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MARY ALEXANDER FSA (see p.16)

THE ROMAN VILLA AND TILEWORKS ON ASHTEAD COMMON

David Bird

Ashtead Common is owned by the City of London and managed by a locally based team from the Open Spaces Department. As noted in the last *Bulletin*, the current management plan includes work aimed at improving our understanding of the villa and tileworks complex, with a view to securing better management and interpretation.

The villa site was excavated between 1924 and 1929 by A W G Lowther and A R Cotton (Lowther 1927; 1929; 1930; 1959). A detailed survey of the nearby clay quarries together with excavations within the tileworks and survey around the villa was carried out by John Hampton in the 1960s (Hampton 1977). His work remains unpublished in detail but he is currently preparing the archive so that it can be used as a basis for publication. A report on the pottery from these later excavations has been prepared by Joanna Bird; it includes the suggestion that there was on-site pottery production. A wide variety of tiles were made, including box flue tiles with roller-stamped patterns; these were studied originally by Lowther (1948) and much more recently by Betts, Black and Gower (1994 *passim*). A Roman period field system has been suggested to the south of the villa complex, although it does not align with the approach road (Blair 1976; Bird et al 1980, 235 & fig 2). Lowther later reported the discovery of a Saxon knife and a fragment of Saxon pottery from the 'top level beneath the soil' on the bath-house site in 1926 (1959, 72). Nearby to the south-west is a roughly triangular earthwork of unknown date and purpose (Lever 1978). Ashtead Common has very high nature conservation value particularly for its ancient oak pollards; some of the earthworks defining tracks and woodland compartments are likely to date back to the medieval period at least (Currie 1999, 11-14).

Ashtead is a key site for the Roman period in Surrey and its tile industry is linked in various ways to places well outside the county. The site is apparently a very good example of a Roman villa related to production, in this case of tiles, probably pottery and perhaps wood products. The latter is likely to have been an important 'industry' in Roman-period Surrey but this is difficult to demonstrate archaeologically and Ashtead has the potential to provide supporting information, particularly as the site has an implied continued use of woodland from at least the Roman period onwards. The villa complex shows a number of unusual, even possibly unique, features (such as the plan, aspects of the hypocausts, the circular laconicum: Bird 2004, 116-8). Dating of different phases is problematic and there is an unconfirmed pre-villa Roman period use of the site.

The early excavations were not published well by today's standards and there is little in the way of supporting archive material. Nevertheless much could be achieved by small-scale excavation and a reassessment of surviving finds and records, particularly with the additional information from the excavations of the 1960s. It should also be possible to find more information about the surroundings of the villa and tileworks, establish its water supply, check the approach road and investigate possible access from the north, check the postulated field system, test the existence of a pre-villa period, recover more material, particularly animal bone and environmental samples, investigate the purpose and date of the earthwork and the link if any with the villa or tileworks, and seek further evidence for prehistoric and Saxon period activity.

The Society's Roman Studies Group is working with the City of London to develop a project that it is hoped will start later this year and continue for four or five years. The Project Design includes a programme of analysis for possible Ashtead tile products to be undertaken by Dr Ian Betts of the Museum of London Archaeology Service and a programme of environmental studies to be carried out by Royal Holloway College. Detailed survey of the triangular earthwork has been carried out very recently by

David McOmish of English Heritage (a *Bulletin* note is in preparation). The timing of any archaeological work will be affected by nature conservation requirements as well as likely site conditions (the site is very difficult when wet), and will also need to wait for the initial scrub clearance to be undertaken. The first phase of archaeological work, later this year, will probably be restricted in scope and therefore will not be open to trainees, but the intention is to prepare the ground for larger-scale work in 2007 with a full training programme. Further details will be published when available.

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“SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL SLASHES SUPPORT FOR HERITAGE”

(CBA (S-E) Spring Newsletter 27 2006)

Two Responses to the article that was reprinted in Bulletin 393:

It was with great disappointment that we read in the May *Bulletin* this very out-of-date and therefore misleading article. It described and commented on the early stages of the County Council's very rigorous review which, partly in light of comments from SyAS members and others, went through a number of changes before being ratified on the 11th April. While it is fair to say that non-statutory services were more vulnerable (as in many areas of the country) Surrey's heritage services were not as badly hit as at first feared. The archives service was reduced by around 7% of staffing, not 25% and all our activities, including outreach, remain in place. (The late evening opening will have fewer staff so original documents will be pre-ordered.) As the County's overall financial input for museum work is unchanged, there is no less support for the local, volunteer museums as suggested in the article. Both the current posts of Archaeological Officer (Planning) have been retained, along with the Historic Buildings Officer, to allow us to monitor effectively the planning applications and developer excavations. The Sites and Monuments Record Officer remains and with the start of the new HLF project *Exploring Surrey's Past*, new resources will enable the Record to be improved and made accessible on-line.

There is certainly no idea of “abandoning” the Heritage Strategy: this was in line to be reviewed this year – the aim, as stated in 1993, to “guide work on Surrey's

heritage into the next century” has certainly been fulfilled. What we need now is a proper business plan for the new Surrey Heritage unit, being formed on the 1st June, which embeds much of the old strategy into what the county services will provide, and a clear statement of how we can work with our partners to provide additional benefits and other ways of engaging with the public. The old Heritage Strategy will be revitalised through this process.

The county is not guilty of making “simplistic” choices but rather of having to make complex decisions to enable the standard of public services to be maintained across the board. We at the new Surrey Heritage, whether archaeologists, museum officers, archivists, librarians or conservators, will be working together in Woking and across the county with all of you, to ensure we succeed.

Pat Reynolds and Maggie Vaughan-Lewis, Heritage Manager

The alarming heading reprinted in *Bulletin* 393 was well justified when written but it is only fair to report the position as currently understood in mid May.

I believe most members are aware that the Society protested strongly in response to the proposals affecting the county’s heritage outlined in the Surrey County Council’s Business Delivery Review, as did many local societies and individual members, and our efforts have been met with partial success.

The proposed cuts in staffing levels at the History Centre are less severe than as at first proposed, and it is encouraging that the proposals to close some libraries and reduce support for museums has been withdrawn.

Efforts to reduce the impact on the Heritage Conservation team, formerly led by Dr. David Bird, were less successful. The proposal to separate heritage from Countryside and Planning both physically and administratively is, unfortunately, to go ahead; at some time in the near future the Heritage conservation team will be moving to the History Centre at Woking leaving Countryside and Planning at Kingston.

When fully implemented, the new structure at the History Centre will consist of five teams, each with a team leader, and each responsible to the Heritage Manager(s) – which is to be a job share between Maggie Vaughan-Lewis (formerly the County Archivist) and Pat Reynolds (formerly Museums Development Officer).

Three of the teams will be undertaking the work of the History Centre and Museums Development; two teams will be concerned with Heritage. The Heritage Conservation team will now consist of: Tony Howe and Gary Jackson (Archaeological Planning Officers); Martin Higgins (Buildings Officer); and Emily Brants (Sites and Monuments Records Officer). The proposal to reduce the Archaeological Planning Officer posts to 1.5 was abandoned and the team reverts to two full-time posts, but it is disheartening that the Team Leader (effectively replacing David Bird) has been reduced to half a post, and no appointment has yet been made.

The second team is to be known as Heritage Enterprises, formerly called SCAU, and will remain as before. The reduction in staff in the Heritage team and its separation from Countryside will have implications for the partnership projects which the Society undertook jointly with Surrey County Council, e.g. the surveys to identify Areas of Special Historic Landscape Value and other initiatives within the Rural and Countryside strategies.

It is abundantly clear that although the new structure is in place, the manner in which the “business” is to be delivered has yet to be worked out and the Society will be working to ensure that as much as possible of the old strategies will be salvaged.

Some of the original proposals affecting the Countryside Division have been withdrawn or reduced. The proposal to withdraw support for the Basingstoke and Arun Canal has been rescinded, as has the proposal to reduce support for Rights of

Way by 25%. There are also plans to look again at the proposal to give greater protection to at least some Areas of Great Landscape Value which are outside the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and which currently have a lower level of protection.

Against this however, despite the fact that Surrey is the most wooded county in the country, the post of Woodland Officer has been abolished.

The Society however remains deeply concerned at the potential impact of these changes on the archaeological and historical heritage of the county.

Audrey Monk

JOHN EDWIN OF WANDSWORTH: A MUCH TRIED VICAR

Richard Christophers

The inventory of the goods of a John Edwin of Wandsworth, dying in 1585, transcribed in *Surrey Probate Inventories* (Surrey Record Society, vol. 39, 2005)* recalled to me that this was the name of the vicar there from 1561 to 1585, and although he is not so named in the inventory it is certain that he is the same man. His will, if he made one, has not survived, but as he died at about the same time as the taking of the inventory on 11 May 1585 the identification cannot be in doubt. The inventory thus shows some further light on the condition of clergy houses and property in late Elizabethan times. The vicarage appears to have consisted of a parlour, four bedrooms (a chamber, a room in the west loft, a chamber over the parlour and a chimney chamber), a great chamber, which seemed to have served as a study, a hall, a kitchen and a buttery. The great chamber contained a cupboard with a press, a desk and the books, valued at £2. There were also two grafting saws, and old wheel and a prong. The parlour showed some signs of civilised living with two carpets and seven cushions to place on the three settles and four chairs, and there, and in three of the bedrooms there were painted cloths on the walls to give colour and exclude some of the draughts. Bedding consisted of four bedsteads, with two feather beds, three mattresses, seven bolsters, but only three pillows. The kitchen was well stocked with utensils and crockery, and the inventory ends with a sow and nine 'pullen' valued at 6s. The whole estate was valued at a very modest £11.7.7.

A little more is known about Edwin. He was probably Welsh, being ordained both deacon and priest by the Bishop of Bangor on 7 Jan. 1560, and therefore among the large numbers of clergy ordained early in Elizabeth I's reign to cover the losses sustained by the previous lack of ordinations due to the uncertainties of the religious future for England, the dismissals of those clergy who could not agree to conformity with the Elizabethan settlement and deaths due to the ravages of influenza in 1558. He is first known in Surrey in 1560, when he was instituted by Archbishop Parker to the vicarage of Battersea in the November, and in Sept. 1561 he was also instituted to nearby Wandsworth, holding it with Battersea for a few months until Jan. 1562, but continuing to serve Wandsworth alone until his death in April 1585. The 1562 survey of the diocese (Corpus Christi College Cambridge MS 122 shows him as unmarried, resident in Wandsworth, apparently still holding Battersea, of moderate learning, but no preacher. No record of a wife or children appears in the parish register, although a John and Gueveddecaell Edwin paid the churchwardens 1s a year for some parish land in the 1580s and after Edwin's death a Mrs Edwin paid them £5 a year for a few years for her house, and it is possible that she was his widow continuing to live in the vicarage. There are some curates who stayed short times to help him in his latter years – Hugh James in 1575, Edmund Goodchild in 1576 and Thomas Williamson in 1578.

On taking over Wandsworth, Edwin claimed that the vicar was due, by an agreement with Westminster Abbey of 1249, to receive all the altarage (now lapsed with the

ending of chantries and prayers for the repose of souls) and the yearly rents of the tenements of the church, and all tithes coming from the lands of Hayford, Dunsford and those of William Fanches and William Harvie of Wandsworth, as well as those of John of Barking. However, Miles Knaresborough, the long term farmer of the rectory had taken all the tithes of corn and hay belonging both to the rectory and the vicarage – a problem George Sharp had also found in 1551 on his institution, when he had marched with four carts and pitchforks to reclaim his hay (TNA E.321/5/28). The tithe in dispute was reckoned as worth 53s 4d a year, and left the vicarage worth not above the estimate in the *Valor ecclesiasticus* of £15.5.3 on which his taxes were based. He claimed that without this extra income he ‘soon shall not be able to serve the cure there, the living being so small that it is not able to mayntayn the living of the vicar’ (TNA Req.2.74/76), all of which was denied by Knaresborough. But Edwin eventually let out his vicar’s tithes to one Thomas Hayward, allegedly in return for loans and other good turns, for £16 a year, of which he soon repented (TNA C.3/94/19). Hayward described Edwin as a ‘very covetous and evil disposed man and well known among his neighbours of his greedy and corrupt mind’: this was denied by Edwin, who countered with the accusation that Hayward was equally disliked and has ‘proved himself mean by his meddlesome suits in foreign shores’.

In 1584, although he seems to have had nothing to do with Henry Field’s pioneer separatist congregation at Wandsworth, Edwin is shown to be a man of some spirit on the Puritan side of the church. The Articles requiring allegiance to the Prayer Book were submitted to the clergy to sign, and in Surrey William Brown of Horley and Edwin refused to sign. Appearing before the bishop for examination Edwin argued at length that to subscribe to the Prayer Book would be to acknowledge the lawfulness of parts he could not accept, although he used much of it himself. Opinions polarised as the bishop reminded Edwin of the relative freedom he had to discuss doctrine and urged him to stick to catechising and leave the rest alone, while Edwin submitted that ‘*every man learne and teach all whatsoever God hath revealed ... I speake not of learninge, but of conscience*’. The demands of the bishop’s lunch prevented further interrogation of either Edwin or Brown, and within a year Edwin was dead.

*The volume can be obtained from Maggie Vaughan-Lewis, Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking GU21 6ND, price £20, plus £4 postage; cheques should be made payable to the Surrey Record Society.

EVENTS COMMITTEE

SUMMER BARBEQUE

Friday 28th July

Bookham Grange Hotel, Little Bookham Common

Following the Social Events of our Anniversary year many members have said they would like the opportunity to meet socially. Members and guests will be able to relax informally in these pleasant surroundings, either on the terrace overlooking the gardens or inside the comfortable bar and sitting areas. A barber-shop quartet will entertain us during the evening.

There will also be a second-hand book-stall and a pay-bar will remain open throughout the evening. Identify photographs of the society and historic Surrey to win a prize!

Tickets: £25, to include a welcome glass of wine, followed by kebabs (vegetarian option available) and a wide range of salads, choice of desserts and coffee.

Application forms available from Castle Arch

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

SYMPOSIUM 2006

Stella Hill

The 2006 ARC Symposium, enthusiastically chaired by David Graham, offered a wide selection of interesting lectures covering a number of diverse topics ranging between the Pleistocene and the 19th century.

Barbara Silva from Royal Holloway College University of London was first up with her talk on *Pleistocene Environments and Human Presence*, profiling various projects including their participation with the National Ice Age Network (NIAN), to look at pollen, sediment, mollusc and insect remains from the Pleistocene. Working with archaeological societies and the aggregates industry, they hope to fill in any missing details of the global palaeoenvironment – including how ‘humans’ coped with the changing ecology, climate shifts and the oscillations between glacial periods – when mammoths, bears, moose, hyenas, deer and hippos (at least in Trafalgar Square) roamed the open Surrey landscape. More details might be forthcoming about which species of ‘humans’ were around in which periods, and clues to their lifestyle. Human and animal bones and Lower Palaeolithic tools can be found, for instance, on the Wey river terraces, Farnham Quarry and Terraces. Much of the research is focused in quarries (there are 1200 in the UK and they dig conveniently big holes) and is partly funded by the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund for the benefit of the community through outreach, monitoring and interpretation and to give instruction on the recognition and identification of the remains of animals and life in the Ice Age.

At the other end of the temporal spectrum, **Judie English** gave a fascinating account of the *19th Century Earthworks on Ash Ranges & Hungry Hill* which started in collaboration with the Surrey Heathland project. Military occupation was deemed necessary in the early 19th century because of concern that there would be a French invasion/English revolution and several potential occupation sites for were identified, one of which was Reigate Heath; the heathland around Aldershot and Ash was finally selected, partly because farm land was going out of use at that time. Judie undertook a survey of the military earthworks, representing complicated lines of defence, a series of trench systems and ditch and bank enclosures with an ankle-breaker in the bottom, and also a redoubt with ramparts and slit trenches. In the mid/late 18th century, before military ownership, Hungry Hill had squatter settlements, originating on the Bishop of Winchester’s estate at Farnham. In 1780 Briant Budd was first granted the right to build a cottage for his ‘aged and infirm father’. The settlement was extended until at Farnham nineteen parcels of land were enclosed to deserving poor persons of the parish who, among other qualifications “are or have been married”, but they were prohibited from planting hops, building dwellings or sub-letting, and only 1-year leases were allowed. These settlements were subsequently sold for army use and redoubts and trench systems were built between 1854 and 1863.

The Whittlewood Project, presented by **Richard Jones** from Cardiff University, described the University of Leicester/University of Sheffield project on 100km² of land straddling the Buckinghamshire/Northamptonshire border where the development of medieval rural settlements is under study as an interdisciplinary project to demonstrate how the landscape and settlement patterns evolved through prehistoric and Roman times, and how villages were formed from their origins as hamlets and farmsteads. Survey techniques such as fieldwalking, geophysics and aerial photos were deployed to explain the survival of contrasting patterns of nucleated villages and of dispersed settlements, and the divergent paths leading to them. A 17th century map formed the basis of landscape construction, and 2500 acres were studied and compared with Wharram Percy. Settlement and land use patterns were reconstructed, and environmental evidence of ancient woodland, peat cores

(analysed by Royal Holloway) and small peat bogs were observed. Flot analysis and macro plant evidence, soil samples and carbonate grains all showed changes in land use over time. Fieldwalking has demonstrated a chronological sequence of events and pottery from the 8th century indicated occupation sites. At Whittlebury, human activity was traced back to the Iron Age, pottery was recovered and a previously unknown Iron Age hillfort was discovered. It is apparent that villages were created between the 9th and 12th centuries, during economical and governmental changes that were also occurring in Europe.

Inspired by the Whittlewood Project, *The Three Parks Project* was then outlined by **David Graham**, who took us through the proposed 10-year Community Archaeology project to be supported by Surrey Archaeological Society, SCC and EH and a bid for Lottery funding. A 50km² area south of Godstone, this covers a series of known chronological features including the London to Portslade Roman road, Bletchingley Castle and three deer parks – many areas having similarities with Whittlewood. Farnham was the subject of a landscape survey over the last 2 years, looking at an area north of Farnham Castle, with deer parks on the site where the mid-17th century civil war took place. Musket balls from this period were found in a new park during ditching works by Waverley Council about 2 years ago. There had been a military base in Farnham Park next to the castle, and in 1649 the royalist army skirmished down to attack the castle. Recently, metal detectorists have plotted distribution patterns of shot, 70 yards apart (indicative of two rows of troops). Several types of shot, musket ball, carbine and canon balls have been found in the park – evidence for a week of the battle in 1643.

After lunch, Peter Harp (Chairman of ARC) introduced a surprise guest to present the **Margary Award**. Those who had been watching television the previous Sunday would have been familiar with Penny Rainbow, owner of Waynefleet's Tower in Esher (which incidentally the Society almost purchased in 1939) and which had been the subject of the *Time Team* programme. Penny gave us some brief anecdotes on what it was like to have her house and garden taken over by Time Team, and she then presented the Margary Award to the Domestic Buildings Research Group, with the runner-up being the Cobham International School (the first time a school has entered).

The next lecture was by **Jim Stevenson**, of Archaeology Southeast, on *Iron Age Leatherhead: Excavations at Hawks Hill House*. This was an interesting overview of the multi-period site which is in the grounds of a now-demolished mansion, on chalk geology, on the banks of the Mole east-west and on the North Downs north-south. An earlier excavation in the 1900s showed pits, carbonised grain and pottery of mid-Iron Age to 200 BC and Hastings, in 1965, found a dozen pits from the same period. Trial trenches to the west of the site showed evidence of remains, so excavation proceeded on the footprint of a new development. Eight large pits, part of a ring gully and two postholes, possibly a construction trench for a roundhouse, and a human skull fragment were found. Next to the gully was a layer of large flint nodules and animal skulls on a layer of burnt clay/daub. There were some large pits, some inside the gully and some outside and later than the gully, 1m in diameter, 1–1.5m deep infilled with chalk rubble and burnt flint, some vertical and some beehive-shaped. Finds such as pottery, grain, bones, a spindle whorl, loom weights, and bird skeleton were all similar to those of Hastings in the 1960s. Farming and food processing had taken place, evidenced by grain storage pits, which were probably used only once and backfilled. Hastings had found posts of four-post structures, and evidence of sheep, cattle, pigs ie animal husbandry. Pigs were obviously considered to have been important in this area. Deliberately placed objects such as loom weights, animal bones and skulls were found, providing parallels with other sites and possibly ritual evidence. Hawks Hill had probably been an important centre, not just a place for

gathering, but also for exchange and redistribution, with lines of communication, east–west, north–south. This work has revealed a glimpse into Iron Age society and its control and exchange mechanisms.

Alan Hall then recounted his expeditions with the Roman Studies Group to find the missing links in Stane Street. The course from Chichester to London is well known, but there is nothing until Dorking. He gave examples of possible local sightings, including Rosalind Hanworth's excavation across the M25 that revealed a ditch and berm with some metalling and plough marks cut into a terrace – was this the agger of a Roman road? Various sightings around Ashted are recorded, some from aerial photos, and these seem to lead to Epsom, and to allotments where packed flint in the subsoil looked promising. But the trail went cold and they gave up and went back to Ewell to try again. At Castle Parade (close to the earlier Organ Inn) three trenches were found. The SMR showed a sighting in a garden in Glyn Close, with a change of alignment, although it was not seen on the King William site. Back in the 1930s, Wimbolt had observed something in Staneway, Ewell, while the houses were being built. In the topsoil there was flint in an impacted surface on the left-hand edge of the road. Staneway was subsequently further investigated, and compacted flint and pebbles on natural chalk were found. This was close to the alignment they were looking for, but with a possible diversion. David Bird has suggested the road possibly diverted to the Spring at Ewell. The search continues.

Excavations of an Upper Palaeolithic Site and of a Mesolithic Site in Surrey were reported by **Phil Jones** of the Surrey County Archaeological Unit. First, an Upper Palaeolithic site next to the River Wey at Addlestone was excavated in 2004. The flood plain silts contained a flint scatter of long flint blades from a single period of use around 11–12000 years ago. The site was excavated in a grid of metre squares and in spits of 5cm, and was supported by environmental analyses of the sediments undertaken by Royal Holloway College. The site is of national importance, and may be compared chronologically with Gough's Cave in the Cheddar Gorge. By comparison, the second excavation reported, at North Park Farm, Bletchingley, was undertaken on a large scale over many months. 1100m² were stripped from this sand quarry site to reveal thousands of struck Mesolithic flints *in situ* in all areas. The joint SCAU, Royal Holloway College and English Heritage research project also included training opportunities for many students and others with little or no experience, as well as educational visits for local schools and two well-attended open days. All spoil was sieved on site and extensively sampled for organic remains such as charcoal. Specialist analyses of the artefacts and environmental samples from this important Mesolithic site are in progress, and will include study of any starch residues on the flint tools and their 'use-wear' under an electron microscope. In addition to the Mesolithic activities across the site, which spanned a period of over 4000 years, some later Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age finds were made, including three pits containing complete cremation vessels. Along the southern edge of the stripped area, late 11th or early 12th century shell-tempered pottery sherds were recovered from a series of pits that belonged to a settlement that pre-dates the medieval park. One of the pits was dug to contain a storage jar that remained *in situ* and an associated hearth contained a padlock key comparable to early medieval examples from Winchester.

To complete the day, **David Williams**, Surrey's Finds Liaison Officer, brought us up to date with his *Recent Surrey Finds*, taking us through a photographic corpus of wonderful brooches, coins and artefacts, which total over 1000 finds in the year. He took part in weekend metal detectorist meetings and held museum identification sessions, and has been involved with recent *Time Team* programmes, at Waynfleet's Tower and also at Easting in Kent. He showed us wonderful Roman coins and brooches including a crossbow brooch of which there have been only a few

found in Surrey, Saxon buckles and a rare buckle plate, an iron clapper from an animal bell, stirrup strap mountings and early 8th century coins, medieval coins, treasure finds, and seals from Clandon Park. There were attractive artefacts from all over Surrey – also some from Kent, Sussex and Hampshire – comprising pendants, brooches and pins to arrowheads and an axe, and a salutary story about E-Bay.

This had been another successful, very well attended day of lectures, with lively question and answer sessions. Finally, David Graham thanked the speakers (some of whom had travelled long distances to take part), the backstage helpers who ensured the event ran smoothly, and the work of the Archaeological Research Committee in its organisation. Special thanks are due to the audience for supporting the work of the Committee and research within the Society in general. It was widely commented on that this symposium had been highly stimulating and has successfully built on the increasing popularity of these symposia organised by ARC in recent years. Planning for next year's has already begun.

ROMAN STUDIES GROUP

ROMAN VILLAS IN SURREY SEMINAR

The Follet Hall, United Reform Church, Dorking (off West Street).

Saturday 17th June, 2-5pm*

This seminar aims to consider the questions being raised about villas as a result of work associated with the Surrey Archaeological Research Framework, as well as projects in preparation and those that might be undertaken in future. A keynote talk will be given by **David Rudling**, who will give us the benefit of his extensive experience of locating and studying villas in Sussex. Surrey is in some ways – though by no means all – a mirror image of Sussex and this should help to raise many questions and show how they might be answered. **David Hartley** and **Edward Walker** have begun to research and analyse existing information about Surrey villas and they will present the results of their work so far. **David Graham** and **David Bird** will outline the projects they are developing for Chiddingfold and Ashted Common respectively.

There will be plenty of opportunity for discussion. As a start we might consider the adoption of a working definition for 'Roman villa': for example, here is David Rudling's (as given at the October symposium):

A rural house which significantly reflects the Roman style of life. Evidence includes masonry footings, multiple rooms, tessellated or mosaic floors, clay tiles/bricks, window glass, painted wall plaster, sometimes hypocaust heating systems and baths.

The event is free to members of RSG; visitors will be welcome for a £2 contribution.

*(Please note that this is a different date from the one previously advised to those at recent meetings).

SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

David Bird

Following the seminars held earlier in the year attention has now turned to the preparation of draft papers. It is intended to circulate them at the end of May to those who have shown an interest. The papers will also be placed on the Surrey County Council website and paper copies will be made available to anyone on request.

Comments will be required by the end of June. There will hopefully be many comments, and these will be incorporated in a revised document that will be circulated in August to stimulate further reaction. A 'final' document will then be created which will be presented in some way, possibly in short form as a leaflet, at a conference on Saturday 7th October at the Letherhead Institute in Leatherhead. The main document will probably then be made available on the web, by email and as photocopies. Further details of the conference will be issued in due course; a keynote talk will be given by David Miles of English Heritage.

Comments at the seminars and further thinking they encouraged has led to a revised approach to SARF. As Richard Bradley emphasized at the first seminar, research is a continuous process, and the three elements of the Olivier model (resource assessment, research agenda and research strategy) feed into one another in a continuous loop. Strict adherence to the Olivier model in publication will lead to a great deal of repetition and it is therefore proposed to combine the different sections as much as possible, particularly as most of the work for the resource assessment is already available in other forms. There was also a great deal of comment throughout the seminar process that the Framework needed to concentrate on producing practical outcomes. The aim will therefore be to concentrate on two main aspects: exploring what we need to know and setting this out for the use of professional units and individual researchers; and developing some key projects for the Society and other bodies to pursue.

Within the period sections there will be a revised approach:

Political and administrative geography

Communications

Security

Settlements

Land use and environment

Material culture (including technology where appropriate here) and economy

Belief and burial

Changes through time.

The Steering Group is now finalizing details of the 7th October conference and considering the final document and ways in which the process may be continued once the 'final document' has been created. As previously stressed, far from being the end of the process this document can only be regarded as the beginning.

You can contact me by email: davidbird@surreycc.gov.uk (note that there is no dot between David and Bird); Tel: 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.

SURREY COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

STONE AGE SUMMER

Surrey History Centre

To celebrate the importance of the recent excavations of Mesolithic hearths and flint-knapping floors at North Park Farm, Bletchingley, the Surrey County Archaeological Unit have teamed up with the Surrey History Service and Surrey Museums to create *Stone Age Summer*, a series of events that invite you to explore your Stone Age past.

WOLF BROTHER and SPIRIT WALKER

Saturday 22nd July

To coincide with the end of National Archaeology Week, Michelle Paver, author of popular children's books *Wolf Brother* and *Spirit Walker* will be talking about how she created Torak's Mesolithic world, taking inspiration from the Inuit and scavenging for food in the forests of Finland. Artwork from *Wolf Brother* by artist Geoff Taylor will also be on display. There will also be several other events:

FLINT-KNAPPING

See how it was done. Allan Course will demonstrate how flint tools were made.

STONE AGE FINDS AND RECONSTRUCTIONS

See recently discovered finds from an important research excavation of temporary camps of some of the last hunter-gatherers in Surrey, before farming took over, and handle a replica Mesolithic Middle Stone Age flint tool kit and a wooden long bow.

READING CORNER CAVE

Parents and guardians remain responsible for their children at all times

FORTHCOMING STONE AGE SUMMER EVENTS:

STONE AGE LIVING

9th September 10.30 to 3.30pm.

TV Archaeologist Julian Richards talks Stone Age living!

MESOLITHIC CONFERENCE

30th September 2006

with special guest flint-knapper John Lord

STONE AGE SUMMER DRAWS TO A CLOSE

October

Special event for The Big Draw campaign

Further information about all of these events, with details on how to book will be available shortly online at www.surreycc.gov.uk/archaeology and www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreyhistoryservice

SURREY LOCAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

Summer Meeting at Bagshot

Sunday 23rd July 2006, 2-5pm

Please note that the details of the programme for this meeting, circulated on a flyer with the last *Bulletin*, have been adjusted.

We shall now meet at the Archaeology Centre, the headquarters of the Surrey Heath Archaeological & Heritage Trust (the Old Police Station). This is at NGR SU 913 639 on the east side of the A30 (London Road) just north of Bagshot and next to Sunningdale Motors and Pantiles. There is ample parking. If approaching from junction 3 on the M3, follow the A322 north towards Bracknell, go straight ahead at the traffic lights and then filter left at the brow of the hill on to the A30 and then immediately on the left into the Archaeology Centre.

If anyone tries to meet at the Waitrose car park in the centre of Bagshot, as instructed on the flyer, they will discover that it does not exist – but there is a Somerfield car park. People arriving there will be re-directed. Also the White Hart does not exist but there will be a visit to another surviving hostelry and, of course, the wall paintings.

After meeting at 2pm, we will divide into three groups, each of which will visit, in turn, the **wall paintings** in the High Street, **The White Hart** and a **short walk around Bagshot** led by Phil Stevens.

Cost: £5 to include tea (to be collected on the day).

Forthcoming Events:

PARKS IN SURREY

Annual Local History Symposium 2006

Chertsey Hall

Saturday 28th October

ASPECTS OF EDUCATION IN SURREY (Provisional)

Roehampton University

Saturday 24th March 2007

BRIDGES AND TUNNELS IN SURREY

Annual Local History Symposium 2007

Chertsey Hall

Saturday 27th October

LECTURE SERIES

INVASIONS AND THREATS OF INVASION

Visit to Fort Nelson, Portsmouth

Thursday, 13th July 2006

We shall look at the 19th century approach to defensive fortifications. Our final speaker in the series, ***Philip Magrath*** is Curator of Artillery at the fort, which holds the artillery collection of the Royal Armouries.

The fort was built in the 1860s, as part of a chain of fortifications protecting the great naval harbour of Portsmouth in Hampshire and its Royal Dockyard from a feared French invasion. Covering nearly 19 acres and now fully restored, Fort Nelson sits majestically atop Portsdown Hill, with amazing views of the Solent and the Meon Valley. The Fort stands today as a monument to the skills and ingenuity of Victorian engineering and architecture.

The day will include a guided tour lasting 45-60 minutes with plenty of additional time for questions. The provisional timetable is:

Morning:

11-11.30am meet in the Fort restaurant for Coffee etc.

12 noon attend gun firing

12.15-1/1.30pm private tour of Fort

Afternoon: Look round the fort at leisure and attend one or more of the short public re-enactments.

Fort entry is free and there is no charge for the tour but we intend to make a collective donation and ask members for a minimum contribution of £2 per person payable on the day

Refreshments to be paid for individually.

No booking is required but it would be most helpful if members could declare their intention, either by post including a stamped addressed envelope to John Boulton, 25 Lawrence Avenue, New Malden. KT3 5LX or to a special e-mail address: Jeventsyas@aol.com

Members who did not attend the Lecture Series will be welcome.

MISCELLANY

FERRARIA

David Bird

Interesting piece on Chertsey's ferraria in *Bulletin* 393. Darby & Campbell (1962, 616) note only three mentioned in the wider south-east (Stratfield in Hampshire, Chertsey and East Grinstead). Are they special or just unusual in being singled out? I think it remains to be shown if the nodules in the Bracklesham Beds were of much use, and the slags at Lightwater have yet to be verified by experts (see Hodgkinson 2004, 234-5). The Wickham Bushes settlement is likely to owe its origins to the need to provide inns and animal-care facilities on the London-Silchester road, although it could of course have had more than one function and even been founded with more than one in mind. Presumably we can't be sure how soon after the Roman period the road went out of use, but this might be a pointer to the likely importance of the supposed iron deposits.

My main reason for writing, however, is to throw doubt on the idea that the parallel trenches on St George's Hill and elsewhere had anything to do with iron-winning. Unless we assume that the 'nodules' were all to be found in conveniently spaced parallel lines, then the proposed mining method does not make sense. We would expect the original work to be rather random grubbing, and if an identifiable horizon was recognised then in due course a technique would have developed in which an initial trench might be dug but it would be backfilled from the next and so on. Many years ago Ann Watson and I tested similar parallel trenches on Ockham Common. The section showed a ditch-shaped feature cut into natural with the upcast forming an adjacent ridge. There was no sign of cutting or burrowing into the edges of the 'ditch'. We thought some much smaller, overlapping features running along it might be wheel ruts. Ann also noted that the system had a neighbour nearby, but laid out at a different angle in the adjacent parish. The only interpretations that seemed to make sense were a rather desperate attempt at creating new fields out of heathland or more recent preparation for tree planting. What I am quite sure about is that it wasn't done to win iron.

REFERENCES

- Darby, H C, and Campbell, E M J, (eds), 1962. *The Domesday Geography of South-East England*
- Hodgkinson, J S, 2004. Iron production in Surrey, in J Cotton, G Crocker and A Graham (eds), *Aspects of archaeology and history in Surrey: towards a research framework for the county*, 233-44

It does, indeed, remain to be proven, by metallurgical analyses, that the many and various types of iron-bearing nodules that characterise the Bracklesham Beds are capable of being smelted, but that is not the most pertinent question to ponder. Any, any, any old iron ore is capable of being processed, but could it be done efficiently? And could it have been done as proficiently in a Roman industrialised process as in production on a smaller-scale during the Iron Age? I am informed by Phil Stevens that the huge furnace bases found at Lightwater, near Bagshot, have recently been confirmed as evidence of iron processing from ore by Sarah Painter of English Heritage; the only question being whether they indicate Iron Age rather than Roman production. The dating relies on associated finds of Iron Age-type grog-tempered sherds, except that it is clear from other sites in the region that this ceramic tradition continued into the early Roman period. It is surely the scale of iron-working debris both at Lightwater and further upstream on The Bourne at Wickham Bushes, however, that must remove any doubts about local iron-winning and processing. The alternative seems implausible: that huge quantities of ore from who knows where had been carted up onto the heathland plateau. Coals to Newcastle?

As to the parallel trenches on the western flanks of St George's Hill, you may have convinced yourself that they were not for extraction, but the basis of your argument concerns only slightly similar earthworks on a relatively level common somewhere else in Surrey. I hope we can agree, at least, that they are unlikely to have been the eastern boundary earthworks of Frithwalds early kingdom as suggested (but so far not refuted) by Blair. At least five Iron Age settlements have been excavated along the River Wey below St Georges Hill in recent years, most of which provided evidence of processing iron as well as other metals. Curiously, however, the soils on the river terraces are as poor there as they are on the hill itself, because they are comprised of the same Tertiary-derived acid sands and clays. Might not there have been another reason for such a rash of settlement in the lower Wey? One such could have been the discovery of a local source of iron, and it makes sense to me that on sloping ground they might have prospected in trenches.

VOLUNTEER DIGGER LIST

The Society wishes to bring its 2-year old list up to date. Would you please let Chris Hayward know if you would like to be included and provide your contact details either by email to chrisarch@lineone.net or to 14 Hollycombe Close, Liphook, GU30 7HR.

Those already on the list with email can send a simple email confirmation that they wish to remain on it.

BUTCHERS AND LIME: A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION *Graham Berton*

In ongoing research relating to the construction of the Godalming Navigation in the 1760s, an attempt is being made to locate from documentary sources as many as possible of the tradesmen and suppliers named in the accounts. A question has arisen concerning the suppliers of lime, for which it is not known where to seek an answer.

Lime was obtained from twelve named suppliers and, though virtually all the right names have been found in the right localities at the right time, not one individual so far found has been described as a lime burner or dealer in lime. Many are described as farmers or yeomen and it is supposed that, in this pre-industrial era, such people would be a likely source of the material required for the project. However, two are described as butchers. There is evidence, more certain in the case of one than the other, that appears to link them to land, so both may have been in possession of lime because they also farmed. The question is, might they have been in possession of lime simply because they were butchers?

Perhaps it is common knowledge that by, or even before, the mid 18th century butchers were disposing of their waste in lime pits, but if so, I must confess ignorance. Can any reader point me to an appropriate source in the historical or archaeological literature from which I can further my education?

A DAY IN THE ICE AGE

The National Ice Age Network (South-East)

Royal Holloway College, Egham

24th June, 10am-4pm

Activities to include:

- ★ Human Origins A lecture by Professor Clive Gamble.
- ★ Flint-knapping demonstration by Time Team archaeologist Phil Harding.
- ★ Stone Age survival techniques such as fire lighting and twine-making.
- ★ Face painting – become a Sabre Tooth Cat or Woolly Rhino for a day.

- ★ Stalls and displays with information about Ice Age environments, and lots to try and do.
- ★ Raffle to win prizes, including a Phil Harding original hand axe, first day covers of Ice Age stamps and National Ice Age Network T-shirts.

FREE ADMISSION

For more details email info@iceage.org.uk or Tel: 01784 443567.

MARY ALEXANDER FSA

Guildford Museum is delighted to announce the election of Mary Alexander as Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London (see frontispiece). Dr Mary Alexander, Curator of Archaeology at the museum, was elected in January, following her proposal by a fellow of the society and a ballot of the whole membership. Her election constitutes a recognition of excellence by others qualified in the same field and is a signal honour.

The Society of Antiquaries was founded in 1707, and has a royal charter, which states its encouragement of those who 'excel in the knowledge of Antiquities and History. Mary's work has all been connected with the town of Guildford, significantly enhancing the reputation for scholarship in the museum and contributing to national recognition of Guildford's castle and history. Phil Harding, a well-known face on Channel 4's Time Team, was elected a fellow of the society at the same ballot as Mary.

A Letter From Stephen Fortescue:

Bulletin 393 was excellent – I was particularly interested in the article on cricket in Streatham. My father, AEM Fortescue was a member of the team when it had the status of a minor county: this was in the early 1900's and he remembered bowling to WG Grace. In fact, Grace wrote to my grandfather, also a Stephen Fortescue, recording the fact.

My grandfather and WGG were old friends, and together they formed the English Bowling Association; as of course you know, WGG was equally skilled at bowls as at cricket. I have a photograph of the Streatham cricket team of c1910. My grandfather lived in Oakdale Road, Streatham – the house has since been demolished.

Stephen Fortescue was, of course, the society's much valued legal adviser between 1951 and 1987. He now lives in Devon and we send our good wishes to him and his wife.

SAMPLING EXCAVATIONS ON WHITMOOR COMMON

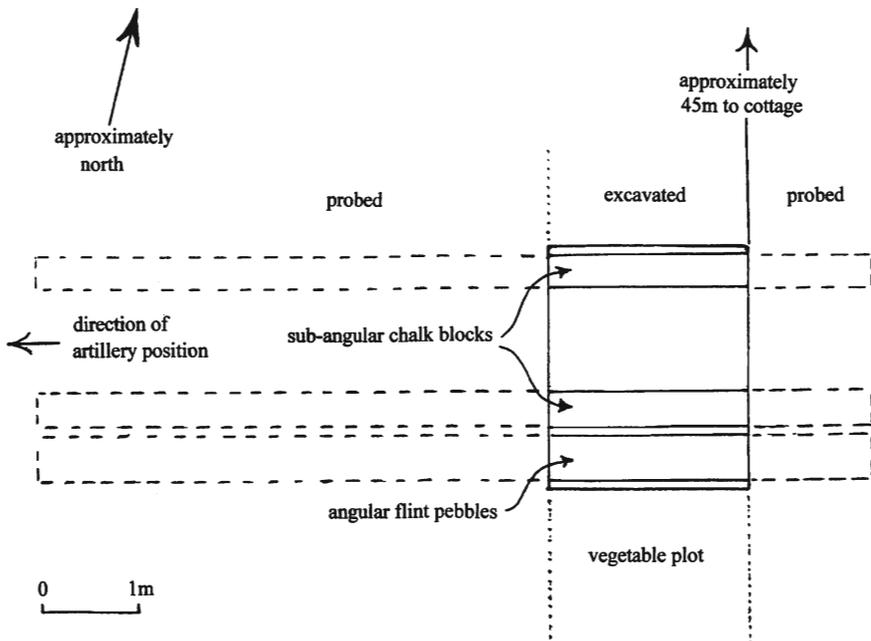
We will be excavating parts of a probable prehistoric field system at Whitmoor Common, Worplesdon, near Guildford, between June 10th and June 18th (inclusive); primarily to obtain samples for RC 14 dating and environmental analyses.

Anyone interested in helping is invited to contact Judie English, 2, Rowland Road, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 8SW, 01483 276724, judie.english@btopenworld.com

EXCAVATION AT CHARLES HILL COTTAGES

J & P Wardle and Mike Rubra

When digging a new potato patch c45m south of 3, Charles Hill Cottages (TQ 894 443), an area of chalk blocks was found by the owners at a depth of 30cm. There had been an early 19th century pottery on the site, of which some features remain, and the cottages are within a section of the WW2 military 'stop line', the GHQ Line, here opposing a crossing of the River Wey with an artillery position, still extant, and an anti-tank ditch now in-filled. The Farnham road from Elstead Bridge to Waverley Abbey was defended by a series of pill-boxes, some of which still remain.



Charles Hill Cottages

In view of its history, it was decided to investigate the blocks to determine their purpose.

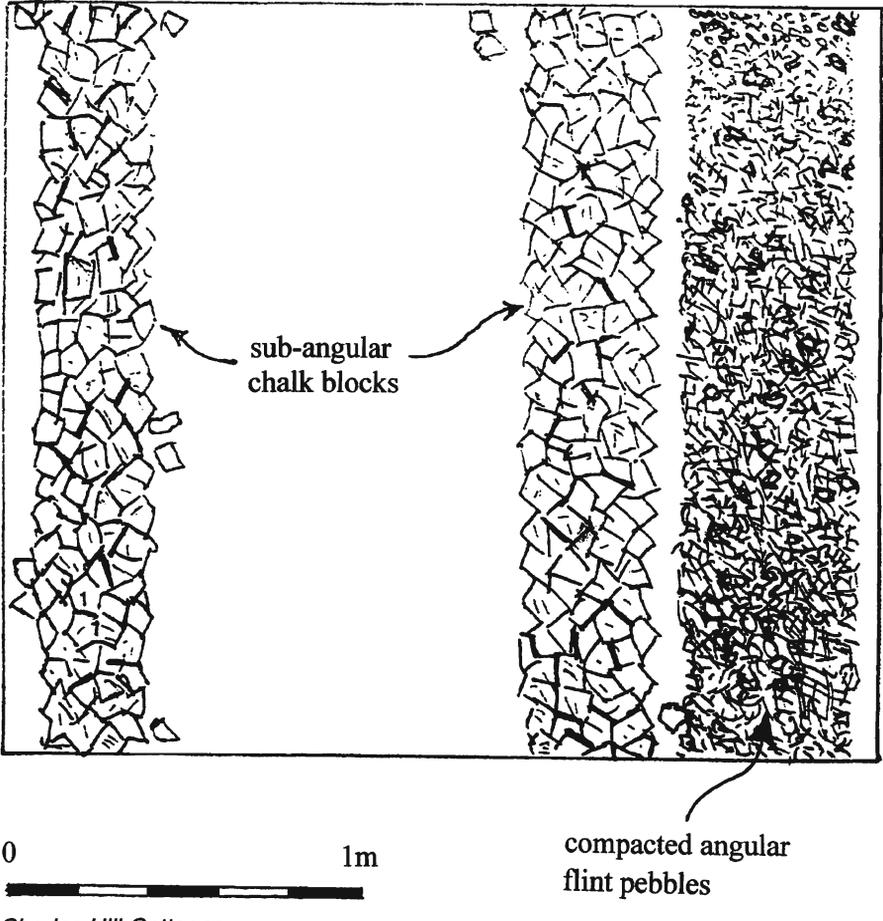
Two parallel lines of sub-angular chalk blocks, 0.35m wide and running east/west, were exposed, to the south of which, on the same alignment, was a 0.5m wide strip of compacted, angular brown flint gravel. Probing suggested that these features extended 5m further west and 1m to the east, but no returns were located. The area has been covered with grass since the 1960's and there is no record of previous structures, although the Domestic Buildings Research Group thought that an access lane may have existed and there are parts of the house that date to the 1780's. Finds from the trench were of modern building materials, local pottery sherds, a clay tobacco pipe stem, an oyster shell, a meathook and some charcoal. Nothing definitively of a military character was excavated.

It seems likely that the chalk blocks served as footings for a light structure or structures, c1.7 × 8m, possibly of timber, which was served by a well-used gravel path to its south, leading in the direction of the artillery position (assuming that the path is associated with the building). If this is correct, it can be assumed that the building had an entrance on the south side. The area spanned by the blocks seems unsuitable for a military building, and the possibility remains that another alignment, parallel to the two exposed, remains to be located. It is not known why chalk (not available in the immediate vicinity) had been used here in preference to the local stone. The gravel was not locally obtained.

It is concluded that there was a structure here for use by people or animals, which may have been built before, during or after the war, any time up to the mid 1950's and was removed before 1962.

If pre-war, it may have been used by the military during the war, or removed by them, perhaps to improve firing sight lines. It may have been constructed by the military as a facility for a small garrison and later removed by them or left in position. It could

← approximately north



Charles Hill Cottages

have been constructed after the GHQ line became redundant and removed sometime prior to the 1960's.

SYMPOSIUM

EYRE SYMPOSIUM

Surrey Record Society

Saturday 17th June 2-5.30pm

Surrey History Centre

Free event – coffee/tea and biscuits

A day of talks on the mysterious sounding Eyre. To celebrate the publication by the *Surrey Record Society* of a third 14th century Surrey Eyre, we are bringing together

leading experts on medieval justice as practised by the itinerant judges who travelled around the counties listening to an extraordinary mix of cases brought by ordinary people.

To check for availability please ring Karen Rolfe (01483 518750) or email karen.rolfe@surreycc.gov.uk

COURSES

UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX

Centre for Continuing Education

Summer 2006 Archaeology courses

FISHBOURNE PALACE

(Tel: 01243 785859)

Archaeology for Metal Detectorists (29th April & 13th May)

The Archaeology of Animals (alt. Sats from 6 May)

First Aid for Finds (alt. Sundays from 11 June)

Elsewhere

(Tel.: CCE on 01273 678527):

Exploring Ancient Egypt (Friday mornings from 5 May)

Archaeology for Metal Detectorists (at Falmer: 13 & 20 May)

Church Archaeology Field Trips (alt. Fridays from 19 May)

The Recording of a Sussex Church: North Stoke (alt. Sats from 20 May)

An Introduction to Field Archaeology (alt. Sats from 3 June)

Exploring Medieval Sussex (alt. Sats from 10 June)

The Archaeology of the Mary Rose (10th & 17th June)

Archaeology for Metal Detectorists (at Hastings: 1 & 8 July)

BARCOMBE ROMAN VILLA

UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX (CCE) & MID SUSSEX FIELD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TEAM

Since 2001 annual summer programmes of research and training excavations have been undertaken at the site of a Roman villa at Barcombe, near Lewes, East Sussex. In 2006 this work will continue as a joint project by the University of Sussex (Centre for Continuing Education) and the Mid Sussex Field Archaeological Team. The work this summer will concentrate upon the south-western area of the villa complex. Various CCE training courses will form part of the project.

There will be four 5-day courses on Excavation Techniques (starting weekly from Monday 17th July); a 2-day course on Surveying (5-6th August) a 2-day course on Planning and Section Drawing (5-6th August); a 1-day course on Archaeological Conservation (22nd July) and a 1-day course on Archaeological Photography (12th August). All courses are suitable either for beginners or for those with some experience, i.e. those (minimum age 16) considering archaeology at university), amateur archaeologists, undergraduates, and those undertaking University Extra-mural courses in archaeology. Academic credit will be awarded to those who successfully complete the 5 and 2 day courses.

For further information please contact CCE by: tel.: 01273 678527; or email: si-enquiries@sussex.ac.uk. See also the CCE web site: www.sussex.ac.uk/cce.

KENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL

Courses and trips on practical archaeology for anyone interested in archaeology and related disciplines. Previous knowledge or experience are unnecessary, beginners

are welcome. Courses are held at the Kent Archaeological Field School, located in a converted oast house and barn at Faversham.

LANDSCAPE ARCHAEOLOGY

June 3rd & 4th

Field archaeology, aerial photography, maps, local history and place-names.
Fee: £70.

FIELD TRIP TO HADRIANS WALL

June 10th & 11th

An exciting trip to the edge of Empire.
Cost for the weekend: £120.

LECTURE MEETINGS

12th June

“Old Woking Palace” by Steve Dyer to the Guildford Archaeology and History Group, with an opportunity to see some of the items recovered from the river and a visit to the site. Meet at Woking Palace at 7.30 pm.

24th June

“150 Years of Cycling in Surrey” by Les Bowerman at Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking at 11am. Tickets £2.50. There are a limited number of places available. Tel: 01483 518737.

29th June

“On Horseback in Surrey 1550-1930” by Peter Edwards to the Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society in the Main Hall, Literary Institute, Egham at 8pm. Visitors £1.

3rd July

Woking History Society’s Members’ Evening at Mayford Village Hall, Saunders Lane, Mayford at 7.45 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £2.

5th July

“The Hanseatic League- The First Common Market” by Charles Abdy to the Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society at St Mary’s Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 7.45 for 8pm.

12th July

AGM followed by “The History of Post Boxes” an illustrated talk by John Smith to Westcott Local History Group

13th July

“Haunted Guildford”, a talk by Philip Hutchinson on his new book in the Guildhall, Guildford. Entrance £6 to include a glass of wine.

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

Next Issue: Copy required by 23rd June for the July issue.

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