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Bulletin

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FARNHAM'S LAST POTTERY KILN

The Farnham Pottery (SU 825 446)

David Graham

The countryside along the Surrey/Hampshire border has a long tradition of commercial pottery production, with its origins as far back as the Roman period. During the Middle Ages and up to the early 19th century the area was the source of a substantial proportion of the cheap domestic wares used in London. Even by the mid Victorian period a number of country potteries were still functioning and were well described by George Sturt in his book *William Smith, Potter & Farmer 1790-1858*. The history of the industry since then, however, has been one of almost constant decline, until today when only one traditional pottery still (just) survives.

The Farnham Pottery was founded in 1872 by Absalom Harris, who came from a family with a long history of potting. Absalom was born in 1857 and, as a young man, was apprenticed to George Cobbett, a relative of William Cobbett the politician. After running potteries at Charles Hill and at Alice Holt, south of Farnham, he bought the present site at Clay Hill in Wrecclesham and built the pottery largely from bricks and fittings made on the spot.

In its heyday the Pottery employed up to 30 men and produced a wide range of wares including roof tiles and finials, architectural mouldings and bricks, terracotta garden pots, encaustic tiles and the famous 'Wrecclesham fancy wares' — designs based in part, on the much earlier 'Tudor green glazed' pottery. By the early part of this century the Pottery was at the heart of the West Surrey 'Arts and Craft' movement and many of the wares were designed in co-operation with leading members of staff from the Farnham School of Art.

Much of the equipment used in the Pottery was produced on site, in a small blacksmith's shop, often cannibalising parts from other machinery. The tile and brick extruding machine, for example, utilised parts from a recycled mechanical hop packer and was so successful that similar machines were built and exported across the British Empire. Again most of the potter's wheels were made on the spot, as were several of the pug-mills (machines for pulverising the clay) and surprisingly, much of this equipment not only survives, but is still in regular use.



The potters and their wares at the turn of the century.

The Pottery buildings themselves are unique, with their home-made bricks, tiles, drainpipes and even terracotta window frames, not to mention a fine decorative brick chimney and a number of architectural touches such as the faience image of an owl with outstretched wings over one of the archways. Perhaps the most obvious structure on the site however, is the wood-fired brick bottle kiln — once one of three on the site, it is generally thought to be the finest example of its kind left in Britain. Taken as a whole, the Farnham Pottery is a remarkable example of a still functioning Victorian country pottery.

Though Absalom's great great grandsons still run the Pottery, the business has recently fallen upon hard times and the buildings are now in urgent need of repair. In order to prevent total demolition and re-development with housing, the Farnham (Building Preservation) Trust — a registered charity — has stepped in and bought the site. The long-term aim is to preserve as much of the existing buildings as possible and to maintain the potting tradition, but to augment it with other craft businesses in the now redundant sections of the buildings. It is hoped that the result will be a centre of excellence for the arts and crafts, linked with a strong emphasis on the heritage element, perhaps by restoration of the bottle kiln and the provision of a small museum. The first phase of the restoration is due to start in September and in the meantime a programme of recording work has been undertaken, with the help of generous grants from the Surrey Archaeological Society, Surrey County Council, the CBA and a number of other organisations.

Further information on the Pottery can be found at: <http://www.surreyweb.org.uk/farntrust/> and an afternoon conference on the Pottery will be held in Farnham, on 28th November, details of which appear on page 17.

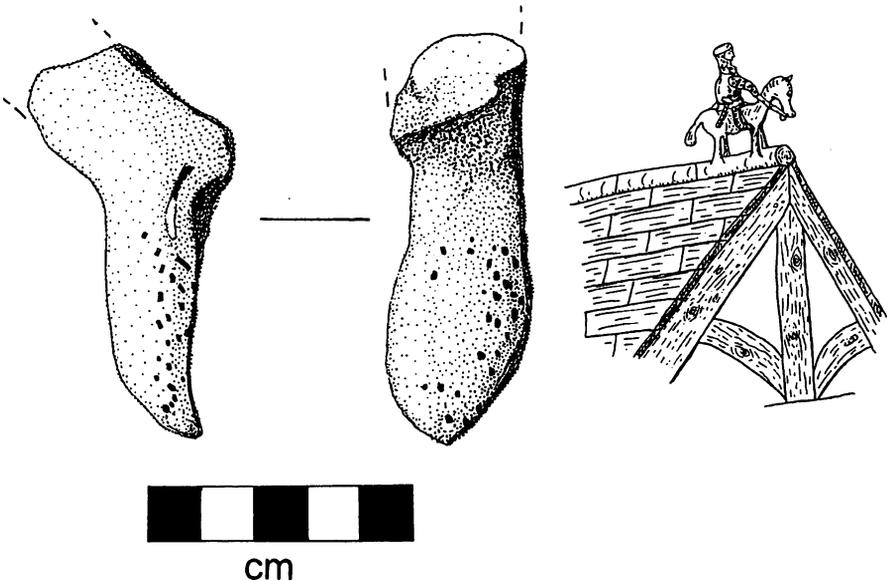


Philip Harris (left) Absalom's great grandson, powering the traditional 'slave wheel'.

A medieval knight finial fragment from Great Burgh Manor House

Peter Harp

In May 1998 the left foot from a medieval knight finial was recovered from a field near the site of Great Burgh manor house, west of Banstead. (NGR provided to SMR.) In the vicinity of the manor house there is much medieval pottery of the 13th and 14th century — mainly Grey/brown sandy ware, Coarse Border ware and Earlswood-type ware, while over a wider area there is an extensive spread of roofing tile fragments (about 200gms/m²). Since the building that replaced the manor house was, according to one account, built in the reign of James I (1603-25), it is possible that its use was demolished at or soon after this time and that this is the date of the spreading of broken tiles in the neighbouring fields.



Knight finial fragment from Great Burgh, and reconstruction based on more complete examples.

The finial fragment is in a micaceous, fine fabric, fired orange/buff on the outside with a grey core. There are some small traces of a white slip. The foot is decorated with impressed stippling to resemble chain-mail, and there is an impressed arc near the outside heel which may have been intended to represent either a stirrup or spur. The shape of the foot appears, when compared to historical illustrations, to be earlier than the 15th century, while the fact that the foot is covered with chain-mail rather than plate-mail also suggests a date before the 15th century.

Knight finials, although rarely found, are usually recovered in England in the south or south-east Midlands, and also from northern France and Belgium, on high-status secular buildings of the 13th to the 15th century. Two 13th century knight finials have been found in Cambridge (St John's College and Petty Curry), while at least a couple of 14th century examples have been found in Bedfordshire. They are usually fragmentary and incomplete. Examples are also known of 'horse-and-rider' finials as

opposed to knight finials, and these continued in use into the post-medieval period mainly in Devon and Cornwall, although there is also an example from Edinburgh.

There seem to be a concentration of knight finials in north-east Surrey as, apart from this example from Great Burgh, several fragments of one were excavated by Lowther from Pachesham manor house near Leatherhead, while the only contemporary documentary evidence for their use relates to their purchase from a Cheam potter in 1373 for the refurbishment of the roof of Banstead manor house: "... And to Henry Tilere of Asshstede for 10500 tiles bought from him for the said works, at 4s 6d a thousand, 47s 3d, And to John Tilere of Reigate for 1000 tiles bought from him for the said works there, at 4s a thousand, 40s, And to the same for 50 rigettes bought from him there for the said works for 2s. And to John Pottere of Chayam for two crests made like Knights riding, bought for the hall there at 1s each, 2s ...". Other examples of knight/horse and rider finials from south-east England include ones from Stonar, Kent, and several from London. No knight finials were recovered from the 1950's excavation of Preston Hawe manor house (to the south of Great Burgh), according to Brian Hope-Taylor; however the roofing tile on the site was highly fragmentary (1998, pers comm).

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Franks Sandpit, Betchworth: A site of special importance?

David Williams

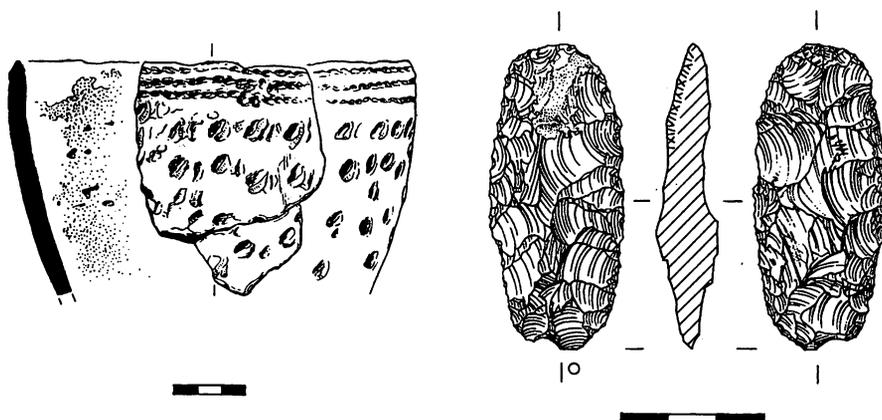
Since the excavation was completed in 1996 (*Bulletin* 307), work has been continuing steadily towards the completion of the final report. Drawings are mostly all completed and specialist reports are to hand on a variety of subjects. As a result of these, light has been shed on a number of aspects and on the nature of the site as a whole, although much of the interpretation remains speculative. In summary, as a reminder and for those unfamiliar with the excavations, Site 1 includes a sequence of three periods of pits found within a concentration of flintwork. Together these suggested some sort of ritual use of a very small (c15x15m) and isolated area for perhaps two millennia. A little further away Site 2 included, what is believed to have been, a length of metallated track of Late Bronze Age date, and a group of small ditched enclosures of early Roman date, thought initially to be domestic in function.

On Site 1 radiocarbon dating, funded by English Heritage, has been obtained for charred deposits on four Grooved Ware sherds as well as on material from a cremation pit of the Late Bronze Age. There are four dates for the Grooved Ware and three of these come out with dates centring on the mid-third millennium, though with a

wide margin of 500 years at the 95% confidence level. This is a little earlier than a date centred on BC 2200 which had been expected, although the fourth date obtained was rather later in the millennium, It had been hoped that work on pollen analysis of the encrustations on the Grooved Ware would shed light on their original contents. Unfortunately, this proved unsuccessful.

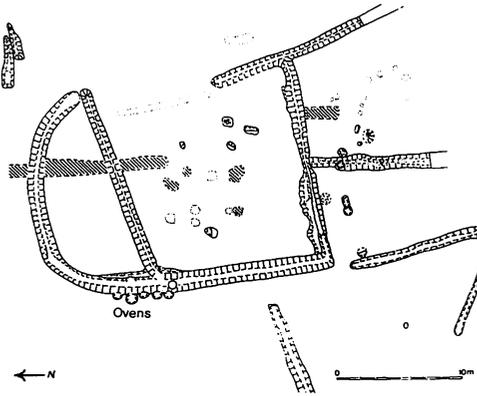
One of the Late Bronze Age (LBA) cremation pits provided a date of BC 1160-910, which is fine for the LBA, but a rye grain (rare in the Bronze Age) from the same pit turned out to be Early Saxon! It is difficult to see how such a grain could be intrusive on this isolated site, especially as we have no Saxon phase. A report on the cremated bone fragments from the LBA pits tell us simply that they are probably human and probably represent one individual. The other burnt material largely represents dried grasses. An isolated cremation, possibly Neolithic, is also human.

Parallels have not clearly been found for the LBA metalled track on Site 2, except that a metalled causeway of similar date has been found recently at Yarnton, Oxfordshire, which is said to have an accompanying post line, as did ours. A ceremonial interpretation seems most likely for the Betchworth 'road'; it is certainly difficult to see it in any other light.



Frank Sandpits, Betchworth : Bronze Age bowl and flint knife (scales in cms)

The Roman site with its apsidal enclosure is also proving difficult to parallel. There was no real evidence of domestic occupation in the form of rubbish pits and cesspits as might be expected on a farmstead site. Occupation starts here soon after the Conquest and largely ends in the early second century. Reports have now been obtained for the animal bone, which was of minimal quantity, and for the charred deposits associated with the ditches and ovens. These deposits contained very few charred cereal grains (wheat and possibly a little emmer). A few fragments of what appears to have been burnt bread were also recovered from a ditch, and if correctly identified, may be a unique survival. My thoughts are now moving away from the site being purely domestic, as had been assumed during excavation, to its having a religious function. The latter is now seeming more likely for a number of reasons. Firstly, the apsidal enclosure is itself difficult to parallel in purely domestic terms. It is also rather small and could only comfortably contain a single small round house with some difficulty. The scatter of internal features does not obviously suggest a building and could be interpreted as tree holes or isolated posts. Across the southern



Frank Sandpit, Betchworth : Site 2

enclosure a linear feature is interpreted as a worn path and this heads towards the centre of the southern side of the apsidal enclosure, where it stops (there is an oddly placed but substantial post hole interrupting the 'path' near this point). The ditches had become filled with silt and rubbish quite early on and there is no evidence for attempts being made to keep them clear. A number of deposits in the ditches are odd, such as an articulated horse leg, half of a quernstone, various holed flint nodules, a pear-shaped pebble possibly from the Derbyshire area, and part of a Neolithic greenstone pestle. Two ditch lengths also contained, as well as the greater bulk of the pottery, a horizon of burnt material which incorporated a spread of cremated bone fragments identified as juvenile sheep. A pit within the apsidal enclosure contained what was probably the burial of a complete head of a young cow within a burnt deposit. The placing of a battery of ovens within the ditch could suggest there were no buildings available nearby in which to cook. None of this reasonably suggests domestic activity.

If one accepts (perhaps reluctantly) a religious interpretation for the Roman site, then it becomes possible to see the site as a whole as being 'a place of special significance'. There was no evidence for a barrow or other earthwork feature surrounding the Site 1 prehistoric pit concentration and the site may have been marked by a grove of trees (or a succession, in view of the timescale involved). These pits all appear to represent ritual activities as does the nature of the flint spread in which they lie. The Late Bronze Age track could be seen as processional, although to what it led is unknown (to the north it points annoyingly somewhat to the west of the Site 1 pit concentration). The Roman site may represent a formalisation of this memory by native peoples but within a Roman setting. Perhaps one is seeing occasional gatherings within an enclosure containing a 'sacred grove', involving festivities, the baking of bread for visitors, and personal offerings to the spirit of the place, although what would have been visible on the ground, apart from bushes and trees, as a manifestation of the sacredness of the place, is entirely open to imagination.

What this means at Betchworth, if one accepts such a hypothesis, is that the area's significance as a site of special importance in the landscape was being passed down in folk memory from the early Neolithic to the first century AD (though with an odd and lengthy gap from perhaps cBC 700 to c50AD).

In writing of ritual and religious interpretations, though wearisome to some, I am aware that my hand is positioned above the parapet of archaeological acceptability

(but I am purposely drawing no conclusions from the positioning of the adjacent Vicarage of the late 19th century AD!). A ritual interpretation for all these features has developed out of the rejection of other more traditional interpretations. Comments on the above are both welcome and appreciated.

COUNCIL MATTERS

The dates of Council Meetings during 1999 have now been fixed for:

Friday 29th January at 8.00 pm Salters
Tuesday 20th April at 8.00 pm Leatherhead
Friday 16th July at 8.00 pm Salters
Monday 11th October at 6.00 pm Society of Antiquaries

New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Belton, Miss E E, 36 Envis Way, Fairlands, Guildford, GU3 3NH
Bourne, Mr G, 4 St Crispins Way, Ottershaw, Chertsey, KT16 0RE
Clarke, Mr D, Meadow Cottage, Blacksmith Lane, Chilworth, Guildford, GU4 8NQ
Cole, Miss T J, 6 The Oval, Woodstreet Village, Guildford, GU3 3DM
Currie, Mrs A, 31 Woodcrest Walk, Reigate, RH2 0JW
Dallison, Mr C W, 11 Havana Road, Wimbledon Park, SW19 8EJ
Flinn, Mr A B, 12 Buttermere Gardens, Purley, CR8 1EG
Goddard, Miss M S, 24 Highfield Gardens, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 3DE
Gribble, Mr A J, Highfold House, Horsham Road, Cranleigh, GU6 8EJ
Hedges, Mr S J, 2 Oakmead, Farncombe, GU7 3RL
Hewitt, Miss G M, 70 Nursery Hill, Shamley Green, GU5 0UN
Hill, Mr P R, 48 Phyllis Avenue, New Malden, KT3 6JY
Howgate, Dr G J, 86 Weyside Road, Guildford, GU1 1HZ
Jones, Mr & Mrs P, 17 Hall Close, Farncombe, Godalming, GU7 3PW
Keeler, Mrs W, Kyle, 7 The Drive, Banstead, SM7 1DF
King, Mr J M, Tyle Cottage, Needles Bank, Godstone, RH9 8LN
Lovell, Mr & Mrs V, Flat C, Yorke Lodge, 31 Hardwicke Road, Reigate, RH2 9HJ
Marcipont, Mr V R, 71 Carlton Road, Redhill, RH1 2BZ
McClure, Dr P S, 3 Ferndown Gardens, Cobham, KT11 2BH
Medhurst, Mr & Mrs I J, 9 Sandfields, Send, Woking, GU23 7AY
Mr & Mrs I Lovell, Flat C, Yorke Lodge, 31 Hardwicke Road, Reigate, RH2 9HJ
O'Brien, Ms S L, 9 Lincoln Road, Guildford, GU2 6TJ
Osborne, Miss K A, 8 Henchley Dene, Meroo Common, Guildford, GU4 7BH
Prosser, Mrs J, 115 Farnham Road, Guildford, GU2 5PF
Ropner, Mr D A, Springfold, Barhatch Lane, Cranleigh, GU6 7NH
Small, Professor A and Mrs C, Tyting Down, White Lane, Guildford, GU4 8PR
Spilberg, Mr M O, 24 Bartholomew Close, Haslemere, GU27 1EN
Terry, Mr & Mrs P J, 17 Junewood Close, Woodham, Addlestone, KT15 3PX
Tooke, Mr & Mrs D A, 1 Woodside Close, Caterham, CR3 6AU
Tregaskis, Mr B P, 14 Church Close, Fetcham, Leatherhead, KT22 9BQ
Trimming, Mr N J, Timbers, Knowle Lane, Cranleigh, GU6 8JP

Community Archaeology Conference at Farnham

About 150 people met for the SyAS Conference on 26th September, which took place

in the 12th century Great Hall of Farnham Castle — an encouraging attendance for the start of this initiative for more locally-based archaeological projects in the county.

The introductory address by our retiring President, Richard Muir, highlighted the pivotal role that the Society can perform in response to the continuing threats to Surrey's ancient environment. Threats so large, he reminded us, that the Council for the Protection of Rural England have recently described Surrey as being one "Great Building Plot". The Society must encourage volunteers to discover and record ancient sites and buildings before they disappear for good, and co-ordinate back-up support and expertise for the projects of local groups. If this is to be effective, however, there ought to be greater liaison with the Archaeological Officers of the County Council, who maintain the Sites and Monuments Register and provide expert planning advice. It was good, therefore, to see the conference attended by Mike Dawson, the head of Countryside and Heritage in Surrey County Council's Environment Division, as well as all four members of his Archaeology and Historic Landscapes team.

Tom Hassall of the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments spoke of his own introduction to archaeology through school and local societies in the 1950s and early 60s, when polls suggested that as many as one in three young people had wanted to become archaeologists. Then it had been "Animal, Vegetable and Mineral"; today it is the "Time Team" that stimulates great interest, especially in *local* archaeology, attracting huge numbers of children and adults to its web site and supporters club. Meanwhile the ever widening spectrum of archaeological enquiry is reflected in the concerns of the RCHM(E), which have grown from hill forts and hut circles to include the remains of our disappearing industrial base, obsolescent remains of our Great Wars and redundant hospitals. Even the survivals of our recent urban past no longer escape their attention, which was illustrated for us by a slide of Goddard's Pie, Mash and Liquor Shop within the Georgian frontage of Deptford High Street. Hassall believes community archaeology is at a crossroads, and that local groups could make significant contributions to our understanding of the historic landscape in the future, with the support of bodies such as the RCHM(E). That organisation, with Mark Hassall as its Secretary, approaches its own crossroads in the near future, however, since, as he poignantly reminded us, it is soon to be merged with English Heritage.

David Graham, Vice-President of SyAS, presented the results of recent work by volunteers in Farnham's medieval New Park. In the relatively small area of this ancient deer park, where only an Iron Age pit had previously been discovered, an archaeological project primed with a little financial help from the local council for air photos and such like, has revealed a Mesolithic flint-knapping site, a medieval tile kiln, several areas of medieval strip field systems and a probable Civil War cannon road; as well as anti-glider defences and a spigot mortar emplacement of WW2 vintage (*Bulletin* 323). In the same Park a metal detector unearthed the famous Farnham Tudor pin (*Bulletin* 313), and the initial discovery by another detector of a single coin, prompted the volunteer group to unearth the rest of a small hoard of Iron Age gold coins.

Peter Gray of the Conservation Committee began with a review of the lists of scheduled antiquities in Surrey published from 1913 onwards, the last of which appeared in 1976. It contained about 7,000 entries, but provided few details. He discussed some of the splendid achievements since then, such as the survey of nearly 3500 buildings by the Domestic Buildings Research Group, the complete set of District Guides prepared by the Surrey Industrial History Group, and the recent endeavours of the Surrey Historic Gardens Trust. There remains, however, an urgent need for voluntary work on many other aspects of the historic environment. No group is comprehensively studying the disappearing farmsteads of Surrey, for example, and studies of other features such as deer parks, moats, tracks and hedgerows require structured and co-ordinated programmes of work. His main proposal was for the

creation of an up-to-date listing of the antiquities of Surrey, to include data on origins, dating and phasing, completeness, other aspects of note and references to further information. The publication of such lists could be by subject, or by district, like the SIHG Guides, or both.

Judie English of the Archaeological Research Committee provided a review of a few of the many voluntary archaeological projects she has been involved with in recent years, such as this year's training excavations at Hopeless Moor, Seale, and four years of landscape survey in Norbury Park. Both involved the Young Archaeologists Club, and one could tell that Judie was enormously proud that one member of the YACs has now gone to university to study archaeology, and two more may yet follow. Just as the young Mark Hassall began his career in local society excavations, the tradition continues. Her current work includes a fieldwalking project at Manor Farm, Guildford, that has uncovered medieval, Roman, Iron Age and Bronze Age sites, and a survey of earthworks on Whitmoor Common, Worplesdon which might be prehistoric (*Bulletin* 323,11).

Peter Liddle, of Leicestershire County Museums Service, described the development of a much-copied community archaeology project that he has been involved with for over twenty years. Back then, the old 'grass county' of ridge and furrow under pasture was rapidly being ploughed up, and the earliest field-walking forays were highly successful. So much so, that a proliferation of local volunteer groups was actively encouraged through parish magazines, pub meetings and the like, and an umbrella newsletter, "The Fieldwalker", was sent to anyone who expressed an interest. The result was that the prehistoric and Saxon archaeology of Leicestershire was spectacularly revealed, and a much better idea of the extent of Roman and medieval occupation was gained. There are currently 325 subscribers of "The Fieldwalker", including over thirty metal detectors, whose contribution has been recognised and encouraged.

In closing, Richard Muir congratulated all the speakers, and reminded us that the great success of the Leicestershire experience in involving so many ordinary people in the study of their past had only been possible with a little help from the County Council. He might also have added that local councils can also oil the wheels, as at Farnham, where the team's success must surely reflect well on those who approved such funds.

The day ended with the collection of forms distributed earlier and filled in by those who wanted to be informed of the forthcoming series of seminars that represent the more important second stage of the current SyAS initiative. I would have liked to have heard how these are going to be planned, and to have participated in a discussion about what they might cover, but as it was, no time was allowed for questions from the floor. The conference was the last opportunity this millennium to discuss the aims and objectives of the project with a larger gathering of members than those on Council and in Committees, and I was disappointed that the organisers had not taken this into account. What's a conference without conferring?
Phil Jones

But that's just my view. What do you think?

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Correction

In the last edition of the *Bulletin*, Judie English's telephone number was quoted incorrectly; it should read 01483 276724. Apologies to Judie and to any reader who tried in vain to contact her.

SURREY INDUSTRIAL HISTORY GROUP

It is a loss to the Society just as much as to the SIHG, that Peter Tarplee has stepped down as Honorary Secretary, although he will, for the time being, continue to represent the Group on the CBA South-east Region Industrial Archaeology Panel, the Surrey Museums Group and the working groups on the Brockham and Betchworth Limeworks sites. He will also continue to deal with matters relating to SIHG publications.

The new secretary of the Group is Alan Thomas, who can be contacted at 6, Birches Close, Epsom, Surrey KT18 5JG, Tel: 01372 720040.

WORK BY ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNITS

The fieldwork projects listed below were undertaken by outside archaeological contractors in 1997 and earlier this year. A key to the acronyms used is given first:

ASE	Archaeology South-East
MOLAS	Museum of London Archaeological Service
NSFF	No significant finds or features
PCA	Pre-Construct Archaeology
OAU	Oxford Archaeological Unit
RPSC	RPS Clouston

Mole Valley

Burford Lodge, Dorking (TQ 173515). Watching Brief by ASE in January and March 1997. Post-medieval rubbish and construction layers; much disturbance by 19th and 20th century building works.

Juniper Hill, Mickleham (TQ 171528). Evaluation by ASE in June 1997 provided "no conclusive evidence" that the prominent hollow-way on site had been the Roman Stane Street. Post-medieval garden deposits were recognised.

Tandridge

Brassey Road, Limpsfield (TQ 402 525). Evaluation by ASE in May and June 1997 and a watching brief between August and November failed to find any finds or features of archaeological significance, except for a charcoal deposit in one of two geological test-pits, which may have been caused by early human activity. A section through a lynchet showed it to be of post-medieval date.

Lankeys Mead, Limpsfield (TQ402525). Desk-top and walk-over evaluation by ASE in October 1997. No features of possible archaeological interest were noted, but there remains the potential of buried sites.

Nutfield Court, Nutfield (TQ 30905099). Evaluation by ASE in November 1997. NSFF.

Wildshaw, Limpsfield (none provided). A walk-over survey by ASE in November 1997 found only field boundaries, probably of post-medieval date.

Spelthorne

Stanwell, Long Lane and Bedfont Road (TQ 06807423). Watching Brief in August 1998 by MoLAS following an evaluation in 1997. Several post-medieval boundary/drainage ditches were recorded in the north, an east-west ditch through the centre of the site was "suggested to be of Bronze Age date on evidence from the

adjacent Cargo Point site", and a pit and a ditch of post-medieval date were found near its southern limits.

Reigate and Banstead

Battlebridge Lane, Merstham (TQ 2885 5228). Evaluation in May 1998 by PCA. Two sherds of Iron Age pottery in the topsoil, but no buried features located.

Runnymede/Elmbridge

Egham to Walton, North Surrey Water Link Main (TQ 023717 to TQ 087663). Watching brief from February to October 1997 by RPSC. Somewhat remarkably, the only archaeological discoveries during the laying of this pipe line (over 9km long) were "a concentration of clay pipe stems at TQ 0314 7006 and one pit containing modern artefacts."

Waverley

Milford House, Godalming (SU 953423). Desk-top and walk-over evaluation by ASE in July 1997 provided "Evidence ... to suggest the existence of early and late prehistoric settlement sites in the vicinity" (*flints, pot, earthworks? What?*), and the important post-medieval garden features were also noted. An evaluation in October of the same year, however, revealed *NSFF*.

Pound Lane, Godalming (SU 9713 4375). Evaluation by OAU in July 1998. Four sherds of Border Ware and one of Tudor Green ware; otherwise *NSFF*.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Recent Changes in the Scheduling of Listed Buildings

Elmbridge

All Saints Church, Weston Green, Thames Ditton. Grade II. Anglican Church 1938-9. "...an excellent, complete and little altered example of Maufe's style, designed as his work on Guildford Cathedral was beginning". (*Amended Listing*).

Mole Valley

Platform signal box, Holmwood station. Grade II. ca 1896. "An early and complete example of the Saxby and Farmer Type 5 signal box". (*New Listing*).

Runnymede

The Kennedy Memorial, Runnymede. Grade II. 1964-5. "...the perfect integration of architecture with landscape ... makes this the consummation of Jellicoe's development as an architect turned landscape designer". (*New Listing*).

The former Holloway Sanatorium, Stroud [sic] Road, Virginia Water. (note: correct spelling should be Stroude Road). Grade I. 1873-85. "...the most elaborate and impressive Victorian lunatic asylum in England ... the quality of the external design and the decoration of the principal spaces is exceptional". (*Amended Listing*).

The Chapel, former Holloway Sanatorium (as above). Grade II*. 1882-4, altered 1899-1900. "...closer in style to Royal Holloway College [but] forms a strong group with the main building". (*Amended Listing*).

Surrey Heath

44 High Street, Bagshot. Grade II. Originally probably a 14th century aisled hall,

possibly an inn; rebuilt in the 16th century with later alterations. The principal interest is in the 16th century wall paintings (see *Bulletin* 317). (*New Listing*).

Waverley

Wintershall House, Selhurst Common, Bramley. Grade II. Probably 14th century with early 17th century crosswing and later additions and alterations. (*New Listing*).

Wintershall Barn (as above). Grade II. Late 16th century. modified in the 16th. (*New Listing*).

MISCELLANY

The New Surrey History Centre

The major event of 1998 in Local History in the county will be the opening of the new Surrey History Centre at Woking. Guildford Muniment Room, the Surrey Local Studies Library at Guildford and the Surrey Record Office at Kingston have now closed, together with a number of stores and outstations. The address is 130, Goldsworth Road, Woking GU21 1ND and the telephone number is 01483 594594 (Fax: 01483 594595). It is some ten minutes walk from Woking railway station. There is parking on site and in nearby roads. It will be open on Tuesday, 3rd November and it will be possible to make telephone bookings from Tuesday, 20th October. The improved opening hours will be: Monday — closed; Tuesday and Wednesday 9.30 am to 5.00 pm; Thursday 9.30 am to 7.30 pm; Friday 9.30 am to 5.00 pm and Saturday 9.30 am to 4.00 pm.

Most of the staff will be familiar friends from Kingston and Guildford. One welcome improvement has been the appointment of a full-time Education Officer, Janet Nixon, initially to work with schools in delivering the national curriculum.

There will be an Open Day on Saturday, 31st October, including guided tours, but no work may be done that day. It will be possible to make telephone bookings (number above) after 3rd November.

From the September Newsletter (no. 341) of the Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society, with thanks.

An Archaeological Research Strategy for London **Dennis Turner**

The current draft of the long-awaited 'London Assessment Document' — of which many have heard but few have seen — is now a little out of date. This document was commissioned several years ago by English Heritage and was intended to provide a regional research framework. A well-attended invitation meeting was held at the Museum of London on 10th March to discuss this.

A satisfactory research strategy can only be based on an up-to-date view of current knowledge and in his opening remarks Simon Thurley, Director of the MoL, told the meeting that to support the creation of a research strategy the museum plans to publish:

1. Three gazetteers, summarising nearly 2000 excavations from the period up to 1991 and which form part of the archive; and
2. An updated version of the London Assessment Document.

Jeze Reeve, Head of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service, reminded the meeting of the ways in which London's archaeology is protected and emphasised that research and research strategies are essential for implementing control under planning law. English Heritage had commissioned a new paper, *Capital Archaeology: research strategies for the roots of a world city*. This will be addressed to a wide

constituency and should be seen as a starting point for other initiatives. At the time of writing (early June), a 'final' draft is in circulation in advance of publication.

Roger Thomas, of English Heritage, provided a characteristically thoughtful and thought-provoking introduction to the kind of agenda a research strategy should address. It would be necessary to create a diverse and plural environment within which all could contribute.

The discussion was wide-ranging and made a number of points that were registered rather than answered. It was generally agreed that archaeology should be research based and a framework was needed within which to judge or justify that research.

After a break for 'networking' over tea, discussion was further stimulated by a philosophical paper given by Gill Andrews (consultant) on behalf of John Barrett. The approach, which favoured 'paradigmatic' models over 'normative' ones (Kuhn 1986), was based on practical experience as consultants to BAA during the Heathrow Terminal 5 enquiry. Jez Reeve observed that, while the BAA model was not applicable to most developments, it did show that communicating the agenda to developers and others — and involving them in its implementation — would be as important as the document itself. Sebastian Payne (EH) pointed out that, while normative research could be planned and justified to funders, paradigmatic research was difficult to predict and fund.

Derek Keene (University of London) and Michael Fulford (University of Reading) brought the discussion to a more pragmatic level with papers debating the definition of the London Region and questioning how the agenda should be structured. There was clearly no one answer to the first question and there could be as many answers to the second as there were specialists but Richard Morris (CBA) restored our confidence by showing how management choices could weave these divisions into a coherent whole. When summing up the papers, Simon Thurley took up this lifebelt and said that we need strategies not a single strategy.

Further discussion led to a consideration of 'What next?' — itself producing no less than a dozen action points! A long, thought provoking — not to say mind-spinning — afternoon. Fortunately a detailed minute has been produced by Francis Grew of MoLAS.

Kuhn, T 1986 *Structure of Scientific Revolutions*

London's Archaeological Archive and Research Centre

Dennis Turner

Far more archaeological remains have been recovered from London than from anywhere else in Britain and the archive is of international importance. Storing all the documents, artefacts and samples together, and making them publicly accessible and available to scholars, presents a physical and financial problem which is by now well known.

The Museum of London has stored material that has come its way and its staff have created methodologies and reference collections that permit the identification and interpretation of many categories of artefact or 'ecofact' recovered from London sites. However, at the end of March 1996 the Museum of London 'closed' the archive in response to funding problems being experienced by the Museum as a whole. To say this caused concern in the archaeological community would be an understatement and SCOLA took an active part in the subsequent debate. At SCOLA's December conference (The Future of London's Past Revisited), Simon Thurley, the Museum's Director, affirmed that archaeology is central to the museum's activities and that a solution would be found to the problem of the archive. He has now stated that the archive will be reopened in October and subsequently a full London Archaeological

Archive and Research Centre will be developed at its warehouse complex at Eagle Wharf Road, Hackney.

To accommodate the entire archive will require the conversion of vacant space within the building, the addition of new floors and the installation of roller-racking. A study room is planned for the use of researchers and there will be a large activity/seminar room for archaeological societies, university students and the general public. The archive and reference collections will be made available to researchers and full use will be made of information technology to allow easy access.

Project funding will be based on a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund and this will require widespread financial and moral support: lottery grants are not made to projects that can raise no funds and cannot demonstrate support. Letters from societies and individuals would be welcome — as would contributions (however small).

Finds Research in Greater London

An important role of the Finds section of the Museum of London Archaeology Service (recently transferred to become a core service of the museum) has been to support archaeology carried out under the planning system and a number of assemblages have made major contributions to both site-specific and wider field studies. These include the tin-glazed pottery from Mortlake High Street and Benbow House, Southwark — the first time material from these historically recorded kilns has been excavated. However the nature of planning-based archaeology does not always allow the in-depth study of artefacts that can make a major contribution to archaeological research. A broad base of project types is thus being sought to maximise the academic contribution the Finds team can make to the development of London archaeology. Some of the largest projects are being undertaken as part of the Greater London publication programme where the ability to draw together evidence from a number of sites has made possible several finds-based projects, including the study of London's tin-glazed or delftware post-medieval pottery industry and Tudor metalwork from the Southwark waterfront. All aim to stand as the definitive statement for their subject matter and will be of immense value for future archaeological work in London and the Home Counties.

1998 has seen the publication of *The Medieval Household*, the most recent of the highly successful series of medieval finds volumes published by the Stationery Office; and with generous sponsorship from the Worshipful Company of Clothworkers, a new project on London's medieval and later cloth finishing industry has been launched.

From MoLAS 98 — the Annual Review for 1997 of the Museum of London Archaeology Service.

Day Trip to the NMR at Swindon

Liz Whitbourn, archaeology tutor and our new distributor of the *Bulletin*, has arranged a coach trip to the National Monuments Record on Wednesday 25th November, and the more that go, the cheaper it will be. The coach leaves Farncombe railway station at 6.30 am (parking available nearby), and there will be a guided tour of the archives (approximately one and a half hours) and time to look around Swindon and its railway museum before the coach leaves at 4.00 pm.

The cost will be between £8 and £10, dependent on numbers. For further information phone Liz at 01483 420575.

PUBLICATIONS

History of Fetcham

On behalf of the Leatherhead & District Local History Society I should like to invite you to the launch of our latest publication.

The book, *History of Fetcham*, edited by J C Stuttard, will be launched at a meeting to be held at Fetcham Village Hall, The Street, Fetcham on Friday 30 October when there will be a short presentation about the book at 8.00 pm. The hall will be open from 7.30 pm when members of the Society will meet you and serve you with complimentary wine or soft drinks.

Fetcham is the one part of the area covered by the Leatherhead & District Local History Society for which, up to now, there has not been a comprehensive history book, and we hope that with *History of Fetcham* we have been able to fill that gap.

Everyone will be welcome at the meeting, for which there is no admission charge, but we shall be particularly pleased if you are able to be with us on this occasion.

For anyone wishing to purchase copies, the book will be on sale (price £5.95) at this event. It will otherwise be available at local bookshops or by post (p&p £1.50) from the Sales Secretary, L&DLHS, 64 Church Street, Leatherhead, KT22 8DP. We look forward to meeting you at Fetcham Village Hall on 30 October.

Peter Tarplee

Farmsteads and Farm Buildings in Surrey

Launch of the new book and talk by Peter Gray at Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking at 7.00 pm on Wednesday, 25 November 1998.

Our knowledge of the history of farming in Surrey, particularly as expressed in its farms and farm buildings, is far from complete. This new book, therefore, is particularly important in bringing together existing information on the subject, plus the fruits of a county-wide survey carried out by the author — Peter Gray, Chairman of the Conservation Committee. He will give a talk on the subject which will also be the first evening lecture at the new Surrey History Centre.

The first part of the book covers the historic and agricultural background to farming in Surrey and this is followed by a detailed description of the farmstead and various building types, their origins and recommendations regarding conservation. The final section comments on conservation aspects of the development process and how it might be arranged to avoid unnecessary expense to both developer and planning authority.

Peter Gray will illustrate his talk with slides of historic farm buildings in Surrey. The talk will be preceded by a wine reception. Numbers will be limited to 50. Please apply for a ticket to Bernice Hall, Surrey County Council Environment Department, County Hall, Penrhyn Road, Kingston upon Thames, KT1 2DN or phone 0181 541 9433.

The book is available from the above address, price £5.00, post and packing free.

CONFERENCES

There must be many other Society members, like myself, who would be interested in attending both of the first two conferences flagged up below. You can't! The dates are the same. What a shame.

Alexander Raby — Ironmaster

Saturday 28th November 1998 at the Methodist Hall, Cedar Road, Cobham

In collaboration with other interested bodies, the Surrey Industrial History Group has arranged a one-day meeting on Alexander Raby, who, at the end of the 18th century, was the ironmaster at Downside Mill, Cobham, and Coxes Lock Mill, Weybridge. He then moved to Llanelli in South Wales.

The morning and late afternoon sessions will be held in the Methodist Hall but during the early afternoon there will be a visit to Downside Mill using participants' cars. Car parking is available at the church hall and nearby. The programme below is provisional.

- 10.00 am Coffee
- 10.30 Jeremy Hodgkinson: *"The Raby family, Ironmakers in the Weald"*
- 11.10 John Potter: *"Ironmaking in Surrey"*
- 11.50 David Taylor: *"Alexander Raby at Cobham"*
- 12.20 pm Alan Crocker: *"Introduction to Downside Mill, Cobham"*
- 12.40 Lunch. Bring it packed — tea and coffee provided.
- 1.30 Visit to Downside Mill, Cobham
- 3.15 Tea
- 3.45 David Barker: *"Alexander Raby at Coxes Mill, Weybridge"*
- 4.15 Lyn John: *"Alexander Raby at Llanelli"*
- 4.45 Discussion and Conclusions

The number of participants is limited to 50. If you wish to attend please send a cheque for £5 made payable to the Surrey Industrial History Group, to Alan Crocker, 6 Burwood Close, Guildford, Surrey GU1 2SB, giving your name, address and phone number.

Absalom's Legacy — the Past, Present and Future of the Farnham Pottery

28th November 2-5 pm at the Barley Room, The Maltings, Bridge Square, Farnham

Speakers will provide the background to Farnham's historic Victorian country pottery.

Historic Background — Peter Brears (pottery historian)

The Victorian Pottery — Chris Shephard (industrial archaeologist)

Products and people — Philip Harris (Absalom's great great-grandson)

Plans for the future — Michael Blower (Chairman, Farnham Building Preservation Trust)

Tickets: £3.50 including tea, from the Museum of Farnham or at the door, space permitting. For further information tel: 01252 715094.

Water: 33rd Symposium of the Surrey Local History Council

Saturday 7th November 1998 at Chertsey Hall, Chertsey

10.30 am to 5.30 pm.

There will be an exhibition, opportunities for discussion and refreshments provided.

"Water Supply and Sewage Disposal" Dave Connor

"The Croydon Typhoid Epidemic of 1937" Ron Cox

"The History of Water in the Landscape Garden" Roger Turner

"Water in the Home" Kenneth Gravett

Tickets: £9, obtainable from Ron Davis, Tel: 01344 842568.

COURSES

UNIVERSITY OF SURREY

Centre for Continuing Education in association with Surrey Industrial History Group

Industrial Archaeology

Eleven fortnightly Tuesday meetings from October 6th, 7.30 to 9.30 pm.

The lecture course earns 5 credits at Level 1.

(The Bulletin was informed of this course too late to publicize the first two lectures in time.)

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| 6th October | Swindon, Brunel's Ugly Duckling. <i>Keith Falconer of The Royal Commission on Historic Monuments (England).</i> |
| 20th October | Archaeology of Home Entertainment. <i>Sue Hayton of GLIAS.</i> |
| 3rd November | The Lives of Paper-Making Families. <i>Jean Stirk of The British Association of Paper Historians.</i> |
| 17th November | Canals and their Architecture. <i>Martin Jiggers.</i> |
| 1st December | Leather, Rope and Blue Pebbles. <i>Geoff Mead of the University of Sussex.</i> |
| 15th December | Members Evening. |
| 26th January | Recovery of World War 2 Aircraft. <i>Mark Kirby.</i> |
| 9th February | The D-Day Crosswords. <i>Ron Smith.</i> |
| 23rd February | Polish Coal Mines, Textile Mills, Railways and Canals. <i>Ray Riley of the University of Lodz.</i> |
| 9th March | The Early History of Plastics. <i>Percy Rebout of The Plastics Historical Society.</i> |
| 23rd March | The Textile Printing Industry 1676-1999. <i>John Greenwood.</i> |

Fee: £45, £40.50 for SyAS or SIHG members, full-time students or benefit-dependent.

For more information Tel: 01483 259752.

UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX

Centre for Continuing Education

Exploring the History of Gatton Park Estate

21st November 1998 10 am to 5.00 pm

The Gatton Park Estate is one of the most extraordinary places in southern England. The church has a collection of medieval and sixteenth century furnishings, the country house has a remarkable history, and the landscaped park and garden is of great interest.

Tutor: Peter Brandon

Venue: Gatton Park, Reigate.

Fee: £30. Reduced £15, minimum £7.

For further information Tel: 01273 678926.

LECTURE MEETINGS

27th October

"Frosts, Freezes and Fairs" by Ian Currie to the Southwark and Lambeth

Archaeological Society at Hawkstone Hall, the Lambeth North end of Kennington Road, at 7.00 for 7.30 pm.

29th October

“A Meadow called Runnymede” by Richard Williams to the Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society at the Literary Institute, Egham High Street at 8.00 pm.

29th October

“It happened in Farnham” by Ron Moffatt to the Farnham & District Museum Society at the United Reformed Church, South Street, Farnham at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

2nd November

“Medicine in Ancient Times” by Walter Loebe to the Mayford and Woking District History Society at Mayford Village Hall, Saunders Lane, at 7.45 pm. Visitors £2.

3rd November

“Christmas Customs” by Pat Elliott to the Addlestone Historical Society at the Community Centre, Station Road, Addlestone, at 8.00 pm. Visitors £1.

4th November

“West Middlesex Villages” by Carolyn Cotton to the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society at St Mary’s Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 7.45 for 8.00 pm.

5th November

“The Ashbys of Egham and Staines, a Quaker Dynasty” by John Hardaker to the Spelthorne Archaeological Field Group/Friends of Spelthorne Museum at the Methodist Church, Thames Street, Staines, at 8.00 pm.

5th November

“Timber-framed houses of Surrey” by George Howard to the Farnham & District Museum Society at the United Reformed Church, South Street, Farnham at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

7th November

“Archaeology in Novgorod” by Clive Orton to the Beddington, Carshalton and Wallington Archaeological Society, at Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, off Nightingale Road, Carshalton, at 3.00 pm.

10th November

“Guildford Royal Palace and Castle”, an illustrated lecture by Rob Poulton at Holy Trinity Church, Guildford at 8.00 pm.

11th November

“The Mystery of Coade Stone” by Gerry Moss to the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society at the Small Hall of the United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon, at 7.45 pm.

12th November

“Environmental issues affecting Farnham: the good, the bad, and the downright ugly” by W H Tichenor to the Farnham & District Museum Society at the United Reformed Church, South Street, Farnham at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

14th November

“The Lost Cottages of England” by Bob Machin, the Annual Lecture of the Domestic Buildings Research Group (Surrey), at the Village Centre, Steels Lane, Oxshott at 2.00 pm for 2.30 pm. Entrance £1.

16th November

“Conservation of a Romano-Celtic boat” by Kate Hunter to the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society at the Small Hall of the United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon, at 7.45 pm.

17th November

“Family Life in Victorian Kingston and Surbiton” by Peter Tilley to the Friends of

Kingston Museum at the Market House, Market Place, Kingston, at 8.00 pm. A donation of £1.50 is suggested.

17th November

“Silchester” by Michael Fulford to the West Surrey branch of the Historical Association at the Friends’ Meeting House, Ward Street, Guildford at 7.30 pm. Visitors £1.50, students and OAPs 50p.

19th November

“Doulton and the Mortlake Connection” by David Redstone to the Barnes and Mortlake History Society at the Main Hall, Sheen Lane Centre at 8.00 pm.

20th November

“Damnable Inventions — paper and gunpowder making in the Tillingbourne Valley” by Alan Crocker to the Leatherhead and District Local History Society at the Leatherhead Institute, 67 High Street, at 7.30 for 8.00 pm. Non-members £1.

21st November

“Old Molesey” by David Hampton. The Richard Burr Memorial Lecture to the Esher District Local History Society, at the Vine Hall, Vine Road, East Molesey, at 2.30 pm.

24th November

“Prices Patent Candle Company — their Works at Battersea and Vauxhall” by Jon Newman to the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society at Hawkstone Hall, the Lambeth North end of Kennington Road, at 7.00 for 7.30 pm.

25th November

“The Villages on the Southern Border of Croydon: Addington; Castle, Colonist and Concubine” by Joyce Hoad to the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society at the Small Hall of the United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon, at 7.45 pm.

26th November

“Restoring a Tudor cottage and garden” by Ann Adey to the Farnham & District Museum Society at the United Reformed Church, South Street, Farnham at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

3rd December

“Archaeological update: recent excavations” by David Graham to the Farnham & District Museum Society at the United Reformed Church, South Street, Farnham at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

5th December

“The Churches Conservation Trust” by Roy Tricker to the Beddington, Carshalton and Wallington Archaeological Society, at Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, off Nightingale Road, Carshalton, at 3.00 pm.

9th December

“London 1500-1800: what we need to know” by John Schofield to the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society at the Small Hall of the United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon, at 7.45 pm.

Next Issue: Copy required by 6th November for the December issue.

Editor: Phil Jones, 15 Grove Crescent, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT1 2DD. Tel: 0181 549 5244.