



# Carshalton & District History & Archaeology Society

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

## Autumn 2023 Newsletter

Our new season of winter talks gets underway on the 4th November with a talk about a local railway in Epsom.

The talks are held in the Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, off Nightingale Road, Carshalton, SM5 2DL and will start at the slightly **earlier time of 2:30 p.m..**

Dear Friends,

We are approaching the end of a most interesting series of visits put forward on our summer programme and we look forward to a new programme of speakers come November when the indoor meetings re-commence.

Our sincere thanks to the Programmes Committee making it all possible. It is not without difficulty however for with the loss of John Thornton they are now at least two down on their numbers. Please consider joining them. It is particularly gratifying when members appreciate the thought put forward for their enjoyment and to ensure the ongoing success of the society. Research and Preservation continue to do good work but perhaps not so obviously but they are certainly there in the background fulfilling their remit .

Secondly but certainly not least, is our *most important* vacancy, that of a secretary. To comply with our charitable status, we desperately need someone to come forward. One immediately thinks of minute taking and the commitment involved in the post. It is not difficult as minutes are taken by the respective committees and executive committee minutes taken by volunteer member Joyce Brown. The main commitment is once a year to bring together the various end of year reports etc. and circulating them prior to the AGM. Someone will always be there to guide you in this. This is most important for us to continue as a viable society. Please come forward.

Thank you.

Bev Shew (President)

## Winter Programme

**Saturday 4th November 2023 at 2:30 p.m.**

Stewart Cocker, Countryside Manager of Epsom & Ewell Borough Council, will give a talk on the **Horton Light Railway**

The Horton Light Railway had its origins in a contractor's line (the Ewell & Long Grove Railway) built in 1905 to transport building materials, coal and other supplies for London County Council's Epsom Cluster of psychiatric hospitals in the Horton area to the North-West of the town of Epsom.

The Light Railway Order did not permit the carriage of passengers. The railway connected with the mainline network just south of Ewell West railway station.



**Saturday 2nd December 2023 at 2:30 p.m.**

Peter Wakeham, Chairman of the Downlands Trust, will give an illustrated talk about the **Springs and Watercourses of Carshalton** and the manner in which they influenced the early development of the area. The presentation will focus on two estates, Carshalton Park and what is now St Philomenas School.



There is currently a project underway to improve the water quality and amenity of the Upper and Lower Ponds by removing sediment and undertaking surveys and repairs of the pond structure. The proposed works comprise draining the ponds and removing the sediment. Whilst drained and clean, the engineered base and sides of the ponds and associated infrastructure are to be surveyed (topographically and visually) and recorded.

**Saturday 6th January 2024 at 2:30 p.m.**

Sarah Jayne, social historian, will give a talk on the **Crystal Palace Dinosaurs**.

Friends of the Crystal Palace Dinosaurs is a heritage charity aiming to conserve the Dinosaurs and their surroundings for future generations, and to promote public knowledge and enjoyment of the site. Their presentation will take you on a journey through deep geological time in addition to Victorian science and public education. Discover tales of outrageous publicity stunts, celebrity visits, and scientific arguments, and find out why the site is in Crystal Palace Park, who discovered the extinct animals and who built the sculptures?



**Saturday 3rd February 2024 at 2:30 p.m.**

Alan Johnstone of the **Wey and Arun Canal Trust** will give a talk about the history and ongoing restoration of the Wey and Arun Canal, a 23 mile canal which runs between the river Wey in Surrey and the River Arun in Sussex. It was constructed to avoid attacks by French Privateers on British Merchant ships in the English Channel during the Napoleonic Wars, but by the time it was completed in 1815 the wars were over, though the canal did prove to be a boon to regional trade and the villages along its route. Competition by railways in the late 1860s led to declining trade and its final abandonment in 1871.

The Wey and Arun Canal Trust was formed in the 1970s and is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Over the years it has restored a number of locks and bridges and 2 aqueducts and has cleared much of the canal of vegetation. It now has 2 information centers from one of which cruises are run. All of the canal's route is in private ownership which has meant that the restoration has been dependent on the goodwill of the landowners, but the Trust has recently started to acquire some of the land. When restored the canal will link Britain's inland waterways to the English Channel.



**Saturday 2nd March 2024 at 2:30 p.m.**

**AGM** and a look back over the years activities. If members have photographs of the summer outings and they are willing to share them, would you please send them to Phil Groves by email [phil\\_c\\_groves@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:phil_c_groves@yahoo.co.uk).

**Saturday 6th April 2024 at 2:30 p.m.**

Nathalie Cohen will present the results of the most recent season of excavation at the **National Trust property Smallhythe**, which lies on the Kent/Sussex border.

Over 3 weeks in August 2023 a team of over 100 volunteers working with professional archaeologists from Archaeology South east, Museum of London Archaeology and Historic England explored the Roman, Medieval and Post Medieval past of this now tiny riverside settlement. They revealed lost buildings and routeways, evidence for Medieval ship building and artefacts which will help to tell the stories of those who lived here before us.



**Saturday 11th May 2024 at 2:30 p.m.**

We will be replacing the May Weekend Away with an additional talk at Milton Hall. The Programmes Committee are researching a speaker and details will follow as soon as arrangements are confirmed.

### **Two of this Summer's Activities**

It was disappointing not being able to visit the Lullingstone Roman Villa. It was closed for urgent work to the remains and the fabric of the building protecting it. However

following a lunch stop at the Lullingstone Country Park we went on to visit Lullingstone Castle and World Garden. We had an informative guided tour

of the Castle and Church. This was followed by a guided tour of the World Garden with its plants from all over the world.



We had a fascinating visit to **West Horsley Place** on the 13th September. I would recommend watching *Ghosts* on the BBC iPlayer where you will recognise much of the house which they call Button House