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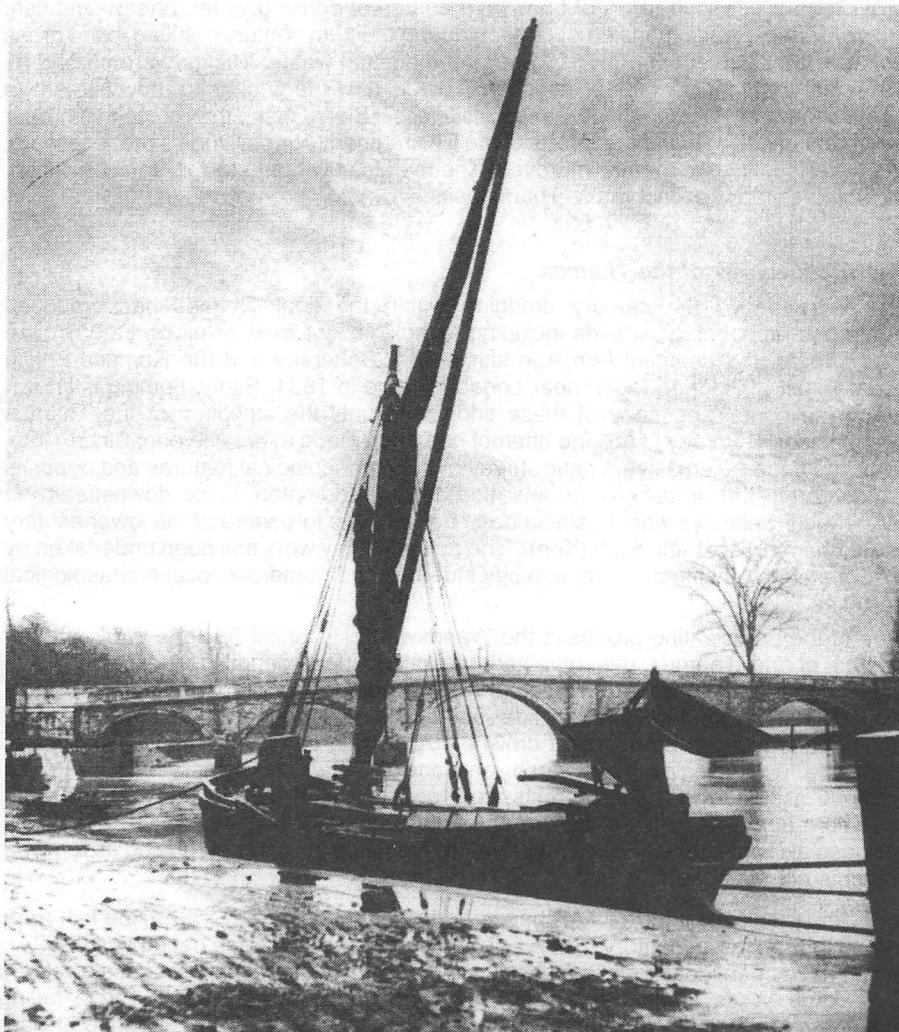
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# Bulletin

Number 325

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## **RIVER THAMES**

**Barge near Richmond Bridge, late 19th century**

# **The Archaeology and Ecology of the Tidal Thames: A Conference Review**

**Bruce Watson**  
**Museum of London Archaeology Service**

## ***Introduction***

To most people living in Surrey today the Thames is simply the blue bit in the London A to Z. At a conference in April 1998, hosted by the Environment Agency and the Museum of London on the archaeology and ecology of the river Thames foreshore, it was demonstrated that the river is both an environmental superhighway running through the heart of the capital, and a vast multi-period archaeological site.

London owes its existence to the Thames, which was formerly a great routeway providing access to the Port of London, a source of drinking water, energy and fish. However, the great expansion of London during the 19th century resulted in the gross pollution of the river with raw sewage and industrial waste. Things were so bad by 1957 that the tidal Thames (Teddington Lock is now the tidal head) downstream to Gravesend was described as 'virtually lifeless'. Since then, thanks to the proper treatment of sewage and the efforts of the Environment Agency and its predecessors, the water quality has greatly improved. The river is now home to 115 species of fish, including salmon (extinct in the Thames since 1833).

## ***The Archaeology of the Thames***

Since the early 19th century dredging within the tidal Thames has produced numerous archaeological finds including Mesolithic flint axes or picks, Late Bronze Age swords, the beautiful Iron Age shield from Battersea and the Romano-British bronze bust of Hadrian found near London Bridge in 1834. Sadly, nothing is known about the context of many of these finds, and until the inception of the Thames Archaeological Survey (TAS), no attempt had been made to provide one. Since 1995, TAS has undertaken a systematic survey of the archaeological features and deposits exposed on the foreshore at low tide from Teddington Lock downstream to Greenwich. Selective work has also been done on the foreshore of the lower estuary at Rainham (Essex) and Erith (Kent). The actual survey work has been undertaken by TAS members, Institute of Archaeology students and numerous local archaeological societies.

One of the participating groups is the Wandsworth Historical Society. Work on their stretch of the Thames has revealed prehistoric peat deposits, Mesolithic flints, evidence of late Bronze Age settlement and (undated) fish traps at Putney. Survey work by Institute students at Bankside, Southwark has revealed prehistoric peat beds and submerged prehistoric forest drowned by a rising sea level. The tree species at Bankside includes alder, ash, birch, oak and pine, which is interesting as it was formerly assumed that such forests were swampy alder carr or fen. On the Erith foreshore is an extensive exposure of in situ peat beds and submerged forest that includes alder, ash, birch, oak and yew. The presence of yew is surprising as fen type forest is not its present habitat.

One important result of the TAS has been the discovery of several Saxon fish traps dated to the 7th-9th century by the English Heritage radiocarbon dating service. Two types have been identified. One consists of vertical stakes linked by wattles arranged in a large V, as found at Chelsea, Isleworth and other locations. Those facing upstream are thought to be for catching salmon. The second type, as found at Barn Elms in Richmond, consists of a line of stakes set diagonal to the line of the river. The spacing of the stakes suggests that this type of trap consisted of wattle fencing containing several wicker traps or baskets.



*Mid Saxon Fish Traps, Chelsea (top) and Isleworth (bottom). Photos: N. Cohen*

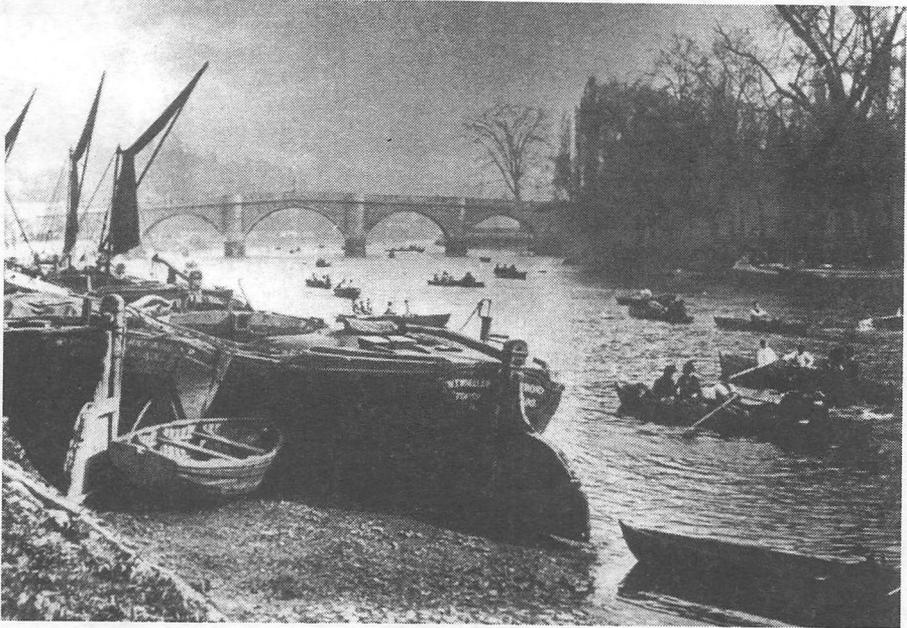
### **The Future**

The survey will be completed in 1999 and the results are to be published during 1999-2001 as a series of monographs. To fail to build on the success of TAS would be a tragedy: an issue that was discussed at the conference by Gus Milne and Nick Merriman, who first established the survey. Gus considered that further work ought to be focused on important themes that could be presented as a series of bi-annual conferences, each linked with a monograph publication. He suggested fish and fisheries; nautical archaeology; palaeo-landscapes; riverstairs, fords and ferries; river

level changes; and quays and flood defences. Nick pointed out that TAS had provided local archaeological societies with an opportunity to get involved in the archaeology of their area or borough, and that this involvement could be developed by further survey work and monitoring. He argued that an excellent way of promoting awareness of the river would be by building on the work of the Thames Explorer Trust, which is currently teaching London children about the archaeology, ecology and history of the river.

The Thames Archaeological Survey has demonstrated the archaeological diversity and wealth of the foreshore, but has also highlighted the fragile nature of the foreshore's archaeology. It can easily be destroyed by tidal scour or further encroachment, which has been happening for centuries. During the first century AD the Thames at London Bridge was c370m wide, but today it is only 220m. This dramatic disappearance of the foreshore means that the remaining portion is very precious not just for its archaeology, but as a habitat for wildlife, fish fry, and plants which need shallow water and a gravelly foreshore to survive. We have to decide if we want a dead canalised river flowing between inhospitable ramparts of steel and concrete or a living river we can all enjoy.

For more information about TAS contact Mike Webber, Thames Archaeological Survey Officer, Museum of London, London Wall, London EC2Y 5HN.



*Richmond Bridge with barges and river traffic in the 19th century.*

## **Recent Archaeology and the Changing Thames**

A major theme of recent research by the Museum of London Archaeology Service has been the River Thames: an understanding of how the course and size of the river has changed is fundamental to archaeological studies in London. Several projects currently being undertaken are contributing significant data to the research.

Following the end of the last Ice Age, about 10,000 years ago, discharge of meltwater from glaciers into the sea led to a rapid rise in sea level. This caused the level in the River Thames to rise by about 15m in the first few thousand years of the post-glacial

period. The Mesolithic flint-knapping site at the Spine Road development, Bexley (north-west Kent) had to be abandoned, possibly after being submerged by the rising river levels. During the Neolithic period, the river continued to rise, possibly as a result of the continued subsidence of Southern Britain, even though the glaciers had retreated.

A number of sites in Southwark, such as Lafone Street and Wolseley Street, have shown cultivated land submerged by the rising river. This trend continued into the Bronze Age as demonstrated by a complex of sites in the Beckton/Barking/Dagenham area, showing the process occurred during a period of extensive peat development. A series of trackways in the area and another in Bermondsey<sup>1</sup> were built at this time, possibly as a response to wetter conditions. Between the end of the Bronze Age and the mid 1st century AD the river level had risen by more than 2m, leaving only a small area available for occupation on the south bank and influencing the siting of the bridge abutment and its approach road, built c AD 50.

On the north bank, work at Regis House has demonstrated that the earliest revetment was built in AD 52, only nine years after the Roman invasion. The first large-scale port facility was constructed in AD 63-4. Over the next 200 years a succession of waterfront structures was built on both sides of the river which, because they are securely dated by dendrochronology and ceramic evidence, provide the best evidence for changing river levels in the Roman period anywhere in Britain. Evidence suggests that a progressive fall of 1.5m in the river level occurred between the mid 1st and mid 3rd centuries. The north bank waterfronts were replaced and extended in cycles of roughly 30 years over a 1.5km frontage, the final wharves being constructed after AD 210 some 40-50m from the pre-Roman riverbank.

The earliest settlement in Southwark was probably protected by embankments while the river remained at high level, later structures being built over the former foreshore as the river level fell. These included the complex on the site of the later Winchester Palace, a mid 2nd century wharf under Guy's Hospital and the timber warehouse of AD 52 found beneath Courage's Brewery<sup>2</sup>. Such a fall must have had a major effect on a busy trading community, involving cycles of several years prior to rebuilding where the river became frustratingly shallow. The tidal head must also have moved a considerable distance downstream of its 1st-century position affecting ships using high water to carry them upriver. Further work is needed to determine the location of the tidal head at different periods, although the discovery of barnacles on an early 2nd-century revetment at Regis House shows that the river remained saline at least until then.

After the abandonment of the port facility in the mid 3rd century, the falling river level continued to affect London, the recently observed late 3rd-century wall at The Quays House near the Tower of London being built at what had been high water only fifty or sixty years before. The site downstream at Summerton Way, Thamesmead, now confirms that a tidal decline continued to the end of the period: this site had been open foreshore until the mid 3rd century when it was embanked, drained and occupied up to the late 4th century.

Subsequently rapidly rising river levels in the early medieval period reduced the settlement area in Southwark to its pre-Roman extent, destroying the southern bridge abutments and the riverside wall on the northern bank and flooding the late Roman settlement at Thamesmead.

A series of dendrochronologically dated timber revetments at Bull Wharf/Thames Court on the north bank were on the same east-west alignment as the Roman quays, of which there were traces on site. These were constructed progressively further south into the river: the earliest in about 950, the latest in 1181. All the revetments

save the last indicate steadily dropping river levels as they decrease in height, although the 1181 revetment is higher by half a metre than the preceding one, suggesting that this may have been the period when river levels began to rise. Previous research on the later medieval waterfront in the City and current research on the Jubilee Line extension sites at Westminster suggests that the river continued to rise but was now contained by very substantial waterfront structures.

Development along the Thames foreshore has been a feature of the past few years and MoLAS has developed 'fast, accurate and cost-effective field surveying systems suited to the rigorous timetables imposed by the river' tidal swings. Discoveries and publications by the Thames Archaeological Survey (TAS), based at the Museum of London, have highlighted awareness of the archaeological richness of the intertidal zone and MoLAS has been able to integrate its client-based work into the larger pattern of survey being undertaken by TAS.

At Bankside, Southwark, some 500m of the foreshore was precisely mapped in three dimensions in just a few mornings, with detailed pictures built up of the location of prehistoric alluvial deposits, ancient timber structures, scatters of shipwrights' nails and other features spanning nearly 5000 years. At the same time, information is being collected on the coincidence of predicted and actual tidal levels and on current rates of deposition and erosion of foreshore deposits. Follow-up testpits have allowed sampling of mollusca and organic material and revealed up to 1.5m of deposits.

1 *PPS* 62 (1996), 221-254.

2 *Archaeological Journal* 152 (1995), 1-72.

## **Southwark: London Bridge**

Between the end of the Bronze Age and the mid 1st century AD the level of the River Thames rose by more than 2m, leaving only a small area available for occupation on the south bank and influencing the siting of the southern bridge abutment and its approach road, built c AD 50. A study of London Bridge (both the Roman and medieval versions) has identified the probable position for the main phase of the Roman bridge downstream of the site of the medieval bridge. It is thought that the Roman bridge had stone piers and a timber superstructure and may have possessed a drawbridge, as much of the Roman harbour lay on the upstream side of the bridge.

Rapidly rising river levels in the early medieval period reduced the settlement area in Southwark to its pre-Roman extent, destroying the southern bridge abutments and the riverside wall on the northern bank. Analysis of excavation results on the Surrey shore has identified a series of timber bridge abutments and caissons, the earliest of which dates to c987-1032. The timber bridges were apparently nearly always washed away by floods. The stone bridge (c1176-1209) was more durable but on two occasions partly collapsed. In 1281-2 five arches fell down, as did two arches at the southern end of the bridge in January 1437, resulting in a massive rebuilding programme that lasted for the next 40 years.

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

## **Bellamy's Wharf, Rotherhithe**

**Dennis Turner**

In January 1995, the Museum of London Archaeology Service excavated a substantial area of the Thames waterfront of this site prior to development, and have recently published some earlier conclusions (Saxby and Goodburn 1998).

The work revealed the eastern side of a 17th century dock and river wall constructed from the broken-up remains of at least three large ocean-going ships. In the 17th

century, Rotherhithe was notable for, amongst others, its shipbuilders, timber and hemp merchants, and the dock at Bellamy's Wharf is likely to have been the one established soon after 1660 by a shipbreaker and timber merchant named Thomas Gould.

Ships' timbers used in the rebuilding of the dock in about 1667-1670 are likely to have been from Dutch vessels broken up by Gould, and might include casualties of a raid on the Medway in June 1667. Timbers from at least two large ships were recovered, including an elaborately carved knighthead. Perhaps the single most visually impressive reused timbers were two large, well-preserved curved oak timbers scarfed together and forming a stem timber which parallels that of the *Vasa*, built in Sweden in 1624 under the direction of a Dutch shipwright.

*London Archaeologist* 8.8, 199-206.

## **Kingston Waterfront**

Excavations during 1997 on the south side of Kingston Bridge prior to its widening, revealed as many as ten phases of waterfront revetment dating from the 14th to the 17th century. They were mainly constructed of oak, reusing both boat and building timbers. The waterfronts are likely to have belonged to a medieval property north from that of the Bishop's Hall, and which would have extended eastwards from the River Thames to Thames Street. During the 16th and 17th centuries the river encroached and revetments were constructed up to 3m east (inshore) of the latest previous medieval revetment. A parallel line of timber posts extended from one of the revetments into the river, suggesting a timber jetty.

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## **COUNCIL MATTERS**

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### **COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY**

#### **The Future of Surrey's Past — The Way Forward**

**Audrey Monk**

The enthusiasm evident at the Farnham Conference has encouraged the Working Party to seek ways to build on the initiative and to endeavour to provide a framework in Surrey, similar to that built up in Leicestershire over 20 years.

The immediate aim is to harness the enthusiasm already evident by co-ordinating and expanding on work already being done by many people, most notably the Landscape Survey Group and more recently the Village Studies by Millennium Groups.

As detailed elsewhere in this *Bulletin*, the Archaeological Research Committee, chaired by Judie English, has already organised a series of workshops in the east and west of the county, and it is proposed to organise further workshops related to the study of both urban and rural landscapes on subjects already suggested by members.

The long term aims for Community Archaeology were outlined by John Hampton in *Bulletin* 319 and they remain the same.

In parallel with these objectives, Surrey County Council has suggested that through this initiative the Society is ideally placed to co-operate with them under a partnership agreement to further these aims.

Initially the partnership envisages the Society assisting in landscape work to define areas rich in archaeological and historical potential to be designated as Areas of Historic Landscape Value (AHLVS) by Surrey County Council. Finance will be provided to fund a part time archaeologist whose remit will be to work with SyAS volunteers and others to undertake such surveys and to provide further support and

training. Two areas will be selected initially, and further details of these will be announced in the *Bulletin*.

This provides both an opportunity and a challenge for the Society and the Working Party plans to put forward proposals to the Society's Council to ensure and maintain a level of support and guidance for volunteers in a continuing partnership with Surrey County Council.

By so doing, it is hoped to develop strategies to enable the activities of volunteers to integrate with and complement the work of SCC in areas where co-operation would be mutually beneficial.

This will be a long term and continuing process, but we hope that a successful outcome of the first two projects to be undertaken will be the touchstone for similar projects elsewhere in the County.

The Community Archaeology initiative has resulted from a visit by John Hampton and Gary Jackson, representing SyAS and SCC respectively, to Leicestershire in October 1996 to study their community archaeology project. In 1997, the Society's Council decided to consider how such a scheme might apply to Surrey and set up a Working Party for this purpose, which has been skilfully chaired by John Hampton to the present stage. He has now expressed a wish to retire from the Chair, and the Society owes him a debt of gratitude for the achievements to date in successfully launching the initiative at the Farnham Conference.

David Graham has agreed to take over the Chairmanship of the Working Party and to continue efforts to achieve our objectives. Success, however, can only be achieved with the support and participation of members. Approximately 25% of those attending the Farnham conference expressed interest in our future plans, and they will be notified of future events, in addition to notices which will be published in the *Bulletin*. Anyone who would like further information should write to the Honorary Secretary at Castle Arch.

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## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

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### **Fieldwalking finds identification workshops**

*Judie English*

Fieldwalking ploughed land has long been accepted as the primary method for rapid survey of large areas. However the finds, particularly pottery, are not always easy to identify — as we all know, fieldwalking tends to produce scrubby little body sherds lacking many useful diagnostic features! We are therefore in the process of arranging two parallel series of six workshops, one at Salters (Guildford) and the other at a venue in the east of the County (yet to be confirmed), between January and June 1999. Their aim will be to teach volunteers who are involved with, or who want to set up a fieldwalking project, how to identify pottery and worked flint at least by period and, where appropriate, how to prepare a note of the results for the *Bulletin*.

The six sessions will be on: prehistoric pottery, worked flints, Romano-British, Saxon and early medieval, and later medieval and post-medieval pottery. Each session will last from 14.00 – 17.00. The keyword will be “hands-on” and numbers of participants will be strictly limited.

Anyone interested should please give me their name and address and an application form will be sent as soon as all the arrangements are in place. Judie English, 2 Rowland Road, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 8SW, 01483 276724.

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# CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

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## Recent Changes in the Scheduling of Listed Buildings

### **Elmbridge**

**“Long Wall”**, Golf Club Road, Weybridge. 1964-68.

Architect Leslie Gooday. House owned by the architect, who specialised in domestic and exhibition work. *“A good example of the evolution of ‘contemporary’ style rooted in Frank Lloyd Wright, with sensitive use of contrasted materials and picturesque planning”.* (New Listing Grade II)

### **Epsom and Ewell**

**“The Old Lodge”**, Christchurch Road, Epsom. (*Deleted*)

### **Guildford**

**“Abbotswood House”** (also known as **“Woodways”**), 46 Abbotswood, Guildford. 1913.

Arts & Crafts style designed by A C Burlingham in 1913. *“....the most considerable of the houses designed by Burlingham”.* (New Listing Grade II)

**Keep and attached gateway** of former **Stoughton Barracks**, Stoughton Road, Guildford. 1876. Former armoury, guard house and gateway, now flats. War Office design in “Tudor Gothic Revival” style. The Cardwell reforms created barracks around the country to encourage local connections. One of only ten surviving examples and a significant local landmark. (New Listing Grade II)

**Muzzle Loaders Association hut**, Queens Way, Bisley Camp, Pirbright. 1891.

*“....a rare completed example of the type of temporary or prefabricated hut used by the army in the colonies during the late 19th century”.* (New Listing Grade II)

### **Mole Valley**

**Farm building at “Edolphs”**, Norwood Hill Road, Charlwood. Late 18th century with later alterations and 20th century outshuts.

*“A well-built farm-building of the 18th century with surviving internal granary features”.* (New Listing Grade II)

### **Surrey Heath**

**Staff College House**, London Road, Camberley. 1860s. Formerly a pair of semi-detached houses, now one, probably by Pennethorne, Government Architect. *“....shares materials and some details [with Pennethorne’s Staff College] with which it is included as part of a group”.* (New Listing Grade II)

### **Tandridge**

**Piers and walls to churchyard of St Michael’s**, Caterham Guards Depot, Coulsdon Road, Caterham. 1816. By William Butterfield. (New Listing Grade II)

**“Elm House”**, 84 High Street, Bletchingley. Principally 18th century.

Possibly on the site of a 16th century building; refronted and rear range 19th century; Arts and Crafts style interior alterations c1905-10. (New Listing Grade II)

**Fosterdown Fort**, Croydon. 1890s.

Tool store, part of Fosterdown Fort, one of the 13 mobilisation centres built to defend London *“....in response to fears of a French invasion [which] represent an important shift from fortress-based to more mobile trench-based defensive systems”.* (New Listing Grade II)

## **Waverley**

“**Wintershall**”, Horsham Road, Bramley.

Originally a manor house, the manor dating back to the 13th century. The earliest part of the existing building is probably mid to late 14th century, comprising a one bay solar and two bays of a three bay open hall, the lower end missing. Extensive modifications 17th to 20th century. (*New Listing Grade II*)

**Barn at Wintershall** (as above).

Late 16th century, modified in the 18th century. (*New Listing Grade II*)

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## **LIBRARY COMMITTEE**

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Is there a member out there with carpentry skills?

We are urgently seeking someone who would be able to build some doors onto a bookcase to make a lockable cupboard, and also to remove some fixed shelves from bookshelves in the Margary Room to make more space for larger books.

The Society would obviously pay for all materials used, plus a small honorarium to cover travelling expenses, etc.

Could anyone interested get in touch with Sheila Ashcroft at Castle Arch.

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## **MISCELLANY**

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### **The Tony Clark Memorial Fund for Archaeological Science: An Appeal**

Many archaeologists may be aware that Tony Clark, a pioneer in archaeological geophysics and archaeomagnetic dating, died of cancer last year. One particularly endearing feature of Tony was the enthusiasm and encouragement he gave to others, particularly those engaged in fieldwork where financial and technical resources were limited. He was always generous with his advice and technical skills and would help with these whenever he could.

In order that such work can be continued a Memorial Fund is being set up in his name. This will be administered by the Royal Archaeological Institute, and its aim will be to provide some modest support and encouragement towards the application of science in archaeological field projects. Anyone would be eligible to apply for a grant from the fund but priority would be given to small organisations, both professional and amateur, as well as independent archaeologists and students. Grants would support the scientific component of projects, especially those which seek to further the development of field methodologies and the subsequent analysis and interpretation of data. As a reflection of Tony's own work, preference would be given to projects in which archaeological prospecting and/or archaeomagnetic dating is a significant component. Grants might go towards, for instance, the commissioning of survey work, the hiring or buying of relevant equipment, software, travel expenses, etc. However, projects which use the applicants' own initiatives in archaeological science would be preferred over those where it is intended only to acquire a commercial service.

It is very much hoped that there will be sympathy with such a fund as a positive, appropriate and lasting tribute to Tony Clark, a means of continuing exactly the sort of encouragement and influence for which so many people remember him. For the initiative to be a success, however, generous financial support will be required. You may respond to this appeal by sending a cheque or postal order (made out to 'The

Royal Archaeological Institute') to the Assistant Treasurer, Miss C Raison, c/o Society Of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1V 0HS.

Those of you who feel able to make a contribution are thanked very much indeed, in advance, for your help. Any comments and suggestions, in addition, would of course be most welcome. News of progress with the Fund, and the work it will be supporting, will be reported back in due course.

Martin Clark  
Oliver Clark  
Andrew David

### **A Palstave and a Palaeolith from Ripley *Jon Cotton and David Williams***

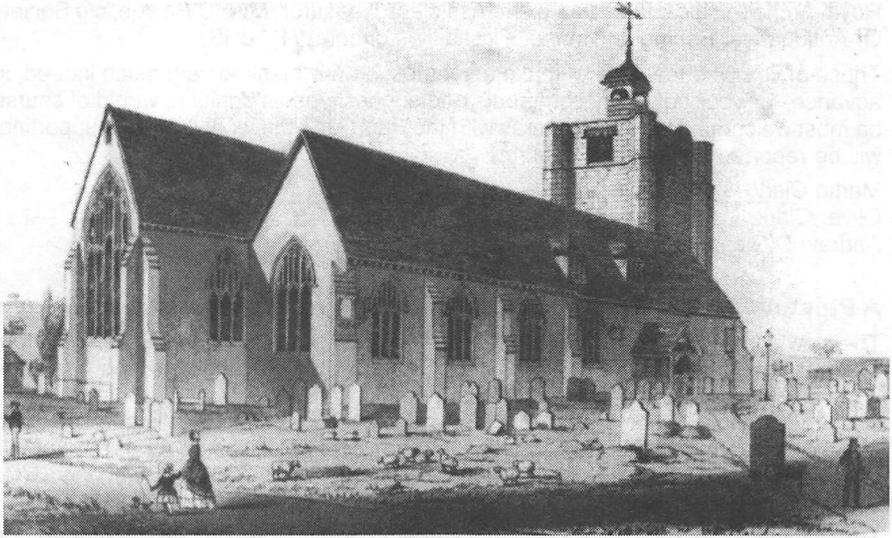
The Newlanders Club is a new metal detecting and social club based in the Guildford area. The new club is a split-off from the Serendipity detecting club and has been formed with cooperation in mind. Whilst manning a stall at Mellow in June, at the Bushy Hill School's summer fair, a complete Middle Bronze Age side-looped palstave axe was brought along to their stand by a visitor, Mr Paul Richens. As a result of this fortuitous meeting contact was made with Mr Richens and this has enabled the axe to be drawn and recorded.

The palstave was found by Mr Richens' father in about 1959/1960 in the garden of a house in Brook Lane, Ripley (between Ripley and Send) just after the house was built and while he was clearing out rubbish from what is believed to have been a bomb crater in the garden — can any members confirm bombs falling at this spot? Thus the findspot is known to within about 2 metres. The axe is in fine condition and measures 156mm long by 65mm across the blade. At the same time as the axe was passed for recording Mr Richens lent a further object of potentially greater interest. This is a fine example of a distinctive flat-butted cordate or '*bout coupe*' type biface hand axe. It had been found by Mr Richens himself as a boy about 1967 whilst playing in a quarry opposite Papercourt Farm, Ripley and had been picked up from a stone pile beneath a conveyor belt. The axe measures 112mm long by 80mm wide and has a thickness of 24mm. It is of lustrous grey-brown mottled flint with cherty inclusions, is slightly plano-convex in section and is in a fresh, though not mint condition. Such pieces are described as belonging to the British 'Mousterian of Acheulian tradition' (MAT) industry and are ascribed to the latest glacial (Devensian) period. On the continent similar pieces are associated with Neanderthals. The reported findspot of this biface places it in an area of first terrace gravels a few hundred metres distant from the modern course of the River Wey. This is not a locality which has produced material of this type hitherto, as John Wymer's recent Southern Rivers survey has demonstrated: the nearest Palaeolithic finds lie in the Weybridge-Cobham districts some kilometres to the northeast.

The axes have been returned to the finder who has been urged to place them on permanent deposit in the future. Thanks are due to Paul Richens and also to Ian Medhurst and members of the Newlanders Club for their interest and prompt action which have ensured the recording of these finds.

### **St Andrew's Parish Church, Farnham (SU 8384 4676) *David Graham***

St Andrew's Parish Church in Farnham has recently been undergoing restoration work and in particular, the bell tower, which had become unstable. The church itself, though it contains early medieval work, largely dates to the 15th and later centuries, as there appears to have been a severe fire at some period, probably in the 14th century. Fire-reddened column sub-bases of the crossing piers were noted under the floor, during repair works in 1959. The present bell tower at the west end of the nave



*Farnham Church, lithograph by Messrs. Nichols about 1852.*

is, therefore, a 16th century replacement for the original medieval crossing tower. It remained a low, squat structure, as shown in the lithograph (dated c1852), until 1865 when it was raised to its modern height.

The current building works, which involve the replacement of the bell-frame and repairs to the tower walls, have been monitored at the request of Dr David Bird, the Diocesan Archaeologist. Interestingly, a number of re-used pieces of worked stone have been recovered from the inner face of the tower at the upper levels of the 16th century work. To date, the builders have recovered part of a marble column base, a carved limestone corbel and a number of pieces of masonry showing traces of thick, red painted lines. While none show any signs of fire, all appear to be medieval in date and are presumably, though not certainly, re-used from an earlier phase of the church.

The stones are currently stored inside the church, but it is hoped that they will be given to the Museum of Farnham to ensure their preservation in the long-term.

## **Merton Priory**

Excavations were carried out at Merton Priory in the 1970s and 1980s by the Society's South-West London Team and, subsequently, by the Museum of London's Department of Greater London Archaeology. The Museum of London Archaeology Service has inherited the responsibility for post-excavation work, and preparation of the Merton material for publication is being financed by J Sainsbury plc and English Heritage.

Initial analysis of the finds and records for the infirmary area has indicated that there was a major rebuilding programme in the mid 13th century, later than previously thought. During this period Merton Priory achieved national prominence with frequent visits by Henry III in the 1240s, 1250s and early 1270s and it may be that much of the rebuilding work was instigated by him.

The architectural development of Merton can be paralleled at the Cistercian abbey of St Mary Stratford Langthorne, founded in 1135, where five excavations by MoLAS

have revealed parts of the abbey church, cloister, great drain, cemetery and a substantial medieval masonry building near the abbey gatehouse, surrounded by a moat. The overall size of the eastern arm of the church makes it comparable in scale to that at Fountains Abbey, founded three years earlier, and its plan bears similarities with Abbey Dore. Few architectural fragments from St Mary Stratford Langthorne can be dated to the period of its foundation: instead, a large group from the late 12th and early 13th century suggest that the masonry church may have replaced an earlier timber one.

Large assemblages of human skeletons from Merton and Stratford Langthorne are being studied and compared. Initial observations from a third of the skeletons from Merton Priory indicate an adult male bias. Although this may be anticipated on a priory site, such a marked bias is surprising in a cemetery thought to have also been used for lay burials from the parish. Many interesting examples of pathology have been recovered, including a high number of cases of diffuse ideopathic skeletal hyperostosis (DISH) which may be a condition associated with an opulent diet.

Analysis of a sub-sample of 270 burials from Stratford Langthorne has shown a similar preponderance of male burials to Merton. These figures may alter when the entire sample of 669 burials is analysed in detail. The incidence of dietary deficiency diseases appears low and this, taken in conjunction with a high incidence of DISH (as at Merton), may indicate a relaxation of the normally strict Cistercian rule. It will be important to compare the evidence of medieval burial customs and skeletal pathology at Merton with the evidence from Stratford Langthorne.

Environmental analysis has revealed information about the Merton canons' diet with hazel nuts, plum, cherry, grape, wheat and charred barley seeds recovered. Also, close to the infirmary, a single sample of over 100 black mustard seeds was found, suggesting the importation of plants probably to be used in medicines.

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

## **The Windmill on Barnes Common**

***Raymond Gill***

For centuries, the windmill has been a picturesque feature of the English landscape and a favourite subject for artists. The Barnes windmill was no exception, and during the past year three noteworthy pictures of it have come to light.

On 15 October 1780 a hurricane hit Roehampton, of which little would be known had not Edward Edwards, ARA, written an account which he read to the Royal Society, and was later printed with four line drawings by the author. One showed the post mill on Barnes Common, which, in Edwards' words, the hurricane "had overturned and beat to pieces". This drawing was reproduced in *Glimpses of Old Barnes and Mortlake*. At a recent exhibition at the Courtauld Gallery of 18th century British watercolours, one painting was of "An Overturned Mill on Barnes Common" by E. Edwards, 1780. This proved to be substantially similar to the line drawing, but with some interesting variations. In the hope that they might have watercolours of the other three drawings (one of which shows the "poor house of Barnes" bereft of chimneys) I wrote to the gallery but had a negative reply. However, they had no knowledge of the hurricane or of Edwards' account of it and were pleased to have a copy of the latter for their records.

The second picture to come to light was of the smock mill which replaced the post mill and is a pencil drawing by John Constable dated 8 September 1819. Constable was familiar with the area since his father-in-law, Charles Bicknell, had a house on Putney Heath. The drawing shows the mill at some distance, but its central focal position against the sky filling three-quarters of the scene leaves a lasting impression. At a

London sale last year the drawing realised £46,000 against the auctioneers' estimate of £6-9,000, resulting in some publicity in the national press. The drawing had remained in the artist's family until the sale. (There is also an early sketch in oils by Constable of Barnes Common at the Kennedy Memorial Gallery, Los Angeles, but it has no identifiable feature.)

The third picture was found in a sketch book of pencil drawings by an anonymous amateur artist. That came to light in the sale of the late Charles Hailstone's library, and the purchaser has kindly allowed the Society to make a copy. It is entitled "Barnes Common", is dated 5 September 1836, and is a close-up view of the smock mill showing the octagonal wooden building, of which three sides are visible. It includes the entrance doorway a short distance from a gate leading to the Common. Demolition is in progress, and the cap, sails, fan and gallery have gone. Since the property was copyhold, permission to demolish had to be obtained from the lords of the manor and this had been granted in the previous month.

*From the September Newsletter (no. 146) of the Barnes and Mortlake History Society, with thanks.*

## **Archaeology under Construction**

*Translation by Helen Davies of an article published in L'Express, 22 October 1998 and written by Francois Monier with Vahe Ter Minasian.*

**According to Brussels, rescue archaeology in France must be opened to competition. Which is of no help to the archaeologists of the AFAN.**

They downed tools, demonstrated noisily with trowels and wheelbarrows, and occupied the Louvre Museum and Mont St Michel at the beginning of October: the archaeologists of the Association for National Archaeological Excavation (AFAN) are worried about their future. According to a European directive, it will soon be necessary to make 'rescue' excavations open to competition. A shock for the members of this Association who were demanding, on the contrary, a change in their status to give them a virtual monopoly in this type of research.

The Minister for Culture, Catherine Trautmann, has taken the opportunity to create a working party to prepare a Bill by the end of the year that will reform the organisation of archaeological excavation in France. This has been talked about for years, but no-one has had the courage to take it up seriously, as the French situation is complex. On one side are a thousand researchers and conservators of the CNRS in universities, towns, departments, regions and museums, devoted to somewhat higher things, and without there always being any real co-ordination between them. On the other side are 1,200 employees of AFAN, called upon in advance of road, railway or building construction to search beneath the ground for traces of the past.

Created in 1945, the Association rapidly took on employees in the 1970s and 1980s in the heyday of French autoroute, high speed railway, hypermarket and other big building projects. Now there is back-peddalling on road and high speed train projects, and there is no longer any question of large-scale rebuilding of suburbs. It is now more usually the construction of car parks, garages, or the digging of holes for sand quarries where rescue archaeology is undertaken. The AFAN, which was overburdened with construction sites ten years ago, sees its workload diminish, and is afraid of being obliged to make redundancies. If, on top of that, others of a more or less mercenary attitude invite themselves to the party, the situation will be dramatic. The strikers invoke the spectre of private constructors destroying precious relics with their bulldozers with no-one aware of the situation. They are right to be concerned: at Rodez in 1997, diggers destroyed invaluable proto-historic, ancient and medieval

remains, because the local branch of *Credit Immobilier* wanted to put up an office block on the site without paying for a prior excavation.

But the work of the AFAN is not without its critics. After having excavated all kinds of Neolithic tumuli, Merovingian cemeteries and medieval settlements from beneath railways and roads, its archaeologists are forced to question the future. Should they, as they have done for years, continue to dig up and pack away heaps of finds in stores without having the time to analyse and publish?

In the last two decades, three major reports have studied the situation. In the first, written in 1979, the anthropologist Jacques Soustelle advocated giving all archaeologists the status of civil servants. But that which was feasible when AFAN numbered only a hundred professionals, is no longer so when the Association numbers more than a thousand people, of which three hundred work only on research. In 1990, Christian Goudineau, lecturer at the College de France and specialist on Roman Gaul, underlined the difference in means between those pretentious of the past who consume some 400 million francs per annum, and the public sector archaeologists who work with ten times less.

None of our neighbours has an organisation like AFAN to rescue the remains of the past in the face of the bulldozers, explain the writers of a report dated 1995. The British, Italians and Germans turn to small professional units, which tender for work with very precise details of costs. But above all, most other European countries have created inventories of sensitive areas. No developers would risk building in certain parts of Rome, so expensive would be the cost of saving the ruins. Whilst in France there is a lack of funding for completion of the archaeological map of the territory, the very thing which would provide knowledge of "archaeologically sensitive areas" to guide and deter developers and to better locate resources. Decided upon by Jack Lang in 1992, this inventory should also point researchers towards the richest sites in history. A matter of urgency for all archaeologists no matter what their status.

### ***A letter from Charles Abdy...***

In *Bulletin* 324, at the end of his comprehensive report on the **Community Archaeology Conference** at Farnham on 26 September, Phil Jones expressed disappointment at the lack of opportunity for audience participation, and invited comments from readers.

I attended, along with several other members of Nonsuch Antiquarian Society and, although it was rewarding, I was astonished that there were no invitations for questions from the floor: not even a chance to ask why there were none! It was the sort of meeting that called for an exchange of views. It was billed as a conference and, according to the OED, a conference is '*a meeting for consultation or discussion*'. At this meeting there was neither consultation nor discussion.

### **Past, Present and Future — Influencing our Heritage *Nathan Morley***

What will future generations think about our lifestyle, culture and environment? What we preserve and record now will colour and influence the ideas and knowledge of future generations. Evidence of the past, artefacts, and written and oral memories give an insight into our aspirations, achievements, mistakes and challenges.

Surrey's Heritage Strategy brings together individuals and specialists from Surrey County Council and other conservation groups, to pool expertise and knowledge and help to tackle heritage issues. An Action Plan forms part of the Heritage Strategy, identifying achievable aims and objectives. Three Strategy working groups deal with different aspects of the Strategy.

## **Records**

The first group deals with Research and Documentation. Through this group, a new Surrey History Centre has opened in Woking. It houses Surrey's archives, records and historic documents. It includes church, business, estate and personal records, and is good news for Surrey. There is additional storage areas for up-to-date media such as film and video records, and the centre is user-friendly, with exhibitions and greater public access.

## **Evidence**

The second group, called Conservation and Management, deals with the cataloguing and storing of records and historic documents, the unearthing of evidence (eg through archaeological digs), the identification and preservation of buildings from different eras, the conservation of monuments and historic settlements, and the designation of historic landscapes. A booklet on historic woodlands and archaeology can be obtained from Dr David Bird, Principal Archaeologist at Surrey County Council. On 0181 541 8991, at a cost of £15.

## **Promotion**

The third group looks at the promotion of our Heritage and how it is interpreted. This includes educating people through exhibitions and adult education, and visits by schools to heritage sites. Surrey County Council runs an award programme called the Interpret Surrey Awards Scheme, which rewards well presented heritage sites, including displays and exhibitions. Details of the Award Scheme are available from Jill Harris on 0181 541 9250. An annual Heritage Theme (eg Surrey Landscapes, Surrey Homes) is promoted through a wide variety of agencies.

## **Future**

A conference is held each spring, to discuss topical issues and set priorities for the Strategy. The strategy is regularly reviewed and updated to reflect Government policy, financial and other changes such as the Heritage Lottery Fund and sponsorship opportunities.

If you would like further details on any aspect of the Heritage Strategy, please contact Nathan Morley on 0181 541 7031.

*From the Winter edition (Issue 17) of Surrey County Council Planning Department's "Environment News", with thanks*

## **Surrey County Archaeological Unit**

### ***We've moved.***

Over three days in October and whilst most of our staff continued to excavate a Roman villa at Barnwood School in that awful rain, the rest of us vacated our old premises at Dorking and moved into a purpose-built suite of offices, stores and a processing area within the newly-opened Surrey History Centre. Yes, we're there as well, although you wouldn't have realised this from the Press Release issued for the official opening.

It's all very plush (for us), and although no-one has yet muddied the carpets, I got a bit worried when the 'Premises Officer' told us how important it was to keep out dust, just as we were walking through into our, as yet, pristine processing area. Be that as it may — we're slowly settling in, dust or no dust. It's a very 80's building, "with a quiff" as our Giles describes the rather top-heavy entrance façade. In the behind-scenes corridors, where only librarians, archivists and archaeologists dare to linger long, it's all ocean liner railings and port-holes, although I've so far failed to locate the duty-free bar.

Our new address is 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking GU21 1ND, although the entrance by car is from Kingsway which runs parallel. We're about 10 minutes from Woking station. The new office phone number is 01483 594636 and our fax number is 01483 594637.

## **Editor's Notes**

*Just a few items and an apology.*

- *On behalf of all other members, may I congratulate Peggy Bedwell, Peter Tarplee, David Williams and Stephen Fortescue on receiving Surrey Awards for Achievement from Surrey County Council at a presentation at County Hall in October. These are awarded on alternate years to either staff members or volunteers who have been nominated as having made significant contributions to the environment or the smooth running of county affairs. Paul Coen, Chief Executive, presented each of the recipients with a cut-glass decanter.*
- *It's gratifying to hear that the Tony Clark Memorial Lecture at the SCOLA Conference in October was well attended, and that Tony's sons, Martin and Oliver, attended as guests of SyAS (see page 10). Alistair Bartlett, a colleague of Tony's since their days at the Ancient Monuments Laboratory, gave an interesting lecture showing the development of Tony's ideas — with a youthful Tony in the field gradually maturing with the progress of his devices.*
- *My caption to an illustration in David Williams' article in **Bulletin** 324 (page 6) was wrong, as the bowl is not of Bronze Age date. It forms part of an assemblage of Grooved Ware vessels which belong to the Neolithic period, as the radiocarbon dates confirm. My personal apologies to David.*
- *Lastly, Greetings of the season to you all, and keep that copy rolling in. Merry Christmas from myself, Maureen Roberts and Liz Whitbourn.*

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## **CONFERENCE**

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### **ARCHAEOLOGY OF SUSSEX SYMPOSIUM**

***Saturday 13th March 1999 9.40 am to 5.30 pm***

***Chichester Lecture Theatre***

Organised by the University of Sussex Centre for Continuing Education in conjunction with the Sussex Archaeological Society, the day will provide accounts of recent archaeological fieldwork and research in Sussex.

**Recent discoveries by the Mid Sussex Field Archaeology Team**

**New Excavations on Mount Caburn**

**Round Barrows in the Weald**

**Excavations at Rocky Clump, Brighton**

**A Late Iron Age and Early Saxon site at Eastbourne**

**A Hengiform site and Late Iron Age Round Houses at Lavant**

**The Principal Historic Building Discoveries in East Sussex in the late 1990's**

**Recent Work in Sussex by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England**

*Chris Butler  
Peter Drewett  
David Field  
John Funnell*

*Chris Greatorex*

*James Kenny*

*David Martin*

*Al Oswald*

**Archaeological Discoveries along the Brighton By-pass  
The Patching Hoard of Late Roman Treasure**

*David Rudling  
Sally White*

Fee £20, students and unemployed £12.

For further details Tel: 01273 678926 or write to Sue Schofield at the Centre for Continuing Education, EDB, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, Sussex BN1 9RG.

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## **DAY SCHOOLS**

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### **UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX**

#### ***Centre for Continuing Education***

For further information about the following courses Tel: 01273 678926

#### ***Archaeological Reconstruction***

We look at the history of reconstruction, its use as entertainment and education, and the reconstruction of sites and landscapes. We also review studies of gender and race, and the use of computers and virtual reality.

Tutor: Casper Johnson

27th February 1999

Hastings Museum

Fee: £18, reduced £14, minimum £6; for SAS and SyAS members.

#### ***Churchyard Recording***

Graveyards are full of exciting social, historical and archaeological information. Participate in mapping, recording and interpreting data from a churchyard in Lewes, then investigate the data collected to see what social, artistic and historical patterns can be observed.

Tutor: Tristram Bareham

28th March 1999

Anne of Cleves Museum, Lewes

Fee: £18, reduced £14, minimum £6, for SAS and SyAS members.

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## **COURSE**

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### **UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX**

#### ***Centre for Continuing Education***

#### ***Historical Sources for Archaeologists***

A weekly course forming part of the *Certificate in Practical Archaeology*.

The study and range of accessible secondary and primary historical sources useful to archaeologists. Sources include taxation and tithe records, census returns, property deeds, parish and manorial records.

Tutor: Annabelle Hughes

10 meetings starting 6th January 1999 11am to 1pm

Fee: £120, reduced £100, minimum £40.

For further details please contact Yvonne Barnes, 01273 678537 at CCE, Education Development Building, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9RG.

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## LECTURE MEETINGS

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### **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.

### **15th December**

“The Industrial History of the Mole Valley District” by Peter Tarplee 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 December**

“The Crondall Shepherd and a pub sign history” by Edna Millington to the Farnham & District Museum Society, at the United Reformed Church, South Street, Farnham, at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

### **18th December**

“Buildings in the district, past, present or proposed: now or in the past” this year’s theme for the Christmas Miscellany arranged by Gordon Knowles for the Leatherhead & District Local History Society in the Dixon Hall at the Leatherhead Institute at 7.30 for 8.00 pm. Entrance members 50p, visitors £1.

### **6th January**

“Recent Advances in using Radiocarbon Dating in Archaeology” by Alex Bayliss 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.

### **6th January**

“East Anglian Highlights” by Richard Butler to the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society, at St Mary’s Church Hall, London Road, Ewell, at 7.45 for 8.00 pm.

### **7th January**

“Excavation at Hopeless Moor, Seale” by Steve Dyer to the Farnham & District Museum Society, at the United Reformed Church, South Street, Farnham, at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

### **7th January**

“The Thames Foreshore Project” by Mike Webber to the Spelthorne Archaeological Field Group and the Friends of Spelthorne Museum, at the Methodist Church, Thames Street, Staines, at 8.00 pm.

### **9th January**

“Easter Island” by Beryl Palmier to the Beddington, Carshalton & Wallington Archaeological Society, at Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, off Nightingale Road, Carshalton, at 3.00 pm.

### **9th January**

“The Lord Lieutenant: the life and achievements of William, 1st Earl of Lovelace” by Stephen Tudsbury-Turner to the Walton & Weybridge Local History Society at the Weybridge Library Lecture Hall at 3.00 pm.

### **15th January**

“The History of St John’s School” by Richard Hughes to the Leatherhead & District Local History Society in the Dixon Hall at the Leatherhead Institute at 7.30 for 8.00 pm. Non-members £1.

**19th January**

"Surrey Iron Railway: the world's first public horse drawn iron railway" by Edward Potter to the Friends of Kingston Museum at the Market House, Market Place, Kingston, at 8.00 pm. A donation of £1.50 is suggested.

**21st January**

"Hammersmith Bridge" by Maisie Brown to the Barnes and Mortlake History Society at the Main Hall, Sheen Lane Centre, at 8.00 pm.

**25th January**

"Small Houses under the Tudors ; a Period of Change" by Ken Gravett 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 January**

"Saxon London before Alfred" by Bob Cowie to the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society at Hawkstone Hall, the Lambeth North end of Kennington Road, at 7.00 for 7.30 pm.

**1st February**

"Genealogy in Local History" by Dr Robert Mesley to the Mayford & Woking District History Society at Mayford Village Hall, Saunders Lane, Mayford at 7.45 pm.

**3rd February**

"Castles and Calamities: the Life and Times of Edward II" by Mary Saaler 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.

**3rd February**

"Kingston's archaeological heritage" by Paul Hill to the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society, at St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell, at 7.45 for 8.00 pm.

**4th February**

"The Bayeux Tapestry" by David Davis to the Farnham & District Museum Society, at the United Reformed Church, South Street, Farnham, at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

**9th February**

"Old Slides of Staines" by John Taylor to the Spelthorne Archaeological Field Group and the Friends of Spelthorne Museum, at the Methodist Church, Thames Street, Staines, at 8.00 pm.

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**Next Issue:** Copy required by 15th January for the February issue.

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