

Writes inspired by Surrey

Jane Austen (1775-1817).

Primarily a Hampshire writer Jane Austen also spent a little of her life in Surrey. What many regard as her greatest novel, Emma (1816), was written whilst she was staying in Great Bookham in 1814 and refers to Box Hill.

J M Barrie (1860-1937)

Lived in a remote woodland retreat near Tilford. The adventures he and his sons had in the woods were the inspiration for Peter Pan (1904).

Louis de Bernières (1954-)

Grew up in Surrey and is best known for Captain Corelli's Mandolin (1994)

Lewis Carroll (1832-1898)

The Oxford Mathematics Lecturer (1855-81), the Rev Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, author of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass, is Surrey's best known and loved writer. The nearby Guildford Museum, has a permanent exhibition dedicated to the life and work of Lewis Carroll. He lies buried in The Mount Cemetery, Guildford.

William Cobbett (1762-1835)

Best known for his Rural Rides (1830). His social observations and commentary

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930)

Best known for his Sherlock Holmes detective stories. Conan Doyle lived at Undershaw, until recently a hotel, close by the Devil's Punchbowl. Visitors to Undershaw included [H G Wells](#). Holmes and Watson were often found sharing a compartment on a train, speeding into the darkest depths of the Surrey countryside. One such case, Holmes is called upon to solve, 'The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist', features Crooksbury Hill, a prominent sandy outcrop overlooking [Farnham](#).

Daniel Defoe (1660-1731), author of Moll Flanders and Robinson Crusoe was educated at a boarding school in Dorking.

Charles Dickens (1812-1870) was an occasional visitor to Surrey.

Dickens stayed at the White Horse Hotel in Dorking. The Marquis of Granby Inn, in the Pickwick Papers may have been based on the old King's Head in Dorking. The coachman in the Pickwick Papers is believed to have been based upon a Dorking coachman.

George Eliot (1819-1880)

Wrote Middlemarch in Shottermill, Haslemere

E M Forster (1879-1970) used to visit Surrey as a child

Forster lived in Weybridge. It was here that he wrote A Passage to India (1924).

Sir Walter Scott

On the banks of the River Wey, in the countryside just outside [Farnham](#), lie the ruins of Waverley Abbey, once a Cistercian Abbey. It was Waverley Abbey that inspired the Waverley novels.

Jonathan Swift (1667-1745) author of Gulliver's Travels, was born in Ireland but did spend a part of his life in Surrey at Moor Park in Farnham.

Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809-1892), poet lived at Aldworth, on the slopes of Blackdown.

H G Wells (1866-1946) lived in Woking. The Wheels of Chance, The War of the Worlds (1898), The Invisible Man (1897) and the opening chapters of Love and Mr Lewisham (1900), were all written during his 18 months stay at Dorking. The War of the Worlds opens on Horsell Common, a common just outside of Dorking. Surrey is renowned for its many open heaths and commons. It is at Horsell Common where the Martians land.

P G Wodehouse (1881-1975), was born in [Guildford](#). Best known as the creator of Bertie Wooster and his manservant Jeeves.