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**Bulletin 378**

August 2004



*Work in progress on the Roman tile kiln in Reigate.*

## A ROMAN TILE KILN DISCOVERED IN REIGATE

*Phil Jones*

Between March and June this year, staff of the Surrey County Archaeological Unit, with voluntary assistance from several members of SyAS, excavated the remains of a substantial tile kiln and associated features in the grounds of 'Rosehill', a large Edwardian house at the corner of Wray Common Road and Doods Way. Evidence of Roman tile production in the vicinity has long been established (see Masefield & Williams 2003), but no kiln has previously been archaeologically recorded. By the time this summary account of the excavations appears, parts of the kiln should have been lifted for display elsewhere in Reigate; an endeavour promised as a note by John Price in a later Bulletin.



*The facade of the fire tunnel of the kiln.*

Four main parts of the kiln sub-structure were identified: its stoke-hole pit, fire tunnel, combustion chamber and drainage system.

The stokehole pit was roughly square (3.5 x 3.2m and c1.3m deep at its north end) and included two large post-pits mid-way along each side dug for posts of rounded section c0.25m across. The packing of the western post was mixed, but the eastern post had been supported by several Reigate Stone boulders, probably because of a sand lens in the micro-geology of that area of the site. At first, these were thought to have supported a canopy to keep both fuel and stoker dry, but their size, and the seeming need of a powerful through-draught for such a large kiln, lent support to the idea that they may have supported some system of bellows.

The stoke-hole lay towards the shallow end of a rectangular pit, c10.9m long, 2.6m wide and c1.5m deep at its north end, dug to enable the fire tunnel and combustion chamber to be built on the same axis and base level through the north-east to south-west sloping surface of the site. The fire tunnel has two substantial walls of flat-stacked tiles in fired clay matrices, each c0.6m wide and 1.3m high, below vaulted, roof that bridged the c1m gap between them. Enough survived of this vaulting to demonstrate that it may have had a pointed apex. The façade of this tunnel provides the most impressive and historically important aspect of the whole kiln structure. The

southern face of each wall ends with regular piers of up to fourteen tile courses on top of twin, squared blocks of Upper Greensand. This is the earliest known use of Reigate Stone for ashlar masonry work ever found, and convincing evidence that quarrying, rather than surface gathering of this building material, had occurred during the Roman period (information from Robin W Sanderson). Like almost all tiles used to build the standing structure of the kiln, the upper parts of the two piers are formed of whole or part fragments of *pedales*: roughly square tiles with sides of c0.30m that approximate to a Roman foot. The floor of the entrance to the fire tunnel, however, was comprised of alternating *bipedales* (with sides of c0.6m) and *sesquipedales* (c0.45m), with rows of rectangular *lydions* further back (see below). At a later stage in the life of the kiln, nine complete *tegulae* were laid on top of the earlier tiles in three rows and with their flanges underneath, as a part re-flooring within the tunnel.

Towards the end of the vaulting, the width of the fire tunnel, as originally excavated, was constricted to 0.6m as it continued through the combustion chamber where, instead of vaulting, there were seven arched cross-walls, each of one *pedalis* width, and a similar, but solid, end wall. The arched cross-walls were separated by c0.20m wide flues on both sides of the tunnel that had run at 45° angles to the furthest western and eastern edges of the chamber structure. The most northerly of these cross-walls still retained its pointed arch, matching that of the fire tunnel vault, whereas the others had been robbed in antiquity. All exposed surfaces within both fire tunnel and combustion chamber were encrusted with multiple layers of blue/green glaze that had accumulated from the wood fuel that had been used.

During a partial dismantlement of the combustion chamber, it was discovered that the full width of the fire tunnel had continued through to the end wall of the chamber without any constriction, and that the stubs of an earlier system of cross-walls survived behind the more restricted bore of the later tunnel. These, too, were covered with vitrified laminae. Fragments of the tiled floor of the original tunnel also survived below the walls of the later one, for a reason explained below, although most had been robbed-out along the length of the new combustion chamber. They were the *lydions* mentioned previously, of which eight complete examples survived towards the north end of the fire tunnel. The rebuilding of the combustion chamber most probably improved the through-draught of the kiln, although it seems odd, in such a technically sophisticated structure, that a constriction of the bore had not been considered necessary in the first place. The back wall had also required extensive modification. Although originally built wholly of tiles, its central part, which had received the full blast of heat and gases, was repaired, perhaps several times. Its final part-replacement had been of Reigate Stone blocks, the inner faces of which were also multiply vitrified.

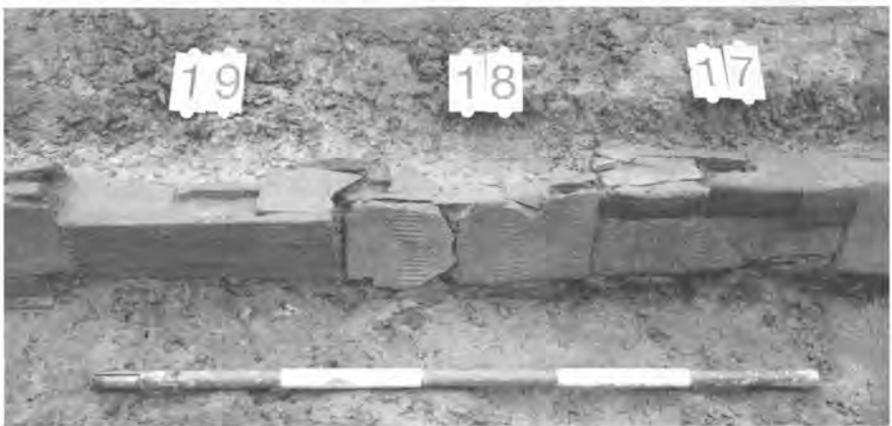
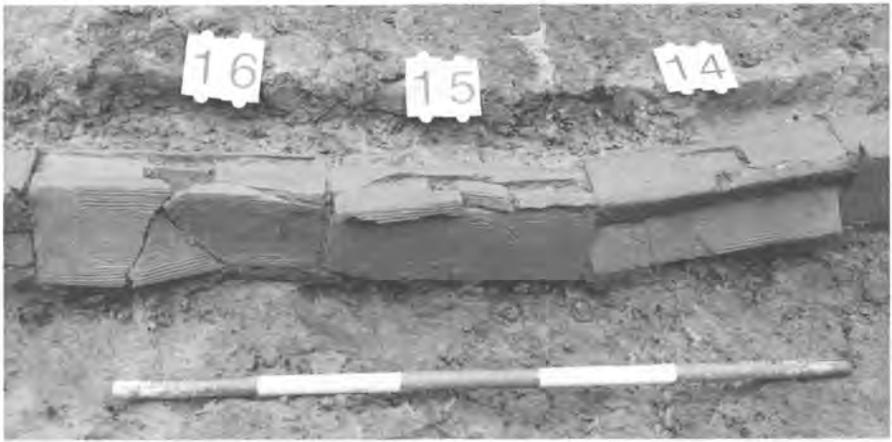
What was absent from the excavated remains was any trace of a floor above the combustion chamber where each batch of tiles had been stacked, covered and fired. At some production sites fragments of perforated tiles are thought to represent such floors (Swan 1984, 87; Brodribb 1987, 96), but none were recovered at Rosehill, and each batch could simply have been laid over the cross-walls.

Yet another component of the kiln is especially unique. The *lydions* along each side of the original combustion chamber had not been lifted during the construction of its narrower replacement, because they had lain over one of the most important components of the complex: two drains that maintained the viability of the structure, dug, as it had been, deep into the Gault Clay. If not for them, it would have been regularly waterlogged. Their shallow ditches continued beneath the floors of the fire tunnel and met in a Y-configuration at its entrance, and continued as a deeper feature through the axis of the stoke-hole and beyond, to the south end of the site, 14m distant, where it presumably discharged into a long-gone stream destroyed by a 19th



Looking through the tunnel and into the combustion chamber. Note the 2nd floor made of nine tegulae.

century sand pit. Such drains are a characteristic of some part-sunken Roman kilns, although they have not usually been found to continue through them, especially not in two rows. At the only other Surrey Roman tile kiln found with a drainage ditch; Wykehurst Farm in Cranleigh; it had been dug from the stoke hole to a nearby stream, 0.8m distant, and its base was covered by a contiguous line of *imbrices* (Goodchild 1912). At Rosehill, however, the ditch lay over a continuous alignment of box flue tiles (*tubulus*) of rectangular section; 34 complete examples of which were recovered from the extant of the single drain, and up to 30 from within the kiln itself. All those from the external ditch had been laid along their narrower axes, with each of their rectangular cut-outs uppermost and sealed by tile fragments, usually from *tegulae*. All are 'decorated', by which is meant that their broader sides were either combed in linear and curvilinear schemes, or impressed with rollers inscribed with



The drain: top row some of those combed tiles. Bottom row includes two with roller relief patterns.

patterns of geometric linear pattern(s), although these had merely served as the keying for mortar for their primary purpose, which would have been to vent hot air through the walls of the richest homes of the Roman upper classes, or the bath-houses available to both them and lesser mortals. Prior to their removal, the western 'decorated' faces of the whole line of the external box-flue tile row were exposed *in situ*: a magnificent site.

It may seem odd in the circumstances that it is not certainly known what was made in the kiln, since each newly-fired batch had been removed from above the combustion chamber after firing. It can only be a presumption that wasters found in secondary contexts had been made in this, rather than in other kilns that probably lay close-by. Two main sources of wasters were identified on site: shallow spreads of tile fragments south of the kiln, and backfill material that was deliberately dumped in its stoke-hole. The latter includes *tegulae* and *imbrices*, for the most part, but flat tiles are represented as well as a few fragments of box-flues and some complete *spicae* (small rectangular tablets used to make herringbone patterned floors). The *tubulus* fragments include some with circular cut-outs, unlike any in the kiln drain system. The only perceived difference between the backfill assemblage and that of the main spread is that many more box-flues seem to be represented in the latter.

Other than tile and Reigate Stone, few finds were recovered, but two small assemblages of pottery sherds from the southern spread and from the primary charcoal deposits in the stokehole are of great interest since they appear to be of a domestic nature, although a preliminary assessment of the few diagnostic pieces suggests a later dating than that provided by the archaeomagnetic determination given below. They include the rim of a Central Gaulish Dr.35 cup, a sherd from a Dressel 20 amphora, and both grog-tempered ware, including the beaded rim of a grog-tempered jar, and grey sandy ware, amongst which are several sherds from a small beaker with an everted rim and others from a bead-rimmed bowl of Class 5A (Lyne & Jefferies 1979, 45); the same as the basic Southwark 1VH form (Marsh & Tyres 1978, 576) made in imitation of Black-Burnished Ware examples.

Samples of fired tile from the eastern wall of the extant combustion chamber provided a date range of AD 90-120 for its last firing (Geoquest Associates 2004), and even if the later dating was the more accurate, it was of the replacement of an earlier, well-used, chamber. Yet, in London and elsewhere, the BB2-type bowl from the base of the stokehole would normally be dated to the second half of the 2nd century (Davies, Richardson & Tomber 1994, 115). To describe the archaeomagnetic dating as perplexing would be an understatement. A previous analysis of tiles from a feature excavated in the garden of Rosehill suggested that most matched with fabric 3050 of the London type series (Betts in Masefield & Williams 2003, 256), and yet the only site in the city that had a large percentage of this was the Billingsgate bath-house and associated building of probable early 3rd century date. Until further analyses are made, and due consideration is given to this quandary, it shall remain an anomaly.

My thanks to all who took part in the excavation, and to the developers of the site, Whiteoak Development Ltd, for, not only for providing funds, but for their great patience during the eight weeks of fieldwork.

Finally, good luck to all involved in the lifting: you're going to need it.

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## DOWNSIDE FARM, COBHAM

*David and Audrey Graham*

Following the geophysical survey and preliminary trial trenching carried out in February this year (*Bulletin* 374), a team from the Society returned to the site recently to follow up the results of the earlier work. Over four days a trench was cut across the line of the possible extension of the moat, indicated by the resistivity survey, another was opened in the garden to the rear of the existing 18th century house, over the site of a sondage which had produced medieval pottery and a small trench was excavated within the house itself, under a section of the flagstone floor. Two other small test pits were also opened further away from the house to look for further features, but without success.

The extension to the possible 'moat' lies to the east of the house and appears to be a now dry continuation of the existing open water-filled ditch to the north, at the front of the property. In the event the trench confirmed that a 4.5m wide and c1m deep flat-bottomed ditch does indeed run along this side of the property, though it appears, on

visual grounds, to become shallower uphill and to terminate just to the south of the trench at a point where the already rising ground reaches its highest level. There were very few finds from within the ditch, which showed no signs of silting and appeared to have been deliberately backfilled, probably in the mid 19th century.

A resistivity survey failed to pick up any signs of a southern arm of the ditch, though it is just possible that, if it existed, it could run underneath the metalled trackway that passes between the garden and the field to the rear. Any trace of a moat arm to the west is now undetectable, as it would lie under the main access road and farm barns. It therefore seems very possible that any moat at Downside was three sided, perhaps, given the rise of the ground from north to south, with some means of maintaining a higher water level in the southern end of the side arms - as is known from other moated sites (Dennis Turner, pers comm).

The trench in the garden revealed a 19th century yard surface which overlay earlier 18th century demolition material, perhaps connected with the construction of the existing house but, apart from one large posthole cut into the natural, held no features as such. Much of the material recovered was residual, but this nevertheless contained reasonable quantities of sherds of medieval coarse grey and Tudor green wares. Interestingly one large sherd of shell-tempered ware was also recovered, hinting at the possibility of the site being occupied from as early as the Saxo-Norman period.

Within the dining room of the house itself, a small area of the, probably 18th century, flagstone flooring was lifted, revealing a series of earlier floor levels. The upper of these consisted of a hard packed ashy soil level associated with the remains of a small chalk/mortar lined hearth. From the dating evidence this level may be connected with the construction of the existing house. Approximately 12cm below this level a second floor was encountered, this time consisting of a well-packed stone layer on the surface of which lay a number of roof tiles. This is almost certainly the floor of an earlier house, which, on the dating evidence - mainly clay pipe stems and some pottery - should have been out of use by the early/mid 17th century. No attempt was made to go below this level, as the whole room will become available for excavation later this year. The date for the construction of the floor is, as yet, therefore unknown.

As a result of the four days work it is now possible to suggest that the earliest occupation of the site dates to the Saxo-Norman period, that in the medieval period the site lay within a three (?) sided moat and that any associated buildings appear to be centred under the footprint of the existing house. The physical evidence, at least as far as available at present, seems to support the documentary research carried out by David Taylor, which indicates that Downside was the site of an important and high-status medieval hall.

Thanks are due to Dominic Combe and Charlotte Broadbent for giving permission for the work and for providing an earthmoving machine and to all those who came and helped on the site.

## **ASHFORD MILL, COBHAM**

*David Taylor*

Domesday Book records three mills at Cobham. These would have been Cobham and Downside, still more or less in existence, and Ashford near Cobham Tilt.

Little is known of Ashford Mill and it has long been assumed that it stood close to the Tilt Common on the north bank of the river Mole at the rear of what is now Cobham Cemetery. The fields here are shown as Mill Field and Mill Meadow on the 1845 Tithe Map. In his Cobham: Manorial History (SyAS Collections Vol. LVIII (1961) the late T.E.C. Walker wrote "*Agas does not mention Ashford Mill in 1598.*"

Judy English has recently translated the copy of Ralph Agas's 1598 survey of the Manor of Cobham held at Castle Arch and it seems that Agas did mention Ashford Mill at least on two occasions.

*"The same (John Chapman) holds as above but far east the site of a mill called Ashford mill and a meadow next to the river on the east side and the land of Thomas Adoune on the west side, the south headland abuts against the land held in villeinage by the said John Chapman and the north headland against the river aforesaid and contains by estimation 1a 0r 0p"*

This clearly places the site of the mill to the south of the river, close to a sharp bend, and within what is now Cobham Park estate (TQ 120591). The ford (now crossed by a footbridge) is therefore downstream of the mill as is the ford by Cobham mill.

In a reference to a field on the north bank of the river, held by the Dean and Canons of Windsor as part of the manor of Ham, Agas states that the east headland of that field abuts *"against the road which once led towards Ashford Mill and the west headland against land of the lord held at farm by Alice Due."*

Ashford Mill appears to have to been dismantled before the 16th century, as it is not recorded in Godwyn's survey of Cobham of 1546-9. Field walking might help locate the position of the mill although any archaeology is likely to have been lost or damaged through river erosion and regular flooding of the site.

I am very grateful to Judy English for translating the text of the Agas Survey. It is proving an invaluable tool in our understanding of medieval Cobham.

## **CRACKED POTS IN OUR HERITAGE: THE FARNBOROUGH HILL KILN PROJECT**

*Jacqui Pearce*

Work is now well underway on an extremely exciting and important project conducted as a joint venture between Guildford Museum and the Museum of London Specialist Services. The aim is to publish the results of the excavations carried out under the direction of Felix Holling, between 1967 and 1972, in the grounds of Farnborough Hill Convent. These uncovered dumps of production waste and the remains of a series of successive kiln structures dating to c1550-80, as well as one kiln dating to the late 15th century. During this period, Farnborough Hill was a major producer of Surrey-Hampshire Border ware, both whitewares, and, from c1550 onwards, redwares. Border ware was one of the most important ceramic industries operating in south-east England from c1550-1700. Throughout this time, the industry produced large quantities of good quality, attractive pottery, catering for a remarkably wide range of household needs, from cooking vessels of various types to decorative tablewares to toys. During the 16th and 17th centuries, whitewares were always a more important part of the industry's output than redwares, until they were phased out of production in the early 18th century and the manufacture of redwares took over completely.

Farnborough Hill is one of the few production sites in the Border industry at which kiln structures and associated production waste have been found together and where kilns from different phases of production are represented at the same site. It is the only site in the Border industry for which archaeomagnetic dates were obtained (a date of 1560-75 for one of the kilns) and considerable quantities of kiln waste were recovered. Documentary evidence is known relating to potters working at the site, which was a major centre of potting from at least the late 13th century until the early 20th century.

The site is of considerable local importance, as a major centre in a large-scale and long-lived ceramic industry situated on the Surrey-Hampshire borders. It played a vital part in the economy of the region, with a widespread distribution that encompassed London as the main market for more than 150 years. The excavated

kilns date to a period of great importance in the development of the ceramic industries of the county as a whole, a time of transition and expansion during which new forms and technologies were introduced and a time of national economic vitality and growth. The products of the Border industry even reached the early American colonies and exhibit striking parallels with certain continental wares during its formative period, in the late 15th and early 16th centuries, the time to which the Farnborough Hill kilns can be dated.

Some 230 boxes of Farnborough Hill pottery have been brought together at MoLSS where identification and quantification of the kiln assemblage from each year of excavation is now complete. Detailed analysis of the data is now underway, alongside illustration of selected pots and sherds. A remarkably wide range of vessel forms has been identified, including tripod pipkins, in widespread use for cooking, bowls and dishes of various shapes and sizes, skillets, porringers (used for eating semi-solid or spoon foods), drinking jugs, mugs, cups, chamber pots, chafing dishes, costrels or portable flasks, money-boxes candlesticks and chicken feeding dishes. Forms previously unsuspected in London have now been recognised and probably had a purely local distribution. These include frying pans with three feet, dripping dishes (to catch the juices from spit-roasted joints of meat) and alembics, which form part of a distilling unit. Manufacturing and kiln-firing have also been identified and coded during recording to allow a better understanding of how technology developed over the life of the industry.

Numerous research questions have emerged as a result of recording and quantification, and existing questions have been refined. Comparisons can now be made with kiln material from other sites that made Border ware, such as Cove, and with finds from London excavations. A number of interesting leads involving possible German influences on the forms manufactured at Farnborough Hill are also being investigated. As work proceeds apace, a major publication is taking shape in which we hope to be able to do justice to all the work and effort carried out over many years by Felix Holling and Guildford Museum.

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## 150th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

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### OUR VICTORIAN BIRTHDAY GARDEN PARTY

*Charles van der Lande and Mike Rubra (Joint Organisers)*

Sarah Goad, a Vice President of the Society and Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, offered the Society free use of marquees in the beautiful grounds of South Park, Blechingley\* for the evening of 4th June: an offer far too good to refuse!

A working group was set up and a lot of thought went into planning the format for the evening. A bar licence was obtained and a potential hog-roaster identified. The Victorian High Society group agreed to attend (but later cancelled) and the WI was preparing to provide entertainment. None the less, those initially involved needed more help with such a major event. Our President, Audrey Monk, is, as many know, one of those people who leads from the front, works like a Trojan and contributes a huge amount to the Society (*ed- hear, hear*). So, if a request is made, for example "would you and Mike Rubra like to take over the organisation of the Garden Party", it is not possible to say no.

There was no doubt that the event needed more focus and livening up. As this is our 150th Anniversary year and the planned garden party one of only two purely social events, what better than to make it our official Birthday Party, and add as many attractions as we could in order to make it a family fun evening. So as to minimise the financial strain, children came for free and the adult ticket cost a mere £5, which included a glass of wine.

Ideas came from all quarters, including a coconut shy that turned out to be a star attraction for the children, some of whom went home with as many as five coconuts. At the end of the evening over 200 sponsored balloons carrying our 150th anniversary message were released, chased across the field by a throng of children trying to retrieve the low fliers.

Guests were greeted by the sound of an 1840's street piano that had been lovingly restored by its owner, and invited to enter the quiz. An authentic town crier announced the events with the traditional cry of "Oyez! Oyez!", ringing his bell and ending with "God save the Queen!" The Martineau singers and the WI entertained us in the main marquee. A variety of indoor and outdoor games such as schule and croquet meant there was always something to do and lots of people brought a picnic that they enjoyed on a beautiful, warm summer's evening. Displays and a bookstall promoted the Society's activities and a suitably attired photographer recorded the goings-on. Many of the Victorian costumes were most impressive.

The birthday cake was "trowelled" with due ceremony by the Lord Lieutenant; bouquets were presented to her and her daughter Cassandra Wetter, and even the speech makers managed to say what they wanted, using remarkably few words! The President had her own tent; entertained invited VIP's and even managed to raise some money for the library fund.

A full troupe of Morris dancers put on an excellent performance at the end of the evening. The children loved their "bear", the dancers enjoyed their beer and over 100 people tasted the excellent roast hog.

The fact that virtually no one had left by closing time was, perhaps, an indication that the event was a success. To cater for 200 people and to set up such an event would have been impossible without the help, willingly given, of a star cast to whom must go a big vote of thanks, especially from the organisers

We are indebted to Sarah Goad for making it all possible, and to Mr. and Mrs. Wetter for allowing us to use their beautiful grounds.

\* South Park residents have always used this spelling as opposed to "Bletchingley".

### **The Star Cast:**

**Matthew Alexander** : Master of Ceremonies (and first-aider).

**John Boulton & Emma Corke**: car-parking and people-directing.

**Margaret and John Boulton, Margaret Broomfield & Jenny Newell**: running the coconut shy, cake cutting and laying out the games.

**Martin Cole and family**: running and underwriting the balloon race.

**Glenys Crocker** : erecting and manning the SHG stand.

**Gillian Drew & Sheila Ashcroft**: manning the Society bookstand .

**Steve Dyer & Peter Youngs**: transport.

**Alan Hall, Joyce Herve, Margaret Broomfield, Liz Walder** : bar duties.

**Peter Harp**: Official Photographer.

**Rosamund Hanworth & Richard Muir** : speech makers and ex-Pressies.

**Chris Hasler, Alfie Hines, Emma Corke, Liz Walder & Peter Harp**: site build up and strip (*ed-unfortunately I missed the latter*).

**Rosemary Hunter**: birthday cake sponsor, provider of indoor games and the performers.

**Audrey Monk**: far too much to list!

**Chris Odom**: treasurer, trouble-shooter.

**John Price**: signs and displays.

**Gabby Rapson**: the choir

**Dennis Turner**: VIP duties.

**Edward Walker**: too much to list!

## **The Balloon Race Results**

At the end of the evening of the 4th June, over 200 helium filled balloons were released en masse and were seen to head off in a south-south-westerly direction. Each had a label attached offering a prize for the one that travelled furthest.

Incredibly, six reached France, of which two got as far as the Rhone/Alps area; a distance of about 1000km. By pure coincidence, the further one, which got to Oullins, was sponsored by Maureen Cole, the co-organiser of the balloon race itself and the second, which got to nearby Cremeaux was sponsored by Charles van der Lande, the co-organiser of the Garden Party. Maureen Cole has donated her modest prize to St.Catherine's Hospice, Crawley on behalf of the Society.

## **Plea for Photographs**

Did you take any photographs at the Garden Party? If so, are you willing to lend some prints to the Society? We are planning a display covering the Anniversary Celebrations at the Anniversary Dinner in Epsom. Please address any contributions to Edward Walker care of Castle Arch. Your contributions will be acknowledged and returned at the end of the anniversary year.

## **150TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER**

**Saturday 27th November**

**The Queen's Stand, Epsom**

Our 150th Anniversary Dinner is being organised for all members of the Society and their guests. The guest speaker will be Professor Martin Biddle OBE, FSA, Professor of Medieval Archaeology at Oxford University, author of *The Tomb of Christ and King Arthur's Round Table* and well known in Surrey for his work at Nonsuch Palace. There will be opportunities for members and affiliated groups/societies to make up tables and everyone is assured of a very warm welcome and an evening to remember.

Full details of the dinner and an application form for tickets will be included in the next edition of the Bulletin. Meanwhile we urge members to make a note of the evening in their diaries.

## **GOING BACK IN TIME: From Industrial Archaeology to the Stone Age Tilford Rural Life Centre**

**Sunday 22nd August, 10am-5pm**

Preparations for the Society's day at Tilford Rural Life Centre are well advanced. There will be plenty for all the family to do and see, and lunches and teas are available. Full details were included with the last edition of the *Bulletin*. Do try and come along. Children and grandchildren will find lots of interest.

## **GUIDED WALKS IN HISTORIC SURREY**

Throughout the summer a series of walks have been arranged to mark the Society's 150th Anniversary year. The remaining programme is listed below:

### **FARNHAM**

**Sunday 8th August, 1.30pm**

A guided tour of town centre and castle – entrance fee to castle.

Leader: **David Graham**. Distance: 2-3 miles. Approx Duration: 2 hours. Not suitable for disabled people because of unavoidable steps and steep hill. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. No dogs.

Meet: Central Car Park, Victoria Road, Farnham.

## **ELSTEAD**

**Sunday 15th August, 2.30pm**

A brief talk in the church will be followed by a walk through the village to the mill and back, passing many of the older buildings.

Leader: **Gillian Drew**. Distance 2 miles. Duration: 2 hours. Not suitable for children, and only partly accessible for disabled. No dogs.

Meet at church. Parking at church.

## **BOOKHAM**

**Saturday 4th September, 2.30pm**

**Monday 6th September 2.30 and 7.30pm**

The story of Bookham is bound up in its houses. The walks will pass many of them and the leader will explain something of their history and their former occupants.

Leader: **Derek Renn**. Distance: 3+ miles. Duration: 2 hours. Under 16s must be accompanied by an adult. Accessible for disabled but note busy roads and others without pavements. No dogs. Meet Lower Shott Car Park, off A246 in centre of Great Bookham.

## **MICKLEHAM DOWNS**

**Saturday 18th September, 2pm.**

A walk over open downland to see the remains of prehistoric field system and burial mounds, sites of Romano-British farms, a Roman road, medieval sheep run and 18th/19th century developments of large houses and parkland gardens.

Leader: **Judie English**. Distance: 4-5miles. Duration: 4 hours. Children 12 years plus must be accompanied by an adult. Not suitable for those with impaired mobility as the walk involves rough ground with steep climbs. No dogs.

Meet at Car Park opposite Nower Wood Study Centre on Reigate Road - Mill Way (B2033).

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## **SURREY INDUSTRIAL HISTORY GROUP**

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### **INDUSTRIES IN SURREY IN 1854**

On Saturday 9th October the *Stewart Robertson Commemoration Meeting* of the Surrey Industrial History Group features three talks on Industries in Surrey in 1854. Full details are enclosed with this edition of the Bulletin. Be sure to let Alan Crocker know if you plan to attend. The meeting is being held in Dorking. There will be no charge and no tickets are being issued.

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## **SURREY LOCAL HISTORY COMMITTEE**

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### **ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM**

**Saturday 23rd October**

**“SURREY NEWSPAPERS”**

The Annual Symposium is to be held in Chertsey, and full details together with a ticket application form are included with this copy of the Bulletin. Tickets include morning coffee and afternoon tea/coffee. A licensed bar together with hot or cold lunches will be available.

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## ROMAN STUDIES GROUP

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### **Roman Studies Group AGM**

**David Bird**

Notice is given that the Roman Studies Group AGM will be held on 5th October 2004 at soon after 7.30pm at the Dorking Christian Centre. The meeting will receive and consider the Chairman's and Treasurer's reports and elect officers together with up to three committee members. Nominations may be made to the Secretary, Gary Readings, c/o Castle Arch. It would be appropriate to note here that the Group's Committee is conscious of the need for better communication with members and is seeking to establish a newsletter, to be circulated by email as much as possible. Volunteers are sought to act as editor of the newsletter.

The AGM will be followed by a discussion intended to explore and agree the basics of a research framework for the Roman period in Surrey. In brief the aim will be to

- Agree the questions to which we want answers
- Establish our priorities
- Establish a programme and methodology to pursue those priorities

The rest of the winter programme is being established, with the following dates: 2 November; 7 December; 11 January; 1 February; 1 March. Meetings will probably start at 7.30, some in Dorking and some in Guildford. Further details will be provided in due course, but it is already established that Professor Martin Millett will talk about archaeological work at the port of Rome on 1st February 2005.

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## SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

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### **SURREY'S COUNTRYSIDE AND HERITAGE 2004** **Surrey History Centre, Goldsworth Road, Woking.**

The annual series of illustrated talks by leading specialists from Surrey County Council's Countryside and Heritage Division looking at current issues and conservation projects.

All talks will begin at 7.30pm, and there is free admittance.

### **CONSERVING 2000 YEARS OF HISTORY** **21st October**

How the archives looked after by the Surrey History Service help the work of Surrey's conservation teams to look after buildings, landscapes and ancient monuments.

**Maggie Vaughan-Lewis**, Head of the Surrey History Service and **David Bird**, Head of Heritage Conservation

## **SURREY'S COUNTRYSIDE AND HERITAGE REVIEW 2004**

**28th October**

The current state of play in conserving the countryside and heritage of Surrey: England's most surprising county. There are many issues, but also opportunities for everyone to become involved.

*Mike Dawson, Head of Countryside and Heritage*

## **EXCAVATING SURREY'S PAST**

**4th November**

Surrey's Time Team uncover the remains of the past.

*Phil Jones, Senior Archaeological Officer and Trudie Cole, Archaeological Education Officer*

## **SURREY'S LAST WILDERNESS**

**11th November**

Lowland heathland is now rare and precious but once covered much of West Surrey: 85% has been lost and it is important to keep and look after what remains.

*RobMcGibbon, Heathland Project Manager*

## **RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE**

**18th November**

Surrey has more publicly accessible countryside, particularly commons, than anywhere else in south-east England. Historically, footpaths and bridleways have always been the most important means of accessing the countryside, but constant care and vigilance is needed to keep them all open and available.

*Sue Todd, Head of Rights of Way and Countryside Access*

## **INSPIRED BY THE SURREY HILLS**

**25 November**

The rich heritage of the Surrey Hills has inspired many famous writers, painters, designers and musicians. This is one reason for looking after the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

*Rob Fairbanks, Surrey Hills AONB Officer*

All welcome.

Enquiries to Bernice Hall, Tel: 020 8541 9433; e-mail: [bernice.hall@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:bernice.hall@surreycc.gov.uk)

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## **MISCELLANY**

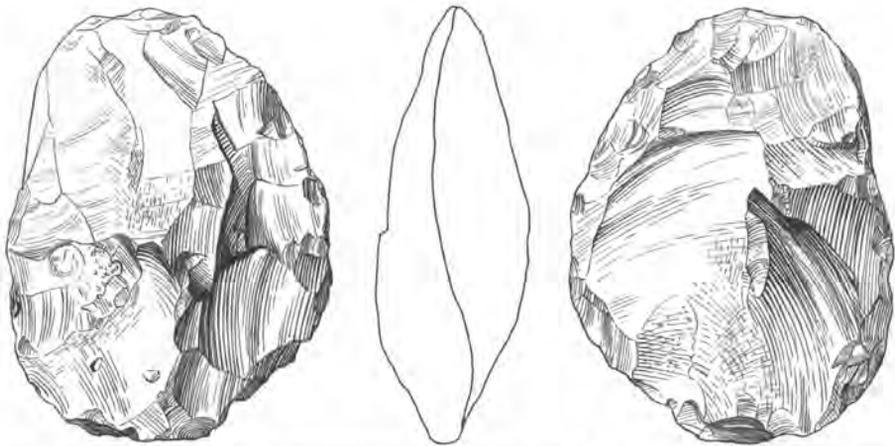
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### **A PALAEOLITHIC BIFACE FROM SEALE**

*David Graham*

Earlier this year Mrs Crawford found a struck flint bifacially worked 'axe' in her garden at Littleworth Cross (SU 8963 4579), 53cm below the surface. The tool was taken to Farnham Museum and passed to the author for identification. I am grateful to Jon Cotton and Peter Harp for their comments and to David Williams for his drawing.

The biface has a maximum length of 14cm, width of 10.5cm and thickness of 4cm; weighs 620gm and is in unrolled brown flint. It is 'D' shaped with a slightly twisted profile. The find site, some 3.5 miles east of Farnham, is most unusual as it is well away from the river gravels that are the usual source of palaeoliths. A search of the SMR and in the literature indicate that this is the first time that such a find has been



recorded from the Lower Greensand, at least in the Farnham area. Jon Cotton, however, feels that the find site may well be a genuine one, although it is possible that it is a discard from a private collection.

### **SUN INSURANCE POLICIES**

An on-line index of Sun insurance policies in Surrey has been created which locates them by place. For more details see [www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk/slhc/fire.html](http://www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk/slhc/fire.html)

### **SMR VOLUNTEER WANTED**

The Surrey Sites and Monuments Record needs a volunteer to help create and compile a database and mail-out as part of a forthcoming audience research project. Computer literacy, especially an ability to use Microsoft Excel, Word and the creation of simple Access databases with the minimum of supervision is essential (although support will be given).

The placement will initially be for a two-week period some time between the end of July and August (exact dates are negotiable) and is suitable for someone with an interest in SMR's, archaeology and (more generally) office work within a Local Government environment. However, there is scope for further volunteer placements in the near future for various SMR enhancement projects.

If interested please contact Emily Brants (SMR Officer) for further information on 020 8541 9083 or [emily.brants@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:emily.brants@surreycc.gov.uk). The placement will be based at County Hall, Kingston.

### **MEDIEVAL MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE**

*Margaret Broomfield*

SyAS members who might consider that suing for medical negligence is a recent phenomenon, will find the case below of interest.

Award of Master Gilbert Kymer, Doctor of Medicines and Rector of medical men (*medicorum*) of London, John Sombreshete, Inceptor in Medicines, and Thomas Southwell, Bachelor in Medicines, surveyors of the faculty of Physic of London, John Corby, practitioner (*practicus*) in Physic, Thomas Morstede, esquire, one of the masters of the enfranchised art of surgery in London, William Bradwardyne, esquire, vice-master of the same, Henry Asshborne and John Forde, surgeons enfranchised in surgery, who had been chosen arbitrator in a cause pending between William Forest, complainant, and John Harwe, free surgeon, and John Dalton and Simon Rolf, who had been admitted as barbers solely for the practise of surgery, as regards

an alleged error of treatment of a wound in the muscles of the thumb of the right hand. The arbitrators, having diligently considered and fully understood the matter, on the evidence of the parties and the sworn testimony of John Parker, a barber admitted for the practice of surgery only, and also of other trustworthy persons having knowledge of the course of the aforesaid treatment, found that the complainant William Forest on 31 Jan. last past, the moon being consumed in a bloody sign, to wit, Aquarius, under a very malevolent constellation, was seriously wounded in the said muscles and on 9 Feb., the moon being in the sign of the Gemini, a great effusion of blood took place, that Simon Rolf staunched the blood the first time and that afterwards John Harwe with the assistance of John Dalton skilfully stopped the flow, which broke out six several times in a dangerous fashion, and that on the seventh occasion, the wounded man preferring a mutilated hand rather than death, the said John Harwe, with the consent of the patient, and for lack of other remedy, finally staunched the blood by cautery, as was proper, and thus saved his life. Accordingly the arbitrators declared that the said John Jarwe, John Dalton and Simon Rolf had acted in a surgically correct manner and had made no error, and that therefore they were absolved of all charges made against them by the said William. They further imposed upon the complainant perpetual silence in this matter and, so far as possible, they restored to the defendants, who were guiltless and had been maliciously and undeservedly defamed, the full measure of their good reputation, as their merits in the case required. Further they declared that any defect, mutilation or disfigurement of the hand was due either to the constellation aforesaid or some defect of the patient or the original nature of the wound. This aware was made 9 June 1424 in the chapter house of the Friars Minors in London.

## **THE FERNHURST FURNACE TRUST**

### **Guided Tour of the Ironworks**

The Fernhurst Furnace Trust has recently been formed to preserve, enhance and conserve and promote the site of one of the finest surviving examples of a Wealden blast furnace. To celebrate the formation of the Trust you are invited to a guided tour of the site on Friday 10th September. Tea and coffee will be available from 2.30pm and the guided tour will take place at 3.15pm. Please wear suitable footwear. The meeting point is at Lower Lodge Farm, Fernhurst, West Sussex (SU 877 288), a few miles south of Haslemere.

Please let the Secretary know in advance if you intend to join the event - The Secretary, The Fernhurst Trust, c/o Vanlands, Van Common, Fernhurst, West Sussex GU27 3NW, 01428 654088, [Barnes@haslemere.com](mailto:Barnes@haslemere.com)

## **NEWS FROM THE TOOLS STORE**

\* A Nikon NE-20S digital theodolite has been passed from The Plateau Group into SyAS stores. It has been overhauled and is now available for use by members. A small group has attended a session for familiarisation with the instrument and are now able to pass this on to other interested members. User-friendly instructions have also been prepared. The group consisted of:

Judie English	01483 276724
Alan Hall	01372 812538
Rose. Hooker	01293 411176
Pauline Hulse	01483 282917
Hugh Wilson	0208 397 8985
	and 023 9255 0222

\* New magnetic compasses, IRIS 50's, are being purchased which are capable of being read to the nearest degree and, with experience, perhaps to the nearest

half-degree. They should replace the much less precise Sylva platform units on land surveys etc.

- \* We have recently become aware that not all members running digs etc. know what tools and equipment we stock. Our tools and equipment inventory is now being updated and copies will be available from Geoff or Pauline. A copy will be kept at Castle Arch. Copies will also be sent to all known leaders of recent digs, surveys etc.
- \* Tools, equipment, including the theodolite, its tripod and staff, the new compasses and copies of the revised inventory are/will be available from Geoff. Stonehouse tel. 01483 283885 and Pauline Hulse Tel: 01483 282917.

## **VOLUNTEER DIGGERS**

The Society's volunteer digger list was last revised in 1998 and is now to be brought up to date again. If you would like to remain on the list or join it for the first time please let Chris Hayward know by the end of August giving your address and telephone number **and** your email address if you have one. We hope to make as many contacts as possible by email in future. Chris can be contacted by email at: [chrisarch@lineone.net](mailto:chrisarch@lineone.net) or by post at 14 Hollycombe Close, Liphook, Hants, GU30 7HR.

## **KEYS FROM THE PAST**

Not all parishes in Surrey are covered by recently published Local Histories, and not all parishes in Surrey are producing Village Studies sponsored by the Society.

A recent profile of the late John Harvey draws attention to his wide range of interests (Bulletin 374, 12). The broad range of topics covered within the field of Local History and the vast scope of the sources upon which it is necessary to draw when studying any given locality may be illustrated in the case of Great and Little Bookham by his paper which takes an historic approach to its area (Harvey 1949). Although published more than half a century ago, the paper lays down rules which should be adopted today, and which, with the use of modern information technology, could provide a means of recording details of our heritage in those areas which lack the means to produce a local history in the traditional published form. Perhaps the use of local 'keys' suggested so many years ago should serve as a 'wake-up' call to local historians today

Harvey, John, H 1949 An experiment in local history *Surrey Archaeological Collections* L1, 1949, pp.102-109

## **ROOKERY FARM EXCAVATION September 1969 to March 1970**

If you were involved in the this Nonsuch Antiquarian Society excavation, which took place over the winter of 1969-70 next to the landfill site in Lower Kingswood, I would be very grateful if you could get in touch. The excavation, directed by Frank Pemberton, was looking for Palaeolithic flints, but although the finds survive, the archive has been lost. It is hoped to write something about the excavation when the report on the Society' more recent work at the site is published, and any reminiscences would be most useful, with photographs especially appreciated. We have an approximate location of the three main trenches, but comments on their size, depth and methodology of excavation are sought, together with information concerning any fieldwalking or other excavations or sondages that may have taken place in the locality.

Please send any information to Peter Harp, 5 Green Curve, Banstead, Surrey, SMT 1NS.

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## COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY

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### THE CROYDON, MERSTHAM AND GODSTONE IRON RAILWAY

#### Working Party

**Sunday 26th September, 10am**

**Mike Rubra**

The railway is 200 years old this year, and I was very grateful for all the clearance done by our working party on May 23rd and for their part in the conservation of this important industrial scheduled ancient monument. We have not finished the work, however, and I have arranged a second date for the work. Any help will be greatly appreciated. We will again be led by the local "Downlanders" conservation group, and if you could spare some time contact me, Tel: 01737 84 3025, for details of the site and what you should bring.

The railway was the subject of a very interesting and well-attended talk by Paul Sowan on April 24th at Gatton Park as part of our 150th Anniversary programme.

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## LECTURE SERIES

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### SURREY INDUSTRIAL HISTORY GROUP

#### 29TH SERIES OF INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY LECTURES

Lecture Theatre F, University of Surrey, Guildford

11 Fortnightly meetings, Tuesdays 7.30-9.30pm

- 28th September **William McMurray or Don Guillermo, wireworker, papermaker and espartero Alan Crocker**, SIHG President.
- 12th October **Canal Lifts Stuart Chrystal**, SIHG Treasurer.
- 26th October **The Romance of the Straw Hat Veronica Main**
- 9th November **Sound Mirrors Richard Scarth**, Hythe Civic Society
- 23rd November **John Logie Baird and the Development of Television Jon Weller**, amateur radio enthusiast G0GNA
- 7th December (Members evening), including **Unusual Ordnance John Day**
- 11th January **Idle Women, the Story of WW2 Boatwomen Runnalls Davis**, lecturer on canals.
- 25th January **The Industries of Wandsworth Dorian Gerhold**, Wandsworth Historical Society.
- 8th February **The Wealden Iron Industry Jeremy Hodgkinson**, Wealden Iron Research Group
- 22nd February **Robert Mann Lowne, a London Inventor and Scientific Instrument Maker Sue Hayton**, GLIAS Membership Secretary
- 8th March **Inspiration and Perspiration: Brunelleschi to Whittle Alan Thomas**, SIHG Secretary

Fees: Single lectures £5, payable on the night; SyAS or SIHG members full series £35. Non-members full series £40. For further details contact the Programme Coordinator Bob Bryson; Tel: 01483 302389.

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## LECTURE MEETINGS

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### **1st September**

"Worcester Park" by David Rymill to the Epsom & Ewell History and Archaeology Society (the old Nonsuch Antiquarian Society) at St. Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 8pm. Visitors £1.

### **6th September**

"The National Trust and the Wey Navigations" by Denys Wood to the Woking History Society at Mayford Village Hall, Saunders Lane, Mayford at 8 pm. Visitors welcome £2.

### **6th September**

"Elstead" by Gillian Drew to the Guildford Archaeology and Local History Group at Salters, Castle Street, Guildford

### **14th September**

AGM and Presidential Address to the Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society in the Lower Hall of the Friends' Meeting House, Eden Street, Kingston upon Thames at 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1.50.

### **21st September**

"Discovering Surrey's Past: 150 years of the Surrey Archaeological Society Round about Kingston" by David Bird to the Friends of Kingston Museum at the Market House, Market Place, Kingston-upon-Thames at 8pm.

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

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**Next Issue:** Copy required by 20 th August for the September 2004 issue.

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