peschar Gallery-Garden

At Ockley there is a village green, which, at over 500 feet in diameter, is one of the largest in Surrey. In summer, village cricket is played in this classic English setting, which is



Hannah Peschar Gallery-Garden, Ockley

enhanced by a number of handsome period houses and cottages. Ockley has had a long and eventful history: the village once stood on Stane Street, the old Roman road between Chichester and London, now partially followed by the route of the A29, and in the mid 9th century, a momentous battle between the forces of King Ethelwulf of the West Saxons and the marauding Vikings reputedly took place near here. Following the Norman invasion, the surrounding woodlands were designated a royal hunting forest, and in the 12th century, the Normans built a fortification half a mile to the north of the present village green that has long since disappeared.

However, the nearby part 14th-century Church of St Margaret remains, although this was extensively remodelled by the Victorians during the 1870s.

Among the many other noteworthy buildings in Ockley are the 18th-century Ockley Court, which stands opposite the church, and the groups of cottages surrounding the green, built in a variety of styles and materials, including brick, tiling and weather-boarding. An interesting private sculpture and ceramics gallery, the **Hannah Peschar Gallery-Garden**, which incorporates a delightful water garden, can be found in Standon Lane.

A short distance to the southwest of Ockley, a chapel was built in the 13th century to serve the population of this once-isolated part of the Weald. Known as the Okewood Chapel, it was later endowed by a local

nobleman after his son narrowly avoided being savaged by a wild boar when a mystery arrow struck and killed the charging animal.

NEWDIGATE

5 miles S of Dorking off the A24

A turning east off the A24 at Beare Green leads to the village of Newdigate. This historic settlement contains an interesting parish church, St Peter's, which is believed to have been founded in the 12th century by the Earl de Warenne as a 'hunters' chapel', a place of worship built to be used by Norman hunting parties during their expeditions in the Wealden forest. The tower, with its shingled spire, was constructed around a massive cross-braced timber frame in the 15th century, a time when Newdigate was relatively prosperous thanks to its flourishing iron-founding industry. The oak shingles on the spire had to be replaced in the

THE SIX BELLS

Village Street, Newdigate, nr Dorking, Surrey RH15 5DH
Tel: 01306 631276

The **Six Bells** is a splendid traditional inn dating back as far as the 17th century, built round a vast central chimney that is now an imposing inglenook fireplace. Smuggling tales abound here – traces remain of a tunnel that led from the cellar to the church – and, though much altered, the inn retains a great deal of its old-world character and atmosphere, with pictures of bygone village life to assist the period appeal. Landlord Martin Earp is the most welcoming of hosts, regaling his patrons with genuine warm hospitality, well-kept ales and good honest traditional pub food. Families with children are always made welcome, and when the sun shines the tables set out in the garden overlooking the Church of St Peter is very popular – a play area is guaranteed to keep the little ones busy and happy. (The church is well worth taking time to visit; it is believed to have been founded in the 12th century as a hunters' chapel, a place of worship for Norman hunting parties in the Wealden Forest.)

Also worth looking at are some splendid old timber-framed buildings in Newdigate, which is located not far from J9 of the M25 – take the A24 and turn off at Beare Green on the road signposted to Newdigate.



TANHOUSE FARM SHOP

Rusper Road, Newdigate, Surrey RH15 5BX
Tel: 01306 631043 Fax: 01306 631891
email: tanhousefarmshop@btconnect.com
website: www.tanhousefarmshop.co.uk

Tanhouse Farm Shop, located on the road between Rusper and Newdigate, offers a warm welcome and a range of delicious, freshly produced, seasonal foods available seven days a week, throughout the year.

Julie Day, who founded the shop five years ago, has a strong commitment to offering her customers homemade meals and snacks, using only the best available ingredients, without the additives and preservatives so often found in other foodstuffs.

This commitment to wholesome fine food is reflected throughout the Tanhouse offering, from the scrumptious bread and cakes baked daily on the premises, to pickles, preserves and local honey, and to Gloucester Old Spot pork, premium lamb and Aberdeen Angus beef, which are raised on the farm with exceptional attention to animal welfare.

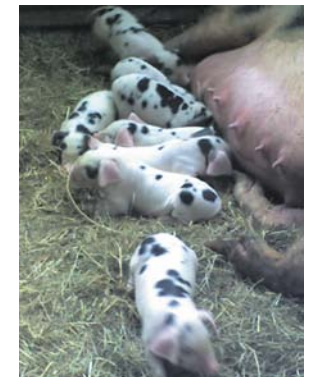
The farm shop boasts a delightful garden, with a heated, marquee dining room, which allows al fresco meals even in less than clement weather. The dining room and garden can also be reserved for private events, such as children's parties, birthdays, christenings or other family get togethers.

Anyone visiting with children will welcome the outdoor play equipment and toys provided to keep younger customers happy whilst Mum and Dad relax with a fair trade cappuccino, organic tea, or locally produced fruit juice. The lunchtime menu is also perfect for families, featuring flavoursome soups, Mediterranean-style treats and deli salad platters just perfect for sharing.

Alongside the food produced to eat on the premises or take home and enjoy, Tanhouse also offers local produce from growers in Surrey and Sussex and a range of cards and gifts, many of which are made by local artisans.

Tanhouse Farm has also built up an enviable reputation for its outside catering service, which again offers only fresh food with everything produced to order in the Farm Shop's own extensive kitchens. Chris Moon, who heads up the catering service, will be happy to discuss your event and work with you to develop the perfect menu.

Julie and the rest of her friendly team look forward to seeing you at Tanhouse Farm Shop, where you are guaranteed a warm welcome and the freshest, most delicious food for miles around.



late 1970s after their Victorian predecessors had warped in the hot summer of 1976.

Present-day Newdigate contains a number of exceptional old timber-framed buildings, several of which date back to the 16th century and earlier.

CHARLWOOD

8 miles SE of Dorking off the A24

A charming period village on the Sussex border, Charlwood is all the more admirable in that it is so near Crawley and Gatwick Airport and yet preserves so much of its own rural identity. Although it lacks the sense of remoteness that it must once have possessed, Charlwood still has many 18th-century cottages and a sprinkling of earlier, slightly larger yeomen's houses, such as the 15th-century Charlwood House to the southeast of the village centre.

The parish Church of St Nicholas was built in the 11th century and underwent a series of alterations, extensions and renovations beginning in the 13th century. The impression, surprisingly, is one of an organic building that has evolved with the centuries. One of its prized possessions is the late medieval screen, one of the most intricately carved pieces of ecclesiastical woodwork in Surrey.

BROCKHAM

1 mile E of Dorking on the A25

Brockham is a picture-postcard village set around a quintessential three-sided village green on which cricket is played in summer, a Guy Fawkes bonfire is lit in November, and Christmas carols sung in winter. The legendary cricketer W G Grace is even said to have played here. This delightful tree-lined setting is enhanced by a splendid view of Box Hill, some fine old cottages, and an elegantly

proportioned parish church with a tall spire, which was built in the 1840s in uncomplicated Early English style. Other noteworthy buildings in the village include the late 18th-century Brockham Court, which can be seen on the eastern edge of the green, and the part 17th-century Feltons Farm, which lies a short distance away to the southwest. The remains of some 19th-century industrial kilns can be seen on the Downs above the village in the disused Brockham Quarries.

Southeast Surrey

The southeast corner of Surrey abuts both Kent to the east and Sussex to the south. Not surprisingly, there are elements of both counties in some of the Surrey border villages, noticeable in particular in the way that Kent weather-boarding features in the villages and hamlets near Lingfield.

The M25 marks the northern extremity of the area covered in this section. As with so many other parts of the county, the towns and villages lying just south of the motorway have fought - and largely won - a battle to preserve their sense of identity. Perhaps it is simply because they have had many centuries to grow accustomed to east-west traffic. The valleys and ridges here comprised the route followed by religious devotees on their way from London to Canterbury. Indeed many stretches of the original Pilgrims' Way, which is now a well-marked trail along much of its route, look down on its modern, secular, counterpart, the M25.

The countryside in this southeastern corner is far less wooded than south-central or southwestern Surrey. Instead, it is a land of open fields and church spires spotted on the horizon. Only at the southern edge,

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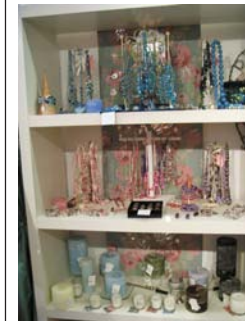
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ALANS PLANTS

Clifton Nursery, Clifton Lane, Reigate, Surrey RH2 9RA
Tel: 0777 865 9525 / 01293 402071
e-mail: alanplants@hotmail.co.uk

Alans Plants was founded and is run by Alan Horlock, who has built up a fine reputation in the area for quality, reliability and value for money. In his small nursery he grows almost 90% of the plants sold, meaning that they are acclimatised to the prevailing weather and soil conditions of the region. There's always something of interest for the gardener, and each season also has its specialities. In January, February and March the nursery sells about 20 varieties of seed potatoes, along with shallots, onion sets and fruit bushes. March, April and May bring basket plants (they'll make up a basket if there's time) and bedding plants, with many varieties of geraniums and fuchsias.

In June, July and August potted rose bushes and fruit trees, ornamental trees, perennials and alpine come to the fore, while from September to December spring bulbs for planting, early primroses, wallflowers and pansies are in demand. Alan's plans for 2009/10 include stocking more hedging plants, soft fruit plants, herbs and grasses.



GORGEOUS

19 Bell Street, Reigate, Surrey RH2 7AD
Tel: 01737 222846
e-mail: heather@gorgeouslife.co.uk
website: www.gorgeouslife.co.uk / www.gorgeouswear.co.uk

Gorgeous is a Surrey-based interior design and fashion business owned and run by Heather Kemeys. She puts her 20+ years of experience into helping clients create beautiful rooms and homes to suit their personalities and takes great pride in the excellent reputation she has earned for design and personal service. The design consultancy covers houses old and new, large and small, and Heather can visit and advise on all aspects of interior design, from colour schemes to carpets and flooring, curtains, wallpapers, upholstery and soft furnishings.

The shop is stocked with a vast array of fabrics, paints, papers, carpets and furnishings, and also offers a bespoke service for making, measuring and fitting curtains and blinds. The front of the shop is filled with beautiful things, from cashmere cardigans and wraps to suede and leather handbags, silk scarves, kimonos, jewellery, scented candles and gifts.



where it nears the Weald of Kent, does the landscape begin to become defined by its dense woodlands.

Reigate

Priory

Reigate is a prosperous residential town whose expansion at the hands of postwar developers has done much to conceal its long and distinguished history. The settlement was once an important outpost of the de Warenne family, the assertive Norman rulers whose sphere of influence stretched from the Channel coast to the North Downs. As at Lewes, they built a castle on a rise above the village streets of which nothing remains today except for an arch, which was reconstructed in the 1770s from material recovered from the original castle walls. Today, this striking neo-

Gothic reproduction stands at the heart of a pleasant public park.

A steep path leads down from the castle mound to the attractive mixture of Victorian, Georgian and older buildings, which line Reigate's High Street. The Old Town Hall, a handsome redbrick building constructed in 1729, stands at its eastern end, and a short distance away to the north, the entrance to a disused road tunnel can be seen. This was built beneath the castle mound in 1824 to ease the through-flow of traffic on the busy London to Brighton coaching route.

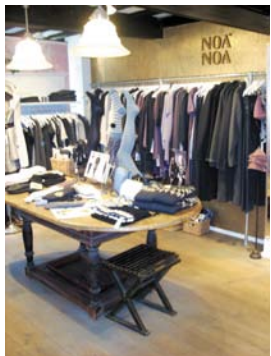
Other noteworthy buildings in this part of town include the timber-framed and tile-fronted La Trobes in the High Street, and the 400-year-old Old Sweep's House in the charmingly named Slipshoe Street.

As well as being effective administrators, the de Warennes were known for their devout

NOA NOA

53a High Street, Reigate, Surrey RH2 9AE
Tel: 01737 246652
website: www.noanoareigate.com

When Minnie Craske, owner/director of the Bohemian Wardrobe Co Ltd, opened **Noa Noa** in 2007 she introduced a whole new range of style and clothing to the ladies of Reigate and the surrounding area. Behind the large and attractive window display the shop is filled with many different styles of women's clothing, as well as accessories including hats, gloves, scarves and jewellery.



Minnie has trading rights in the Southeast to Noa Noa, a widely respected Danish company making a wide range of clothes that lets women of all ages, from young and hip to more mature and self-confident, express their individuality in a delicate and very feminine way.

An open area at the back of this delightful, well-run shop allows customers to take a break from their shopping for a chat or a drink (bring your own!).



CAMEL & YAK

47a Bell Street, Reigate,
Surrey RH12 7AQ
Tel: 01737 222441
e-mail: claire@camelandyak.com
website: www.camelandyak.com



Owner Claire Dukes has established **Camel & Yak** as a haven of beautiful things, precious pieces that will enhance any home and delight children and adults alike. The shop, easily recognised by its red-painted frontage, stands opposite Priory Park, one of Reigate's main visitor attractions. The Park and the shop provide fun and interest for all the family – Dad and the kids enjoying the varied amenities of the Park, Mum having a great time among the lovely things in the shop. Camel & Yak is filled with elegant homeware, lifestyle items and gift ideas, most of them of French or Scandinavian origin. The ever-changing stock runs from glassware and stoneware to photo frames, candles, cushions and furniture ranging from individual pieces to complete dining sets. Among the best sellers are the pretty love hearts, which ladies love to collect. They come in all styles and sizes, including zinc hearts produced by the Danish firm of Walther. The same firm also produces lovely little zinc tea light houses and tiny zinc ballet dancers on a chain. Other suppliers include Greengate, another Danish firm, noted for its elegant, exclusive homeware, and the French company Jardin d'Ulysse, whose products include photo frames, beautiful glassware and carved wooden angel wings. Customers return time and again to seek out unusual, tasteful treats or gifts at Camel & Yak.

religious beliefs, and, as at Lewes, they founded a priory in the town some distance from the centre. After the Dissolution of the Monasteries, this became the home of Lord Howard of Effingham, the commander-in-chief of the English navy at the time of the Spanish Armada. **Reigate Priory**, now a Grade I listed building set in 65 acres of parkland, has been remodelled on a number of occasions, in particular during the Georgian era. It now operates as a school and museum. The interior contains some fine period features, including a Holbein fireplace and a fine 17th-century oak staircase. Also set away from the town centre, and probably standing on the site of pre-Norman Reigate, is the pale stone-built church of St Mary Magdalene. This contains a number of striking memorials, including one carved by Joseph Rose the Elder.

Around Reigate

BETCHWORTH

3 miles W of Reigate off the A25

Church of St Michael


Betchworth was once a much more important settlement than it is today. In the 14th century, it had its own fortress, Betchworth Castle, which stood beside the River Mole on a site now occupied by the local golf course. This has now virtually disappeared and the only reminder of Betchworth's past glory is the parish **Church of St Michael**, a surprisingly imposing structure that incorporates some ancient Saxon masonry, a Norman arch and a succession of more recent architectural modifications. Inside, there is a fascinating map of the local manor dated 1634, showing the vestiges of the feudal field system and a

wooden chest that is reputed to have been made before the Norman invasion from a single piece of timber taken from a 1,000-year-old oak tree. There is also an unusual font dating from the 1950s. The church is situated at the end of a wide cul-de-sac, which also contains an early 18th-century vicarage, an old long barn, and a collection of attractive 17th and 18th-century cottages.

A number of interesting buildings can be seen in other parts of Betchworth, including the 16th-century Old Mill Cottage, the slender Queen Anne Old House, and Betchworth House, an impressive part-Georgian manor house that is surrounded by pretty parkland.

BUCKLAND

3 miles W of Reigate on the A25

 Windmill Church

Buckland is a pretty settlement, which suffers from being sited on the busy main road. The



Windmill Church, Buckland

road divides Buckland's tidy rectangular green from the parish church of St Mary, a part 13th-century structure whose interior is worth a look for its 15th-century stained-glass east window and 17th-century pews and oak panelling. The A25 to the east of Buckland passes along the northern edge of Reigate Heath. This narrow area of open heathland is the home of the unique **Windmill Church**, surely the only church in the world to be situated in a windmill.

LEIGH

4 miles SW of Reigate on the A217

Leigh (pronounced Lye) is a well-kept village, which, like at least a dozen others in Britain, takes its name from the Saxon term for forest clearing. Like Newdigate and Charlwood to the south, Leigh was an important centre of the Wealden iron-founding industry, which prospered from the 14th century until it was superseded by northern-based coal-fired smelting in the 18th century. Indeed, this now-tranquil area was once known as Thunderfield-in-the-Forest because of the number of iron furnaces it contained.

HORLEY

5 miles S of Reigate on the A23

The pleasant town of Horley lies on the Sussex border and not far from Gatwick Airport to the south. The proximity to the airport, surprisingly, has done little to alter the character of Horley, although the town did undergo a transformation in the Victorian era after the arrival of the main railway line. The present arrangement of streets, set mostly in a gridiron pattern, branched out from the railway line to provide housing for railway workers and shops to cater to their needs. This neighbourhood,

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which constitutes most of the core of Horley, is trim and neat, and the overall effect is pleasant. Dotted among the 19th-century buildings are a few survivors of earlier eras, including a lovely tile-hung cottage by the church.

OUTWOOD

5 miles SE of Reigate off the M23

 Post Mill

Although Outwood is accessible from the M23, a more pleasant approach leads southwards from Bletchingley along a country road across the Weald. Outwood Common, the area of high ground to the east of the village, is best known for being the location of one of the most interesting windmills in the country.

The **Post Mill** is acknowledged as the oldest working windmill in England. It was built in 1665 and it is said that from the top of the mill, some 39 feet up, the Great Fire of London was visible 27 miles away. Unlike other ancient buildings in England, the Post Mill's early history is not shrouded in mystery and conjecture. It was built by Thomas Budgen, a miller of Nutfield, and the original deeds are still in existence.



The term 'post mill' describes the structure and mechanism of this remarkable building. The whole body of the mill, including its sails and machinery, balances on a huge central post. This post is made from oak, which, it is said, was carried seven miles by oxcart from Crabbet Park, near Crawley, where it was felled. It is supported by four diagonal quarter bars and two crosstrees. These in turn rest on four brick piers. The purpose of this post system is to allow the mill to be turned to face the breeze, and it is so finely balanced that a single person can

turn the sails into the wind. Another special design feature, incorporated around 100 years later, allows the angle of the sails to be adjusted to suit different wind conditions using a system of elliptical springs.

For over a century, a second smock windmill stood nearby, and the pair were known locally as the Cat and Fiddle; sadly, the Fiddle blew down in a storm in the early 1960s.

BURSTOW

8 miles SE of Reigate off the B2037



 Church of St Bartholomew  Smallfield Place

The lanes to the south of Outwood lead through Smallfield to Burstow, a well-kept village whose **Church of St Bartholomew** has a surprisingly well preserved late medieval timber-framed tower. This hefty 15th-century structure supports a peal of six bells, the largest of which weighs over half a ton. The church itself is an attractive mixture of Norman, Perpendicular and Victorian influences; the chancel contains the remains of John Flamsteed, a former rector and the first Astronomer Royal, who is best remembered for his maps of the night skies, compiled in the late 17th century as an aid to marine navigation. Flamsteed was presented with the living of Burstow by Lord North in 1684.

About one mile north of Burstow is **Smallfield Place**, regarded by many as the best example of a stone-built country home in Surrey. Its almost forbidding appearance is at odds with the mellow brick or aged timber exteriors of so many Surrey manor houses. The house was built at the beginning of the 17th century and presents a long, largely unadorned two-storey Wealden stone face to the curious public.

LINGFIELD

12 miles SE of Reigate off the A22

 Church of St Peter & St Paul  Racecourse

Lingfield is a large village, set within delightful wooded countryside in the southeastern corner of the county. Almost large enough to be called a town, 'leafy Lingfield' is perhaps best known to the world at large for its **Racecourse**, which stages racing throughout the year. However, the settlement has long been an important agricultural centre, whose largely Perpendicular **Church of St Peter and St Paul** has been enlarged over the centuries to create what has become known as the Westminster Abbey of Surrey. As well as having a rare double nave and an exceptional collection of monumental brasses, the church also contains a number of memorials to members of the Cobham family, the medieval



Lingfield Church

lords of the manor who lived at the now demolished Starborough Castle, a mile and a half to the east. Each of the first four barons has a sizeable tomb showing an effigy of its occupant. These date from between 1361 and 1471 and are particularly fascinating to those with an interest in the development of late-medieval armour.

The broad thoroughfare leading down from the church is lined with characteristic weatherboarded and tile-fronted buildings, including Pollard Cottage, with its unusual 15th-century shop front, the 16th-century Old Town Stores, and the Star Inn Cottages, built around 1700. The county library on the opposite side of the church is a former farmhouse built in the 17th century on the site of a Carthusian college founded in the 1400s by Sir Reginald Cobham. Elsewhere in Lingfield, a couple of interesting features can be found near the pond in Plaistow Street: the 15th-century village cross, and the old lock-up, a small local jail built in 1772 and in use until 1882.

Greathed Manor, to the southeast of Lingfield, is a substantial Victorian manor house built in 1868 for the Spender Clay family.

CROWHURST

11 miles SE of Reigate off the A22

Crowhurst contains a yew tree estimated to be around 4,000 years old, thought to be one of the oldest in the country. Its branches are said to enclose an area over 30 feet in diameter. During the 1820s, a covered café was formed by removing some of the central branches and installing tables and chairs.

Crowhurst Place, to the southwest, was rebuilt after World War I on the site of a 15th-century moated manor house.

- 4 | Follow the bridlway here. Be careful to keep to bridlway when you are going around the fields.
- 5 | Keep to the bridlway as it bears left and goes slightly uphill around the field. Do not take any paths that go through gaps in the hedgerow. When the road is reached, turn left. Look out for the bridlway on your right in approx 250 yards. Follow the GSW arrows (Greensand Way) on the bridlway, keeping straight ahead. When you come to Tilburstow Hill Road go over to the bridlway (marked GSW). Keep ahead on this bridlway, ignoring a path that comes up on the right, until you arrive at a junction.
- 6 | Bear right at this junction. After a few yards look out for a stile and path on the right. Turn right onto this path, which goes through a field heading towards the B2236. When the road is reached, turn left and walk along it until you get to a fork opposite a building suppliers.
- 7 | You need to turn right at the fork signposted Tandridge. At the millrace, look out for a stile on the left. Leave the Greensand Way and turn left onto this path by the millrace. Passing between two ponds at Leigh Place, ignore the path going off to the right. When a three-way fingerpost is reached, turn left to join the bridlway. Look out for another three-way fingerpost.

- 8 | Come off the bridlway and turn right onto the footpath here. Keep to the path until you reach a post. Once in the field, turn left to see a marked post. At this post, turn left into the wood and follow the path downhill and on past Glebe Water. Continue ahead through the graveyard, to pass through the lych gate. The path continues almost ahead on the other side of the road. This path passes Bay Pond Nature Reserve, then passes some buildings before coming out by the road at Godstone Green. Cross the green, making for the A25 on the other side. Cross over and turn left along this road until you come to a garden centre.
- 9 | Look out for the footpath on the right opposite the garden centre. This passes some sandworkings. When the road is reached turn left. In a few paces you should see 1 North Park Cottage on the right.
- 10 | Turn right onto this track by North Park Cottage. In a few yards turn left through a metal gate and keep to the sandy path until you reach the road. Do not turn right onto a cycle route track, instead, turn right and walk along Place Farm Road. You need to stay on this road, ignoring any paths going off. At the road junction turn left into Brewer Street. Keep ahead until the road forks off to the right.
- 11 | At this fork you leave the road and continue ahead on the track. Keep ahead on the path ignoring other paths going off. The path comes out by a road next to Dormers Farm.

- 12 | When this road is reached, be sure to take the path on the left that follows the road. In approx 200 yards a small workshop unit is reached on the left.
- 13 | You need to turn left onto this path by the workshop unit. When you reach a church, bear right around the front of the church. This path comes out behind Bletchingley High Street.



DORMANSLAND

12 miles SE of Reigate off the B2029

🏠 Old Surrey Hall

Dormansland presents itself as evidence for a bit of social history detective work. The cottages in this hamlet near the Sussex and Kent borders date from the Victorian era, with some 17th and 18th-century examples mixed in. However, they share a common limitation - their size. Other Surrey hamlets have workmen's cottages, but there is usually much more diversity in scale. Several social historians have proposed that these tiny cottages were built by people who were squatting in common land.

Just outside the village is an altogether grander structure, **Old Surrey Hall**, built in 1450 on the remote border with Sussex. Much of the 15th century section, with its close timbering exterior, survives, but the overall moated quadrangle of today's house dates from 1922 and represents a renovation work of near genius by the architect George Crawley.

REDHILL

2 miles E of Reigate on the A23

Redhill developed around the railway station after the London to Brighton line opened in the 1840s. The new rail line ran parallel to the corresponding road (now the A23) and cut through previously open landscape. Most of Redhill's buildings consequently date from that period or the decades shortly afterwards. The parish church of St John has an exceptionally tall and elegant spire, and the Harlequin Theatre in the Warwick Quadrant shopping precinct offers a full programme of drama, film and musical entertainment, in addition to having a pleasant bar, restaurant and coffee shop.

BLETCHINGLEY

4 miles E of Reigate on the A25

Bletchingley is a highly picturesque village and former 'rotten borough' which once had its own castle and street market. Traces of the Norman fortification thought to have been built by Richard de Tonbridge in the 12th century can be seen in the grounds of Castle Hill, a private house lying to the south of the A25. Closer to the centre, the old market in Middle Row is an exceptionally handsome thoroughfare, which, like the nearby High Street, contains some wonderful old timber-framed and tile-hung houses and cottages.

Some fine early buildings can also be found in Church Walk, the lane leading to Bletchingley's Perpendicular Church of St Mary. The oldest part of this sizeable sandstone structure, the Norman west tower, dates from the end of the 11th century; it had a spire until a bolt of lightning destroyed it in 1606. Inside are a 13th-century hermit's cell, a wonderful assortment of medieval gargoyles, a 16th-century monumental brass of a local tanner and his wife, and an extravagant sculpted monument to Sir Robert Clayton, a City money lender and former Lord Mayor of London who died in 1707. The church also contains the sizeable tomb of Sir Thomas Cawarden, the former owner of Bletchingley Place, who acquired the manor house from Anne of Cleves after she had been given it by Henry VIII as part of her divorce settlement.

A couple of interesting settlements lie within easy reach of Bletchingley. Pendell, a two-minute drive to the northwest, contains the striking Jacobean-style Pendell Court, which was built in 1624, and the neo-classical Pendell House, which was built 12 years later on an adjacent site. Brewer Street, one mile to the north, contains the remains of Anne of

Cleves's manor house, remodelled in the 18th century and known as Place Farm.

GODSTONE

6 miles E of Reigate off the A22

Bay Pond

Although Godstone is now thankfully bypassed by the A22, the A25 east-west route still passes through its heart, making a sharp change in direction as it does so. Fortunately, the village's Tudor and Elizabethan character has survived relatively intact. Godstone's most distinguished building, the White Hart Inn in the High Street, claims to have been visited by Richard II, Elizabeth I, Queen Victoria, and even the Tsar of Russia, who broke his journey here in 1815. A series of attractive lanes and alleyways connects the High Street to the village green, a broad open space with a cricket pitch, which is surrounded by a wonderful collection of 16th and 17th-century buildings, including the Tudor-built Hare and Hounds Inn.

Godstone's parish church of St Nicholas is situated half a mile east of the centre and can be reached from the White Hart along an old thoroughfare known as Bay Path. Although

Norman in origin, the building was virtually rebuilt in the 1870s by Sir George Gilbert Scott, a local resident at the time. Inside, there is a marble memorial to a cousin of John Evelyn, the 17th-century diarist. The area around the church contains some fine old buildings, including a row of 19th century almshouses and the 16th-century timber-framed Old Pack House, which lies a short distance away to the south. Bay Path also leads to a former hammer pond, **Bay Pond**, which is now a designated nature reserve. At one time, its water would have been used to power the mechanical hammers in a nearby iron foundry, an indication of Godstone's lost industrial past, which also included the manufacture of gunpowder and leatherware. Godstone Farm, in Tilburstow Hill Road to the south of the village, is an open farm, where children can have a hands-on experience of life on a farm.

OXTED

8 miles E of Reigate off the A25

Titsey Place

Oxted is an old town that prospered because of its position just below the Downs and

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consequently a good trading link with the rest of Surrey. Today, however, Oxted constitutes two distinct parts. New Oxted lies between the original town and Limpsfield. It grew up around the railway station, which was built in the 19th century. Old Oxted is also largely Victorian to the eye, but occasionally the visitor notices some survivors of earlier centuries, such as the Forge House and Beam Cottages, with their medieval core and 17th-century exteriors. Streeters Cottage, built in the 17th century, presents a large timber-framed gable to the road.

At Titsey, north of Oxted on the other side of the M25, stands **Titsey Place**. Treasures at this fine Regency house nestling under the North Downs include four superb Canaletto pictures of Venice, beautiful porcelain, portraits and objets d'art. In the 12-acre gardens are a rose garden, re-planted to commemorate Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee, and a walled kitchen garden with three greenhouses.

LIMPSFIELD

9 miles E of Reigate on the B269

Detillens Limpsfield Chart

The churchyard at Limpsfield contains the grave of the composer, Frederick Delius, who died in France in 1934, but had expressed a

wish to be buried in an English country graveyard. Sir Thomas Beecham, a great admirer of Delius, read the funeral oration and conducted an orchestra playing works by the composer. Sir Thomas died in 1961 and was originally buried at Brookwood cemetery near Woking. In 1991, his body was transferred to Limpsfield, where he was buried close to Delius. Also lying here are the conductor Norman del Mar and the pianist Eileen Joyce.

Detillens, a rare 15th-century 'hall' house, is also located in Limpsfield. This striking building has an unusual 'king-post' roof, and despite having been given a new façade in the 18th century, is a good example of a house belonging to a Surrey yeoman, a member of the class of small freeholders who cultivated their own land. Inside, there is an interesting collection of period furniture, china and militaria.

Limpsfield Chart, or simply The Chart, constitutes a hilltop common with some lovely views eastwards across Kent. Next to the common is a 17th-century Mill House. The windmill itself was removed in 1925. Elsewhere in The Chart there are handsome groupings of stone-built houses, cottages and farm buildings, best exemplified by the ensemble at Moorhouse Farm.

Titsey Place

Oxted, Surrey RH18 0SD

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Dating from the middle of the sixteenth century, the Titsey Estate is one of the largest surviving historic estates in Surrey. Nestling under the North Downs the mansion house, Titsey Place, with its stunning garden, lakes, walled kitchen garden and park offering panoramic views, makes an idyllic setting which enchants visitors. In 1993 the Trustees of the Titsey Foundation opened Titsey Place and its gardens to the public and now everyone can enjoy the fine family portraits, furniture, a beautiful collection of porcelain and a marvellous set of four Canaletto pictures of Venice.

