



## What can we offer you?

**Visits** to old, private houses and to great houses, where our experienced members will explain them to you.

**Talks** by professionals and by other experienced people (but aimed at amateurs!).

**Newsletters** about our activities, the progress of our research programmes, and our discoveries.



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**Meetings** with other interested people to hear about what the Group is doing, and to visit houses or go on guided walks of interesting villages or town centres.

**Teach-ins** at which you can learn how to understand the design and history of old buildings. You will then be able to join one of our small groups that visit old buildings to record their structure and history.

## Interested in joining? Here's what to do next

Complete the form below and send it to our Membership Secretary who will tell you about our next meeting. You can also visit our website [www.dbrg.org.uk](http://www.dbrg.org.uk) for an up-to-date account of what we are doing and to download further membership application forms. Membership costs only £10 p.a. per person, or £16 p.a. for a couple.

I am interested in joining the Domestic Buildings Research Group and knowing about your forthcoming meetings.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Post code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Send to:** Patrick Moyle  
Millbrook, Kings Cross Lane  
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Surrey RH1 5NG





# Join us

Visit, study and find out more about the beautiful old buildings of Surrey



[www.dbrg.org.uk](http://www.dbrg.org.uk)

Registered charity number 277231



For more information  
visit: [www.dbrg.org.uk](http://www.dbrg.org.uk)



## Who are we, and what do we do?

The Domestic Buildings Research Group (DBRG) is interested in the structure and history of the old buildings of Surrey – those built before 1850. We arrange visits at which knowledgeable members explain the buildings to us all. These members also make up small groups who draw plans of their structure and record the details of their construction and architectural features.

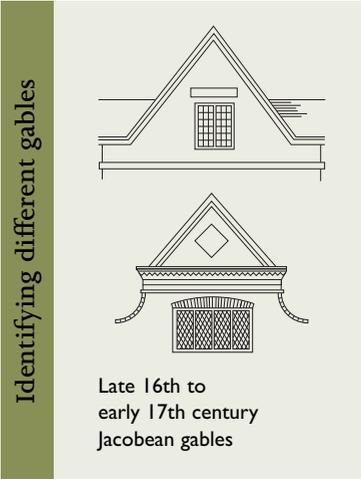
### Recording

The DBRG has recorded nearly 4,000 buildings and we now better understand the order in which old architectural features and methods of building gave way to later ones.

For example, the earliest timber-framed buildings were simple “open halls”, in which there was a fire in the middle of the building. The smoke just drifted around and eventually found its way out through the roof. Later, the smoke was channelled out of the building, at first by timber “smoke bays”, and then by more expensive chimneys made of bricks. This also led to another innovation – the division of the open hall into an upper and a lower floor; adding to the amount of living space.

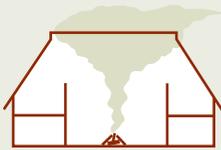
### Studying changing styles

Houses made of brick and stone show how fashions of design and decoration change over the years.



As well as identifying the sequence of changes in architectural design or fashion, the DBRG is interested in establishing when the changes from one style to the next took place. Although we are able to make estimates of the approximate dates, it is far more difficult to find out exactly when they

Dating timber  
framed buildings



Open Hall House  
c. 1300-1540



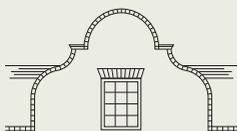
Smoke Bay House  
c. 1540-1650



Chimney House  
From c. 1550



See the back page for details on membership



Mid 16th century and 19th century revival Dutch style gables

Top, left to right: Surrey buildings researched by the DBRG dating from AD 1449, AD 1552 (interior), AD 1573 and AD 1608.



## The Surrey Dendrochronology Project

The Surrey Dendrochronology Project has been designed to use this technique in a comprehensive survey of the development of timber-framed houses over the whole of Surrey. Formed jointly with Surrey Archaeology Society, the Project is now under way and has already revealed that some of Surrey's oldest houses were built in the early 1300s. It has also confirmed some of our estimated dates for transitions in techniques and fashions, and corrected others.

The Project will also make major contributions to our understanding of the changing prosperities of the different parts of the county (you can only build if you have the money to do so!), and will be a bench-mark for all future studies of this kind in the country as a whole.

We have already published booklets on the development in Surrey of both timber-framed and brick or stone buildings, and the Project will lead to further, more detailed and definitive books.

happened. This is especially true of the older, timber-framed houses, many of which were built long before the date of any surviving records.

### Dating old timbers

Thanks to a new technique of dating the timbers of the houses by analysis of the patterns of their tree-rings (known as *dendrochronology*), we can now find out exactly when the trees that provided their major timbers were cut down and used.