



Preserving Surrey's Heritage

New Makeover for Old Barracks

By Brendon Sewill

Providence Chapel in Charlwood, near Gatwick, has had an unusual history. In 1797 it was constructed in Horsham as the guardhouse of a barracks to house the troops assembled to repel a French invasion. After the Battle of Waterloo in 1815 it became redundant and was moved twelve miles to Charlwood on horse-drawn carts. There it was rebuilt with voluntary labour and in 1816 opened as a non-denominational non-conformist chapel.



It is an attractive building, Grade 2* Listed, and on Historic England's "Heritage At Risk" register. In 2012 the building was put up for sale but the threat of compulsory and costly repairs discouraged any buyers. A local charitable trust was formed and bought the chapel for £1.

The Heritage Lottery Fund has been extremely helpful. First they gave us £10,000 to get started. Then £40,000 to enable us to employ a first-class architect, Paul Sharrock, to draw up plans, and to get planning permission. Now they are giving us 85% of the £260,000 cost of restoration work. The difference is being made up by grants from Mole Valley Council, Gatwick Airport, and, of course, Surrey Historic Buildings Trust – for which we are immensely grateful.

Our contractors started work in December. All the roof tiles have been removed, the roof is being repaired, and we are glad that over 50% of the old tiles can be re-used. Inside the chapel the wooden wainscoting has been temporarily removed so that we can see how much of the framework of the building has rotted. Much of soleplate needs replacing. Many of the upright timbers need new wood spliced in. The ceiling, which was about to fall down, is being restored. Some of the wooden pillars which hold up the veranda are being replaced, others are being repaired.

Opening up the walls has enabled us to work out how the building was originally built as a barracks, and how it was taken to pieces and moved from Horsham (in individual timbers, not as a flat-pack).

The main use of the chapel when restored will be as a study centre for the nearby school. But the Providence Chapel Trust has a legal obligation to allow occasional services and burials.

We are planning a Grand Re-Opening on 15th September 2018. In the meantime, why not have a look at our website? www.providencechapelcharlwood.org.

AGM at Painshill

The 2017 Annual General Meeting of Surrey Historic Buildings Trust was held last autumn at Painshill Park, the Grade 1 Listed historic landscape gardens near Cobham. In addition to hearing reports from the Trust's Chairman, Mrs Angela Fraser DL, and other Officers and Trustees of SHBT, and an inspirational address by our Patron, Michael More-Molyneux, the Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey, SHBT members had the opportunity to explore the glorious 18th Century landscape gardens – and to enjoy a splendid afternoon tea featuring some of the most delicious Victoria Sponge that we have ever sampled! Further visits to Painshill are planned for the future.



Royal Visit to The Old Motor House

His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester recently paid a visit to **The Old Motor House at The Royal Automobile Club, Epsom**. Friends of Surrey Historic Buildings Trust will recall that The Old Motor House was the overall winner of our 2017 Surrey Heritage Awards.

SHBT Chairman Mrs Angela Fraser DL, together with SHBT Trustees Mrs Jennifer Powell and Mrs Hazel Morris were at The Old Motor House to welcome the Duke, who was very interested to learn about the Surrey Heritage Awards and why The Old Motor House had been chosen for our top award.

***Pictured top left:** HRH The Duke of Gloucester (far right) with, from left, Jen Powell, Angela Fraser and Hazel Morris of SHBT, and Jeremy Vaughan and Ben Cussons of the RAC; **Bottom left:** Hazel Morris with Ben Cussons and The Duke are shown exploring the Royal Automobile Club's collection of vintage vehicles; and **Pictured above:** The mezzanine floor of The Old Motor House was the location for a special Surrey Heritage Awards display and pictured are The Duke with Hazel Morris discussing the Awards. [Photos courtesy of The Royal Automobile Club]*

Recent Conservation Grants

Recent grant applications approved by SHBT include:

- **Providence Chapel, Charlwood.** The Trust has awarded a grant of £3,000 for repairs to the veranda of this Grade 2 Listed non-conformist chapel. (See Brendon Sewill's article, "A new makeover for an old barracks", above).
- **Church of St Nicholas, Cranleigh.** We do not generally grant-aid roofs but this is an extremely unusual case as the roof is made of Horsham Stone, which is unique to Surrey and Sussex – and very expensive. The Chairman and Trustees of SHBT felt that it would be a great shame if the church could not be re-roofed with the correct fabric and in the traditional manner. The Trust agreed a grant of £2,700 towards the re-roofing.

Our Next SHBT Event

Explore Cobham's riverside: Local historian Dr David Taylor will be giving a conducted tour of some of Cobham's most interesting riverside buildings, on **Tuesday 1st May 2018**, for SHBT Friends (and their guests). The tour will start at 10.00am at the splendid **Cedar House**, whose Georgian appearance disguises the fact that it is actually a late-medieval building that was then altered and enlarged in the 18th century. Cedar House is nowadays owned by The National Trust but is not usually open to the public so we are extremely fortunate to be seeing inside this amazing building.

We then move on to explore **Cobham Mill**, a beautifully preserved 18th century redbrick watermill, and we complete our tour at **The Old Bear** inn, not just for much-needed refreshments but also to view this extraordinary ancient building which started out as a medieval open-hall house, before becoming a coaching inn during the Georgian period, but whose original 15th century design remains intact.

The cost of this tour, including tea or coffee, will be £10 per person. Please note that as our tour concludes at lunchtime there will be an opportunity for participants to obtain lunch at The Bear, if they wish, but this will be an additional cost and is not part of the tour itself.

Please send cheques (payable to "Surrey Historic Buildings Trust") to: Andy Smith, 24 Floral Court, Ashted, Surrey KT21 2JL. For further information please call **Andy Smith** on **07737 271676** or email **wordsmithreviews@yahoo.co.uk**.



*Pictured above from top to bottom:
Cedar House, Cobham Mill and The Old Bear*



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