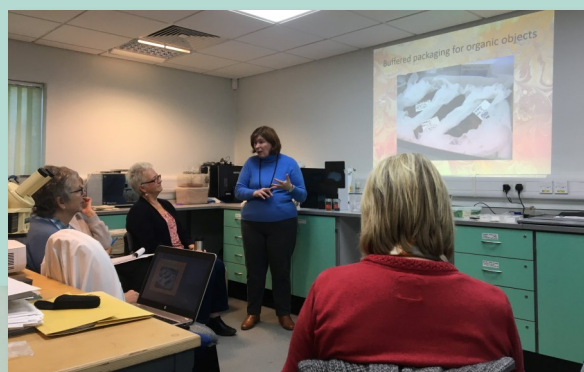


December 2019

Welcome to the final monthly e-letter update in 2019 for Surrey Archaeological Society's Heritage Fund 'Sustainable Impact project'.

Although the last month was relatively quiet, two bespoke training days and workshops were able to be arranged for special interest groups within the Society. The first was a conservation day down at Fishbourne Roman Palace led by Jacqui Watson, former Head of Conservation at Historic England, and curator Dr Rob Symmonds. A small number of our AARG (Artefacts and Archives Research Group) members attended and were advised on best preventative conservation practices, both in the field and during post-excavation.



In early December, a small-scale workshop was run by the Roman Studies Group to instigate discussion about sources and methodology for assessment of the rural Roman settlement in the county. This centred around informative talks provided by Dr Martyn Allen (Oxford Archaeology), Dr Simon Maslin (FLO) and Rob Briggs (HER Officer), and will form a basis around which fieldwork and projects can be formed for the Society to take forward in the coming year.

Other fieldwork plans are well under way for early 2020, and we will provide further details and dates shortly.

Anyone interested in our volunteer opportunities please contact me at outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk, and keep up-to-date via the website and social media ([@surreyarch](https://twitter.com/surreyarch)).

Wishing everyone a very enjoyable Christmas and best wishes for the year ahead,

Anne Sassin

Projects and Outreach Officer

GIMP (Free Image Editor) courses

Led by Elvin Mullinger (SyAS), these will be offered as two-part courses (introduction and advanced) with a choice of two different dates for each. Introduction courses will run approximately 10:00-16:00 and on either Saturday 8 February or Wednesday 12 February. The advanced follow-up course will run from 10:00-16:00 and be either Saturday 7 March or Wednesday 11 March. The venue is at the Abinger Research Centre (Hackhurst Lane, Abinger Hammer RH5 6SE).

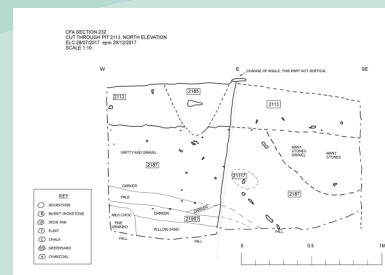


Digital Line Drawing for Archaeology introduction

The course will involve looking at the installation and setup of GIMP for line drawing; an overview and description of the screen and basic functions; a demonstration and practice drawing simple shapes; demonstration by use of a computer graphics tablet; basics of image manipulation, copying cutting and pasting; working with digital drawing layers; use of text, scaling and measuring; and saving and exporting files to common file types.

Digital Line Drawing for Archaeology follow-up workshop

The follow-on course will consist of a review of the GIMP introduction course; demonstration and practice digitising drawings from photographs and scanned pencil sketches (trench sections, pot sherds and lithics); standards – Historic England and SyAS; manipulating, scaling and joining sketches; file organisation and backing up.



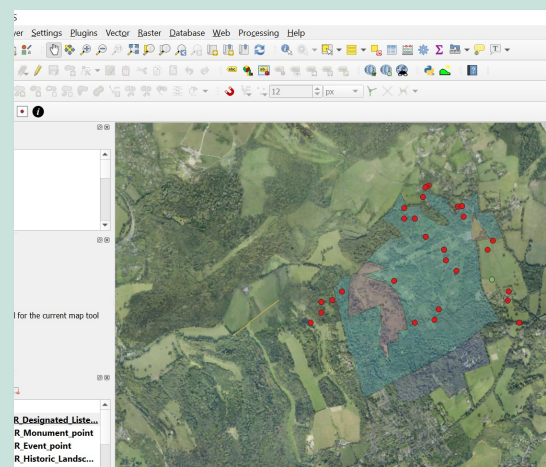
Email outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk to book and for instructions.

Please note that a laptop and computer mouse are needed for this course, and a pen-tablet (though not required) is useful to also have

QGIS projects

Interest in training in QGIS is still high, and it is likely at least one more series will run in the winter to allow interested Society members to take part. Anyone still awaiting an advanced session which they can book onto, please let us know.

In the meantime, there are a select number of Society-led fieldwork projects which require the assistance of those who have attended the courses and want to keep their skills fresh. If interested, please contact outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk.



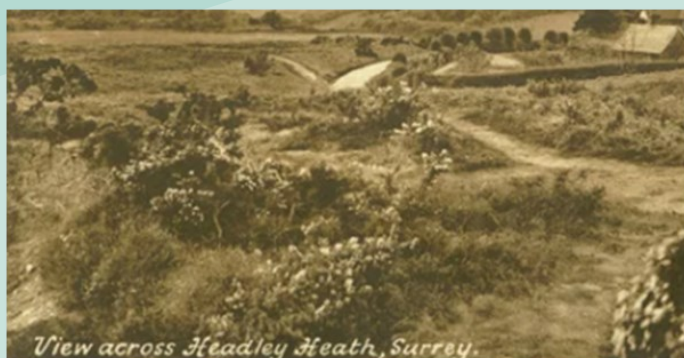
Fieldwalking and geophysical survey at Chipstead

Although dates are still uncertain and entirely weather-dependent, a survey incorporating both fieldwalking and geophysics with the Society's Bartington Grad-601 magnetometer are planned for a site at Chipstead in the New Year, likely later February or very early March. Volunteers will be needed to help lay-out grids, field-walk, record finds and assist with the geophysics. By January plans should be more firmly in place, so please email outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk to express interest, particularly for the fieldwalking elements.



Landscape survey at Headley Heath

Plans are forming to get a small team together to undertake a landscape survey at the National Trust site of Headley Heath this winter, an open heathland, woodland and chalk downland with everything from prehistoric findspots to a WWII military training ground. To register your interest, please contact outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk.



Roman mosaic reconstruction project

A small team is being formed to lead on an exciting experimental archaeology activity in the coming year: reconstruction of one of the roundel panels from the Abinger Villa mosaic, which was first uncovered in the 1870s excavations and again during more recent work in 2013. Inspired by the full-scale floor mosaic which was recreated in the past year by volunteers at Butser Ancient Farm (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5gQ9jell1sA>), the project will utilise original materials for the mosaic section reconstruction.

Please contact outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk if you'd like to help lead with this work, and stay tuned for more details!

