



May 2025

Chairman's Update

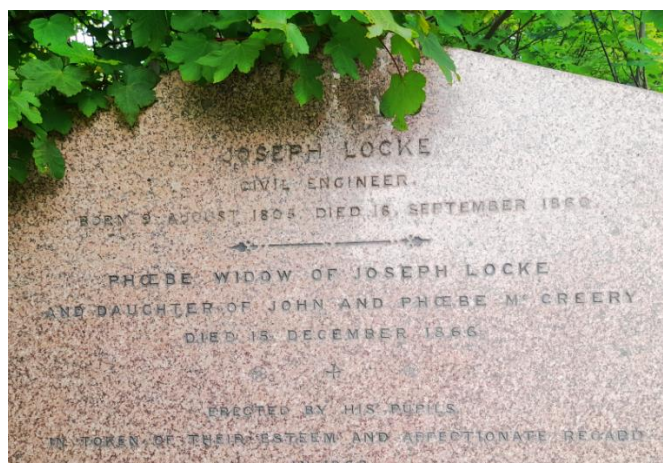
We have now finished our 2024-25 programme of talks, with three excellent talks, one over Zoom, on Heath Robinson's Military 'inventions', and two live at Leatherhead, one on the Ashted Pottery, and one on the origins of the London Underground. And, we had our first half-day trip away for several years! Overall, this has been an encouraging year for talks, with a varied programme of well-received talks and a large increase in group membership. Zoom talks were particularly popular, with an average of 59 attendees per talk, about 50% up on attendances for the 2023-24 programme; scheduling talks on Thursday evenings rather than Thursday mornings seems to have been a major factor in this, but the choice of speakers/subjects, and using new promotion channels, including posters and social media, may have also played their part.

The return to live talks has been widely welcomed, and many attendees have said how much they enjoyed these talks and the opportunity to mix with fellow SIHG members. Many thanks to all those of you who helped with running the talks, helping set up the hall, doing the half-time teas and coffees, and much more. But the number attending some of the live talks were a little disappointing, with the average attendance for live talks being less than half that for the Zoom talks. We do hope to see more of you at live talks in 2025-26! One thing that may help is that we are running our last few live talks at Leatherhead in April on Wednesday evenings instead of on Thursday afternoons: details of the programme are on the website. As always, your views on the schedule are most welcome.

Garry Brooks, SIHG Chairman

Our Trip to Kendal Green Cemetery

Fourteen of us travelled up to North London for an entertaining and enlightening tour of Kendal Green Cemetery, focusing on the final resting places of the Brunels and many others involved in the early days of railways. Here are a few photos from the trip:



If you don't know about Joseph Locke, see: <https://www.networkrail.co.uk/stories/who-was-joseph-locke-from-birth-of-the-railway-to-great-legacy>

Next Daytrips

We now have two more full day / half day trips planned:

(1) Thursday 5th June at 10:00 a.m. - Visit to The Rural Life Museum near Farnham: see www.sihg.org.uk for more details.

(2) Thursday 3rd July at 10:00 a.m. - Farnham Industry - and more! - Walking Tour: see www.sihg.org.uk for more details.

Later this Year and Next

We have now finalised the 2025-26 talks programme! The first talk is at Leatherhead on 11th September, with a talk from our old friend David Hassard: we hope for a big turnout. Then we continue with a couple more Leatherhead talks, before reverting to Zoom talks until March.

Our programme for the rest of 2025 appears at the end of this newsletter. Please have a look at the website for more details and updates.

Books by Our Speakers

Many of our speakers have written, edited, or contributed to history books, and we will feature some of them in future Newsletters. Speakers (past and future) include:

- Richard Marks
- Geoff Burch
- Nina Baker
- Janet Pennington
- James Wright
- Mark Lewis
- Kathy Atherton
- David Rose
- Ian Castle

Have we missed anyone? Have you read any books by these authors? If so, do please email chairman@sihg.org.uk with details.

Heritage Open Days 2025

Dates for your diary! There will be ten days of Heritage Open Days this year, **from Friday 12th September to Sunday 21st September**. There should be some events in and around Leatherhead: more details in the next Newsletter. For now, keep an eye on <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk>

Down Memory Lane

Last month, we asked who was awarding the 2010 SIHG Conservation Award to whom, and for what, in this picture?



As many of you knew, this picture shows the late Bob Bryson giving the SIHG Annual Award to the still alive-and-kicking Andrew Norris, for Andrew's work on conserving Chilworth Gunpowder Mills. Now, let's look back to the SIHG talks programme for the first quarter of 2015: ten years ago. Thirteen talks in three months, and all live! How many of these do you remember? Any good memories? Please email chairman@sihg.org.uk with your memories...

Preserved Railways in the USA	Alan Thomas
Surrey Roads from Turnpike to Motorway	Gordon Knowles
Three Victorian Railway Bridges	John Otten
Steam Power in Miniature	Douglas Irvine
Harry Ferguson and the Agricultural Revolution	Ed Marshall
Papermaking in Hertfordshire	Michael Stanyon
Prehistoric metalworking from scratch	Fergus Milton
Nineteenth Century Monorails	Adrian Garner
Mille Miglia	Angela Hume
The London Water Ring Main	John How
The History of Lubrication	Peter Longstaff
The Lighter Side of the V Force	Bill Turnill

And Finally...

We do hope you like this Newsletter! If you have any comments on it, please email: chairman@sihg.org.uk

Surrey Industrial History Group Talks Programme, Autumn 2025:

Thursday 11th September:

‘Thomas Sopwith, Aviation Pioneer’ by David Hassard (Live talk at Oddfellows Hall, Leatherhead, 2:00 p.m.)

Thursday 25th September:

‘The Ramblings of a Railwayman’ by Geoff Burch (Live talk at Oddfellows Hall, Leatherhead, 2:00 p.m.)

Thursday 9th October:

Members' Sessions (Live meeting at Oddfellows Hall, Leatherhead, 2:00 p.m.)

Thursday 23rd October:

‘Salt of the Earth: The Salt Industry of the Adur Valley’ by Janet Pennington (Over Zoom, 7:30 p.m.)

Tuesday 4th November:

‘The Purton Ships Graveyard’ by Paul Barnett (Over Zoom, 7:30 p.m.)

Thursday 20th November:

‘The Wartime Canal Volunteers who called themselves “Idle Women”’ by Alastair Clark (Over Zoom, 7:30 p.m.)

Thursday 4th December:

‘Mill Technology and the Development of the UK Patent System’ by Nick Gudde (Over Zoom, 7:30 p.m.)

To Be Confirmed:

More Members' Talks – over Zoom (some time in December?)

There will also be an AGM held over Zoom in September; and a pre-Christmas lunch-time pub meet-up.

Please note that Leatherhead talks start at 2:00 p.m., with doors open from 1:30 p.m., at Leatherhead Oddfellows Hall, 45-51, Bridge Street, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 8BN. Entrance is free for SIHG Members and £3.00 for non-Members.

All Zoom talks start at 7:30 p.m., with ‘doors open’ from 7:15 p.m. All Zoom talks are free for all.

All talks are on Thursdays, except for the 4th of November talk, which is on a Tuesday.

Full details at:

https://www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk/content/sihg_upcoming_events