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## SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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# Bulletin 392

April/May 2006



MISS HEATH OF ALBURY (SEATED FAR LEFT)

## **SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH FRAMEWORK** *David Bird*

Following the first SARF seminar which was noted in the previous *Bulletin*, the next three have now been held. Richard Savage has kindly made notes from these meetings and copies have been sent to those who said they would be attending. They will also be placed on the Surrey County Council website and printed copies can be obtained from David Bird (contact details given below).

**Seminar 2** was held on 31 January, chaired by Jon Cotton and addressed by Dr J D Hill of the British Museum. This allowed us to give proper attention to the Iron Age in Surrey, which is currently seen as something of a black hole. It became clear that in this respect it is not so very different to large areas of the country, and J D pointed out ways in which Surrey was well placed to contribute information that will help to resolve some of the national questions such as the chronology of the period. We are also well placed to serve as a litmus test for the whole of the London region: because of our frequently marginal soils what happens in Surrey may be a better guide to the broader changes. As with Richard Bradley's talk, emphasis was placed on the importance of the local: there is no uniform Iron Age (and even a sense of people being deliberately different from their immediate neighbours). There was also again emphasis on the importance of the 'grey literature' arising from professional unit activity; this material can be accessed via the SMR and a handy guide is the (more or less) annual round-up in the Society's *Collections* and the *London Archaeologist* (JD noted that these are among the best in the country). The importance of revisiting the results of earlier excavations and fresh study of the finds was also re-emphasised.

The Roman Studies Group has previously devoted time to consideration of the research framework, but J D's presentation also helped to generate further discussion of the Roman period, aided by brief mentions of current work being undertaken by sub-groups led by Frank Pemberton, Alan Hall and David Bird. These are sub-groups of the RSG which are beginning to generate projects arising from the earlier discussions, which will hopefully act as a model for how the research framework process as a whole will proceed.

**Seminar 3** on 14th February was chaired by Peter Youngs and had an opening talk by Mary Alexander that covered early Saxon as well as later Saxon and medieval (there had been insufficient time to consider early Saxon at the previous seminar as originally intended). Mary's talk generated a lively discussion and raised many key questions and overall themes, covering a wide field. The importance of documentary work was stressed and this opened up a developing issue: in some areas work is held back by a lack of key skills, and therefore training will be needed to make it possible for people to develop them. Hopefully the recognition and development of particular projects designed to answer some of our key questions will make apparent areas where skills and experience are needed that are currently not available, or not sufficiently available, and training could be arranged to help to fill these gaps.

**Seminar 4** on 21 February was again chaired by Peter Youngs; this time the opening talk was given by Rod Wild, centring on the dendrochronology project but noting the many ramifications both happening and possible as a result of the accurate dating becoming available for timber-framed buildings in Surrey (and some in brick). This led on to many discussion threads involving aspects such as those paying for the buildings, living in them and building them; woodland industries; differences (of building style, of wood used, etc) across the county (and links to other counties); the link with local wealth and its link with local resources, especially agricultural. This provided a natural introduction to discussion of the relationship between the buildings and their surroundings, both the wider agricultural landscape and gardens and parks.

The last three seminars may have been held by the time this note appears, but if not please remember to book a place if you have not already done so and wish to attend (the room booked can only hold a finite number of people, as became very apparent at the second seminar):

- 14th March: Surrey after about 1500: industry
- 21st March: Surrey after about 1500: transport; defences and military aspects
- 28th March Geology/overarching themes and ideas

As for the first four, notes will be prepared and circulated, and placed on the Surrey County Council website. When the seminars are finished draft papers will be prepared and circulated in May/June to those who have shown an interest (and placed on the website). Their availability will also be advertised and they will be sent to anyone who requests a copy. A revised document will be circulated in August and a final document will be created which will be presented in some form at a final conference on Saturday 7 October at the Letherhead Institute in Leatherhead. Please make a note of this date; further details will be circulated in due course.

There is still a need for fresh thought about what we need to know and how we can go about it for most if not all of the archaeological periods and wider-ranging themes, and any ideas would be welcome. This need not be at the seminars: please continue to send in your thoughts about what we need to know, in any form and at any time. We hope to finish up with a document that lists all the key questions to which we need answers and ways in which those answers can be obtained. Ideally one outcome will be a set of key projects that can be pursued by the Society and other bodies, while the document as a whole will act as a guide to professional units operating in any part of Surrey, and a wish list for those seeking a research topic for a higher degree. The dendrochronology project is a prime example of the way we hope the process will work: review existing knowledge; identify key questions; devise and instigate a project to provide answers. As Richard Bradley pointed out at the first seminar, in practice the process is continuous.

You can contact me by email: davidbird@surreycc.gov.uk (note that there is no dot between David and Bird); 'phone: 020-8541 8991; or by writing to me at Sustainable Development, Surrey County Council, County Hall, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT1 2DT, or contact any other member of the Steering Group: Jon Cotton; Peter Harp; Audrey Monk; Richard Savage; Peter Youngs.

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## COUNCIL MATTERS

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### NEW MEMBERS

*Susan Janaway*

A special welcome to the following new members. I have again included principal interests, where they have been given on the membership application form. I hope this will be useful for the Society's Local Secretaries and Committee Chairmen.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Principal Interests</b>
James Archer	33 Kingcup Drive Bisley GU24 9HH	
Charlotte Burford	127 Cranleigh Mead Cranleigh GU6 7JX	Ancient Egypt in particular
Roger Brookman	22 Chalgrove Road Sutton SM2 5JT	Mature student studying archaeology at University of Surrey

Hellen Gruenefeld	25 Bramble Rise Cobham KT11 2HP	Pre-medieval and Medieval England
Julie Khalfan	Shangani Plough Lane Ewhurst GU6 7SG	
Ray Lewis	25 Harrison Close Reigate RH2 7HS	Local History/Archaeology Industrial Archaeology
Nicholas Mahony	66 Mid Street South Nutfield RH1 4JX	Woodland Archaeology
Benjamin Moller	16 Nursery Close Frimley Green Camberley GU16 6JZ	Pre-history in particular. Very interested in getting involved with volunteer work, fieldwalking etc.
Mr J D Seymour	Penlands Pond Close Loxwood West Sussex RH14 0SH	General
William Thorndyke	29 Newark Road Windlesham GU20 6NE	Environmental / Geo-Archaeology
Sam Waite	Cleeve Lodge Littleworth Road Esher KT10 9PD	History, Museums

## APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS

The Society has funds available to make grants to groups or individuals to assist with the cost of projects in line with the Society's aims and objectives.

Applications for grants are considered at Council meetings four times a year, based on the recommendation of the Grants and Special Projects Committee. To meet this Committee's deadlines applications must be received by the Society's Hon Secretary by the following dates:

1st March	for consideration by Council	late April
1st June		late July
1st September		late October
1st December		late January

Application forms may be obtained from Castle Arch.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

*Susan Janaway*

It is subscription renewal time again! For those of you who do not pay your subscription by standing order, the following rates become due on 1st April:

Ordinary Member	£25.00
Associate Member	£2.00
Junior Member aged 16 – 20 (with <i>Collections</i> )	£6.00
Junior Member living at same address as an Ordinary Member (no publications)	free
Student Member aged 21 – 25	£12.50
Institutional Member (Inland)	£30.00
Institutional Member (Overseas)	£40.00

Please send your subscription to me, Susan Janaway, at Castle Arch. I am here on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10am – 2.45pm and can be contacted by phone/fax on 01483 532454 or by email at [info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk).

There is a flyer enclosed with this *Bulletin* which includes a return form for you to use. If you decide not to renew your subscription, would you let me know please? Thank you.

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## ROMAN STUDIES GROUP

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### ANNUAL LECTURE

The Roman Studies Group's special annual lecture was given by **Ralph Jackson**, the British Museum's curator of Romano-British Antiquities, to an appreciative audience in Dorking on 7 February. His subject was 'Eye medicine in the Roman Empire', well illustrated by a selection of slides of surviving medical instruments and stone reliefs as well as extracts from ancient authors. It provided plenty of food for thought for an audience that takes modern medical practice for granted. Clearly people in the Roman world were very concerned about eye problems (including relatively minor matters that we hardly notice but would then have been difficult to cope with) and doctors were able to alleviate suffering in many cases, although they didn't necessarily correctly understand why. The widespread use of sticks of *collyrium*, which could be crumbled and made into a paste or ointment for eye treatment, is illustrated even in our own area by the *collyrium* stamp from Staines. These sticks did contain material likely to have had an antibiotic effect and so they probably often were helpful. Doctors could also carry out cataract operations using purpose-made precision implements but otherwise surgery was confined to the outside of the eye and eyelids. Spectacles were a medieval invention.

Ralph's talk gave us an introduction to the world of real people, usually missing from the archaeological record, and made us think about the difficulties of dealing with disease and trauma in the ancient world. It is clear from finds such as the Staines stamp and medical implements from elsewhere that doctors were working in Roman Britain and in fact were using implements and presumably therefore methods that had been standard throughout the Greek and Roman world for centuries. As there was no system of recognised qualifications for doctors we cannot say how good our local doctors were, but no doubt good – and bad – results were talked about in local communities. As modern scientific analysis has shown, results can depend on the state of mind of the patient, but this is less likely to have been effective in the case of eye problems. How this fitted into a world which presumably also had local healers using traditional methods is impossible to say, but at least the Roman evidence reminds us that we should be thinking about such things. Healers and doctors had strong associations with religious practices because people naturally turned to their deities when faced with medical problems, so it is likely that they would have practiced and sold their potions at our local religious sites.

### LECTURE SERIES

The previous RSG talk was given by **Ian Betts** of the Museum of London on the subject of Roman tiles, of particular relevance to the developing Ashted project. All aspects of tiles were covered in a talk both interesting and of considerable practical use.

The Group's final talk for this winter's series will be given by **David Williams**, who will draw together the Roman material from Surrey that is being recorded as part of the Portable Antiquities Scheme, and discuss its implications.

## **VILLA SEMINAR**

The Group is currently planning a half-day seminar on villas to be held in the afternoon of 6 May, probably in Dorking. Further details will be provided in the next *Bulletin*.

## **2006/7 WINTER LECTURE SERIES**

Planning is also in hand for next winter's series of talks. The Committee would be pleased to hear from anyone who has suggestions for topics or speakers.

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## **SURREY HISTORY CENTRE**

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### **THE GLORIOUS FREEDOM OF THE ROAD: *150 YEARS OF CYCLING IN SURREY***

Les Bowerman will be giving a talk at 11am on Saturday 24th June at the SHC, and examples of his private collection of early bicycles will also be on display (see frontispiece of *Bulletin* 390).

There will also be a small display on the same subject in the foyer of the SHC during normal opening hours from 16th May to the 8th July.

Tickets: £2.50 for the talk, but please note that there are a limited number of available places.

For further information and booking Tel: 01483 518737.

### **THE RURAL WORLD**

#### ***Annual Surrey History Centre Film Show***

**Saturday 10th June, 11am to 12.30pm.**

A presentation by Frank Gray, director of South-East Film and Video Archive; who will also be launching the new Screen Archive South-East.

Tickets: £2.50 to include tea/coffee and biscuits, but please note that there are a limited number of places available.

For further information and booking Tel: 01483 518737.

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## **SURREY LOCAL HISTORY COMMITTEE**

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### **SUMMER MEETING AT BAGSHOT**

***Sunday 23rd July 2-5pm.***

There will be a guided walk that will include visits to wall paintings and the White Hart; and a talk by Phil Stevens at the Surrey Heath Archaeological and Heritage Trust's headquarters (Old Police Station) as well as a tour of the building and tea.

### **DEEDS DAY**

***Surrey History Trust and SLHC***

***Monday 24th April 2006, 10-4pm***

Foxed by freeholds? Confused by copyholds? Then attend this study day about deeds with experts on current land law from the Land Registry and have a chance to look at some original examples old deeds through the ages. You will be able to raise some of those questions you've often wondered about.

Tickets: £10, to include coffee/tea and a buffet lunch, sponsored by the Surrey Law Society. Please note that places are limited to 30.  
Tel: 01483 518750 and ask for Karen Wolfe.

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### **PARKS IN SURREY**

*Local History Symposium 2006*  
*Saturday 28th October 10.30-5pm.*

### **ASPECTS OF EDUCATION IN SURREY (Provisional details)**

*Spring Meeting 2007*  
*Roehampton University*

### **SEND AND RIPLEY**

*Summer Meeting 2007*

### **BRIDGES IN SURREY**

*Local History Symposium*  
*Saturday 27th October, 10.30-5pm.*

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## **OBITUARY**

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### **DR. JOHN WYMER, FSA, FBA**

It is with great sadness that we report the death on the 10th of February of John Wymer, the internationally respected prehistorian, who was a long-standing member of the Society's Prehistoric Group (formerly Lithic Tool Research Group) and the Plateau Group. Most members of the Society will remember John for his writing the chapter on "The Palaeolithic Period in Surrey" in *The Archaeology of Surrey to 1540*.

John Wymer was born on the 5th of March 1928 in London and spent his childhood in Richmond. His parents were keen prehistorians, and in 1910 his father had begun searching the gravel pits around Swanscombe for palaeoliths. This interest in man's antiquity was passed on to John who spent his school holidays travelling the country looking at archaeological sites. The Wymer's investigations at Barnfield Pit, Swanscombe included an area of gravel where A.T. Marston, an amateur prehistorian and Clapham dentist, had already discovered fragments of human skull in 1935-6. On July 30th 1955, John recovered a further fragment of the skull of "Swanscombe Man" – a woman in her early twenties which at the time was the earliest human remain found in Britain (a primitive form of *Homo sapiens* dating to about 300,000 years ago). It is still the earliest British cranium.

In 1956 he took the post of archaeologist at Reading Museum and moved with his first wife, Pauline, to Wokingham, which also facilitated his investigations of the prehistory of the area of the Kennet Valley and Upper Thames. From 1957 to 1961 John carried out excavations at the Mesolithic site at Thatcham, (adjacent to Newbury Sewage Works), recovering flint, bone and plant macrofossils. From 1962-3 John was the camp organiser of Atkinson and Piggott's investigation of Wayland's Smithy long barrow. In 1964, John excavated the Mesolithic site at Wawcott.

From 1965 to 1972 John was employed as a Research Associate for the University of Chicago, initially directing fieldwork, under Ronald Singer, of the early hominid site at Elandsfontein Farm in South Africa from 1965-6, and then further early sites at Langebaanweg and Klasies River Mouth. In 1969 John returned to England and

carried out excavations at Clacton-on-Sea, the type-site for the *Clactonian industry*, moving with his wife and five children to Bury St. Edmunds. Between 1971 and 1976 John excavated the palaeolithic site at Hoxne, Suffolk. From 1979-80 John was Senior Research Associate in the Department of Environmental Sciences at the University of East Anglia, followed by a post working for Essex County Council. From 1983, and now living at Bildeston (Suffolk), he was employed as prehistorian in the Norfolk Archaeological Unit, and from 1990-6 he was Project Manager for Wessex Archaeology, running English Heritage's Southern Rivers Palaeolithic Project and the English Rivers Palaeolithic Project. This resulted in a monumental survey of every known palaeolithic site in England, running to seven volumes.

Apart from archaeology, John's passions mainly involved beer and blues music and his musical ability as a blues-boogie pianist earned him the nickname of "Summer Lightning". There are numerous anecdotes about John's enthusiasm for alcoholic sustenance, from tales about the complicated logistics of supplying the campsites in Africa with beer and South African wine, to Tom Walls' fond reminiscences of a long, fortified lunch with John in Bertorelli's in Charlotte Street. John's early training was as a teacher of carpentry in Wokingham.

Although it could be easily argued that John was Britain's most accomplished palaeolithic archaeologist of the twentieth century, he was always approachable and generous. His encyclopaedic knowledge of the subject was legendary, and although I only knew him for ten years I look back fondly on the hours spent in his company in the George & Vulture discussing Surrey's palaeolithic sites and examining handaxes. Sometimes, after meetings of the Lithic Studies Society, it seemed as if every worker in the British palaeolithic could be found in that pub, and John was invariably the lynchpin around whom everyone gathered. Jon Cotton recently said of him that he "never met anyone who had a bad word to say about him – either as a person or as a scholar", a comment reiterated by many others who knew him.

John's chapter on the palaeolithic in *Surrey to 1540* (published 1987) was one of a large number of similar reports on county/regional palaeolithic archaeology that he wrote, such as those for Essex (1980), Kent (1982), East Anglia (1984), Suffolk (1988) and Essex again (1996). He maintained strong links with Surrey through the Prehistoric Group and Plateau Group, corresponding with members of both Groups. All correspondence always received a long, helpful and courteous reply signed with John's usual flourish, even circulars receiving unfailing acknowledgement. John maintained a personal database of all known British palaeolithic discoveries and was always keen for new information to add to his files. Whenever a handaxe was passed round at a meeting when he was present he would rapidly produce his notebook for drawing a quick sketch and recording its provenance. John was a highly accomplished draughtsman and calligrapher, providing his own beautiful illustrations for his books.

His written body of work amounts to hundreds of articles and books, but some of the most significant include *Lower Palaeolithic Archaeology in Britain as Represented by the Thames Valley* (1968), *Gazetteer of Mesolithic Sites in England and Wales* (1977), *The Palaeolithic Age* (1982), *Palaeolithic Sites of East Anglia* (1985), *The Southern Rivers Palaeolithic Project* (1991-4) and *The English Rivers Palaeolithic Project* (1996-7). The two-volume *The Lower Palaeolithic Occupation of Britain* (1999) includes much Surrey material. Most recently he was a co-author of an article in *Nature* on the early hominid site at Pakefield. The festschrift *Stone Age Archaeology: Essays in honour of John Wymer* (eds. Nick Ashton, Frances Healy & Paul Pettitt) appeared in 1998 and demonstrates the high regard and affection with which John was regarded by his peers.

John was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1963, a Fellow of the

British Academy in 1996, and winner in 2002 of the Academy's Grahame Clark Medal presented on the basis of 'distinguished achievements involving recent contributions to the study of prehistoric archaeology'. John passed away following a short illness at Southampton General Hospital. He was 77. His first wife, Pauline, died in 1990, and his second wife, Molly, in 1999. He is survived by five children and two grandchildren.

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## ARTEFACTS AND ARCHIVES RESEARCH GROUP

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### RECOLLECTIONS OF JOAN HARDING

As previously reported, the Artefacts and Archives Research Group is currently working on the Weston Wood archive of the excavation led by Joan Harding. It is hoped that any final report would be accompanied by a biographical essay on her life and work. AARG is therefore asking for any member who recalls Miss Harding at any time during her long membership of the Society, or socially at any time, to contact Mrs Rose Hooker at 59 Thornton Place, Horley RH6 8RZ or e-mail: [rosemary.hooker@btinternet.com](mailto:rosemary.hooker@btinternet.com).

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## MISCELLANY

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### SURREY DOMESDAY

Patrick Molyneux is in the process of updating his 20-year old thesis on Surrey Domesday and publishing it on the web at [www.surreydomesday.org.uk](http://www.surreydomesday.org.uk). He has contacted the society to invite anyone interested in, or working on, Surrey Domesday to contact him on [patrickmolyneux@fsmail.net](mailto:patrickmolyneux@fsmail.net). He would welcome any comments or criticisms.

### A PRIZE-FIGHT AT SHEPPERTON RANGE IN 1814

#### *From a contemporary newspaper account*

The battle between Oliver, the gardner, and Painter, had excited more interest than any which had occurred for some years and thousands were pending on the event. Both had shown themselves brave men, and neither was ever beaten. Their condition too in the ring, after between two and three months close training was remarkably fine. The stake for which they contended was £50 of the Gymnastic Club. At one o'clock a twenty feet square ring was formed, encompassed by about ten thousand spectators. The men entered at one o'clock, each full of confidence. Betting had hitherto been about even, the partisans of each being about equal; but although Painter had a few pounds in weight, and appeared by far the finest man of the two, yet, from the known superiority of Oliver's training under the immediate patronage of a gentleman, whose system is unerring, the odds in the ring may be estimated at 11 to 8 current on Oliver. The seconds were, for Painter, his friend and patron Gregson, and for Oliver the champion Grigg officiated with J. Clark his bottle holder. Betting was at an end – all eyes were riveted on the champions of the day.

**Round 1** Oliver made play with his left hand, at harmless distance, and Painter returned, but without effect. A sort of rally took place, in which Painter first shewed blood. They got to a close by Painter making a miss with his right hand, and Oliver got at the fibbing system, having his adversary's head under his left arm. Painter was ultimately thrown. No betting.

**Round 2** Oliver hit his man in the front of his face with his left hand and Painter returned awkwardly with his right. A smart rally followed, when Painter got punished about the head with his adversary's right hand. He planted one good body hit on Oliver. There was some daring, resolute, fighting in the rally and Oliver was at length knocked clean down by a clean hit off his head. Betting averaged at even.

**Round 3** This round exceeded in bravery, perhaps, anything on record. Painter, encouraged by success at the end of the last round, made play, but he hit short, and got another left hand facer. A most determined rally followed, with reciprocal advantage, which lasted two minutes. Both fought chiefly at the head, hit for hit until they were covered with blood. Oliver retreated from the rally, and nobbed his opponent with the left hand, but Painter at length got to in-fighting again, and this second rally was even more ferocious than the first. Painter seemed to have the best of the rally but in the midst of it he received a body hit on the heart, with which he was near going down.

**Round 4** Oliver got at sly safe fighting and was very successful at planting his left-handed hits on Painter's head. Painter followed his adversary retreating, but was unable to return upon his hits He was evidently distressed and threw away many of his right-handed blows, one of which would have been unlucky for Oliver had it told. Pinter planted a good right-handed hit on his adversary's eye, and seemed to be getting second wind. Another smart and courageous rally took place to the ropes, and Painter fell weak. Two to one on Oliver.

**Round 5** Oliver continued his safe fighting, by hitting with the left hand and breaking away. Painter fell on his face pursuing him.

**Round 6** There was no difference between this and the former round excepting that Painter in a sort of rally planted his hits left and right and fell weak.

**Round 7** Oliver had his antagonist so much under that he hit him at pleasure. Painter was too much beat and distressed to make a hit, and he fell on one knee.

**Round 8** Oliver went to work and finished the fight by some terrible hits, he knocked him down with his right hand, and Painter was unable to appear in time. Painter was quite blind and dreadfully punished, and Oliver suffered much about the head and body. His left eye was nearly closed.

Two Men more brave never stripped for combat, but with nearly equal weight Oliver outfought his man: Painter never could return upon the left hand on his head, and was only partially successful in rallies. He was beat in the third round by the body blow described. Oliver, too, by the superiority of training, was in the finest imaginable condition, and was never much out of wind in the determined rallies.

When Oliver was placed in the post-chaise, after fighting, he was taken very ill, and fainted away. Painter was put to bed in almost lifeless state.

*The above was first re-published in the Autumn 2005 Journal (no 55) of the Sunbury & Shepperton Local History Society after having been submitted by Peter Bailey. Many thanks.*

*The Ranges was a large common in 1814 that lay west of Shepperton village, and its reputation as a place for prize fights was known nationally, not just for pugilists but for dogs and cocks as well. Why Shepperton? Just south of the Ranges runs the Thames, and like another such fighting ground at Farnborough, if the forces of the law were to arrive, combatants and their sponsors and bookies could quickly escape into another jurisdiction. From the Ranges by punt across the Thames into Surrey, and from Hampshire into Surrey across the Ash. Most of the ranges went for gravel in the 1970s and 1980s and although several of us were involved in archaeological fieldwork during those operations none had been aware of its specialised use in the*

early 19th century. I wonder how much loose change from those ten thousand visitors was collected by detectorists before the quarrying.

## GUIDED TOURS OF HENRY TATE GARDENS

You are invited to join the Streatham Society on Saturday 13th May for an opportunity to hear about the history of the site, view the Grade II\* listed mansion (exterior only) and explore the historic garden with its Grade II listed garden features.

The house, called Park Hill, was built in 1829 by the Leaf family and lived in by Henry Tate from 1880 where he opened the first Tate Gallery. From 1923 it was St Michael's Convent, a care home until 1996 when it was converted into private housing.

Tours will proceed at 2.30pm and 3.30pm, and the guides will be Daphne Marchant, John Brown and Brian Bloice. Meet at the lodge gates, Henry Tate Mews, Streatham Common North. Buses 249 and 417 pass near the entrance. For further information Tel: 0208 764 8314.

## OUR *FERRARIA* AND SURREY'S

*M J Leppard*

The enigmatic *ferraria*, some sort of ironworking site, recorded in Domesday Book under the un-named estate which P D Wood identified with Lavertye in 1996 in *Bulletin* 58 of the East Grinstead Society, is still being sought by the Wealden Iron Research Group on the ground, so far without locating any remains that establish what and where it was, though worthwhile finds of other kinds have been made. The precise meaning of *ferraria* itself has been pursued for far longer but has remained equally elusive.

So far, though, in all the literature on the Wealden iron industry no one seems to have noticed that Surrey, like Sussex, had a single *ferraria* recorded in Domesday Book. Chertsey Abbey had, apparently on site, *una ferraria quae operat ad hallam*, 'a smithy which works for the hall' in Morris's translation.

Unlike Lavertye, the geology of Chertsey and its surroundings for many miles is incapable of yielding iron, so the *ferraria* must be, as Morris interprets it, a blacksmith's forge, perhaps a large one employing several hands, working bar-iron brought in from elsewhere. It cannot be a bloomery extracting iron from the ore. Chertsey Abbey was the greatest of the religious houses of Surrey, with extensive lands across the county. It was, thus, of a similar standing to Ditchling, the royal manor under whose jurisdiction our *ferraria* had lain. It is not unreasonable, therefore, to suggest that our *ferraria* was like Chertsey's, a specialized central manufactory for the iron produced elsewhere in Ditchling territory or bought in. If that is so, then Wealden Iron Research Group workers should be looking for a slightly different kind of evidence than they have been seeking so far. The only other conceivable explanation of the Chertsey entry is that the *ferraria* was taxed under the abbey's demesnes, but actually located elsewhere on its estates. It must be for those familiar with the relevant documentation to investigate, or shoot down, my interpretation, or perhaps persuade WIRG to undertake new forays in any iron-bearing lands Chertsey Abbey might have had.

J. Morris (ed), Domesday Book: Surrey (Phillimore, 1975), 8.1

*First published in the Winter 2005/6 Bulletin (no 87) of the East Grinstead Society, with many thanks. The assumption that Chertsey does not have workable deposits of iron, however, is not correct. There is not time to expound on all pertinent information, but it has been recognized that the Bracklesham Beds contains workable nodules over which much of the parish of Chertsey, as also much of the hundred of Godley*

*that was largely in the Abbot's hands. Indeed, the recent discoveries of bloomery slags in Iron Age contexts at Lightwater near Bagshot only serve to confirm the importance of a subsequent Roman industry that developed further upstream on the Bourne. Mark Corney has expressed his suspicion to me that iron raising and working had been the principal reason why the extensive settlement of Wickham Bushes, on the Berkshire side of the boundary, developed in the late 1st century. The Bourne feeds into the Thames very close to the Abbey. Some of us also suspect that the parallel trenches on the western flanks of St Georges Hill were for raising nodules suitable for iron-working. Lets have a debate.*

## **FARTHING DOWN, COULSDON**

Last year we undertook the first stage of a project to understand the history of settlement and land use on Farthing Down. The Down itself is a steep-sided chalk ridge that overlooks the modern settlement of Coulsdon. Along its length the banks of a Late Iron Age and early Roman enclosure system, with a central track or droveway, still survive as earthworks and two discrete Anglo-Saxon barrow cemeteries lie on top of these in both the centre and the north of the site.

The Anglo-Saxon archaeology of the Down is relatively well known. All sixteen of the barrows were excavated in 1871 by John Wickham Flower and again in the 1940s by Brian Hope-Taylor, who discovered a number of satellite burials around at least one of the barrow groups. Less well known is the earlier system of enclosures, dating for which is based largely upon residual late Iron Age and Roman pottery and a handful of features recorded by Hope-Taylor in the course of his investigations. Unfortunately, Hope-Taylor died before he was able to publish fully the results of his work on Farthing Down.

The aim of this project is to bring together the results of all previous investigations and observations from the area and to undertake a series of surveys and excavations to develop a more comprehensive understanding of the site. Our first task was to recover Hope-Taylor's excavation archive, which we achieved with financial assistance from the Corporation of London. Using some information from his notes we targeted a series of trenches across some of the earthworks in the north of the site in order to determine the nature of the surviving archaeology and to develop a strategy for investigating larger areas in future.

Excavation of one of the enclosure boundaries showed that it had been constructed by scraping up loose chalk into a bank along a natural ridge, which may have been consolidated and heightened by laying turves over the top. The eastern side of the droveway was constructed in a similar manner whilst along the western side a ditch had been dug and material cast up to form a more substantial bank. Unfortunately, no finds were recovered from these features, but an unexpected discovery was the remains of cart ruts which ran along the alignment of the droveway.

The Anglo-Saxon barrows appear to have been built up in much the same way. In the one barrow that was excavated a grave had been cut into a natural rise in the chalk and covered with a mound of loose chalk rubble, which was then topped with turf. It is possible that this rubble was robbed from the earlier enclosure boundaries, as these are much lower in the vicinity of the barrows.

In two of the barrows the nineteenth century excavation trench was located and re-excavated in the hope of finding the human remains that Wickham Flower was thought to have re-interred. Although no complete skeletons were found some disarticulated bone was found in both trenches.

Now this phase of the project has been completed our next objective is to produce a single report on the Anglo-Saxon burials using radiocarbon dating of the material from the 2005 excavations and from Hope-Taylor's archive, along with a

re-assessment of the known finds to establish a firmer chronology of the funerary activity of the site. We will also undertake a programme of topographic survey and remote sensing to develop a better understanding of the Iron Age and Roman activity associated with the enclosure system ahead of a more extensive excavation this year.

This project has been supported financially by the Corporation of London and English Heritage London Region, and with the agreement and support of English Nature. We are particularly grateful to the members of the corporation of London Open Spaces Department for all their assistance and encouragement and to everyone who volunteered their time and energy to undertake the excavations.

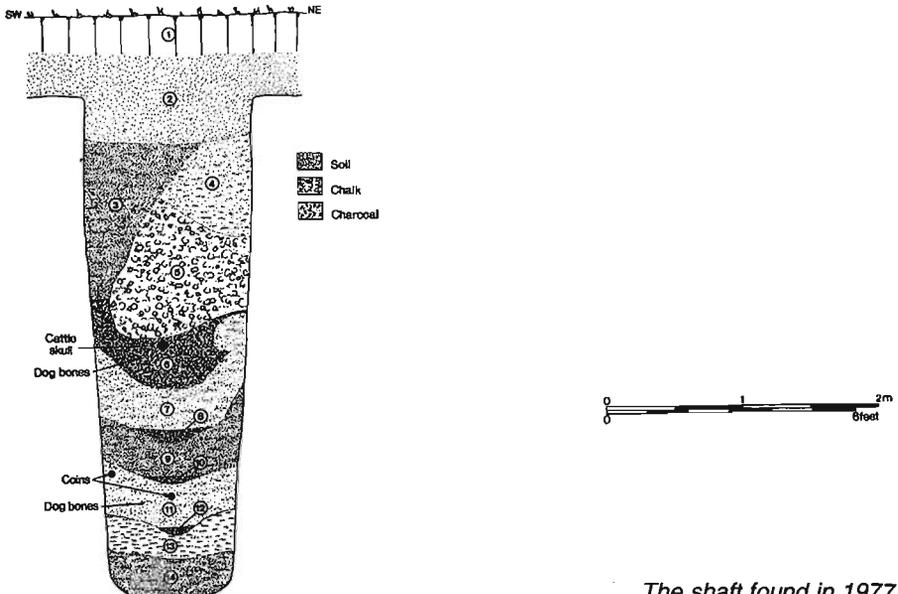
**Amy Gray Jones** (Museum of London Archaeological Service)  
**Barry Taylor** (English Heritage London Sites and Monuments Record).

*First published in the Summer 2005 Newsletter of SCOLA (Standing Conference on London Archaeology), with many thanks.*

## TRAINING EXCAVATION

### HATCH FURLONG, EWELL: **AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION IN 2006**

Students and volunteers are required to help in the evaluation of a site on the south-eastern outskirts of Ewell. Earlier work on and close to the site has revealed a scatter of Roman features and finds. The evaluation work now proposed follows on from topographical and geophysical surveys conducted in late 2004 by Birkbeck College, University of London. It will involve a two-week training excavation and volunteer work, but as numbers are likely to be limited, early expressions of interest are advised.



*The shaft found in 1977*



*Samian tableware found in association with a stone-walled structure at Hatch Furlong in 1977*

## **TRAINING EXCAVATION**

Birkbeck College and the Surrey County Archaeology Unit

**24th-28th April and 1st-5th May**

Fee: £160 per week.

Enquiries regarding student places on the training excavation should be addressed to Harvey Sheldon, Anna Colloms and Robin Densem at the Faculty of Continuing Education, Birkbeck, 26 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DQ. For further information contact Natalie Ping, Archaeology Desk (tel: 020 7631 6627).

## **VOLUNTEER WORK**

**Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society**

**Three weekends, 22nd-23rd and 29th-30th April and 6th-7th May**

Further details relating to the volunteer weekend work are available from Jon Cotton, c/o Museum of London, 150 London Wall, EC2Y 5HN (tel: 020 7814 5736; email: jcotton@museumoflondon.org.uk) and Frank Pemberton, 347a Ivydale Road, Nunhead, SE15 3ED (tel: 020 7732 2236; email: frank.pemberton@btopenworld.com).

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## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### **“Miss Heath of Albury, 1879-1959” by *Aylwin Clark* (2005)**

20 pp, privately printed in very limited numbers. Available from Castle Arch, price £1.50 plus sae C5 envelope (*see frontispiece*)

This is an excellent booklet that not only celebrates Olive Heath's life, but also greatly illuminates the history of the Surrey Archaeological Society between the two World Wars. Although I have no memory of Miss Heath, I do remember Wilfred Hooper and Anthony Lowther, who appear in Miss Clark's pages and the society I joined in 1948 was still very much the society Miss Clark describes.

Olive Heath was one of a half dozen or so key figures in the society in the twenties and thirties whose influence was infinitely greater than her short term as honorary secretary might suggest (her term of office was cut short by a bout of illness). It was, however, a different world from today. It was a time when the expenditure of £15 on the excavation of Saxon burials on Guilddown required very special authorization. It was a time when no copy was kept of the secretary's hand-written correspondence. It was a time when Guildford Museum was run by a joint committee comprising equal numbers of councillors and society nominees – that that did not, even then, ensure that relations between the society and borough were always smooth.

Olive Heath had an organizing mind and bags of initiative, both of which she used to good purpose. She reformed both the society's library and its committee system. While she was honorary secretary some Roman burials were found during the construction of the bypass at Eashing Bridge. She wrote for permission to use the steam shovel (there for the construction works) before it was moved in order to help in the excavation of the burials – possibly the first use in Surrey of the 'mechanical assistance' that is to-day commonplace.

As Miss Clark is at pains to make crystal clear, Olive Heath was also a local historian of tenacious ability, no philosophical divide between local history and archaeology ever crossed her mind. This booklet is a worthy tribute to a multifaceted lady and is written with an admirably light touch. It must be hoped that it will lead to similar biographies of other past luminaries of the society

***Dennis Turner***

### **“Hide and Seek THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF CHILDHOOD”**

by **Julie Wileman**

0 75243462 4 248 x 172mm Paperback, 192 pages, 50 illustrations. Tempus. 2005.

This thoroughly researched study presents a rounded picture of childhood in the past, as revealed by archaeology and supplemented by the historical record.

Ranging widely, both geographically and chronologically, individual chapters examine how the cherished child was brought up: children's education and the work to which they were put; relationships education and the work to which they were put; relationships between parents and children and the rituals of child death; the treatment of children as divinities, in particular the child saints of medieval Europe; the exploitation and abuse of children; the rites of passage to adulthood.

Written in an engaging, accessible style, this seminal work will be one of essential reference for the researches of future archaeologists

Price: £19.99; available from good bookshops or ordered direct through [www.tempus-publishing.com](http://www.tempus-publishing.com)

*Most members will, of course know Julie; she has been a stalwart of practical archaeological work in Surrey; is subject leader in archaeology at the University of Surrey Centre for Continuing Education, and was closely involved with the Surrey Young Archaeologists Club.*

### **“Gomshall Mill, the Harris Millers and the Shere Connection”**

by ***Nigel Harris***

For many centuries, watermills for milling corn were once a familiar sight in Surrey. With the introduction of steam power and then electricity, together with the lifting of corn imports, however, the use of rural water powered mills came to an end. Gradually, some mills fell into ruin, some were demolished or adapted to other uses and few have survived. One attractive survivor, however, is the mill at Gomshall, Surrey. Although non-operational as a mill, its appearance has changed little and it gives one a glimpse into part of Surrey’s industrial heritage.

On his retirement as a chartered physicist, the author began to trace his family genealogy and soon discovered that, during the late 18th century, his four times great grandfather, David Harris, had been the owner of the mill. He also found out that the Harris’s had connections with Shere church and owned property in both Gomshall and Shere.

This booklet outlines the use, history and owners of Gomshall Mill and in particular it reviews the Harris family of millers who were associated with the mill from 1752 to 1806. It is illustrated throughout and contains items not previously published elsewhere. The booklet, which is both written and published by the author, is attractively presented, with clear text and diagrams. It is lavishly illustrated, and gives a good and clear description of its subjects.

The booklet is available from the author, at 6 Bens Acre, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 6LW; price £3 plus 50p postage.

### **“Leatherhead & District: Then and Now” by *Linda Heath and Peter Tarlee*, Tempus 2005**

In planning the contents of the book and to ensure a wider public interest, the authors have chosen not just Leatherhead but also the outlying districts of Ashted, Bookham and Fetcham. Subject matter is dealt with, not in chronological order but in terms of theme, or rather, spheres of activity such as trade, industry, transport, countryside and so forth. In each, there are illustrations that contrast the past with the present. Peter Tarlee has said that this was easier said than done: for some aspects there was a dearth of available pictures, but for others there was an overabundance, so selection had to be discerning. Many individuals had helped in the compilation, not only by contributing archive photographs including postcards, but also by producing excellent contemporary views. Linda Heath has spoken about the difficulty there had been in defining ‘the present’ and has recently indicated the case of a Bookham factory that was a scene of thriving activity only a few months ago, but is now a burnt out shell. In matching the old with the new it was sometimes difficult to identify exactly the original photographer’s viewpoint, as so much had changed in the meantime. The choice of views in Leatherhead was particularly difficult. For scenes in the High Street there were archive pictures available taken in every era from 1880 onwards, but a single choice had to be made in order to meet the publishers requirements. Which should it be: 1905, 1912, 1928 or 1980? She has recalled that the association of North Street with the Leatherhead fire station. There is a classic picture of the horse-drawn fire engine with its crew aboard wearing their gleaming brass helmets, and with the Clock Tower behind it where the engine was housed. Her hope had been to

persuade the present-day firemen to bring their machine to be photographed on the same spot. The only problem was that at the appointed hour a white van was parked there. She summoned up the courage and asked the driver if he would mind moving as she was expecting a fire engine. Luckily, the van moved off and the picture was in the bag.

Copies available from good bookshops with local history sections or from the Leatherhead & District Local History Society; Price £12.99.

*Partly taken from the report of a Christmas 2005 meeting that was published in the February Newsletter of the Leatherhead & District Local History Society, with apologies and many thanks.*

### **“Badshot Lea and Farnham in the Great War” by *Maurice Hewins***

40 pages, 30 photographs

The book tells the story of how the people and institutions of the village and town were affected by the war. It includes many stories behind the names on the village War Memorial, and is based largely from contemporary evidence from the pages of the *Farnham Herald*.

Price £5 plus £1 postage from 31 Badshot Park, Badshot Lea, Farnham GU9 9JU (cheques payable to M Hewins).

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## **LECTURE SERIES**

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### **INVASIONS AND THREATS OF INVASION**

***Surrey Archaeological Society***

***The Abraham Dixon Hall, The Institute, 67 High Street, Leatherhead***

**Five weekly meetings on Tuesdays, 7.30 for 8pm**

Invasions or threats of invasions have figured prominently throughout British history. In most cases the south of England has been central to the crises and still bears the evidence of invaders or the measures taken to counter the threat to our society.

For this year's lecture series we have brought together a team of experts who will talk about events ranging in time from the Roman invasion of AD 43 to the defences of the Second World War, including both well-known and lesser-known events such as the planned invasion of Eleanor of Provence in 1264. In Flanders she raised a large army to invade and rescue her husband, King Henry III after his capture by Simon de Montfort at the battle of Lewes. Not surprisingly, a large army was also raised in the south of England to meet the threat.

The subject matter of this series will be of interest to archaeologists and historians alike, and we are looking forward to an informative and entertaining series.

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|----------|---|
| 2nd May  | <b>World War II Defences</b> <i>Chris Shephard</i> , Rural Life Centre Tilford.   |
| 9th May  | <b>The Roman Invasion of AD 43: Kent or Sussex? Conquest or Walkover</b> <i>David Bird</i> , Surrey County Council.                             |
| 16th May | <b>The Anglo-Saxon Invasion?</b> <i>Bob Cowie</i> , Museum of London Archaeology Service.   |
| 23rd May | <b><i>Virago potentissima</i>: The Threatened Invasion of Queen Eleanor of Provence in 1264</b> <i>David Carpenter</i> , Kings College, London. |
| 30th May | <b>Invasion Threats and the Portsdown Hill Forts</b> <i>Philip Magrath</i> , Royal Armouries, Fort Nelson.                                      |

Tickets: £5 for each lecture to include tea/coffee, or £23 for the series. Car parks are close-by, and the Institute has a lift giving easy access to the meeting hall.

For further information and a booking form contact Castle Arch or the Lectures Officer, Eversheds, Abinger Hammer, Dorking RH5 6QA.

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## LECTURE MEETINGS

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### 3rd April

“Asian Woking and the British Empire” by Barry Devonshire to the Woking History Society at Mayford Village Hall, Saunders Lane, Mayford at 7.45 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £2.

### 3rd April

“The De Morgans and the De Morgan Centre” by a staff speaker from the Wandsworth Collection to the Streatham Society at Woodlawns Centre, 16 Leigham Court Road, SW16, at 8pm.

### 5th April

“Fanny Burney in Surrey” by Linda Heath to the Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeological Society at St Mary’s Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 7.45 for 8pm.

### 7th April

“The Roman City of London” by Robin Densem to the Richmond Archaeological Society, Vestry Hall, Paradise Road, Richmond at 8pm.

### 10th April

Group Meeting in the Classroom in Guildford Museum of the Guildford Archaeology and History Group, when Peter Youngs will talk about his experience of classical sites in Libya. 7.30 pm.

### 10th April

“Flood! The Brentwood flodd of 1841” by Val Bott to the Richmond Local History Society at the Old Town Hall, Whittaker Avenue, Richmond at 7.30 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1. Further information from Elizabeth Velluet, 020 8891 3825.

### 11th April

“Recent work on the human remains from the medieval Spitalfields Cemetery” by Amy Gray Jones to the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society at The Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut, almost opposite the Old Vic Theatre at 7.30 pm. Visitors welcome £1.

### 13th April

“Recent excavations at Terminal 5, Heathrow” by Catriona Gibson to the Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society in the Mayo Hall, United Reformed Church at

the corner of Union Street and Eden Street at 7.30 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1.50.

### **19th April**

"Merchants of Clapham and their Botanical Networks" by Ken Cozens to the Clapham Society at Clapham Manor Primary School, Belmont Road, SW4 at 8pm.

### **19th April**

"All Muck and No Medals: Landgirls in WW2" by Joan Mast to the Ripley & Send Historical Society in Ripley Village Hall at 8pm.

### **20th April**

AGM and John Jillings Lecture "Lifting the Roman Tile Kiln at Reigate" by John Price to the Surrey Heath Archaeological and Heritage Trust at the Archaeology Centre, Bagshot at 7.30 pm.

### **21st April**

"Time and Tithe" by John Morris after the AGM of the Leatherhead & District Local History Society, in the Dixon Hall, Letherhead Institute, High Street at 7.30 for 8pm. Visitos £2 to include coffee.

### **22nd April**

"Brookwood Cemetery" by John Clarke to the Walton & Weybridge Local History Society at St Peter's Church Hall, Burwood Road, Hersham Library Hall at 3 pm.

### **25th April**

"Painshill's American Roots" by Sheelah Davidson to the Sunbury and Shepperton Local History Society in the Theatre at Halliford School, Russell Road, Shepperton at 8pm. Visitors £1.

### **27th April**

"Women's Work in War" by Vicki Ashworth to the Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society in the Main Hall, Literary Institute, Egham at 8pm. Visitors £1

### **29th April**

"The London Pleasure Gardens of the Eighteenth Century" by Michael Symes to the Merton Historical Society at Morden Baptist Church Hall, Crown Lane/Grasmere Avenue at 2.30pm.

## **REMAINING COPY DATES FOR 2006**

**March 31st**

**May 12th**

**June 23rd**

**August 18th**

**October 27th**

**December 1st**

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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 March 31st for the April/May issue.

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