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VENETIAN SILVER GROSSO FOUND NEAR HORLEY

Reverse of a silver *grosso* (groat) of Doge Pietro Gradenico (1289–1311) found recently by a metal detectorist near Horley. This is thought to be the first of its type found in the country. The legend reads PE. GRADENICO DVX S.M. VENETI. The obverse depicts Christ enthroned. The diameter of the coin is 19.74mm.

David Williams

Your editor can't help noting the remarkable similarity of the figures to two esteemed and illustrious members of the Society. Happy Anniversary, Bulletin.

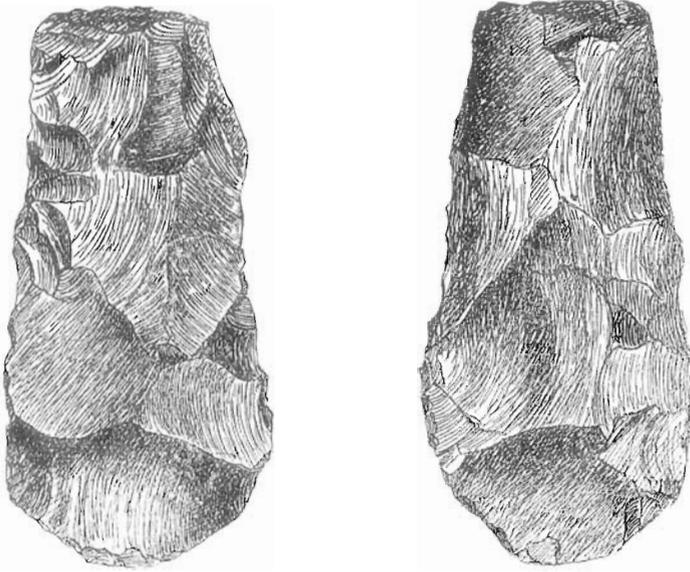
Following the (somewhat unexpected) degree of interest in my note (*Bulletin* 399, 8–10) about one of my discoveries in the antiquarian book trade, several people have requested that I might consider providing similar accounts of adventures in 'Bookland'. Herewith, therefore, a short note about a book that many of the members of this Society are possibly already familiar with: *Neolithic Man in North-East Surrey* by Walter Johnson and William Wright.

This delightful book, 200 pages long, was published in 1903 by Elliot Stock (8vo, hardback, usually in a dark blue cloth binding but occasionally in dark brown), and was later reprinted in 1906 as a 'cheaper reissue' edition in paperback, apparently in at least two slightly varying paper sizes. It is not too difficult to purchase a second-hand copy now, usually for around £20–£30. The paperback edition, which is considerably rarer than the hardback edition, has the title and cover illustration printed in red, the illustration being a copy of the 'imaginary restoration' of 'An Ancient Thames-side Hamlet' found inside the book on page 42, showing a group of pile-built buildings obviously inspired by the 19th discoveries of lake-dwellings in Switzerland.

I am particularly fond of this book as it was instrumental in starting my interest in archaeology, having been lent to me when I was secretary of a local history society, and formed the starting point for my A-level archaeology project. [The frontispiece is an engraving of the Tumble Beacon round barrow in Banstead, and I went on to discover numerous flint tools from a neighbouring garden, and ultimately, while still an A-level student, getting permission from English Heritage to direct an excavation of the barrow (a Scheduled Ancient Monument) and dig a trench in a neighbouring garden to look for a ring-ditch]. This was partly motivated by searching for a Neolithic 'working camp' described in the book supposedly 'not far distant' from the Tumble Beacon, and led on to the Plateau Group's excavation nearby which has recovered several thousand worked flints from a 10m by 10m trench. Interestingly, a few years



Tumble Beacon Round Barrow, Banstead; frontispiece to Neolithic Man in North-East Surrey.



Flint axe from Banstead; from Neolithic Man in North-East Surrey.

ago when two new houses were being built just north-west of the barrow, we discovered a small pit filled with interleaved layers of earth and burnt flint – could this be the residue from cooking made by the people who built the barrow (the ‘working camp’) or is it, more likely, some sort of ritual deposit? From Johnson & Wright’s description of the ‘working camp’ it appears to be a Mesolithic or Bronze Age lithic scatter, and the idea of what constitutes an Edwardian cycling enthusiast’s concept of ‘not far distant’ is anybody’s guess!

The title of the book is somewhat misleading, and presumably influenced by the publisher’s request for some alliteration, as the periods covered by the book range from the ‘wood’ Age, through the Palaeolithic and then up to the end of the prehistoric period. Despite the ‘Neolithic’ theme of the book, this has not stopped the authors from discussing later times and monuments such as the enclosure on Wimbledon Common, the Roman villa on Walton Heath, the Anglo-Saxon barrows on Banstead Downs or to the pattern of ancient trackways in Surrey. Other topics include Roman roads, place-names, wells and churchyards. There are several points which show that this book is written by authors more modern in thinking than many of their contemporaries, such as an understanding that the archaeological division of periods into ‘Ages’ is a convenience that obscures periods of transition, the existence of a ‘Copper Age’ (Chalcolithic) on the continent, and the presence of an intervening period (Mesolithic) between the Palaeolithic and Neolithic. The chapter on the pleasures of ‘flinting’ (fieldwalking for flint tools) is absolutely charming, evoking images of Edwardian bicycle excursions and tramps across frosty fields.

Of the two authors, (although there is also a chapter on the nature and chemical alteration of flint by B.C. Polkinghorne), the impression I’ve always had is that Walter Johnson was the professional writer, and William Wright was the field-collector. Johnson’s other books include: *Folk-memory, or, the continuity of British archaeology* (1908), *Battersea Park as a centre for nature study* (1910), *Byways in British Archaeology* (1912), *Wimbledon Common: its geology, antiquities and natural history* (1912), *The nature-world of London* (1924), *Talks with shepherds* (1925), *Gilbert White: pioneer, poet and stylist* (1928) and *Journals of Gilbert White* (editor, 1931).

Wright does not appear to have written any other books, although the issue is unclear as there were a number of William Wrights who were his contemporaries and wrote on similar subjects, such as the surgeon William Wright who wrote *The Pre-Historic and Early Historic Inhabitants of England* (1907), a Revd. William Wright who wrote on Middle-Eastern antiquities, and of course, William B. Wright who wrote *The Quaternary Ice Age* (1914) and *Tools and the Man* (1939).

Both Johnson and Wright were geologists, as well as being interested in prehistory, and it seems that it was through geology that they both met. Johnson was a Fellow of the Geological Society, while Wright was active in the Geologists' Association, holding at times the post of Librarian and Secretary. (Wright is best remembered amongst geologists for his discovery of the *Marsupites* zone in Surrey). Both were also active members of the Battersea Field Club, the records of which are preserved in the local history centre, which detail displays of flint tools found by members and excursions to the suburbs by train and bicycle to hunt for prehistoric flints.

78 of the flints collected by Wright in Surrey, mainly Mesolithic to Bronze Age but with one palaeolith from Banstead, were acquired by the British Museum on 4th November 1935 as Wright lay terminally ill, having been donated to the museum by a fellow geologist C. Davies Sherborn. These may be the same flint implements sold by Wright at the time to a 'Mr Smith' in four or five boxes each measuring 16 inches long, 11.5 inches wide and 10 inches deep (letter in BM). The British Museum appears also, from its records, to have obtained other flints from Wright beyond the 78 accessioned which were 'held for DISPOSAL'. There were, however (in 1999) a further 15 Mesolithic flints in the Wright Collection at the BM which were not registered in addition to the 78. A further 27 flints from Banstead or Burgh Heath collected by Wright are housed in Kingston Museum, and a polished axe from Woodmansterne, which suggests that these are not the flints disposed of by the BM. A biface listed as Mesolithic by the BM from Banstead was identified by the author as Palaeolithic in 1999, and subsequently re-catalogued as such by the BM after Roger Jacobi had reviewed the collection several years later.

William Wright died on the 29th January 1936, and his co-author Walter Johnson wrote the following in an obituary: "*Originally of sound physique, the loss of his son followed within a year by that of his wife, bore heavily upon health and spirits. He was solicitously cared for by his two daughters, but after about seven months sank under the burden. His friends will remember him not merely for his unobtrusive scholarship, but chiefly for his humanity and kindness.... He was, in brief, a genial, cultured, English gentleman*".

Of the six copies of this book I've obtained over the years, one has unattributed marginal notes, and two have letters tipped-in from Walter Johnson. The first letter, dated 26th January 1905, is in a copy with the bookplate of Robert Stirling Newall (who went on to be assistant director to Lt-Col. William Hawley's excavations at Stonehenge in the 1920s). This letter discusses over three pages detailed finds of Bronze Age flints (identified as 'barrow-type' and stated specifically by Johnson as being too large to be 'pigmy', i.e. Mesolithic) which were found, presumably, by Newall as a youth. It is an intriguing possibility that this encouraging reply spurred Newall on to his later career in archaeology.

The second letter, one page dated 8th March 1925 to a Mr. Brown, is inside the 1906 reissue, and Johnson states 'every time I look at it I feel that it needs re-writing... I see that the book has one surviving brother – not for sale'. So far, no copies with letters from William Wright have turned up.

Further reading: *In the Footsteps of William Wright: a reappraisal of prehistoric flintwork in the Banstead region of Surrey*, Plateau Occasional Paper 2 (1999) by the author [there is a copy in the Society's library].

THE GREAT OAK DOOR OF ST PETER'S, OLD WOKING *Phillip Arnold*

The dendrochronological analysis of this fine old door has now been completed. The report discloses that the construction of the door probably occurred at some time between 1106 and 1138 during the reign of Henry I (1100–1135) and that the four planks making up the door very likely came from a single tree which was over 270 years when felled. This dating is close to the previous estimate of 1080–90 which was presumably based on the position of the door within a Norman style archway and the door's medieval ironwork. The age of the tree at felling means that it must have grown from an acorn which germinated in the reign of Egbert (802–39) before the time of Alfred the Great (871–901). It is wonderful to think of the door growing as a tree so long ago.

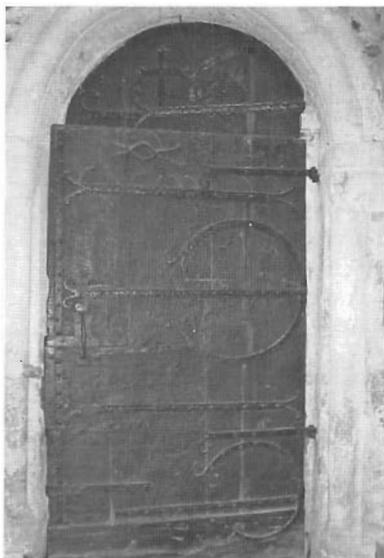
The door which today measures 2.43m high by 1.49m wide, is made up of four planks of differing widths. These planks are counter rebated. The door has no wooden frame but is entirely held together by horizontal iron bars of various lengths on both front and back. There are three glorious C-straps, the upper one of which ends in a flat animal-head terminal. The ironwork consists of a scrolled Latin cross, a saltire cross and a diamond motif with four tendrils projecting from opposite corners described in 1911 as a spider with a fly inside it (*Victoria County History, Surrey, 387–90*).

The report stresses that '*Although not the oldest, this majestic door takes its place amongst the most ancient pieces of church woodwork in the kingdom*'. Dr Jane Geddes of the University of Aberdeen, in her book *Medieval Decorative Ironwork in England* has identified the door as one of only five picture doors in the country and the ironwork as medieval. Woking in particular and Surrey in general, therefore, should be proud of this important part of our history and heritage.

Originally, the door had a rounded top in the Norman style, adding 0.68m to its height. This was cut off, but remains in place, unhinged. It is said that the door had to be cut when the Zouche gallery was built against the west wall of the church in the 1620s. This seems strange given that the door opens outwards at the present time.



Edward Hassell's 1830 watercolour of the church door.



St. Peter's Church door.

However, an Edward Hassell water colour painted in 1830 (*M1131 Lambeth Archives, Minet Library*), shows the door opening inwards, which would be logical since the door was the main entrance to the church before the tower was built in the early 13th century. This makes sense of the suggestion that the door was cut when the gallery was installed. There would have been no room for the door to remain opening inwards without being lowered, and this would have been done by cutting off the rounded top. It follows that the door must have been moved to open outwards some time after 1830, possibly when the church was extensively restored in 1886.

It is very important to have evidence of this kind since it establishes the date of an important part of the church. So often the only evidence is anecdotal and even that can be embellished. I have heard the iron work on the door described as 'viking' because it 'sounded better'! So far as St Peter's is concerned the door is Norman and the ironwork medieval. It follows that the door is not from the original minster church.

Source

Tree-Ring Services' Report OWCX/03/07

COUNCIL NEWS

SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

Saturday 6th October 2007

The Dixon Hall, Letherhead Institute, Leatherhead

This Conference, the first to be held following the publication of the Surrey Archaeological Framework last year, will we hope be the first in an annual series studying aspects of the Framework document and debating some of the issues identified

In carrying the SARF process forward, the prime purpose will be to focus on new thinking, as well as re-evaluation of traditional wisdom, and how researchers might target their work to validate (or otherwise) these ideas in all aspects of archaeological fieldwork and historical research.

The morning will be led by the Roman Studies Group and we are delighted to announce that **Professor Barry Cunliffe** has agreed to make the keynote address.

The afternoon will be devoted to presentations on the theme of communication, the trackways linking settlements of all periods and the implications for social interaction and trade.

Full details will be published in the next *Bulletin* and will also be available on the website.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Susan Janaway

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

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

Institutional Member (Inland)	£30.00
Institutional Member (Overseas)	£40.00

Please send your subscription to me, Susan Janaway, at Castle Arch. I am here on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10am–2.45 pm and can be contacted by phone/fax on 01483 532454 or by email at info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk. Institutional members will have already been invoiced separately, so can disregard this notice.

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

A REMINDER ABOUT THE SOCIETY'S TOOLS

Geoff Stonehouse & Pauline Hulse

For the attention of diggers, field archaeologists, surveyors, finds processors and others. Do you know what tools are available within the Society?.....

The Society owns a wide range of tools from

ALIDADE to AUGER
GAZEBO to GPS
LEVEL (Dumpy) to LPG CYLINDERS
OPTICAL SQUARE to H(OE)
SPONGES to SHOVELS
THEODOLITE to TENTS
WHEELBARROWS to WALKIE TALKIES

....and much more.

A list of the tools is available for viewing at Castle Arch and copies can be obtained from your Tools Officers, Geoff Stonehouse (01483 283885) and Pauline Hulse (01483 282917). The tools are stored in two lock-up garages in Merrow near Guildford (directions for finding the garages are available from Geoff or Pauline) and they can be collected from and returned to the garages by arrangement with Geoff or Pauline. Please give them good notice of your requirements and collection and return dates.

There is no charge for the loan but tools are issued and returned on a receipt to be signed by the borrower. They must be returned in good condition and CLEAN. We need to know of any damage so that we can effect repair or replacement. We would also like to have reasoned suggestions for any other tools you would like us to stock.

MEDIEVAL STUDIES FORUM: Inaugural Meeting

Saturday 9th June 2007

The Dixon Hall, Letherhead Institute, Leatherhead

We are delighted to launch the Forum on 9th June with presentations by Alistair Douglas (of PreConstruct Archaeology) on the important recent excavations at Bermondsey Abbey and by Dr. Susan Kelly on the Charters of Chertsey Abbey, and her recent work editing the pre-Conquest archives of Peterborough (relating to Bermondsey and Woking) and of Christ Church, Canterbury (relating to Croydon).

Tea and coffee will be available from 10 am with the presentations beginning at 10.30 and running through to about 12.20, when there will be a break for lunch (bring your own or eat at one of the many establishments of all types in the High Street). Tea and coffee will again be available in the Hall from 1.20 pm.

After lunch, starting at 1.45 pm, there will be a meeting of the Society's Village Study Group (see below).

VILLAGE STUDY GROUP

The programme for the afternoon at Leatherhead (see above) will include a review of recent work on the morphology and development of villages in England and a round-up of recent work on Surrey villages (including Cobham and 'Horley: Drove Roads and Hedgelines'). The afternoon session will finish at 4 pm.

Full details of this joint meeting will be published in the next Bulletin and on the Society's website. Meanwhile please reserve the date in your diary now. Tickets will not be issued but those attending are asked to make a contribution of £5 on the day towards the costs. Parking at the Letherhead Institute is extremely limited; public car parking is available at various locations, including the nearby Swan Centre (but only up to 4 hours), at Randalls Road long-stay car park (for £3.50 all day) or on the south side of Leatherhead Station (free all day on a Saturday).

All members of the Society will be very welcome at this joint meeting

If you wish to become a member of the Forum itself (and have not already done so), please contact: Richard or Pamela Savage at medforum@hotmail.co.uk or by post to Burford House, Hockering Road, Woking GU22 7HJ.

ARTEFACTS AND ARCHIVES RESEARCH GROUP

The photograph shows members of AARG working on the pottery from Weston Wood, Albury at The Granary, Bletchingley. Access to this building has enabled us to both store and work on archaeological archives. An important aspect is the Granary allows us to leave work in progress out on the tables and means that we don't have to pack and unpack the artefacts from session to session. AARG use the upper floor for working and part of the lower floor for storage and the Society use the remainder of the lower floor to store publications.

In the future it is hoped that the building will be used for workshops and other small scale events as there is limited parking.



Unfortunately the Granary is too far away to allow us to use it for our regular Wednesday evening work and that is still taking place in the upper room of the Friends Meeting House in Ward Street, Guildford. We meet from 7.30–9.30 pm. If you would like to join us please contact me, Margaret Broomfield, on Margaret_broomfield@yahoo.co.uk or Tel: 01932 788221.

EVENTS COMMITTEE

THE 2007 LECTURE SERIES

RECONSTRUCTING THE PAST: Aspects of Experimental Archaeology *St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell*

Tuesday evenings, 17th April to 15th May 2007, 7:30 pm for 8:00 pm
£5 per single lecture, £23 for the series

Speakers and Lectures:

- 17th April **Why Experimental Archaeology? The Experience at Butser**
Steve Dyer
- 24th April **Researching Medieval Gunpowder: an experimental approach**
Robert Smith & Ruth Brown
- 1st May **The Reconstruction of Historic Timber Framed Structures**
Peter McCurdy
- 8th May **Reconstructing the Tudor Kitchens at Hampton Court Palace**
Marc Meltonville
- 15th May **How Historical Re-Enactment can provide an insight into the past –
The Wychurst late Saxon Manorial Estate**
Nigel Amos

Tickets from the Lectures Officer, SyAS, Eversheds, Abinger Hammer, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 6QA (cheques payable to Surrey Archaeological Society and please enclose SAE).

MISCELLANY

A 7th CENTURY METALWORKING DIE FROM WEST CLANDON

David Williams (Finds Liaison Officer)

Among a group of metal detector finds passed to me recently by Robert Mintern for recording is a fragment forming the corner of a thick copper alloy plate. The fragment has cast interlace ornament with transverse ribbing, and a beaded or ribbed frame. There are hints of an animal present but the fragment is really too worn to interpret the design further. The interlace ornament, however, clearly dates it as Saxon.

My initial thoughts were that the object was part of a brooch, though there is no evidence for fixing, and I asked passed the find to Helen Geake and Kevin Leahy who are both advisers with the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

The object has now been identified as a fragment of a so-called *Pressblech* die and probably dates to the early 7th century.

Kevin Leahy comments: 'Basically the Pressblech die was covered with a thin sheet of metal foil over which was laid a leather pad. This was smacked with a mallet and the design from the die was transferred to the foil. The best known examples of this technique are on the Sutton Hoo helmet. Over the years I have seen a steady stream of Pressblech dies but most show just simple interlace.'

A note by Kevin on another die, one depicting a 'wolf-warrior', was published in *Medieval Archaeology* 50, 2006, p279–280.

This is one of a growing number of early to mid-Saxon finds, mainly pins, that I have recorded from the West Clandon area. Despite its fragmentary condition it is nevertheless important, and perhaps unique for Surrey, as evidence of high quality metalworking. Similar finds from this area are eagerly awaited.

FARNHAM PARK SAWPIT: AN UPDATE

David Graham

In *Bulletin* 398 I reported on the discovery and test excavation of a well-built stone and brick lined 17th and 18th century sawpit, found about 100m north-east of the postern gate of Farnham Castle under the site of a proposed extension to the cricket pitch.

It was originally hoped that the Rural Life Museum at Tilford would be able to raise sufficient funding to allow the sawpit to be physically lifted and moved to the museum, but unfortunately it proved impossible to obtain adequate grants in the time available. It was therefore decided to completely excavate and record the pit prior to backfilling and burial underneath the extended cricket club grounds.

The excavation was carried out by an extremely dedicated team of volunteers in December last year. The pit was much as described in the previous article being about 4m long, 1.5m wide and 1.6m deep. Apart from the arched recess in the south wall, noted during the earlier dig, a second larger recess under a, much rotted, timber lintel was found roughly in the centre of the north wall. The floor of the pit consisted of a layer of well laid stone cobbling with a drainage hole in the south-east corner.

To find a sawpit of this quality is a rare event and I am not aware that any other has

been archaeologically recorded in the county and few if any in the country – most sawpits are temporary and merely consist of a rectangular hole dug in the ground. The pit provides good evidence that this part of the Park was used as a timber yard during the late 17th and 18th centuries and this use may possibly extend further back in time. The roof of Westminster Hall was fabricated somewhere in Farnham in the late 14th century – the exact location being uncertain. Perhaps John Price will add this section of the Park to his list of candidate sites.

I am very grateful to all those who helped on the site and who worked through truly appalling conditions. On most mornings we needed a water pump to empty what initially looked like a narrow rectangular swimming pool rather than a sawpit. As mentioned above, the pit has now been backfilled and covered over and will be preserved under the new cricket club extension. Perhaps at some future point enough money will be found to allow the structure to be lifted and put on display at Tilford – until then it remains safe underground.



Final cleaning of the Sawpit. Photo by Roman Golicz

Reigate Fort was visited by Malcolm Tadd, John and Rosemary Collett and the author in September 2006, attending a guided tour arranged by the National Trust, who own it.

The structure, not strictly a fort but a defensive stores depot and mobilisation centre, was built in 1898 to counter a possible French invasion, and is one of thirteen such structures built in an arc around the east, south-east and south-west of London in the 1890's. The forts were at North Weald (Essex), Farningham, Halstead and Westerham (Kent); and Woldingham, Fosterdown (Caterham), Merstham, Reigate, Betchworth, Box Hill, Denbies, Pewley Hill and Henley Grove (Surrey). They went out of use in the early years of the 20th century, although were perhaps used again as stores during the First and Second World Wars. The Merstham fort, otherwise known as Alderstead or Merstham East, is one of two intended either side of the Merstham Gap, to guard the main Brighton Road and railway lines; a corresponding Merstham West fort had been intended, but was never built. One fort (Halstead) remains in military ownership and use; several others are in private ownership, that at Woldingham now forming the basement of a private house built on top of it.

There appears to be no standard pattern for the forts. Those hitherto known first-hand to the author (Box Hill and Fosterdown) being unlike Reigate or each other. The Reigate fort is the largest of the thirteen, and is sited strategically on the crest of the North Downs overlooking the town to the south, and the main road to London via Sutton up Reigate Hill.

The main fort, a scheduled ancient monument, comprises an elongated oval site aligned east-west, in which an encircling ditch and earthen rampart contains one surface building (the former tools store), and the three semi-sunken earth-covered buildings. A system of granite sett-lined channels was provided to collect rainwater runoff into a concrete-lined tank. The single entrance on the north side has two sets of iron or steel gates, the outer set being replicas of the originals, and the inner set the original gates. The former caretaker's cottage, to the east of and outside the fort enclosure, is now in private occupation.

The objects of interest encountered within the inclosure are, from east to west, as follows:

- (1) The flat-roofed single storey tools store: a brick-built surface building with a concrete ceiling on iron or steel supporting girders (now restored);
- (2) The semi-sunken earth-roofed magazine containing two chambers for the storage of ammunition and gunpowder (now restored with original timberwork and iron fittings); interestingly, although these chambers have glass-fronted sconces (recesses) for open-flame lamps, there is no perimeter lighting gallery such as is found at Box Hill fort which has three magazine chambers accessed by a cut-and-cover tunnel which of course made artificial lighting essential;

Access beyond this point to the water tank, 'parade ground', and two 'casements' is by way of a chicane between the outer wall of the magazine and the northern rampart.

- (3) Semi-sunken earth-roofed eastern 'casement' containing two storage chambers entered via a low-level pathway open to the sky accessed by steps at each end (now restored);
- (4) A second similar western 'casement' (not currently accessible as a former occupant of the site has back-filled the lower parts with earth and/or rubble.

Although the National Trust refers to these two structures as 'casements' they appear to have been more in the nature of store-places, and were certainly not equipped with embrasures from which weapons might have been fired. The Oxford English

Dictionary defines a casement as (1) a vaulted chamber built in the thickness of the ramparts of a fortress, with embrasures for the defence of the place; or (b) a bomb-proof vault, generally under the ramparts of a fortress, used as a barrack, or a battery, or for both purposes.

The only provision for firing from the Reigate fort is the fire-step around the inner edge of the ramparts. There is no evidence that the 'casements' were intended to be used as barracks as there is no trace of any provisions for ablutions, meals or sanitation in the structure currently accessible.

Gates and railings, metal window fittings and internal oak doors have been restored in the eastern structures, and health and safety issues addressed. The work has been supported financially by Biffaward, the Heritage Lottery Fund and Norwich Union. The formerly extensive views from the ramparts are now largely obscured by mature trees which, being within a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) cannot be felled.

At the western end of the grass-surfaced 'parade ground' (as the National Trust calls it) are two large earth mounds of unknown purpose. These may have been the butts of a rifle range, although no traces of bullets have been found. The National Trust booklet (details below) suggests that the space may have been intended for pitching tents if or when required. Of course, France did not invade, and the 'forts' were never used as at first envisaged. That at Reigate has been occupied by a local scout group for some years between the wars and after World War II, and it seems also by a building contractor.

The surface parts of the fort are publicly accessible, and there is an interpretation board outside the outer gate. Guided tours of the accessible buildings (which are kept locked to prevent the interiors from vandalism) are organised from time to time by the National Trust (Tel: 01372 220640) – these are free for NT members, with a charge of £3 for non-members.

An explanatory free leaflet, and an illustrated booklet (£1) are available during these guided tours and, presumably, can be obtained at the NT Information Centre at Box Hill, where the exterior of another fort can be viewed.

Anon, 2006, Reigate Fort revealed. *National Trust South East News*, Summer 2006, p3.

Smith, Victor, 2006, *Reigate Fort: the defence of London*. National Trust: 24pp.

LADY REBECCA GOOCH AND A LINK BETWEEN COBHAM AND THE USA

David Taylor

In February 1999 I received an e-mail from a Mr. Len Perry asking me if I knew anything about Lady Rebecca Gooch who may have been buried in St. Andrew's, Cobham. Lady Gooch was the wife of Sir William Gooch who had been Governor of Virginia, USA from 1720–1745. At the time I was unable to help him as I knew nothing about this family and but I filed the e-mail away with various other papers which I intended to follow up when I had time and then forgot all about it.

During a recent 'sort out' of some local history files, the e-mail re-emerged and upon reading it again I realised that I had seen the name Staunton when recently working on the Cobham Park Estate archives. My index to the archive confirmed that Robert Gavell, Lord of the Manor, had mortgaged a number of Cobham properties to William Staunton, a London lawyer, at the end of the 17th century. There appeared to be a family connection and I guessed that Rebecca Staunton might have been descended from the Gavells.

With the aid of the various web-sites such as the Internal Genealogical Index, I found that William Staunton had married Margaret Gavell at Great Bookham in 1688. Margaret was a daughter of Robert Gavell (1641–1688) and sister of Robert Gavell

(b. 1672). It was this last Robert Gavell who sold the Manor of Cobham to Lady Lanesborough in 1708. Lady Rebecca was therefore a granddaughter of Robert Gavell senior. When the manor was sold the Gavell's retained Cobham Court, although themselves living at Stoke-next-Guildford. Cobham Court eventually descended to the Wood family of Littleton, Middlesex who were related to the Gavells.

I then obtained a copy of Lady Rebecca's will from the National Archives at Kew. In her will which she had made at Hampton, Middlesex where she had lived since she and her late husband returned from Virginia, Lady Rebecca requested that her body be *"laid in Cobham Chancel by my Father Mother and sister. I would be buried in linnen and my wedding ring on my Finger. A plain black cloth outside coffin with black plates and nails and a very good Elm one within unless I die at so great a distance they are obliged to put me in lead. I would have a velvet hearse with six horses and two coaches and six (horses) no pall bearers nor escutcheons only a velvet pall Eight poor men of the parish of Cobham who do not take alms of the parish I desire to carry me into the Church and (they) to have Hatbands and Gloves and five shillings each (also) a Scarf Hat Band and Gloves and a twenty shilling Ring to the Minister at Cobham that buries me."*

Lady Rebecca's parents and her Gavell ancestors were buried in the North Chancel, now the War Memorial Chapel. Unfortunately any memorials were lost when the church was restored and enlarged during the nineteenth century. There was a special link between this chapel and owners of Cobham Court. The chapel, which dates from the 13th century when the main Chancel was also lengthened, was probably built by the Lords of the Manor, Chertsey Abbey or their Bailiff who lived at Cobham Court.² The fact that the chapel was roofed with expensive "Horsham Slab" as opposed to clay tiles indicates the high status both of the building and its builder.

The burial registers for St Andrew's confirmed that Lady Rebecca was buried in accordance with her wishes, on the 10th February 1775. She had actually died at Bath where she had gone to "take the waters". She lived to the 85 and a note on her death in The Gazette stated that she had remarkable eyesight – "It is but a few months since this venerable Lady could see to thread the finest cambrick needle without spectacles."

Sir William Gooch was highly esteemed by the colonists. He and his wife lived at the Governor's Palace in Williamsburg³ and had their eleven year old son and an unmarried sister named Anne with them when they arrived. Young William grew up at the Palace, became the naval officer of the York River District, married and died at the age of twenty six of the "bloody flux". His parents were left heartbroken with a daughter in la, Nelly, not yet nineteen and seven months pregnant. The baby did not survive.

Later in his term William Gooch was created a baronet elevating Rebecca to Lady Rebecca. It was the most exalted title in the colony and many times she presided with her husband over the annual celebration of the king's birthday, *"a handsome Entertainment for the Gentlemen and ladies, together with a Ball."* Five years after his son's death, Gooch resigned and he and Rebecca returned to England. Their income was modest and their house at Hampton suffered when compared with the Governor's Palace and Lady Rebecca complained *"Ye great parlor is almost as broad as our dressing room at Williamsburg and within 2 foot as long", she wrote, and "ye other about ye size of my closet, we have four chambers on ye first floor and two light closets and as many garrets and I believe they'd all stand in ye hall."*

Lady Rebecca left a Bible and silver gilt cup to the chapel of the College of William and Mary, evidence of the affection she felt for the town that had welcomed her fifty years earlier. Sadly the Bible was destroyed in a fire in 1859 but the cup survives.

I am now in touch with the Staunton Historical Society and the city's Tourism Officer and Local Historian and hope to uncover more about Lady Rebecca. Perhaps some sort of memorial could be placed in the chapel as a reminder of this remarkable lady who gave her name to the city of Staunton, USA.

- 1 This Robert Gavell was the son of Vincent Gavell and Margaret the daughter of Sir Humphrey Lynde the famous Protestant theologian, who was buried in St Andrew's in 1636. When Robert died Margaret married John Platt of West Horsley who features a great deal in the episode of Gerrard Winstanley and the Diggers.
- 2 The Cobham Vestry Minute Book contains an entry made in 1711 acknowledging that 'a chancel or burying place' on the north side of the parish church belongs to Robert Gavell, that he pays no dues to the parish for it and only his family should be buried there. (SHC 4398/2/5). When Charles Combe purchased Cobham Court in 1905 his solicitor wrote to him "I find that the Chancel in Cobham Church which belongs to Cobham Court is the Burial Place of the owners of that place and that they are entitled to be buried there without paying any fees to the parish. I don't know whether this fact will make Cobham Court more valuable in your eyes??"
- 3 The Governor's Palace at Williamsburg fell into disuse in the 19th century but was faithfully reconstructed in the last century and now forms part of the tourist attraction of 'Colonial Williamsburg'.

ST. OMER ROAD, THE SANFORD ARMS AND THE MYSTERY OF CROSS LANES

Helen Davies

I have always been interested in the origins of street names. Some appear to be obvious, like Epsom Road and London Road, while some names are associated with people or houses, like Edgeborough, Hillier, Martyr, Aldersey Roads, for example. So what about the street where I live – St. Omer Road?

According to the OS map dated 1896, neither St. Omer Road or Tangier Road existed, nor did many of the other roads in my locality. However, by 1912 the area on the other side of the Epsom Road was developing apace with new roads appearing, including *Berlin Road*, turning left into *St. Petersburg Road*, which turned right into *Tangier Road* which gave on to Warren Road (Fig. 1).

By 1934, a huge amount of development had taken place on either side of the Epsom Road. Berlin Road had been renamed *St. Omer Road*, St. Petersburg Road had become *Petrograd Road*, the new Communist name for that city, while Tangier Road had been lengthened to run from Warren Road down to the Epsom Road (Fig. 2). At some subsequent time, Petrograd Road was renamed St. Omer Road, so that St. Omer Road then ran from the Epsom Road, curving round into Tangier Road.

I have tried to find out when these roads were constructed and when the name changes occurred, but unfortunately the records seems to be rather elusive. The old record book (the 'bible' containing such information) at Guildford Borough Council was destroyed some years ago in a fire, so at the moment I can only use OS maps for approximate dates of road development and name changes. If anyone has any information, please do let me know.

The Mystery of Cross Lanes has long intrigued me. Cross Lanes runs from Warren Road through to the London Road, crossing in its path the Epsom Road (Fig. 3). From Warren Road as far as Cranley Road, Cross Lanes is a trackway bordered by high banks and hedges. However, the north west end of Croaa Lanes from its junction with Cranley Road to the London Road is a vehicular road. There is a short section of elevated footpath between Cranley and Clandon Roads which seems to run along the top of what was originally the banking which defined the Cross Lanes trackway.

On the 1870 and 1896 OS maps, Cross Lanes is shown as the Municipal Borough

Boundary and there is a boundary stone opposite the south-east end of Cross Lanes in Warren Road. The small triangle of grass at the entrance to Cross Lanes from Warren Road has remained unchanged for over 130 years according to the OS maps.

Hedgerow species noted on the banks along the Cross Lanes trackway include beech, field maple, hazel, holly, horse chestnut, sycamore, spindle and wild privet. There is also a variety of 'garden escape' species from the gardens that abut the trackway.

The better preserved section of trackway is that between Warren Road and Epsom Road, where the banking varies from six to over ten feet high. Here are the remnants of steps leading down from the adjacent gardens onto the trackway, long since disused. There are some remnants in both sections of trackway of small areas of stone paving.

I have tried to find out more information from Guildford Borough Council as to why the whole length of Cross Lanes was not adopted as a vehicular road. It would appear that there is little if any information available. However, I understand that the trackway sections of Cross Lanes are designated a 'town path' by GBC. These sections would not have been adopted as a vehicular road because none of the properties had vehicular access into the lane. The properties abutting the trackway sections have vehicular access into Albury Road, Epsom Road, Maori Road, Edgeborough Road and Cranley Road, whereas the section of Cross Lanes between Cranley Road and Epsom Road does have properties exiting into it (GBC pers.comm.).

In the meantime, I have had the opportunity of reading Lyn Clark's excellent book entitled *Stoke Next Guildford: A short History*. I was very interested to read (pp 3-4) that in the 13th century. "*.. the manorial courts which supervised the administration of the manor (of Stoke) were held at Warren Farm, over in the south-eastern corner of the parish on Browning's Down, near the top of Warren Road. ... the Courts being held up at Warren Farm would help to account for Cross Lanes, that strange trackway running between steep banks up on to Browning's Down, perhaps made or at any rate used by the people of Stoke as they plodded up the long slope to the Warren to attend the Court Leet. ... Why this remote outpost on Browning's Down should have been chosen it is impossible to say. ...*". Lyn goes on to say that Warren Farm remained the headquarters for the normal business of Stoke until 1615.

I wonder if the trackway that we know as Cross Lanes, with its high banks and hedgerows, is part of an ancient road system that was in existence long before the 13th century. The mystery calls for further investigation.

Something of interest noted on the 1870 OS map is the '**Sanford Arms**' public house, situated at the cross-roads of Epsom, Warren and Waterden Roads (Figs. 4,5). The front of the building is stone-built with a red brick extension at the back. Once there was an entrance at the front (located between the two ground floor windows) with a porch, the dimensions of which can still be seen in the remains of the stone floor of the porch. Another original entrance at the north-west angle of the building is now the one used as the main entrance. To think that this cross-roads pub is more than 135 years old (very likely even older, given its location) and still doing business, and the history of this old inn is something else that calls for further investigation. Like many other pubs, however, it has finally changed name and it's now 'Rogues Wine Bar'; although the original name has stood the test of time, people still refer to 'The Sanford Arms' as a place-name and the bus stop still bears the name.

Reprinted from Guildford Archaeology Group Annual Review No 28, 2000, with updates 2006.

95th ANNIVERSARY OF THE SINKING OF THE TITANIC

Heroism of Jack Phillips celebrated in Marathon Radio link up

Early on the morning of Monday 16 April, 2007, a team of amateur radio enthusiasts will complete a marathon international radio link up lasting 43 hours and 47 minutes.

The team, comprising members and guests of Wey Valley Amateur Radio Group, will operate from a special radio station set up in Godalming, to honour the memory of Jack Phillips, Chief Wireless Telegraphist of the ill-fated RMS Titanic, which went down on her maiden voyage to New York 95 years ago.

Born and bred in Godalming, Jack, 25, stayed at his post sending out distress signals in morse code before losing his life when the liner – believed to be unsinkable – sank 2 hours and 40 minutes after hitting an iceberg. 1523 lives were lost, but 705 survivors were picked up by the Carpathia, alerted to the ship's plight by Jack's signals.

The radio station, GB95MGY (Titanic's call sign was MGY), located in the main hall of Godalming College will begin transmissions in morse code at 11 am on Saturday 14 April and continue until 6.47 am (5.47 hours GMT) on Sunday 15 April, the precise time at which the Titanic sank, on the same day in 1912. At this point, transmissions will cease for a time to mark the sinking, but will then continue until 6.47 am the following day, to extend the opportunity for radio amateurs worldwide to join in the commemoration.

The radio station will be open to the public between 12 noon and 4 pm on Saturday 14 April and between 11 am and 4 pm on Sunday 15 April. Admission will be free. The station will feature a unique exhibition of many types of early morse senders and receivers, arranged by the British Vintage Wireless Society. There will also be a display of amateur radio equipment and records (QSLs), confirming previous contacts with stations worldwide.

Further information may be obtained from Michael Shortland of the Wey Valley Amateur Radio Group Tel: 01483 566441 or visit www.weyvalleyarg.org.uk

Guided Tours of Henry Tate Gardens

Saturday 5th May

Tours will take place at 2.30 pm and 3.30 pm. An opportunity to hear about the history of the site, view the Grade II* listed mansion (exterior only) and explore the historic garden with its Grade II listed garden features. The house, called Park Hill, was built in 1829 by the Leaf family and lived in by Henry Tate from 1880 where he opened the first Tate Gallery. From 1923 it was St Michael's Convent, a care home until 1996 when it was converted into private housing.

Meet at the lodge gates, Henry Tate Mews, Streatham Common North. Buses 249 and 417 pass near by the entrance. Strong footwear is essential. Guides Daphne Marchant, John Brown, Graham Gower and Brian Bloice.

"Park Hill" a history of the site by Brian Bloice, Graham Gower and Daphne Marchant is available from the Streatham Society. Price £3.99 (by post £5).

Information from Brian Bloice, Tel: 020 8764 8314.

TRAINING EXCAVATIONS

Birkbeck, London University, Faculty of Continuing Education are organising the following training excavations in the coming months:

HATCH FURLONG, EWELL

23rd–27th April and 30th April–4th May 2007

A second season of exploratory archaeological excavation is planned on this interesting site (see *Bulletin 397*), in conjunction with Epsom and Ewell History and Archaeology Society, the National Trust, Surrey County Archaeology Unit and the Museum of London. The training excavation will consist of two consecutive 5-day (Monday–Friday) courses which will provide training in archaeological excavation and recording techniques, and include elements of initial finds processing and other aspects of archaeological investigation. No experience is necessary, and places are open to beginners as well as those more experienced in archaeology.

The excavation will provide appropriate field experience for all students undertaking Certificate/Diploma and degree courses in Archaeology. The course carries accreditation, and assessment will be based on students' site work and records.

The courses are non-residential and will run from Monday to Friday 9.30 am–5 pm.

Fee: £185 per week of attendance, to include all tuition. Tuition will be provided by site staff.

Places are limited and applications should be made to: Natalie Ping, Archaeology Desk, Faculty of Continuing Education, Birkbeck, 26 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DQ, Tel: 020 7631 6627.

SYON HOUSE, BRENTFORD

11th June to 13th July

This is the fourth season of training excavations at Syon House and takes place in conjunction with Syon Park and the Museum of London Archaeology Service. The site is situated at the rear of the historic Syon House, and students will be uncovering remains of the famous medieval Syon Abbey, as well as later, formal garden features relating to the post-medieval House.

Teaching will be provided both by site staff and by visiting specialists. Adult students and those with an interest in archaeology are invited to enrol. Beginners as well as those more experienced in archaeological excavation are welcome.

Five courses are offered, each being held Monday–Friday, 9.30 to 5 pm, beginning on 11th June, 18th June, 25th June, 2nd July and 9th July 2007.

Fee for each week's course: £185. Attendance must be for a minimum of one week.

Each course provides practical training in archaeological excavation and recording techniques, initial finds processing and other aspects of archaeological investigation.

Places are limited and application should be made to Natalie Ping, details as above or to enrol by telephone, call Birkbeck Central Enrolment on: 020 7631 6651.

SYON HOUSE, BRENTFORD

Archaeological Recording of Standing Buildings Week

18th June–22nd June 2007

Environmental Archaeology Week

25th June–29th June

Both courses are non-residential and the fee of £185 covers all tuition. As above, the courses are open to all, with or without previous experience. Places again are limited, so applications should be made as soon as possible to Natalie Ping, as above.

BOOK REVIEW

“From Trees to Treasures”

The Story of Henry Jackson MBE – Founder of the Rural Life Centre

Published by the Old Kiln Museum Trust, 2007, A4, 20pp, 17 illustr. and available from the Rural Life Centre, Reeds Road, Tilford, Farnham, Surrey GU10 2DL, price £4 plus £1.50 postage and packing. *The Birth of a Museum* is also available, price £2.50 plus £1 postage and packing.

The Rural Life Centre at Tilford, near Farnham in Surrey, was founded by Henry Jackson and his wife Madge in 1969. It is now one of the leading museums in Surrey and was recently granted Full Accreditation by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. This short book, largely edited from audio tapes made by Henry Jackson, gives an account of his life and of the founding and development of the museum and its arboretum.

Finding himself in a reserved occupation early in WWII, Jackson contrived to be sacked so that he could join up. He found himself in the Royal Marines, where he trained as a commando and served in the Far East, landing in small boats on the Burmese and Malayan coasts to reconnoitre beach defences, but was fortunately saved from joining an attack on Singapore by the end of the war. He participated in accepting the surrender of Japanese troops; in one case the Japanese did not know the war was over, and they had a ‘bit of a struggle’.

After the war Jackson worked in a sawmill, but after a serious accident turned to watch and clock repairing. Finding the working conditions uncongenial he went back to the land in a nursery growing forestry seedlings. The book gives an excellent account of the work of establishing and running such a nursery, including the construction of special machinery not available commercially. After 24 years Jackson left and worked as a consultant and as a training officer concerned with nursery work relating to trees and shrubs.

At this time Jackson and his wife started a very successful market garden. In 1969 they found the first exhibit for the museum, a plough. This began the collection of all sorts of agricultural and horticultural items, the contents of a variety of shops and wheelwright and other workshops. Buildings were (and are) also collected, notably a village hall, a small chapel, and numerous others. The book gives details of some of the more notable acquisitions. The site also has a narrow-gauge railway, the Old Kiln Light Railway. The museum relies very heavily on the work of volunteers, known as the ‘Rustics’ – there is only one paid member of staff, the Manager.

The arboretum contains some 130 specimen trees, all labelled for the benefit of visitors, and planting continues today. The museum was first opened to the public in 1973. The Old Kiln Museum Trust was set up in 1984, and this now owns the museum and oversees its activities as a registered charity.

The book complements the earlier publication, *The Birth of a Museum*, which was transcribed from Madge Jackson’s diaries. These books give an account of a remarkable couple, whose entirely voluntary efforts have led to the creation of a unique museum of rural life. They were honoured in 2000 by both being appointed MBE. **AHT**

LECTURE MEETINGS

9th April

Guildford Archaeology and Local History Group AGM followed by a talk by Peter

Youngs about his visit to Libya in the Classroom at Guildford Museum, Quarry Street, Guildford. New members of the Group are always welcome. Annual subscription £5.

10th April

“The Pleasure Gardens of Southwark” by Clive Chambers to the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society in the Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut almost opposite the Old Vic Theatre, Waterloo at 7 for 7.30 pm. Visitors welcome £1.

12th April

“Painshill, a secret Garden” by Sue Cobb to Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society in the Upper Hall, United Reformed Church at the corner of Union Street and Eden Street, Kingston at 7.30 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1.50.

14th April

“The Huguenots – from Strangers to Citizens” by Jane le Cluse to the Carshalton & District History & Archaeology Society in Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, off Nightingale Road, Carshalton at 3pm.

16th April

“The Onslows of Clendon Park and Richmond” by June Davey to the Richmond Local History Society at the Old Town Hall, Whittaker Avenue, Richmond at 7.30 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1.

18th April

“The History of Guildford House” by Dennis May to Send and Ripley History Society at Ripley Village Hall at 8 pm.

20th April

“Who are the British? Invasion and the Making of Britain” by David Miles to Richmond Archaeological Society in the Vestry Rooms, Paradise Road, Richmond at 8 pm. Visitors welcome by donation.

20th April

AGM, followed by “Leatherhead Aviation Services” by Peter Tarplee to the Leatherhead & District Local History Society in the Dixon Hall of the Letherhead Institute, Leatherhead at 7.30. Visitors: £2.

21st April

“Francis Frith – Victorian Pioneer Photographer: the invention of the picture postcard” by David Edney to the Walton & Weybridge Local History Society in Weybridge Library Lecture Hall at 3 pm.

24th April

“Heathrow – from Iron Age to Jet Age” by Nick Pollard to the Sunbury & Shepperton Local History Society in the John Crook Theatre at Halliford School, Shepperton at 8pm. Visitors £1.

30th April

“Dealing with the Dead – death and disposal in the nineteenth century” by Peter Harp to the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society in the Small Hall of the United Reformed Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon at 7.45 pm.

1st May

“History of the Veterinary Laboratories Agency, New Haw, formerly Addlestone Institute” by Steve Edwards to the Addlestone Historical Society at Addlestone Community Centre at 8 pm. Visitors welcome £2.

2nd May

“Great British Seasides” by Brian Bloice to the Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society at St Mary’s Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 7.45 for 8 pm.

2nd May

"*Horror Vacui*: framing the dead on Roman sarcophagi." The Donald Strong Memorial Lecture by Dr Verity Platt to the British Archaeological Association in the Linnean Society. Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1V 0HS at 4 pm. Visitors are welcome, but are requested to make themselves known to the Hon Director on arrival and sign the visitors' book.

8th May

"Excavations at St George the Martyr, Southwark" by Bruce Watson to the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society at The Housing Co-op Hall, The Cut, almost opposite the Old Vic Theatre, Waterloo at 7 for 7.30 pm. Visitors welcome £1.

8th May

"The Wey and Arun Canal" by Jim Phillips to the Westcott Local History Group in the Reading Room, Institution Road, Westcott at 8 pm.

10th May

"London's Water Supply" by Ron Howes to Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society in the Upper Hall, United Reformed Church at the corner of Union Street and Eden Street, Kingston at 7.30 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1.50.

11th May

"The Archaeology of Buckingham Palace" by Jonathan Foyle to Richmond Archaeological Society in the Vestry Rooms, Paradise Road, Richmond at 8 pm. Visitors welcome by donation.

14th May

"Waverley Abbey" by Anne Clarke 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. Car parking available behind church.

14th May

Lecture (tba) following AGM of the Richmond Local History Society at the Old Town Hall, Whittaker Avenue, Richmond at 7.30 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1.

15th May

An evening tour of Guildford House conducted by Dennis May for Send and Ripley History Society.

18th May

"Esher, Claygate and Oxshott in Old Photographs and a Short History of Postcards" by Paul Langton to the Leatherhead & District Local History Society in the Dixon Hall of the Leatherhead Institute, Leatherhead at 7.30. Visitors: £2.

19th May

"Reminiscences of a Local Magistrate" by Angela Carton-Kelly following the AGM of the Walton & Weybridge Local History Society in Weybridge Library Lecture Hall at 3 pm.

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 27th April for the May issue.

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