A Windmill near Vauxhall

Henry de Cort 1742-1810
Mapping the Past: Surrey’s Mapmakers, Historians and Artists, 1600-1830

Summer Exhibition at Surrey History Centre
6 June - 2 September 2000

This year’s summer exhibition at Surrey History Centre will delight all those interested in the history of Surrey’s landscape, architectural heritage and rich tradition of historical scholarship. Drawing on SHC’s own collections of manuscript maps, the personal papers of Owen Manning and William Bray and the Robert Barclay collection of Surrey illustrations, Mapping the Past: an Exhibition of Surrey’s Mapmakers, Historians and Artists, 1600-1830 will reflect the cumulative efforts of surveyors, amateur historians and artists to record the history and topography of Surrey, in map, word and paint between the late sixteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

The second half of the sixteenth century witnessed a vibrant land market and increased pressure on landowners to maximise their profits. Surveyors were commissioned to produce large-scale estate maps, accurately drawn using the latest techniques, as useful tools in land management. Such maps, often beautifully coloured and decorated with coats of arms, also served as striking emblems of the social status of the landowner and of his stake in the county. Over the course of the seventeenth century all types of maps proliferated. Estates, of course, were not static: boundaries shifted, tenants came and went. New maps were always needed to portray contemporary reality but those that had been superseded remained as ‘snapshots’ of moments in time and an invaluable source for historians to plunder.

The exhibition will feature estate and town maps of seventeenth century Surrey, ranging from Loseley near Guildford (SHC 6729/Plan 1) to the Thames at Bankside. The earliest on show will be a rough map of Greenings in Charlwood, copyhold of the manor of Betchworth, undated but around 1560 (SHC LM/1368). The exhibition will also include a detail of a map of the manor of Allfarthing, Wandsworth and Battersea 1640, which was granted by Charles I to Endymion Porter, a groom of the royal bedchamber, in 1528. As well as naming plots and tenants within the manor, buildings are shown in some detail; a charming touch is the boatmen on the River Thames (SHC 3991/1).

The achievements of early historians in Surrey, John Aubrey, Owen Manning and William Bray, will all be celebrated. Their ‘pleasant pilgrimages’ throughout the county and careful research through its records remain the basis of local historical scholarship today. Owen Manning was the first English county historian to engrave Domesday Book and the proof sheets of this pioneering work will be displayed, together with the manuscript of his History of Surrey which was completed by William Bray, and examples of their lively correspondence. William Bray’s diaries, which chronicle his indefatigable searches for Surrey references in both local and national documents and record his own archaeological excavations with other Surrey antiquaries, will also feature in the exhibition.

A taste for touring the county and painting local views was encouraged by the Rev William Gilpin, a schoolmaster of Cheam, who sought to train the public to appreciate landscapes in his books on the ‘picturesque’. The Garden History Society has recently deposited with SHC a manuscript notebook of his visit to Painshill Park, Cobham, in 1772. This will be on display, together with a selection of watercolours of Surrey houses and churches by John Hassell (1767-1825) who was deeply influenced by Gilpin’s ‘picturesque’ style. The Hassell watercolours form part of the Robert Barclay collection of Surrey illustrations formed by Robert Barclay of Bury Hill to extra-illustrate his own copy of Manning and Bray’s History and Antiquities of the County of Surrey. Other artists represented in the collection whose works feature in the exhibition include Henry de Cort (1742-1810) and John Carter (1784-1817), a pioneer of the Gothic Revival.
Shere Village.  


A study day of talks to complement the exhibition will be held at Surrey History Centre on Saturday 12th August. Speakers will include Julian Pooley on the creation of Manning and Bray's county history, Mavis Batey on William Gilpin and the 'picturesque' and Dr Gerry Moss on John Hassell. For further information about the exhibition and the study day contact Surrey History Centre on 01483 594594.

The Restoration of the Wind Pump at Copse Farm, Holmwood 

Tony Stevens

During the search for material for the Mole Valley copy of the Surrey Industrial History Group's (SIHG) District Guides to the Industrial Archaeology of Surrey, a derelict 105-year old wind pump was "discovered" at Copse Farm, Holmwood some six miles south of Dorking.

The tower was 35 feet high, with gear box and tail fin on top, but decapitated, having lost its 10 feet diameter 18 blade fan in the 1987 gales. It stood on a small hill 500 yards above the farm, which it had supplied with water from a well ten feet below until the early 1980s. Adjacent to the tower was a 100,000 gallon square steel storage tank standing on 20-feet legs.

Chris Shepheard, chairman of the volunteer support group "Rustics" at the Rural Life Centre (RLC) Tilford, recognised the wind pump as a very desirable object and landmark for the RLC. Its owner, Richard Boardley, readily agreed to give SIHG the pump if we could dismantle and collect it, and allowed us to share the use of a mobile crane he had hired to erect a new barn. The tower was safely lowered and loaded on to a member's boat trailer in September 1997, although the 22 mile journey to the museum would have been easier with more helpers and less rain. A few days later the ten foot tall fin and one of the cast iron feet could not be found, and an extensive search failed to find either. Because the 40lb foot, decorated with the manufacturer's name "Duke & Ockenden", was attractive as well as functional, a 22 mile search was organised just after Boxing Day 1998 with fourteen of us walking and prodding along the route taken, but without success. This was not surprising, however, since photographs processed months later revealed that the foot had not been attached to
the tower when it left its original site! The missing tail fin remains an unsolved mystery.

Assessment at the RLC revealed three main problem areas. The fan was so distorted and rotten that only the hub was usable; the gear box on top had stood full of water instead of oil for ten years so that the bearings had crumbled, the gears were unusable and the main shaft was severed; and each of the main legs had rusted away from the lowest 3 feet where undergrowth had encircled.

The first help and advice came in a remarkable way. An appeal on the Internet was answered almost instantly from South Africa suggesting we should contact two very knowledgeable British engineers, one of whom lived in a small, little-known English village called Tilford! Paul Dawson, with much experience of wind pumps, their repair and restoration, lives just half a mile from the museum, and in turn recommended we contact Graham Burgess in Taunton, not least because he had a garage full of spare parts. A trip to Taunton gained eighteen new fan blades and many other useful spare parts for £60 - Graham had suddenly been asked to vacate his garage, which certainly helped our cause.

The gear box remained the most serious problem, but, by chance, a friend, John Glenfield, out walking on holiday in County Durham, came across the remains of a collapsed wind pump half buried close to a footpath within Crooked Oak Farm. As an astute and observant engineer, he instantly recognised the half-sunken gear box as of an identical type to ours, but in much better condition. One more coincidence - the farm was only ten miles from my brother-in-law's house in Hexham. As an ex-merchant navy engineer, willing to help, the outcome was the retrieval of, not only a much better gear box, but a tail fin as well, though perforated in both directions by bullet holes the size of a 303 bullet.

The “new” gear box still presented problems. The connecting rod bearings and crank pins were very badly worn, and a fixing lug inside the cast iron casing had broken off. The engineering skills required to repair these faults were beyond our capabilities, but a friend in Pirbright, retired printer Ken Stephens, not only maintained a magnificently tooled workshop, but knew of a team of elderly but very skilled workmates. Between them, they relaunched cogs and did the necessary welding, and our only regret is that their magnificent work is hidden from view at the top of the 35 feet tower.

Dismantling, de-rusting, painting and repair of the tower were relatively straightforward tasks, but we were soon to discover that the structure was not Meccano. Apparently the tower was assembled on site with each strut drilled to fit. The number of ways it could be reassembled was therefore considerable - factorial 16, I think!

Another friend, Roger Skinner, sought out the Rayne foundry near Braintree, which was willing to produce an iron replica complete with the maker’s name. This cost us £97, but the new foot is indistinguishable from the originals.

There was considerable debate about the dimensions for the concrete foundations. Opinions varied from a one metre cube for each leg to much smaller blocks linked by angle iron. After consultations with Amberley Chalk Pit Museum, who hold all the Duke & Ockenden archives, we compromised on four separate blocks 4 feet deep by 2 feet square; the 10-inch fixing bolts with 12-inch extension pieces being embedded in the concrete.

Restoration was nearing completion, but with two separate halves - the tower in horizontal position and the top complex each weighing some 6 cwts. The gear box fan and tail were assembled in a jig made out of scaffolding, tubing and timber in order that we could check its operation at ground level. On 6th September 1999 the hired mobile crane arrived. There had again been some debate about a possible DIY erection, but although we may have managed to manhandle the tower into the upright
position onto its fixing bolts, lifting and fitting the head gear would have needed "sky hooks" and would have involved considerable risks.

With the crane's help all went well. The wooden template we had constructed to determine the positions of the fixing bolts proved to be only half an inch out - an error easily remedied by loosening two bolts.

The furling mechanism to deal with high winds by pulling the tail fin parallel with the fan and simultaneously applying a brake to the hub required hours of tedious top-of-the-ladder adjustments and much spillage of adrenalin and oil. Eventually it worked, however, and the structure withstood the ravages of the numerous high winds of the first winter.

We still needed a suitable working pump. At the opening ceremony an unexpected visitor was our Taunton friend Graham Burgess, who offered us a Climax pump he believed to be hidden amongst his numerous piles of spares parts. We collected the first instalment in October 1999 and anxiously await the rest.

It remains to explain why we undertook the project. Such wind pumps are not particularly rare, but few are in working condition and many are in danger of collapse, as this one was. There is the fine Moss collection in Norfolk, and we are gathering details of others throughout the country. Ours is the most elegant we have seen so far, because of its ornamentation and its "eiffelation" - the main legs are gracefully curved like the Eiffel Tower!

Renewable energy is a popular topic and such devices still have a future in Britain as well as in developing countries. Graham Burgess has recently built and supplied a pump for a willow factory in the Somerset Levels, which reduced their water rates by the cost of the pump in little more than the first year of opening.

Finally, the pump is a first class landmark for the RLC, standing as it does alongside the entrance. We hope it will provide as much interest for visitors as it has done for us.

The restoration team of Tony Stevens, Harvey and Rosemary Williams and Michael Fabb are greatly indebted to the Surrey Archaeological Society for a £500 grant; to Henry Jackson and the RLC for supplying a site, materials and facilities; the Amberley Chalk Pit Museum for access to archive drawings; Ken Stephens and his colleagues for engineering help; Graham Burgess and Paul Dawson for practical help and spare parts; Miss Jo Tilly and ICI for paint; John Glanfield for his astute observation; Ken Major for his help and support; Mr and Mrs Boardley for donating the pump; and to numerous members of SIHG and the "Rustics" for their help and encouragement.

Many thanks to Tony Stevens for the above report and for his very entertaining presentation on the same subject, and at short notice, to the recent Archaeological Research Committee Symposium at Dorking. If anyone would like to see the wind pump in action, pumping water, it is to be ceremonially opened at 2 pm on the 18th June at the Rural Life Centre, Tilford.

COUNCIL MATTERS

The Millennium Project Conference and Annual General Meeting: Advance Notice

A two-day Conference on Saturday and Sunday 25th-26th November 2000 at the Letherhed Institute, Leatherhead

The conference will provide a forum for those participating in the Millennium Project to talk about their village settlements and the progress made in gaining an
understanding of the evolution of the landscape and how and why settlement patterns have changed over time.

The AGM will be held on the Sunday afternoon, following which Dennis Turner will talk about the project and draw together the patterns of settlement in Surrey tentatively revealed by the work to date. A great deal of work has been done in other areas of the country, but so far little research has been undertaken in Surrey.

Further details will be given later, but the “villages” so far being studied range from Mitcham and Widford to Shere and Thorpe. It should be an interesting weekend... so book the date now.

Meeting of Local Secretaries at Puttenham

Forty-five people attended the meeting at Puttenham on the 7th May - a glorious sunny Sunday afternoon - at which the Puttenham Landscape Survey Project was launched.

The first part of the meeting was to give members an opportunity to meet officers of the Society and David Bird, SCC Principal Archaeologist, and to report upon aspects of the Society’s work and opportunities for involvement by members.

Peter Gray, Chairman of the Conservation Committee, briefly outlined the Society’s role in advising the Council for British Archaeology on listed buildings applications referred to them, and the Committee’s plans to channel these through District Representatives. The Committee is also working towards compiling Parish surveys, ie an inventory of buildings of note in each parish, including all timber-framed houses and buildings such as chapels which are often overlooked in local listings.

David Bird gave a brief history of the SMR (Sites and Monuments Record), and its role within the planning system. He outlined proposals whereby members of the Society could participate in a reporting scheme to monitor the condition of Scheduled Ancient Monuments, the details of which were being finalised. He also announced English Heritage’s plans to undertake some conservation work at Bletchingley Castle with the help of local volunteers. Dennis Turner, Chairman of the Millennium Project and past president of the Society outlined the progress of the Millennium Project, and reminded everyone of the Conference about the project to be held on 25th/26th November. He emphasised the project was complementary to the work of parish histories successfully undertaken by many societies. It sought to study the morphology of village settlements. By viewing the landscape itself, its shape and form, and the buildings as surviving documents, it is sometimes possible to discern the circumstances which conditioned their siting and orientation - and thus illuminate the changing economies and fortunes of the settlement.

All these projects are on-going, and any member interested in participating - or just knowing more - should contact the Honorary Secretary at Castle Arch.

Gillian Drew, the Society’s Honorary Librarian, gave a fascinating insight into the wealth of material available at Castle Arch. The Society holds runs of all major county journals, and maps and paintings, some of which are unique. Its research material is extensive and includes the private papers and research of past antiquarians and historians covering all parts of the historic county. All of which may be consulted by prior arrangement with the Assistant Librarian at Castle Arch. Only members of the Society may, however, take out books on loan.

After tea Chris Currie outlined his plans for the Puttenham Landscape Survey Project and gave a brief insight into some of the work undertaken at Mickleham and elsewhere. Anyone interested in participating in any aspect of the work, or would like more information of the training days should contact Chris Currie on 01703 696232 or email CCurrie260@aol.com

An excellent display by John Price of the Mickleham Landscape Project was on
display, as well as the complete Report of the Project. The full report is now available at Castle Arch.

Puttenham will be the third project under the Society’s Partnership Agreement with SCC to investigate areas of special historic landscape value, and is part of the Society’s initiative to involve, wherever possible, volunteers in identifying and recording the archaeology and history of the county.

A fourth project at Walton Heath will be launched at Banstead Methodist Hall on the 16th September at 2.00 pm. Further details will be sent to local secretaries in the area, and will also appear later in the Bulletin.

New Members

The Society is delighted to welcome (and welcome back) the following new members:

Agar, Mr R, 5 Willow Drive, Twyford, Berks, RG10 9DD
Ainsworth, Mr A I, 15 Crosier Road, Ickenham, Uxbridge, Middx. UB10 8RR
Appleton, Mr A, 8 Gosden Common, Bramley, GU5 0AD
Bannister, Dr N R, West Ongley Cottage, Beech Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8HF
Forster, Mrs E, 1 Gurdons Lane, Wormley, Godalming, GU8 5TF
Gough, Mr J F, 85 Links Road, Ashtead, KT21 2HL
Harding, Mr M, Manelhe, Sweetwater Lane, Shamley Green, Guildford, GU5 0UP
Laitwood, Mr F B, 6 Woodfield Close, Redhill, RH1 2DL
Miller, Mrs S A, 13 Meads Road, Guildford, GU1 2NB
Orman, Mr C B, Winterfields, Petworth Road, Chiddingfold, Godalming, GU8 4SL
Peters, Miss L M, Palma, 87 Thetford Road, New Malden, KT3 5DS
Pickering, Mr & Mrs R, 1 Giles Travers Close, Thorpe, Egham, TW20 8UQ
Smith, Mr W, 19 Eight Acres, Beaconhill, Hindhead, GU26 6RY
Stanley, Mr K G, 24 Oatlands Close, Weybridge, KT13 9EE
Stevens, Mr P J, 22 The Avenue, Camberley, GU15 3NE

Champagne prize

Just a note to thank everyone who submitted ideas for the title of the Society’s forthcoming ‘popular’ book on the archaeology of Surrey (see Bulletin 337). There has been a gratifyingly large response to this challenge, which presumably indicates either a dedication to the cause of archaeology or an enthusiasm for free champagne (or perhaps both). In any event, the entries will be considered at the next meeting of the working party and the decision announced in due course.

GRANTS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE

Members are reminded that the Grants and Special Projects Committee considers applications for grants at meetings in mid-September and mid-March. Applications should therefore be received by the Committee not later than 1st September or 1st March respectively. The applications will then be submitted, with the Committee’s recommendations, to the Council. If the matter is agreed to be exceptionally urgent, certain officers of the Society are empowered to make a decision in advance of these meetings.

The Committee will welcome applications for the coming year. There is no hard and fast rule as to what may qualify for a grant. Over the past year the Committee has received applications relating to a range of activities; most have been for grants of under £1,000 but a few for substantially more. In some instances the Committee
recommended a loan rather than an outright grant. Application forms can be obtained from Castle Arch and may be sent to the Secretary of the Committee at that address.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Committee on 30 March 2000 it was agreed that it should be reconstituted. In the past the Committee has been largely concerned with applications for listed building consent, especially cases which had been referred to the Council for British Archaeology by Surrey local planning authorities (the CBA seeks the advice of the Society on such cases). It is intended that in future the Committee, whilst still retaining that brief, will take a more active role in encouraging research into, and the publication of, matters relating to the historic buildings of the county.

The Committee now consists of six members, plus the Society President and Honorary Secretary ex officio: Peter Gray (Chairman), Martin Higgins, Nigel Barker, George Howard, Dennis Turner, Peter Youngs (Secretary).

Responsibility for matters affecting the conservation of historic buildings, and applications for listed building consent, will be divided; one person (the “CBA Representative”) will be identified in each of the eleven Surrey Local Authorities, and one for the Surrey London Boroughs. The CBA Representative will receive the occasional reference from the CBA and liaise with the Society's Local Secretaries and others within each District on matters which might have a significant effect on the built heritage in that District.

The Committee will meet three or four times a year in various parts of the County when there will be the opportunity for the CBA Representatives and others to raise significant local issues. Meetings of the Committee will be reported in the Bulletin.

To reflect this change the Committee will in future be called the Historic Buildings Conservation Committee. P E Youngs (Committee Secretary)

RECENT ACCESSIONS TO THE SOCIETY’S LIBRARY

As before, each entry includes the author, title, publisher and date of publication, followed by the four-digit accession number, and classification number indicating the shelf location of the book.

GENERAL

Babbington, Caroline Our painted past: wall paintings of English Heritage. English Heritage 1999 8341 W3
Barber, Martyn The Neolithic flint mines of England. English Heritage 1999 8340 H2
Barker, Graeme Companion encyclopedia of archaeology. 2 vols. Routledge 1999 8354 E
Bayley, Justine Science in Archaeology: an agenda for the future. English Heritage 1998 8314 E5
Bedoyere, Guy de la Companion to Roman Britain. Tempus Publishing Ltd 1999 8382 K2
Beckensall, Stan British prehistoric rock art. Tempus Publishing Ltd 1999 8381 G2
Best, Nicholas Historic Britain from the air. Weidenfeld and Nicolson 1995 8326 P2
Bowden, Mark Unravelling the landscape: an inquisitive approach to archaeology. Tempus Publishing Ltd 1999 8320 E3
British Museum Flints implements: an account of Stone Age techniques and cultures. Trustees of the British Museum 1950 8285 H
Chitty, Gill Managing historic sites and buildings: reconciling presentation and preservation. Routledge 1999 8356 C
Claassen, Cheryl Shells. Cambridge UP 1998 8315 D2
Cook, Hadrian Water management in the English landscape: field, marsh and meadow. Edinburgh UP 1999 8319 D1
Gray, Richard Cinemas in Britain: one hundred years of cinema architecture. Lund Humphries Publishers 8325 X3
Grenville, Jane Managing the historic rural landscape. Routledge 1999 8357 C
Hambledon, Ellen Animal husbandry regimes in Iron Age Britain: a comparative study of faunal assemblages from British Iron Age sites. Archaeopress 1999 8344 J2
Hawker, J.M. A manual of archaeological field recording. JM Hawker 1999 8310 E6
Henson, Donald Guide to archaeology in higher education (2000 CBA guide). CBA 1999 8348 E
Lord, Evelyn Investigating the twentieth century: sources for local historians. Tempus Publishing Ltd 1999 8351 N2
Lucas, Joseph The Chalk Water System. Institution of Civil Engineers 1876 8317 D1
Marshall, William The review and abstracts of the county reports to the Board of Agriculture: From the several agricultural departments of England. Vol V, Southern and Peninsular Departments. Longman 1818 8323 T2
Massingham, Betty Miss Jekyll: portrait of a great gardener. David & Charles 1966 8300 ZA2 JEK
Medieval Settlement Research Group Medieval rural settlements: a policy on their research, survey, conservation and excavation. Medieval Settlement Research Group 8316 MB1
Morriss, Richard The archaeology of railways. Tempus Publishing Ltd 1999 8380 V4
NAPLIB, Directory of aerial photographic collections in the United Kingdom. NAPLIB 1999 8363 A
Pattison, Paul Patterns of the past: essays in landscape archaeology for Christopher Taylor. Oxbow 1999 8297 E7
Pryor, Francis Farmers in prehistoric Britain. Empus Publishing Ltd 1998 8352 T1
Raikes, Robert Water, weather and prehistory. RL Raikes 1984 8322 D4
Raybould, Marilyne A study of inscribed material from Roman Britain: an inquiry into some aspects of literacy in Romano-British society. Archaeopress 1999 8345 K2
Reitz, Elizabeth Zooarchaeology. Cambridge UP 1999 8353 E5
Rohl, Brenda The circulation of metal in the British Bronze Age: the application of lead isotope analysis. British Museum 1998 8360 E5
Thomas, Julian Understanding the neolithic. Routledge 1999 8350 H2
Trubshaw, R.N. How to write and publish local history. Heart of Albion Press 1999 8303 N1
A knife-cut crested ridge tile from Borelli Yard, Farnham  Nicholas Riall

Completion of the post-excavation analysis of the ceramic building materials from the excavations at Borelli Yard, Farnham (SU 841468) has produced three fragments of a knife-cut crested ridge tile. Two of these pieces came from the earlier deposits in the tile kiln stovepit and can therefore be dated to c1210-1220; the third was from layer 186 in the town ditch which dates to the mid-13th century.

The three fragments are all of the same fabric. This is a coarse textured sandy clay with mica and finely crushed fragments of flint up to 0.5mm. The pieces are evenly fired and have a colour of red to red-orange. This conforms to the general fabric used for the Type 1 tiles produced in the Borelli Yard tile kiln; a point somewhat underlined by the use of the same thickly applied, very high gloss glaze.

The design of the crest is approximately similar to Type 4/1 from the Farnham Park tile kiln (Riall 1997, 161-3, in Surrey Archaeological Collections, 84). The design, incomplete in the examples from Borelli Yard, shows a series of round-headed 'arches' cut through the body of the crest with an irregular crenellation along the top. The underside of the 'arches' was cut from both sides of the crest. Similar knife-cut crested ridge tile was produced in the Guildford Castle Palace tile kiln which can be dated to c1210-1230. A recent survey of the ceramic building materials excavated at
Bishop Waltham Palace, Hampshire, by the author has revealed a fragment of knife-cut crested ridge tile almost identical to the pieces recovered at Farnham. Of some interest in this context is an entry in the Pipe Rolls of the bishops of Winchester for 1213/14 which records that, by order (per breve) of the bishop, Peter des Roches, "Three shillings and ten pence spent at Farnham buying ridge tiles (crest) sent to Winchester." (Vincent, N (ed), 1994, English Episcopal Acta LX,109.)

Farnham and Bishops Waltham were both manors with substantial fortified 'palaces' held by des Roches. He was almost certainly involved with the development of Guildford Castle Palace during the reign of King John and the earlier part of Henry III's reign. Ceramic roof tile from the Guildford kiln has also been found at Bishops Waltham providing a further link between des Roches and the emerging roof tile industry of west Surrey and Hampshire at a time when there was no similar industry in southern Hampshire.

**A Bronze Axe from Bagmoor Common, near Elstead (SU 926 423)**

David Graham

Surrey Wildlife Trust, which owns the nature reserve at Bagmoor Common, recently felled a stand of mature pine trees and scraped the surface over an area of c1 ha, in order to encourage regeneration of heather on the site. The common lies on the acid sands of the Folkestone Beds series and the immediate area is generally low-lying and wet. Before the work was carried out, I inspected the site at SWT's request, but did not find any visible earthworks or archaeological remains. However, a second visit to the site, following removal of the tree stumps, leaf litter and some topsoil, was more productive. Careful inspection of the exposed sand revealed a small quantity of flintwork including a Neolithic oblique arrowhead, as well as a few sherds of coarsely flint-gritted pottery, which is probably prehistoric in date.

It therefore seemed worthwhile to undertake a metal detector survey of the area and, with permission from the SWT, several members of the Newlanders Club carried out the work under my supervision. This produced a number of WW2 rifle bullets, but
more particularly the blade of a bronze axe. On first examination this looked like an Early Bronze Age flat axe, but on a closer examination it was possible to see a central longitudinal ridge and it therefore seems more likely to be the broken off tip of a palstave axe. It is 7.75cm long and has a maximum width of 3.9cm and is in poor condition. The SWT has donated the axe to Haslemere Museum, which is arranging for it to be conserved.

From the Windsor & Eton Express of 1817 and 1818

Chimney Sweeping

A parliamentary report in the newspaper mentions a petition received from Gloucester about the use of chimney boys, but the good people of Staines went one further and a meeting was held in the public schoolroom on April 9th 1818. The object of the meeting was “To take into consideration the propriety of abolishing the use of climbing boys and girls in sweeping chimneys”. There seems to have been little argument on the subject, it being described as an inhuman practice. The meeting ended with a recommendation to the inhabitants of “this and adjoining parishes” to employ children no longer in chimney cleaning. A mechanical means invented by George Smart had been found to be “fully adequate” in most cases.

Ballast from the River

It was the practice at this time to use the Thames as a source of gravel. Simultaneously the river got dredged. A small boat was used, but how the men trawled up the gravel is not described. The boat was tied on the shore side and presumably pulled in when a suitable load of material had been obtained. On 24th January 1818, four men, Thomas Cooper, John Evans, W Osbourn and Joseph Twine were carrying out this operation near the new lock at Egham when a sudden gust of wind upset the boat which, being tied, could not recover itself. Twine was saved by the rudder catching him, but the other three were drowned. Evans was
found near Saviour's Weir, Cooper near Chertsey Bridge and Osbourn near Staines. A verdict of accidental death was returned. The normal techniques were employed, but one cannot help wondering if such an operation should have been undertaken in January when the river was probably running fast.

From a collection compiled by Ron Davis and published in the March 2000 Newsletter of the Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society. Many thanks. I thought the first note of interest because the use of children to clean chimneys is more often considered to have been an urban phenomenon - a cliché of Victorian London. The second note is included because it made me wonder how many archaeological objects were retrieved in such operations and are now lost without record. The number of recorded objects from the Thames downstream from Egham to London is phenomenal and there is argument as to how many were the result of inundations of riverside settlements rather than deliberate emplacements in the sacred river. Early dredging and the raising of gravel from the bed suggests that the original total of such finds might have been a great deal higher.

A letter published in The Independent during the week of 15th-19th May 2000:

Deprived Surrey

Sir: In your otherwise excellent report (9 May) about the grant of £1m from the Lottery Commission to restore Surrey's heaths, it was sad to see the clichés about the county come tumbling out - "archetypal rich county", "stockbroker belt", "county of exclusive golf clubs".

I don't know how the rich live in Surrey. I do know that public services for the generality are abysmal, far inferior to those in the supposed "deprived" communities north of Watford.

The museum in Guildford, the county capital, is a small cramped institution built for a 19th century population of about 8000, now trying to serve 120,000. The only public library is obsolete, the staff spending much of their time flogging off the stock at ridiculous prices because there's nowhere to put older books. This thousand-year-old town has no record office for its archives.

Planning laws fail to control the remorseless advance of giant retail consortia, which have squeezed the life out of the independent trader.

Some of us are trying to fight back to preserve some form of corporate identity in what is rapidly becoming Subtopia. Believe me, I haven't tasted caviare for weeks.

Russell Chamberlin. Guildford, Surrey

Another Appreciation of KENNETH GRAVETT 1930-1999

I cannot remember when I first met Ken, but it must have been in the early 1970s, we were looking around a timber framed house in Send and Ken was explaining all the features. Suddenly, he was overcome with great enthusiasm and we were all encouraged to look upwards. What for? "Look, look", said Ken. "Medieval soot!"

This was typical of a day spent with Ken. To walk around a town or village with him was a delight. I remember walking around Leatherhead with him and listening, and looking agog, while he dated every building that we passed and explained from its features why it had to be later than 1750, or whatever.

He helped us on many occasions to date buildings in the Egham area. I spent a happy day with him climbing all over the Dormy House at Virginia Water and another day in Trumps Green Farm. Also, Directed by Ken, I climbed through the roof trusses of Manor Farm in Egham to take photographs with his camera. With Des Mills and Jill Williams, he dated the barns at Thorpe Park, and, in 1989, Frank Muir's house "Anners". In 1994, he gave the fourth Des Mills Memorial Lecture on the subject of "Eighteenth Century Houses".
Ken was not only a leading expert on Surrey’s domestic buildings, but on Kent and Sussex as well. How did he find time for it all? Well, he did not possess a TV set, and one day, when I asked him if he had a radio, he replied that, “yes”, he had one somewhere, but he couldn’t remember where and it was probably buried under some books. He purchased every book on Surrey that appeared and every year, at the SLHC Symposium, would ask all the exhibiting societies to sell him their latest publication.

Ken chaired the Surrey Local History Council for as long as I can remember, and, after a meeting held in the Literary Institute in the 1970s, I was invited to sit on the executive committee. I still do. Committee meetings always filled the time allocated, not because the business necessarily required it, but because, in the middle of an item, Ken would recount an anecdote that would take some minutes. Nobody would complain. It was no doubt relevant somewhere and we all learnt something new. When the committee was trying to think of a speaker for the Symposium, Ken would recall that Mr X knew a lot about the subject and that he had got Mr X’s address somewhere.

To say that Ken will be missed is an understatement. People like him are few. His funeral on December 10th at Kingston was a meeting of local historians. Ken was not particularly religious, but, typical of him, he knew a priest who was also chairman of a local history society, and who would conduct his funeral service. The latter, in his address, recalled the comment of one of his children who had asked, “When is that kind big man who talks a lot coming to see us again?”

Ken Gravett - a kind big man who talked a lot!

Many thanks.

VISITS

Visit to Down House and Lullingstone Roman Villa  Elizabeth Whitbourn

On Saturday, 19th May 2000, around 50 SyAS members, students and friends blindly answered ancient imperatives buried deep in their genes, and boarded a coach at Farncombe Station in order to visit Charles Darwin’s house at Downe in Kent.

Set amidst beautiful countryside little changed since Darwin last closed his eyes on
the scene, ‘Down House’, although less than 20 miles from the capital, has been
marvellously restored and, on the ground floor at least, remains set c1880, as though
the great man and his ten children and nine servants might walk in at any moment.
A hand-held audio commentary (by David Attenborough) added a wealth of detail to
the visible scene and, especially in Darwin’s jam-packed and ship’s cabin-like study
(a probable legacy of his 5 years voyage aboard the Beagle), there was the real
sense of place, time and momentous events having taken shape within.
We were even able to participate in the iron, unvarying routine of Darwin’s 40 years
of residence by dint of following ‘The Sand Walk’, a circular path he trod many times
a day whilst pursuing intractable problems. Alas, torrential downpours drove our
weaker wills back indoors again.
The upper floor of Down House is devoted to a commendably vivid and concise (if
wildly partisan) study of Darwin’s life and the theory of evolution and its still unfolding
impact on almost every feature of modern life. Subversive eldest child noticed that,
strangely enough, amidst a wealth of other detail, there was found no room to
mention that, thirty years after ferrying Darwin round on the research that led to
‘Origin of Species’ the captain of the Beagle slit his own throat, horrified by what
he’d unwittingly unleashed.
Another wag’s assertion that Darwin only invented ‘all that monkey business’ to
account for his exceptionally hairy back, went likewise unrecorded.
The consensus was that English Heritage were due high praise for making Down
House a model for other sites commemorating individuals or significant cultural
events. Certainly, whilst within, the Victorian era and Darwin family milieu seemed
very close.
Then, by dint of our driver’s Bond-style expert driving down lanes and across fords
not designed for large coaches, we arrived at Eynsford and Lullingstone Roman Villa.
To the accompaniment of the rain’s drumbeat upon the ‘tin roof’ we fed our material
appetites before moving on to more cerebral matters.
The villa’s footings and cellar are unusually well preserved, courtesy of preservative
soil-creep from the hill above, and a modest number of display cases around show
off some of the more spectacular finds (or copies thereof: the originals having been
whisked away to the British Museum). Of particular interest was the cellar and its
River Nymph shrine, accidentally (unless you choose to attribute more interesting
causation) revealed by that very same river’s flooding in the 1950’s. This all too rare
evidence of villa life spirituality was in turn succeeded by apparent ancestor
veneration, in the shape of two fine busts complete with offering cups, only to be
succeeded in turn by a Christian chapel, its walls decorated with painted figures
(perhaps the villa-owning family themselves) depicted in attitudes of prayer. This last
feature was reconstructed over a prolonged period by one dedicated archaeologist
from tiny fragments of fallen wall plaster deemed to be beyond recovery by his
colleagues. It is to him and his indomitable, painstaking enthusiasm that we now owe
what is probably the best (and certainly most evocative) evidence for Christian
worship in Roman Britain. Such achievements show British archaeology at its very
finest.
The point was also made that there existed a link, however tenuous, between the
two sites we had visited, for all that they were separated by a gulf in time and
culture. Both evoked a keen sense of the individuals who had once lived there,
and more specifically the families who’d dwelt within. At Lullingstone, a not too
far-fetched interpretation of the evidence suggests an Iron Age lineage descending
from their hilltop settlement to build a more Roman style abode. Their lifestyle and
beliefs then travelled in accord with the fortunes of Britannia before ending, c420 in
a disastrous fire, at the same time as that Province. Down House’s evocation of
the Darwin family has already been mentioned. From Roman Britain to Victoria’s
Britain, awareness of the continuity of family proved to be the unintended theme of the day.

Employing quintessential British stiff-upper lip, our 50 strong family of Surrey archaeologists refused to allow foul weather to detract from our day and a good time was, I trust, had by all.

PUBLICATIONS

“The Neolithic flint mines of England”
by Martyn Barber, David Field and Peter Topping

This is the first comprehensive national appraisal of reported (demonstrated by excavation, or claimed) flint-mine sites throughout England. It reports the result of field survey, aerial photography, and the examination of a widely scattered and often obscure published literature, as well as unpublished archaeological findings. Of 64 sites, 50 were visited.

The body of the text reviews previous research; the use, nature, and location of raw material; obtaining raw material; and the role of flint mines in Neolithic society. There are excellent photographic illustrations, both underground and at the surface; illustrations of worked flint; site surface and mine gallery plans and sections; and aerial photographs.

It is emphasised that neither the presence of struck flakes, nor of antlers, is in itself conclusive evidence for mining. Gunflint mines are considered to be sufficiently distinct from flint mines, and relatively well documented, for there to be no confusion. On the other hand, a number of underground workings have been re-interpreted as later chalk mines rather than ancient flint mines.

There are interesting discussions of two problematic issues - the restricted distribution of flint mining in three areas (Wessex, the South Downs, and Breckland) within a much wider distribution of chalk containing flint of apparently the same quality; and the absence of evidence (other than at a Scottish site outside the scope of this volume) for systematic working for flint from gravels, boulder clays, or clay-with-flint deposits. A further discussion looks at flint mines in relation to topography and landscape: there is some evidence that in some cases sites with the right local topography were preferred for mining purposes to others nearby where better flint might have been obtained.

A site gazetteer reports 10 sites accepted as undoubted flint mines, 10 additional possible flint-mining sites for which insufficient evidence in favour of or against mining has been reported, and 44 sites for which ‘claims of Neolithic flint-mining is almost certainly incorrect’. It is stressed, however, that excavation at sites in the second or third categories is necessary to settle the question of mining and or dating definitively.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accepted flint mines</th>
<th>Possible flint mines</th>
<th>Rejected as flint mines in Surrey and neighbouring counties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blackpatch, West Sussex</td>
<td>Brading Down, Isle of Wight</td>
<td>Ashtead, Surrey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Hill, West Sussex</td>
<td>Buckenham Toft, Norfolk</td>
<td>Baycombe Wood, West Sussex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cissbury, West Sussex</td>
<td>High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire</td>
<td>Bow Hill, West Sussex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durrington, Wiltshire</td>
<td>Lynford, Norfolk</td>
<td>Chanctonbury Hill, West Sussex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easton Down, Wiltshire</td>
<td>Markshall, Norfolk</td>
<td>Clanfield, Hampshire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grimes Graves, Norfolk</td>
<td>Nore Down, West Sussex</td>
<td>Compton Down, West Sussex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrow Hill, West Sussex</td>
<td>Norwich, Norfolk</td>
<td>Crayford, Kent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Down, West Sussex</td>
<td>Slonk Hill, West Sussex</td>
<td>East Horsley, Surrey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin’s Clump, Hampshire</td>
<td>Tolmere Pond, West Sussex</td>
<td>Fairmile Bottom, West Sussex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stoke Down, West Sussex</td>
<td>Whittingham, Norfolk</td>
<td>Fareham, Hampshire</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Goodwood, West Sussex</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
For each claimed mining site, the following information is given, as appropriate: National Grid Reference (six figures) (NGR); National Monuments Record number (NMR); Excavations - summary of known excavations; Main published sources and located unpublished material (cross-referenced to references list); Comments summarising reasons for placing sites in the second or third lists.

An appendix reviews reported radiocarbon dates from flint mines, including some new ones resulting from the research for this volume. The apparent late date of Grime’s Graves relative to other accepted flint mines is highlighted, and the point is made earlier in the volume that some C¹⁴ dates for other sites were made some years ago, and there is room for doubts concerning their accuracy.

The list of references to published works extends to eight pages, and there is a five-page index. There are two-page summaries in English, French and German.

Paul W Sowan


Members should note that Surrey, alas, has lost all of its suggested flint mines. Has anyone any indignant comments?

‘Churt: A Medieval Landscape’
by P D Brooks (66pp, including maps and colour photographs, A4 format).

A limited edition of this work by a well-known local historian, has just been produced and a copy has been deposited in the Society’s Library. The book covers the history and development of the landscape of Churt, south of Farnham, and is of particular interest for its description of medieval farming in the area, based largely on the author’s work on the Winchester Pipe Rolls. It is a valuable addition to the list of local history books in the county and should be of wide interest. A few copies may be available for sale at £12 and anyone interested should contact David Graham via the Society’s office at Castle Arch.

“The Tile and Brickmakers of Streatham”
by Graham Gower

London clay - heavy, sticky and difficult to dig - is the curse of the Streatham gardener, but this has not always been the case. In days gone by the dense clay soil on which Streatham stands was a valuable raw material which fed a large and important local industry. Local historian Graham Gower tells the fascinating story of this long forgotten enterprise which once flourished throughout the neighbourhood.

His detailed research has revealed that for at least 500 years a number of tile and
brick makers were based in Streatham. Ancient manorial records show that John and Geoffrey "Tiler" were active in the later half of the 1300s. In 1437 tiles from Streatham were used by Henry VI in the roofing of Sheen Palace, and in 1450 John Clerk, "a tile maker of Streatham", was pardoned for his part in Jack Cade's rebellion.

Local production probably reached its peak in Tudor times when in 1539 two manufacturers supplied 84,000 tiles to King Henry VIII for use in the building of his palace at Nonsuch. Almost a third of the tiles used in the construction of the King's new residence came from Streatham. The Tile House, which was situated between St Leonard's Church and the White Lion public house (now the Hobgoblin), manufactured 50,000 tiles for the King. William Bateman at Tile Kiln Farm, which stood roughly at the junction of Woodfield Avenue and Mount Ephraim Lane, produced 34,000 tiles for the King. For their labours, Henry VIII paid the Streatham tilemakers 5s (25p) for every thousand tiles they delivered.

In 1596-9 the Streatham kilns were once again hard at work supplying bricks to Archbishop John Whitgift for use in the building of his almshouses in nearby Croydon. Over the centuries production also occurred at four other sites - Hyde Farm, centred on Radbourne and Telferscoot Roads; Grey's Farm in the area of Hambro and Ferrers Roads; Knight's Hill and the "Tylehoste" at nearby Norbury.

By the 18th century the local industry was in decline, but isolated brick making continued in to the early years of this century with small kilns providing bricks for use in local house building.

John Brown

*The Tile and Brickmakers of Streatham* costs £3.30 including postage and packing and is available from Local History Publications, 316 Green Lane, Streatham SW16 3 AS.

*From the March 2000 Newsletter (81) of the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society, with thanks.*

"Farnham Past"

This book by a well-known author and local historian provides a very readable account of the Farnham area from prehistoric times to the present day. The volume is very well illustrated with 148 photographs and line drawings, many from private collections which have not previously been published. The emphasis on the use of photographs inevitably means that the book is weighted towards the recent past. Indeed its main interest lies in the account it provides of the personalities associated with the town - from William Cobbett to Thackeray and Alfred Lord Tennyson, not to mention many well-known sporting celebrities.

A number of factual errors have crept in, eg the Neolithic period lasted rather longer than 300 years, and the 'Roman' tile kiln illustrated in plate 5 is medieval. This is still, however, an entertaining book which contains much information about local people and places and the many and varied industries to which the town owed its economic prosperity.

"The History of Witley, Milford and Surrounding Area" - a Correction

My apologies for having transposed the authorship of the above with that of *Witley and Milford in Living Memory* (Bulletin 338, 16). It is Elizabeth Forster who wrote the former, and Valerie Box penned the latter. I hope both of you can forgive me, especially as my mistake gains you another wee advert. Both are available for only £5.50 each, from Witley Parish Council, Council Office, Milford Village Hall, Portsmouth Road, Milford, Godalming, Surrey GU8 5DS.
EXHIBITIONS

Oatlands Palace
_Elmbridge Museum, Church Street, Weybridge_
ends 24th June 2000

Oatlands Palace was built by Henry VIII in 1537. For over 100 years the magnificent building was used by successive kings and queens as a hunting lodge, and as a place from which to conduct affairs of state. Henry VIII even chose it as the site for his marriage to Catherine Howard in 1540. Today almost nothing exists on the site of the palace between Weybridge and Oatlands. This exhibition, however, tells the fascinating story of this little-known royal residence and displays many objects excavated from the site.

Guildford 2000
_Salters, Castle Street, Guildford_
8th - 22nd July 11 am - 4 pm

The story of Guildford from Roman to modern times.
Free admission.

EVENTS

Guildford 2000
_Castle Cliffe Gardens_
1st July 11 am - 4.30 pm

A family afternoon with costumed interpreters telling the history of Guildford from Roman times to the present day (see Exhibitions).
Free admission.

SPECIAL LECTURE

The Scope of Local History and the Potential of the Hearth Tax Returns
_The Stationers' Hall, London at 1.30 pm on Saturday 3 June 2000_

The 2000 Phillimore Lecture by Professor Margaret Spufford FBA of Roehampton Institute London (University of Surrey). The author of the much-acclaimed _Contrasting Communities_ will describe how her personal interests expanded from purely economic history to issues such as literacy and religious belief. She will also address a problem faced by all local historians: how far were our localities 'typical', 'unusual' or even 'unique'? One solution is to use sources which enable us to make useful comparisons across parish boundaries. To this end Professor Spufford is currently directing a major project at Roehampton; the best surviving Hearth Tax returns from the reign of Charles II are being transcribed, analysed and mapped to show how counties varied in population, social composition and wealth.

COURSES

BUILDING CONSERVATION AND THE USE OF TRADITIONAL MATERIALS AND PROCESSES
_Weald and Downland Open Air Museum_

Workshops and seminars for surveyors, craft workers and anyone else interested in building conservation. Day courses cost between £60 and £80, some weekend
courses cost £200, and a week-long course in May making a timber-framed construction will cost £350. Details of later courses will appear in subsequent Bulletins.

15th June  **Lime Mortars for brickwork. Gerard Lynch**
Lectures and practical demonstrations on the traditional preparation and uses of lime mortars and the modern misconceptions about them. £80

11th-13th July  **Advanced gauged brickwork. Gerard Lynch**
A theoretical and practical course designed for those with some experience of gauged brickwork. Hands-on work will include repair work on a gauged arch. £200

Enquiries about these, and other courses yet to be announced, to Diana Rowsell, Training Co-ordinator in the Museum Office, Singleton, Chichester, West Sussex on 01234 811363.

**LECTURE MEETINGS**

**June 19th**
"Palaces, Potteries and Pigs: Tales from the Southwark Waterfront" by Dick Bluer to the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society in the Small Hall of the United Reformed Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon, at 7.45 pm.

**June 28th**
"London Pride - the Work of the London Metropolitan Archives" by Mick Scott to the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society in the Small Hall of the United Reformed Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon, at 7.45 pm.

**June 29th**
"The Royal Castle and Palace at Guildford" by Rob Poulton to the Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society in the Main Hall of the Literary Institute, Egham High Street, at 8.00 pm.

**June 30th**
"Early Advertising in Southfields" by Neil Robson to the Wandsworth Historical Society, following their AGM at the Friends Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street at 8.00 pm.

**July 12th**
"London: from Walled City to World Metropolis" by Craig Spence to the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society in the Small Hall of the United Reformed Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon, at 7.45 pm.

**July 27th**
"Burial Grounds of London" by Leslie Grout to the Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society in the Main Hall of the Literary Institute, Egham High Street, at 8.00 pm.

**July 28th**
"Thames Living History" by Mike Webber to the Wandsworth Historical Society, following their AGM at the Friends Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street at 8.00 pm.

**Next Issue**: Copy required by 23rd June for the July issue.

**Editor**: Phil Jones, 5, Hampton Road, Newbury, Berks RG14 6DB.Tel/Fax: 01635 581182.