

STUDIES
in the
HISTORY of EFFINGHAM



Two former historians of Effingham referenced frequently in this Volume.

above – Monica Mercy O'Connor (1904-1982)

below – Mary Alfreda (née Bridger) Rice-Oxley (1925-2016)



STUDIES in the HISTORY of EFFINGHAM

Presenting original research and narratives
relating to the village of Effingham
in the County of Surrey, England

VOLUME 1



Effingham Local History Group

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Front Cover: bluebells on Ranmore Common, a favourite walking area for Effingham residents.

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PREFACE

Effingham Local History Group was formed in 2010 and held its first meeting on 10 May of that year. We have met almost monthly ever since and usually have an attendance of two to three dozen members.

Although participation in the Group's activities brings much personal pleasure to the members, we have a broader mission than that, as set out in our Constitution. In particular, we exist also in order to conduct and publish research into Effingham's local history; to promote interest in this among Effingham's residents; and to provide residents with opportunities to contribute to our activities. These aims have motivated the many occasions – such as Commoners Days, Village Days and our own exhibitions – when we have brought our work into the view of the wider community. They have also motivated the production of our published books and (for the members only) our biannually published booklet *The Bulletin*. Our third main route to presenting our work has been our public website which, in one guise or another, has been under continuous development almost since the founding of the Group.

This first volume of *Studies in the History of Effingham* is a new venture for us. We anticipate that many further volumes in the series will follow as the years pass. There are several reasons why we have embarked on this project. Firstly, we have accumulated a huge amount of archived but as yet unpublished material and are now working hard to bring as much as possible of this into the public domain. This entails a great deal of research on our part in order to interpret correctly what we possess and to fill in the many gaps it presents, besides then getting the material written up in a cogent and accessible manner. The current website already contains many studies that have evolved in exactly this way and one might conceive that it could continue indefinitely as the primary repository for our ever-evolving published work. However, the website is vulnerable to falling into future disuse if, for instance, there should ever be a lapse in preserving the registration of the domain, or if the website host should go out of business, or if the Group were no longer to have any persons capable of administering and editing the content. We believe that printed works, if suitably distributed, have better prospects for long-term durability.

Even if reliably maintained, websites usually have limited capacities. Ours is hosted at a level of annual subscription that the Group can afford and this arrangement places reasonable but not overly generous web space at our disposal. However, more than half of its capacity has already been consumed by our existing content and the residue is nowhere sufficient to hold all the future content we intend to generate. Moreover, we need to acknowledge that not everyone has convenient access to the internet.

Set against these considerations, websites do have advantages above the printed word. They can be quickly updated when new knowledge is acquired or when mistakes require correction, whereas printed volumes cannot be feasibly reprinted whenever such occasions rise. Websites also have far wider reach, being viewable by most people in most parts of the world; our own research has benefited much from information provided by those who have had found our website and, through it, have made contact with us. So we shall continue to operate and develop the website, as far as its limits permit, alongside our efforts to produce printed works.

This first volume, which includes an Index, contains ten articles of which the first eight are derived from similar presentations already on the website. Articles 9 and 10, dealing with the creation of the Effingham Manor Golf Club and the origins and uses of the Old Village Hall, respectively, are entirely new. Future volumes will likewise present a mix of articles decanted from the website and newly-researched ones.

An important aspect of this project is our intention to make each volume accessible for reference to residents and local historians. To this end, one copy will be donated to Effingham Parish Council, one copy to the Surrey History Centre and one copy to the charity managing Effingham's King George V Hall, where they may be consulted under such arrangements as are stipulated by those various bodies. We are grateful to Effingham Parish Council for agreeing to fund, through a capped Community Fund award, the printing of these reference copies for such volumes as we are able to print within the 2023-24 financial year. We express also our continuing appreciation of the Council's provision to us for many past years of archive space in the Parish Room, although our archives may presently be migrated to a new Community and Heritage Centre being planned for the King George V Hall.

Finally, over and above all the acknowledgements made within this volume's articles, we express our warm gratitude to all those many persons, local and far afield, who have contributed to our studies and archives or have permitted us to make use of their own.

The Editors

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Enquiries about the series should be directed to Effingham Local History Group either by email as set out on the website (<https://elhg.org.uk/about>) or by writing to

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