

SPIRIT OF SURREY

Mike Cope

A popular misconception of Surrey is that it's better known for its suburbia than its scenery - a busy, affluent and overpopulated, shire, whose towns are merely dormitories for the capital. Whilst there is some truth in this assertion, it does ignore the fact that there is a considerable amount of unspoilt countryside and open spaces. Although Surrey contains more miles of motorway than any other county, it also contains more acres of woodland - a 22.4% coverage compared to a national average of 11.8%. Divided east to west by the North Downs, pierced by the valleys of the Wey and Mole and punctuated by hills and open heathland, Surrey has many hidden places to discover and explore. The National Trust owns much of the open spaces and historic houses, and seeks to preserve and protect them for future generations.

Local author and photographer Mike Cope travels the highways and byways of Surrey to reveal a host of delights in more than 60 sparkling colour images, featuring the country houses, gardens and the precious landscape of this sometimes under-estimated but always historic and often extremely attractive county.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

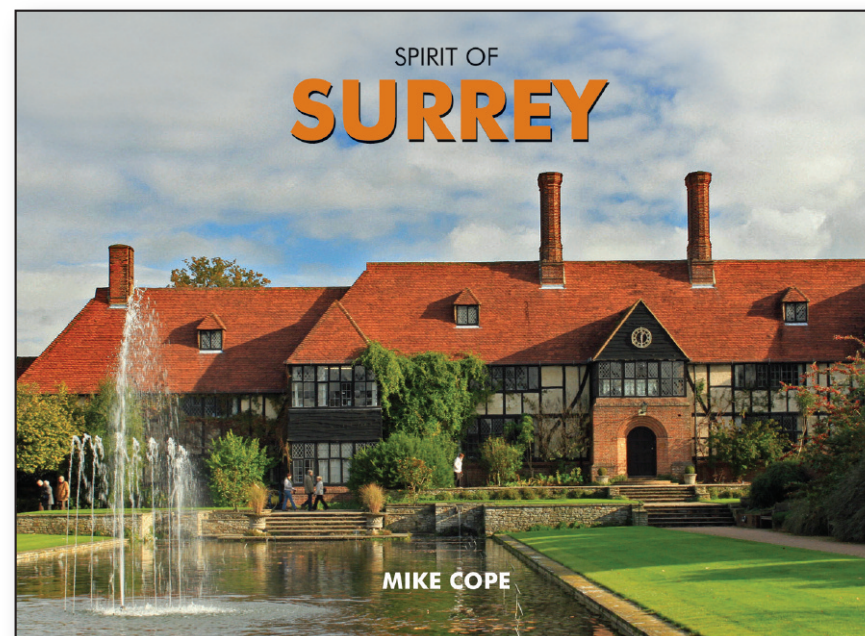
Mike Cope lives in Woking, Surrey and has been walking the Surrey countryside on a regular basis with local and national walking groups for over twenty years. He is a freelance writer for *Country Walking* magazine, and has published over 30 walking routes for Surrey, Hampshire and Staffordshire. He has a Ph.D. in analytical chemistry, and when he isn't walking or writing, works as a consultant to the pharmaceutical industry.

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HALSGROVE TITLE INFORMATION



Format: Hardback with full colour cover, 64pp, 110x155mm, illustrated in colour throughout
Price: £4.99
ISBN: 978 0 85710 058 0
Imprint: PiXZ Books
Published: July 2011



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Martian sculpture in Woking town centre, commissioned to mark the centenary of H.G. Wells' *The War of the Worlds*.



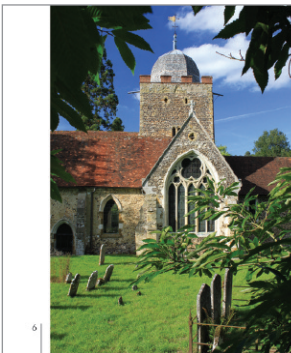
Narrow boats on the River Wey Navigation near Papercourt Lock, Send.



St Catherine's chapel, Guildford – reputedly used by medieval pilgrims travelling from Winchester to Canterbury.



The ruins of Newark Priory, Ripley – dissolved by Henry VIII in 1539.



The old parish church of Albury has a mortuary chapel remodelled by the renowned Victorian architect, Augustus Pugin.

Opposite:
The Catholic Apostolic church, built by Henry Drummond, owner of Albury Park, in 1840.



Example of a double-page spread.



Hampton Court Palace. Henry VIII's historic red brick Tudor palace, spectacularly illuminated at night.