



Registered Charity No: 272098

ISSN 0585-9980

SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

CASTLE ARCH, GUILDFORD GU1 3SX

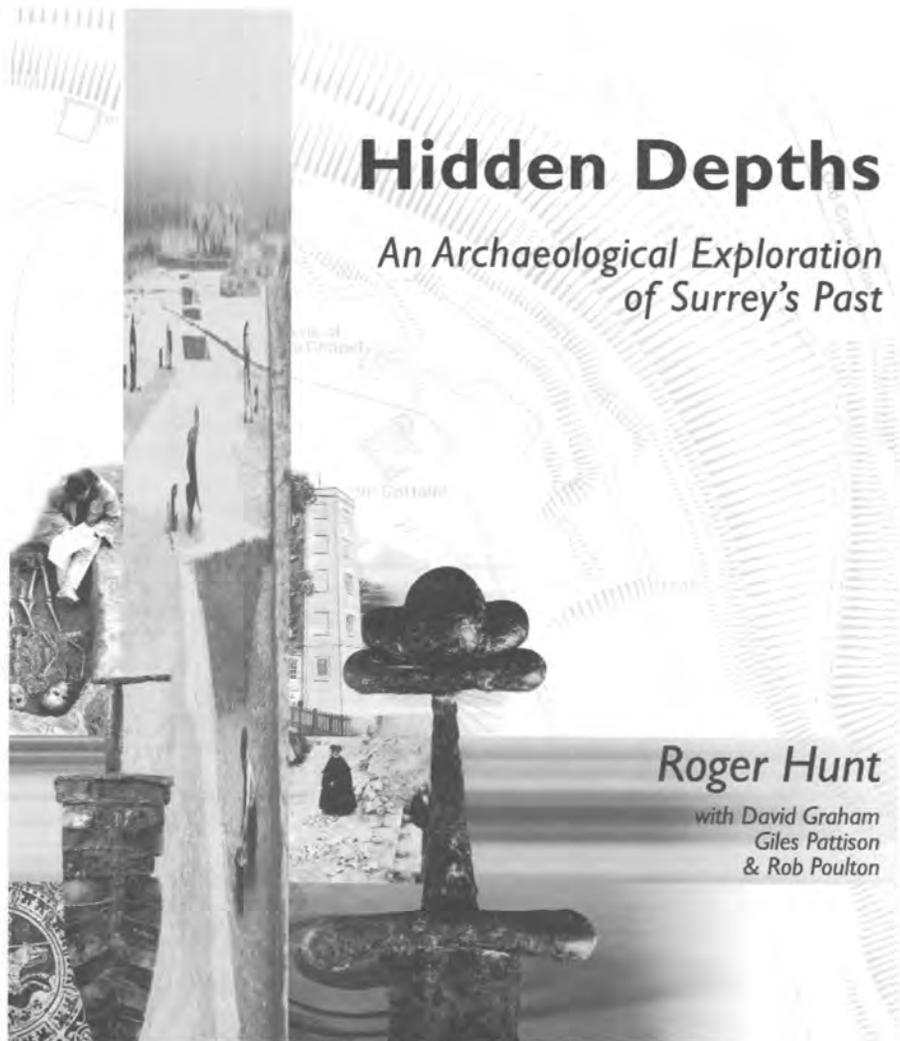
Tel/ Fax: 01483 532454

E-mail: surreyarch@compuserve.com

Website: ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/surreyarch

Bulletin 358

June 2002



Hidden Depths

*An Archaeological Exploration
of Surrey's Past*

Roger Hunt

*with David Graham
Giles Pattison
& Rob Poulton*

HIDDEN DEPTHS

David Miles, Chief Archaeologist English Heritage

Some English counties stand out by their sheer size, location and sense of identity. Most people could probably recognise the outline of Cornwall, Yorkshire or Norfolk on the map of Britain. So how about Surrey? I am not being a condescending Yorkshireman when I say that it is England's equivalent of Poland (my wife's ancestors are Polish). But Surrey is small, landlocked, yet varied. A frontier territory, once pressured between British tribes and 'buffeted between southern English rulers' in PF Brandon's words. It has the dubious privilege of a dominant neighbour to the north-east – at least it has had for the past two thousand years, since Roman London first took a grip of the key Thames crossing. Even the proximity and favour of English royalty has been a mixed blessing, as they adopted Windsor Forest as their playground, retarded its economic development and kept the population density down to one of the lowest in southern England. Henry VIII's attraction to the area resulted in the razing of the church and village of Cuddington so that he could erect his extravagant, if short-lived, palace of Nonsuch.

In our own time, Surrey's identity has been undermined and eroded by central government's reorganisation of local authorities. As I look out of my own window on London's Millbank, I can gaze across to ancient Surrey: over Vauxhall Bridge, past the hanging gardens of M16, to the Oval Cricket Ground. The traffic grumbles down to Brixton, once well known as the supplier of milk to the City; to Battersea, home of the 'Battersea bundles' of asparagus and lavender, where Surrey fields once burgeoned with carrots and melons.

My view has been changed by reading *Hidden Depths: An Archaeological Exploration of Surrey's Past*. Surrey's sense of identity has been well-served by historians and archaeologists – by H E Malden and the Victoria County History at the beginning of the last century; Manning and Bray the century before, and more recently by P F Brandon's *A History of Surrey* (1977), John Blair's *Early Medieval Surrey* (1991) and *The Archaeology of Surrey* (1987, edited by Joanna and David Bird). Like *Hidden Depths*, these last two were produced by the Surrey Archaeological Society. Both of the earlier works were, and I am sure their authors will not mind me saying it, fairly heavyweight stuff, and heavy going for general readers. Not the case with *Hidden Depths*. This new publication is approachable, clearly written and beautifully illustrated. The use of colour in the plans is subtle, the reconstruction drawings informative and the choice of photographs excellent. On successive pages we have elephants and camels wallowing in the source of the River Hogsmill, and an almost surreal Georgian fanlight doorway inserted into the Tudor arch at Place Farm, Bletchingley. From Chertsey Abbey a photograph taken in 1855 is possibly the oldest photographic record in the world of an archaeological excavation (does anyone know of an older one?).

The authors have adopted David Bird's suggestion that *Hidden Depths* should take a thematic rather than a chronological approach. There are advantages. Chapters such as *Hearth and Home*, *Food and Farming*, *Power and Protection* provide a sense of continuity and place – from the tipis of the Staines' tundra eleven thousand years ago, to the houses of Lutyns and the gardens of Jekyll. Religion and Ritual ranges from the Sacred Thames of the Bronze Age via Surrey's wealth of Romano-British temples with their fantastic priestly regalia, literally to the end of the line – Brookwood, where the London Necropolis and National Mausoleum Company bought 800 hectares of land to house London's proliferating dead. The first 'coffin train' departed, one hopes on time, from the company's private station at Waterloo in November 1854. Separate accommodation for Anglicans, Non-Conformists and Catholics.

We are told that history has never been so popular. It is a pity that recent best-sellers have been so conventional. Popular books, for example by Roy Strong and Simon Schama, virtually ignore the first half-million years of human occupation, and most of

the humans who are not kings, queens or soldiers. So congratulations to the authors of *Hidden Depths* and the Surrey Archaeological Society for producing a fascinating, up-to-date and wide-ranging book, with enormous appeal, which keeps Surrey on the map and the people of Surrey firmly within the history of England and the World.

A ROMANO-BRITISH COIN FROM MICKLEHAM

Judie English

The coin found on Long Ride during a test-pitting exercise on Mickleham Downs (*Bulletin 354*) has been examined by Mike Hammerson and the following note derives from his report. The coin purports to be one of the BRITANNIA issues of Hadrian but is probably a 'locally'-made, 'lightweight', cast copy.

"The prototype it copies is RIC.577b, of AD 119.

- obverse [IMP CAESAR TRA]IANUS HADR[IANUS AVG]

- reverse [PONT MAX TR POT C]OS III / S C figure of Britannia leaning against a pile of rocks with the legend BRITANNIA below.

There are, however, some complications. The BRITANNIA coinage of Hadrian and Antoninus Pius is generally an inferior product to the other official Roman issues, and it has even been speculated, with no real evidence as yet, that they were produced here, during Hadrian's visit, and possibly on cast flans. One can, therefore, be less conclusive that it is a cast copy rather than a sub-standard local issue, especially as it is almost as large as the normal *asses* of the Roman mint – a cast copy would probably be smaller, or there would not be much point in faking them. The poor quality is best seen in the sloppy way BRITANNIA is written on the reverse, starting with large letters which trail off in size and gradually wander upwards across the exergue. This is an inexcusably bad bit of engraving, and not the sort of thing one would expect to see emanating from the Roman mint, and hence the reason some people suggest that they may have been hurriedly produced locally for the emperor's visit.

The coin is also quite heavily worn, but is it a worn coin semi-officially produced in AD 119, in which case it may represent 10 to 30 years circulation; a worn cast copy of a less worn original coin produced in the mid 2nd-mid 3rd century; or a worn cast copy of a worn original of AD 119 which circulated for several decades, which could make its date of production during the later 2nd century or later." Mike has told me that, if he were forced to make a choice he would opt for the third possibility.

For me this is an object lesson in hoping for good dating evidence: as Mike says "Roman coins are deceitful little bronzes!"

English, J (2001) Mickleham Downs Excavation *SyAS Bulletin 354*

DOODS FARM, REIGATE: Roman Tilers

David Williams

During Easter 2001 trial trenching took place in the gardens of two houses on the site of the supposed tilery in the fields adjacent to Doods Farm, which was built over in the 1880s and when a number of complete box-flue tiles were found forming a drain. Two other complete box-flue tiles were found in the 1960's during construction of the Doods Place flats on the site of the farm itself. Three of these are now with the Holmesdale Natural History Club and another is in the British Museum. There is also a story, on a label attached to a tile found at this time, of a kiln of stone having been found. The area is now the junction of Wray Common Road and Doods Way. Limited work in the garden of one house, *Rosehill*, in 1989 by Rob Masefield, located part of a probable ditch filled with tile wasters.

Three one metre square trenches, as well as auguring, in the lawn to the rear of 32 Wray Common Road located, besides a length of tubular field drain, only a few fragments of probable Roman tile. This work at least demonstrated that the site did

not extend this far. The remainder of the work took place in the garden of *Tregoney*, in Doods Way and opposite *Rosehill*. A 3 x 1m trench in the lawn to the north of this modern house yielded a small amount of Roman tile as did a metre square trench in the front lawn. Two further parallel trenches (Trench 2, 6 x 1m, and Trench 7, 3 x 1m) were then excavated adjacent and at right angles to Doods Way. Both located substantial quantities of broken tile at a depth of about 0.5m. In Trench 2 a layer of tiles began about 2 metres from the southern end of the trench. In Trench 3 a layer of tiles c0.15m deep covered the entire area and sealed a deep cut into the natural clay, which could not be pursued. The latter contained large boulders of Upper Greensand as well as large pieces of broken tile. This trench also yielded three small prehistoric sherds. Both trenches were crossed by sections of chalk-filled field drain, as well as lengths of metal path associated with a stone-filled drain. The path was comprised of hard burnt and reddened clay lumps and, although probably of 19th century date, may possibly have been constructed from the debris of a tile kiln.

The tile from the site comprises roofing tile (*tegula* and *imbrex*), box-flue tile and flat bricks. Of particular interest are a number of fragments of relief-patterned box-flue tiles bearing Die 5, which was formed with a roller, and the same die as found at Ashted as well as on three of the complete tiles found earlier. There are also fragments with combed lines. A number of fragments of flat brick bear impressions of dog paws.

There can no longer be any real doubt as to the nature of this site. As Rob Masefield reported in 1989 a number of sites in *Londinium* have yielded tiles of a distinctive fabric (3050) that can be identified as coming from Doods Farm. The number of sites in London is now over forty (Ian Betts, pers comm) and tiles in the same fabric have also recently been identified in Canterbury and at the Deerton Street Roman villa near Faversham. The evidence from London also suggests that the Doods Farm tile industry was operating cAD140-230. The tile layers found at *Tregoney* probably represent an area of hardstanding; the deep feature filled with tile and stone may be a back-filled clay pit.

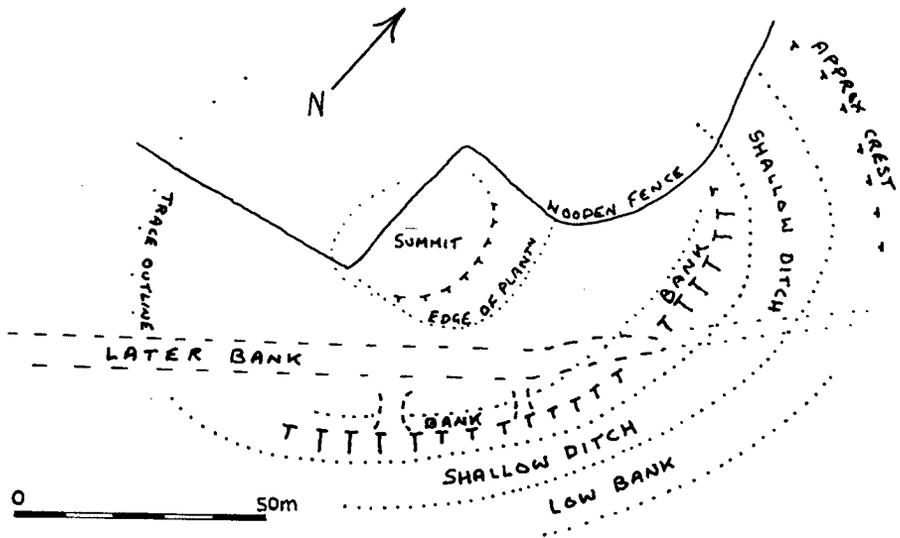
Unfortunately, such is the present environment of the site that few opportunities will be available in the foreseeable future to locate kilns or to learn more about what was clearly a sizeable industry.

AN OVAL RINGWORK AT PRIORY PARK, REIGATE *Thomas C Welsh*

About half the outline of an oval ringwork formed by a bank, scarp, broad shallow ditch, and on the more open south-east aspect, a low counterscarp bank, is situated on the north-western edge of Priory Park, about 200m south of Reigate High Street and 50m east of Park Lane (TQ 249499). It encloses a small elevation crowned with an ornamental copse of trees. The north-western perimeter is in private ground, not accessed, where the grass was too long to see detail from the park boundary.

In drawing up an initial report on this site I have not had the opportunity to research it and therefore apologise if this duplicates established work. I was only in Reigate for an overnight stay, Friday to Saturday, and only noted it on a brief visit to Priory Park in the early evening, following up on the Saturday morning. From limited enquiries it seems to be unknown as an historic feature in Reigate, but might be on archaeological files. However it appears significant enough to justify a report to ensure that it is recorded.

The summit is about 4m above the shallow ditch on south-east, and about 2.5m high from the north-east. It is recognisable by a distinct steepening at the base of the slope, forming a scarp about 1 to 1.5m high, along the crest of which there appears to be a low bank or terrace. The soil is sandy and unlikely to support marked escarpments and banks surviving over a long period. Nevertheless, it is a distinctive



Priory Park, Reigate: sketch of Oval Enclosure

feature except as the curve returns on south-west where, over the rising ground, it is faint to indeterminate. This is contained within a shallow ditch, with about a 10m wide floor, and on the south-eastern slopes a low counterscarp. On the north-east the ditch is wider, dividing the oval from rising ground. An indentation in the slope on the south-east suggests the ditch has been entirely filled in, and the scarp, as noted above, levelled. Within the ditch floor, the oval is about 130m SW to NE, by an estimated 75m (which would need an examination of the private enclosure to confirm).

The site is crossed by a later bank which may extend north-east across the ditch but is faint to indeterminate there. Where it lies above the enclosing bank/scarp it follows a curved scarp which might be an earlier concentric defence, as it can be traced on the east arc, but this would need an investigation to confirm.

It could be a park landscape feature dating from when the Priory was a residence of Lord Somers, but the width of the ditch and the nature of the scarp is not a visual enhancement from a distance. Its general condition suggests it is earlier, and it could indicate a Saxon defensive ringwork or an Iron Age settlement enclosure.

I find it incredible that such an earthwork could have been missed previously, so I await a big post-bag. Dr. Tom Welsh can be contacted at the School of Environmental Science, University College, Northampton, Park Campus, Boughton Green Road, Northampton, NN2 7AL, Tel: 01604 735500 ext 2502, email: tom.welsh@northampton.ac.uk

TWO LOWER PALAEO-LITHIC BIFACES FROM OUTWOOD

Gabby Rapson

The two illustrated flints were discovered during fieldwork by Robin Tanner. The village of Outwood straddles a ridge of Weald Clay that includes thin seams of Paludina Limestone, and bands of sandstone occur locally. Both were discovered on the surface of the clay in areas where the sand and clay is present, and although found separately, they were in similar locations by the side of a small stream valley at approximately 90m OD.

They have thick, ochre-brown patination, and are heavily abraded and frost damaged, and the smaller fragment (found at TQ 325464) is a broken end of a larger implement (no 2). Heavy white patination of most of the damaged areas of both, however, suggests that all this had occurred in antiquity.

The more complete biface (found at TQ 320466) was never fully flaked around the perimeter, as an area of cortex remains (no 1: right hand view, top right). It also shows more recent damage: pecking at the top suggests a possible later re-use as a hammer-stone. Some small flakes have been removed more recently, possibly by plough damage, and there is also an area of possible heat damage/crystallisation, which shows little patination, but has caused a small area of reddening (right hand view, lower right quadrant).

N Barton and F Weban-Smith have suggested that both pieces are probably about 300,000 years old. My thanks for their identification, and to Robin Tanner for allowing their prompt publication.

REFERENCES

Dines, H G, 1933 *The Geology of the County around Reigate and Dorking*. HM Stationery Office
Johnson, M F, 1997, *The History of Outwood*, Outwood Local History Society
Tanner, R. 1997. The Geology the Weald, in Johnson, M. F 1997

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Hand Delivery of the *Collections*

The considerable help that we receive from members in hand-delivering copies of the *Collections* and other publications is a significant cost saver for the Society. In fact, on the last occasion postage costs of £3 per member were saved – a not insignificant sum when taken across the Society.

However, the system depends on the goodwill and help of the members involved and we have recently been engaged in an exercise to spread the load of the work more evenly. The response of members has been heartening and we now have one operation only – the Guildford area – that needs a willing volunteer. The work involved is to take in a bulk delivery at Castle Arch of publications for 242 members (at the last count) and to sort these into 13 area boxes for collection by local deliverers. When this has been done, the local deliverers are to be advised. The staff at Castle Arch will help with this.

Will anyone who would be prepared to take on this 3-4 hours, once a year task kindly get in touch with Alan Hall on 01372 812538 or e-mail: AlanHall9@yahoo.co.uk

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The Society's Tools

These have now been relocated in two lock-up garages in Merrow, following a request from the owner of the previous storage that we vacate it. Geoff Stonehouse, our newly appointed Tools Officer, has prepared a new inventory and instructions for finding the garages, which are available from him, Tel: 01483 283885. Requests for the loan of tools, etc. should also be made to him.

New Equipment

The Society has acquired eight Garmin e-Trex hand-held GPS units and four walkie-talkies that are inter-communicable. They, and the instructions for using them, are available from Geoff Stonehouse, Tel: 01483 283885.

LIBRARY NEWS

Local History Publications

Gillian Drew

Some members seem to be worried that with the amalgamation of the Society and the Surrey Local History Council, this will somehow leave a gap in the purchase of local history publications.

Can we please reassure everyone that the Surrey Archaeological Society Library will continue to collect local history publications to the best of our ability. We would welcome notification from members of any local history publications for your area, as it all helps us to keep track of what is available.

Photographs for Displays

We are anxious to build up a file of good quality recent photographs (last 5 years) of any form of Society activity – field walking, excavation, conservation, visits, etc, that we can use in displays to publicise our activities. If you have anything that might be suitable, please leave a print or copy at Castle Arch, together with a brief note of the subject matter. Many thanks for your help.

Library Chairs

Does any member have any lightweight office-type chairs, ideally about six, but any number would be welcome. The library would be most grateful for anything in reasonable condition, and we will endeavour to collect them from you. Our chairs are of an age and in some cases hardness which make them really unsuitable for long periods of study. Once again, many thanks for your help.

FIELDWORK BY THE SURREY COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT DURING 2001

Introduction

The number of sites investigated by the Unit in 2001 was higher than in 2000, returning to the level of previous years. As always (see *Bulletin 336*) the distribution of sites on the map reflects development pressures rather than archaeological significance.

The whole team was involved in carrying out this work. Many of the excavations and evaluations were directed by Graham Hayman. Others were directed by Mark Dover and Jim Stevenson, as well as Phil Jones, Giles Pattison, Rob Poulton, and Jane Robertson; and these were also responsible, together with Nick Marples, for the watching briefs. Further assistance with fieldwork was given by Rebecca Lambert and Simon Hind. Finds work was undertaken by Phil Jones, Kathy Ayres and Nick Marples, while Giles Pattison was responsible for all of the illustration and design work, except for pottery by Phil Jones. Nowal Shaikhley was responsible for much of the organisation of the work, and also assisted with and carried out a number of fieldwork projects.

NSFF indicates that no significant finds or features were identified at a site.

Elmbridge

- 1 **Cobham**, Leigh Hill (east end: TQ 1133 6026, west end: TQ 1126 6021). Watching Brief in February: *NSFF*.
- 2 **Cobham**, Parkside School, Stoke D'Abernon (TQ 1302 5847). Evaluation/ Watching Brief in April and May: some minor post-medieval, possibly Tudor, features, otherwise *NSFF*.

- 3 **Molesey**, New Inn (TQ 1470 6795). Evaluation in January: *NSFF*.
- 4 **Weybridge**, Ardenne Cottage, St George's Hill (TQ 0858 6171). Watching Brief in January: *NSFF*.
- 5 **Weybridge**, Ramparts, St. George's Hill (TQ 0865 6174). Watching brief in July: *NSFF*.
- 6 **Weybridge**, Whiteley Village (TQ 0943 6247). Evaluation in December: *NSFF*.

Epsom & Ewell

- 7 **Ewell**, Nonsuch High School (TQ 2373 6333). Evaluation April: Bronze Age pit and scatter of flintwork.

Guildford

- 8 **Chilworth**, Chilworth Bypass Channel (TQ 0277 4757). Watching Brief in May: The excavation of a new bypass channel revealed debris almost certainly derived from the demolition of a late 19th century building which had formed part of the Chilworth Gunpowder Mills.
- 9 **Guildford**, Guildford Castle motte (SU 9975 4930). Ground penetrating radar survey and test pit evaluation July and October/November: The work was in advance of remedial works to the 12th century keep, and the results of the GPR suggested that fragmented wall foundations might lie beneath the top of the motte, and that the keep had been constructed by cutting away the motte, effectively creating a foundation trench at some 2-4m distance from the keep walls. The test pits confirmed the latter, but did not impact on areas where the foundations were suggested to lie. The excavation work also showed that medieval ground level was similar to that at present and that undisturbed medieval layers lie just below the tarmac surface on the motte top
- 10 **Guildford**, Surrey Advertiser Building (SU 9975 4972). Evaluation in June: *NSFF*.
- 11 **Send**, Send Church (TQ 0186 5434). Watching Brief from November to December: Undated, probably modern burials and loose human bone were revealed in the graveyard, together with a 19th century brick tomb. Parts of a foundation apparently associated with the tower, but with elements which are difficult to explain, were observed. Work continues.

Mole Valley

- 12 **Great Bookham**, Eastwick School, (TQ 1376 5514). Watching Brief in January: *NSFF*.
- 13 **Ockley**, Ansell's Builders Yard (TQ 1496 4048). Evaluation in September: *NSFF*.
- 14 **Wotton**, Wotton House (TQ 122 469). Evaluation and Excavation in January and July: The wall of an ancillary building (long demolished) depicted on John Evelyn's 1653 drawing of Wotton House, was identified and a sample length excavated. The most interesting feature of the fieldwork, however, was the discovery of a buried watercourse that extends below an extension built on to the west wing in the 19th century. It may be part of an earlier, perhaps original, course of the Tillingbourne, the western edge of which had been straightened; or else a wholly man-made feature. Because only a small part of it was uncovered, it is not certain which of these suggestions is correct. The exposed section, however, suggested, that it may have been part of a moat around the earlier house (although its precise age could not be determined), and just such a feature was recorded by John Evelyn writing in 1651, although it seems to have been filled in very soon after.

Reigate & Banstead

- 15 **Banstead**, 14 Sutton Lane (TQ 2909 6046). Watching brief in August: *NSFF*
- 16 **Nutfield**, Nutfield Marsh (TQ 2900 5120). Watching brief in August: No finds or features of potential value to an understanding of Holocene environmental history.

- 17 **Reigate**, 51A Bell Street (TQ 2548 5005). Evaluation and Watching Brief in January, February and June: A not precisely dateable ditch, but otherwise *NSFF*
- 18 **Reigate**, 6 High Street (TQ 2531 5029). Evaluation in January: A single trench on this small site revealed only modern deposits produced in terracing the steep natural slope, but they incorporated a useful assemblage of domestic 16th century pottery
- 19 **Reigate**, Reigate Grammer School (TQ 260 502). Evaluation August: *NSFF*

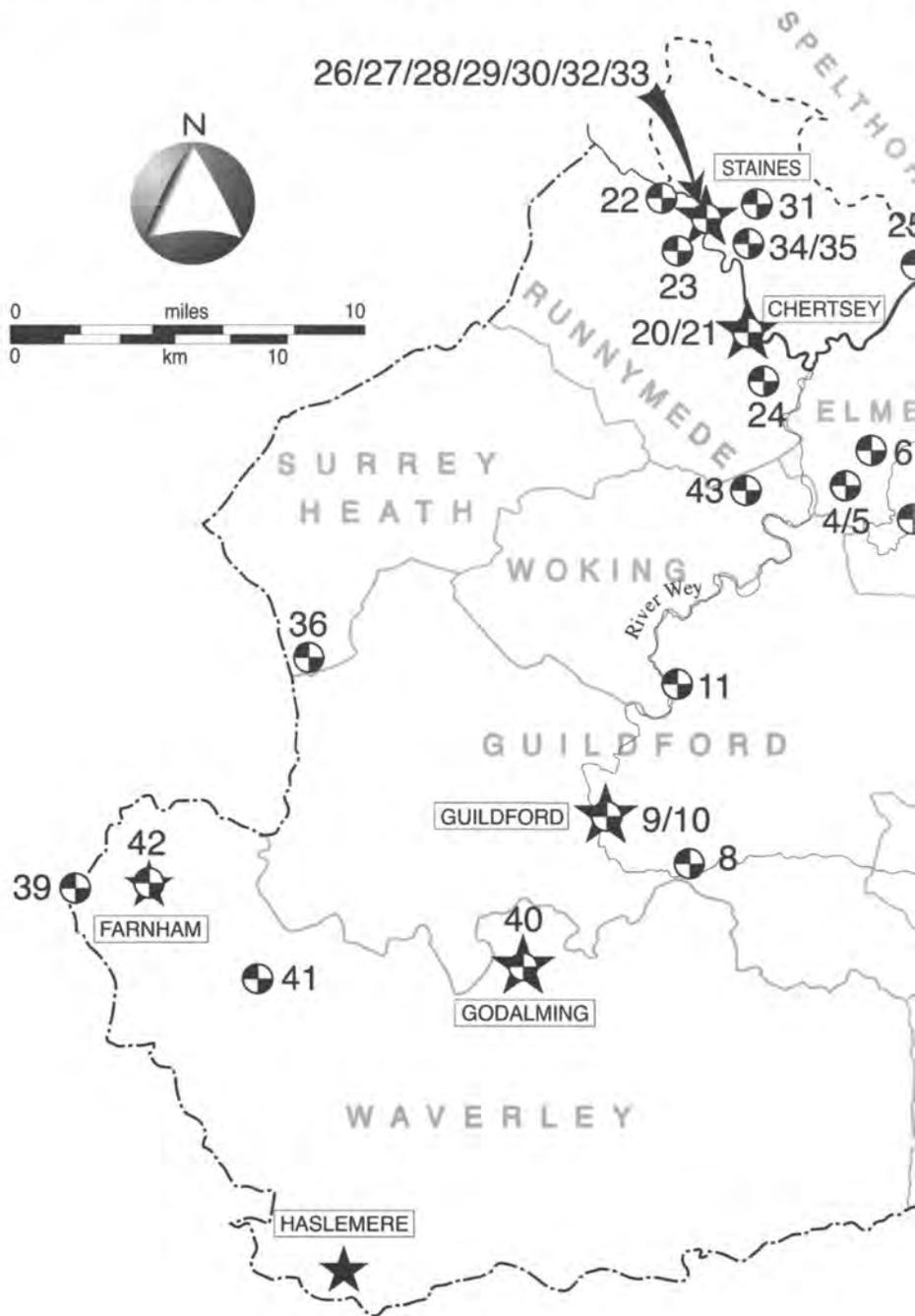
Runnymede

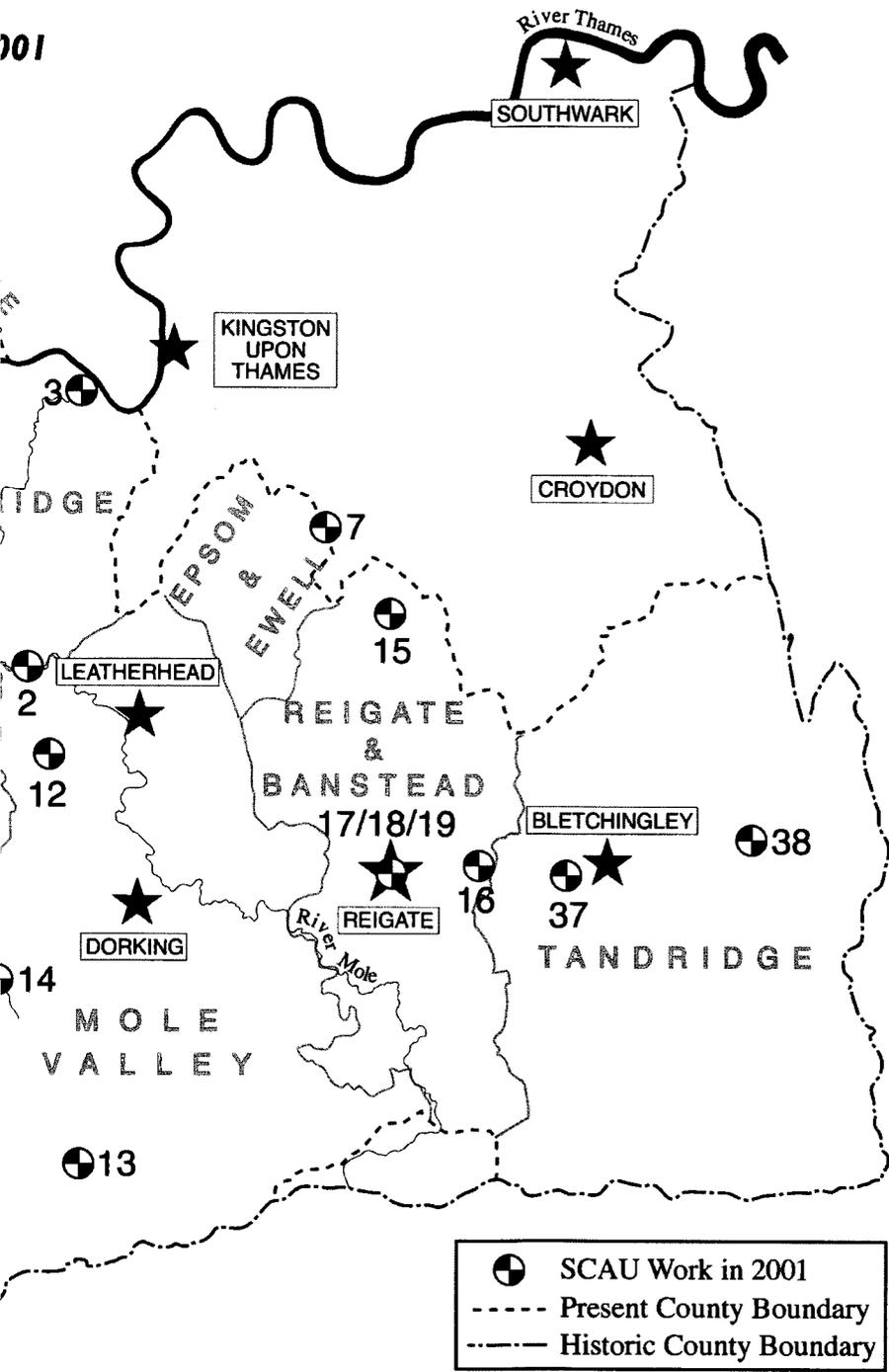
- 20 **Chertsey**, Abbey Lodge (TQ 0438 6715). Watching Brief in July, August and October: The southern wall of the north cloister walk of the 12th century and later Abbey was revealed, barely surviving below extensive modern disturbance
- 21 **Chertsey**, Pound Road/Abbey Road (TQ 0459 6673). Evaluation in March: *NSFF*
- 22 **Egham**, Lovett Road (TQ 0187 7147). Evaluation in March: *NSFF*
- 23 **Thorpe**, Coldharbour Lane (SU 025 690). Watching Brief followed by Excavation from August to October: An early Bronze Age ring ditch of a barrow, with two inhumation burials along the base of the ditch. Neolithic flintwork, Roman ditches, and Saxon pits were also discovered (*Bulletin 355*)
- 24 **Addlestone**, Marconi site, Station Road (TQ 0553 6503). Controlled strip and excavation in August and September. The discoveries included gullies and ditches belonging to settlement enclosures, a number of pits, and a large waterhole. The finds include plentiful pottery, including large parts of individual vessels, as well as loomweights and other finds, all belonging to the Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age transition.

Spelthorne

- 25 **Sunbury**, St Mary's Church (TQ 1062 6851). Watching Brief in October: Undated, probably modern burials and loose human bone revealed in the graveyard, but otherwise *NSFF*
- 26 **Staines**, 203-211 London Road (TQ 045 720). Evaluation/Watching brief in June and November to December: *NSFF*
- 27 **Staines**, 30-38 Church Street (TQ 0331 7165). Watching Brief in June, following an Evaluation in 2000, confirmed that the site was on the shoreline of a river channel until the land was reclaimed in the 18th century; foundations of the late 18th century Lancasterian School (sic) were identified.
- 28 **Staines**, 56 and 58-60 Kingston Road (TQ 0420 7150). Watching Brief April: *NSFF*
- 29 **Staines**, ABC site (TQ 0326 7154). Test pitting and Watching Brief from October to December. The site lay offshore from the gravel island on which Roman and medieval Staines was concentrated, and a deep sequence of fluvial deposits was identified, with a basal peat formation of early Holocene date that is currently subject to palaeoenvironmental analysis.
- 30 **Staines**, Debenhams, 37-45 High Street (TQ 0353 7151). Watching Brief in April and May. *NSFF*
- 31 **Staines**, Hengrove Farm (TQ 0528 7209). Excavation and Watching Brief in March to April and June to July: The area lay south of previous work undertaken in 1999 and 2000 in this gravel quarry. Late Neolithic pit containing a complete Ebbsfleet bowl; several Mid to Late Bronze Age pits; a small Iron Age pit containing a complete triangular loomweight; three sides of an enclosure of uncertain, but prehistoric date; the right angled corner of a Roman enclosure leading towards an area of concentrated Roman activity identified previously; and some Middle Saxon pits.
- 32 **Staines**, Old Police Station and 10-16 London Road (TQ 0399 7175). Completion in January of work begun in 2000. Roman human inhumation and cremation

Work carried out by Surrey County Archaeological Unit in





burials, an animal burial, and pits and ditches that may belong to late 4th century settlement.

- 33 **Staines**, Riverside Park (TQ 0341 7145). Watching Brief from October to December of three deep tank pits. One in the Riverside car park exposed prehistoric alluvia below a buried post-medieval soil; another in the Memorial Gardens showed post-medieval building debris immediately below its lawns and deep near-shore fluvial deposits of late Roman date not bottomed at 3.5m below the surface; the last in the Market Square uncovered post-medieval metallurgy layers and the front wall of the Blackboys Inn, demolished 1880, as well as deeply-lying early Roman near-shore fluvial deposits. At 4.3m from the surface, the edge of a linear feature was revealed, with a parallel line of wooden piles inside. A find of special note from the buried watercourse is a two-sided wooden nit comb.

- 34 **Staines**, Staines and Laleham Hockey Club Site, Worple Road (TQ 0484 6983). Watching Brief in February and March: *NSFF*

- 35 **Staines**, Staines Football Club (TQ 0424 7008). Evaluation in September: *NSFF*

Surrey Heath

- 36 **Frimley**, Mooring Basin, Basingstoke Canal, Mytchett (SU 8932 5516). Evaluation in June: *NSFF*

Tandridge

- 37 **Bletchingly**, Castle Street (TQ 3227 5079). Watching brief in November: *NSFF*

- 38 **Oxted**, Old Bell public house (TQ 3849 5222). Watching Brief in February. Some further details were observed which help confirm the postulated development of this 15th century and later building (Gray and Hughes 2000)

Waverley

- 39 **Dippenhall**, Dippenhall House (SU 8103 4654). Watching brief in June and from August to October: *NSFF*

- 40 **Godalming**, Angel Court (SU 9689 4387). Evaluation in July and August: *NSFF*

- 41 **Runfold**, Farnham Quarry (SU 875 485). Evaluation from April to June: *NSFF*

- 42 **Farnham**, 23-4 West St (8378 4663). Watching brief in May and June: *NSFF*

Woking

- 43 **West Byfleet**, Broadoaks Estate (TQ 0480 6084). Evaluation in November: Several features, mostly pits and ditches, could not be directly dated. Their character and a burnt flint scatter in the vicinity suggests that they might be of prehistoric date.

REFERENCE

Gray, P and Hughes, A, 2000, Old Bell, High Street, Oxted, *SyAS Bulletin* **345**, 8-9.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

39-41 HIGH STREET, KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

New Dendrochronological Date

Dennis Turner

English Heritage has published dendrochronological dating for parts of nos 39-41 High Street, Kingston, obtained from the Institute of Archaeology. Pevsner describes the building ambiguously as '*now much altered. Originally a single timber-framed and jettied house of a late medieval type once common in towns: a cross wing (now No 41), probably with shop and enclosed chamber above, and an open hall at the rear (smoke-blackened roof-trusses with both lower king struts and queen struts)*'.

English Heritage considers the building to have four phases of which only one could be dated. The south end of the building (no 41) has an elm crown post and braces with oak rafters and wall plate: elm cannot be dendrochronologically dated, and neither could any of the oak timbers of this unit. The northern part (no 39) has decorated timbers and provided a felling date of 1459. A truss over the carriageway between nos 39 and 37 is inscribed in Arabic numerals with the date 1471 and provided a felling date between 1466 and 1495.

From *Vernacular Architecture* 32 (2001), 72.

Reigate and Banstead: Historic Buildings at Risk Survey: Reigate Priory

D J Turner

Reigate and Banstead Borough Council have just published a report detailing the findings of its 1999-2000 buildings at risk survey, updated to December 2000. The report shows a level of dedication not known to exist in other Surrey districts but is, we are told 'intended to highlight those buildings which have known defects whose serious condition is of particular concern. It should not be regarded as an exhaustive list.' The survey found three out of 21 SAMs in the borough to be at risk; 18 out of 433 buildings on the statutory list at risk; and 10 out of 532 buildings on the local list at risk. In addition, there were 8 curtilage features at risk. This was still an improvement on the position in 1989 when the first survey was undertaken, but represents a decline since 1994.

The report notes several instances where repairs have taken place, and the borough council takes credit for some of these either by contributing directly in cash or kind or by exerting pressure under the planning laws. However, the report also exposes a number of instances of municipal neglect.

Prominent among the buildings to which some risk attaches is Reigate Priory (SAM and statutorily listed), owned by the borough itself but leased to the County Council Education Department. The cracked state of the Verrio mural has given cause for concern for many years and a lottery-aided scheme has been under consideration for some time – meanwhile, restoration costs rise. A leaking downpipe on the east side of the building has been publicly visible for a long while but remedial action has still not been taken. It is also noted in the 'at risk' report that three Georgian marble fireplaces have been damaged and are in need of repair and that there is cracked and loose plasterwork. A meeting between county and borough officers is understood to have been arranged.

The early 18th century wrought iron gates that were once on the Bell Street frontage and had been repositioned to the rear, were long ago stored away (whether by the borough or by their county council tenants is obscure). The gates have recently been rediscovered by the borough's Conservation Officer and found to be 'decaying due to fragile condition'. A lottery bid has been under consideration for some time and is now planned, 'in about two-years time', as part of the Reigate Priory Park restoration scheme. Meanwhile improved storage and better care does not seem to have been arranged.

MISCELLANY

TWO HERALDIC BEASTS? (*Bulletin* 357)

Charles Abdy

There is in Berkeley Castle, Gloucestershire, a picture of a mansion at Epsom called Durdans, painted by Jacob Scmits in 1689. The mansion was built for George, Lord Berkeley, in the 1680's and the painting was probably intended to show off the new house. It was the time of the demolition of Nonsuch Palace, of which Berkeley was

the Keeper, and there is no reason to doubt John Aubrey's story that a lot of the materials from the palace went into Durdans.

The interesting thing about the Scmits painting is that, on what appears to be a terrace in front of Durdans, and lining a flight of steps leading up to it, there are eight heraldic beasts. The quality of the reproduction of the painting that I have seen is insufficient to enable one to say to what extent they resemble those shown in the Bulletin, but they could be similar. In 1747 Durdans was acquired by Alderman Belchier. He had Berkeley's house pulled down, but the new one he had built burned down in 1755 and was rebuilt in 1764. The present Durdans is basically the 1764 building. This is probably a complete red herring, but hopefully not without interest.

IMAGES OF ENGLAND

David Stokes

English Heritage has created an internet database of listed buildings that may be of value to those doing archaeological research in Surrey. 'Images of England' is a ground-breaking heritage initiative run by the National Monuments Record, the public archive of English Heritage. The objective of the project is to make a photographic record of every listed building in England. Each of the 370,000 images are being matched to accompanying written architectural descriptions of the buildings, to create what will be one of the largest free picture libraries in the world.

The site can be reached at www.english-heritage.org.uk. By following the link to 'Images of England', I checked out the site for my area, Surrey Heath, and was most impressed. The Surrey Heath entries included very good photographs taken by a local professional photographer. Apart from the value of the photographs, it is very useful to have easily available the standard description for any listed building.

The site is still being compiled, and may not be complete for your area, but give it a try.

ENGLISH HERITAGE LONDON REGION

Archaeology Quarterly Review

The Quarterly Review is currently distributed to about 300 recipients across Greater London, including the planning departments of all London boroughs, local studies libraries, museums, archaeological contractors, local archaeological societies and academic institutions.

If you would like an event or publication relating to Greater London's archaeology listed in the review we would be happy to include it. Our deadlines for submission this year are: 16th May, 15th August, 14th November and 13th February 2003, and the Review is mailed out approximately a fortnight later. It would be helpful if submissions were e-mailed to us in Word compatible format, to lidia.szafarska@english-heritage.org.uk.

We give contact telephone numbers for all the archaeological organisations that have produced reports or undertaken fieldwork, so that you may contact them if you wish to obtain more details of a particular piece of work. All the listed reports should have been deposited with the appropriate local authority Local Studies Library, for local information; and all can be consulted at our offices at 23 Savile Row, London, by appointment.

BROOKLANDS

Extra Scheduled Monument Status for the Race Track and Aerodrome

J S L Pulford

In a formal notification on 10th January 2002 the Secretary of State classified all of the remaining 1907 motor racing circuit, the Campbell Circuit on both sides of the

River Wey, the Aerodrome Road on the east bank of the River Wey and alongside the Byfleet Banking, both bridges built to enable Vickers aircraft to cross the river, the 1957 Brooklands Memorial and all of Members' Hill as Scheduled Monuments. The new status provides protection from unauthorised demolition, destruction, damage, alterations, and flooding and tipping operations. It also brings added protection to those parts of Brooklands owned by Prudential, the Universities Superannuation Scheme and Tesco.

First published in the April Dial Stone newsheet (no 176) of the Walton and Weybridge Local History Society, with many thanks.

THE DIGGERS

New Information Board at Walton Church

J S L Pulford

On Saturday 2nd February, a dry, bright day in a mainly wet week, four members of the Elmbridge Diggers Heritage Group, namely, the Revd. Canon Timothy Sedgley, vicar of Walton and chairman of the group, Jim Paton, Howard Bateman and John Pulford senior, met in St. Mary's churchyard, Walton, to erect the first information board of the Diggers Trail. Later in the day the verger, Colin Fisher-Jackson, kindly helped in various ways.

The board contains a map showing the Diggers Trail and the five sites designated for the erection of information boards. There is a brief statement of the Digger's beliefs, summed up in Gerrard Winstanley's vision that '*the earth should be made a common treasury of livelihood to whole mankind*', and on account of how a small group of Diggers climbed St. George's Hill on Sunday 1st April 1649 and started to dig and sow crops on the common land there. It was possibly on the same day that a group of soldiers entered Walton church during a service and announced the abolition of the Sabbath, tithes, ministers, magistrates and the Bible. It was also possibly on the same occasion that one of the Diggers placed a bundle of thorns in the pulpit to keep out the parson. Then, a few months later, St. Mary's was to be the scene of another incident in the history of the local Diggers. After being accosted on St. George's Hill by a crowd of manorial tenants, some Diggers were imprisoned in the church until released by a local justice. Later, another group of Diggers was arrested and confined in the church. This time they were transferred to a prison in Kingston before being released. These incidents are also recorded on the board.

The other sites on the Diggers Trail at which information boards have been, or are to be, erected by the council are in Brooklands Road near Weybridge station where a memorial stone to the Diggers was unveiled by the Mayor of Elmbridge, Alan Hopkins, on 10th December 2000; at Cobham Bus Museum; at Little Heath in Cobham; and in the centre of Cobham where a mosaic mural is to be displayed. A leaflet is obtainable from Elmbridge Museum about the Diggers and a map showing the five sites.

First published in the April Dial Stone newsheet (no 176) of the Walton and Weybridge Local History Society, with many thanks.

SPELTHORNE YOUNG ARCHAEOLOGISTS CLUB

The Council for British Archaeology recently approved Spelthorne Museum in Staines as the meeting place for this new branch of its Young Archaeologists Club. The club, for 9 to 16 year olds in Spelthorne and Runnymede, will be launched on National Archaeology Day in July, and will start meeting in the autumn. Club members will meet on one Saturday morning each month for ten months of the year, and branch leaders Rowena Ferneley and Christine Lake are looking for volunteers interested in joining the core team. They hope to promote an enjoyment and understanding of the archaeology of the area through a variety of activities.

If you are comfortable with this age group and enthusiastic about passing on your love and knowledge of archaeology, contact Rowena at 01344 843370.

PUBLICATIONS

'The Constables of Horley Mill' by **Claire Constable**. Surrey Mills Publishing Ltd, 2001. Hardback, 362pp, col plates, illus, £19.99. ISBN 0 9540359-0-9

This book covers mainly the period from the end of the French Revolution in 1797 to 1838 when James Constable, 'the Old Gentleman', died. It tells the story of the Constable family through the contents of an old oak chest that held a large collection of letters, journals, images and scrapbooks. The result is a remarkable insight into the life of a family whose social and business lives extended far beyond their immediate locality, ranging from London to Brighton and Kingston and further afield to North America. The family acquired Horley watermill through the elder James's marriage to Mary Dabner in 1737. They also owned an adjoining property called Tedhams, a farm called Spikemead at Lowfield Heath and the windmill which James moved there from Horsham Common. They established a retail shop attached to Tedhams which grew into a large business employing over sixty people. It sold everything needed by local people, made boots and shoes and furniture on the premises and provided a funeral service.

The book concerns mainly the generation born between 1775 and 1790. It deals with their everyday lives and relationships and with events such as Daniel's attempts to find a business to his liking. William's enlistment into the militia in 1810, and the emigration to Indiana of Mildred, her husband John Purse and their 9-year old daughter. The Constables were free thinkers and republicans and knew many eminent radicals of their day and their involvement with this circle in the politically tense climate after the French Revolution, probably influenced Daniel and William (accompanied by Frank the dog) to set out on a long visit to America in 1806.

It is interesting that after their return they reconstructed Horley Mill. The lease had expired and had only recently been renewed and the old building was run down. They therefore decided to demolish it and build a new one. One wonders whether they had been influenced by seeing mills in America, where Oliver Evans's influential book *The Young Mill-wright and Miller's Guide* had been published in 1795. It was to run into fifteen editions by 1850 (and was reprinted in 1990). However the technical aspects of millwrighting and milling are only addressed in passing and one is left wondering whether the family chest was devoid of such material or whether the author has chosen not to include it, for she is not at ease with these matters.

Perhaps the most interesting reference to a mill is to the horizontal windmill at Battersea which Daniel and James climbed on one occasion. One of them recorded that it was 'quite a curious sensation to be ascending such a building and whirling round with it.' The date is not given but it appears from the narrative to be the late 1790s.

There are copies of William's drawings showing the two waterwheels of the mill at Horley that was demolished in 1809 and of the reconstructed one c1812. There are also many reproductions, in colour, of his paintings, particularly of scenes in North America. He was an accomplished artist, became a successful photographer and began a career as a surveyor after reconstructing the watermill. As surveyor to the Reigate turnpike trust, responsible for the Sutton to Lowfield Heath section, his work included the Reigate road tunnel and the suspension bridge at the top of Reigate Hill. Another aspect of industry which is touched upon is fuller's earth, because Susanna Constable married the fuller's earth merchant and farmer, Henry Grece.

The book is primarily concerned with the history of a family and moves from topic to topic like the letters from which it quotes extensively. It will be enjoyed by many readers for this quality and for its human interest. Others will prefer to start with the index, which is quite detailed, although it does not include Battersea or horizontal windmills – the reference to this is on page 12. The author has also provided introductory maps, potted biographies and a family tree, which sets the scene and makes the narrative easy to follow.

Glenys Crocker

First published in the March 2002 Newsletter (no 126) of the Surrey Industrial History Group, with many thanks.

“Local and family history from fire insurance policies (for the 18th and 19th centuries)” by **Tony Evans**. Wandsworth. Wandsworth Historical Society, Wandsworth Paper 10, 2001. A\$ paperback, 86pp, illus. ISBN 0 905121 08 2, ISSN 0307 3181. Price £10.

The importance of fire insurance registers has been pointed out previously in this newsletter, in connection with a long-term project started in 1996 by the Surrey Local History Council. Substantial series of policy registers are held by the Guildhall Library, London, for the Sun, Royal Exchange and Hand-in-Hand companies. They are an invaluable source of information for local and industrial history but they are unindexed and searching through them for material relevant to one’s own research is so time-consuming as to be impracticable. Some limited work has been carried out. In particular an index has been published (on microfiche) for the Sun and Royal Exchange registers for the years 1775-1787. It was decided to appeal for volunteers to search the Sun registers for policies relating to Surrey, going forward from that period, and to cover the whole of the historic county. It emerged that Tony Evans, of the Wandsworth Historical Society, was already indexing the Hand-in-Hand registers for his own area and this book is the first part of the result. Further volumes are planned for Battersea, Tooting and Putney, all parishes in historic Surrey.

The Hand-in-Hand policies are indexed alphabetically by name of policy holder and by site of insured property. Descriptions, values and dimensions of property are given in policy number order, and by the use of abbreviations an enormous amount of information has been compressed into this section. A Catalogue of Wandsworth Policies gives the Guildhall Library document reference for those wishing to consult the originals. There is also a section on Sun Fire Office Policies, but it is pointed out that not all Sun registers have been searched. They are indexed by name of policy holder and give the policy number, year, occupation/status, site, type of building, stock/goods and volume number in the registers.

The book has an attractive illustrated cover and contains a detail of Rocque’s map of 1760 and a page of modern colour photographs of 18th-century buildings which occur in the records. The background information is minimal but an excellent book by Brian Henham was published in the Company’s tercentenary year, 1996, by the Commercial Union Assurance Company plc, and this provides a readable and well-illustrated account.

Those interested in industrial or social history would have liked an index of occupations but it is not too onerous a task to search through the relevant columns. The occupations include those of scarlet dyer, calico printer, tallow chandler, glue maker, pattern drawer, pipemaker, maltster. Distiller, coppersmith, oil merchant, blacksmith, sugar refiner, lighterman, carpenter, gardener, farmer, coachmaker, shopkeeper and surgeon, among others.

The author is to be congratulated on bringing this part of his project to fruition and making the material publicly accessible. It is hoped that its publication will inspire more support for the SLHC project. This has made modest progress so far, as can

be seen on the web page at <http://shs.surreycc.gov.uk/slhc.html>. There will be an announcement about it during the coming year when the Surrey Archaeological Society takes over the functions of the Surrey Local History Council, and any help from members of SIHG will be very welcome.

Copies of Tony Evans's book are available from the Publications Secretary, Wandsworth Historical Society, 31 Hill Court, Putney Hill, London, SW15 6BB, price £10 plus £1.25 for post and packing.
Glenys Crocker

OTHER EVENTS

SOUTH LONDON HERITAGE WALKS

Lambeth Local History Forum

The following walks, and others later this year, are organised by member organisations of the Forum, which promotes an interest in the heritage of Lambeth. Most are free, except where stated, although voluntary donations are always welcome.

- 2nd June, 2.30pm **West Norwood Cemetery General Tour.** Meet Norwood Road main gate. £1.
- 9th June, 2.30pm **Beulah Hill.** Meet Beulah Spa, finish at Crown Point.
- 9th June, 12 and 2.30pm **Crystal Palace,** meet at the museum. £2.50, concessions £1.50.
- 13th June, 6.45pm **The Pleasures of the South Bank.** Meet Morley College. £5
- 18th June, 6.45pm **Trailing the Roupells: Holborn to Waterloo.** Meet Central Criminal Court, Old Bailey.
- 20th June, 7pm **Clapham Common.** Meet at Clapham Common Underground station.
- 20th June, 6.45pm **Lambeth Marsh.** Meet Morley College. £5.
- 27th June, 6.45pm **The Great Exhibition and Albertopolis.** Meet Albert Memorial, Kensington Gore. £5.
- 30th June, 2.30pm **Crystal Palace.** Meet Café St Germain, Crystal Palace Parade.
- 4th July, 7.30pm **Belair Park to Dulwich village.** Meet West Dulwich station.
- 7th July, 2.30pm **Following the Falcon Brook.** Meet Balham station.

For further details contact the Lambeth Archives Department, 52 Knatchbull Road, London SE5 9QY, Tel: 020 7926 6076.

COURSES

WEALD AND DOWNLAND OPEN AIR MUSEUM

Singleton, Chichester, West Sussex

BUILDING CONSERVATION AND TRADITIONAL MATERIALS AND PROCESSES

Practical workshops and seminars for surveyors, architects, craftsmen and others with a keen interest in building conservation

1st July. **Traditional Lime Plasters and Renders.** Leaders: *Ian Constantinides* and *Jeff Orton*. £90.

9th July. **An Introduction to Historic Ironwork.** Leaders: *Geoff Wallis*, *Andrew Breese* and *Charles Brooking*. £90.

11th July. **Flint Buildings: Their History, Repair and Restoration.** Leaders: *Brian Dawson* and *Duncan Berry*. £90.

15th to 18th July. **Traditional Roofing Methods.** Four linked days exploring the traditions, methods and materials used in the roofing industries.

Roof Geometry: Theory and Practice of 'cut and pitch'. *Joe Thompson.*

Thatch. *John Letts and Chris Tomkins*

Slate. *Terry Hughes*

Leadwork. To be announced

Tiles. *Peter Minter and Michael Filde*

Enquiries about these and other courses yet to be announced to Diana Rowsell, Tel: 01243 811464, or email wealdown@mistral.co.uk

VISIT

HERSTMONCEUX CASTLE

Thursday 25th July - Sunday 28th July

An extended weekend, by popular demand, for this our third visit, and there is still more to see and do whilst staying at, and enjoying the benefits of, Herstmonceux Castle.

Optional Visits to include:

Firle Place and Charleston.

Rye and Camber Castle

Bodiam Castle and the **Kent and East Sussex Railway to Tenterden**

Bexhill Museum and the **De la Warr Pavilion**

Dinosaur fossil hunting on **Pett Level**

Herstmonceux Castle is a 15th century brick-built moated castle, set in beautiful parkland and superb Elizabethan gardens, and is a popular conference and wedding venue. It is not generally open to the public and is used in term time as an International Study Centre by its Canadian owners, Queen's University. It has a purpose built hall of residence in the grounds of the estate, which provides excellent and high standard accommodation. Breakfast and dinner are taken in the Great Hall and in the evenings we have a private room for talks, slides and videos, together with the use of *'The Headless Drummer'*, the castle's own personal pub.

Also within the grounds lies the former home of the world-famous Greenwich Observatory, which is now open to the public and has been converted into a Science Centre and Discovery Park. In addition, an excavation is taking place in the grounds and there will be the opportunity to have a guided tour.

Prices: from £43, per person per night, inclusive of dinner, bed, and breakfast. The castle is a no smoking establishment.

Transport will be in private cars; lift shares can be arranged.

If you are interested or want to know more, contact Liz Whitbourn, Tel: 01483 420575, or email liz.whitbourn@btinternet.com

CONFERENCE

THE PREHISTORY OF LONDON: RECENT RESEARCH AND A NEW AGENDA

Institute of Archaeology

12th September 2001

The full programme has not been finalised, but speakers will include **Jon Cotton** (*Museum of London*), **John Lewis** (*Framework Archaeology*), **Mark Turner** (*Rail Link Engineering*), **Ken Whittaker** (*RPS Consulting*), **Barry Bishop** (*Pre-Construct*

Archaeology), **Nick Elsdon** (*Museum of London Archaeological Service*, **Nick Branch** (*Royal Holloway College*), **Richard Bradley** (*Reading University*) and **Rob Poulton** (*Surrey County Archaeological Unit*).

Tickets: £20, £10 for concessions. Booking forms from Jane Sidell, Institute of Archaeology, 31-34 Gordon Square, London, WC1 0PY. email: j.sidell@ucl.ac.uk

LECTURE MEETINGS

3rd June

"The Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II: What did you do on the day?" Discussion among members and visitors at the Woking History Society at Mayford Village Hall, Saunders Lane, Mayford at 8 pm. Visitors £2. For information Tel: 01483 763600.

5th June

"The River Hogsmill- Aspects of Historical Interest between Ewell and Kingston" by Charles Abdy to the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society at St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 8pm. Visitors £1.

5th June

"The Wey and Arun Canal" by Jim Phillips to the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society at the United Reformed Church Halls, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon, at 7.45pm.

11th June

"Recent Excavations in Staines" by Jackie McKinley to the Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society in the Lower Hall of the Friends' Meeting House, Eden Street, Kingston upon Thames at 8 pm.

27th June

"Safety First – The Story of the MG Car" by Anthony Hutchings to the Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society in the Main Hall of the Literary Institute, Egham High Street at 8 pm. Visitors £1.

2nd July

"Daft Craft: A History of Unusual Ships and other Floating Objects that had Strange Careers, were involved in Disasters, or were plainly Financial Flops" by Clive Chambers to the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society at the United Reformed Church Halls, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon, at 7.45pm.

2nd July

"Epsom Past" by Charles Abdy to the Dorking Local History Group at the Friends Meeting House. Butter Hill, Dorking at 7.30 pm.

© Surrey Archaeological Society 2002

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*.

Next Issue: Copy required by 7th June for the July issue.

Editor: Phil Jones, 5, Hampton Road, Newbury, Berks RG14 6DB. Tel/Fax: 01635 581182 and email: pottypot@ukonline.co.uk