

Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society

*Stimulating minds
yesterday, today and tomorrow*

Founded 1870



Programme 454

October 2023—April 2024

Meetings cover Local and Industrial History, Geology,
Archaeology, Entomology, Ecology and Ornithology

www.cnhss.co.uk

CROYDON NATURAL HISTORY & SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY LIMITED

Founded in 1870 as the Croydon Microscopical Club
Headquarters and Registered Office: 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6AD
Website: www.cnhss.co.uk

SOCIETY OBJECTIVES

For the public benefit, to encourage the study of the sciences, especially the natural and local history and archaeology of the Croydon area, by organising lectures, members' talks, discussions, exhibitions, field meetings, surveys, issuing publications, and by maintaining a library and museum.

The Society is concerned with original investigation, conservation, recording, curation, education, and incidental recreation.

MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

The Society's own museum and library may be visited by arrangement with the curator and librarian respectively (see DIRECTORY).

ECOLOGY SECTION

Jane McLauchlin is the Section Secretary and can be contacted on ecology matters (see DIRECTORY).

ENTOMOLOGY SECTION

Graham Collins is the Section Secretary and can be contacted on entomology matters (see DIRECTORY).

ORNITHOLOGY GROUP

The group is an informal part of the society which meets at least twice a month at various birding sites near and far such as South Norwood Country Park, Beddington Park, the Oare Marshes in Kent and Pagham Harbour in Sussex. For details contact Ornithology (see Directory). It is necessary to inform the leader of each excursion in advance that you are going. The place of meeting is always the venue. There are no indoor meetings apart from when the programme of outings is planned.

WALKS

Members attend outdoor meetings at their own risk. Please come with appropriate clothes and footwear for possible hot or bad weather, mud underfoot, and occasional steep slopes and steps.

EMBLEM



The Society's emblem is based on a bronze openwork disc from the fifth or sixth century AD, found in 1893 in a Saxon cemetery in Edridge Road, Croydon. It is a rare example; its function is not certain but it may have been a strap distributor or a sort of brooch. It can be seen at the Museum of Croydon.

EVENTS

Live events take place at EAST CROYDON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, 86 ADDISCOMBE GROVE, CROYDON CR0 5LP (**ECURC**). Please check event details for start times.

Zoom meetings open at 19:35 for a 19:45 start. Talks do need to be booked:

- Members please use the link sent to register – early booking is recommended. If unable to register email cnhss.info@gmail.com
- Non-members please email cnhss.info@gmail.com including VISITOR in the subject heading and you will hear on the morning of the talk date whether a space is available.

OCTOBER

16 Monday 19:45 – TALK – “Robert Keable, Utterly Immoral WW1 chaplain?”. Local author Simon Keable-Elliott tells the extraordinary story of the life of his grandfather: the Croydon schoolboy, African missionary, WW1 chaplain and author of the scandalous bestselling war novel – *Simon Called Peter* – who ended his days in Tahiti married to an island princess. Place: **THE SMALL HALL, ECURC**.

26 Thursday 14:00 – ECOLOGY WALK – “Green spaces in Shirley”, with autumn fruits and fungi. Meet at 14:00 at the junction of Shirley Church Road and Spring Park Road, TQ358653. Led by Nicola Hunt and Jane McLaughlin.

NOVEMBER

8 Wednesday 19:45 – TALK – “CWGC Architecture and Conservation”, by Christine Goodair of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. This presentation will introduce some of the most iconic memorials and cemeteries the CWGC cares for across the world, before revealing how the very best architectural minds of the time influenced their design. It will give an understanding of the ongoing challenges CWGC faces to care for its sites and the work its teams have undertaken to ensure they are protected and continue to make a lasting impact on present and future generations. Place: **THE SMALL HALL, ECURC**.

25 Saturday 14:30 – FOCUS – our annual Focus meeting which will this year concentrate on some favourite subjects of our late Director and former President Paul Sowan. There will be talks from Jon Grant and Ron Williams on Jolliffe and Banks of Merstham, and from Phil Marshall from Subterranea Britannica. Refreshments will be provided, and there will be a chance to pay subscriptions for 2024. Place: **THE DAVID SWEET HALL, ECURC**.

27 Monday 19:45 – TALK – “The Great Equatorial”, by Tony Roberts, Chairman of the Croydon Astronomical Society. In professional astronomy the bigger the telescope the better! We will hear the story of the 28-inch refractor at Greenwich (and elsewhere). Still the seventh largest refractor in the world and the largest in the United Kingdom, it is justifiably called “The Great Refractor”. Place: **THE SMALL HALL, ECURC**.

EVENTS (continued)

DECEMBER

- 11 Monday 19:45 – CHRISTMAS TALK** – “A 1950s Croydon childhood: a bit of sociology mixed with a bit of nostalgia”, by Peter Saunders, author of *Croydon Boy: growing up in post-war Britain*. Peter Saunders was born in Croydon’s Old Town (near where the flyover now stands) in 1950. The family later moved to a maisonette in New Addington, then to Waddon, and eventually to Shirley. In 1957, Prime Minister Harold MacMillan told the British people: ‘Let us be frank about it, most of our people have never had it so good’. And he was right. The fifties was a period of growing affluence. Peter’s family bought their own home in a cul-de-sac near Duppas Hill; they owned a 12-inch black-and-white television (which only received one channel); and his Dad was the proud possessor of a 1936 Morris, which he tenderly wrapped in a cover every night to protect it from the rain. Peter grew up to become a sociology professor at Sussex University. In this talk, he uses his experiences of his Croydon childhood in the 1950s to reflect on some of the changes (for better and for worse) that have taken place since then in the way we live, work and bring up our children. The talk will be illustrated by photographs from the period, and there will be plenty of time for discussion. Place: **THE DAVID SWEET HALL, ECURC**.

JANUARY 2024 *Subscriptions now due*

- 6 Saturday 14:30 – TALK** – “A Gallop through the History of Carriage Driving”, by Antonia Gallop. Antonia has been around horses all her life, firstly earning a living training and producing for commercial theatre, weddings, TV and film work to now enjoying showing them in their antique vehicles at national level. Carriage driving connects people from all walks of life, from Dukes to dustmen and Antonia has been fortunate to spend time with both and share a love of history and a passion for horse power. Place: **THE SMALL HALL, ECURC**.
- 17 Wednesday 19:45 – ZOOM TALK** – “Planting for bees”. Rosi Rollings will be discussing which bees are at risk and her research into the plants they need for survival. **BOOKING REQUIRED:** members will be sent a link to register. Visitors please email cnhss.info@gmail.com with subject ZOOM BEES VISITOR by Tuesday 16 January.

FEBRUARY

- 5 Monday 19:45 – ZOOM TALK** – “Mills of the River Wandle”, by Mick Taylor of the Wandle Industrial Museum. Mills on the river Wandle have existed since Roman times. In its heyday, when it was described as the hardest working river for its size in the world, it had over 65 mills. This talk explores the industries of those mills and the people involved. **BOOKING REQUIRED:** members will be sent a link to register. Visitors please email cnhss.info@gmail.com with subject ZOOM WANDLE VISITOR by Sunday 4 February.

- 21 Wednesday 19:45 – ZOOM TALK** – “A Lost Elysium? The impact of motoring on English landscapes in the inter-war years”. The car was arguably the greatest agent of change in the twentieth century, and John Minnis looks at the social and physical changes it brought about in England between the wars. The requirements of the motorist – filling stations, road improvements, and repair and servicing facilities – are explored. The changes produced outrage and dismay amongst conservationists and preservationists, but features which appalled and repelled, such as cast-iron enamelled advertising signs, are now collectable and fetch high prices. The presentation explores new road-building, ribbon development, the problem of parking and its solutions, and the social impact of increasing mobility among at least some classes. **BOOKING REQUIRED:** members will be sent a link to register. Visitors please email cnhss.info@gmail.com with subject **ZOOM ELYSIUM VISITOR** by Tuesday 20 February.
- 25 Sunday 10:00 – ECOLOGY WALK** – “Winter trees and a historic landscape in Hamsey Green”. Meet at 10:00 at the junction of Tithepit Shaw Lane and Wentworth Way, Hamsey Green, TQ346595. Led by Jane McLauchlin and Malcolm Jennings.

MARCH

- 9 Saturday 14:30 – TALK** – “Wilks, his Wilderness and its journey through to today”. Lucy James, Manager of MHA The Wilderness will talk about the Reverend Wilks and his legacy, the creation of The Wilderness, the forgotten years, and the reformed garden we see today. Place: **THE SMALL HALL, ECURC.**
- 25 Monday 19:45 – TALK** – “Merton Priory – the Latest Chapter”. John Hawks, Vice Chair of Merton Priory Trust and Curator of the Chapter House, describes the 900-year-old remains, their history, and the unusual museum built around them. Place: **THE SMALL HALL, ECURC.**

APRIL

- 1 Easter Monday 14:00 – ECOLOGY WALK** – “Spring flowers and scenery at The Lawns, part of the Great North Wood in Upper Norwood”. Meet at 14:00 at the junction of Beulah Hill and Spa Hill, TQ328700. Led by Jane McLauchlin and Nicola Hunt.
- 10 Wednesday 19:45 – TALK** – “Mapping Urban Geology: building stones in London and beyond on London Pavement Geology”. This talk by Dr Ruth Siddall will present the London Pavement Geology app and website, created by Dave Wallis, Ruth Siddall and website developers Livetech. It will demonstrate how this platform is increasingly becoming an archive of the UK’s building stones and other out-of-situ geological objects. The platform has been used by Historic England and other organisations as well as local groups recording local building stone information. We hope that crowdsourcing will enable this site to continue to grow and that it will be a resource for anyone with an interest in geology or building stones. Place: **THE SMALL HALL, ECURC.**
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| <p>25 Thursday 19:45 – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Followed by the Presidential address. Place: THE DAVID SWEET HALL, ECURC.</p> |
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PUBLICATIONS

ILLUSTRATED LOCAL HISTORY BOOKS:

CROYDON: THE STORY OF A HUNDRED YEARS	Please enquire
VICTORIAN CROYDON ILLUSTRATED	Please enquire
EDWARDIAN CROYDON ILLUSTRATED	Please enquire
CROYDON BETWEEN THE WARS (2nd ed. 1993)	4.75
CROYDON IN THE 1940s AND 1950s (2nd ed. 2000)	6.75
CROYDON OLD AND NEW, enlarged (1995)	6.75
CROYDON FROM ABOVE (1999)	6.75
CROYDON'S TRANSPORT – through the ages (2001)	8.75
A VIEW OF CROYDON: Postcards from the past (2011)	10.95

RECENT PROCEEDINGS:

19(9) CONSUMED BY FIRE: THE DESTRUCTION OF CROYDON PARISH CHURCH IN 1867 AND ITS REBUILD. (Brian Lancaster, 2016)	4.50
20(1) STRANGE BEDFELLOWS: CROYDON'S SLAVE OWNERS AND HISTORIANS. (Ron Cox's final talk to the Society, Sean Creighton on Croydon's connections with slavery and Brian Lancaster on John Corbet Anderson, 2017)	5.00
20(2) SURREY KILLING FIELDS: THE WARTIME JOURNAL OF A CHIPSTEAD SCHOOLBOY FRIEND OF A GAMEKEEPER. (The 1942-3 journal of Bruce Larcombe, edited by Brian Lancaster, 2018)	5.99
21(1) EVACUSTES PHIPSON: HIS LIFE AND UTOPIAN VIEWS, AND AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CROYDON PAINTINGS. (John Hickman, Carole Roberts, John W. Brown and Stephen Williams, 2020)	12.00
21(2) AHEAD OF THEIR TIME: THE MALLESONS AND TAYLORS' RADICAL CIRCLE IN CROYDON AND BEYOND. (Brian Lancaster, 2021).	6.95
21(3) REMEMBERING PAUL SOWAN THROUGH HIS WRITING. (Carole Roberts and Mark Tyson (Eds), 2022)	6.95

The above books, and others at <https://cnhss.co.uk/booksproceedings>, can be obtained from the Society. Email sales@cnhss.co.uk. Please add £2 for postage and packing.

DIRECTORY

All general correspondence should be addressed to the Society at its Registered Office, 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6AD, or to information@cnhss.co.uk.

ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Carole Roberts, 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6AD

Vice Presidents: John Hickman, Ian Payne, Brenda Hawkins

Curator (Museum): Esther Mann, information@cnhss.co.uk

Editor (Proceedings): Mark Tyson, 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6AD

General Secretary: Tony Skrzypczyk, 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6AD (020 8406 4676)

Librarian: Tony Skrzypczyk, 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6AD. information@cnhss.co.uk

Treasurer: Brenda Hawkins, 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6AD

ORDINARY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Pam Buttrey, Jorn Cooper, Patrick Dennison, Edward Hart, Nicola Hunt, Ken Woodhams.

SECTION SECRETARIES AND OTHER APPOINTED POSITIONS

Archaeology consultant: Chris Taylor (020 8668 9570)

Company Secretary: Ian Payne, 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6AD (01737 554449), co-secretary@cnhss.co.uk

Conservation Officer: Jane McLauchlin, 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6AD

Curators of the John Gent Collection: John Hickman and Carole Roberts, 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6AD

Ecology: Jane McLauchlin. See Conservation Officer

Editor (Bulletin): Ian Payne, bulletin@cnhss.co.uk

Entomology: Graham Collins (020 8688 4539)

Information: information@cnhss.co.uk or telephone 020 8406 4676

Membership & Subscriptions: Jim Bush, 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6AD, membership@cnhss.co.uk

Ornithology: information@cnhss.co.uk

Programme Team: programme@cnhss.co.uk, 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6AD

Sales Officer: Brian Lancaster, 68 Woodcote Grove Road, Coulsdon, CR5 2AD (020 3561 4549), sales@cnhss.co.uk

Web Managers: Mark Tyson and Carole Roberts, 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6AD, webmaster@cnhss.co.uk

The Elected Officers are Members of Council and they, with the Ordinary Members of Council, are all Directors of the Limited Company.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) Data Privacy Statement

The Society holds the following data on its Members: Name, Address, Telephone Number(s), Email Address, Membership type, Subscription record. Only Council Members, Trustees and Post Holders who require access to this personal data needed to carry out their role within the Society are provided with access to the data. This includes mailings of CNHSS publications, maintaining membership and subscription records and contact details for finding volunteers for specific purposes. Information will not be shared with third parties without express permission from the member concerned.

RENEWAL / MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

TITLE AND NAME (print)

ADDRESS (print)

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PHONE EMAIL

May we send you email CNHSS news and updates? YES / NO (please circle)

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2024

ORDINARY AND GROUP MEMBERS **£18 pa**

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS **£10 pa** (FOR THOSE AT AN ADDRESS

WITH AN ORDINARY, LIFE OR HONORARY MEMBER)

LIFE MEMBERS **£250**

I enclose my subscription of for Renewal / Ordinary / Associate / Life Membership (delete as appropriate). Cheques payable to **CNHSS**, or request a standing order form from **membership@cnhss.co.uk** or the **Membership Secretary, 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6AD**.

I agree to support the objectives and regulations of the CNHSS and accept the conditions laid down in its Memorandum and Articles of Association (which can be inspected by writing to the Company Secretary at the above address).

Data Privacy Statement: only Council Members, Trustees and Post Holders who require access to personal data needed to carry out their role within the Society are provided with access to the data. Please go to www.cnhss.co.uk then follow 'About the Society' and 'CNHSS and the General Data Protection Regulation' for the full Statement.

Signed Date

If you are under 18, please ask a parent or other responsible adult to countersign your application:

Signature of adult:

Relation to applicant:

If you pay UK Income Tax of at least the amount of tax that CNHSS would reclaim on your gifts in a tax year, please complete the following: please treat all gifts of money that I make today and in the future as Gift Aid donations.

Signed Date

Please notify CNHSS if you wish to cancel this declaration.