



BBC recognises our World War II People's War contribution

The BBC have advised us that it will be using us as a case study for its national conference on the People's War, which is being held sometime in February (as we go to press the date is still not known). Among the reasons for this are that we have added some 250 Peoples' stories to the BBC's website since we started the project, and because we also organised successful events like the VE Day Street Party and the schools' Living History day. Well done everyone, great team effort and a lot of fun too.

The BBC has also issued us with a 'Certificate of Participation' in the People's War project. This is currently being laminated for displaying in the Centre.

This project has now finished and we can move on to other matters and events.

Forthcoming Events

150th Anniversary of The Victoria Cross – January 2006

On 29th January 1856 Queen Victoria issued the Royal Warrant that authorised the award of the Victoria Cross. To record the 150th Anniversary of this remarkable medal 'For Valour', volunteers Clive Gilbert and Tim Bauckham have organised a display about the history of the VC, highlighting recipients with Surrey connections whose courageous achievements have earned them this supreme military medal. The display will be at the LFHC from Friday, 20th January 2006 for the next four weeks.



The display presents a brief history of the Victoria Cross and lists the 1,355 VCs awarded over the last 150 years. It includes more specific details of the 15 VCs awarded to members of the two Surrey Regiments: The Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment and The East Surrey Regiment, including two pupils from Epsom College who won the VC – one during the Basuto War in 1879, and another during the 1914-18 War, the Surbiton man who won his medal in the Great War and is buried in Holy Trinity Churchyard, Claygate, and lots more.

There are statistics about individuals who have won two VCs, of brothers who won VCs and of fathers and sons who have both won VCs. Also featured are the first and most recent recipients of the VC – the last being awarded in Iraq in 2003 – and of the youngest and oldest recipients.

Who Do You Think You Are? – 25th February 2006

To tie in with the BBC's new series on 'Who Do You Think You Are?', we are organising our own Family History Day at the LFHC, Ewell Library, Bourne Hall. The date is Saturday, 25th February

2006 and it will last from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

In addition to our own 'experts' we are fortunate to have secured the attendance of Di Stiff, a Collections Development Archivist from Surrey History Centre who will be able to bring her considerable experience to helping answer people's enquiries.

Our plan is to set up a series of tables, say up to four, each with its own specialisation – for example: Census data, parish records, military history, overseas research, family history on the internet.

Based on the attendance at the event we organised last year and because of the success of the BBC's TV programme, we are likely to attract the crowds with perhaps up to 200 people coming in to ask us questions on how they can pursue their own research on their families. So, we need a good turnout of volunteers to assist and help control the crowds. Please let Bert Barnhurst know as soon as possible if you can join us on the day and it would be helpful if you could also tell him of your specific expertise.

Visit to Surrey History Centre – 15th March 2006



Sally Jenkinson from Surrey History Centre is arranging for volunteers to make a private visit the Centre at Woking. It will be a great opportunity to see behind the scenes at the SHC including seeing how they conserve records and manuscripts.

The date is 15th March 2006 starting at 2.00pm and the tour will last about 90 minutes. Unfortunately the numbers are limited to 12 so it will be first come first served. If you would like to join this visit please contact Jean Walsh. You can leave a note for her at the Centre or email her at jean.walsh@surreycc.gov.uk

Annual General Meeting – 24th April 2006

The Epsom and Ewell Local and Family History Centre AGM will be held on Monday, 24th April 2006 starting at 6.45 pm. The AGM will be followed with a talk by Peter Tilley from Kingston University. The title of his talk has yet to be confirmed but you should know that he is an expert on consolidating various archives on the World Wide Web – but I could be very wrong that this will be it; we'll keep you informed!

Welcome to a New Volunteer

Please welcome another new volunteer - **Geoffrey Watson** – whose interested in all forms of research, especially local and family history. Geoffrey will normally be at the LFHC on Tuesday mornings, working behind the scenes on research projects. On Thursdays he also visits the Surrey History Centre in Woking and is prepared to research items there, if required.

Welcome to you Geoffrey.

Can you help – Who left us the “Bishop of Lincoln’s Letter”?

Does anyone know anything about the lady who visited the 'Trafalgar Celebration' display at the LFHC in November last year. She left a copy of a letter dated December 4th, 1805 from the Bishop of Lincoln, George Pretyman, to a Revd. Williams of Northampton.

Unfortunately, the lady did not leave her name or contact details and we would dearly love to hear from her again not only to thank her but also to find out some more details on the letter. If anyone can help, please inform Jill Alford at the LFHC.

To satisfy your curiosity, the contents of the letter are as follows (thanks to Jill Alford for providing the transcript, she can obviously read a C19th Bishop's penmanship):

*George Pretyman
Bishop of Lincoln
Deanery St. Pauls
Dec'r 4 1805*

To Rev. Richard Williams

Dear Sir,

I am very happy to have it in my power to offer you a Prebend in my Church of Lincoln & it really is one of the best belonging to it. The Assured Rent is £48 a year with a chance of its being increased by redeeming the Land-Tax & the Estates held under the Prebendary are, I believe, at least £900 a year, from which you will have the chance of Fines - you must be installed at Lincoln & read the service in the Cathedral on a Sunday within two months after Collation. I propose therefore that you should come to Town on Monday or Tuesday next, & be collated the next morning; on Thursday evening you may go to Lincoln by the Mail Coach; you will arrive there about 4 on Friday Afternoon; on Saturday you may be installed, & read the Service on Sunday. You will thus compleat (sic) your business at once, but if any other plan will suit you better, you will inform me. In any case let me know when it will be convenient to you to come for collation. My continuance in Town is uncertain because of Lord Nelson's Funeral for which I must make Preparations; but I hope to leave Town the middle of next week. Notice must be given at Lincoln of your Intention to be there, which I will take care of, when you inform me of your plans. There are some particular circumstances relative to this Prebend which have caused me to keep it vacant more than 5 months; these I will explain when we meet.

*I am, Rev. Sir,
your obedient servant
G Lincoln*

I shall certainly not leave Town till 12 o'clock on Wed'y next & probably not till Thursday.

Fascinating, isn't it. We hope Reverend Williams enjoyed his Prebend. The Bishop sounds like a good guy.

Fancy Photographing Tombstones?

We have all probably been frustrated by inaccurate records whilst pursuing our family history research. You also know how important cemeteries and churchyards can be in filling out the basic research. Unfortunately, many of the older tombstones are weathering away and becoming unreadable. So it is urgent that these important historical references are recorded for posterity.

Specifically, we are seeking assistance in photographing the tombstones in the Ashley Road Cemetery. If you have a digital camera and some spare time could you please contact Carol Hill at the LFHC and we can start recording. If we can get a group together we could go some time after Easter when the weather improves.

New additions to the LFHC

The following publications on Local and Family History have been added to the library stock.

Title	Author/Publisher	Class no:	Format	Location
The History of Banstead. 2 vols.	Banstead History Research Group. 2005	942.2BAN	Paperback	Lending copy. REF copy in stacks
The Family and Local History Handbook 9th ed.	Robert Blatchford, 2005.	929.3	Paperback	REF copy on top shelf by desk in centre.
Epsom: A Quiz and Miscellany.	Francis Frith Collection, 2005. (So you think you know? Series)	E95	Hardback	REF copy in cupboard
Lost Railways of Middlesex.	Mike Hall. Countryside Books, 2003.	385	Paperback	REF copy in stacks
Epsom: A History and Celebration.	Jeremy Harte. Francis Frith Collection, 2005.	942.2EPS	Hardback	Lending copies REF copy in cupboard at E95
The 1258-9 Special Eyre of Surrey and Kent. Surrey Record Society Vol. XXXVIII.	Andrew Hershey. Surrey Record Society, 2004.	942.2	Hardback	REF copy in cupboard
The Short Life and Long Times of Mrs Beeton.	Kathryn Hughes. Fourth Estate, 2005.	E94	Hardback	REF copy in cupboard
Rosebery: Statesman in Turmoil.	Leo McKinstry. John Murray, 2005.	E94	Hardback	REF copy in cupboard.
Middlesex.	Michael Robbins. Phillimore, 2003.	942.1	Paperback	REF copy in stacks
Benevolence and Excellence: 150 years of The Royal Medical Foundation of Epsom College	Alan Scadding. Epsom College, 2004.	E37	Hardback	REF copy in cupboard
Dorking.	June M Spong. Francis Frith, 2005.	942.2DOR	Paperback	Lending copy REF copy in stacks
How to Write and Publish Local and Family History Successfully.	Bob Trubshaw. Heart of Albion Pr., 2005.	941	Paperback	Lending copy
Surrey Recruitment Registers 1908-1933 Surname Index & Extracts	Surrey History Trust	-	CD	Being acquired. Includes 44 volumes covering Surrey Regiments recruitment for the period 1908 to 1933

Notes:-

Lending copies either in Local History room or in rolling stacks.

Reference copy – location noted eg glass = glass cupboard, stacks = rolling stacks, F/S = fireproof store, map/lib = map cabinet in local history room, map/stack = map cabinet near stacks, fiche or film = microfiche/film filing cabinet

New Opening Hours for LFHC

As you probably know by now the Centre has ceased opening on Saturdays since January 2006. To compensate, the Centre will now be open on each Friday afternoon in the month. The new hours are now as follows:

Monday	2.00 pm – 4.00 pm
Tuesday	6.00 pm – 7.30 pm
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	2.00 pm – 4.00 pm
Friday	2.00 pm – 4.00 pm
Saturday	By appointment only *

** Appointments can be arranged if a volunteer is available.
Ask at the Centre for details.*

Join meetings at other Family History Societies

Did you know that as a volunteer with the Epsom and Ewell Local and Family History Centre you can also attend meetings of the East Surrey Family History Society and the West Surrey Family History Society. Both societies hold regular meetings that cover a wide range of subjects on local and family history. For more information I suggest you have a look at their websites:

East Surrey Family History Society: www.eastsurreyfhhs.org.uk/

West Surrey Family History Society: www.wsfhs.org/Links.htm

Have You got News for Us?

We hope you've enjoyed reading this newsletter. Thanks to all those who provided information and stories. But to keep the momentum going we need more. So if you have any

- reports on visits
- intriguing Information Requests
- forthcoming projects or events
- interesting facts about local history or genealogy
- new research documents the LFHC has received
- or just strange tales to tell

please let Ian know (ianparker@dsl.pipex.com) - supporting photographs and pictures, if available, would be most welcome. It will help make the newsletter more interesting for us all. The next publication date will probably be in May 2006 so you have stacks of time to send me something.

IRP
January 2006