



# Carshalton & District History & Archaeology Society

Secretary: [secretary@cadhas.org.uk](mailto:secretary@cadhas.org.uk)

## Summer 2023 Newsletter

### John Shepley Thornton: the Society remembers

We heard of John's death as we were clearing up after the Society's meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. We knew he had not been well, but nevertheless it came as a shock to us all.

An account of John's roles and achievements cannot do justice to the man, but that is where we must start. John joined BCWAS (our predecessor) in the 1980s, but long before that he had worked to help preserve the heritage and environment of Carshalton from the 1960s onwards, probably with Professor Michael Wilks and the Carshalton Society. He joined our Programmes Committee and helped to find speakers for winter meetings and venues for summer outings, as well as helping to organise the teas for winter meetings. In 1998 he took over the organisation of the May weekend away - a highlight of the Society's year - which involved enormous amounts of detailed planning. He always tried to include a rail trip, because, as he said "a ride on a train brings back childhood memories for many people". He was President of the Society twice.



John at Michelham Priory  
2022

John was also very active in many aspects of the cultural life of Carshalton. He was treasurer of the Friends of Carshalton Water Tower for many years until he retired in 2022, and did much voluntary work there. He was also involved for years in the arts scene of the London Borough of Sutton and organised exhibitions.

Here are some of the things that members have said about him:  
"He gave so much to the Heritage and Arts of Carshalton and the Borough over so many decades. It was all done very quietly and without fuss."

"He got on with whatever he was organising with the minimum of fuss."

"A meticulous proof-reader - nothing got past his scrutiny."

"A great Carshalton man with a good knowledge of Carshalton."

"A fount of wisdom, especially on anything relating to Carshalton".

"A very useful and well-informed member, and offered invaluable advice."

"A lovely friendly chap, always willing to help, and will be missed by many people."

"My lasting memory of John is the May Weekend."

"His May Weekend in 2014 showed me that it was possible to enjoy life again."

"John has always been the lynch-pin of the Society."

John's absence will always remind us of how much he did for the Society, for Carshalton, and for his many friends. His true measure will only become apparent as we try to fill the gaps that he has left behind.

As you are aware we can only run an outing when we reach a minimum number of firm bookings. This is to avoid non refundable charges and deposits from venues and coach companies if we do not have enough participants to cover all the costs of proceeding with an outing.

We wanted to let you know that often when we go ahead with an outing there may be spare capacity even after the closing date. We would like members to know that if they decide after the closing date that they would like to join one of the outings it is worth enquiring of outing organizers

or Phil Groves if there are spaces remaining on that particular event.

We hope that this information may lead to some last minute bookings.

## Summer Programme

### Tuesday 25th July 2023 — Strawberry Hill House

Strawberry Hill House's story begins in 1747, when Horace Walpole discovered and purchased 'Chppp'd Straw Hall' one of the last remaining sites available on the banks of the Thames in fashionable Twickenham. He set about transforming what was then a couple of cottages into a vision of a 'little Gothic castle' with pinnacles, battlements and a round tower. Thus Strawberry Hill House was born - the House became a tourist attraction in Walpole's lifetime and beyond.

Built as Walpole's summer residence, the castle (or villa) soon became of interest to local inhabitants, Walpole allowed four visitors a day - with tours conducted by his house-keeper - and published rules for their guidance (no children allowed). Walpole also delighted in entertaining foreign ambassadors, royalty and English aristocracy, several of whom were near neighbours, 'Dowagers like flounders inhabit all around' he wrote.



Non members of English Heritage £37. Members of English Heritage £35-50.  
The coach will leave Shotfield, Wallington at 11:00am, Ruskin Road, Carshalton at 11:10am and the Quadrant, Sutton at 11:20am.  
Group Organiser is Phil Groves phone: 07719 549268 phil\_c\_groves@yahoo.co.uk

### Wednesday 16th August 2023 - Syon House

Syon House is the west London residence of the Duke of Northumberland. A Grade I listed building, it lies in Syon Park, near Brentford. Syon House's exterior was erected in 1547

under the ownership of the 1st Duke of Somerset. Syon's current interior was designed by Robert Adam in 1762, commissioned by the 1st Duke and Duchess of Northumberland. The well-known "Adam style" is said to have begun here. Commissioned to be built in the Neo-classical style, Syon is filled with multiple styles and inspirations, including influence of Roman antiquity, highly visible Romantic, Picturesque, Baroque and Mannerist styles and a dash of Gothic.



The coach will leave Shotfield at 12.35pm, Ruskin Road at 12.40pm and The Quadrant at 12.50pm, arriving at

Syon House about 1.45pm for a guided tour of the house at 2.30pm.

The cost is £34 per person, which includes coach and tour. There should be time for tea in the Clocktower Café before we depart at 4.30pm, returning home about 5.30 to 6pm.

Group organiser Clive Orton, phone: 020 8641 2003 (or 07948 842485 on the day only)

## Wednesday 13th September 2023 - West Horsley Place

West Horsley Place is a Grade II listed manor house dating from 1425, though there has been a building on the site since Saxon times. It is set in 380 acres of parkland, arable fields and ancient woodland and has walled gardens. We will have a one and a half hour tour of the Manor House and gardens. This will include a copy of Bamber Gasgoine's "West Horsley Place A new Start ". There is a pop up cafe.

The coach will leave Shotfield at 11:35am, Ruskin Road at 11:50am and the Quadrant in Sutton at 12noon.

It is expected to arrive at West Horsley Place at about 1pm which will give time to get something to eat from the cafe or have a picnic lunch before the tour at 2pm. We will leave West Horsley Place at about 4:45 pm

The cost is £45 per person which includes the coach and tour.



Group Organiser Brenda Allen phone 01737 354690 or mobile (on day only) 07731 781283

## Tuesday 17th October 2023 Acton London Transport Depot

The depot holds the majority of the Museum's collections which are not on display in the main museum in Covent Garden. It holds historic tube trains, signs and signals, maps and posters, and much more and has the London Transport Miniature Railway. It was recently featured on the Channel 5 television Programme on the Hidden Underground. We shall be going on a conducted 2 hour tour of the Depot which starts at 2 p.m.

This is a self travel outing. The Depot is just 4 minutes away from Acton Town underground Station. To get to the Depot take the train to Victoria then the District line to Acton Town underground Station (towards Ealing Broadway) The Piccadilly Line also goes to Acton Town. There are cafes by Acton Town Station and toilets at the Depot.

We will meet at the Depot for the 2pm tour. At Acton Town Station turn left to cross the road at a Zebra crossing turn right and then left into Museum Way (a private road to the Depot) Then go round the depot to the entrance. Cost for the Depot Tour is £10. Numbers are limited to 10 and will be allocated to members on a first come first serve basis.

Group organiser Brenda Allen 01737 354690 or mobile (on day only) 07731 781283



## Read all about it!

As you read this Newsletter, you may get the impression that all the Society does is to organise outings and speaker meetings. Another important aspect of our work is the undertaking of research, into both local archaeology and history. But research is of no use unless its results are known, and the more so the better. It has always been the Society's aim to make the fruits of its research available as widely and as cheaply as possible.

For many years, we have published a series of *Occasional Papers*, most of which are available from Lulu via our website. More recently we have started a series of shorter *Local History Notes* (already 17 in number) on a range of topics - mainly local houses and noteworthy (but not well-known) local individuals. These can be downloaded from our website ([cadhas.org.uk/publications](http://cadhas.org.uk/publications)), or you can inspect copies at our winter meetings and place a 'print on demand' order. None cost more than £2 and many are only £1 - peruse them and you will be very likely to find a topic of interest to you.



If you have carried out some local history research in our area, why not consider publishing it as one of our Local History Notes? We will be pleased to help you bring your work to successful publication.

If you have any queries about the Society's research and publications, please contact John Phillips (research: [johnrp1558@gmail.com](mailto:johnrp1558@gmail.com)), Jacky Oliver (Publications: [beejayoli@aol.com](mailto:beejayoli@aol.com)), Clive Orton (Local History Notes: [cliveorton@btinternet.com](mailto:cliveorton@btinternet.com)) or Derek Bradford (Research and Preservation Committee: [derekbradford2@talktalk.net](mailto:derekbradford2@talktalk.net)).

### Winter Programme 2023-24

**The talks will start at 2:30pm (and not 3pm as last year).**

This is an outline of the proposed Winter Programme. More details about the talks will follow in the next newsletter

#### 4th November 2023

Stewart Cocker on The Horton Light Railway

#### 2nd December 2023

Peter Wakeham on Springs and Waterways of Carshalton

#### 6th January 2024

A speaker from the Friends of the Crystal Palace Dinosaurs on Restoring the Dinosaur Models

#### 3rd February 2024

Alan Johnson from the Wey and Arun Canal Trust

#### 6th April 2024

Natalie Cohen on Smallhythe

#### 2nd March 2024

AGM and a look back over the years activities

Visit CADHAS website [www.cadhas.org.uk](http://www.cadhas.org.uk)

## Updated Booking Form for 2023 Coach Trips

To:- Phil Groves, 2 Hilliard Court, Demesne Road, Wallington, Surrey SM6 8EE  
e-mail: phil\_c\_groves@yahoo.co.uk

My name is .....

My e-mail: .....

Mobile Phone No (to receive text message): 07.....

Other telephone number .....

I will be boarding the coach at **Shotfield**, Wallington.....

I will be boarding the coach at **Ruskin Road**, Carshalton

I will be boarding the coach at **The Quadrant**, Sutton

Please book place(s) for me on the following outing(s):

*\* Please make separate cheques – payable to CaDHAS – for each outing*

*\* Note: there is a £1 additional administrative fee for guests who are non-Members of the Society*

**Tuesday 25 July - Strawberry Hill House** (\_\_\_ place/s) @£37 £\_\_\_\_\_

for English Heritage members the cost is £35-55 (£1-45 discount)

**Closing date for booking 26 June.**

**I enclose my cheque payable to CaDHAS for £\_\_\_\_\_ for this trip.**

*Cheques will NOT be banked until w/c 17 July*

**Wednesday 16 August - Syon House** (\_\_\_ place/s) @£34 £\_\_\_\_\_

**Closing date for booking 13 July.**

**I enclose my cheque payable to CaDHAS for £\_\_\_\_\_ for this trip.**

*Cheques will NOT be banked until w/c 7 August*

**Wednesday 13 September - West Horsley Place** (\_\_\_ place/s) @£45 \_\_\_\_\_

**Closing date for booking 10 August.**

**I enclose my cheque payable to CaDHAS for £\_\_\_\_\_ for this trip.**

*Cheques will NOT be banked until w/c 4 September*

**Tuesday 17 October - Acton London Transport Depot** (\_\_\_ place/s) @£10 \_\_\_\_\_

This is a **Self-Travel** visit; Numbers are limited to 10

**Closing date for booking 10 August.**

**I enclose my cheque payable to CaDHAS for £\_\_\_\_\_ for this trip.**

*Cheques will NOT be banked until w/c 14 August*

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NEXT OF KIN: Name .....

Phone No .....