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SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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HATCH FARM, EWELL. Site Supervisor Richard Savage in a flint-lined hole. Is it a ritual shaft?

Introduction

The long-planned initial archaeological evaluation at Hatch Furlong, Ewell, was carried out between the 22nd April and the 15th May, by students from Birkbeck, Faculty of Continuing Education, University of London, and by members of the Epsom and Ewell History and Archaeology Society (EEHAS) and the Surrey Archaeological Society (SyAS). The student training element of the project was led by staff from Birkbeck and the Surrey County Archaeological Unit (SCAU). This brief report summarises some of the results.

Hatch Furlong is a plot of land bisected by the Ewell by-pass and has been in the ownership of the National Trust since the late 1920s. The site is on an elevated spur of North Downs chalk that juts down into the centre of the village. As members of EEHAS and SAS will be well aware, Ewell was a Roman settlement on Stane Street, the main road that linked London with Chichester. Stane Street was probably constructed in the early years following the conquest and the Ewell settlement was sited close to the road and to the springs that lie at the foot of the Downs.

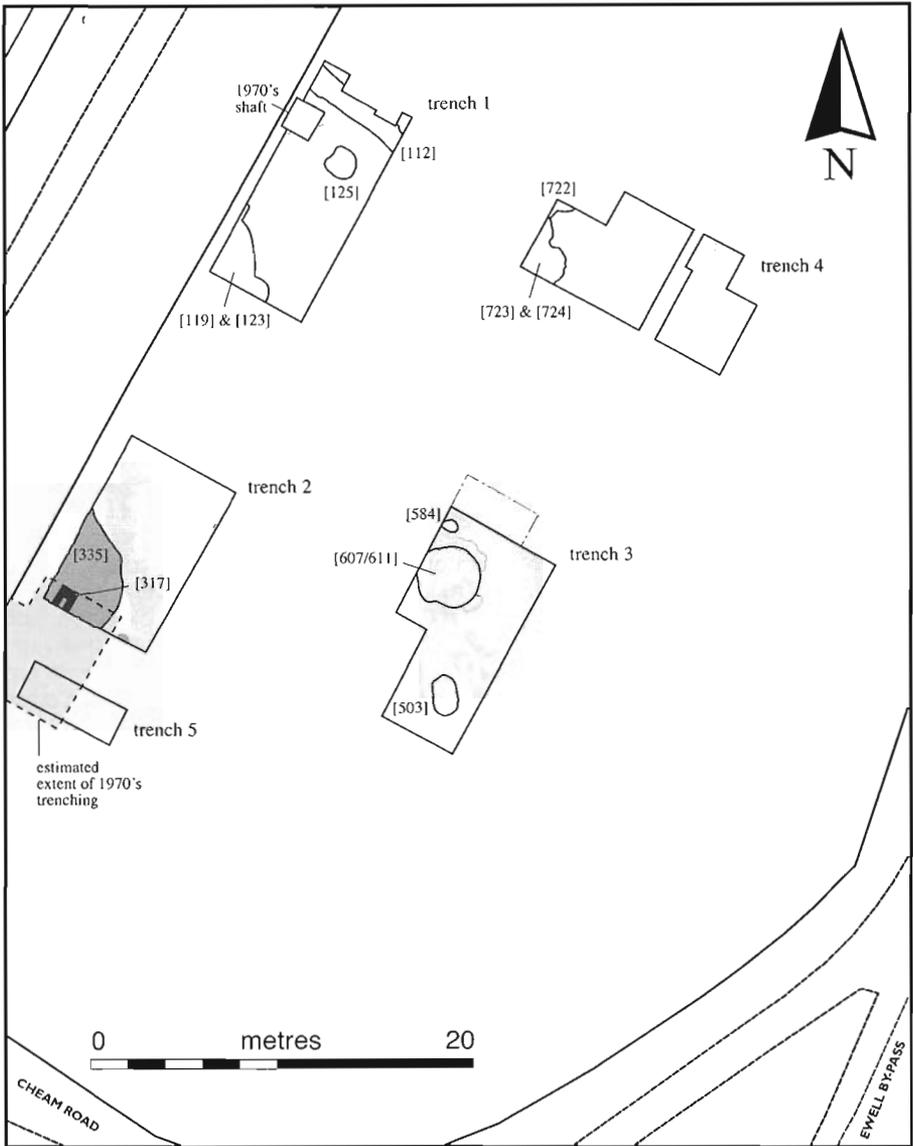
The county Sites and Monuments Record contains references to a series of mainly Roman finds in the immediate area of Hatch Furlong. These include a number of 1st and early-2nd century AD shafts or wells discovered during nineteenth century chalk quarrying on the south side of the Cheam Road (the site now occupied by Homebase). Further finds made within Hatch Furlong itself in the 1970s included a late 2nd century chalk-cut shaft, 12 feet (3.65m) in depth containing the remains of a number of young dogs, and what appeared at the time to be a short length of stone wall. Taken together, these various discoveries hinted at the existence of considerable activity on the higher ground overlooking Stane Street and the Ewell settlement. It was this activity that the present evaluation set out to explore.

Interim results

Five trenches were opened by machine at the south end of Hatch Furlong (see plan): three were sited to re-locate the features discovered in the 1970s, and two upslope to the east sought to examine others identified in the 1970s and during a geophysical survey conducted by Birkbeck in November 2004. All trenches produced geological features trending north-south and archaeological features of Roman date at no great depth, together with traces of later agricultural and horticultural activity. The present summary concentrates on the Roman features; dating is based on a provisional spot-dating of the pottery.

Trench 1 was sited to locate the 12 foot deep shaft emptied in the 1970s, which was visible as a shallow depression in the modern field surface. The evaluation confirmed this and located a second probable shaft (context [125]) two metres to the south-east of the first. The upper fills of this second feature dated to the late 3rd-4th century, though excavation did not proceed any deeper than 1.20m. Both features were bounded to the north by a shallow linear ditch aligned SE-NW (context [112]). The western portion of the ditch contained 2nd century pottery and its eastern portion contained late 3rd-4th century pottery. The ditch fills also contained a number of fragments of dog crania (Geraldine Missig, pers comm). A sequence of inter-cutting 2nd century pits or shallow quarries lay to the south (contexts [119] & [123]).

Trench 2 was sited south of Trench 1 to re-locate the 'stone wall' found in the 1970s. Though quickly achieved, the 'wall' appeared to form part of a narrow rectangular flue belonging to a small oven or drier (context [317]). The flue was constructed of un-mortared tile, flint nodules, and chalk and sandstone blocks, one of which had the date '1979' scratched into it. The oven sat within the upper fills of a large shallow 2nd



HATCH FARM, EWELL. Plan of the excavations

century quarry (context [335]), which occupied the south western corner of the trench. The quarry backfill had been cut into by several other features including the butt end of a linear ditch (context [327]) dated to the 4th century and aligned SE-NW (i.e. parallel to ditch [112] some 30m to the north in Trench 1). Charcoal was present in some quantity in the vicinity of the oven and may represent material connected with its use; samples are undergoing study.

Trench 5 lay immediately to the south of Trench 2 and was sited to locate an area intensively trenched in the 1970s. To judge from the evidence of the machine-cut

sections it clipped the SE corner of the backfilled trench, and may help to shed light on the contexts from which a large quantity of Roman pottery (including much late 2nd century riveted samian) was reportedly recovered.

Trench 3 lay upslope and to the east of Trench 2, and was sited to locate a large anomaly noted in the 2004 geophysical survey. Although the anomaly proved to be of geological origin a number of Roman features lay within the trench. The most substantial of these proved to be the mouth of another probable shaft or well (contexts [607]/[611]), lined with un-mortared flint rubble (see photograph). The evaluation did not proceed below 1.20m in depth, though probing suggested that the feature continued down for at least a further two metres. Pottery recovered from the backfill of the construction trench suggests that it was dug some time in the 2nd century, though finds from the uppermost fills of the shaft appear to indicate that the latter remained open into the 4th century. An inverted 2nd century jar was buried in a small pit (context [584]) adjacent to the mouth of the feature. Tool marks visible in the side of a late 2nd-3rd century shallow sub-rectangular pit (context [503]) at the south end of Trench 3 suggested the use of a narrow pointed tool (akin to a modern pickaxe) to excavate the soft chalk.

Trench 4 lay north of Trench 3 and east of Trench 1 and was sited to try and locate a 'chalk platform' reported in the 1970s. No platform was found, although it is possible that it lay beyond the trench footprint to the east. The principal point of interest lay at the western end of the trench in the form of a series of shallow inter-cutting pits or quarries (contexts [722], [723] & [724]). These contained a range of finds of late 2nd or early 3rd century date. Notable amongst them were quantities of broken roof and floor tile, together with a number of iron objects including an ox-goad – one of several recorded from the site. No fewer than five fossil sea urchins were recovered from this trench, one from quarry fill [726] and the others from soil layers overlying; a sixth example was found in Trench 2.

Conclusion

Archaeologically, the site proved to have been honeycombed with shallow inter-cutting Roman pits or quarries (Trenches 1, 2 and 4); that in Trench 2 contained a small oven or drier with a rectangular flue. In addition, there were at least three substantial chalk-cut features (Trenches 1 and 3), the mouth of one of which was lined with substantial quantities of un-mortared flint rubble. Furthermore, it is possible that the two deep features in Trench 1 were screened off by a linear ditch. The digging and backfilling of these various features probably encompassed a range of utilitarian and non-utilitarian activities; the presence of fossil sea urchins on several of the county's Roman temple sites might be noted in this context too.

The quantity of ceramic building material recovered from several of the features in Trenches 3 and 4 hints at the existence of a building somewhere in the vicinity, though no certain traces were identified during the current work. Detailed analysis of the finds (pottery, building material, ironwork, animal bone and charcoal etc) has yet to be completed, but early indications suggest that there were at least two main phases of Roman activity dating to the 2nd-3rd centuries and late 3rd-4th centuries. This appears to be somewhat later than the 1st and early 2nd century activity discovered in the course of the nineteenth century chalk quarrying further south.

If the archaeology proved extensive and rewarding, the hoped-for student and community involvement was just as impressive. Training in archaeological techniques was given to 35 Birkbeck students over two hectic weeks; work over three (equally hectic) weekends was carried out by up to 30 local volunteers; two open days attracted over 400 visitors, and 6 school parties were conducted around the site. Further tours were given to members of EEHAS and SAS; to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and 12 Councillors from Epsom & Ewell Borough Council; and also to the local

MP, Chris Grayling, Shadow Transport Spokesman. Articles appeared in local newspapers and a 'live' interview was recorded with Three Counties Radio. Furthermore, members of the Epsom Cine & Video Society were ever-present on site and we look forward to a screening of their footage in the not too distant future.

Acknowledgements

It remains to thank the very many institutions and individuals who made the work possible. It was a genuine team effort. The evaluation derived great support from: The National Trust; Birkbeck, Faculty of Continuing Education; Surrey County Archaeological Unit; Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society; Surrey Archaeological Society; Council for British Archaeology (South East); Bourne Hall Museum; The Museum of London; Surrey County Council; James Simister (Chessington Adult Education Service); and Martin and Alan Wright (PGSD Ltd).

The site was co-directed by the writers; the training excavation trenches were supervised by Mick Miles (Birkbeck) and Becky Lambert (SCAU); the weekend trenches were supervised by Alan Hall, Richard Savage and Phil Stanley (SAS Roman Studies Group); finds supervision was provided by Phil Jones (SCAU), assisted by Frank Pemberton (EEHAS); on-site wet-sieving was coordinated by Geraldine Missig (Birkbeck Environmental Archaeology Group); metal detecting duties were in the capable hands of Bill Meads and John Coles; site tours and handling sessions for schools and members of the public were provided by David Brooks (Bourne Hall Museum) and Abby Guinness (SCAU); and the site plan (see above) was prepared by Giles Pattison (SCAU). Finally, special thanks are due to Caroline Thackray and David Kennington (National Trust) for their unflappable assistance regarding permissions and access; to Robin Densem and Natalie Ping (Birkbeck) for their smooth handling of the site logistics and to Peggy Bedwell and Margaret Nobbs, assisted by other EEHAS members, for services 'above and beyond the call of duty'.

COUNCIL NEWS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held at Reigate Priory School on Saturday 25th November 2006 at 2.30pm. Following the meeting Mr John McNally will describe the interesting results of his research into the Priory Mural – who painted it and when.

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.

Name	Address	Principal Interests
Ashted Common Estate Office	Bob Warnock Woodfield Road Ashted, Surrey	
Budgen, Ms M	Flat 17, 111 Church Road Richmond, TW10 6LS	undertaking part-time BA History & Archaeology at Birkbeck. Roman to Saxon Britain
Denis, Christopher	12 Charman Road Redhill, RH1 6AG	Ancient Farming/Field Systems – Iron Age periods
Fancourt, Dave	1 Wood Lane Caterham, CR3 5RT	Local History East Surrey; Dark Age/Viking History and Archaeology general
Flatman, Dr Joseph	Institute of Archaeology University College London 31-34 Gordon Square London WC1H 0PY	

Halck, Henning	Flat 17 111 Church Road Richmond, TW10 6LS	Prehistoric Surrey
Irving, Miss Emma	Flat 15, High Ashton 119 Kingston Hill Kingston upon Thames KT2 7QL	
Jones, Mrs Terry	31 Great Tattenhams Epsom, KT18 5RF	Prehistory to Tudor
Landis, L J	32 Field Lane Frimley, GU16 8JU	Roman Occupation Civil Aircraft
Lincoln, Miss Helen	Edelweiss Chelsham Common Road Warlingham, CR6 9PB	Roman, British and Egyptian Archaeology
Partridge, Colin F	3 Coriander Court Lynwood Crescent Sunningdale, Berks SK5 0BL	general
Shrimpton, David J	'Langsett' Brookwood Lye Road Brookwood, Woking, GU24 0HB	
Tomlinson, David I	32 Beechwood Court West Street Lane Carshalton, SM5 2LA	
Toogood, Barry	147 Manor Green Road Epsom, KT19 8LL	Roads, Industrial, Roman
Thewlis, The Reverend Dr J C	The Rectory 2 Talbot Road Carshalton, SM5 3BS	Church records; Carshalton
Williams, Matthew G	22 Woodfield Lane Ashtead, KT21 2BE	Palaeoclimates (Quaternary) Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze/Iron Ages

NEW WORKING HOURS

Susan Janaway

I am making a slight change to my working hours, beginning 1st November. I will now be at Castle Arch on the following days to help with any membership and general enquiries:

Wednesday:	10am-12.30 pm	1pm-2.45 pm
Thursday:	10am-12.30 pm	1pm-4.15 pm

There will no longer be any member of staff working on a Friday afternoon, but as members you are still able to come in and use the library then. Just don't forget to bring your current library card and show it at the Museum desk, when you will be given the key to open the library door.

THE SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH FRAMEWORK CONFERENCE

Peter Youngs

On 7th October 2006 at Leatherhead a new acronym was launched upon the world: SARF, that is, the **Surrey Archaeological Research Framework 2006**. The occasion was a conference entitled '*Aspects & After*' – *The Research Framework* at which the report by David Bird of Surrey County Council on SARF was made public. SARF is the latest step in a process that began with the realisation that *The Archaeology of Surrey to 1540*, published almost twenty years ago as 'a comprehensive overview of the state of knowledge of the archaeology of the county', needed to be brought up to date. Following a conference in 2001 a further publication, *Aspects of Archaeology and History in Surrey*, set the scene for the preparation of SARF; the former publication is commonly referred to as *Aspects*, hence the title of the well-attended conference on 7th October.

Research Frameworks are not peculiar to Surrey and, following the President's welcome, the first speaker at the Conference was David Miles of English Heritage who provided an overview setting the SARF into its wider context. Having said that, it is recognised that a research framework has to start with what is local, building up the wider picture from discrete pieces of work. For the Society, Richard Savage described the process by which SARF had been produced. There had been a series of seminars, to which many members of the Society had contributed, expressing views on what SARF should be. These provided David Bird with raw material for his report though the outcome of the seminars was not always what had been expected. David Bird himself then introduced the SARF report and elsewhere in this Bulletin he describes what SARF is and what it is intended it should achieve.

A fundamental feature of SARF is the identification of gaps in our knowledge and how these may be filled. The remaining speakers therefore spoke about individual projects involving the Society, demonstrating how they related to SARF. (SARF is also relevant to any archaeological body working in the county.) Jon Cotton, of the Museum of London, described the excavations at Hatch Furlong, Ewell last summer, undertaken in conjunction with Birkbeck College, the Society and Epsom & Ewell Historical and Archaeological Society; as is so often the case with excavations, what was found implied a need for future work in Ewell. Taking a more historical approach, John Pile for the Society's Village Studies Project explored the origins of spring-line parishes between Croydon and Ewell, which pointed up the need for further research in this field. Martin Higgins' topic was the joint Society/DBRG Surrey Dendrochronology Project; it has been possible, by means of 'tree-ring' dating, to identify trends in the design and construction of medieval timber-framed buildings that require further research. Finally David Graham for the Society spoke about the future for Community Archaeology and how studies of landscape archaeology, for example, will fit into the research framework.

These various presentations provoked some interesting discussions. It was recognised that SARF is not a blueprint but a framework to which future work can be related, and this was generally welcomed.

Finally, it was stressed that the publication of the SARF in 2006 is only one step in what the Society sees as a continuing programme that will be reviewed, in a different format, in 2007: 'This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning' (Winston Churchill (1942) in a somewhat different context).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

Saturday 24 February 2007, 10am-5pm

Talks will include recent work in Surrey: **Hatch Furlong, Newark Priory, Farthing Down, Ashtead Roman Villa** and the **Vale End Pumping Station**. There will be a report on the **Time Team dig at Godstone**, and the **Archive of the Sussex Collections** will be described.

As usual, an important part of the day will be the displays of work by groups and individuals, and the Margary Award will be made to the best of the amateur displays. Anyone who would like to put on a display who has not already received an invitation should contact Alison Gaitonde, 7 Ashurst Road, Tadworth Surrey KT20 5ET, 01737 812646; email gaitonde@ukgateway.net.

Tickets will be £10 for non-members of SyAS and on the door, £7.50 in advance to members. Full details and a booking form will be included in the next Bulletin.

SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH FRAMEWORK 2006

David Bird

The first version of the Surrey Archaeological Research Framework is now complete. The Society arranged a well-attended conference to mark the event on 7th October, with support from Surrey County Council (see report elsewhere). It is important to stress that this should be regarded as only a further step in the process, not its end. As the document itself points out, it has large gaps that urgently require attention, and of course many other areas need further work on details and this will always be the case: the Framework should be continually evolving. It is intended that mechanisms will be put in place to continue the work. The activities of the Society's period and subject Groups together with other similar groups in historic Surrey, including local societies, should be one way of continuously updating and extending the Framework.

The Research Framework was a collaborative enterprise involving input from many people. Considerable effort was devoted to seeking the views of all those interested in the archaeology and history of Surrey. Following the conference in October 2006 there were seven seminars and two drafts were widely circulated, as a result of which many comments and suggestions were received. Hopefully this will make the Framework a strong base from which to develop a future programme of work. It was inevitably difficult to take account of all points of view, especially as some were diametrically opposed or simply much too detailed, but they made possible many changes that have greatly improved the final document. Thanks are therefore owed to many people for taking part and to the Steering Group for support throughout.

The final version of SARF 2006 has been circulated by email and placed on the websites of Surrey Archaeological Society and Surrey County Council, and paper copies have been sent to libraries. The latter are also available on request from: The Heritage Manager, Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking, Surrey, GU21 6ND; shs@surreycc.gov.uk.

SURREY LOCAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

LOCAL HISTORY VISIT TO BAGSHOT

Glensy Crocker

The Surrey Local History Committee's annual Summer Meeting was hosted by the Surrey Heath Archaeological & Heritage Trust on 23rd July 2006. The Trust was formed in 1988 and was granted a lease on the former police station in Bagshot, where it created a fully operational archaeological centre. Its facilities include exhibition galleries, a library, audio-visual room, processing rooms, reference collections, classrooms and a conservation laboratory. It holds lectures and workshops and training excavations and provides the base for the Central Southern England branch of the national Young Archaeologists' Club (YAC) for 9-16 year olds.

Phil Stevens gave an introductory talk at the Centre and provided us with an excellent illustrated 8-page programme for the day, appropriately entitled 'Police, Pubs & Archaeology'. This contains a map of Bagshot High Street as it was on Norden's map of 1607, articles on 44 High Street and its wall paintings, based on the technical advisory report prepared for English Heritage and notes on several of the other significant buildings prepared in 1999 by the late Peter Gray. We were then taken on a guided walk, which included visits to two important interiors. The former Bell Inn at 75-79 High Street was a five-bay timber-framed galleried inn, now bricked externally but with timber framing exposed internally in a sympathetic adaptation to offices. Number 44, the building in which the wall paintings were revealed in 1997, was

formerly part of the Saracen's Head and later the Red Lion, and is now occupied by an architect's office. Special arrangements had kindly been made for us to see the grotesque-style wall paintings, which remain under protection in the working office; other fragments are stored in the roof space of the building. We continued our walk past other buildings in the High Street, notably numbers 54 and 56, which were formerly parts of the Three Mariners, past the original police station, Peel House, and back along the Bourne and the London Road to the Archaeology Centre.

There we were entertained to tea and a tour of the building – including the cells (excellent for storage) and the exercise yard – and saw something of the impressive range of activities that go on in the numerous rooms. One outcome of the visit is that, arising from experience gained with the warp-weighted loom I set up for one of the SyAS 150 events in 2004, a forlorn specimen of unknown provenance, found somewhere in the Centre's labyrinth, is to be got working for the YACs. I am delighted to have made this contact with a part of the county that one tends to think of as rather remote – which may be why the meeting was not better attended. Though if there had been more of us, we would not have had such a good view. Many thanks to the Trust for an outstandingly good meeting.

SURREY HISTORY CENTRE

THE END OF THE STONE AGE? A ROUND UP STONE AGE SUMMER EVENTS

JULIAN RICHARDS AND A LOO ROLL

Popular TV Archaeologist Julian Richards visited the Surrey History Centre on 9th September, and took visitors back to the Stone Age to find out what life was like, 6000 years ago. Aided by a toilet roll time line, Julian spiralled important dates around the room from present day, and back to the Mesolithic. Once there, he described what Britain would have been like at the end of the Ice Age, and how people would have dressed and places they would have lived. He went on to talk about the different things Stone Age people would have eaten, and to demonstrate this, he had a plate of trout, which had started the day frozen in Dorset, did sterling work over the three workshops, and were eaten for tea that evening!



Julian with his toilet roll time line

ASPIRING YOUNG WRITERS MEET FAMOUS AUTHORS

The Stone Age Story Competition winners had a surprise when they were announced on 9th September, as they were presented with their prizes by not only TV archaeologist Julian Richards but also best-selling author Michelle Paver.

The aspiring young writers had all entered the Stone Age Story Competition, which was launched by Michelle Paver at the Surrey History Centre in July. Michelle Paver, best-selling children's author of 'Wolf Brother' and 'Spirit Walker', which describe the adventures of Torak, a young Stone Age boy, his wolf companion and their fight for survival, selected five words and phrases that had to be woven into a 1000-word story. The words were Antler, Bear, Flint Arrowhead, Red Ochre and a sudden noise through the trees. It was a truly international competition with entries coming in not only from Surrey, but also from Scotland, Wales, Ireland and the USA.



The competition winners with Julian Richards, Michelle Paver and prizes

There were three age categories, and Julian Richards and Michelle Paver had the extremely difficult job of judging the short-listed entries. The winners were:

Under 10's

Winner: Emily Bennett, aged 8 from Woking with Wolf

Runner-up: Jack Spruce, aged 6 from Farnham with Red Antler

10 to 14's

Winner: Emily Samson, aged 12 from Inverness with Under the Ash Tree

Runner-up: James Knatt, aged 10 from Chiddingfold with The Quest for the Golden Antler

Over 14's

Winner: Chanele Ives, aged 15 from Leytonstone with Untitled

Runner-up: Kate Miles, aged 16 from Abergavenney with The First Betrayal

All the winners and runners-up received a signed copy of Michelle's new book, Soul Eater, and Julian's pop-up Stonehenge book. The winners also received a replica Stone Age arrow.

HUNTER-GATHERERS IN SURREY AND BEYOND: STUDY DAY SUCCESS

Professor Steven Mithen, Dr. Roger Jacobi and Dr. Nick Branch were among several eminent academics to present papers at the *Hunter Gatherers in Surrey and Beyond* conference at the Surrey History Centre on 30th September.

A full house was treated to a variety of topics, inspired by the excavations at North Park Farm. Phil Jones of the Surrey County Archaeological Unit kicked off proceedings with an evaluation of the findings from the North Park Farm excavations. This was followed by Royal Holloway PhD student, Lucy Farr, with her new research into environmental evidence from Elstead Bog, Nutfield Marsh and North Park Farm. Roger Jacobi from the British Museum presented his theories about the Horsham Culture on the Western Greensand.

At the half way point, the group was split, with half treated to a flint knapping and cordage demonstration by renowned practitioners John and Val Lord, whilst the other half were taken around a display of the flints found at North Park Farm.

After lunch, Nick Branch from ArcheoScape at Royal Holloway gave a paper on the general perspectives about the Mesolithic environment in Surrey, and the final speaker of the day was Steven Mithen, who placed the Mesolithic in a regional and international context.

All the speakers were grateful for this opportunity to raise the profile of the Mesolithic period, and were pleased by the numbers of Surrey residents who had responded to the conference.

STONE AGE SUMMER DRAWS TO A CLOSE

Surrey History Centre played host to budding Stone Age artists on Saturday, with two family cave painting workshops with local artist, Angela Thames. The workshops were the final event in the successful Stone Age Summer series, designed to inspire you to explore 4000 years of your Stone Age past.



Local artist Angela Thames with some of the budding cave painters

Twenty-eight children and adults took part in the cave painting workshops, which also coincided with the Big Draw Campaign. The workshops involved cave painting with a twist. After finding out how and why Stone Age Man painted their caves, participants were asked to imagine what items from our modern lives would we consider important enough to draw if we lived in caves today.

On several large strips of paper and pieces of cardboard, the cave walls took shape, being covered in images of our lives today, including computers, shoes, TV's, boats and even a skate boarding park.

ROMAN STUDIES GROUP

ASHTEAD ROMAN VILLA AND TILEWORKS

David Bird

A short programme of fieldwork was undertaken by the Society's Roman Studies Group on Ashtead Common between 19 and 31 August, as part of a longer term project (see *Bulletin 394*). The site had been cleared of vegetation by the kindness of



Janette Hicks, Gillian Lackelin, Isobel Ellis and Stella Fagg hard at work at Ashtead

the Ashtead Common keepers who also delivered our equipment to the site and provided other assistance. As a result it was possible to locate the site of the villa very accurately and set out a trench to test the approach road close to its frontage. The road was located and found to consist of large hard-packed flints at its core, with smaller flints above that and the remnants of a pebble surface. There was a layer of tiles laid flat along the eastern edge, presumably as a repair. The road was about 3m wide and 300mm deep at its thickest point, with a pronounced camber. The trench was extended to confirm that there was no other sign of a prepared surface in front of the villa at this point, which raises the question as to how this area was used in the Roman period: what happened each side of the road? We hope to tackle this question again in future work.

There are two very large spoil heaps near the villa, no doubt one for each side. A spoil heap for the bath house was also found together with the general location of the building but more work is needed to be certain of its position. The westernmost of the villa spoil heaps was partially excavated to determine how difficult it would be to replace the material on the villa site in due course. Finds from the heap were mostly of tile of all types, and included a substantial piece of a 'lamp chimney' and many red tesserae. Finds from the nearby road trench included one so far unidentified coin, pottery, and again many tile fragments. Both areas produced many pieces of relief-patterned box flue tiles.

The road was also tested further away from the villa, on the line recorded on the Ordnance Survey maps. The first set of test pits failed to locate any evidence for a road but did produce Roman pottery and tile in some quantity. A site further away still also failed at first but eventually the road was found about 7 or 8m to the east of the published line. Here it was of much poorer quality than in the trench close to the villa. It was only about 100mm thick, although deeper where it filled depressions in the ground surface, onto which it had apparently been laid with little preparation. The

metalling was predominantly small water-washed pebbles but with some small flints, not sorted by size or layered in any way. There did, however, appear to be a small downhill ditch about 400mm wide by 15mm deep. A further test of the road, where it was thought to leave the common to the south, was unsuccessful. When time and opportunity permit it will be revisited and its course towards Stane Street will then be pursued.

As a bonus, the second set of test pits produced pottery very likely to be of prehistoric date together with fire-cracked and possibly worked flint. These (and possibly a few finds from the trench near the villa) add to more general information about prehistoric material in the area and may help to give a context to the triangular earthwork, recently surveyed by David McOmish of English Heritage and considered by him to be quite possibly prehistoric.

Thanks are due to all who took part but particularly to Alan Hall who played a key role in setting up and carrying out the work on site. This was a limited programme of work that achieved all its aims and we are now in a position to prepare a full programme for next year. In the interim, work has started on aspects of finds research, including reassessment of finds from Captain Lowther's original excavations and integration of information from John Hampton regarding his work on the tileworks and the surroundings of the villa. John has already been very helpful with information, including on a site visit while the fieldwork was in progress.

VISIT TO BRADING VILLA AND QUARR ABBEY

David Bird

At the request of the Roman Studies Group, Liz Whitbourn arranged a visit to the Brading Roman villa on 16th September. The opportunity was also taken to visit Quarr Abbey, immediately adjacent to the ferry terminal. A number of Group members together with Liz and others including some of her A-level students enjoyed an excellent and well-organised day out. Thanks to Rosamond Hanworth we had the benefit of guided tours of both sites from David Tomalin. David, once of Weybridge Museum, was formerly County Archaeologist for the Isle of Wight and he gave us the huge benefit of his detailed knowledge of both sites. As a result we not only learnt a great deal more than we might have expected but were also able to visit parts not usually open to the public, including a guided tour from Father Gregory of parts of the stunning modern abbey building at Quarr.

Quarr Abbey was Cistercian and was founded only a few years after our own Waverley. Being near the sea and at some risk from pirates and other potential threats the Abbey was given licence to protect itself and has very early gun ports in the seaward precinct wall (permission was granted in 1365). This aspect has been studied by Derek Renn (1980). The old abbey suffered the usual fate at the hands of Henry VIII and was later used as a stone quarry for fortifications elsewhere. A new (Benedictine) abbey was founded in 1908 by monks driven from France by anticlericalism (they at first stayed elsewhere in the Isle of Wight). The abbey was planned by the architect Dom Paul Bellot (himself a Benedictine) and the church is an extraordinary example of the possibilities available when building in brick.

The Brading villa was dug in the 19th century. Outstanding mosaics were found and preserved under cover, but the buildings, both Roman and modern, were deteriorating and recently a trust was set up which has been very successful at dealing with the problems. Trust members included Rosamond Hanworth and David Tomalin. Large sums of money were raised and the site now has a fine modern cover building with attached educational facilities. The mosaics are now in good health and more is being learnt about the history of the site from the surviving archaeology. Interpretation of the mosaics is still a matter of debate and Rosamond has recently suggested that one of them may indicate that a late Roman high official was exiled

to Brading (Hanworth 2004). Anyone with an interest in the Roman period (or in mosaics) would find a visit well worth the trouble.

David Tomalin's guided tour included information given as the coach made its way across the island which provided extra food for thought for Surrey archaeologists. The island has similar geology to our county and it may help us to understand more about such topics as the distribution and location of villas. It is of interest also that there seem to be two major Bronze Age barrow cemeteries, one for each half of the island. All in all a highly enjoyable and very educational day.

Hanworth, R, 2004. A possible name for a landowner at Brading villa, *Britannia*, **35**, 240-4

Renn, D F, 1980, The enceinte wall of Quarr Abbey, *Fort*, **8**, 5-6

Tomalin, D J, 1987. Roman Wight. A guide catalogue.

MISCELLANY

GUILDFORD MUSEUM FINDS SESSIONS

On the second Saturday of each month (except for January 2007) from 11am until 1pm, I attend Guildford Museum to identify and record finds for the Portable Antiquities Scheme. The sessions have been going on for some months now and are attracting a small but regular clientele of mainly metal detectorists. I am keen that as many people know about these sessions as possible. Could Society members therefore bear these sessions in mind if they come across or hear of any finds that may need recording.

I would also be pleased to hear from other Surrey museums that may be interested in hosting similar sessions, either regularly or occasionally. I can be contacted on 01737 247296. I am also usually at the Surrey History Centre on Wednesdays.

David Williams Finds Liaison Officer

IRON AGE GROUP TO BE FORMED

It is intended to form a new group in the Society that will be responsible for taking forward the wide range of issues and suggested projects for the Iron Age in Surrey which are raised in the recently published Surrey Archaeological Research Framework. Initially the new group will work as a sub-group of the well established Roman Studies Group, which shares a number of common interests. However the intention is for the new Iron Age Group to become fully independent as quickly as possible.

Whilst focusing on the Iron Age in Surrey, the group will not restrict its interest to Surrey but aim to cover regional and national considerations. It will be a working group with a carefully planned programme of fieldwork, which will provide a range of opportunities for participation by all its members. There will also be a programme of talks and visits to Iron Age sites throughout the region.

It is planned to formally launch the group with a lecture by a well-known Iron Age expert during the winter. Meanwhile we would like to hear from members of the Society who would be interested in joining the group in due course. If you are interested in the Iron Age and would like further information please contact Edward Walker by phone (01428 682232), email (edwalker@onetel.com) or by letter (Withells, Little London, Witley, Surrey GU8 5QY.)

EGHAM-BY-RUNNYMEDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society was founded in 1967 to promote interest in all aspects of local history. This includes the collection and preservation of items of local interest and lectures and displays to members and outside

organisations. Our local area in north-west Surrey covers Egham, Englefield Green, Sunningdale (Surrey portion), Thorpe and Virginia Water. It is run by a committee of 12 volunteers. Books and leaflets are published (list available).

Anyone with an interest in local (including family history) or archaeology is encouraged to join. Membership is about 100. Membership runs from April of each year and the fees are currently: Full Membership (£10.50), Senior/concessions (£8) and Junior (£6) (full time education). This includes all meetings and a monthly newsletter. Currently, membership is dealt with by the Treasurer, Mr R Doran, 3 Limes Road, Egham, TW20 9QT.

Meetings, normally a lecture, are held in the Main Hall, Literary Institute, High Sytreet, Egham at 8pm on the last Thursday of the month (except for August and December). Non-members are welcome on payment of a small charge (currently £1). The AGM is in March, a Christmas Social in December and an annual dinner is usually held in the Spring.

In another room, on the first floor of the Literary Institute is the Egham Museum, run by the Egham Museum Trust and staffed by members of the Historical Society. It is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 10am to 12.30pm and 2pm to 4.30pm. Admission is free.

Next to the Museum is our Research Room which contains microfiche/film readers for the 1881 Census Index to London/Middlesex, Surrey, Berkshire and Bucks, the local 1891 Census, the local IGI, and Surrey indexes and wills. Paper copies of the 1841 to 1881 and 1901 Censuses for Egham and Thorpe are available with card indexes, maps, rate books, parish registers, monumental inscriptions, photographs and other documents. There is a collection of printed books of local interest. Material can only be consulted on the premises. This is free to members and non-members but donations are requested from the latter. There are indexes to the Museum's collection and a leaflet detailing these resources.

THE EGHAM MUSEUM

This is housed in the Literary Institute, a historic listed building. It was built as Assembly Rooms for the Red Lion Inn next door between 1724 and 1785, the latter date being the first mention when a Race Ball was held there. The re-introduction of horse-race meetings at Egham in 1770 would be good reason for building rooms where the gentry could enjoy themselves after a days sport. In 1785 this included George, the Prince Regent (later George IV). The main entrance to the ballroom was on the first floor through an impressive door. Remnants of this, blocked when the Main Hall was built in 1857, still exist behind wall plaster and once connected to a gallery/corridor to the Red Lion.

The Red Lion/Assembly Rooms were sold in 1854 and eventually the Red Lion was purchased by Friary, Holroyd and Healy Breweries Ltd in 1899. The present Red Lion was rebuilt in the 1930s. The Assembly Rooms then had a number of uses, a theatre in 1821, a church in 1817 to 1820 when Egham Church was rebuilt and a dining club in the late 18th century. A Reading Room and Library was added in 1805, supplied with newspapers and books. It was purchased by the Library and Scientific Institute for £750 who carried out renovations. Since land on either side had been sold, a new entrance was made leading on to the High Street and a number of windows altered. The land between the Institute and the Red Lion housed the Egham Dispensary from 1859 to 1921. The Literary Institute educated and entertained its members with lectures, concerts and debates and a resident librarian opened the Reading Room from 10 am to 10 pm daily except Christmas Da, Good Friday and Bank Holidays. Many small organisations rented rooms for meetings and a recruiting centre was set up during World War I. From the 1930s to the end of World War II concerts and drama productions were held, but the building became badly neglected during the

1940s, war-time requisitioning playing a major part. The Literary Institute's declining finances forced the sale of the premises to Egham Urban District Council in April 1944. The building was then used for Egham's Library and this moved to new premises in 1964. The premises continue to be hired by local groups. In March 1968 the Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society took one room on the first floor to house The Egham Museum and later the room next to it was acquired for local history research.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

MoLAS ARCHAEOLOGY STUDIES SERIES

The Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS) has kindly donated 90 copies of the following publication from its Study Papers series to the Society:

SP 15 'The Doulton stoneware pothouse in Lambeth', by Kieron Tyler with John Brown, Terence Paul Smith and Lucy Whittingham

The normal price for this publication is £7.95 but the copies donated by MoLAS are available to members free of charge if collected from the Society's office at Castle Arch, Guildford. Copies can also be supplied by post at a cost of £1.40 per volume to cover postage and packing costs (cheques should be made payable to 'Surrey Archaeological Society' and sent to Maureen Roberts, Surrey Archaeological Society, Castle Arch, Guildford GU1 3SX). Any surplus copies will be available at the AGM to be held in Reigate on 25 November.

PUBLICATIONS

"An Estate for All Seasons" A History of Cobham Park, Surrey and its Owners and Occupiers *by David Taylor.*

Phillimore & Co. Ltd. Illustrated hardback, 246 x 185, 256 pages. ISBN 1 86077 431 8. Price £17.99 available from all good booksellers or direct from the publishers.

In 1806 Harvey Christian Combe, brewer and Lord Mayor of London, decided to establish himself as a country gentleman and purchased the Cobham Park estate. His family played a significant role in the development of the village into a small town over the past two centuries.

This highly illustrated book commemorates the bicentenary of Harvey Combe's arrival in Cobham and tells the story of his descendants and their contribution to the estate. Today Dominic Combe, three times great-grandson of Harvey Combe, is restoring the parkland to its 19th century appearance.

As this book reveals, however, the Combe family are relative newcomers to Cobham, an area of ancient settlement. The 'down' in the park was probably home to prehistoric nomadic hunters. Recent excavations at Down Farm have revealed occupation of the site in the Anglo-Saxon period. Before it became Cobham Park in the 18th century, the land saw many fascinating owners and occupiers, including a fishmonger granted lands for his 'faithful services' to Chertsey Abbey, a royal officer under Henry VIII, an apothecary to Elizabeth I, the Suttons, who had links to the famous episode of Gerrard Winstanley, and a gentleman of Charles II's 'privy chamber'.

A Surrey Archaeological Society member and lifelong resident of Cobham, David Taylor has recently helped to establish the reconstituted Cobham Conservation and Heritage Trust.

“Support for British Nationals Abroad: a Guide”

The Library has received a copy of the above booklet, issued by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office this year. It is available for consultation in the Library and contains useful information for all overseas travellers, and may be particularly helpful to archaeologists undertaking work in out of the way and often troubled places.

Information is also available on line at www.fco.gov.uk/travel or by telephone on 0845 850 2829.

“Effingham. A Surrey Village Remembered”, by *Mary and Simon Rice-Oxley*

Page to Page, www.pagetopage-design.co.uk Paperback, 50 pages, 46 illustrations. ISBN 0-955 2785-1-1 / 978-0-955 2785-1-8. Available from the author, Mary Rice-Oxley, Sturminster, Effingham Common Road, Effingham, Surrey KT24 5JH; Tel: 01372 453285 or email: riceoxley@aol.com, price £5, plus £1 postage and packing.

Through a short preface and many illustrations, mostly photographs taken in the village during the last century, Mary and Simon Rice Oxley have charted the change from the small, self-contained community in 1901 with its population of only 539, to the present day large, but still friendly village expanded largely by London commuters.

Although fuller accounts of the history of the village have already appeared, this collection of pictures, each with a caption providing much detailed information, gives a very personalised view, many memories having been contributed by the owners of the original photographs. All in all it gives a vivid and fascinating picture of life in this, and probably many other Surrey villages in the 20th century.

COURSES

KENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL

Winter Courses

The school offers courses and trips on practical archaeology to anyone interested in archaeology and in related disciplines. Previous knowledge or experience are unnecessary, beginners are welcome. Courses are held in the Kent Archaeological Field School, in a converted oast house near Faversham. The summer season of field courses and excavation has now ended, but the work of post-excavation continues with pot-washing which takes place every Tuesday at the Field School and all are welcome (Tel. 01795 532548). Forthcoming courses include:

Field Walking and Test-Pitting *January 20th & 21st*, at a spectacular Roman site prior to excavation during the summer season.

Field Walking and test-pitting *February 10th & 11th*, at an unexplored Anglo-Saxon cemetery site prior to excavation during 2007.

Landscape Archaeology *February 24/25th, March 3/4th and March 10/11th*. Help locate, survey and investigate unknown Roman villa sites along the Stour Valley in Kent.

CENTRE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX

PART-TIME COURSES STARTING IN SPRING 2007

SHORT COURSES

University of Sussex (01273 678527)

The Pleistocene Geology and Archaeology of Sussex

The Archaeology of Pottery

Early Sussex Churches in their Context
Managing your own Local History Project
The History of the South Downs

Fishbourne Palace (01243 785859)

Sussex Landscapes

The Roman Army

Other Venues

Photography for Archaeologists, Sussex Downs College, **Lewes**, 01273 402297

Your House and its History, Oathall Community College, **Haywards Heath**, 01444 414001

Aspects of Inter-war Hastings, University Centre **Hastings**, 01273 678527

CERTIFICATES AND DIPLOMA COURSES

The following courses which are parts of award-bearing programmes of study, may be taken as stand-alone units:

Archaeological Excavation and Post-Excavation

Archaeological Illustration

Recording Historic Vernacular Buildings in South-East England

The Recording and Interpretation of Churchyards

British Prehistory

Aspects of Post-Medieval Archaeology

For further information, please request a prospectus or visit our website, or phone 01273 873527.

THE HOLLEYMAN ARCHAEOLOGY LECTURE 2007

On Wednesday 14th March 2007 at 7pm, the CCE, in conjunction with the Sussex Archaeological Society, will be holding the second Holleyman Archaeology Lecture. The topic will be 'Boxgrove and beyond: the early human occupation of Britain'. Speaker: Professor Christopher Stringer, FRS, of the Natural History Museum, London.

SUSSEX ARCHAEOLOGY SYMPOSIUM 2007

In 2007 the annual Sussex Archaeology Symposium will take place at the University of Sussex on Saturday 17th March.

For further details contact: Tel: 01273 877888; email sienquiries@sussex.ac.uk

STUDY TOUR TO THE ISLE OF MAN

In late June 2007 (Saturday 23rd-Friday 29th) there will be a Study Tour to the Isle of Man. The island is rich in ancient monuments: burial mounds and earthworks, early chapels, Celtic and Viking stone crosses, medieval castles and sites of the Industrial Age. Further details may be obtained from the tour leader, David Rudling, at CCE, Essex House, University of Sussex, Brighton, BN1 9QQ – D.R.Rudling@sussex.ac.uk. The fees for this half-board tour, including flights from Gatwick, range from £664 pp for a shared double room en suite to £720 for a single room en suite.

LECTURE MEETINGS

4th December

AGM and Members' Evening of Woking History Society at Mayford Village Hall, Saunders Lane, Mayford at 7.45 for 8 pm.

5th December

Members' Evening of the Surrey Industrial History Group in Lecture Theatre F, University of Surrey, Guildford, 7.30-9.30 pm.

7th December

"History of Aldershot & District Traction Company/Comfy Coaches" by Peter Trevaskis to the Farnham & District Museum Society in the Hall of the United Reformed Church, South Street, Farnham at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

8th December

"The Anglo-Saxons: the Verdict of History" by Paul Hill to Richmond Archaeology Society at the Vestry Hall, Paradise Road, Richmond at 8 pm.

8th December

"Border Ware" by Geoff Hoare to North East Hampshire Historical and Archaeological Society (NEHHAS) in Room 6 of the Farnborough Community Centre, Meudon Avenue, Farnborough at 8 pm. Visitors welcome. A donation of £1.50 is requested towards the cost of room hire, tea or coffee and biscuits.

9th December

"Charter Fairs and Village Fêtes" by Peter Hammond to the Walton and Weybridge Local History Society in Weybridge Library Lecture Hall at 3 pm.

10th December

To commemorate 450th Anniversary of Cranmer's Death, 11.15 Mattins at St Mary's Church, Quarry Street, Guildford. Preacher: Dr Julie Lethaby of The Prayer Book Society and an authority on "Cranmer's Legacy".

11th December

"Dickens and Petersham" by David Parker to the Richmond Local History Society at Duke Street Baptist Church, Richmond at 7.30 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1. Further information from 020 8891 3825.

11th December

Guildford Archaeology and Local History Group's Group Meeting in the Classroom, Castle Arch. An open meeting with refreshments for members to bring ideas for future projects, unknown objects they have found, or holiday visits. An opportunity for discussion on any topic. 7.30 pm. New members of the Group always welcome. Annual subscription £5. Information 01483 567700

12th December

AGM and Presidential Lecture. "Timber Framed Surrey" by Dennis Turner to the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society at The Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut, almost opposite the Old Vic Theatre, Waterloo at 7 for 7.30 pm. Visitors welcome £1.

14th December

"Shulbrede Priory" by Laura Ponsonby to the Farnham & District Museum Society in the Hall of the United Reformed Church, South Street, Farnham at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

14th December

Christmas Festivities and a talk on "Warrior Gear in Early Anglo-Saxon England" by Angela Evans to Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society in the Upper Hall, United Reformed Church at the corner of Union Street and Eden Street at 7.30 for 8pm. Visitors welcome £1.50,

15th December

"Christmas Miscellany" talks by members to the Leatherhead & District LHS at The Institute, 67 High Street, Leatherhead at 7.30 for 9 pm. Visitors £2.

20th December

The Christmas Social of the Send and Ripley History Society in the Ripley Village Hall Annexe at 8 pm.

2007

3rd January

"Princess Charlotte and Claremont" by Pamela Reading to the Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society at St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 7.45 for 8pm.

6th January

"Tree Ring Dating and its Impact on Archaeology" by Martin Bridge to the Carshalton & District History & Archaeology Society in Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, off Nightingale Road, Carshalton at 3pm.

8th January

"St Martha's" an illustrated talk by Andrew Norris to the Guildford Archaeology and Local History Group in the Jubilee Room, United Reformed Church, Portsmouth Road, Guildford at 7.30 pm. Visitors welcome £2.

9th January

"Four Centuries of Unofficial Money, Tokens and Checks" by John Theobald to the Surrey Industrial History Group in Lecture Theatre F, University of Surrey, Guildford, 7.30-9.30 pm.

8th January

"Excavations at a Pottery Site in Lavington Street, Southwark" by Sian Anthony to the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society at The Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut, almost opposite the Old Vic Theatre, Waterloo at 7 for 7.30 pm. Visitors welcome £1.

11th January

"Lost Rural Landscapes along the Northeast Surrey Spring Line" by John Phillips to Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society in the Upper Hall, United Reformed Church at the corner of Union Street and Eden Street at 7.30 for 8pm. Visitors welcome £1.50.

13th January

"St Anne's Hill" by Emma Warren to the Walton and Weybridge Local History Society at Weybridge Library Lecture Hall at 3pm.

15th January

"Going, Going, Almost Gone: the Traditional Faces of the English Pub" by Geoff Brandwood to the Richmond Local History Society at Duke Street Baptist Church, Richmond at 7.30 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1. Further information from 020 8891 3825.

16th January

"Classic Post Office, London and the Suburbs through the eyes of a Postman" by Paul Wood to the Friends of Kingston Museum and Heritage Service in Kingston Museum Art Gallery, Wheatfield Way, Kingston at 7 for 7.30 pm. A voluntary donation of £1.50 is suggested to cover expenses. Further information from 01372 463794.

COPY DATES FOR 2007

January 12th

July 27th

March 9th

September 14th

April 27th

October 26th

June 8th

December 7th

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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 1st December for the December/January issue.

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