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CHIDDINGFOLD FIELD SURVEY
Sorting, counting and weighing the finds

FIELD WALKING AT CHIDDINGFOLD

David Graham and Tony Howe

The first project undertaken by the Society's newly formed Roman Studies Group has just been completed – a detailed survey of the ploughsoil in the field containing the Roman building at Whitebeech, Chiddingfold. First discovered in 1883 and subsequently excavated by the Rev. T S Cooper, the site was finally published by John and Marian Gower in *SyAC 75* (1984). One of the largest Roman buildings in Surrey, the site has always appeared an oddity, both in its location deep within the Weald as well as in its position at the top of a hill, its north-south orientation and, indeed, in its unusual building plan.

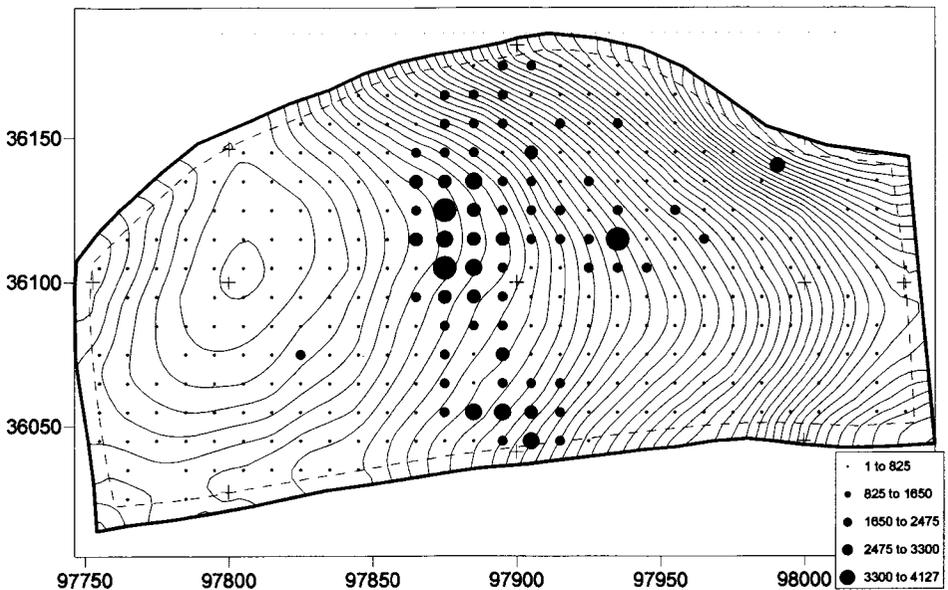
David Bird, chairman of the Roman Studies Group has recently suggested that the building may in fact not be a villa as such, but rather be a religious complex similar to the one at Uley in Gloucestershire (*SyAC 89* forthcoming). While the original work by the Rev. Cooper was to a high standard for his time it falls far short of modern standards and as a first step to re-interpreting the site David Bird arranged, with kind permission of the landowner, Mr N Cherriman, for a team of volunteers under our supervision to carry out a detailed field survey. This was intended partially as a training exercise and partially to locate the exact position of the Roman buildings – which was far from clear in the original report.



Chiddingfold Survey

David and Audrey Graham spent an initial day surveying the field, and setting out a grid of 100m squares, each subdivided into 10m squares and all tied into the OS grid. For the following five days volunteers systematically collected material from each square and, under supervision, sorted it into categories, weighing and recording everything on one of Tony's forms before returning the material to its original square on the field.

The end result of this laborious process is a series of distribution plans that show, for instance, the scatter of flintwork across the field and its close relationship to distribution of fire-cracked flint potboilers. More importantly, the Roman buildings seem to show up very clearly, being represented by large quantities of roof and flue tile as well as by *tesserae* and associated material. The only downside is that there



Chiddingfold Survey: Roman ceramic building materials by weight (g)

were signs that metal detecting had taken place over the field – which is illegal since the site is a scheduled ancient monument.

The project has therefore proved very successful, both in terms of the direct results and also in terms of training in finds recognition and in fieldwalking techniques. All those who took part seemed to enjoy themselves, as the field slowly but surely revealed the history preserved in its ploughsoil.

THE RE-OPENING OF GATTON TOWER WOOD QUARRY *Paul W Sowan* **The Reigate Stone Research Project**

Reigate stone is a unique British building stone, the most important constituent of which is a peculiar form of chemically precipitated cristobalite (silica), so technically neither a sandstone nor a limestone, nor an intermediate between the two. Established stone treatment methods for limestones and sandstones are, therefore, not necessarily appropriate or effective for Reigate stone, and *Subterranea Britannica*, in conjunction with Historic Royal Palaces are continuing a study in connection with its conservation in the fabric of the Tower of London and Hampton Court which will have important implications for its use elsewhere. The research project has been described in *Surrey Industrial History Group Newsletter 110* (1999), *Surrey Archaeological Society Bulletin 335* (2000), and *London Archaeologist 9(5)* (2000), and first results of analyses of the mineral constitution or architectural samples have appeared in *Journal of Architectural Conservation 3* (2001). Quarry samples analyses have not yet been published, but display similar variability.

Samples had already been taken in accessible underground quarries at Merstham, Bletchingley and Godstone. Medieval quarrying is known to have taken place elsewhere, however, probably in Gatton, and certainly in Reigate where, in 2000, no quarries remained open. It was decided to re-open Tower Wood quarry in Gatton, as its location, underground layout and condition was known.

Historical background

Gatton lies astride the Upper Greensand between Reigate and Merstham, and, as in almost all the eight or so mining parishes on the outcrop from Brockham to Godstone, has had its share of underground mining and quarrying activity. William More's building accounts for Loseley House, rebuilt in 1561-1569, mentions stone purchased from quarries at Gatton and John Aubrey, writing in the late 17th century, mentions underground quarries in the parish. An 18th century estate document notes a 'quarry field' and the extensive outbuildings of Gatton Hall and the tiny parish church are built of the local Reigate stone. Gatton was one of the 100 British quarries surveyed for the selection of stone to rebuild the Houses of Parliament in 1834, and Lord Monson of Gatton Hall, as Commissioner of Lands and Plantations at that time, may have helped to ensure this. It is also of interest that George Bellas Greenough, three times President of the Geological Society of London between 1807 and 1835 had been MP for Gatton. Commercial quarrying probably ceased before 1872 when underground building-stone quarries became subject to published lists and inspection reports under the *Metalliferous Mines Regulation Act*, amongst which Gatton quarries do not feature.

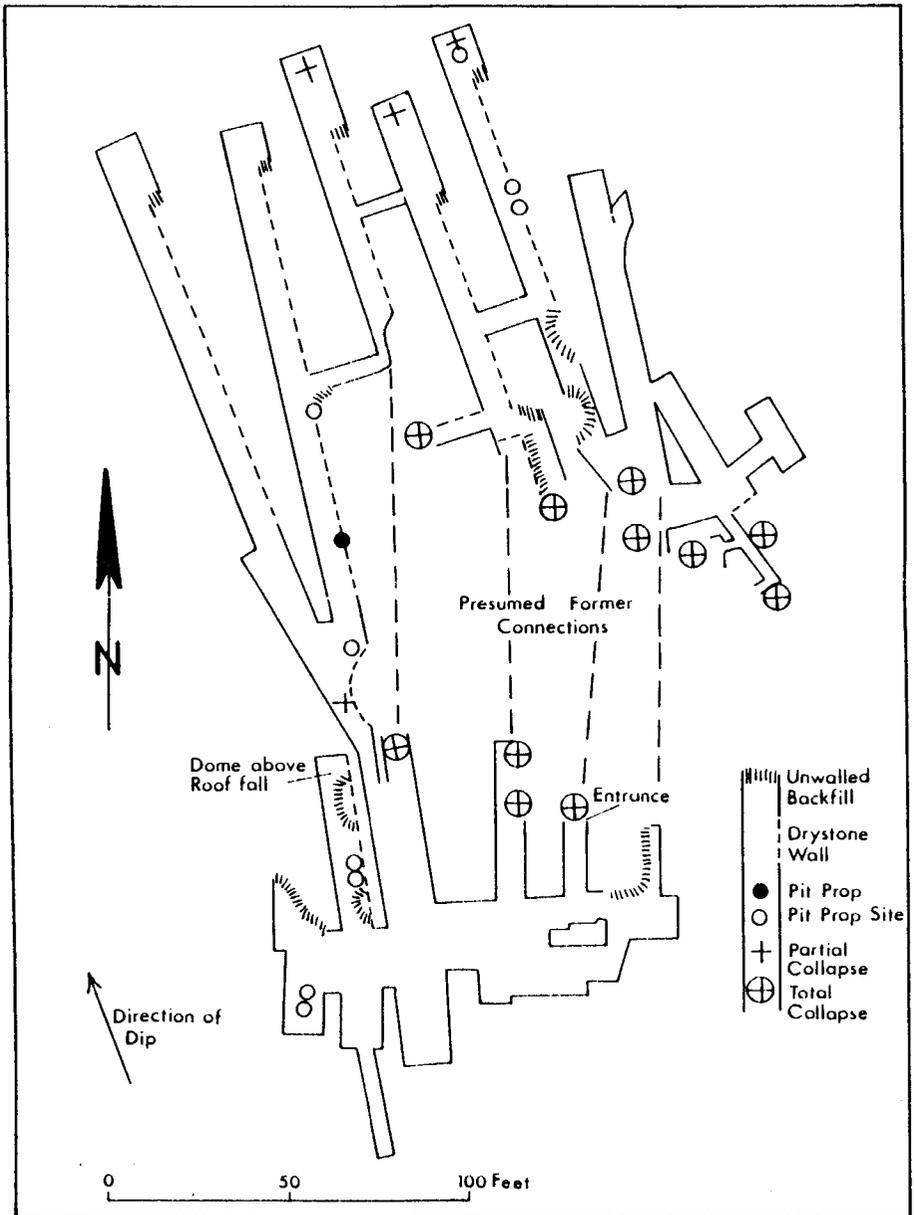
Locating the quarries

Documentary evidence, fieldwalking, and records of crown-hole collapses in Gatton and immediately adjoining parts of Merstham indicate one or two certain areas of underground quarrying alongside Gatton Bottom Road, and two others that are probable. Most of the land undermined by these workings lies in or adjacent to Gatton Park, especially in the grounds of a school and neighbouring golf course. Since the 1950s access to four small areas of quarry tunnels near Gatton Bottom Road has occasionally been possible via temporary or accidental entrances, including Tower Wood quarry, which was last visited in the 1970s, during which time the author assisted the British Museum in retrieving Reigate stone in connection with work on wall paintings rescued from St Stephen's Chapel. All these small workings could once have been part of one or two large quarries, but intercommunication is now impossible as a result of roof-falls. By 2000 all access was again sealed.

Tower Wood quarry (TQ 2735 5320)

The quarry was re-opened in August 2000 with the agreement of the school, funding from Historic Royal Palaces and practical direction by the Wealden Cave and Mine Society (WCMS). A large mechanical excavator dug out the crown-hole collapse to the quarry floor at 7.4 metres below ground level, allowing access to the tunnels. A permanent access shaft of concrete rings was installed and fitted with a locked manhole cover.

This 'pillar-and-stall' quarry consists of seven or eight sub-parallel extraction tunnels running steeply down-dip, interlinked by remarkably few and narrow man-ways through the intervening pillars (see fig). Ceiling heights are even lower than in the Merstham and Chaldon quarries at c1.3-1.4m, and flat-out crawling over accumulated mud is essential to visit some areas. The quarry is also very wet, although not actually flooded, and numerous roof-falls have sealed off parts of the quarry, although none seem to have occurred since the 1970s. Large volumes of rejected rock or quarry spoil are stacked behind dry-stone walls down one side of each gallery, and 1970s. The very narrow entrance drift at the southern extremity of the accessible working was identified, although this is now sealed and not recognisable at the surface. Quarry walls and working faces have tool marks of picks and wedges characteristic of dimension-stone extraction, and low level axle marks on tunnel sides and pillar corners indicate the use of low wheeled trolleys, whereas sledge ruts are typical at Merstham and Chaldon, and iron tramway plates were laid underground at Godstone. In one up-dip working bay an entirely different pattern of



Tower Wood Quarry: sketch plan by R P Shaw, first published in 1976 (*Proceedings of the Geologists' Association* 86 (4), 577). The entrance shown, at a crown-hole collapse, was reopened in August 2000. The uncharacteristically narrow tunnel at the south end is the (blocked) original entrance

tool marks has been interpreted as evidence for the mining of rough lumps of rock for use as hearthstone (probably by and for Gatton Hall) for whitening floors, doorsteps and hearths. Although no dateable finds were recovered it seems most likely that Tower Wood was probably last active between 1839–58.

Core samples were taken from the quarry walls for future analysis and a full survey and photographic record was prepared for archive.

Petrological analysis

Data for stone taken from ancient buildings has recently been published (*Journal of Architectural Conservation* 2001, **3**, 7-23), and it is expected that quarry sample data will also be published shortly. Mineral compositions are extremely variable, and the rock is extremely porous, and swells and contracts far more, on wetting and drying, than other building stones, factors that probably go a long way to explaining its poor weathering characteristics.

Further work envisaged

The main focus of medieval quarrying appears to have been through Reigate, Merstham and Chaldon parishes, with extraction further east and west known, or strongly suspected to have been, of more recent date. The project team would like to re-enter a Reigate quarry to take samples, but apart from the Colley Hill hearthstone mine, which is stratigraphically too high and known to be in an advanced state of collapse anyway, no underground workings have been accessible so far as is known for over a century. Although some entrances and crown-hole collapse locations are recorded, nothing of the layouts or conditions of the quarries is known. Much of the Upper Greensand outcrop through Reigate is under residential property, where examination by the Wealden Cave and Mine Society is welcomed only when collapses in well-manicured lawns or near expensive houses occur! However, one possible 'greenfield' site known to have been in use in the mid 19th century has been identified, and discussions opened with the occupier. Whether attempts will be made to re-enter this quarry will depend on the progress and outcome of these discussions, and the availability of funding for the hire of another excavating machine and operator (for several hundred pounds a day).

Another possibility under consideration has been the location and descent of a well near Colley Hill, which has been recorded as having broken through ancient building-stone galleries (at a lower stratigraphic level than the hearthstone mine tunnels at that location). This, in publicly accessible open space, would require negotiation with the National Trust, careful planning to avoid damage to an important botanical site, and elaborate measures to ensure public safety, although its exact location and an examination of its condition might be thought to be an important safety question in its own right. Possibly inadequately capped wells on publicly accessible land call for appropriate safety precautions! There have also been one or two small crown hole collapses in the immediate area in recent years, so an examination could be justified on health and safety grounds anyway, with the possibility of archaeologically valuable information being gathered at the same time. This option is not at present under active consideration.

ROYAL SOUTHWARK AND LAMBETH

Graham Dawson

This has been the year of the Queen's Jubilee, but despite my regular trawls through the local archaeological and historical newsletters of Surrey, I found few that included commemorative notes to mark the occasion. Most of those are about the last monarch to have survived fifty years, but Graham Dawson, as usual, raised the game with the following scholarly note first given as a talk to the 2002 symposium of the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society.

All close royal association with Southwark and Lambeth happened before 1600. In Domesday Book we find that most of Southwark and Lambeth were, or recently had been, in royal hands. This is most clear for Bermondsey, which was held by the king and included Rotherhithe, or at least the larger part of it. Though some of Lambeth was then held by the king, I have argued elsewhere that it was a royal manor until c1050 when it was divided into three parts, Lambeth, Kennington and South Lambeth (later Vauxhall), and alienated to different people. Newington was held by the Archbishop of Canterbury, but previously by Edmund Ironside, presumably as king, and in 1016, since he was only king for that year. He is said to have granted it to his jester who gave it to Canterbury. The only clear exception is Camberwell, which belonged to Hamo the sheriff and previously to a man called Norman before the Conquest, but we have no earlier history of this.

The Domesday entry for Southwark is incomplete in only having an entry for Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, but the king clearly held most of the *burgh*, as can be seen from its later history. The clerk who wrote this part of Great Domesday just left it out, except for a reference at the end of the Odo entry. This anonymous clerk is my least favourite historical person!

The king had not, of course, owned every blade of grass, but was certainly overlord of these areas in 1086. He had held rather than owned them, but this can probably be taken back much further. Frithuwald, sub-king of Surrey, granted Chertsey Abbey some land near London in 672, which Tony Dyson originally suggested was Southwark but later changed his mind to Lambeth, but may have included both since at 12 hides it is quite an extensive area. What probably happened was that when Chertsey succumbed to Viking raids the lands returned to the crown, as frequently occurred elsewhere. It is interesting that, although Chertsey preserved this charter through the Middle Ages, the abbey never claimed the land back.

By c1300, the king had alienated nearly all his properties in Southwark and Lambeth, and neither held land nor lordship anywhere except for a small area at the foot of London Bridge that survived until 1327. Edward II, however, also leased three adjacent properties on the north side of Tooley Street, one of which was called The Rosere.

The Rosere belonged to a family called Dunley; in fact the only time it is known as the Rosere is while Edward held it, otherwise it is known as Dunleys. It is important to stress that Edward did not buy the site; he merely leased it. The first evidence we have of his involvement is in late 1324 and there is no evidence that his son Edward III had any interest in the site after Edward II's deposition in 1327, so we are only talking about two and a half years at the outside.

It lay immediately east of Morgan's Lane, where archaeological excavations have been extensive in recent years. A small enclosure surrounded by a moat with its sides revetted in stone was found, which the excavators claimed was the Rosere. Building accounts for the Rosere, however, concern work by carpenters, with no reference to masons. It has been suggested that masonry preceded the surviving records, but this is unlikely because the first entry is in the middle of the extant wardrobe accounts and there are no references to the Rosere before that. Furthermore, the two other properties leased by Edward – one called the Cage and the other owned by a man called Latimer – probably lay west of Morgan's Lane on the Tooley Street frontage. Since they had been connected to the Rosere by a pentice, it seems more likely that that property had also lain along the Tooley Street frontage and not at the back of the site. What was found in the recent archaeological fieldwork may have been the 15th century house of Sir John Faslolf, but I have yet to convince the excavators.

From the building accounts it seems that the Rosere comprised separate buildings

rather than one large one and, though on a smaller scale and in timber rather than stone, probably resembled the house that the Black Prince built at Kennington a few years later.

Edward III acquired Kennington and Vauxhall in 1337 from Lady de Burgh with what seems to have been a certain amount of compulsion; in fact Edward II had briefly acquired Kennington in 1316 and again in 1322 but had not kept it. Edward III wanted Kennington, and Vauxhall, which was jointly owned with Kennington at this period, to establish an endowment for his son, whom he created Duke of Cornwall. Kennington has remained in the Duchy ever since but the Black Prince gave Vauxhall to Christ Church Priory, Canterbury in 1362, who held it into the post-medieval period.

Between 1337 and 1362 the Black Prince built a palace on the capital messuage at Kennington, although in the medieval period it was never called so: **Kennington Place** was the nearest they got. The Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society excavated the site in the 1960s and showed that it comprised a large number of separate buildings, more or less one for each function, rather than one large building, which is how we think of palaces today; in this it was somewhat old-fashioned. Thus we have a hall, a great chamber, a kitchen, probably a buttery/pantry block, a stable, and a number of separate chambers for other members of the household and officials.

The other royal residence was down river at **Rotherhithe** where the Black Prince's father, Edward III acquired a small area in or before 1349 to build a house. This, too, has been excavated at a site called Platform Wharf. The complex was much more modern than Kennington and the Rosere in being a unified square building surrounded by a moat, not unlike that found on the Rosere site, and probably had an outer bailey to the south. In this it is a precursor of the typical two courtyard palace that became the norm for the next two hundred years or more as in such palaces as Hampton Court, Nonsuch and Knole, etc. Several royal letters are dated at Rotherhithe in the following years, but at Edward's death in 1377 he left it to St Mary Graces by the Tower, and in 1399 it was acquired by Bermondsey Priory. The building seems to have survived, however, and even in the early part of the last century the medieval north wall was still extant. It was called King John's House, though he had nothing to do with it.

After this frenetic activity in the mid-14th century, Southwark and Lambeth seem to become unfashionable for royal residences. Richard II used Kennington fairly heavily as a retreat from Westminster, and kept a boat at the end of Black Prince Road with a crane to get into it. After that it saw little use, partly because for long periods there was no elder son to be Duke of Cornwall and the King, who held it in those periods, had other palaces to use. Sometimes one of the ladies of the royal house would be given it, for example Edward IV gave it to his mother Cecily, but little was spent on maintenance and few alterations were made, so it remained much as the Black Prince had left it. Its final moment of glory was with the arrival of Catherine of Aragon to marry Prince Arthur, elder brother of Henry VIII, when a joust was held there. In 1531, Henry VIII, no doubt feeling it was very old hat by then, demolished it and used the building material for Whitehall, the grand new palace he was building on the north bank of the Thames to replace Westminster. Despite a number of local legends that is the last time Kennington was used as a royal residence.

Not quite the last in our area because only a few years later, in 1536, Henry acquired Suffolk Place in Southwark from his brother-in-law Charles Grandon. This was located in Borough High Street opposite St George's Church and was 'cutting edge' at the time. Henry probably has some grand scheme for not only did he acquire that but he also so acquired, a few years later, the overlordship of the whole of Southwark, apart from the area round the foot of London Bridge; he had done exactly the same in Whitehall before he built his palace there but it did not seem to develop

in Southwark. In 1543 he also acquired the manor of Stockwell from the Leghs, including its manor house, and it is possible that he had some grandiose idea of a great hunting ground stretching from the Southwark house to Stockwell. Whatever ideas Henry had for Southwark Place, he must have abandoned them for he spent very little on it and rarely used it. In 1545 he opened a branch of the Tower mint there that lasted until 1551, and this must show that any idea of it being developed as a great royal palace had gone. Under his son Edward VI and daughter Mary, first the overlordships were disposed of and then the palace itself in 1556, which was then almost immediately demolished.

After this there is no evidence that I am aware of for royal residence in Southwark or Lambeth and, as far as I know, Queen Elizabeth never slept here. The crown did acquire property occasionally, but this was usually inadvertent; for example in 1584 Elizabeth acquired the Maze, an area largely on the south side of Tooley Street, but this was only because its owner, Thomas Coply, was a Catholic who fled abroad in 1584 when things got too hot for him, and the property later returned to his family.

Thus the mid-14th century was the great period for royal residences in Southwark and Lambeth, but great residences of ecclesiastical and lay nobility were much more numerous and cover a much longer period and, of course, we still have one in Lambeth Palace.

First published in the June 2002 Newsletter (no 60) of the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society Newsletter, with many thanks.

COUNCIL MATTERS

Insurance

Please note that any member requiring insurance for any Society activity should now apply directly to Castle Arch, Guildford, GU1 3SX and **NOT** to Brian Moore, as before.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Surveying Equipment

Large organisations are generally equipped with the latest survey equipment, but the cost of such items can be prohibitive for local societies and independent archaeologists. Also, use of these equipments on small sites can be a cumbersome way of cracking a nut with a hammer and traditional equipment will do equally well. Some excavations could do with a modern level instead of an old dumpy, while at short ranges a good theodolite or tachymeter will do just as well as a total station.

A retired chartered land surveyor with some experience in surveying excavation sites has donated his surplus equipment for the use of field archaeologists working in Kent, Surrey, Sussex and London south of the Thames. As agreed by the Committee of Council for British Archaeology (South-East), the distribution is:

Surrey Archaeological Society

The Society's store is insufficiently secure and dry and Steve has kindly agreed to accept the items on the basis that they may be loaned out. Tel: 01483 300800

Tachymeter, Kern DKRT2
complete with tripods,
measuring bars, etc

Suitable for trig/traverse work to an
accuracy of 1/10,000. Point location to
1cm at minimum range 60m.

Level, Kern DKOA
with tripod.

Pen Plotter, Mutch AO,
pens, etc.

Geodimeter, Aga for
attachment to theodolite
to form semi-total station.

Self-levelling. Builder's equipment.
Accuracy 1cm at 100m.

Software needed for use.

Requires theodolite mounting and
work by manufacturer.

Sussex Archaeological Society

Received by Dr Gabor Thomas, Tel: 01273 405736.

Theodolite, Kern 10 inch
with tripod.

Suitable for trig work to 1/10,000 accuracy.
Also point to location by stadia reduction
2cm at maximum 60m range.

Level, Kern tilting with
horizontal circle, tripod.

Excellent for sectional and gradient work.

Any decision on loan of the equipment is for Mr Dyer and Professor Thomas respectively. Applicants should be competent to use the equipment and prepared to insure it against damage.

ROMAN STUDIES GROUP



Official Launch

Following a very successful afternoon event held at Dorking, attended by over 30 members, the Roman Studies Group was officially launched. The meeting was opened by David Bird, who outlined the reasons and thinking behind the formation of the group. This was followed by a set of three presentations on sites all linked by the theme 'ritual'. Clive Orton started by exploring the interpretation of ritual sites in general, and then presented a very interesting and amusing talk on the William IV site at Ewell, with all its chequered history. He made a strong case for a ritual explanation for the site in the Roman period. This was followed by David Williams who showed how 'unexplained' the site at Betchworth was; he had been unable to find any close parallels but the best current explanation was ritual, especially in view of the probable ritual use of the site at other periods at least as far back as the Neolithic. The final speaker was David Graham, who covered the site at Frensham, where miniature pots and a large number of coins could only be explained in a ritual way. David also provided overheads with the results of the recent fieldwalking at Chiddingfold, where a religious site is one possible explanation.

The meeting ended with a summing up by David Bird and a very useful session where attendees put forward their thoughts on the way forward for the group and its constitution.

The organisers would like to thank all the speakers, who not only informed but also entertained, as well as all those who attended and made the whole launch successful. Membership is open to any member of the Society; a small fee will be charged starting from the beginning of the next financial year. In the meantime a series of lectures has been organised, and the Committee is planning another half-day session which will take place in April, this time on **Roman roads**.

Winter Lecture Series.

Dorking Christian Centre

Thursdays 7.30 - 10pm

14th November	Recent work on villas in Sussex <i>David Rudling</i>
12th December	Hadrian's Wall <i>Rosemary Hunter</i>
8th January	Broad Street Roman Villa <i>Rob Poulton</i>
13th February	Roman Pottery <i>Malcolm Lyne</i>
13th March	Roman Coins <i>Richard Abdy</i>

All SyAS members welcome

For further information contact Gary Readings 01483 834348 or
g.readings@ntlworld.com

VILLAGE STUDIES GROUP

Thorpe – A Surrey Village in Maps

Saturday December 14th 2002

Village Hall, Coldharbour Lane, Thorpe

- 2.30pm **Thorpe – mapping the village** *Jill Williams Vice-Chairman of Egham by Runnymede Historical Society*
- 3pm **The Wider Contest** *Dennis Turner, Past-President of Surrey Archaeological Society*
- 4pm **Tea.** Time to view a display of documents and sources researched in the making of the book, including aerial photographs, Enclosure maps and other material prepared by Egham by Runnymede Historical Society
- 4.45 **Close.**

The hall, which is almost opposite Church Approach and the parish church, will be open from 2pm. All welcome.

RECENT WORK BY ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNITS

The fieldwork projects listed below were undertaken by archaeological contractors operating in the London boroughs of old Surrey, mostly at the end of last year and the early months of 2002. A key to the acronyms is provided below, and the letters and numbers at the end of each entry is the site code.

AOC	AOC Archaeology
CGMS	CGMS Consulting
HAT	Herts Archaeological Trust
MoLAS	Museum of London Archaeological Services
OA	Oxford Archaeology
PCA	Pre-Construct Archaeology
NSFF	No significant features or finds
SuAS	Sutton Archaeological Services
WA	Wessex Archaeology

CROYDON

Croydon, 202/216 Thornton Road and 5-9, 11, 20-24 Peall Road (TQ 530816 167193). Evaluation by MoLAS, report dated December 2001. *NSFF* (TON 01).

Purley, 556-558 Brighton Road (TQ 3248 6312). Watching Brief by HAT, report dated January 2002. *NSFF* (BGC 01).

Croydon, 390 London Road (TQ 31665 66885). Evaluation by SuAS, report dated January 2002. *NSFF* (LNM 02).

KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

Kingston, Four Acres, George Road (TQ 20410 70270). Evaluation by AOC, report dated December 2001. *NSFF* (GGD 01).

Kingston, 26-46 Cromwell Road and 35-37 Hardman Road (TQ 1835 6950). Evaluation by OA, report dated August 1999. *NSFF* (CRG 99).

MERTON

Wimbledon, CIPD House, 35 Camp Road (TQ 22575 71030). Evaluation by MoLAS, report dated January 2002. *NSFF* (CPB 01).

RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES

Mortlake, Tapestry Court, Mortlake High Street (TQ 2077 7600). Post-excavation assessment by PCA, report dated March 2002.

The earliest features were an early medieval NW/SE ditch and a 15th century well in the northern half of the site. Of two later properties, that in the southern half of the site was of 17th century build, whereas that in the northern half dated to the 18th century. Both were represented by basements that showed signs of alterations, such as the replacement of worn floors and blocking walls. The 17th century tile and brick-floored cellar fronted Mortlake High Street and consisted of two rooms, the southernmost of which had probably been used as a kitchen, as a hearth and chimney were found in one corner. The final alterations in this property date to the late 19th century. The 18th century brick-floored cellar fronted the River Thames, and may also have been a kitchen, as it contained a hearth area in its southern room. It was demolished prior to the construction of the extant Tapestry Court building in 1892. (MLT 01).

Barnes, Old Police Station, Lonsdale Road (TQ 2165 7645). Evaluation by CGMS, report dated July 2001. *NSFF* (BNI 01).

SUTTON

Beddington, Beddington Sewage Farm (TQ 290 665). Watching Brief by WA, report dated March 2001. Several tree-related features indicated the former presence of woods, as does Rocque's map of c1760. Some of the tree-related features might, therefore, be post-medieval, but not necessarily all: one contained forty-four struck flints in mint condition, representing a single knapping event of blade/bladelet production, possibly of early Neolithic date, and with two flake to core re-fits. A tiny sherd was found in association and some thirty others of possibly early Neolithic pottery were recovered, but nearly all from later contexts. Nevertheless, they attest to activity on the site. Three pits in the north-west corner of Keepers Gate contained 134 sherds of Middle Neolithic pottery, as well as burnt and struck flints, part of a ground flint axe, burnt and unburnt animal bone, charred seeds, hazelnut fragments and charcoal. Two of them were only 0.2m apart. Middle Bronze Age pottery sherds were recovered from two parallel ditches in the north-west corner of Keepers Gate, and from another two in Great Favourite. Each was c5m apart. Excavation of two pits alongside the line of one of these driveway ditches in Great Favourite showed that the pits had gradually silted-up at the same time as the ditch.

WANDSWORTH

Putney, Putney Bridge Road (TQ 2528 7494). Evaluation by MoLAS, report dated January 2002. Flint tools and waste flakes of Mesolithic or early Neolithic date were found in later features; an early medieval sherd came from a field ditch, and other cut features with struck flints or no finds at all are also probably medieval. Late medieval and post-medieval plough soils sealed the site. (PBD 01).

Tooting, 33 Longley Road (TQ 2755 7085). Evaluation by PCA, report dated February 2002. *NSFF* (LTO 02).

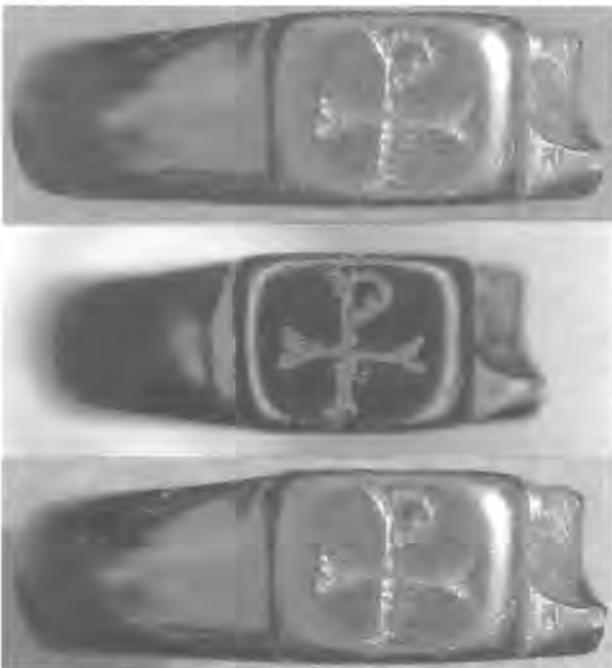
THE BAGSHOT RHO-CROSS RING

During Geoffrey Coles' excavation of a multi-period site at 42 London Road, Bagshot in 1993, almost half of a finger ring made of jet was found in the alluvial gravels and silts of the Windle Brook. It is of a recognised late Roman form (Henig type XV), but what makes it unique is the Rho-Cross monogram scratched on the bevel (see photo). A note on the ring by Tamasin Blanchard has recently been published (Oxford Journal of Archaeology 21, 2, 2002), and Phil Stevens of Surrey Heath Local History Club prepared a summary for inclusion in the Bulletin. Unfortunately, Phil, too little was summarised and copyright would have been seriously infringed had it appeared. Nevertheless, I hope my few notes below, and the new photos supplied by the Surrey Heath Archaeology Centre, will tempt members to seek out the original article.

The Rho-Cross is a combination of the seventeenth letter of the Greek alphabet P (Rho) and the Greek cross (+), and was adopted in Rome no earlier than the second half of the 4th century. In Britain it is carried by a few coins of Magnentius (AD 351-3), but amongst many more that carried the Chi-Rho monogram. Theodosian coins, however (AD 388-402), feature the Rho-Cross prominently, and the Bagshot ring may also date to the late 4th or early 5th century. The Rho-Cross, however, had been in much less general usage than the Chi-Rho across the empire.

The author makes it clear that, although late 4th or early 5th century grave-type features were found on the site, the ring is unlikely to have been part of any grave goods. No other ring of jet has such a monogram, but then, few Roman finger rings of any kind bear Christian or other symbols of religion.

Sources were known to the Romans in modern-day Spain, Germany and Turkey, but



the excellence of British jet was remarked upon by Gaius Julius Solinus in the late 2nd century AD. Roman artefacts of jet in the empire, however, are rare until the 3rd century, and unusual thereafter except in Britain and the Rhineland. British sources lie along the Yorkshire coast centred upon Whitby, and although petrological and other scientific analyses have yet to be done on the Bagshot ring, the author suggests that it is probably from there. It could, therefore, have been obtained in the north; perhaps at York, which had a bishop who attended the Council of Arles in AD 314, and where more than one jet

The Rho-Cross Ring from Bagshot: a photomontage

workshop is known. Alternatively, it might derive from a more local marketing centre, and the excavations at Silchester, 29km distant from Bagshot, have yielded sufficient numbers of jet artefacts as to suggest to some that the city might have been a re-distribution centre for the trade across southern Britain.

Jet was mostly fashioned into 'female artefacts', which in the Rhineland are usually found in comparatively rich graves. Since, also, most stratified finds from Britain are from religious or votive contexts, the suggestion is made that the owner of the Bagshot ring could have been a Christian woman of some status.

Its glassy blackness when polished smooth appealed to Roman aesthetic taste, but jet had other recognised attributes. Pliny acknowledged its use as an oral medicine, but it is its electrostatic property that would have startled, quite literally. A magic property, no less; imbuing its owner, perhaps, with the confidence of its amuletic power.

The ring can be seen by appointment at the Surrey Heath Archaeology Centre, 4-10 London Road, Bagshot, Tel: 01276 451181. Low cost replicas are available.

ULTIMOGENITURE

Janet Balchin

Graham Dawson recently asked for other examples of ultimogeniture or *Borough English* inheritance (*Bulletin 360*). There are several examples in Ewhurst, where it was the *custom* of the Manor of Gumshall (Gumshall Towerhill and Gumshall Netley) and was practised up until the end of the 19th century. As with Graham Dawson's Tooting examples it only occurs in copyholds. He also mentioned the possibility of partible inheritance or *gavelkind* as found in Kent. This appears to occur where the tenant left a will which superseded the customary practice. An interesting example can be found at Ewhurst Green. Henry Hamshire, a bachelor, died in 1866 and in his will devised his copyhold property in eight equal shares to his parents, five surviving brothers and one sister. His father died soon after in 1867 and his mother in 1873 and as both died intestate, their two shares passed to Eli Hamshire, who as the youngest son was their '*customary heir*', giving him $\frac{3}{8}$ ths. He then purchased the remaining shares from his siblings for a total of £95 and paid the Lord of the Manor £176 in fines for the right to the whole property. Where two or more siblings were admitted they were '*tenants in common*' with equal shares in the whole, the actual property was not divided. I would be interested to know if sons had precedence over daughters. I have come across daughters being admitted, but have no way of knowing if they had elder brothers.

The Assembly Rooms (Waterloo House), Epsom

Wetherspoons have completed their conversion of Waterloo House in Epsom High Street into a pub, and it opened on 22nd April. Although we could have wished that this historic building had been put to a more dignified use, it has to be said that the architects, RJD Architectural Design and Project Management, have done their best to conserve the old fabric, and the façade is much closer to the probable original than it has been for many years. It is good that we were able to get the name changed to 'The Assembly Rooms' from the proposed 'Great Eclipse'. Furthermore, we have been consulted on the wording of the numerous information panels that have been provided inside the building.

Charles Abdy

Whether by accident or design it is fitting that the opening of J D Wetherspoon's public house in the old spa assembly rooms building in Epsom should almost coincide with the addition to Bourne Hall Museum of a new model of the original assembly rooms. The model is impressive in its size and detail and is partly cut away and illuminated inside so that coffee drinkers in the downstairs coffee house and dancers and chandeliers in the upstairs assembly room are clearly and strikingly

visible. Its design is based on the researches of John McNally, Ian West and Jeremy Harte and its construction has been made possible by the generosity of one of our own members, Hilary Senior. The model was unveiled by Hilary and the Mayor of Epsom and Ewell at a short ceremony on 10th May. **Graham Brown**

Reprinted from the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society Newsletter No. 3/02, June 2002, with thanks.

Work at the Chilworth Gunpowder Site

Alan Crocker

Last winter the so-called pack-horse bridge over the north millstream was conserved by Guildford Borough Council. A small archaeological investigation of the bed of the millstream was planned while the water was diverted, but unfortunately this had to be cancelled because the director became unavailable. Also during the winter a team of English Heritage staff, led by Wayne Cocroft (author of English Heritage's book "*Dangerous Energy*") carried out an extensive survey of the site and will return this winter to complete the work, after which a detailed report on the surviving structures will be issued. In the meantime the Gunpowder Mills Working Group has obtained approval from Guildford Borough and English Heritage to carry out some voluntary conservation work on the site. Those interested in taking part should contact Andrew Norris, Tel: 01483 531551. Finally, Time Team has shown interest in basing a programme at the site.

Historic Pottery Kilns Restored

Building has been completed on the latest phase of the Farnham Building Preservation Trust's restoration project at the Farnham Pottery in Wrecclesham. Usually referred to as a bottle kiln, but actually a kiln of double twin-flued parallel updraught type, it was built at the end of the 19th century by the Harris family. It is the finest example of its type left in Britain and is the only remaining original kiln on the site. The brickwork has been restored by a specialist bricklayer and the attached building was erected by a local contractor. The Trust hopes that the building will ultimately be used as a visitor centre with displays setting out the history of the pottery and that visitors will be able to look into the kiln through the upper loading bay to see how it was once filled with pots. This project is part of a long term plan to safeguard the future of all of the pottery buildings. The trust also hopes to create a regional centre for the ceramic arts, and a number of workshop units are already in use by craft potters. The trust has received grants from a number of sources including Farnham Town Council and the Surrey Historic Buildings Trust, but much further work needs to be done before the project is finally completed.

Reprinted from Surrey Industrial History Group Newsletter No. 129, September 2002, with many thanks.

PUBLICATIONS

"Farnham in the Civil War and the Commonwealth"

by Laurence Spring and Derek Hall, Farnham and District Museum Society,

When Derek and Angela Hall produced their historical review of *Farnham and the Civil War, 1642-1649*, in 1973 they were probably surprised at its success and startled that a sequel was called for. *Farnham during the Civil War and Interregnum, 1642-1660* was the result with Fred Gretton joining Derek as co-author. This excellent volume has been the standard text for the subject ever since. It has long been out of print and the Farnham & District Museum Society Committee decided that a reprint was called for. In the light of research carried out since the original text was published the decision to reprint was amended to a decision to rewrite. Derek

Hall has sadly passed away but Angela is fit and well and, when approached, was delighted to agree to this. Laurence Spring was persuaded to undertake the not inconsiderable task of intertwining the new material with the old, and the modern, attractive presentation, with its cover depicting a 'Greencoat' regiment proceeding down Castle Street and passing by the Market House, is the result.

It is a well written, easy to read account of the part played of the inhabitants of a small, but strategically important town, in what were some of the most traumatic years in the history of the country. Many portrayals of the period, particularly novels, depict the age as one of great excitement and drama, with dashing Cavaliers doing battle with the dour, bigoted Roundheads, while the population sided enthusiastically, with one side or the other. How different was the reality that is revealed in this objective narrative, where the ordinary folk are shown to be sick of the conflict and take up arms, pitchforks and cudgels, to defend their food, money, possessions and families against the marauding troops of either side. Additionally deserters, along with maimed and wounded troops, roamed the land as penniless vagrants causing trouble as they tried to eke out an existence. Farnham, following the collapse of the wool trade, was in economic depression, a situation not helped by a series of poor harvests and an outbreak of plague. This was the era of distrust and betrayal as men switched sides, or concealed their true allegiance, in order to protect, or promote, themselves.

This, and more, is the picture revealed by this detailed analysis of what must be the worst kind of war, citizen fighting fellow citizen. Farnham would be little different from any other town of the same size, its problems and the hardships faced would be similar, its people would react the same way as those in other towns. Not only a record of war but a social study if chronicled in the text, in which line drawings of the soldiery, the types of gun with their length, weight and carry of shot, the taxes imposed, the names of even minor individuals and many other details are included.

In these days of inflated prices when 'throw away' paperback novels cost an inordinate amount, *Farnham in the Civil War and Commonwealth* is well worth £5. Copies can be purchased from the Museum of Farnham **Mike Green**

"Surrey Heath Under the Tudors and Stuarts"

This is one of a series by Phil Stevens which is intended to show, contrary to the opinion of many, that Surrey Heath has a definite history and was part of and played its role in national history. In practice it is impossible to tell where local history ceases and national begins: the one cannot be written without the other. Unusually for a local history book this fact is accepted and the story integrates local and national, even European and world, events.

This third volume takes up the story at the end of the Middle Ages when the abbot of Chertsey was the dominant local lord and controlled Surrey Heath which was the western part of his Godley Hundred. At the Reformation he was replaced by Henry VIII, but during the next 150 years the monarch lost much of that local control, despite keeping Bagshot Park. Local lords of the Tichborne and Zouch families became the supervisors of village life. Under them farming, crafts, housing, religious beliefs and family life in the villages of the heathland continued and can be described from the surviving documents of the period. Although local lords were very important this was the period when local government, supervised nationally, was emerging and local families were playing an increasing part in running parish affairs. Since documents have survived to a greater extent there are glimpses of a few of the individuals who lived in Bagshot, Bisley, Chobham, Frimley and Windlesham.

People had different ideas and attitudes in those days. Religion was a matter to be fought over in this country and Europe – in the French Wars of Religion, the Thirty

Years War and the English Civil War. Surrey Heath was greatly affected by this and the changes it brought about. Limited technology forced a different style of life. Although inflation, poverty and extremes of wealth are also the experiences of the present, for the people of the heathland villages life was much more precarious than it is today. Criminals, witches and highwaymen are all in evidence.

The two previous volumes, '*Surrey Heath in the Dark Ages*' and '*Medieval Surrey Heath*' are still available. All three volumes can be purchased at Surrey Heath Museum, Chobham Museum, Woking History Centre, Guildford Museum, Ottakars Bookshop in Camberley, the Libraries and Phil Stevens, Tel: 01276 506182 or email philstevens@ntlworld.com

Price: £9.99 for Vol 3. [£3.99 & £6.99 for Vols 1 & 2 respectively]

"Walton Past"

by Bryan Ellis. Available from Elmbridge Museum and local bookshops, price £15.99.

This latest in Phillimore's series of local histories, is a clear and coherent account of the history of Walton-on-Thames up to the present day. The mixture of topical and chronological themes works very well and covers most topics, although those with an interest in archaeology may regret the very slight reference to this subject!

The authors' style is highly readable and makes good use of the reminiscences of local people to add colour to the text. The book is lavishly illustrated with a varied selection of well-chosen images, and the end-papers have been utilised to reproduce two attractive and informative maps: the 1896 Ordnance Survey map of Walton and a delightful illustrated map of the town in the 1960s drawn by J C Pulford. I should have liked to see fuller captions for many of the prints and photographs but this, together with the lack of footnotes, is no doubt to be laid at the door of the publishers' house style rather than any decision on the part of the author. There is, however, a useful, albeit not comprehensive, index, which is always invaluable in a work that will certainly become a major work of reference for anybody interested in Walton's history. There are few errors, although it would be useful to correct the statement (p 33) that John Rosewell and his family were living in the 14th century Old Manor House at the time of the 1881 census – Mr Rosewell was in fact the first licensee of the Old Manor House pub, as stated in "Inns and Taverns" – an understandable mistake! As an Addlestone resident I also regret that, in discussing a dispute in 1227 over tithes from Ottershaw (p 24), the author omits to mention that the Manor of Walton Leigh actually included parts of Addlestone and Ottershaw. Minor criticisms apart, Bryan Ellis is to be congratulated on a valuable addition to the published work on our area which will appeal to local historians and all who love the town.

J L Barker

CONFERENCE

ROMAN TEMPLES AND RELIGION IN SOUTH-EAST ENGLAND

**Council for British Archaeology South-East and
University of Sussex Centre for Continuing Education
16th November**

Temples and Religion in South-East England *L The Wider Context Ernest Black*
May The Force Be With You: Insurance Policies in Roman London *Jenny Hall*
The Wanborough Religious Complex *David Williams*
Temples and Shrines in Roman Sussex *David Rudling*

Fees: £20; £18 CBA members; £12 students.

For further information Tel: 01273 678040.

COURSES

UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX CENTRE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

Part-time Archaeology Open Courses 2003

Next Spring and Summer the CCE, either directly or in conjunction with various adult education providers, will be offering evening and Saturday archaeology courses throughout Sussex to include:

The Pleistocene Geology and Archaeology of Sussex. Saturday day schools on 15th February, 1st and 22nd March and 5th April, at University of Sussex. Tel: 01273 678040. Tutor: *Matthew Pope*

The Archaeology of Cathedrals, Churches and Monasteries. Wednesday evenings at Lewes. Tel: 01273 402222. Tutor: *Mike Hughes*.

Frontline Sussex: The Archaeology of the Defence of Sussex. Thursday evenings at Haywards Heath. Tel: 01444 452163. Tutor: *Chris Butler*.

Landscape Archaeology: Sussex and Beyond. Wednesday evenings at Worthing. Tel: 01903 520817. Tutor: *Caroline Wells*.

Drawing Archaeological Finds. Wednesday evenings at University of Sussex. Tutor: *Jane Russell*.

For further details please request a copy of the CCE's Open Courses Guide. Tel: 01273 678040.

Certificate Courses 2003

There are still some places available on some of the Spring and Summer courses which form parts of the award-bearing Archaeology and Practical Archaeology Certificate programmes. These include:

The Recording and Analysis of Artefacts and Pottery. Thursday evenings. Various tutors.

British Prehistory. Tuesday evenings. Tutors: *Caroline Wells, Richard Carter* and *Jane Russell*.

An Introduction to Historic Vernacular Buildings in South-East England. At the University on Saturdays, tutor: *David Martin*; and at Chichester on Wednesday evenings, tutor: *Mike Standing*.

The Archaeology of a Selected Area: Crete. Study tour in April/May. Tutor: *David Rudling*.

The Archaeology of a Selected Area: Southern Ireland. Study tour in August. Tutor: *Jane Russell*.

The Recording and Interpretation of Churchyards. Sundays in April and May at Lewes, tutor: *Tristram Bareham*.

Excavation Techniques (Barcombe) June-August. Various tutors.

Unless otherwise stated all courses are based from the University of Sussex. For further details please request a copy the CCE award-bearing programmes prospectus, Tel: 01273 678040. Subject to availability, it may be possible to register for individual courses only within the archaeology certificate programmes.

LECTURES, SYMPOSIA and VISITS COMMITTEE

Archaeological Visits

The Lectures, Symposia and Visits Committee have arranged a series of visits next year to places of historical and archaeological interest for the enjoyment of Society

members and their guests. If you are interested in joining any of these please contact Elizabeth Whitbourn.

Saturday 11th January

Portsmouth Historic Dockyard and Mary Rose

Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd February

Weekend Field Trip

Roman Bath and Saxon Bradford-on-Avon

Sunday 6th April

Canterbury

Sunday 18th May

Colchester

Thursday 7th to Sunday 10th August

Weekend Field Trip

East Sussex and Herstmonceux Castle.

All Welcome, including spouses, children, guests, partners, and 'significant others'...
For more information Tel: 01483 – 420575 or e-mail liz.whitbourn@btinternet.com

LECTURE MEETINGS

6th November

"Selected Sites in Colonial America" by Eve Myatt Price to the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society at St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell, at 8pm. Visitors £1 to include tea/coffee.

7th November

"Excavations at Ashford Prison" by Tim Carew to the Spelthorne Archaeological Field Group and Friends of Spelthorne Museum at Staines Methodist Church, Thames Street, Staines, at 8pm. Visitors £1.

11th November

"A view of the vineyard – 171 years of a church in the community" by Peter Flower to the Richmond Local History Society at Meadows Hall, Church Road, Richmond at 8 pm (coffee from 7.30 pm). Non members £1. Further information from Elizabeth Velluet, Tel: 020 8891 3825.

12th November

"The History of Ottershaw" by Hannah Lane to the Sunbury and Shepperton Local History Society in the Theatre at Halliford School, Russell Road, Shepperton at 8pm. Non-members £1.

12th November

"Some Chinese Antiquities" by Tish Smith to the Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society in the Lower Hall of the Friends' Meeting House, Eden Street, Kingston upon Thames at 8 pm.

13th November

"Flora Thompson Lost in Yateley" by John Owen Smith to the Surrey Heath Local History Club at the Adult Education Centre, France Hill Drive, Camberley at 7.30pm.

14th November

'Iron Age Settlement in Tongham and Runfold' by Rob Poulton to the Farnham & District Museum Society at the United Reformed Church hall, South Street, Farnham, at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

15th November

"Fanny Burney in Surrey" by Linda Heath to the Leatherhead and District Local History Society at the Letherhead Institute, Leatherhead at 7.30 for 8pm.

19th November

"Henry III" by Prof David Carpenter of London University to the West Surrey Branch of the Historical Association at the Friends' Meeting House, Ward Street, Guildford at 7.30 pm. Non-members £2.

19th November

"Charles I to Charter Quay: Changes in the Town Centre" by Shaan Butters to the Friends of Kingston Museum in the Market Hall, Market Place, Kingston, at 8pm.

21st November

"A Personal Look at Frensham" by John Chuter to the Farnham & District Museum Society at the United Reformed Church hall, South Street, Farnham, at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

21st November

"The Village Post" by Mary Bennett to the Surrey Heath Local History Club at the Adult Education Centre, France Hill Drive, Camberley at 7.30pm.

22nd November

"Damnable Inventions" by Alan Crocker, with an explosive demonstration, to Unisearch at the Dorking Christian Centre, by St Martins Church, Dorking, at 8pm. Non-members £2.

26th November

"Feltmakers in Southwark" Presidential lecture by Rosemary Weinstein, following AGM, to the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society at Hawkstone Hall, Kennington Road, Lambeth North at 7.15.

28th November

"A History of Privies" by Linda Hall to the Egham-by Runnymede Historical Society in the Main Hall of the Literary Institute, Egham High Street at 8pm. Visitors £1.

2nd December

"The Island of St Kilda" by Geoff Mihell (following the AGM) to the Woking History Society at Mayford Village Hall, Saunders Lane, Mayford at 8 pm. Visitors £2.

7th December

"Phoenix Nonsuch: The Story of Nonsuch Mansion" by Gerald Smith to the Beddington, Carshalton and Wallington Archaeological Society in the Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, Carshalton at 3pm.

9th December

"Johann Christian Bach - the London Bach" a talk with music by Paul Barnfoeld to the Richmond Local History Society at Meadows Hall, Church Road, Richmond at 8 pm (coffee from 7.30 pm). Non-members £1. Further information from Elizabeth Velluet, Tel: 020 8891 3835.

10th December

"Sutton Hoo: Further Excavations" by Angela Care Evans, to the Kingston-upon-Thames Archaeological Society in the Lower Hall of the Friends Meeting House, Eden Street, Kingston at 8pm.

12th December

'Waverley Abbey Excavations' by Judith Roebuck to the Farnham & District Museum Society at the United Reformed Church hall, South Street, Farnham, at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

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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*.

Next issue: Copy required by 15th November for the December issue.

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