

# Surrey Archaeological Sustainable Impact

Expanding and strengthening the  
Society's outreach



December 2018

Welcome to the December issue of our monthly e-letters for the Surrey Archaeological Society's HLF Sustainable Impact project! As 2018 winds to an end, we're busy planning for the upcoming fieldwork season in the spring, though have a few more dates to add to the winter diary, including a map regression course run by Surrey Heritage.



Our monument condition survey training in Hindhead, coordinated by the National Trust team, was a particular highlight of the past month. A small team of volunteers spent two days at the Devil's Punch Bowl learning the basics of the monitoring forms and assessment out in the field, and are now eager to get going with the database. Between their enthusiasm and existing expertise, it is clear that the Hindhead area will now be well-covered – it is also clear that there is much call for this to be repeated in a different section of



the county, and plans are underway for another course by early summer.

Anyone interested in a specific opportunity or area please do get in touch with me ([outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk)). Be sure to also keep up-to-date on progress and future activities or courses via the website ([www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk](http://www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk)) and social media ([@surreyarch](https://twitter.com/surreyarch)).

Please also do take the time to respond to the proposed budget cuts to the Library and Cultural Services Department at Surrey County Council, which will certainly have a damaging effect on the services provided at Surrey History Centre. The deadline for submitting a response to the consultation is Friday **4 January 2019**. Questions 2.1 and 4.3 in the survey are where there is space in particular to express your views more fully.

[www.surreysays.co.uk/legal-and-democratic-services/libraries](http://www.surreysays.co.uk/legal-and-democratic-services/libraries)

In the meantime, enjoy the festive season and hopes for a happy New Year ahead.

Anne Sassin

*Projects and Outreach Officer*

## QGIS courses

Led by Simon Miles ([loosegoat.com](http://loosegoat.com)), these one-day courses will provide an introduction to the uses of GIS and QGIS for archaeological purposes, to be followed by more advanced workshops into on the key concepts and capabilities of the programme.

All of the courses on QGIS will take place at Abinger Hammer Village School and run from 10:00-16:00. Tea and coffee will be provided, but please bring your own lunch. As these courses are part of the HLF training programme, they will be provided at no charge. However, booking is essential and spaces are limited to 5-6, so we do ask that you commit to attending, once signed up. Please email [outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk) to book and for any queries.

### Introduction to GIS and QGIS:

This is an ideal workshop for those that want to learn about what GIS is and how it can be applied in Archaeology. Using a free piece of GIS software called QGIS you'll apply what you've learned about GIS in QGIS. After learning the basics of software, you will discover how to setup new projects, create, load and edit data, plus explore open-data resources. You will also use data supplied from a recently excavated Roman site in Surrey to make the learning more real. Throughout the day you will discuss wider 'GIS in Archaeology' themes, based upon what you have learned.

This course has primarily run in the autumn, but due to its popularity is being run twice more in early 2019: 19 January (now fully booked) and 25 January.

### QGIS for Archaeology:

This course will take a more advanced look at the uses of QGIS and will build upon the previous workshops, but attending that course is not a prerequisite of attending this one.

Using actual site data, combined with a series of Open-Data sources you will explore how to use QGIS. You will look at pre-excavation tasks such as geophysics, field walking and site grids, as well as post-excavation (find-plotting, digitising of trenches and geo-referencing).

This course is being run on 18 January (now fully booked), 26 January (fully booked) and 8 February, with one more possible day planned to allow for those who wish to have a spot. Please note that re-running the QGIS courses next year is also a possibility, depending on interest, to allow for those who did not manage a place this time.

**Abinger Hammer Village School, Hackhurst Lane, Abinger Hammer RH5 6SE**

Please note parking is not available at the school, but is elsewhere in the village, including the village carpark and village hall on Felday Road. Gomshall Station is also approximately half a mile walk away.



## Palaeography courses

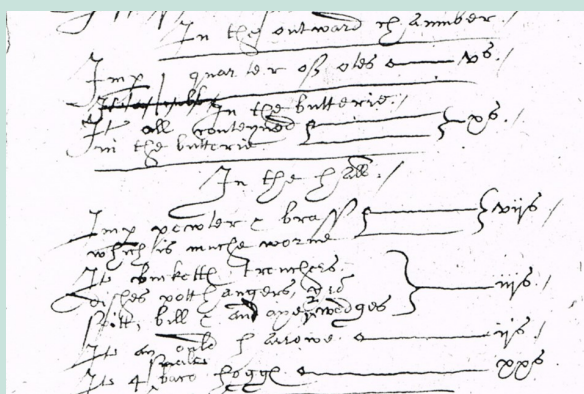
A major ambition for our new Early Modern group, led by Dr Catherine Ferguson, is to organise a palaeography course to increase the number of members and friends who are confident in reading and transcribing early modern documents in the pursuit of their research interests. For some time Tim Wilcock has been formulating a project to transcribe and publish the wills and inventories of the Consistory Court of the Bishop of Winchester for the Stuart period up to 1650, and so there is an opportunity to organise a palaeography course using these documents as raw material, and progress the transcription project as a by-product.

Initially the course ran for three monthly sessions in the autumn, from 10:00 to 16:00. Due to its success thus far, four more sessions are planned for 2019: **8 January, 12 February, 5 March, 2 April.**

The venue will be the Society's Research Centre in Abinger. Tea and coffee will be provided but you will need to bring a packed lunch or visit the excellent café at the village store.

The course is aimed at beginners or improvers, and will be led by Dr Catherine Ferguson, an expert in palaeography of many periods. Handwriting in this period 1603-1650 was in a state of transition from the Elizabethan secretary hands to the start of more modern italic writing, so there is a wide spectrum of readability but much for beginners to start on, even at a first session. The transcriptions will be checked and then added to a database on the Society's website and therefore participants will hopefully see quickly the benefits of their labours. All required materials will be provided other than the usual pens/papers for notes. As well as palaeography, you will also learn about the probate records for Surrey at all periods and where they fit into the material culture of the county and England as a whole.

Initially numbers will be limited to 10, although as demand is high, we have decided to have further sessions in 2019 both for new members and existing students whom we hope will continue to transcribe for the project and hone their new skills. If you wish to join us please email [tim.wilcock@googlemail.com](mailto:tim.wilcock@googlemail.com) with your details and some indications of your current abilities and why you are interested in joining the project. There is no charge for the course and it is open to both Society members and other interested students.





## Archaeology in the Archives course

Led by Jane Lewis (Surrey Heritage) and Nowal Shaikhley (SCAU), this one-day course will take place on two separate occasions (Tuesday 5 February and Saturday 16 February) from 10:30-15:30 at the Surrey History Centre (130 Goldsworth Rd, Woking GU21 6ND).

This is an introductory course in how to access archives and resources at Surrey History Centre, followed by a hands-on map workshop. Historical maps can be a very useful source of information when looking for archaeological features, as it is often possible to trace the development of a landscape over hundreds of years or more, and features recorded on early maps, which often disappear on later ones, can be identified. Desk based archaeological assessments use a number of maps including Rocque's Map of 1768, the Tithe Maps c1840-1843 and the Ordnance Survey 25 inch map series 1878-1933 to chart the development of a specific site and assess the impact on potential buried archaeological feature. The course will use a series of practical exercises to develop your skills in using historic maps.



As this is part of the HLF training programme, the course will be provided at no charge. However, booking is essential and spaces are limited, so we do ask that you commit to attending, once signed up. Please email [outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk) to book and for any queries.

## Fieldwork training

Opportunities to train on the Society's Bartington Grad601 magnetometer and new RM Frobisher resistivity meter will take place in March and April, with geophysical surveys planned in the Farnham, Chiddingfold, Hindhead and Leatherhead areas in particular. Fieldwalking is also currently planned for March 2019. Anyone who would like to be more involved in work in a particular project, please do get in touch. More details to come!



## Community Test Pitting

As part of the project initiative to increase outreach potential and engage with more areas and local groups across the county, the first of the four or five community test-pitting events to take place in different settlements across Surrey will take place in April at Old Woking, followed by Rowhurst, Leatherhead in May.

### Old Woking

The community test-pitting days in Old Woking have been set to run over the Easter school holidays from Saturday 13 April through to Tuesday 16 April. All test pits will be dug in the grounds of Rosemead, and for most of the days members of the public will need to apply for a time-slot to excavate, with sieving and finds-processing also taking place. More experienced diggers will also be needed to help lead on the excavations and processing – if interested please get in touch with Pam Savage ([medforum@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:medforum@hotmail.co.uk)). An update on the findings from the 2018 season will be presented by Jo Mansi at the Annual SyAS Symposium on 23 February (<https://www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk/content/annual-symposium-book-online-0>).



On Monday 15 April, there will be an open day at Rosemead where the public may simply turn up and take part in the various events. This will involve children's activities, including Anglo-Saxon living history demonstrations. Volunteers to assist with organisation and activities will be greatly appreciated.

In order to help raise awareness of the April test pitting, a public exhibition and open day has been planned at The Lightbox in Woking on Saturday 16 February, which will include a display of artefacts from earlier seasons. A small number of volunteers may be needed, both with the exhibit and to talk to members of the public about Woking archaeology and the Society's work in general. Contact [outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk) if you are interested in helping.

### Leatherhead

Although dates are not yet finalized, test-pitting is set to take place the first three weekends of May at Rowhurst near Leatherhead, with a prospective open day on the Bank Holiday Monday. More information will come in the new year, but those who are interested in the meantime, please contact [outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk).

### Epsom and Ewell

Test pitting is also planned for September at various properties in the area, but an open day is currently in the diary to take place at Bourne Hall Museum for Saturday 25 May. Please get in touch if you can volunteer with this event.