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## SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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# Bulletin 352

September 2001

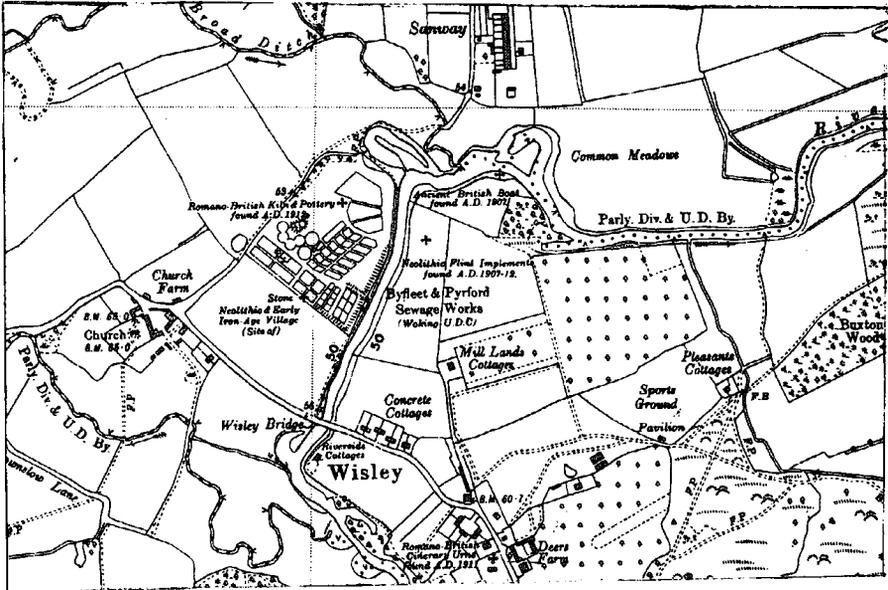


*The Wisley Dug-out Boat*

## The Wisley Dug-out Boat

Mary Alexander

A dug-out boat found in the bed of the River Wey at Wisley in 1907 (cTQ 063599) was reported in *Surrey Archaeological Collections XXIV*, 1911 p. 53 and *SAC XXVb*, 1912, p. 132. It was given to Weybridge Museum, presumably when the Museum opened in 1909, and was on display for many years. When the Museum was refurbished in 1988 there was no space for the boat and it was given to Guildford Museum, because it had been found just inside the boundary of Guildford Borough. Soon after this, Guildford Museum's archaeology gallery was re-displayed, but because no-one knew the date of the boat it could not be included in the new displays. Several prehistoric and Roman sites are known in Wisley so it was generally assumed that the boat was probably prehistoric, but there was no evidence for a date.



Location of the Wisley Boat

The boat remained in store at Guildford until the Museum put on an exhibition about the Wey Navigation in 2000. The boat formed a centrepiece and we decided it was time to do something about it. Parts of it were missing when it was found and during its years at Weybridge they had been filled in. It had never been treated to preserve it or to dry it out carefully, but has survived remarkably well. It needs modern conservation but above all we needed to know the date. A firm of conservators, Plowden & Smith, gave us an estimate for conservation but the Friends of Guildford Museum very kindly paid for the dating at the Christian-Albrechts-Universitat, Kiel, in Germany. The date, sample KIA 14286, was 897 + or - 31 years old, which works out at around AD 1160. This surprised us, though it should not have done, since most dug-outs that have been dated are Saxon or medieval, but there is an assumption that because dug-outs are perceived as primitive, and linked today with undeveloped countries, they must be prehistoric.

The boat is about 11 feet long, 1'8" wide and 1'2" deep (3.37m x 50cm x 35cm). It was made from a whole oak log and is square at both ends. One end is wider than the other, and was probably the stern because there is a ridge in the bottom of the



"DUG OUT" CANOE. River Wey at Wisley.

Length, 12 feet.

*From SyAC XXVb 1912*

boat at this end which was probably used when propelling it along. The bottom is flat and the sides slope in, which was probably done to make it more stable. The flat bottom would mean it needed less depth of water. There is one hole at either end, but there were probably two originally, to take reinforcing straps of timber, to stop the ends from splitting open.

Damian Goodburn, of the Museum of London Specialist Services, has examined the boat and written a report on it, from which much of the technical detail here has been taken.<sup>1</sup> He points out that the original log was of very poor quality, which fits in with his interpretation of dug-outs as peasant craft, probably made by the men who used them, which is why they are never documented, as vessels built by specialist craftsmen tend to be. He suggests that dug-outs were used for local transport, as a cart would be on land, and for activities such as fishing and fowling. One man could pole it at a brisk pace, carrying a cargo, or three adults could travel in it.

There is, however, a problem about the date. While the boat was at Weybridge a sample was taken for radiocarbon dating, but Weybridge Museum was never told the result. Damian Goodburn has seen the date published as within the 95% certainty calibrated date range of AD 110-345.<sup>2</sup> He also felt that the recent date may have been taken too near the pith, so that the likely date of the boat would be late 12th to mid-13th century. There is, apparently, enough wood for tree-ring dating so we hope to have that done at some point.

Whatever the true date of the boat, it is a fascinating survivor of a forgotten aspect of life in the past, and an important indication of use of the River Wey before the navigation of the 1650s, a subject about which too little is known. I am

researching it, so if anyone has any information about it I would be very pleased to hear from them.

1 "The Wisley Boat Updated", D M Goodburn, August 2001

2 "Ships of the Port of London", P Marsden, 1996, p. 222

## The Structure under Great Bookham Church

*Derek Renn*

The confirmation of Stephen Fortescue's dowsing results by William McCann's ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey (*Bulletin 351*) is a welcome and remarkable example of two different non-destructive techniques. While we await both a suitable opportunity and a good reason to raise the parquet and tile floor, and to disturb the stratification below, perhaps the discussion may be carried a little further on paper.

It is not surprising that the GPR survey failed to confirm any apse: the chancel arm and jambs (Line 4) were built in the 1940's (compare the wider depressed arch shown on Edward Hassell's 1827 watercolours in the Minet Library). Similarly, Lines 5 and 6 ran across the tomb slab (and likely grave) of Elizabeth Slyfield (1433) and perhaps other burials to the south (op. The other ledger slab and brasses hung on the wall), hence the 'noise'.

Both Fig.1 and Fig. 3 indicate wider anomalies on the north compared with those on the south side of the nave. Since the north arcade wall is slightly narrower than that to the south, this might suggest that the anomalies reflect foundations to those walls of uniform width. However, neither technique found anomalies west of Line 14 and, if the anomalies were caused by the foundations of standing walls, the high GPR reflections of Lines 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12 might be expected to continue under the arches. The north nave wall at least was originally solid, with small high windows which were blocked up when the arcade was cut through and the columns inserted.

Apsed or no, do the anomalies imply a church preceding the present Norman and later building? Both surveys show the anomalies as under a foot (30cm) wide, even on the north side. This is *less than half* that the standing nave walls, which are themselves quite thin (30 and 32.5 inches, or about 80cm). The narrowest Saxon church nave walls recorded in Dr H M Taylor's corpus (*Anglo-Saxon Architecture III* (1978), p.959) are those 21- and 22-inch (about 55cm) thick in three early churches in Canterbury. Also, the area enclosed is small, only half that of the Saxon naves in the adjoining parish churches of Fetcham and Stoke D'Abernon. Smaller examples are known, however, (Taylor, *op. cit.* p.1033) but Great Bookham would be in the lowest 10% by area.

A possible explanation of the narrow anomalies is that they reflect the foundations of a timber church later built around in stone, which might account for the irregular setting-out of the east and west walls of the nave (and of the arcade piers) at Great Bookham. Such sequences have been recovered by excavation at St Bertelin's chapel, Stafford and at St Michael's, Thetford. Closer to home, consider Chertsey Abbey, the owners of Great Bookham for almost 900 years. Rob Poulton, in his excavation report (*SyAS Research Vol 11*, p.12) considered that the pre-Conquest abbey church there lay at least partly within the later nave, something dramatically revealed recently at Canterbury cathedral.

An alternative explanation might be that the anomalies are reflections from the retaining walls of a crypt or vault. One of comparable size, containing the Howard family burials from 1743 to 1857, was rediscovered in 1985 outside the Great Bookham church tower (*Occasional Paper 4 of the Leatherhead and District Local History Society*, by Stephen Fortescue and Ernest Crossland).

## The Balham Hoard – A Discovery of Antiquities near Tooting

Graham Gower

On the 16th August 1879 this intriguing news report appeared in **The Graphic** newspaper:

*Some Antiquarian Discoveries have been made near Tooting during some excavations for the foundation of new buildings on the property of Mr. Twining, according to a correspondent of the 'Globe'. A workman while digging at a depth of 20 feet struck his spade against something brittle, and unearthed some antique Roman and Etruscan ware, together with a quantity of glass, with etchings in gold, representing two figures of the early Christian age; some specimens of glass vases, of great iridescence; a Roman glass bowl, broken, in white, yellow, blue, ruby and other colours; a vase of antique Roman manufacture, in four pieces; a lance, battle-axe, and dagger; also some bronze weapons in fragments, and a silver cup, the whole of these being fused together apparently by fire. By the side of these treasures was found an immense square copper box, in which they are supposed to have been enclosed, the lid lying next the articles named, and the other portion being broken in halves.*

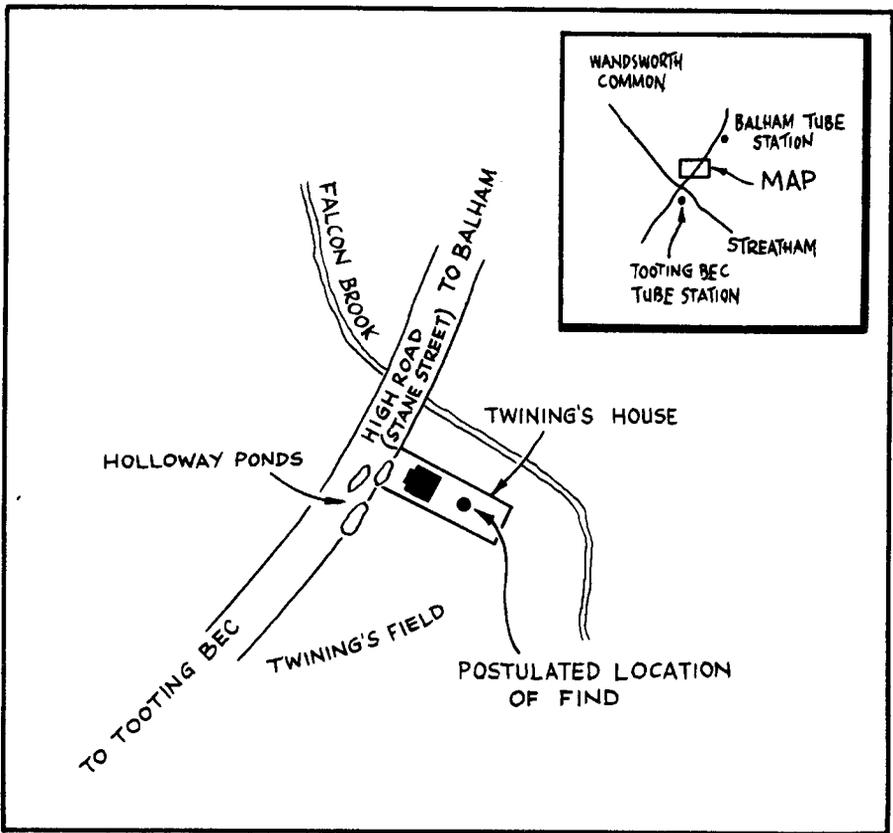
Evidently the novelty of this discovery had aroused some interest and warranted a detailed report in one, if not two, newspapers. But unfortunately beyond what was reported little else is known about the discovery and what happened to the various finds. Presumably they were either distributed among those interested or kept by the landowner. Furthermore, considering the reporting and nature of the finds, no record seems to have been placed in the archaeological or antiquarian literature of the time.

However, the present reader may well view the report with a degree of scepticism, attributing the identification of the finds to the enthusiasm and romanticism of the Victorian antiquarian. Moreover the vagueness of the location, the curious miscellany of the objects, their condition and the extraordinary find depth of 20 feet further encourages additional thoughts as to the veracity of the discovery. Nevertheless, the report is challenging and does seem to genuinely record a discovery of some sort.

Although the location of the discovery is given as being near Tooting, the actual place was in Balham, and in that part of Balham which adjoins Tooting Bec (Upper Tooting). This can be ascertained through the mention of Mr Twining on whose land the discovery was made. A search for a person of this name in the Tooting area revealed a certain William B. Twining, a Banker and Tea Merchant recorded in the 1851 Census Returns. This gentlemen resided in a large villa which faced onto Balham High Road. Also associated with this property was a nearby field, known as Willow Bates, which also faced the High Road. By comparing information from the Streatham Tithe Map, early editions of the Ordnance Survey and entries in the Census Returns, we can locate with certainty the position of William Twining's house and his field and the likely site of the discovery.<sup>1</sup>

Whether it was by coincidence or not the 'antiquities' were buried in an area of historical interest. Twining's house, which was built during the early 1820s, lay very close to the Falcon Brook, a local watercourse which crossed Balham High Road on route to the Thames at Battersea Creek. Also the front garden of his house covered the site of an ancient pond, one of three collectively known as '*Holloway Ponds*'. These lay alongside the highway with the largest measuring some 90ft (27.5m) in length.

In addition the vicinity of Twining's house marks the postulated position of the '*Holliwelle*', a place of local significance. Also the historic nature of this area is further shown by the Manor boundary of Tooting Bec. This makes a re-alignment after leaving Roman Stane Street, which is marked by the course of Balham High Road, at a point near to the ponds.<sup>2</sup> If indeed we are looking at a case of objects buried for



Schematic map showing the location of the Balham Hoard

later retrieval, this particular area of Balham would have been most suitable with its indelible natural features, readily available to mark a selected position.

To attribute a period or an event regarding the burials of these *'antiquities'* would of course be speculative, although the finds do offer a few tentative clues which to cautiously conjure with. The eclectic nature of the finds hint of 'booty', particularly with the finds of silver, bronze, gilded glass and vases; although interestingly no coins were reported found. Conversely, we could just be dealing with a straightforward case of the burying of some personal items during a time of trouble. From the report we note that some of the items had already been identified as Roman and the comment regarding *'two figures of the early Christian age'* suggest the collection could have been of late Roman origin. This could be implying a burial of valuables during the unsettled times of the 3rd and 4th centuries and the period of Saxon settlement.

Another possibility could be burial by a Viking war-band during an incursion inland along Stane Street. Viking hoards have been found nearby at Thornton Heath, Waterloo and Westminster, and the *'antiquities'* found at Balham may be the results of their plundering activities. This may explain the mix of items which is curious, particularly those items *'fused together apparently by fire'*, which raises the possibility of some traumatic event associated with their acquisition. Yet the observation *'fused*

together' may have simply been corrosion, and with glass of '*great iridescence*' indicates the finds being buried for some considerable time.

A further scenario is robbery, the proceeds of which were dumped into the pond that was sited on the land later to become Twining's property. Such an event could have occurred at anytime up to the late 18th. century when the three ponds were filled for road improvements. But as mentioned, it is purely speculation as to the circumstances surrounding the burial of this intriguing and puzzling collection of '*antiquities*'.

The location for the discovery was most likely in the grounds of Twining's house which was demolished during the late 1990s, and along with the grounds developed for a garage and housing complex.<sup>3</sup> Although there appears to be no record of any building work taking place on his property during 1879, it is evident from the report that building work was under way. The results of such are probably those structures detailed on the 1916 Ordnance Survey map, and to be seen located to the rear of his house. However, the need to be digging down to 20 feet for foundation work is unusual, unless it was for sewer work. Probably the '*antiquities*' were uncovered at a lesser depth during this process.

Twining's field remained undeveloped until the 1880s when the building of Ritherdon and Streathbourne Roads and those properties that front Balham High Road took place. Such development would have required the laying of deep sewers to link with the main sewer under the High Road. Perhaps it was here, in Twining's field, that the discovery was made during initial preparations for house building.

If the report in The Graphic newspaper is a reasonably accurate account of what was found, the '*Balham Hoard*' was a very important find. But, it must not be overlooked that the '*antiquities*' discovered could have been wrongly identified, incorrectly reported or grossly exaggerated, or a combination of all. A hoax, probably not – but a mystery definitely.

## Notes

1. Streatham Parish Tithe Map and Schedule 1840; Ordnance Survey Maps, Streatham Parish, early editions.
2. Graham Gower. Some observation on the Battersea Boundary through West Streatham. Wandsworth Historian. No.58. Autumn 1989.
3. Archaeological Evaluation, 219-221 Balham High Road. MOLAS. 1997. London Fieldwork and Publication Round-up.1997. London Archaeologist. Vol. 8, Supplement 3 (1998).

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## COUNCIL NEWS

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### THE SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Surrey Archaeological Society will be held at 2.30 p.m. on Sunday, 2nd December 2001 at the Visitors' Centre, Painshill Park, near Cobham, Surrey

#### Agenda for Annual General Meeting

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To read and, if appropriate, to sign as correct the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the 26th November 2000.
3. To receive and consider the Annual Report, the Statement of Accounts, and the Auditor's Report for the year to 31st March 2001 and, if approved, to adopt them.

4. \*To elect the President for 2001-2002.
5. \*To elect Honorary Vice-Presidents for 2001-2002.
6. \*To elect Vice-Presidents for 2001-2002
7. \*To elect Honorary Officers for 2001-2002.
8. \*To elect six Ordinary Members of Council to retire in 2005 under Article 21a.
9. To appoint Honorary Examiners for 2001-2002 and to authorise Council to determine their remuneration.
10. Any Other Business.

\*(Nominations for election under items 4-8 should be sent to the Honorary Secretary not less than seven days before the meeting. All nominations require a proposer and seconder, who must be members of the Incorporated Society, and nominations must be accompanied by a signed statement by the nominee of his or her willingness to stand for election. Institutional Members are not eligible for election.)

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After the meeting tea will be served, following which an illustrated lecture will be given by Ms Lesley Howes, Specialist in Garden Archaeology, who has been responsible for the pioneering archaeological work undertaken at Painshill Park which has contributed greatly to the restoration of the gardens.

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## **COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY**

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### **DO YOU WANT TO HELP?**

Surrey Archaeological Society set up a Working Party in 1997 to explore ways in which volunteers could help to record archaeology at risk. A major conference was organised in September 1998 at Farnham Castle with joint initiatives by the Society and Surrey County Council to designate archaeologically sensitive areas as 'Areas of Special Historic Landscape Value' (ASHLV) giving them greater protection within the planning system from inappropriate development.

Previously, professional consultants have undertaken this type of work, but from August 1999 extra input has been made by a number of community projects. Local amateurs have been brought together in teams under the professional guidance from a Community Archaeologist who has provided support, advice and training. Successful projects have been completed at Banstead Heath, Mickleham Downs and Puttenham, and in each case members of the teams have continued with additional work after the withdrawal of the Community Archaeologist.

The formal outcome of each survey is the production by the Community Archaeologist of a detailed report on the study area to the County Council with a recommendation as to the suitability of the area to be designated as an ASHLV. The community volunteers contribute to the production of the report which is, in itself, an exciting exercise in archaeological survey and a usable public document contributing to the quality of life in Surrey. Interested readers can see the type of detail involved from the reports on the previous surveys in the Library of the Society at Castle Arch, Guildford.

Members are encouraged to support this scheme. Since the publication of Planning Policy Guidance 16, in November 1990, many amateurs have felt increasingly excluded from contributing skills to the archaeological community and this is a serious opportunity to help redress the situation by promoting amateur involvement in archaeology within the planning process. Although professional advice and input

will always be needed, the involvement of a wider and knowledgeable public can, in the long run, only benefit the study of Surrey's past.

The Council has proposed two new surveys for 2001-2002 at Chobham Common and Holmbury St Mary/Felday and inaugural meetings of interested parties will be held as follows:

**Chobham Common** 2 pm Sunday 30th September 2001, The Parish Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Chobham  
**Holmbury St Mary/Felday** Unfortunately, owing to unforeseen circumstances, the launch planned for 14th October has had to be deferred.

For further details please contact Alan Hall, Secretary of the Community Archaeology Committee, 3 Gayton Close, Ashted, Surrey KT21 2QJ. Tel: 01372 812538; e-mail Alanhall9@yahoo.co.uk

## **VILLAGES STUDY PROJECT**

### ***Two Autumn Workshops***

These will include illustrated lectures, a walk and general discussion and exchange of information, and are open and free to all:

#### **The Canons, Heritage Office, Madeira Road, Mitcham 20th October**

10.30 am Coffee/Registration/Displays/Exhibition  
11 Introduction and up-date  
11.15 'Mitcham and Widford' by Eric Montague  
11.45 Tour, including buildings of interest  
1 pm Lunch  
2.15 'Settlements in the parish of Streatham' by Graham Gower  
3 Discussion  
3.15 'Mapping techniques on computer' by Peter Hopkins  
3.30 'Merton Mills' by Alan Crocker  
3.45 Questions  
4 Tea

#### **Shere Village Hall 24th November 2001**

10.30 Tea/Coffee/Registration and displays  
11 Introduction  
11.10 'Shere – A Surrey Village in Maps'. A record of its growth and development by Ann Noyes  
12 'The Sites and Monuments Record in Village Studies' by David Bird  
12.45 pm Lunch  
2.15 Tour of village and visit to one of Shere's historic houses  
3.30 Discussion/Questions  
4 Tea

Any member not on the mailing list for Village Study workshops who would like to receive information direct should contact the Honorary Secretary at Castle Arch.

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## **ACCESSIONS TO REPOSITORIES IN 2000**

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### **Lambeth Archives**

Records of the Clapham Relief Fund, 19th-20th centuries 2000/72  
Eric Smith collection of Clapham history material 2000/66

Extensive Streatham history collection of John Cresswell including Streatham Hill Theatre programmes, Streatham & Norbury RAF Association records, Streatham Ratepayers Association records, Vera Wolf papers 2000/various refs West Norwood Cemetery business records and burial and cremation registers (additional) 2000/61

### **Sutton Heritage Service**

ARP register of women volunteers from Carshalton 1939-40 Acc 485  
Parish registers and records of St Michael and All Angels c1895-1940s (not listed – access restricted) Acc 511  
Bapt register Hackbridge & North Beddington All Saints church 1955-80 inc extra-parochial bapts 1962-67 Ref 66

### **Southwark Local Studies Library**

Deeds of property in Great Guildford St and Sumner St, Southwark, 1810-1894, belonging to Arnold Goodwin & Sons Ltd, engineers  
Agendas and minutes of the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society 1981-1992

### **Royal Borough of Kingston Archives**

KX346 Inventory of the estate of Shadrath Brise, 1658  
KX347 Conveyance of Cadogan House, 1898  
KX234 Deeds relating to the Fairfield, 17th and 18th century  
KX349 Correspondence and papers re freeing of Kingston bridge from tolls  
KX350 Sale Particulars, Surbiton Hill, 1851

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## **MISCELLANY**

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### **Heritage Open Days: Editor's Apology**

*For two years running most of one of our nine annual Bulletins has been given over to publicise the openings and other events of this special weekend. Last year I told you how Surrey had embraced the 'open house' concept far more than elsewhere, and accompanied that with the only comprehensive and concise catalogue of all the events in the whole county. This year that was not possible. Instead of posted lists, the Civic Society, under whose auspices this all occurs, decided on dissemination via the Internet, but their downloading day proved too late to catch any edition of the Bulletin. I'm sure it was too late for most other local organisations as well. Memo to those concerned: In order to maximise publicity for the happenings of the big weekend in September next year you will need to post details much sooner than August.*

### **Pottery Through The Ages**

**Rosemary Hunter**

The Pottery Workshop arranged by David Graham at the Old Farnham Pottery on Saturday July 7th was great fun and very educational!

Julie Quigley and the West Street Potters demonstrated how various pots were made, basing them on the pots and potsherds from Bronze Age to the medieval period that David had borrowed for the occasion. One Bronze Age pot turned out to be enormous and was very impressive, especially when we worked out how the decoration must have been applied, and it actually matched the illustration.

We all had a go at producing small pots and learned a lot about the different properties of the clays available and what could be added to them. One of us proved to be very talented on the wheel.

The tour of the Old Pottery and its new workshops was fascinating and we were

delighted to hear how the building was saved from destruction at the last moment, after it had been designated "Vertical Hardcore". It is one of the few Victorian Potteries in the country and its destruction would have been a sad loss to Industrial Archaeology.

This was a most enjoyable day. Thanks to all concerned.

## **Merton – Proposed Development of the Priory Site**

For some years the London Borough of Merton has been seeking an appropriate development for the land south of Merantun Way. The local planning authority has been discussing proposals being put forward for the development of this land together with the adjacent Merton Abbey Mills. These are a series of, mainly statutorily or locally listed, buildings occupying part of a conservation area adjacent to the current channel of the River Wandle and south-west of the site of Merton Priory church. The buildings date from the 18th to the 20th century and were once industrial, although they are now in use as craft workshops and for similar activities. The land immediately to the east, and south of Merantun Way, is largely a temporary car park and is the site of the claustral buildings and infirmary of the priory, the church of which was north of Merantun Way and is now covered by a shopping centre with its own car park. Merantun Way runs on an embankment to enable the remains of Merton Priory chapter house to be preserved in a crypt adjacent to a pedestrian subway below the road, but no resources have been made available to display or interpret the remains in a satisfactory way. A massive electricity pylon stands just to the south of the remains of the chapter house and the general ambience is dire.

Part of the area south of Merantun Way is scheduled as an Ancient Monument and the whole of the proposed development lies within an archaeological priority zone. Part of the claustral and infirmary buildings have already been excavated. The whole area has been the subject of detailed 'desk top' assessment, ground radar surveys, bore-hole and test pit examinations; and the eastern end of the site has seen extensive trial trenching. As a result, there is probably the most fully 'assessed' archaeological site in London.

The Merton Abbey Mills site was the subject of an application for full planning permission for complex mixed development, preserving the listed buildings. Objections to the size of the new buildings were lodged by many local residents and groups. The archaeology here is largely concerned with buried river channels and post-determination evaluation was proposed by English Heritage. However, this application was rejected by the Merton planning committee on 11th July against the advice of the officers.

The remainder of the site was the subject of two 'outline' applications for hotel, health club, and substantial residential development – again the subject of local objections – as well as a restaurant and an archaeological interpretation centre. The 'outline' nature of the application should enable archaeological evaluation before 'full' permission is sought and preservation by record or in situ to be arranged. The sketchy proposals for an interpretation centre have an uncomfortable relationship with the electricity pylon: the indicative roof of the centre appears to enclose the base of one of the four pylon legs.

The 'outline' applications have been granted permission by the planning committee. The development of the present car park has implications for the viability of the present uses of the Abbey Mills buildings. The occupants depend largely on weekend trade using the extensive free parking and a loss of this may well render their operation unviable. The developer has not proposed a solution to this or any alternative use for the listed buildings.

Local pressure groups called for a more visionary approach to the site but the local

authority has shown no inclination to pursue such a solution. The priory was once a key location in the Wandle Valley – the Wandle Valley has recently been identified in *Towards the London Plan* as requiring ‘regeneration’. Towards the London Plan is unfortunately silent on London’s archaeological heritage.

## **Frensham Manor**

**David Graham**

In the May 2000 issue of the *Bulletin* (no 338), I reported the discovery of several hundred Roman coins and a couple of miniature ceramic pots on the sandy heathland of Frensham Common, south of Farnham. Unfortunately the site was subsequently attacked by treasure hunters, so a small team from the Society returned at the end of last year to finish excavating the area to try and recover any remaining coins. As a result, a further 54 coins were found and, in addition, more interestingly, the remains of at least a further 52 tiny ceramic pots. A number of these were found *in situ* buried in small rectangular pits, but unfortunately rabbit disturbance had scattered the majority, destroying any evidence for their original contexts.

The contents of the pits and of the pots are currently being examined at the environmental laboratory at Royal Holloway College and the results may give some indication of the conditions under which the pots were deposited and indeed, hopefully, information on what they may once have contained. In the meantime, a search through the literature indicates, not surprisingly, that such deposits tend to be votive in nature. While finds of miniature pots are not unknown in Britain, they are unusual and appear to be concentrated in the southern half of this country and the northern part of Gaul. The only site that we could find in Britain that has produced a larger group of such pots is the temple complex at Uley in Gloucestershire, where in excess of 90 were found.

The site on Frensham Common lies below a hill, which is now within the boundary of Frensham Manor. In the 1980s the Manor was subjected to widespread metal detecting with no attempt being made to make a proper record of the finds. These however, apart from a few shown to me, were rumoured to consist of numbers of Iron Age and Roman coins and a variety of other metal objects such as brooches and buckles.

Roman sites have previously been recorded on Frensham Manor and an aerial photograph taken in the 1980s seemed to show an enclosure ditch surrounding the hilltop. Given the indications, a team from Southampton University carried out a magnetometer survey of the hilltop early in 2001 and the results appeared to confirm the existence of the ditch. It also indicated the presence of a 15m square structure on the highest point of the hill. It therefore seemed at least a possibility that the site was that of a Romano-Celtic temple, perhaps linked to the apparently votive deposits on the common.

A second team from the Society together with help from Tony Howe and others from the County Council, spent just under a week in May putting trenches down on the hilltop to test the nature of the features. In the event absolutely nothing whatever was found and several diggers commented that they had never seen a field with less in it – not a single sherd of pottery was found. The sole evidence of human occupation consisted of a number of clinker-filled tile drains and a few modern plough marks in the subsoil.

However, examination of a neighbouring field soon established the presence of a 1st/2nd century Roman site, the stratigraphy of which survived intact below the level of the ploughsoil. Trial trenching showed approximately where the site was centred and provided evidence for ditches and a gravel surface as well as producing a reasonable quantity of pottery. A detector survey recovered a single bronze coin, and the detector user, who had been present during the treasure hunting in the 1980s,

indicated two further sites in adjacent fields, now under grass, which had produced concentrations of Roman material.

The results of the work in May are therefore mixed. Quite why, given all the positive indications, there was absolutely nothing on the hilltop is something of a mystery (to me at least). On the other hand there is definite evidence for activity on Frensham Manor in the early Roman period and the nature of the reported finds seems unusual for a domestic site. It may well be therefore that there is still a chance that a religious site of some sort existed in the vicinity. Perhaps further work will elucidate the matter.

In the meantime, many thanks to all those who came and helped on site and remained cheerful despite the initial negative results – at least the sun shone!

## **Processing the Pottery**

**Brian Bloice**

When the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society (SLAS) was formed in 1965, a decision was made, unique at the time, to set up workshops for working on and publishing the finds from our excavations. Many of the excavations produced large amounts of finds of all periods. A number of the sites investigated were on or near pottery factories in Southwark and Lambeth making stoneware and delftware. The amount of the material placed a responsibility on SLAS to store, research and publish. Finding stores for many tons of material (one site alone is stored in 400 boxes) has always placed a burden on the Society's administration.

Since 1965 we have maintained rooms in rent free accommodation, including a disused railway station, the Tower of London, closed libraries, in several educational establishments and finally working in rooms adjacent to a gin distillery.

For the last eight years we have stored material at Cobourg School, off the Old Kent Road, and worked on it in the presence of Allied Distillers at Kennington. We are extremely indebted to the owners and staff of these premises for their kindness, patience and consideration in allowing us to use their buildings.

The Society's committee now feels the time has come to find a safe and permanent home for our archaeological material.

We are discussing this matter with both the Cuming Museum of the London Borough of Southwark and also with the staff of the London Archaeological Archive attached to the Museum of London. The latter archive, housed in a large warehouse near the Regent's Canal, is currently being refurbished and enlarged and will eventually become a store and resource centre for London's archaeology. The two main objectives of the London Archaeological Archive are first to effect storage of the archaeological material to ensure its long-term preservation; second, and perhaps the most important, is to provide access to the material for future researchers.

Reports on this matter will appear in future newsletters.

*First published in the June 2001 Newsletter (no 86) of the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society, with many thanks.*

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## **COURSES**

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**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON  
INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY**  
In association with the **MUSEUM OF LONDON**

**MA in the Archaeology of London**  
Programme Co-ordinator: Clive Orton

Greater London is a living, developing conurbation of 32 boroughs, a major centre for

communications and tourism that also incorporates much of the nation's commercial, political, administrative and cultural activity. It has a settlement history that can be traced back into the prehistoric period, and well-preserved sites of Roman, Saxon and medieval date have been excavated. There is also a rich heritage above ground, including the industrial archaeology of Docklands, scheduled ancient monuments and many architecturally or historically significant buildings. This course studies how archaeology developed in this complex environment, looking at aspects of its practice, politics and potential and at how the cultural material is curated, published and displayed.

The course is suited to graduates who wish to pursue or develop a career in London archaeology or in urban archaeology in general; to those who wish to study the city in which they are now living; and to those who wish to extend their knowledge in, and of, the capital. It is also suited to professionals working in the field who wish to develop their skills. The course is suitable for part-time study.

For further information Tel: 020 7679 7495 Fax: 020 7383 2572

E-mail @ [ioa-pgadmissions@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:ioa-pgadmissions@ucl.ac.uk) web <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology>

## **BIRKBECK UNIVERSITY OF LONDON FACULTY OF CONTINUING EDUCATION**

### **MA Archaeology**

#### ***Core courses include***

- Prospecting for archaeological sites
- Human and animal bones in archaeology
- Archaeological recording of standing buildings
- Environmental archaeology
- Analysis and publication of artefacts from excavations
- The archaeology of the urban landscape

#### ***Modular courses include***

- Archaeological draughtmanship
- Experimental archaeology
- The interpretation and presentation of sites & monuments
- Computer applications

For further information Tel: 0845 601 0174 Fax: 020 7631 6688 Email: [info@bbk.ac.uk](mailto:info@bbk.ac.uk)

Web: [www.bbk.ac.uk/fce](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/fce)

### **Other Archaeological Courses**

#### **The Archaeological Investigation of London**

***12 meetings including visits, from 25th September, 2-4 pm.***

This course will look at what archaeological investigations can reveal about the region's settlement, in particular the later prehistoric landscape, the Roman city and its countryside, Saxon Lundenwic and the medieval city and its environs.

Tutor: Harvey Sheldon

Fee: £59 (£30 concessions).

#### **An Introduction to Archaeological Fieldwork Techniques**

***20th/21st October, 10 - 5 pm.***

This course will examine how archaeology is undertaken, particularly in London and the surrounding region. Emphasis will be on the initiation, excavation, finds processing and management of archaeological projects. The activities discussed will range from methods of discovering sites through to report publication and sites and

records archiving. It can be counted as part of the required fieldwork for Certificates and Diplomas.

Tutor: Harvey Sheldon and others

Fee: £50 (£25 concessions).

### **An Introduction to Archaeological Field Surveying**

**22nd-26th October**

A short five-day course designed to give some practical surveying skills applicable to British Field archaeology. The course is aimed primarily at people involved in local society archaeology or studying on academic courses. It can be counted as part of the required fieldwork (surveying) for Certificates and Diplomas.

Tutor: Marek Ziebart

Fee: £140

### **The Impact of Rome on Britain**

The incorporation of Britain into the Roman world brought with it a substantial army, an advanced system of communications and eventually major cities and substantial rural complexes. We will examine the changes brought by Rome and assess what the effects were on culture and society in Britain.

Tutor: Harvey Sheldon

Fee: £59 (£30 concessions).

### **Early Medieval Europe**

**24 meetings from 20th September, 7.30 - 9.30 pm.**

This course is designed to introduce students to the archaeology of early medieval Europe. Covering the period from the 5th to the 9th centuries it will focus on the dramatic changes in European society in the transition from the late Roman Empire to the High Middle Ages.

Tutors: Charlotte Behr and Marit Gaimster

Fee: £130 (£65 concessions).

For further details of the above courses write to 26 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DQ. Tel: 020 7631 6627; email: [archaeology@bbk.ac.uk](mailto:archaeology@bbk.ac.uk); web: [www.bbk.ac.uk/fce](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/fce)

## **UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX CENTRE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION**

### **Part-time Archaeology and Local History Courses**

This autumn the University of Sussex CCE in conjunction with its partners (ie various adult education providers) is offering a wide range of archaeology courses including: European Prehistory (Varndean College, Brighton); The Archaeology of Bronze Age Greece (Southwick); Ancient Egypt: The New Kingdom (Rottingdean and Lewes); Boxgrove Man to 1066 (Burgess Hill and Worthing); The Cultural History of Ancient Egypt (Brighton); Roman Britain (Chichester); The Archaeology of Sussex (Horsham and Lewes); Historic Vernacular Buildings (Lewes); Parish History and Archaeology (Eastbourne); Medieval Archaeology (Hastings); Practical Archaeology (Battle); Identifying Animal Bones (Brighton); The Archaeology of the Early Church (Lewes); The Archaeology of Early Christian Europe (Rottingdean); The Iron Industry of the Weald (East Grinstead); and Landscape Archaeology (Chichester).

There are also two practical archaeology courses at weekends at Butser Ancient Farm, Hampshire: Archaeological Surveying and Geophysical Surveying for Archaeologists.

For further details please request a copy of the CCE open courses guide (01273 678527 or 678040).

## **WEALD & DOWNLAND OPEN AIR MUSEUM**

**Singleton, Chichester, Sussex**

### **Courses in Traditional Trades and Crafts**

#### ***Working with Heavy Horses: Practical Day Courses***

11th November	Introduction – Basic skills including preparing the harness and plough
25th November	as above
16th December	Ploughing with Heavy Horses
12th January	More Ploughing with Heavy Horses
26th January	Care and Management of Heavy Horses
17th February	Introduction to Driving with Heavy Horses
3rd March	as above
14th March	Introduction to Chain Harrowing
21st April	Introduction to Shaft and Pole Work
19th May	Plaiting and Show Preparation

Each day course costs £50 to include – guess what – a ploughman's lunch, and runs from 10 am - 4 pm.

#### ***Rural Life and Skills – Practical Day Courses***

6th & 13th October	Make a hand-turned stool on the pole lathe 2 days: £120
3rd November	Corn Dolly Workshop. £35
28th September	Willow Workshop. £40
13th & 14th October	Willow for the Garden 2 days: £75
3rd November	Introduction to Coppice Management. £50 to include light lunch
16th January	Continuous Hurdle Fencing. £50 to include light lunch

#### ***Crafts and Archaeology: Practical Workshops***

6th October	Bronze Age Workshop: Make your own axe. £40
7th October	Bronze Rapier Workshop. £80

#### ***House and Home***

3/4th October	Historic Domestic Life: How households were managed over the last 400 years, with site visits to Cowdray ruins and Petworth House. £100.
24-26th October	Leaded-Light Stained Glass Workshop: £150

For full details of the above courses Tel: 01243 811363, Fax: 01243 811475;  
e-mail: wealddown@mistral.co.uk; Website: www.wealddown.co.uk

## **SKELETONS OUT OF THE CUPBOARD**

### **An Introduction to the Study of Archaeological Human Bone**

In recent years the study of human bone from archaeological sites has received a high media profile, with programmes such as the BBC's "Meet the Ancestors" and C4's "Secrets of the Dead" shown on prime time television. Most people however will never have seen a skeleton in real life. Kate Brayne is a qualified freelance bone specialist with 8 years experience in the subject, both behind a microscope and out in the field. She hopes that the two courses will instill students with a fascination for bones, and the information they can tell us about ancient societies.

Archaeology shows us the material remains of past settlements. These courses are an opportunity to learn about the people who actually made up those communities.

**Guildford Adult Education Centre, Sydenham Road**  
**Saturdays 5th and 13th October** 10-12.30 and 1.30-3.30 pm  
(Tel: 01483 850400 for further information)

**Farnham Adult Education Centre, 25 West Street**  
**Saturdays 27th October and 3rd November** 10-12.30 and 1.30-3.30 pm  
(Tel: 01252 723888 for further information)

### **A CENTURY OF SURREY MOTORING**

**Walton & Weybridge WEA at Weybridge Library**

11 weeks including a visit, from Monday 24th September, 2 to 4 pm

Tutor: Gordon Knowles

For further information Tel: 01932 847672 (Course no: WW01 102-22)

### **RAILWAYS REMEMBERED**

**Fetcham & Bookham WEA at the Letherhead Institute, Letherhead**

11 weeks including a visit, from Thursday 27th September 10 am to noon

Tutor: Gordon Knowles

For further information Tel: 01372 347563 (Course no: FBO1 106-22))

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## **CONFERENCES/ SYMPOSIA**

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### **RURAL SURREY**

**Surrey Local History Council Annual Symposium**

**Saturday October 27th at Chertsey Hall, commencing at 10.30.**

This will be the last symposium to be organised by the Council in its own name. At the SLHC AGM held on July 14th 2001 it was agreed to wind up the organisation at the end of the financial year in April 2002. The Council of the Surrey Archaeological Society has agreed to form a Local History Committee, to be chaired for the time being by Richard Muir the current chairman of SLHC, which will run in parallel with the Committee of the SLHC until it goes out of existence. After that time the new SyAS Committee will organise local history events and activities.

It is hoped, and expected, that the events currently run by SLHC, such as the annual symposium and the spring meeting, will in future be organised by the SyAS Local History Committee. It is also hoped that the Society will continue to publish the SLHC journal *Surrey History*.

### **THE DEFENCE OF BRITAIN PROJECT**

**Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London**

**24th November 2001 11.30 - 5 pm.**

The conference will look at what has been achieved by the project both nationally and regionally, and there will be presentations by representatives of each of the responsible heritage agencies for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. In addition, four volunteer recorders, one from each country, will talk on work they have carried out for the project.

Speakers will include Richard Morris (ex-Director of the CBA), John Schofield of English Heritage, Doreen Grove of Historic Scotland, and William Foot (the project's database manager). We are fortunate additionally that Professor Richard Holmes, the distinguished military historian, has agreed to speak: he will place the work of the project in its military history context. Proceedings will be concluded by an address from leading archaeologist, Francis Pryor, who is the CBA's President. The Chairman

will be Andrew Saunders, who has been chairman of the Project's Steering Group, as well as the Fortress Study Group, over the years.

For tickets (there is no charge) write to the Council for British Archaeology, Bowes Morrell House, 111, Walmgate, York, YO1 9WA, or Tel: 01904 671417 or e-mail [info@britarch.ac.uk](mailto:info@britarch.ac.uk)

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## SPECIAL EVENTS

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### THE 19th CENTURY GUILDFORD GUY RIOTS

**Monday 29th October 2001**

An illustrated talk in the Guildhall by Gavin Morgan to be followed by a short guided tour of the town by actors in costume who will tell the story of the riots which regularly occurred every November 5th in the mid 1800s.

Tickets: £5 (to include a copy of "Guildford Guy Riots" by Gavin Morgan) from Guildford Tourist Office Tel: 01483 444334.

The event forms part of the Guildford Book Festival and has been organised through Guildford Museum.

For further information Tel: 020 7803 3300.

### A CABINET OF CURIOSITIES

**Lambeth Archives Annual Open Day**

**Minet Library, 52 Knatchbull Road**

**Saturday 29th September 2001**

As well as a 'Collectors' Corner' where local people will be displaying their own collections, and several local society stalls, there is a programme of talks throughout the day at the Michael's Church, Burton Road:

- 10 am "A world of wonders in a closet shut": Tradescant, Ashmole and Howard, The Early Lambeth Collections" by Jon Newman
- 11-12 am "Collections for the Family Historian" by a speaker from the East Surrey Family History Society
- 2 pm "The Great Victorian Collections at Lambeth" by Brian Bloice
- 3-4 pm "Black Archives and Collections" by a speaker from the Archives and Museum of Black Heritage

Admission free for all events

For further information Tel: 020 7926 6076 email: [archives@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:archives@lambeth.gov.uk)

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## LECTURE SERIES

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### GUILDFORD MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES 2001/2002

In collaboration with ROYAL HOLLOWAY COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY of LONDON

**The Guildhall, High Street, Guildford**

- 25th October **Music as Medicine: The History of Music Therapy since Antiquity** by Peregrine Horden, who explores music therapy through the ages and questions how far pre-modern and contemporary practice resemble one another.
- 21st November **Women in Medieval London** by Professor Caroline Barron, who will explore the realities of living in London during the period between the Black Death and the Sixteenth century, which has been called a 'Golden Age' for women.

- 6th November **The Trial and Execution of Charles I** by Dr Justin Champion who explains how the King could be perceived as both wicked tyrant and martyr and challenges current assumptions that his death was inevitable.
- 24th January **Portrait of an Age: painters of the Victorian scene** by Dr Mary Cowling who looks at some of the most revealing examples and shows how they embody not only the physical details of Victorian life, but its ideals, beliefs and values.
- 21st February **Mrs Pankhurst and her Suffragettes: A Study in Failure?** By Dr Alex Windscheffel who examines the effects of militancy upon the British female suffrage movement, and its legacy for British feminism.
- 21st March **Dating the End of the World** by Professor Penelope Corfield, who explains when and why there have been so many past predictions of the imminent end-of-the-world in Western culture; and discusses what happens when the end doesn't come.

All lectures start at 7.30 pm and the ticket price for each is £5 to include a complementary glass of wine. To obtain a booking form write to the Lecture Series Co-ordinator at Castle Arch, or Tel: 01483 444752. For further information, visit [www.rhul.ac.uk/history/guildfordlectures/](http://www.rhul.ac.uk/history/guildfordlectures/)

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## LECTURE MEETINGS

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### 27th September

"Coaching Days and Coaching Ways" by Judith Hunter to Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society in the Main Hall, Literary Institute, High Street, Egham at 8 pm.

### 1st October

"History of Woking Chamber of Trade and Commerce" by Keith Browne to the Woking History Society at Mayford Village Hall, Saunders Lane, Mayford at 7.45 for 8 pm. Visitors: £2.

### 3rd October

"The Management, Wildlife and Historic Value of Ashted Common" by Bob Warnock, Head Keeper of the Common, to the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society at St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 7.45 for 8 pm.

### 13th October

"The History of Wobyrn Park, Addlestone" by Andrew Alexander to the Walton & Weybridge Local History Society in the Weybridge Library Lecture Hall at 3 pm.

### 16th October

"Cultural Revolution in England 1880-1914" illustrated lecture by Prof Michael Biddiss for the South West Surrey branch of the Historical Association at the Friends' Meeting House, North Street, Guildford at 7.30 pm. Visitors £2. Full-time students free. For further information Tel. 01784 435630.

### 17th October

"Singing Nelson's Praise: the story of John Braham who sang for Nelson and the Hamiltons at Merton Place" by Joan Walpole Reilly and Bernard Winter for Merton Historical Society at St Mary's Church, Merton at 8 pm.

### 18th October

"Medieval Tiles from Chertsey Abbey" by Vic Spink to the Esher District Local History Society at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Claygate at 7.30 pm.

**18th October**

"History of English Furniture" by David Embling to the Farnham & District Museum Society in the United Reformed Church Hall, South Street, Farnham at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

**19th October**

"How the Railway came to Leatherhead" by Gordon Knowles to the Leatherhead & District Local History Society at the Letherhead Institute, Leatherhead at 7.30 for 8 pm. Members £1; non-members £2.

**23rd October**

"Enjoying Old Churches" by Roy Ticker to the Farnham & District Museum Society at The Church House, Union Road, Farnham at 7.30pm. Tickets £1 to F&DMS members, £2 non-members, from Farnham Museum or at the door space permitting.

**23rd October**

"The 15th Century Architecture of the Guildhall and its Precincts" by Mark Samuel to the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society at Hawkstone Hall, Kennington Road, Lambeth North at 7 for 7.30 pm. Visitors £1.

**25th October**

"Walter Baptist Money – A Cricketing Parson" by Richard Williams to Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society in the Main Hall, Literary Institute, High Street, Egham at 8 pm.

**1st November**

"Community Archaeology at Puttenham" by Chris Currie to the Farnham & District Museum Society in the United Reformed Church Hall, South Street, Farnham at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

**5th November**

"The Holly Story: Holly and other Mid-winter Plants" by Chris Howkins to the Woking History Society at Mayford Village Hall, Saunders Lane, Mayford at 7.45 for 8 pm. Visitors: £2.

**10th November**

"The Life and Work of Alexander Raby – Ironfounder" by David Barker to the Esher District Local History Society at St Christopher's Church Hall, Hinchley Wood at 2.30 pm.

**15th November**

"Landscape and Settlement in the Whittlewood Area" by Mark Page to the Farnham & District Museum Society in the United Reformed Church Hall, South Street, Farnham at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

**16th November**

"Tudor and Stuart Leatherhead" by Peter Edwards to the Leatherhead & Bistrict Local History Society at the Letherhead Institute, Leatherhead at 7.30 for 8 pm. Members £1; non-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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**Next Issue:** Copy required by 12th October for the November issue.

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