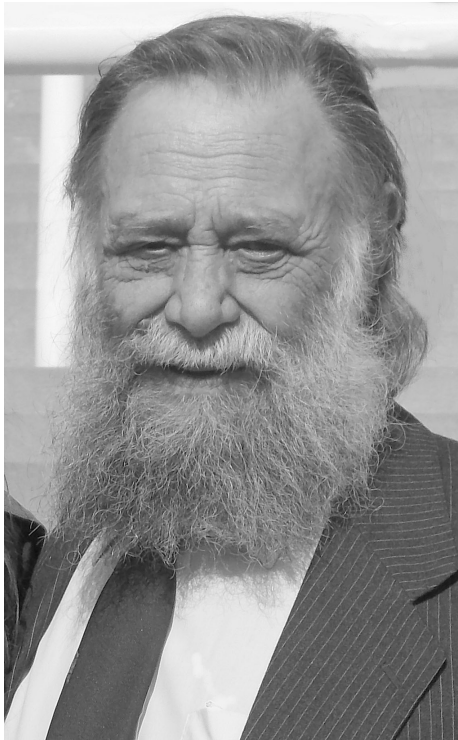


STUDIES
in the
HISTORY of EFFINGHAM



Two long-standing members of Effingham Local History Group.

above – Bryan R Sherwood, who for many years has undertaken extensive research for the Group, besides editing our books, Bulletins and the Lockdown Letters in this Volume.

below – Susan W Morris, founder of the Group and our Honorary Secretary ever since we began, besides being a major contributor to our research and editorial activities.



STUDIES in the HISTORY of EFFINGHAM

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

VOLUME 3



Effingham Local History Group

2024

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

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PREFACE

In each of the first two volumes in this series, the Preface was attributed to the Editors. In this third volume it is instead written by me, as the current Honorary Chairman of Effingham Local History Group, and there is a special reason for this.

As for so many countless individuals and organisations, the Group was unable to escape severe curtailment of its activities in the face of the 'Covid-19' coronavirus pandemic that emerged in this country in early 2020. In that year we held our regular monthly meetings in January, February and March but on March 23rd the Government introduced strong 'lockdown' measures, which put an end for a long while to our scope for meeting 'in the flesh'. The measures were relaxed in May but subsequently reimposed in a second lockdown during November. After a slight relaxation for Christmas, a third lockdown was imposed soon afterwards. Besides these well-defined lockdown periods, various other restrictions upon socialising prevailed throughout the year and into 2021. As cases and deaths rose, wave after wave, it was clearly prudent to minimise social interactions irrespective of the Government's rulings.

In response to all this we decided upon a different means of continuing engagement with our members and the regular presenting of new research, namely by producing a series of 'Newsletters', each being a compilation of articles from various contributors. Each month, a Newsletter of this kind was disseminated to members in advance of what would have been the normal meeting date, for members to read and enjoy on that date, or as close to it as they could manage. The first of these was produced in April 2020 and the last in July 2021, with a few gaps in between. Altogether, twelve were produced; and these make up the contents of this volume. The first eight each bore the title 'Virtual Meeting' but the last four the title 'Newsletter'. We now refer to them all as the 'Lockdown Letters'.

We owe almost all of this output to our members Bryan R Sherwood and Susan W Morris. It has been a mighty endeavour, requiring on their part serious research effort and editorial skills to produce all this excellent material, containing as it does many delightful and surprising studies that might otherwise have not seen the light of day for a long time to come. Their commitment, once taken on, to creating a fresh newsletter as each month passed must have provided the impetus to spend all those long and many hours delving into archives, developing lines of thought, composing the narratives and typesetting the text and imagery. Taken as a whole, I believe this collection of Lockdown Letters will come to be seen as one of the Group's finest printed creations.

I therefore heartily commend this volume to all those who open its pages and I express my fullest gratitude and appreciation, on behalf of the Group, to Bryan and Sue for all their innovation and diligence in this enterprise, albeit undertaken when they, like all the rest of us, were having to deal with the many ordeals brought about by the pandemic, amidst everything else in their lives. I wanted this volume to be seen as a lasting tribute to them, and I salute them both.

Christopher John Hogger,
Hon. Chairman of ELHG.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Christopher J Hogger

Susan W Morris

Jeremy S Palmer

Bryan R Sherwood

The Editors invite submissions of original manuscripts to this series of Volumes. These may take the form of research articles, whether long or short, concerning the history of Effingham or of novel collections of relevant material (historic images, for example). The form in which any such submissions, if accepted, appear in the series is at the discretion of the Editorial Board. In all such cases third party copyright must be respected and permissions for use must be obtained by the authors where appropriate.

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

The Honorary Secretary,
Effingham Local History Group,
c/o The Parish Room,
3, Home Barn Court,
Effingham,
Surrey KT24 5LG.

EDITORIAL NOTE

The Lockdown Letters were originally composed by Bryan using the publishing application Serif Affinity, which the others among the editorial team do not possess. Their format differed from the one we have since adopted for this 'Studies' series and their page numbering had not anticipated aggregation into a single indexed volume. They also contained quite a number of typographical errors deserving of correction.

Rather than returning to the original Serif Affinity source files in order to correct and reformat them, we decided instead to treat their pdf versions as source files. Trials of several different commercial PDF-editing applications established that none were good enough for our purposes. Instead, an online PDF-converter ('PDF Candy') was used to convert the pdf files to Microsoft Word .docx documents, which all of us are capable of processing. The conversion faithfully preserved the layouts (often quite complex) of the pages but not the fonts, besides leaving a modicum of other issues requiring further formatting interventions. As a consequence, the finished pages in this volume are not always entirely identical to the originals, because of instances where it was not possible to preserve precise word, line and image spacings; but in essentials the pages are the same.

The new Word files, once completed, were then converted into pdf files. From these, each page was then imported, as though it were an image, into the master Word document for the volume. Because of the particular margin, heading and footer features of this master document, these imported pages – originally of A4 size – inevitably came to occupy a frame smaller than A4, so condensing all their content by between five and ten per cent. This meant that, in order to safeguard legibility, image captions and footnotes that had already been of very small font size in the originals had to be increased by two font sizes prior to the importation.

On the subject of fonts, it was decided to set the Lockdown Letters in Gouldy Old Style, very close to the variant of Goudy used in the originals, even though the volumes in this series are set generally in Garamond.

Finally, for submission to the printers, the master document had to be converted to pdf. This volume is therefore the end product of developing one version in Serif Affinity, two versions in Word and three in pdf. It is a marvel of modern technology that the result of all this textual mangling is so closely faithful to the original.

Each Lockdown Letter is preceded, in this volume, by a page bearing a seasonal image. These images are the same as those that we had used to 'jolly up' the website pages on which the original lockdown letters were made available online. Most of them were photographs taken in Chris Hogger's garden.

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