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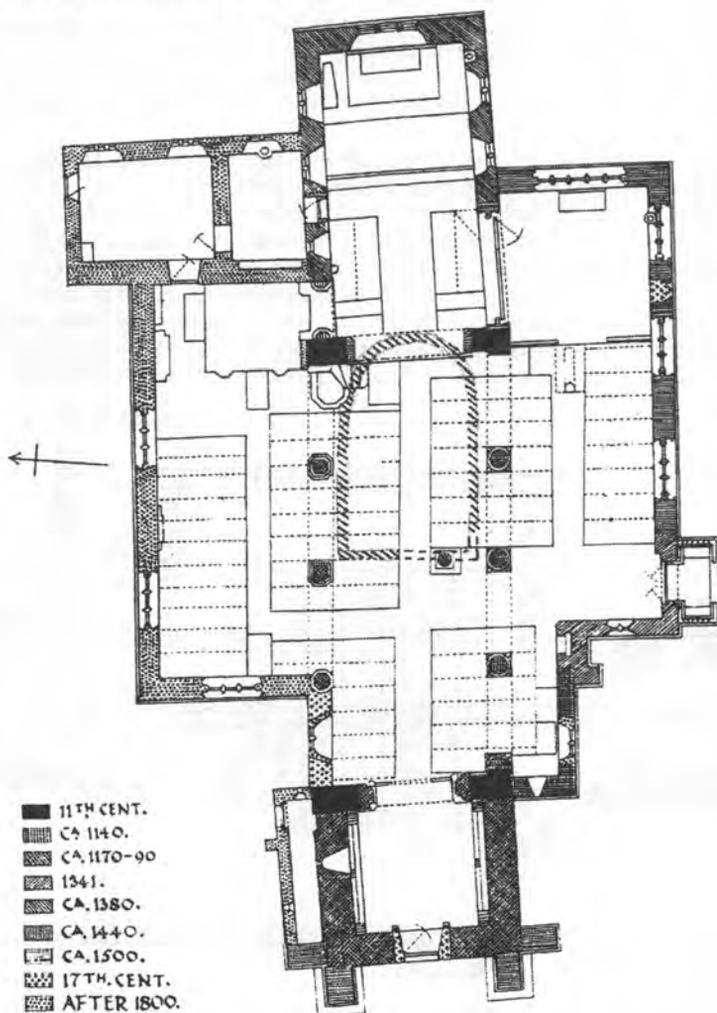
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# Bulletin 351

August 2001

## GREAT BOOKHAM CHURCH

Structure identified in dowsing survey.



# A Saxon Church Revealed? Surveys Inside St Nicolas Parish Church, Great Bookham

## The Geophysical Survey

W A McCann

### Introduction

A dowsing survey by Stephen Fortescue appeared to indicate the position of an earlier Saxon church on this site (see frontispiece). At his instigation, a ground penetrating radar survey (GPR) was commissioned to determine whether this geophysical technique could verify the findings. The survey was concerned solely with the area of the nave and chancel. The floor of flagstones presented no great obstacle to the data collection process, but the pews are fixed and the survey lines were constrained to the areas between each pair of pews and the nave itself.

### Results

Overall, the data from a total of 16 survey lines or transects were excellent (Figs 2 and 3). The GPR data identified a series of high reflections on Lines 7 to 13 at positions which approximately coincide with most of the features identified by the dowsing survey and shown in Fig 1 which should be compared with Fig 3. It is telling that there are no similar reflections on Line 14. The features giving rise to the high reflections lie between apparent depths of 0.5 and 1.0m beneath the present floor level.

The exception to the correspondence between the two sets of data was the area of the chancel (Lines 1 to 4) where no high reflections were obtained in the GPR survey and the survey cannot, therefore, determine the presence of an apse in this area. Data from Line 5 is also somewhat difficult to interpret: there appears to be a lot of "noise" and this may indicate that this area has been severely disturbed in the past. The location of the west wall of the earlier structure is also somewhat ambiguous in the GPR survey. There is some indication from Line 13 that there is a feature similar to that indicated in the dowsing data in Fig 1 and this is indicated by an open rectangle in Fig 3. The data in Lines 15 and 16 are dominated by the reflections from

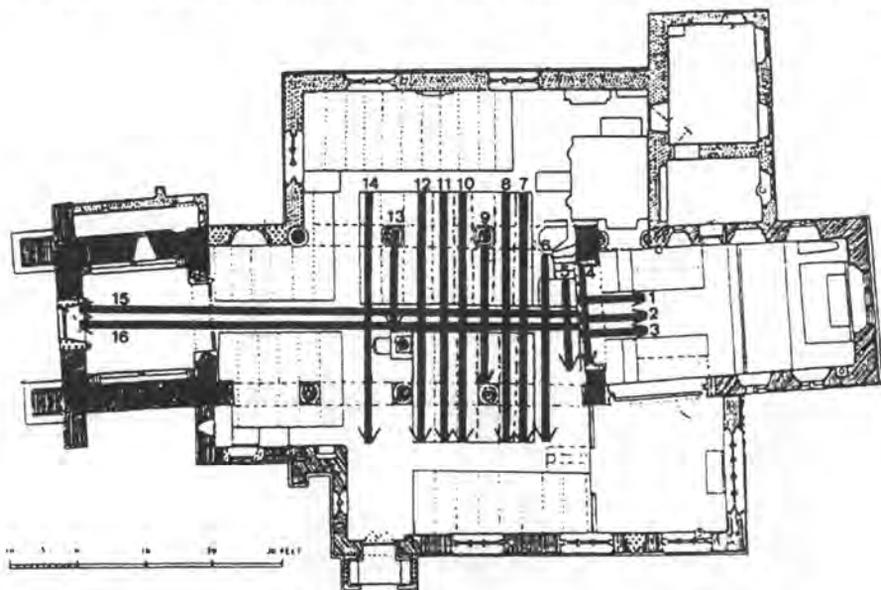


Fig 2 Great Bookham Church: Locations of the GPR Survey Lines.

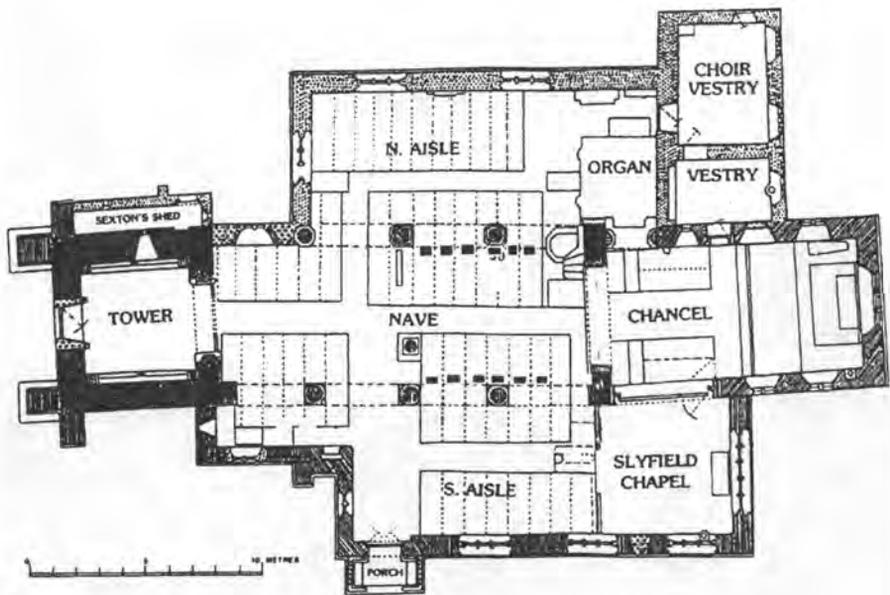


Fig 3 Great Bookham Church: Anomalies identified by GPR Survey.

the service duct which runs the length of the nave and there is, therefore, no secure evidence for an earlier west wall beneath the central aisle.

### Discussion

The GPR survey has undoubtedly identified high reflections in those areas which coincide with the north and south walls of the feature identified by the dowsing survey. These lie just off the line of the arcades of the present structure but are close enough to suggest that they may be associated with the foundations of these structures. Geophysical data cannot, of course, determine the date of these features and it is not within the competence of this report to suggest that these reflections might be associated with a structure which is of a special period. Such an interpretation, if any is possible, is best left to experts on the archaeology of the building.

### The Dowsing Survey

*Stephen Fortescue*

Dr J H Harvey FSA, FRSL, FSG postulated that Great Bookham High Street was a well thought planning scheme of the Saxons, there being regular plots either side of the High Street and a site reserved at the northern end for a place of worship. A charter granted 20 dwellings in Bookham and Effingham to Chertsey Abbey – a Benedictine House founded in 666. Chertsey appears to have undertaken much building work between AD 1000 and 1100, and it is assumed that the first church of stone built soon after the Norman Conquest is probably the existing nave. Harvey also believed that there may be foundations of a Saxon church within the existing church.

Several years ago I carried out a dowsing survey of the nave which revealed what I believe to be Saxon foundations about 26' long and 16' wide, with an apse at the east end (see frontispiece Fig 1).

Following the death of Dr A J Clark in 1994, all his archaeological papers, including my correspondence with him, was passed to MoLAS, who offered to carry out a survey by Ground Penetrating Radar. This was done in 1999. Overall the data from the survey gave significant results.



*Great Bookham Church, Surrey. S.W.*

High reflections on lines 7 to 12 and on the northern half of line 13 approximately coincide with the dowsing survey findings. There were no similar reflections on line 14 indicating that there were no further structures on this line. No high reflections were received on lines 1 to 4, but there are indications in the geophysical data that this area had been substantially disturbed so there was no data to confirm the presence of an apse. Likewise, the southern half of line 13 was in a disturbed area. Lines 15 and 16 gave no responses as the presence of a central duct caused too much disruption.

To sum up the results of the survey, it agreed with those of the dowsing findings. My thoughts are that there was a building, that the Norman church was built around the Saxon church and that the present day chancel steps roughly coincide with the west side of the apse.

Neither survey, of course, determines the date of the findings, nor prove their existence – this, perhaps, will only be ascertained by excavation.

### **Medieval Morden**

*Peter Hopkins*

When I began researching the early history of Morden as part of the Surrey Archaeological Society Millennium Project (now the Surrey Villages Project), it soon became clear that there was a store of untapped information from the medieval period in the Muniment Room at Westminster Abbey. Morden, whose only claim to fame is as the last stop on the Northern Line (though the station actually lies just outside the parish boundary!), belonged to Westminster Abbey from Saxon times. The manor also included two hides in Ewell, the so-called *Mordenfee*.

Over 100 account rolls survive from the period 1280-1503; seven court rolls from 1296-1300 and 1327-8; an extent or valuation from 1312; a custumal from the 1220s; and a wide range of individual documents relating to church, pensions, taxes, rights of way, communal grazing, exchanges of land, leases, and sheriffs' writs concerning local misdemeanours, trespasses and assaults. The account rolls had been indexed, and many of the individual documents had been calendared. However, for a few of the documents, two copies have survived, and a comparison of two abstracts revealed that each omitted important local detail. It was obvious that the original documents would need to be consulted. However, I soon realised that I needed expert help, and turned to Surrey Archaeological Society. I am very grateful for all the help I have received from Audrey Monk and Maureen Roberts especially. So far the custumal and the extent have been completed, and a start has been made on the manorial rolls.

The Abbey was happy to have these account rolls and court rolls microfilmed, as they formed a coherent unit, but were not willing to microfilm the various individual documents or parts of bound volumes such as the cartulary known as the Westminster Domesday. They suggested we employ a professional researcher to transcribe and translate these, which we did. He has completed the bulk of these documents, though some lease books are unavailable at present because they are undergoing conservation, and some additional documents have since come to light. The initial transcription and translation has taken some 200 hours, and Surrey Archaeological Society has provided substantial assistance with a grant of £700 towards this cost, for which I am again very grateful. I am now endeavouring to cross-check the transcriptions against the original documents at Westminster Abbey, in an attempt to minimise errors. Much of the phraseology has proved unfamiliar to our researcher, who fears his translations may be too literal. If any readers would be willing to share their expertise by reading some of his transcripts and translations, we would be very grateful. Draft copies of these transcripts and translations have been printed in an inter-linear format to facilitate the process.

Ultimately we plan to lodge a full set of facsimiles/transcripts and translations, as a series of slim booklets, with Surrey Archaeological Society, Westminster Abbey Monument Room, Surrey History Centre, Merton Local Studies Centre and Merton Historical Society. Hopefully, we will also have a few copies of individual sections for sale, should anyone ever want to buy a copy! However, this is very much in the future. Each new document translated throws new light on work thought to have been completed, so, to ensure consistency, it seems wise not to distribute any final editions until everything has been finished.

In the meantime I am extending my reading to try to understand what the documents are telling me, much of which remains a mystery. If I may, I would like to use this *Bulletin* from time to time to air some of the more baffling questions. For instance, how did the local reeve, one of the customary tenants of the manor, manage to keep an ongoing record of every item produced, purchased, sold or used – every plank, nail, bushel of corn, chicken etc – so that the annual account rolls could be produced and audited, to be read again after so many centuries?

*If you have answers to Peter's questions contact him direct – Tel: 020 8543 8471 – or write in to the Bulletin.*

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## **COUNCIL NEWS**

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### **The Valletta Convention**

It is now common knowledge to all archaeologists – professional and amateur – that the previous government signed up to the 1992 European Valletta Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage last September, a step which it had held back from taking for some years.

Much of the Convention is consistent with UK practices and no-one can quarrel with its prime aim of establishing principles for the care of archaeological sites and artefacts, and many of its provisions are desirable.

However, Article 3 raises important and possible fundamental questions about the future practise of archaeology and raises serious concerns not only for County Archaeological Societies such as ours, but for all amateur groups interested in undertaking fieldwork of any kind, since implicit in the regulations is some form of licensing.

In his address to the Society's Conference at Surrey University in June, David Miles, Chief Archaeologist for English Heritage, sought to allay fears and indicated that English Heritage strongly supported amateur and volunteer involvement in archaeology, and recognised the invaluable contribution societies make in enriching knowledge of the historic environment at all levels.

In further discussion English Heritage, Council for British Archaeology and the Institute of Field Archaeologists have all confirmed their strong support for the amateur role in archaeology but, at the time of writing, no clear proposals for ensuring this in its present form, and without the need for some form of control, have been announced.

The Society has made a strong commitment to community archaeology, involving both amateur archaeologists and volunteers, and will continue to promote close co-operation between professionals and amateurs. The independence, enthusiasm and commitment of the amateur should not be lightly dismissed and the Society will monitor any proposals to introduce regulations which would affect activities of the Society.

The full text of the Convention may be seen on the CBA's website, <http://www.britarch.ac.uk>

### **Article 3 of the Valletta Convention**

The European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage first met in 1959, but it was updated at Valletta in 1992. For long the British Government failed to sign it, and it was only in March 2001 that it suddenly did so. The full list of current signatories is: Austria, Belgium, Britain, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the USSR, the Vatican and Yugoslavia.

Article 3 states:

'To preserve the archaeological heritage and guarantee the scientific significance of archaeological research work, each party undertakes to apply procedures for the authorisation and supervision of excavation and other archaeological activities in such a way as:

- a) to prevent any illicit excavation or removal of elements of the archaeological heritage;
- b) to ensure that archaeological excavations and prospecting are undertaken in a scientific manner and provided that:
- c) non-destructive methods of investigation are applied wherever possible; and
- d) the elements of the archaeological heritage are not uncovered or left exposed during or after excavation without provision being made for their proper preservation, conservation and management;
- e) to ensure that excavations and other potentially destructive techniques are carried out only by qualified, specially authorised persons;
- f) to subject to specific prior authorisation, whenever foreseen by the domestic law of the state, the use of metal-detectors and any other detection equipment or process for archaeological investigation.'

Associated explanatory notes spell out the implications for independent archaeology: 'Article 3 ... requires states party to the revised Convention to establish a system regulating the conduct of archaeological activities, whether on public or private land. World-wide it is common for states to require a person intending to engage in such activities to obtain a permit ... [it] requires destructive techniques to be carried out only by specially authorised persons. This does not mean to say that members of the general public cannot be engaged on excavations. It means they must be under the control of a qualified person who is responsible for the excavation.'

*First published in Current Archaeology, no 174, Volume XV No. 6, June 2001, with many thanks to Andrew Selkirk.*

## **A Postscript**

*The following parliamentary question and answer is also of interest:*

**Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on the implications of article 3 of the Treaty of Valletta for British archaeology, following the UK becoming a signatory to the treaty.

**Dr Howells** [holding answer 3 July 2001]: It is for each government to apply the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (known as the Valletta Convention) in ways that fit in with national practice and legislation. In broad terms, current measures in place in the UK already meet the Convention's requirements. The Government do not believe that additional legislation, requiring a licensing system, is necessary to fulfil article 3. Much archaeological work is already controlled through existing mechanisms. There may be scope for developing a voluntary code of conduct for those who wish to undertake archaeological work outside the existing systems of control.

*Hansard, Written Answers to Questions, 13th July, Column: 696W.*

## **ARCHAEOLOGY OF SURREY 2001: CONFERENCE EVALUATION**

*By the time members read this Bulletin, Council will have discussed the results of the evaluation forms completed by delegates. Eighty-seven were returned, and the results are as follows:*

### **1 How did you hear about the Conference?**

Through SyAS: 62 (71%)

Other means: 25 (29%) (Flyers: 8; Other Societies: 6; Local Museums: 3)

### **2 Are you a member of SyAS?**

Yes: 61 (70%)

Affiliate: 2

No: 24 (27%)

### **3 Membership of other Societies?**

Sussex Archaeological Society: 15

Kingston Upon Thames Archaeological Society: 6

Unisearch: 4

Council for British Archaeology: 4

Surrey Heath Museum: 4

Nonsuch Antiquarian Society: 3

Spelthorne Archaeological Field Group : 2

Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society: 2

Royal Archaeological Institute: 2

### **4 Were your expectations met/exceeded/disappointed?**

Met: 61 (70%)

Exceeded: 22 (25%)

Disappointed: 1

Other: 2

- 5 What lectures did you find most interesting?**  
 '... *creberrima aedificia* ...' (Peter Reynolds)  
 'Impact of Royal Landholdings' (Simon Thurley)  
 'The Archaeology of Industrialisation' (Marilyn Palmer)  
 'The Surrey Defences Survey' (Chris Shepheard)  
 'Filling the empty spaces' (Judie English)
- 6 Was enough time allowed for questions/discussion?**  
 Yes: 74 (86%)  
 Just: 3  
 No: 8 (9%)
- 7 What subjects were you surprised/disappointed not to see on the programme?**  
 Happy with the programme: 17  
 No answer: 37  
 Transport/infrastructure: 5  
 Roman: 4  
 Environmental: 4  
 Recent projects: 3  
 Prehistoric: 2  
 Research Agenda: 2  
 Scientific: 2  
 Saxon/Medieval: 1
- 8 Were the Conference arrangements satisfactory? If not, why not?**  
 Satisfactory: 60 (69%)  
 Poor slides/out of focus: 15  
 Hall lighting: 13  
 Cost/quality of lunch: 6  
 Handouts/maps in pack: 3  
 Better signage: 3  
 Lunch too short: 2  
 Roving microphone: 2  
 Better use of stewards: 2  
 Use of scripts by speakers: 2
- 9 Was the programme sufficiently well-balanced?**  
 Yes: 75 (86%)  
 No: 5  
 Not enough Surrey: 2  
 Too many lectures: 1
- 10 What would you consider your interests to be?**  
 Prehistoric: 34  
 Romano-British: 35  
 Saxon: 47  
 Medieval: 51  
 Post-medieval: 27  
 Industrial: 33  
 Landscape: 41  
 Other: Environmental 2  
       Local history 2  
       Military 1  
       Vernacular architecture 1  
       Architecture 1  
       16th-17th century 1  
       Gender related 1  
       Social history 1

## **CBA/SCOLA**

Following the deliberations referred to in *Bulletin 344*, a further meeting was to consider draft proposals submitted by the CBA Secretariat outlining the aims and remit of a new CBA London Group.

The meeting was chaired by Professor Martin Millett, currently Chairman of SCOLA, and attended by representatives of the two regional CBA groups covering London, SCOLA, and the organisations which sponsored the formation of SCOLA, ie LAMAS, SyAS and the Society of Antiquaries, and CBA.

An analysis of the responses to a consultation paper prepared by CBA indicated that the majority believed a single voice to represent the interests of London archaeology was desirable, but many felt that the strengths of SCOLA and links already established should be built upon, rather than replaced, and real concern was expressed about past failures.

It was acknowledged during discussion that the CBA Groups were less effective as political lobbyists, which was a strength of SCOLA. CBA SE and CBA Mid-Anglia felt that their membership and reputation had been hard won and loss of membership to a new CBA London Group had the potential to weaken and diminish the effectiveness of all three.

George Lambrick, Executive Director of CBA stressed that the proposals submitted for the formation of a CBA London Group were intended only as a basis for consideration and explored a range of ideas and options which might prove helpful. The need to increase membership of CBA nationally was obvious and CBA hoped to appoint a Development Officer to address the problem, and who would have an essential role to play in London if the proposals were adopted.

After considerable discussion, it was felt that the title CBA London would not be either conducive to attracting the respect of those who it was intended to influence, or in attracting support from individual members or organisations, and it was agreed that any new body should be called the Council for London Archaeology.

It was therefore agreed to build on the strengths of the two CBA Groups and SCOLA, and a small working party was set up to explore ways of establishing an umbrella body with the support of CBA, to be called Council for London Archaeology, respecting existing structures, but leading towards a revitalised body to meet the new demands facing London.

## **New Members**

As always, we are delighted to welcome the following new members to the Society:

Anderson, Miss L S, Woodwards, Knightsbridge Road, Camberley, GU15 3TS

Barlow, Mr G W, 10 Mead Court, Holbrook Meadow, Egham, TW20 8XF

Bateman, Mr M, Cherry Trees, Wanborough, Guildford, GU3 2JR

Cockrell, Mrs M G, 23 Washington Road, Worcester Park, KT4 8JG

Craig, Dr J, Windy Ridge, Primrose Ridge, Godalming, GU7 2ND

Cryer, Drs N and P, Lansdowne, Fishers Hill, Hook Heath Road, Woking, GU22 0QF

Gadd, Miss V, 15 Court Road, Caterham, CR3 5RG

Grant, Mr A J, 251 West Barnes Lane, Motspur Park, New Malden, KT3 6JD

Hall, Mrs A, 24 Orchard Close, Normandy, Guildford, GU3 2EU

Kelly-Tuncay, Fay, Banktop Cottage, Weston Yard, Albury, Guildford, GU5 9AF

Lea, Mrs A, Sheiling, 41 Summersbury Drive, Shalford, GU4 8JG

Marshall, Mr H R, Roughlands Farm, Goudhurst Road, Marden, Kent, TN12 9NH

Monks, Mr J, 141 Stanley Park Road, Carshalton, SM5 3JJ

Parry-Jones, Mr H, 1 Gainsborough Road, Epsom, KT19 9DG

Paszczuk, Mr S, 44 Harrow Road, Bedfont, Middx. TW14 8RT

Silburn, Mr R J, 10 Woodcote Hurst, Epsom, KT18 7DT

Weller, Mr D G, 18 Byne Road, Carshalton, SM5 2SH

Wiltshire, Miss K, Brinfold, Shere Road, West Horsley, Leatherhead, KT24 6EJ

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## COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY

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### **Forthcoming Surveys**

Two surveys of Areas of Special Historic Landscape Value (ASHLVs) will be held in the coming months. They will take place at:-

**Chobham Common**, under the direction of Chris Currie, launch date Sunday 30th September.

**Holmbury St Mary/Felday**, directed by Dr Nicola Bannister, launch date Sunday 14th October.

Further details will be available in the next issue of the *Bulletin*. Meanwhile, anyone interested in taking part should ring Castle Arch, leaving name and telephone number.

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## ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

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### **Symposium 2002**

Next year's symposium will be held at the Peace Memorial Hall, Ashted. The date for your diaries is Saturday 16th February.

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## SURREY INDUSTRIAL HISTORY GROUP

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### **Francis Haveron Commemoration Meeting**

**3 March 2001**

#### **"Aspects of Surrey's Industrial Past"**

In the first talk, Alan Crocker gave a résumé of Francis' involvement in SIHG right from its inception. In Spring 1975, Francis made up a display at Guildford Technical College, as it was then, which aroused the interest of Alan and the SyAS, who decided to hold a series of 10 lectures about Industrial Archaeology in the Spring of 1976. The cost to students was then £2, members of SyAS £1 and concessions 50p. Francis gave the first talk, on the scope of Industrial Archaeology in Surrey. The 26th series of lectures is to be held in 2002-2003. Francis organised the first nineteen.

An industrial archaeology committee was formed by the SyAS, out of which developed the Surrey Industrial History Group. Liaisons were developed between the committee and other committees, out of which SERIAC (South-East Region Industrial Archaeology Committee) grew. We organised the Association for Industrial Archaeology Conference in 1990, and SERIAC this year.

*(Francis was a very active Secretary of SIHG for a considerable number of years, until replaced by Derek and Rowena Taylor, the job being so arduous that he was replaced by two people! – David Evans, Editor of the SIHG Newsletter).*

In 1983, SIHG decided that there should be an award to outstanding conservation achievements the form of a plaque. We are to present the 19th plaque at this coming AGM, and a plea is being despatched to all members for suggestions as to the recipient.

Francis organised many visits and parties for the members, with quizzes and other entertainment provided by him and his children, who were adept in the art of magic. He became less active in the last 6-7 years due to his failing health, but if he were Secretary now, he would be much amused by the Busbridge Hall regulations, particularly those about the inflation of Bouncy Castles which can only be electrically inflated, and the strict everybody out at 11.45 pm. *(At Godalming Library the power and lighting were deliberately timed to go out at 10.30 pm, and one needs torches after that time to clear up! – David Evans).*

Francis was in the midst of writing a book about motoring in Surrey, and all his

material has been passed to SIHG for completion. He also wrote the SIHG Industrial Archaeology guides to Waverley and Guildford, the former now being prepared for its second edition. Especially for Godalming, where electric street lighting had reached its centenary, he wrote an illuminating book called "The Brilliant Ray". Francis was a spirited and prolific supporter of Industrial Archaeology and will be sadly missed.

Our next speaker was Gordon Knowles, past chairman of SIHG, who is in the process of preparing a book which Francis started to write on Motoring in Surrey. He mentioned the amount of data gathered for this book, remembering such notables as Knight of Farnham, who was the first person to be convicted of a motoring offence in Surrey, and the Dennis Brothers, who manufactured the first motor cars in the county. The first motor-racing circuit, created by Locke-King, was built in record time at Brooklands, and many specialist motor vehicle building firms were founded around the county. All in all, there is a wealth of data collected by Francis to unravel.

The last talk was given by Chris Shephard, who also stressed the data gathering side of Francis' character, in the pictures gathered for such publications as the first Waverley Guide and the Guildford Guide, both written by Francis. He also presented pictorial samples from all over Surrey which have been in use in the series of guides which Francis helped initiate.

The meeting was attended by not only SIHG members but other organisations in which Francis was prominent, and proved that his contribution to SIHG and other organisations over the years was massive and gratefully received. **David Evans**  
*First published in the May 2001 Newsletter (no 121) of the Surrey Industrial History Group, with many thanks to its editor.*

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## MISCELLANY

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### **Cranleigh Church Watching Brief**

**Judie English**

Recent drainage works at St. Nicholas' church, Cranleigh necessitated the digging of a number of trenches in the immediate vicinity of the building. A trench c30cm wide and between 25 and 40cm deep was excavated at distances varying between 1 and 3m from the north, south and east walls of the church. In addition, a trench similar in depth was excavated immediately against the nave wall. All the exposed sections showed disturbance and the few finds comprised 19th century and later building material (where pieces were in any way diagnostic) and three pieces of 19th/ early 20th century pottery. Where the trench abutted the standing building against the south wall of the chancel no signs of any earlier phases were exposed.

The earliest architectural evidence from the standing building is thought to date from c1170 but it has been suggested that this church is of a similar, simple plan to others built as a response to the needs of an increasing Wealden population and may be a little earlier than that date (Blair 1991). The church underwent extensive restoration in the mid-19th century after a period of near dereliction, and again after being damaged by a flying bomb during WW2; the building debris and disturbance noted probably date from these episodes.

### **Some Useful Web Sites**

**Jeff Cousins**

**<http://uk2.multimap.com>**

Put in a post-code and you get a street map, you can then click for an aerial photo, quite detailed too, could look for crop-marks.

**<http://www.old-maps.co.uk>**

Give a place name and it will show a detailed (1:10560) Victoria Ordnance Survey map – that for Ewell is 1871.

*From the June 2001 Newsletter no 3 of the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society, with many thanks. Anybody got any more?*

As far as we were concerned, it all started when I saw, in the Egham & Staines News of 25th January 2001, a report entitled *History under The Hammer*, with a sub-heading, *Documents show Bridge was the Dome of its Day*. The reporter then goes on to compare the failure of the Dome to the failures of the early 19th century Staines Bridges. The documents, however, instead of being about Staines Bridges, were about The Old Bridge Cottage, which at one time was the toll house for the bridge. The article went on to say that the documents were to be auctioned by Dominic Winter on 31st January, at Swindon. Ralph Parsons, the Hon Curator at Spelthorne Museum, had also been informed about the sale. He said that he would like to have the documents, but could not afford the suggested price of £300-500.

As the only way to decide whether they were worth buying for the Museum was to go and see them, Alice and I drove down to Swindon on 30th January. After driving round Swindon for half an hour, trying to find a car park that was not full or short-term, we found the Auction Rooms in a former school. The documents were in a portmanteau-size brief case and proved to be more than interesting, as they were all the deeds of The Old Bridge Cottage from 1739 to 1932. They also showed that the cottage has always been in Surrey and not in Middlesex. As soon as we returned, I asked our Chairman how much we could go to. £500 was agreed, so the next day I drove to Swindon hoping to get these documents. However, in the event, after waiting patiently for the previous 250 lots to be sold, I was horrified when the auctioneer started the bidding at £500. Then two telephone bidders started bidding against each other until one fell out at about £900! Being thoroughly disappointed, I went straight home.

Next day, I thought there would be nothing to lose if I wrote to the auctioneer asking him if he would ask the successful bidder if we could buy photocopies of the documents. Then, a few days later, to my great surprise, I had a phone call from Mr Nigel Rowe, who was not only the successful bidder, but also the owner of The Old Bridge House, inviting me to see the documents. Of course I accepted, and asked Jill Williams to come with me. So on a Monday morning in March we went to see Mr Rowe, after wondering how much he would want for copies of the documents. He duly produced the documents and offered to let us take them away to copy. However, as the largest documents were bound together, they could not be photocopied without the possibility of being damaged. Jill suggested that she could transcribe them. Mr Rowe asked how long that would take, whereupon Jill immediately said about a month. Mr Rowe agreed to this, so we took the documents away without even being asked to sign a receipt.

Jill made a supreme effort in transcribing them in much less than a month. (I think it would have taken me a month of Sundays). So, on another Monday morning in March, we returned the documents with a copy of Jill's work, to an astonished Mr Rowe. He will be happy to lend the remaining documents, (framed), when Jill has time to copy them. Further copies of Jill's work will be (a) archived and (b) left on open shelf access for researchers interested in this property, and those neighbouring. We also discovered that the previous owner of the cottage was the vendor of these documents. This reminded me of a sale notice for this property that I had seen by chance a few years ago, offering the building at a remarkably cheap price. The reason for this became apparent when Mr Rowe told us that the building was in such a bad state that he had had to completely refurbish it. Finally I would like to thank Jill for her sterling work in transcribing the documents in such a short time.

*First published in the May 2001 edition (no 369) of the Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society, with many thanks.*

## **Mickleham Downs Fieldwork**

Small scale excavations and geophysical survey are intended to take place on Mickleham Downs as part of a continuing research programme on the area. The primary aim will be to further investigate the morphology of the boundaries of a probable prehistoric field system and to extend the area of geophysical survey.

This work will be undertaken between September 22nd and 30th; anyone interested in taking part should please contact Judie English on 01483 276724 or [j.english@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:j.english@surrey.ac.uk)

## **ARCHAEOLOGY OF SURREY 2001: THE THOUGHTS OF AN INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGIST**

**Paul W. Sowan**

In 1987 the Society published *The Archaeology of Surrey to 1540*, an important and splendid review of what had been discovered about our county's palaeolithic to medieval archaeology by the 1980s. The recent conference, held at the University of Surrey on 2nd and 3rd June 2001, had as a primary aim the publication of a further such review, but with the welcome difference that there was to be no terminal date, thus allowing into consideration the archaeology of the 'industrial period' and of 20th century wars including the Cold War as they affected our county. Jonathan Cotton's report on the Conference appeared in a previous *Bulletin*. I have been asked for my own review, which is naturally from an industrial archaeologist's point of view.

It was good that the conference organisers extended invitations to speakers on the archaeology of industrialisation (Marilyn Palmer), on iron production in Surrey (Jeremy Hodgkinson), and on the Surrey Defences Survey (Chris Shephard.) The 1987 volume has all too little to say on the several important industries which flourished during the periods considered within it.

There was a clear understanding that industrial archaeology in this county is by no means limited to the 'industrial period' as recognised by Professor Palmer, and that Surrey has some undoubtedly nationally important industrial sites, some of which have been well researched and published (Wealden glass, the gunpowder and paper industries, and the pioneer Surrey Iron and Croydon Merstham and Godstone Iron Railways spring to mind.) And that there are other, equally important, such areas where research is currently in progress but not yet substantially published – Marilyn Palmer alluded to the importance of east Surrey's lime-burning and stone-quarrying industries, for example. It is the intention of the author of this note to make publication of his own researches in these areas a priority in his new 'retired' status!

Perhaps inevitably, the lectures were of variable quality as presentations, although doubtless all will be of inestimable value in print. Some lectures attempted grand overviews and interpretations, some flew kites, and some presented meticulous excavation and post-excavation work. The intention, in the completed published volume (2004 is the target publication date), is to redress any imbalance by commissioning additional papers.

The conference sub-title was *Towards a research agenda for the 21st century*, reflecting, perhaps, that archaeology which relies only on rescue excavation opportunities caused by the activities of property developers is hardly likely to yield a coherent picture of any particular period or class of activity. How non-rescue excavation might be funded was not considered. However, insofar as industrial and military archaeological sites are concerned, there is much to be done where traditional excavation methods are not so overwhelmingly important. A great deal remains to be done on the archaeology of standing structures, and of still-accessible underground spaces. Limited excavation in these contexts will also be important,

although it can often be expected (on the basis of limited such work on lime-kiln fill and on underground quarry waste) to yield low densities of finds from narrowly restricted time ranges. There were stimulating presentations at Guildford on landscape archaeology, another area where traditional (and costly) greenfield excavation can be viewed as a supplementary rather than the main source of evidence. Such work might well throw valuable light on extractive industry sites and ancient heavy freight transport routes (Wealden iron and Reigate stone in transit over the North Downs can be expected to have left recognisable traces, in the form of minor civil engineering works at awkward muddy spots for example.)

Perhaps a pressing need is intensive study of the archaeology and recorded history of building materials, especially bricks, in Surrey. There were many local production sites, a neglected area of research, and standing buildings reveal many distinctive brick (and indeed mortar) types. What has been done for pottery should be attempted for bricks and for mortars! One gap in the *Research Agenda* which has been addressed recently, and is shortly to be published, is the work on Reigate stone petrography sampling and description (the Reigate Stone Research Project was described in *Bulletin* 335. This has called for fruitful liaison with geological specialists, architects, and Historic Royal Palaces.

Wearing an altogether different hat, as a former Secretary of the Surrey Wildlife Trust, I could suggest, too, that we might enter into a very worthwhile partnership with that body in connection with landscape archaeology (the Trust manages a number of areas or archaeologically interesting land as nature reserves) and with environmental archaeology. Liaison recently with SWT in connection with the important lime kilns at Betchworth and Brockham has ensured that Landfill Tax rebate funds, primarily to render the kilns more suitable as winter hibernation sites for bats, have additionally yielded professionally made surveys of these structures of great value in connection with interpreting the kilns' modes of operation. Likewise, SIHG has had a say in proposed alterations to the kilns which, we have stressed, must respect their status as candidate Scheduled Ancient Monuments (see, for example, *Bulletin* 326). The implications of Article 3 of the Valetta Convention were not pursued!

### **Farnham and the 'New Urban History'**

**Mark Page**

For those interested in the development of towns and town life in Britain over the last 1400 years, the publication of *The Cambridge Urban History* has come as a godsend. In three volumes and 2770 pages, a total of 83 contributors relate the story of Britain's towns and cities from very humble beginnings in AD 600, when the bulk of the population lived in scattered farmsteads and hamlets, to the urban society of the 1950s. Such a grand sweep of scholarship, however, comes at a grand price. All three volumes will set you back a staggering £270.

Part of the delight of volumes such as these is to discover how your own town or city fits into the national picture. Farnham gets a mention in all three books, although references to the town are not exactly numerous. In the first volume, edited by D M Palliser, covering the period 600-1540, the relative insignificance of Farnham as a centre of wealth in the later middle ages is highlighted by comparing the town's contribution to the 1344 lay subsidy with that paid by the inhabitants of the surrounding countryside. The value of Farnham at this time represented just 0.05 per cent of the total valuation of south-east England as a whole, and 0.08 per cent of the value of London. Indeed, Farnham does not appear in the top 100 towns in England in 1334, ranked according to their taxable wealth and reflecting chiefly the size and prosperity of the business community.

This situation had changed by the time of the 1524-5 subsidy, nearly 200 years later. Farnham's contribution to this tax of £59 placed it sixty-third in the top 100 wealthiest English towns, just ahead of nearby Alton which paid £55. The growth of Farnham

(and Alton) over the intervening two centuries was primarily the result of an increase in traffic going to London, which towns such as Alton, Basingstoke and Farnham, situated on busy roads, were well equipped to serve. Farnham's proximity to London encouraged it to grow even further in early modern times. The second volume of *The Cambridge Urban History*, edited by Peter Clark, covering the period 1540-1840, demonstrates that Farnham became the largest of the collecting points for London's burgeoning wheat market in the early 18th century. It is estimated that the town may have seen as much as 10,000 tons of wheat in a year and, at its peak, could have exceeded 1000 tons at a single market.

In a slightly earlier period, the late 16th century, Farnham's prosperity rested less on the wheat trade and more on the growth of the clothmaking industry. The town, together with nearby Alton, Basingstoke, Godalming and Guildford, manufactured the light, coarse textiles known sometimes as 'Hampshire kerseys'. Together, cloth and wheat brought Farnham considerable wealth. However, the development of the town and its growing sense of corporate identity did not go unnoticed or unchallenged by the bishops of Winchester, lords of the manor of Farnham and the original founders of the town who were eager to benefit from the increasingly large income generated by the market tolls. This was by no means a unique situation: townsmen elsewhere in England, who likewise were subject to a powerful lord, also had to struggle to win their commercial freedom.

The third volume in the series, edited by Martin Daunton, and covering the period 1840-1950, charts the most dramatic of all Britain's 'urban revolutions', that of the last 150 years. In this period Farnham was transformed from rural market town to modern commercial centre. Even as early as 1900, the invention of the motor car was seen as the prime catalyst of change. For some this was the cause of deep regret, bringing in its wake the invasion of a new people unsympathetic to [the old] order. Yet for others it was a sign of revolution. According to *Country Life* in 1904, Farnham was at 'the nadir of its history'. But almost immediately the coming of the motor car began to raise the town from a decaying agricultural centre to one of increasingly prosperous business and residence.' This was a fate Farnham shared with countless other towns scattered throughout Britain. *The Cambridge Urban History* allows that fate to be placed in a national context and thereby makes clear Farnham's contribution to the development of the region and the country.

*First published in the June 2001 edition (Volume 12 no 10) of the Farnham and District Museum Society Journal, with many thanks.*

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## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### **The Lost Chapel of Tooting Bec**

Graham Gower (Local History Publications, 316 Green Lane, Streatham SW16 3AS. Price £1.77 including p+p)

The mystery of the ancient Priory or Chapel erected in Tooting by the Abbey of Bec almost a thousand years ago has been resolved in a new book by local historian Graham Gower. For many years it has been suggested that it was located on the site now occupied by the "Priory" on Bedford Hill. However detailed research by the author has revealed this not to have been the case.

Following the Norman invasion in 1066, William the Conqueror gave lands in England to Richard of Tonbridge in appreciation for him providing men and arms for the invasion. Included in these lands were estates in Tooting and Streatham. In turn, Richard presented these properties to the Benedictine Abbey of Bec Hellouin in Normandy, France, and they were combined and named after the Abbey to become known as the Manor of Tooting Bec.

Tracing the history of these estates from their Domesday entry in 1086, Graham begins his quest for the location of the Chapel built by the monks on their new property in Tooting. Using old maps, manorial records and estate plans, he identifies an ancient moated site to the north of Upper Tooting Road adjacent to an old field known as Chapel Close. References as late as the mid fifteenth century to the 'Priory of Totingbecke' reinforce Graham's belief that it was on this site that the Priory stood. The moat was subsequently developed into a number of water features, including fish ponds, which were used by the monks to breed fish to supplement their diet. These ponds were later landscaped to provide attractive garden features in the grounds of a large mansion, which became known as *The Manor House*, as it occupied the site of the ancient medieval Manor House of Tooting Bec. The ponds were fed by ancient springs, aptly called *the Beak (Bec) Spring* and *the Bottomless Pitt Spring*. These small lakes survived up to the early years of the 20th century, when the land was sold and redeveloped with housing.

Residents of Fishponds and Broadwater Roads may have wondered how their street got their names and why their gardens become waterlogged after heavy falls of rain. Graham's fascinating account of the history of the area reveals the reason, centred as the roads are amid the complex of ancient water features which once occupied this site.

**John Brown**

## WALKS

### Summer Heritage Walks in South London

These walks are organised by member organisations of the Lambeth Local History Forum. They are mostly free, but donations are welcome. The walks usually last about two hours. Details may be subject to change through circumstances beyond our control.

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|----------------|---|
| 12th August    | <b>South Norwood By-ways</b> led by Eric King and Keith Holdaway of the Norwood Society. Meet 2.30 pm at All Saints Church, Beulah Hill/Church Road, South Norwood.                 |
| 16th August    | <b>Upper Norwood – outside the Triangle</b> led by Jill Dudman and Keith Holdaway of the Norwood Society. Meet 8 pm at the Phoenix Centre, Westow Street.                           |
| 19th August    | <b>Greyhound Lane and Eardley Road</b> led by John Brown of the Streatham Society. Meet 2.30 pm by the Greyhound pub, Streatham High Road/Greyhound Lane.                           |
| 19th August    | <b>Unknown East Dulwich</b> led by Peter Frost of the Peckham Society. Meet 2 pm at the Clockhouse pub, Peckham Rye/Barry Road.   |
| 21st August    | <b>Clapham South</b> led by John How of the Clapham Society. Meet 6.30 pm at Clapham South Underground Station.   |
| 2nd September  | <b>General Tour of West Norwood Cemetery</b> led by someone from the Friends of West Norwood Cemetery. Meet 2.30 pm at Main Gate. £1 donations accepted.                            |
| 2nd September  | <b>Crystal Palace and its Countryside</b> led by Philip Goddard and Keith Holdaway of the Norwood Society. Meet 2.30 pm at the Café St Germain, Crystal Palace Parade.              |
| 16th September | <b>Brixton's Rural Past – Rush Common to the Windmill</b> led by Alan Piper of the Brixton Society. Meet 2.30 pm at the Tate Library, Brixton Oval.                                 |
| 23rd September | <b>All Saints Church to Norwood Junction</b> led by Eric King and Keith Holdaway of the Norwood Society. Meet 2.30 pm at All Saints Church, Beulah Hill/Church Road, South Norwood. |

- 29th September **Lambeth Archives Open Day**, Minet Library, 52 Knatchbull Road, SE5. Exhibitions and Talks.
- 7th October **General Tour of West Norwood Cemetery** led by someone from the Friends of West Norwood Cemetery. Meet 2.30 pm at Main Gate. £1 donations accepted.
- 7th October **Crystal Palace to Herne Hill – Byways and Highways of West Norwood** led by Jill Dudman and Keith Holdaway. Meet 2.30 pm at the Café St Germain, Crystal Palace Parade.

*This series of walks began in May, but the Bulletin only received a photocopy of the programme, and from a second hand source, in July.*

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## CONFERENCE

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### THE SOUTH-EAST BEFORE HISTORY: NEW INSIGHTS AND IDEAS

Council for British Archaeology (South-East) Autumn Conference and AGM

*Guildford College of Further and Higher Education*

**3rd November 2001 10–4.30 pm**

- 10 am Coffee
- 10.30 Introduction by Anne Induni, Chair CBA (SE)
- 10.40 **Prehistory in the South-East: A Metropolitan Perspective**  
Jon Cotton, Museum of London (MoLAS)
- 11.20 Discussion
- 11.40 **Scientific Dating Techniques in Prehistory**  
Dominique de Moulin, English Heritage
- 12.10pm Discussion
- 12.30 Lunch
- 1.30 CBA (SE) AGM
- 2 pm Introduction by Alan Crocker, President of SyAS
- 2.10 **Prehistoric Pottery in the South-East**  
Louise Rayner, Museum of London Specialist Services (MoLSS)
- 2.50 Discussion
- 3 pm **Iron Age Settlement in the Blackwater Valley**  
Rob Poulton, Surrey County Archaeological Unit
- 3.40 Discussion
- 4-4.30 pm Tea

Tickets: £10 for CBA and local county society members, £12 otherwise and on the door. The price includes tea, coffee and a light lunch. Available from 8, Woodview Crescent, Hildenborough, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9HD

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## LECTURE SERIES

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### SURREY INDUSTRIAL HISTORY GROUP

**26th SERIES OF INDUSTRIAL HISTORY LECTURES 2001 – 2002**

University of Surrey, Guildford, Lecture Theatre F

**11 fortnightly meetings 7.30 to 9.30 pm starting 2nd October**

**2001**

- 2 October **Michael Bailey**, Past President, Newcomen Society  
*The Engineering History of "Rocket"*

- 16 October **Alasdair Glass**, Project Director, English Heritage  
*The restoration of the Wellington Arch*
- 30 October **Denis Cooper**, Author of Shire booklet on the Mint  
*The Royal Mint & Technical Development of Coins*
- 13 November **Tim Smith**, GLIAS  
*Hydraulic Power*
- 27 November **John Hampton**, Formerly with RCHME  
*Aerial Photography*
- 11 December **Members' Evening**

## 2002

- 15 January **Roger Heard**, Sales and marketing Director, Dennis  
*One Hundred Years of Dennis*
- 29 January **David Plunkett**, Past Chairman, Mills Research Group, SPAB  
*Tide Mills*
- 12 February **Richard Muir**, Past President SyAS  
*Beacons, Semaphores and Radar*
- 26 February **John Edmonds**, The Chiltern Open Air Museum  
*Woad, Indigo and the Dye Industry*
- 12 March **Ron Moss**, Past President, Black Country Society  
*Chain Making and the Black Country Museum*

Fees: £45 for full series (£40 for SyAS and SIHG members); £5 for single lectures.  
Enquiries to Programme Co-ordinator Tony Stevens 01483 565375.

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## COURSES

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### BIRKBECK COLLEGE FACULTY OF CONTINUING EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

#### Field Archaeology and the Prehistory of Southern Britain

*The Clifden Centre, Clifden Road, Twickenham, Middlesex*

**28 meetings beginning Monday 17th September – 7.15 to 9.15 pm**

The first year of a three-year course leading to the Birkbeck Certificate in Field Archaeology. The period covers the arrival of the first humans about 400,000 years ago to the end of the Iron Age. Important sites of the Stone Age are studied, as well as themes such as agriculture, metal working and burial.

Tutor: J Scott McCracken, BA FSA MIFA

Fee: £137 (concessions £102)

Tel: 0845 601 0174 for prospectus and further details (Course no. V36A02).

### UNIVERSITY OF SURREY

#### OPEN STUDIES COURSES

##### Classical Greece

*Guildford Institute, Ward Street, Guildford*

**20 meetings on Tuesdays 2.30 to 4.30 pm, starting 18th September**

Tutor: Rita Jones

Fee: £10

A look at the Acropolis, temples, the Parthenon, architecture, the Elgin Marbles, bronze statuary, sculpture and vases. At Greek democracy, the wars with Persia and Sparta, Athenian sea power and Greek warships, and at some of the great men of the time.

## **Food and Feasting in Ancient Times**

**Maybury Centre, Woking.**

**Five meetings on Wednesdays 2 to 4 pm, starting 19th September**

Tutor: Julie Wileman

For information Tel: 01483 773077 (Woking WEA)

A look at the preparation, cooking and serving of food from the earliest prehistoric evidence to Tudor banquets: historical sources, ancient recipe books, and how diet affected health and society. There will also be some tasting sessions.

## **Saxon Kings**

**University of Surrey campus**

**Day School Saturday 22nd September 9.30 to 5 pm**

Fee £35

Tutor: Paul Hill

Ethelred the Unready, Alfred the Great, Raedwald, Aethelbert : "1066 and All That" calls the Saxon kings the "Egg Kings" because of their strange names, but it was these monarchs and their courts who forged much of what England is today. This day school is an opportunity to look at the lives and achievements of the rulers of Britain's Dark Ages.

## **From Roman Britain to Anglo-Saxon England**

**Guildford Institute, Ward Street. Guildford**

**Ten meetings on Mondays 2 to 4 pm, starting 24th September**

Tutor: Judie English

For information: Tel: 01483-829423 (WEA Guildford)

The emergence of England as a unified kingdom from the small states and kingdoms that carved a place for themselves out of the death of the Roman province of Britannia is a complex and exciting story. This course will shed some light on the events and characters of the "Dark Ages" and will reveal the extraordinary story of the birth of a nation.

## **FOUNDATION CERTIFICATE IN LOCAL HISTORY**

A diverse modular course designed to lay the groundwork for progression to a single honours Degree in Local History, although the credits it carries can count towards any degree in the Adult and Community Learning programme. It covers basic study skills needs and introduces records, buildings, landscape and some specific Surrey history.

For further information contact Anne Milton-Worsell, Tel: 01483 683122; e-mail: a.e.milton-worsell@surrey.ac.uk.

## **ARCHAEOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDSCAPE**

**Part time BSc Honours Degree**

This flexible modular degree course in Combined Studies has been designed for mature and adult learners. Its core programme of skills and inter-disciplinary work is supplemented by a range of options, enabling students to focus on Archaeology.

For further information contact Val Fewtrell, Tel: 01483 876153

## **GCE 'A' LEVEL ARCHAEOLOGY COURSES**

**September 2001 to May 2002**

Tutor: Elizabeth Whitbourn Tel: 01483 420575, mobile: 07790 451110, email: liz.whitbourn@binternet.com

## **GCA A Level (A2)**

### ***Farnham Adult Education Centre, West Street***

30 meetings on Mondays 10 to 12.30 pm, starting 10th September  
For further information Tel: 01252 723888 or 01483 448664

### ***Farnham College, Morley Road***

30 meetings on Wednesdays 7 to 9.30 pm, starting 12th September  
For further information Tel: 01252 740525 or 01483 716988

### ***Godalming College, Tuesley Lane***

30 meetings on Thursdays 7 to 9.30 pm, starting 27th September  
For further information Tel: 01483 423526

### ***Horsham College, Collyers***

30 meetings on Tuesdays 10.45 to 1.15 pm, starting 11th September  
For further information Tel: 01403 210822

## **GCE A Level (AS)**

### ***Godalming College, Tuesley Lane***

30+ meetings on Wednesdays 9.13 to 10.45 am, and Thursdays 2.15 to 3.45 pm,  
starting 12th September

For further information Tel: 01483 423526

### ***Guildford College, Stoke Park***

30 meetings on Tuesdays 7 to 9.30 pm, starting 11th September  
For further information Tel: 01493 448664

### ***Horsham College, Collyers***

30 meetings on Thursdays 10.45 to 1.15 pm, starting on 13th September  
For further information Tel: 01403 210822

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## **LECTURE MEETINGS**

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### **3rd September**

"Historic Photos in Surrey: An Amateur Photographer's View of Historic Events and Places" by Eric Marsh to the Woking History Society at Mayford Village Hall, Saunders Lane, Mayford at 7.45 for 8 pm. Visitors: £2.

### **8th September**

"The Restoration of the Wey and Arun Canal (London's Lost Route to the Sea)" by Tony Pratt to the Surrey Industrial History Group at Guildford Methodist Church Hall, Wharf Road (off Bridge Road) at 3 pm.

### **20th September**

"The Study of Local History – What is it for?" by Pamela Reading to the Esher District Local History Society at the United Reformed Church Hall, Speer Road, Thames Ditton at 7.30 pm.

### **21st September**

"The History of Chessington" by Mark Barker to the Leatherhead & District Local History Society in the Dixon Hall, The Leatherhead Institute, 67 High Street, Leatherhead, at 7.30 for 8 pm. Members £2.

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The Council of the Surrey Archaeological Society desires it to be known that it is not responsible for the statements or opinions expressed in the *Bulletin*.

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