

WEST HORSLEY PLACE

The old manor house retains much of its medieval timber framed construction, and sits quietly in the surrounding parkland, which has changed little over the centuries. Carew Raleigh, the youngest son of Sir Walter Raleigh, inherited the manor from his uncle, Sir Nicholas Carew, in the late 1640's and extensively remodelled the house. He was apparently influenced by his foreign travels, because there is a decidedly Dutch look to the gables! Sir Walter Raleigh's connection with West Horsley came about in a rather unusual manner. After he was executed in 1618, Lady Raleigh carried his embalmed head around in a red leather bag for 29 years. In her declining years she moved into West Horsley Place to live with her son. After her death, the grisly relic she had carried around for so many years, reputedly remained there, shut away in a cupboard, until it was finally laid to rest in the side Chapel of St Mary's Church, possibly in 1660.



THE OLD COTTAGE

Opposite West Horsley Green, where the majestic oak tree stands, is a cluster of old houses, one being 'The Old Cottage'. It is one of the oldest houses in the village and, judging from the high quality of the timber work, and its magnificent crown post roof, it would have belonged to a wealthy man when it was built, in about 1380. It has a hidden room (or perhaps a priest hole) which may have been where he stored all his valuables! It was painted by Helen Allingham, who entitled it 'The High Cottage'.



CROCKNORTH FARM

Not a great deal is known about the early history of this very attractive building, except that it was previously known as Cracknutt Farm, and in 1840 it came into the ownership of Lord Lovelace who lost no time in carrying out his usual remodelling - but to what effect! Seldom will you see a happier marriage of design and material. The farm, together with its surrounding pastures, and nearby woods, presents a picture of English perfection that may be equalled, but seldom bettered.



THE HUNDRED BANK

On the western side of Old London Lane where it passes through Great Ridings Wood is the old 'hundred' earth bank that still stands to a height of six feet in parts. This interesting feature marked the division between the Woking and Copthorne Hundreds. A 'hundred' was the Anglo Saxon land unit containing a hundred hides, a 'hide' being the area of land required to support one household. It was not an exact measure, as it depended upon the quality of the land - the better the land, the smaller the area. The survival of this ancient landscape feature shows that land use in the locality has changed very little over the centuries.



HORSLEY TOWERS

Horsley Towers, formerly East Horsley Place, was constructed by William Currie a London Banker, to a design by Charles Barry the designer of the Houses of Parliament. William King, the first Earl of Lovelace, bought it in 1840, and spent the next 25 years extensively remodelling it into a very distinctive building that embraced several architectural styles. The Earl's additions included several towers, and the Great Hall, the roof of which greatly impressed Isambard Kingdom Brunel. After completing his work on the Mansion, he turned his attention to the village. Few buildings escaped his attentions, either being encased in a new brick and flint exterior, or more usually, completely rebuilt. Many interesting buildings with his unmistakable 'signature' of decorative brickwork and heraldic motifs will be seen while following the Trail, but the greatest concentration is around the church, in the village conservation area. This part of the village is worth a separate visit in itself.



THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

The Evangelical Church occupies an old Lovelace barn; a splendid building that has been converted with great skill and sympathy to its original purpose. It is the only remaining one of several barns built for the 'new' Duncombe Farm, itself now used as an office.

The 'old' timber framed Duncombe Farm can still be seen to the rear of the Church.



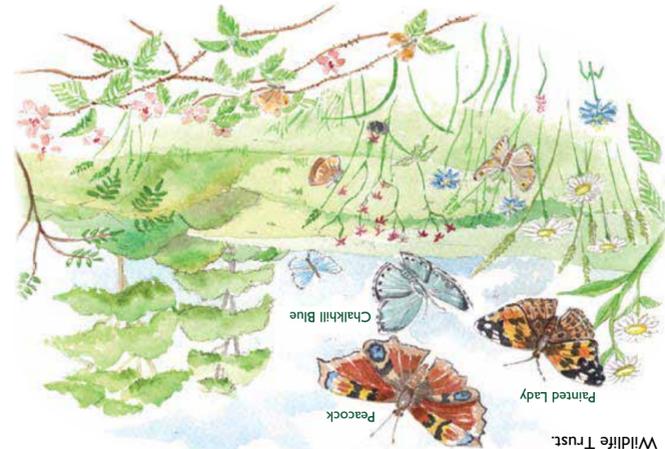
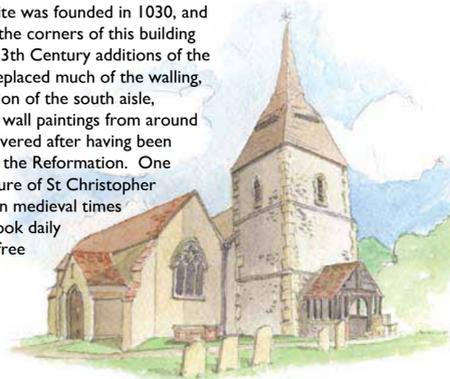
THE BARLEY MOW

This quintessential English village pub invokes memories of long ago, and this is unsurprising as the inn was built in the 1500's and has changed little since the 1700's. It has been a hostelry since 1568 when the first licence to sell beer was applied for. It was originally known as The Mount Eagle, then The Harrow, before becoming The Barley Mow. It may have got its present name when it started to brew its own ale after the demise in 1751 of another local brewhouse, the Red Lion, now Church House. Although it no longer brews its own ale, it offers a wide variety of home cooked food and a delightful garden making it an ideal refreshment stop. Telephone: 01483 282 693



ST MARY'S CHURCH

The Saxon church on this site was founded in 1030, and built of chalk clunch. Only the corners of this building now remain, the 12th and 13th Century additions of the tower and chancel having replaced much of the walling, and the 16th Century addition of the south aisle, replacing the rest. In 1972, wall paintings from around the year 1200 were rediscovered after having been covered in limewash during the Reformation. One painting is a 13 foot high figure of St Christopher carrying the Christ-Child. In medieval times travellers believed that to look daily on such figures, kept them free from danger.



The Sheepleas is owned by Surrey County Council and managed by Surrey Wildlife Trust.

Grasslands in the Sheepleas are rich in plants that thrive on chalky soil like marjoram, eyebright, milkwort, wild thyme and wild orchids. The mix of open grassland, wide rides and woodland makes the Sheepleas an excellent site for watching butterflies. Over 30 butterfly species have been found here, including common blue, green hairstreak, silver-washed fritillary, ringlets, and migrants such as the clouded yellow and painted lady. There are also many species of bird to be seen including the diminutive Goldcrest.

Some of the woods have probably been here for at least 400 years. These ancient woodlands are carpeted with bluebells in Spring. Beech, oak, field maple and wild cherry trees are commonly found in this area.

The Sheepleas lie on the chalk slopes of the North Downs within the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The site is a mosaic of woodlands (both ancient and recent) and grassland. This mixture of habitats supports a huge diversity of wildlife, and as a result has been designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

THE SHEEPLEAS

THE HORSLEY COUNTRYSIDE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

The Society, more commonly known as the HCPS, was formed in 1956. Membership of the HCPS represents over 60% of the households in the two villages, and its Objective is quite simply, 'the preservation of the rural amenities and characteristics of the Parishes of East and West Horsley in the County of Surrey'. The HCPS maintains an active vigilance over the surrounding countryside, and produces a quarterly magazine entitled 'Around and About Horsley' which contains contact details for the Editor and HCPS Committee members. It is available from a number of local outlets.

THE SURREY HILLS BOARD

Works to develop policies and programmes to protect the beauty of the Surrey Hills for the safe use and enjoyment of all. The Surrey Hills was designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 1958 and is one of a family of nationally protected landscapes. For further information on the Surrey Hills visit www.surreyhill.org

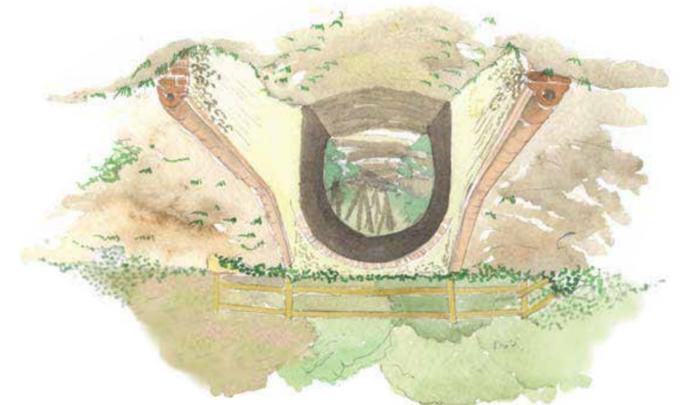
THE SURREY HILLS SOCIETY

The Surrey Hills Society is an independent charity promoting the positive enjoyment and care of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty for those who live, work in or visit the area. The Society encourages people to explore and learn about the special qualities and distinctiveness of the area. For further information on the Surrey Hills Society visit www.surreyhillssociety.org

TRAVEL & LOCAL INFORMATION

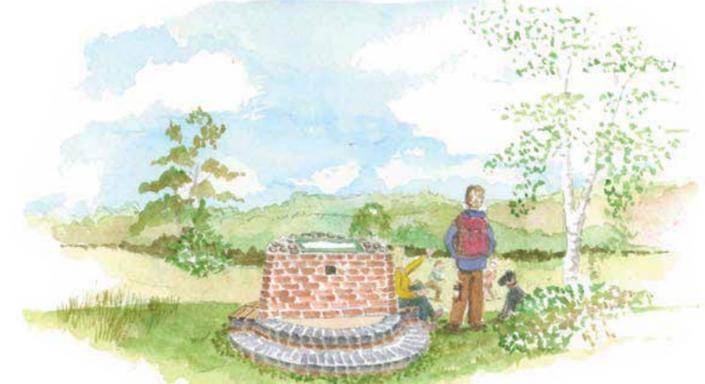
For information on the local area contact: Guildford Tourist Information Centre on: 01483 444 333 or visit www.visitsurrey.com

There are regular rail services between London Waterloo and Guildford which stop at Horsley Station. For local train and bus information call Travel Line South East on 0871 2002233 or visit www.traveline.org.uk or www.southwesttrains.co.uk



Lord Lovelace, once owner of the East Horsley Estate, was an enthusiastic forester. In order to facilitate the transport of timber by horse drawn carts in the very hilly woods to the south of Horsley Towers, he had tracks constructed with gentle inclines. This involved the construction of embankments over small valleys, and there were fifteen in all, of which ten remain. They range from about six feet wide at Meadow Flat to the eighteen foot span of the Dorking Arch, which crosses Crocknorth Road to link the woodland on either side. The style is ornate for such a construction, with a brick and flint structure and various styles of ornamentation applied to the arches. All carried the name plaques, of which two survive. The remaining bridges are Hermitage, Troye, Raven Arch, Briary Hill East, Briary Hill West, Robin Hood, Stony Dene, Oldlands, Meadow Flat, and Dorking Arch. The Lovelace Project (includes the whole of the Lovelace Estate in Surrey) aims to record details and properties of the Estate.

THE LOVELACE BRIDGES



Horsley Diamond Jubilee Trail

An enjoyable walk through woods and meadow with many historic features to be discovered.



www.surreyhill.org