

THE HORSLEY DIAMOND JUBILEE TRAIL

About this walk

The Horsley Diamond Jubilee Trail is a circular walk through the Parishes of East & West Horsley and Effingham using mainly public footpaths and bridleways to link up woods and open spaces with public easy access, including: The Forest, Effingham Common, Great Ridings Wood, Oldlands Wood, Effingham Forest and the Sheeples.

The total distance of the trail is approximately 14.5 km (9 miles), and it rises to over 175m (570ft) at its highest point along the broad ridge of the North Downs. The walk takes you through open country, woods and farmland, with the minimum of road walking. Proceeding at a comfortable pace, allow 4 to 5 hours, excluding stops. It can be muddy in parts, so waterproof footwear is advisable. There are several road crossings that require care, and these are listed in the route description.

The walk was named the Horsley Jubilee Trail because it was not until the year of the Queen's Golden Jubilee that the complete trail became possible due to the acquisition of The Forest, and the designation of a new right of way, which provided the final link in the circuit. It has been upgraded to commemorate the Queens Diamond Jubilee and to improve access.

A 'Map of the Horsleys' based on the Ordnance Survey Pathfinder Series and centred on both villages is available from some local outlets.

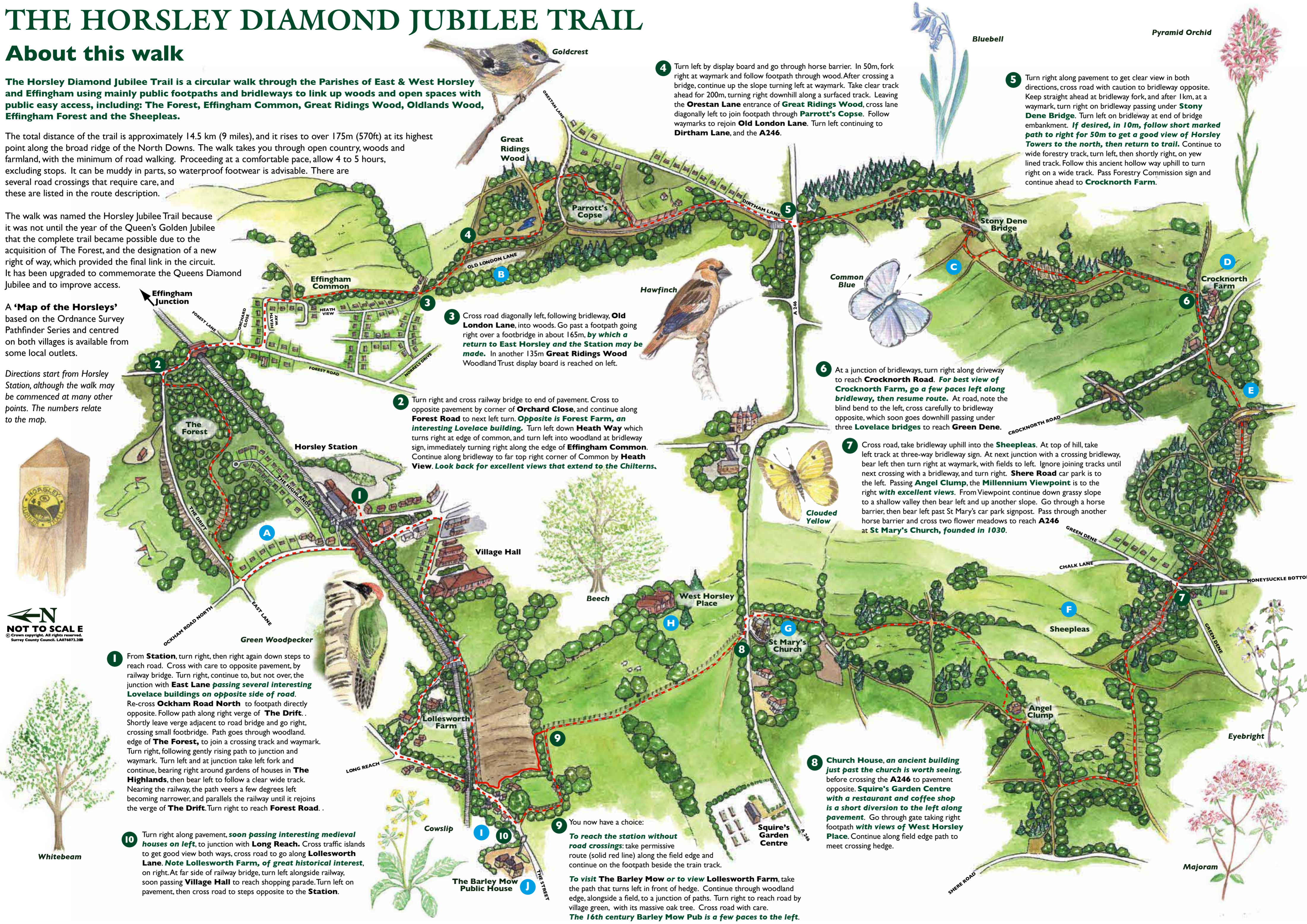
Directions start from Horsley Station, although the walk may be commenced at many other points. The numbers relate to the map.



NOT TO SCALE
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Whitebeam



1 From **Station**, turn right, then right again down steps to reach road. Cross with care to opposite pavement, by railway bridge. Turn right, continue to, but not over, the junction with **East Lane** passing several interesting **Lovelace buildings on opposite side of road**. Re-cross **Ockham Road North** to footpath directly opposite. Follow path along right verge of **The Drift**. Shortly leave verge adjacent to road bridge and go right, crossing small footbridge. Path goes through woodland edge of **The Forest**, to join a crossing track and waymark. Turn right, following gently rising path to junction and waymark. Turn left and at junction take left fork and continue, bearing right around gardens of houses in **The Highlands**, then bear left to follow a clear wide track. Nearing the railway, the path veers a few degrees left becoming narrower, and parallels the railway until it rejoins the verge of **The Drift**. Turn right to reach **Forest Road**.

10 Turn right along pavement, soon passing interesting medieval houses on left, to junction with **Long Reach**. Cross traffic islands to get good view both ways, cross road to go along **Lollesworth Lane**. Note **Lollesworth Farm, of great historical interest**, on right. At far side of railway bridge, turn left alongside railway, soon passing **Village Hall** to reach shopping parade. Turn left on pavement, then cross road to steps opposite to the **Station**.

2 Turn right and cross railway bridge to end of pavement. Cross to opposite pavement by corner of **Orchard Close**, and continue along **Forest Road** to next left turn. **Opposite is Forest Farm, an interesting Lovelace building**. Turn left down **Heath Way** which turns right at edge of common, and turn left into woodland at bridleway sign, immediately turning right along the edge of **Effingham Common**. Continue along bridleway to far top right corner of Common by **Heath View**. **Look back for excellent views that extend to the Chilterns**.

3 Cross road diagonally left, following bridleway, **Old London Lane**, into woods. Go past a footpath going right over a footbridge in about 165m, by which a return to **East Horsley and the Station may be made**. In another 135m **Great Ridings Wood** Woodland Trust display board is reached on left.

4 Turn left by display board and go through horse barrier. In 50m, fork right at waymark and follow footpath through wood. After crossing a bridge, continue up the slope turning left at waymark. Take clear track ahead for 200m, turning right downhill along a surfaced track. Leaving the **Orestan Lane** entrance of **Great Ridings Wood**, cross lane diagonally left to join footpath through **Parrott's Copse**. Follow waymarks to rejoin **Old London Lane**. Turn left continuing to **Dirtham Lane**, and the **A246**.

6 At a junction of bridleways, turn right along driveway to reach **Crocknorth Road**. **For best view of Crocknorth Farm, go a few paces left along bridleway, then resume route**. At road, note the blind bend to the left, cross carefully to bridleway opposite, which soon goes downhill passing under three **Lovelace bridges** to reach **Green Dene**.

7 Cross road, take bridleway uphill into the **Sheeples**. At top of hill, take left track at three-way bridleway sign. At next junction with a crossing bridleway, bear left then turn right at waymark, with fields to left. Ignore joining tracks until next crossing with a bridleway, and turn right. **Shere Road** car park is to the left. Passing **Angel Clump**, the **Millennium Viewpoint** is to the right with excellent views. From Viewpoint continue down grassy slope to a shallow valley then bear left and up another slope. Go through a horse barrier, then bear left past **St Mary's** car park signpost. Pass through another horse barrier and cross two flower meadows to reach **A246** at **St Mary's Church, founded in 1030**.

8 **Church House, an ancient building just past the church is worth seeing**, before crossing the **A246** to pavement opposite. **Squire's Garden Centre with a restaurant and coffee shop is a short diversion to the left along pavement**. Go through gate taking right footpath with views of **West Horsley Place**. Continue along field edge path to meet crossing hedge.

9 You now have a choice:
To reach the station without road crossings: take permissive route (solid red line) along the field edge and continue on the footpath beside the train track.
To visit The Barley Mow or to view Lollesworth Farm, take the path that turns left in front of hedge. Continue through woodland edge, alongside a field, to a junction of paths. Turn right to reach road by village green, with its massive oak tree. Cross road with care. **The 16th century Barley Mow Pub is a few paces to the left.**

5 Turn right along pavement to get clear view in both directions, cross road with caution to bridleway opposite. Keep straight ahead at bridleway fork, and after 1km, at a waymark, turn right on bridleway passing under **Stony Dene Bridge**. Turn left on bridleway at end of bridge embankment. **If desired, in 10m, follow short marked path to right for 50m to get a good view of Horsley Towers to the north, then return to trail**. Continue to wide forestry track, turn left, then shortly right, on yew lined track. Follow this ancient hollow way uphill to turn right on a wide track. Pass Forestry Commission sign and continue ahead to **Crocknorth Farm**.



Pyramid Orchid



Bluebell



Goldcrest



Hawfinch



Common Blue



Clouded Yellow



Eyebright



Majoram



Beech



Green Woodpecker



Cowslip



Horsley Diamond Jubilee Trail

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



www.surreyhills.org

A 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.



B 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 Cophorne 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.



C 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.



D 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.



E THE LOVELACE BRIDGES

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 crossing tracks were bridged. The bridges were usually horseshoe shaped, and there were fifteen in all, of which ten remain. They range from about six feet wide at Meadow Plat, 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 tile 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 Plat, and Dorking Arch. The Lovelace Project (includes the whole of the Lovelace Estate in Surrey) aims to record details and properties of the Estate.



F THE SHEEPLEAS

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.

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.

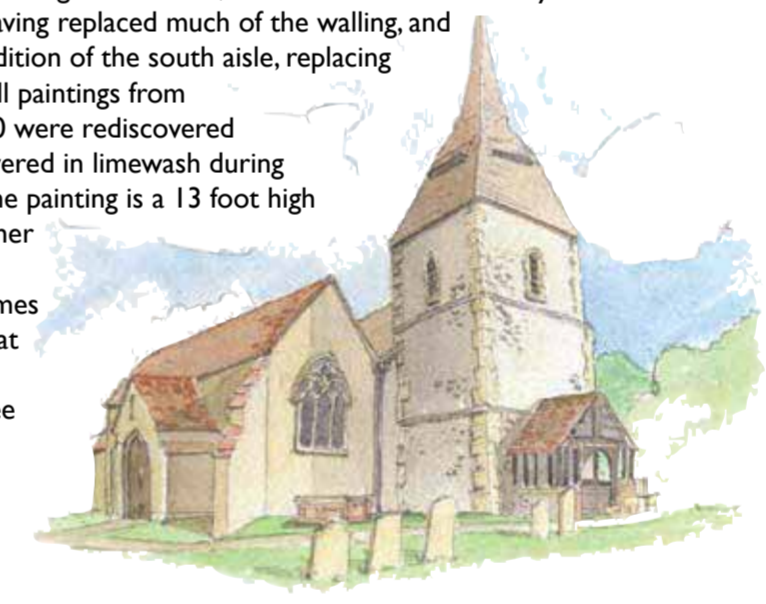
Grasslands in the Sheepleas are rich in plants that thrive on chalky soil like marjoram, eyebright, milkwort, wild thyme and wild orchids. The mix of open grassland, wide rides and woodland makes the Sheepleas an excellent site for watching butterflies. Over 30 butterfly species have been found here, 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.

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



G 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.



H 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.



I 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".



J 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



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.surreyhills.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.surreyhillsociety.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

