



Registered Charity No: 272098

ISSN 0585-9980

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Bulletin 405

December 2007



HATCH FURLONG 2007: Trench 6 looking north, with soil samples from the 'dog shaft' being prepared for flotation.

ARCHAEOLOGY AT HATCH FURLONG 2007: SECOND INTERIM REPORT

Jonathan Cotton & Harvey Sheldon

Introduction

A second season of exploratory archaeological work has been completed on National Trust land at Hatch Furlong, Ewell. The site lies on the upper chalk of the North Downs overlooking the Ewell settlement at the source of the Hogsmill. The work was carried out between 19th April and 9th May by students from Birkbeck, Faculty of Continuing Education, University of London, and by volunteers drawn from the Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society (EEHAS) and Surrey Archaeological Society (SAS). Archaeological supervision was provided by tutors from Birkbeck, by staff of the Surrey County Archaeological Unit (SCAU) and by members of the SAS Roman Studies Group.

The first season of work in 2006 focussed on areas where traces of Roman activity had been reported in the 1970s, a little to the north of a series of late 1st and early 2nd century chalk-cut shafts discovered in the mid-19th century. The 2006 work confirmed the presence of several phases of Roman activity, broadly dated to the 2nd-3rd and later 3rd-4th centuries. Features uncovered included several shafts or pits, together with at least one east-west ditch and a number of shallow scoops or quarries. The upper fill of one of the quarries also contained the remains of a narrow stone-founded flue belonging to an oven or drier.

The 2007 season set out to examine larger areas of the site in order to establish more clearly the extent, date and character of the Roman occupation, and also to see whether there was any trace of earlier and later activity.

Interim results 2007

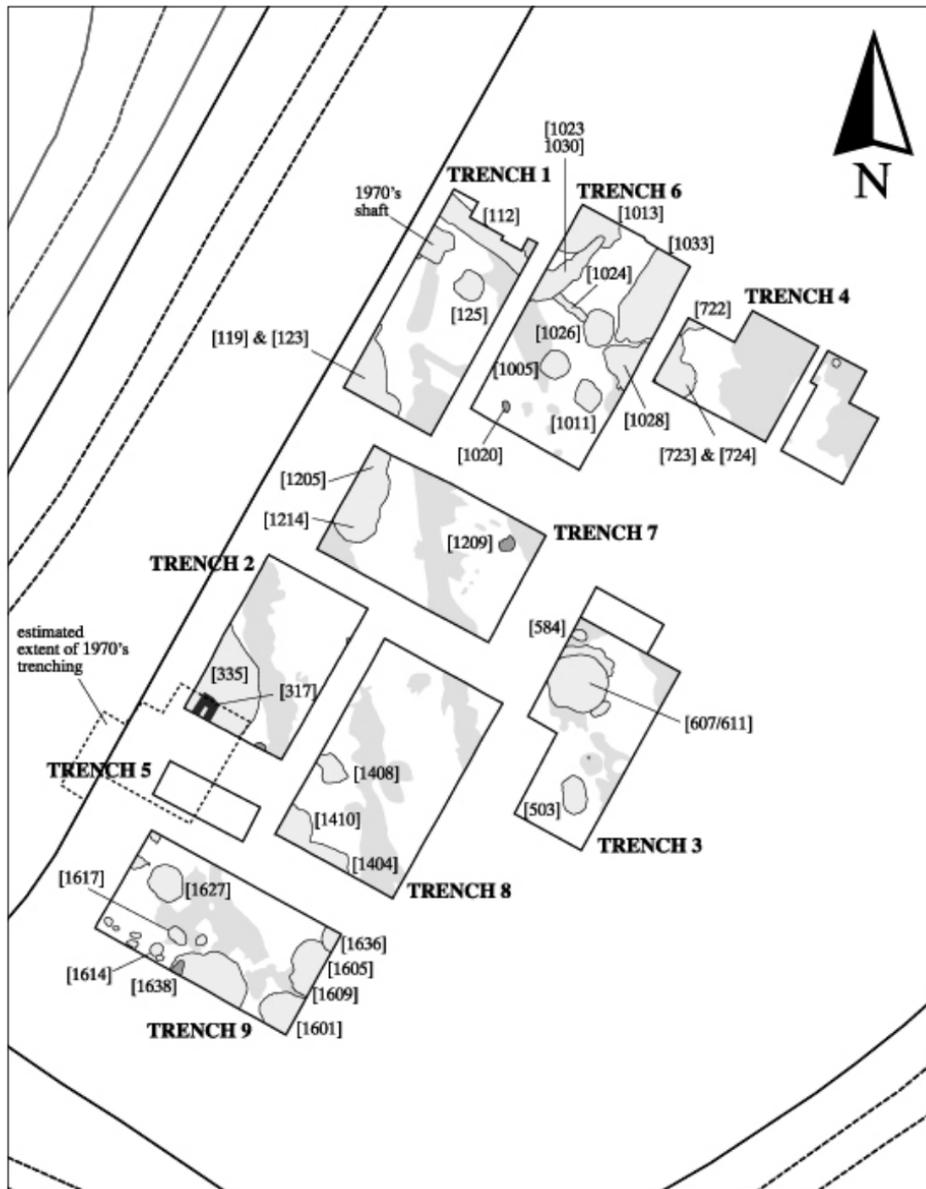
Four trenches, numbered 6-9, were opened by machine at the south end of Hatch Furlong (fig 1) and were set out on a line running north to south between those excavated in 2006, numbered 1-5. The location of Trenches 6-8 was intended to elucidate the extent of features identified in 2006; Trench 9 sought to establish the southern extent of Roman activity.

In view of the agricultural and horticultural disturbance recorded previously machining proceeded directly to the top of the natural chalk. Cleaning revealed that the chalk had been cut by a number of linear and circular features of geological, archaeological and horticultural significance. This account concentrates on the archaeological features.

Trench 6

Trench 6 was sited between last year's trenches 1 and 4 with the intention of examining the relationship between the east-west ditch and two shafts found in Trench 1, and the inter-cutting shallow scoops/quarries located at the western end of Trench 4.

With the exception of a small isolated post hole [1020], a scatter of prehistoric struck flint and a handful of residual sherds of flint-tempered pottery in Roman features, the earliest activity comprised a short length of shallow linear ditch [1024] which ran east-west across the trench. Although this could only be dated as 'Roman' on the basis of a few scraps of pottery it lined up with ditch [112] recorded previously in Trench 1 that, in its earliest incarnation, had been dated to the 2nd century. To the east, ditch [1024] had been cut by a series of shallow inter-cutting scoops [1026]/[1028]/[1033] of 2nd and 3rd century date; [1028] and [1033] in particular appear to represent continuations of the features [722]/[723]/[724] excavated in Trench 4 in 2006. To the west, ditch [1024] had been truncated by a more substantial ditch [1030]=[1023] of 2nd-3rd century date which turned sharply to the north through 90 degrees. This was



Plan of trenches 2007

in turn truncated by further quarrying activity [1013] datable to the late 2nd-3rd and mid 3rd-4th centuries.

South of the east-west alignment established by ditch [112]=[1024] lay two sub-rectangular vertical-sided shafts or pits [1005] and [1011]. That to the east [1011] was 1.4m across and was cut 0.9m into the chalk. It contained a single dumped backfill of mid 2nd century + date including bones of cattle, horse and deer. The second shaft [1005] was situated a metre or so the west. This was somewhat larger and deeper than the first: excavation proceeded to a depth of 1.15m though probing suggested that the base of the feature lay a further metre down. Two fills were recorded: the upper contained material of 3rd century date (including part of a red deer antler-beam with a sawn-off tine), while the lower was datable to the 2nd century. The latter fill contained a number of dog bones, some articulated and others charred, while sieving retrieved further dog bones and a range of botanical remains (see cover photo).

These two shafts line up with those located in Trench 1 in 2006; all four lie two metres or so to the south of the linear east-west ditch [112]=[1024], suggesting that this alignment was of importance to the users of the site. The subsequent re-alignment of the ditch [1030]=[1023] hints at a re-purposing of this area, perhaps to avoid or accommodate the quarrying activity to the east. If so, the new alignment itself was eventually overtaken by further quarrying [1013] to the north.

Trench 7

Trench 7 lay south of Trench 6 and between Trenches 1 and 3 examined in 2006. It was positioned to pick up any continuation of the shallow 2nd century quarry [119]/[123] recorded in the south of Trench 1, together with further placed deposits that might lie to the west of Trench 3.

A continuation of the quarry was duly found at the western end of Trench 7, whose interleaved fills contained a wide range of material of 1st to 4th century date; no further placed deposits were encountered to the east. However, traces of much earlier activity were noted. These comprised a small irregular pit [1209] packed with burnt flint and a fragment of a robustly struck narrow flake/blade, together with a sherd of Neolithic Peterborough Ware that had found its way into the upper fill of an apparently natural solution hole in the chalk.

Trench 8

Trench 8 lay south of Trench 7 and between Trenches 2, 3 and 5 examined in 2006. Archaeological features were restricted to two shallow intercutting scoops or quarries [1404] and [1410] at the southern edge of the trench. To judge from the few finds recovered, both were of Roman date.

Trench 9

Trench 9 lay south of Trench 8 and the small Trench 5 examined in 2006, towards the southern boundary of the site that fronts onto the Cheam Road. Archaeologically this was the most complicated of the four trenches excavated in 2007, and provided the first direct evidence for structures.

The earliest datable feature [1638] lay against the southern edge of the trench, and comprised a small shallow scoop or possibly the butt end of a gully containing Middle Iron Age pottery. It appeared to have been cut into the western lip of a much larger semi-circular, possibly natural, feature whose fill had subsided sufficiently to the east to require the dumping of a consolidating deposit of mixed rubbly chalk and flint nodules. At least one post hole had been cut through this deposit. Several substantial post holes lay to the west, though no obvious pattern could be discerned within the trench footprint. One, [1614], had been packed with building rubble that included faced sandstone blocks and pottery datable to the 3rd century.

A line of at least three substantial intercutting pits with dark, humic fills lay at the eastern end of the trench. The earliest contained material datable to the late 2nd-early 3rd century; the second contained late 3rd-4th century finds; while the latest [1636] appeared to date to the 4th century and incorporated several iron objects including a stylus and part of a bucket handle. Other finds from the pits comprised building material in the form of roof-tile and roller-stamped box flue tile, sandstone, iron nails and from [1601] several possible chalk tesserae.

Training and community aspects

Characterising the site's archaeology has been one of the principal objectives of the project. A second aim was to introduce archaeology students to the techniques of excavation, and to facilitate local community access and participation. In 2007 twenty Birkbeck students gained valuable fieldwork experience while some thirty volunteers drawn from EEHAS and SAS worked on the site over three weekends and the spring Bank Holiday. In addition we welcomed two hundred pupils from local schools, together with over four hundred local residents on a rather rain-swept Open Day. Other visitors included local MP Chris Grayling, SCC Heritage Conservation Team Manager Joe Flatman, and SAS President David Graham. Once again, the work was filmed by members of the Epsom Cine & Video Society.

Discussion

Some 600 square metres at the southern end of Hatch Furlong have now been evaluated over two seasons in 2006 and 2007. The earliest activity appears to have been episodic, and comprises a scatter of struck flint of Mesolithic to Bronze Age date. However, the 2007 work has added a single sherd of Peterborough Ware and several isolated later prehistoric features, including one at the southern edge of the site containing Middle Iron Age pottery.

A majority of the excavated features are Roman and appear to date to the 2nd to 4th centuries. They are characterised to the north by a line of four vertical-sided pits or shafts bounded by a ditch, and by a number of inter-cutting shallow scoops which appear co-terminous with deposits of soft, degraded chalk. The deeper of the two shafts located in 2007 contained dog bones at some depth, which links it with the shaft discovered in the 1970s and re-excavated in 2006. It is difficult to escape the conclusion that the contents of both shafts were deposited with ritual intent.

To the south are a further series of features that contain rather larger quantities of seemingly domestic waste. These include the flint-lined shaft in Trench 3 and the oven or drier in Trench 2 located in 2006, and the various pits and post holes found this year in Trench 9. Some of the latter features presumably supported a structure of some sort, though no ground plan is discernible. It is worth noting that this general area apparently produced quantities of late 2nd and early 3rd century pottery including riveted samian in the 1970s.

Post-Roman activity is characterised by stray metal finds made during the 1970s and by the subsequent agricultural and horticultural activity. However, one unstratified silver coin of 7th century type from the 2007 work indicates a Saxon presence in the area, which is otherwise mainly attested by burials interred downslope towards the centre of the present village.

The Future

The work has successfully relocated the features discovered in the 1970s and begun to place them in a more secure archaeological context. Inevitably, new questions have arisen, as follows:

- What is the significance of the east-west ditch and line of shafts? Were all of the latter dug to communicate with the underworld?

- How do these multiple shafts (and those found in the 19th century) relate to others at sites such as Springhead on Watling Street at the head of the Ebbsfleet valley in Kent, or at Swan Street further up Stane Street on the outskirts of Roman Southwark?
- What is the function of the shallow scoops/quarries? They appear to exploit surface deposits of soft crumbly chalk but if so why?
- What is the significance of the Cheam Road alignment? Might it represent an ancient route off the Downs by which flocks and herds could be driven to the springs at their foot, and could this also explain the traces of earlier activity on the site?
- Finally, what significance does Hatch Furlong hold for the origin and function of the wider Ewell settlement downslope to the north? Is it fair to compare Roman Ewell with more overtly religious sites such as Springhead on Watling Street, for example, or is Ewell better characterised as a roadside station fulfilling a range of official, semi-official and local roles?

It is hoped that it will be possible to pursue these various questions through further work at the site in 2008.

Acknowledgements

Our thanks are due to the following: the National Trust; Birkbeck, Faculty of Continuing Education; Surrey County Archaeological Unit; Heritage Conservation, Surrey County Council; Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society; Bourne Hall Museum; the Museum of London; SAS Roman Studies Group; Epsom Cine & Video Society; and Martin and Alan Wright (PGSD Ltd).

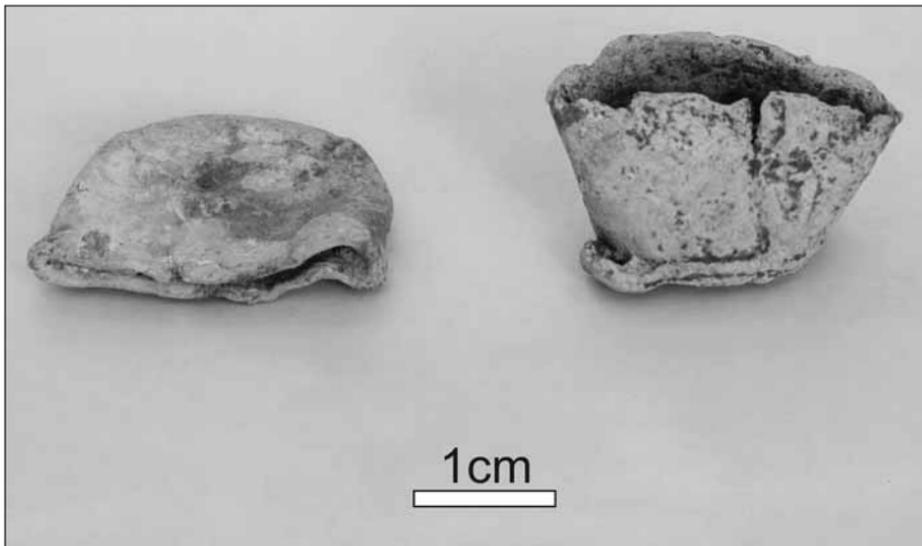
As in 2006 the work was undertaken by a large and enthusiastic team under the overall co-direction of the writers; the training excavation trenches were supervised by Mick Miles (Birkbeck) and Abby Guinness (SCAU); the weekend trenches were supervised by David Calow and Phil Stanley (SAS Roman Studies Group); finds supervision and spot-dating was provided by Phil Jones (SCAU) and Frank Pemberton (EEHAS); on-site environmental sampling and wet-sieving was coordinated by Geraldine Missig (Birkbeck Environmental Archaeology Group); metal detecting was undertaken by John Coles and Bill Meads; site tours were given to local schools by David Brooks (Bourne Hall Museum) and to visitors by Robin Densem, Jeremy Harte, Richard Savage, Margaret Taylor-Sutton and other members of the team; the site plan was prepared by Giles Pattison (SCAU).

Finally, particular thanks are due to Caroline Thackray and David Kennington of the National Trust for smoothing our way regarding permissions and access; to Robin Densem, Natalie Ping (Birkbeck) and Rob Poulton (SCAU) for logistical support before, during and after the work; to Leslie Green and KUTAS for the loan of tools; to Jen Newell and Rose Hooker for bacon butties; and to Peggy Bedwell, Chris and Gay Harris and other members of EEHAS for countless morale-boosting cups of tea and coffee.

RECENT CIVIL WAR FINDS FROM FARNHAM CASTLE

David and Audrey Graham

Recently the authorities at Farnham Castle (SU 8374 4724) obtained consent from English Heritage to create a new car parking area in the south-west corner of the outer perimeter wall, just inside and to the south of the 'Great Gate' – the original main entrance to the castle. The work involved stripping the turves from the lawn and removing the first 15cm or so of topsoil before putting down hardcore and covering this with a layer of gravel to form the surface of the car park.



Powder caps from Farnham Castle.

The stripped area is formed of made-up ground retained by the high perimeter wall and lies outside the known circuit of the, now filled in, medieval inner defensive ditch. As such it was thought unlikely that any structures would be disturbed by the works and indeed a resistivity survey showed no sign of any buried features. However, a check of the topsoil as it was removed produced a number of finds of coins of varying dates from Elizabeth I onwards and in particular produced a number of musket and pistol balls and lead powder caps. A powder cap was used to seal a wooden flask containing a charge of gunpowder and a musketeer would have a number of such flasks hanging from a diagonal belt across his chest, discarding each lead sealing cap after loading the musket.

These finds are almost certainly the residue of the Civil War siege of Farnham Castle when, on the 26th November 1642, a force of dragoons under Sir William Waller overwhelmed the Royalist garrison after a fight lasting three hours. The gatehouse was blown up with a 'petard' – a bomb with an iron spike to allow it to be attached to a wooden door.

Apart from the poignancy of recovering physical evidence of the historic siege, the finds are also significant in showing that the present level of the lawns south of the main castle buildings was certainly established by the mid-17th century. The area may well have been levelled up by 1475 when Wayneflete's Tower was completed, replacing the earlier medieval drawbridge tower.

COUNCIL NEWS

HAVE YOUR SAY ABOUT THE SOCIETY

As part of the five year rolling strategy of Surrey Archaeological Society I have recently set up a small *ad hoc* group of members consisting of those with knowledge of the workings of the Society and those with experience of running outside organisations.

I have asked them to:

- * Examine the structure, function and workings of the committees and Groups of the Society and, in particular, that of Council.
- * Examine the system of administration, especially the role of the Honorary Officers.
- * Make proposals for changes which I can put before the Council of the Society in April 2008.

The Group consists of Alan Bott (Chairman), Alan Hall, Audrey Monk, Richard Savage and Peter Youngs, with David Calow as the secretary. The Group has copies of the previous work on this subject and would welcome suggestions from any member of the Society who may have ideas which would help them with their brief.

If you would like to comment on any aspect of the Society, please email David Calow at dm.calow@ntlworld.com or write to him at 14 Beech Lane, Guildford, GU2 4ES before the end of January 2008.

David Graham President

ROMAN STUDIES GROUP



ASHTEAD ROMAN VILLA

Building Material fabric identification project *Alan Hall*

A project will be starting soon to identify the ceramic building material fabrics (CBM) from Ashtead Roman Villa.

The work will commence with the cleaning and re-bagging of the CMB from the 2006 and 2007 excavations and also from John Hampton's archive. It will include the identification, recording and

drawing of all the flue tile patterns.

The fabric identification will involve the use of a microscope and detailed recording of the results as well as measuring and weighing the CBM.

The work will take some time to complete so a long term and continued commitment to the project is required. It is envisaged that some of the work will be undertaken at the Granary in Bletchingley.

Will anyone who is interested in taking part in this work please contact Alan Hall, alanr.hall@ntlworld.com or Margaret Broomfield, margaret_broomfield@yahoo.co.uk

FIELD-WALKING AT ABINGER

Nikki Cowlan, Convenor, Villa Group

Members of the RSG Villa Research Group carried out a field walking exercise near Abinger villa at the end of September 2007. The group are re-examining Abinger with a view to casting light on the likely estate area and activity within it. The recently ploughed field that was walked is immediately to the south-east of The Crossways (TQ511 147) and 290m from the villa site. Because of the short time span between ploughing and sowing only a few volunteers were available to take part. Taking this and the large size of the field (560m x 400m) into account, two areas were walked over by participants, 3-5m apart, whilst the remainder of the field was examined less comprehensively.

The first area, closest to the barn and the crossroads, revealed evidence for much post-medieval activity and was the only area where any pottery sherds were found. Mesolithic blades and flakes were found in the part of the field closest to the Tillingbourne and a Neolithic spearhead and a number of scrapers were found further up the hill, on the line of an old field boundary. A WW2 bomb base also came to light.

Finds were recorded on GPS, adjusted to the OS grid and mapped for future reference.

From the finds it does not appear that it would be worthwhile revisiting the field for a more systematic survey. However the seeming lack of Romano-British finds does not rule out the land having been used for grazing and it is hoped to assess other fields around the villa as they become available.

Many thanks to Emma Corke and the Abinger Estate for permission to carry out this ground survey.

RECENT ROMAN STUDIES GROUP VISITS

Nikki Cowlan and Margaret Broomfield

Members of the Roman Studies Group have taken part in a number of site visits over the last few months. Back in March we had a very popular trip to the site of Abinger villa to celebrate the launch of the Villa Research Group. Emma Corke kindly showed us round, enabling those who had dug the site in the 1990s to share their experiences, and raising many questions for future research, not just about the position of the original rooms recorded by Darwin but about the extent of the estate supporting the villa and potential archaeology outside the scheduled area.

In May group members headed south to Fishbourne Roman Palace. The Director, David Rudkin generously came in on his day off to show us round the Collections Discovery Centre, built with the help of a Lottery Grant and opened in March 2007. We looked round an impressive conservation laboratory and saw examples of the computer cataloguing which is a work in progress. The centre was designed to store the reserve archaeological collections of both Fishbourne and Chichester District Museum. We saw the Sensitive Store with its controlled atmosphere for storage of metalwork and the enormous Bulk Store where we were able to ask David questions about artefacts that were handed round. We must admit we were a touch envious of the facilities, imagining how something similar would benefit archaeology in Surrey, but hearing first-hand the problems they faced raising the finance and then building a state-of-the-art centre from scratch highlighted the effort and commitment it had taken to achieve.

After this fascinating look behind the scenes most of us headed off to the Palace café for a bite of lunch (the bacon bap comes highly recommended), before an afternoon looking around the Palace with its stunning mosaics and very informative displays. An added bonus was the presence of a herbalist from Chichester who gave a talk in the Roman herb garden about the medicinal uses of herbs.

At the end of July we finished the summer season of visits with a trip to Barcombe Roman villa in Sussex as kindly offered by David Rudling. He gave us a very interesting tour of the site which included seeing footprints of some of the buildings and of especial interest was a well that had been discovered in the courtyard. At the end of the visit we were given an opportunity to examine some of the finds.

Excavations will be continuing next year to the East of the existing site, in the field next to the church.

ANNUAL MAJOR SPEAKER EVENT

February 12th 2008

Dorking Christian Centre, 7.30pm

The Group is pleased to announce the continuation of its programme of major speakers to which all members of the Society, and their guests, are invited.

This coming year we are pleased to have obtained as a speaker **Dominic Perring**, who will speak on ***“From Dining Rooms to Churches- the Ritual Use of Domestic Space in Roman Britain”***.

Dr. Perring is currently a Principal Research Fellow at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, and heads their successful professional contracting unit Archaeology South-East.

Dominic is a Romanist of some note, whose former positions include a lectureship in Archaeology, University of York and Head of Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, English Heritage.

His published books include the definitive “The Roman House in Britain” and “Roman London”.

Entry is free to members of the Roman Studies Group, but a small charge of £5 will be made for others.

MEDIEVAL STUDIES FORUM

Richard and Pamela Savage

MEDIEVAL WATERWAYS OF SURREY

The Forum held its second meeting on Saturday 13th October to consider aspects of the medieval waterways of Surrey. Twenty-four members of the Society attended for presentations and enjoyable discussions on the four principal Surrey rivers, early watermills, medieval and post-medieval water meadows, and other early, but very substantial, channel re-alignments of the River Wey in Guildford and down to Wisley. At lunchtime Derek Renn kindly led a walk around the medieval buildings of Leatherhead. The day has led to a flurry of ongoing discussions between those working on the many inter-related aspects.

FORTHCOMING MEETING IN BAGSHOT

Saturday 15th March 2008

The next meeting of the Forum will be held at Bagshot as a joint meeting with the Villages Study Group. The day will include a presentation on the development of the village with a guided walk to view the older buildings, including a visit to the important medieval wall paintings at 44 Bagshot High Street. Other topics planned include presentations on Forest Law and its effect on medieval lifestyles and a session on the important medieval and post-medieval Border Ware pottery industry.

OTHER FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The second full day meeting of the Forum in 2008 is provisionally set for Saturday 14th June at St Mary's in Guildford, when the presentations and discussions will centre around aspects of church and monastic life – and the wider consequences on society at large – in the medieval period in Surrey.

We are currently in the early stages of planning a third full day session in the autumn of 2008 to be based around the development of Surrey's towns, with a view to holding this in Reigate.

The Forum exists to promote dialogue between members of the Society with an interest in the medieval period and to foster cross-fertilisation of ideas. We invite all members of the Forum – and any others – to volunteer to give presentations on topics on which they are working. Contributions are sought at this stage particularly

for the three suggested subject areas for the main meetings in 2008, but suggestions for other topics will also be gratefully received. If you would like to speak at the Bagshot meeting please contact Phil Stevens on philstevens@ntlworld.com or Tel: 01276 506182, and for contributions for the Guildford meeting please contact Mary Alexander on mary.alexander@guildford.gov.uk or Tel: 01483 444750.

HERITAGE ENTERPRISE

DISCOVERING HIGH ASHURST

Abby Guinness, Rebecca Hall & Veronica Guinness

At the beginning of 2007, Heritage Enterprise was approached by Paul Bowen (Head of Surrey's Youth Development Team) with a request: could we act as advisors to a very excitable bunch of enthusiastic young people whilst they undertook an archaeological project of their own? We were happy too, and so started months of project planning and preparation.

As this was to be their own project, the young people had to find a suitable site, carry out a desk-based assessment and plan the aims of the project. The group already had a site in mind, the High Ashurst Outdoor Education Centre near Mickelham. It is well known that a house once stood close to the now converted coach house, but the group wanted to discover what was now left of it, and more about the history of the site.

The group made several visits to the Surrey History Centre and Heritage Enterprise's offices in order to produce a desk-based assessment. They discovered John Morsfold inherited the estate, called 'High Ashes Farm' in 1706. By 1740 it was owned by a Mr Richard Rougier, and in 1827 the farm was sold twice. From 1836 to 1918, the estate was the seat of the Earls of Harrowby. In 1918 the 5th Earl sold the estate, and then the surrounding lands in 1921. Shortly after the house became Wentworth Hall, a school for ladies, with such disciplines as elocution and



High Ashurst: The team and the fleur de lis mosaic.

housewifery. During World War II the estate was used as a base for Canadian military personnel. After the war, the house fell into disuse and was pulled down between 1961 and 1973.

A week of fieldwork began on September 3rd. Using plans of the house located during their research, the young people chose areas to investigate, taking into account the evidence that still survives on the ground, including cellar tunnels for pipe work, a outside staircase, a garden pathway retaining wall and the oral history evidence of the mosaic. According to staff at the Outdoor Centre, the mosaic (thought to belong to the entrance hall of the house) had been open to the elements and school groups for many years, until little bits of it started to be taken home! It was covered over with rubble, so it was just a case of locating it to record its current state of preservation.

In all seven small trenches were opened up and recorded:

Trench 1 was located over the position of a bay window, and although very little in the way of wall foundations were found, large slate slabs were evident, laid to trace the original shape of the window.

Trench 2 was located where a small part of wall was exposed. It was thought that this could be the foundation for the south-west corner of the house. It turned out to be part of a small garden wall, in alignment with six alder trees marking the main western driveway.

Trench 3 was located over the eastern edge of the house, close to the cellars and toilet blocks. This trench in particular suffered from tree root action, but evidence for a wall and a possible cellar windowsill was found.

Trench 4 was located just below trench two, investigating a possible garden step, and one of the stone bollards (four were located in this area), which were presumed to be the driveway markers as seen in an 1881 drawing of the house.

Trench 5, the most eagerly anticipated trench of the site, was where the entrance hall mosaic was excavated. People who had seen the mosaic when it was previously uncovered described it as being fairly small, black and white in colour and with square blocks of pattern. After the team had shifted a fair amount of brick rubble, what was revealed came as a bit of a surprise: a pink, blue and white tiled mosaic with wave and *fleur de Lis* patterning.

Trenches 6 and 7 were excavated to the south of the mosaic to try to locate the position of the front door. The pathway, which is known to run across the length of the house was located in Trench 6, and to the north Trench 7 picked up a stone block, possibly a door step.

During the week Finds Liaison Officer David Williams visited the team, along with local metal detector, John Cole, who helped the group locate several interesting finds including several coins, a button and an abundance of metal curtain hooks.

The Discover High Ashurst group followed their fieldwork week with several days of post excavation, washing and packing the finds from site, which included a large quantity of brick rubble, window glass, plaster and iron objects. It is hoped that this first week of site activity will be the start of youth and community involvement in archaeology projects on the site in the coming months and years.

TOURING THE FORTS AND CASTLES OF SURREY'S DEFENDED LANDSCAPE

Abby Guinness and Nowal Shaikhley

On Saturday 15th September eighteen people set out with Surrey Heritage on a guided coach tour to discover how the county defended itself through the centuries.



The view from Holmbury hillfort.

The tour visited three distinctive sites linked to the defensive landscape of the county: medieval Guildford castle, Iron Age Holmbury hillfort and the late 19th century mobilisation centre at Henley Fort. Each site represents the part played by the Surrey Landscape in defending both local and regional communities and the wider nation.

The tours of each site were lead by local experts, each with specialist knowledge of the monuments. The first stop was Guildford Castle. Although nearly drowned out by local bell ringers, Mary Alexander (Curator of Archaeology at Guildford Museum) gave a very in-depth tour of the castle keep, covering the recent discoveries during conservation work in 2003 that it was, in fact, built in two phases.

The coach then moved on to its second destination, Holmbury Iron Age hillfort. Rob Poulton, Unit Manager of the Surrey County Archaeological Unit, guided the group around the scheduled ancient monument situated in the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The group were shown the hillfort's well-defined banks and ditches, and its double rampart enclosing an uneven area on the summit of the hill.

The final stop of the day was at Henley Fort, a mobilisation centre, built during the period 1880–1889 in response to a possible threat of invasion from the French. It is the western-most fort in a 17 mile chain that would have formed a secondary line of defence if the French passed the defences on the South coast. Correy Larwood (Henley Fort's Historical & Heritage coordinator) and his team of re-enactors gave a detailed tour of the site, and provided a very welcome cup of tea at the end.

SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

AUTUMN CONFERENCE 2007

Edward Walker

It was in October 2005 that work specifically devoted to the preparation of the Surrey Archaeological Research Framework (SARF) began with a conference in Ewell. A year ago the SARF process was formally launched at the Society's autumn

conference in Leatherhead. We were back in the Dixon Hall on October 6th to hear about progress in meeting the SARF objectives and obtain further stimulation from a number of presentations intended to encourage fresh thinking. The SARF process itself and all three conferences were arranged with the greatly valued support of Surrey County Council.

This year it was the turn of the Society's Roman Studies Group to front the conference, and so it was most fitting to welcome Professor Barry Cunliffe as our guest speaker. Professor Cunliffe started studying the Iron Age Hill fort of Danebury and Iron Age and Roman settlements in the vicinity in 1969. This year he retires as Professor of European Archaeology at Oxford University and we were most fortunate to hear a masterful presentation of his research covering five Roman villas and two non-villa settlements, under the theme of *Approaching the Roman Countryside*. Later presentations by Jake Weekes (Kent County Council and also Co-ordinator of the SE Regional Framework) on *Roman Burials in Surrey*, and David Bird (Vice-President of the Society and Chairman of the Roman Studies Group) who explained the Group's continuing work on Roman villas and Roman roads in Surrey, focused on the work currently being undertaken into the Roman period in the County. Finally, to end the morning session, there was a lively panel discussion involving the speakers and their audience which was most ably controlled by Professor Eric Fernie (Vice-President of the Society) Chairman for the session.

The afternoon session which was chaired by Joe Flatman (Surrey County Council) and was devoted to the subject of Routes – Prehistoric, Roman and Medieval - Three further excellent presentation given by Peter Harp, Alan Hall and Derek Renn which served to re-emphasise the breadth and depth of members' interests and provide valuable food for thought for those researching the relevant periods. The Conference closed with another panel discussion and wise closing remarks from Richard Savage on *Taking Forward the SARF Process*.

All in all an interesting day was enjoyed by a good-sized audience. It added focus and further impetus to meeting the objectives of the Framework and set a high standard for future SARF conferences. Next year it will be the turn of the Prehistoric Group of the Society to lead the conference, which will be held on Saturday 4th October 2008 in the Leatherhead Institute. See you then.

Dear Editor,

I attended on Saturday (24th November) the SERF seminar on defence and maritime themes. Work that the Society has done on plotting the fall of shot from the Civil War engagement in Farnham Park, and on the 19th century military earthworks on Ash Ranges and Hungry Hill, would provide a useful contribution to the development of the South East Research Framework. I see the Framework as being an extension of the Society's Research Framework. In terms of defence, we need to see what has happened in Surrey as part of the wider defence strategy for the South-East of England. I would encourage members to make known to the SERF team (on serf@kent.gov.uk) the work that the Society has done.

Kind regards.

Geoffrey (Gower-Kerslake)

MISCELLANY

HOLMBURY HILL

Survey of the Iron Age enclosure on Holmbury Hill is ongoing and has now reached

the stage when only the south-west corner, an area where 19th century quarrying has impacted on the prehistoric earthworks, remains to be studied. The results so far show rather more complexity than had been recognised and will be presented at the forthcoming Archaeological Research symposium.

What has become clear is that the nature and position of the enclosing earthworks respect and reflect the natural topography and for this reason it has been decided to extend the area to be surveyed to north and west of the scheduled area. These are relatively flat areas and will be surveyed at a smaller scale and in less detail than the enclosure but should enable us to set the man-made features in their landscape context.

This survey has been greatly assisted by the provision of GPS control points provided by Dave Field and Graham Brown, and also by the Hurtwood Control ranger, Mark Beaumont.

If anyone would like to join us we will start work again on Sunday January 20th, meeting at 10am at the Radnor Road car park (TQ 098433) and probably work each weekend the weather permits, alternately on the steep slopes and on level land.

For further information contact Rose Hooker rosemary.hooker@btinternet.com Tel: 01293 41117 or Judie English judie.english@btopenworld.com Tel: 01483 276724.

ANCIENT GODS: PREHISTORIC AND ROMAN RELIGION IN SURREY

Edward Walker

Guildford Museum is to be congratulated on their latest exhibition which gives a concise yet surprisingly detailed explanation of prehistoric and Romano-British religion and the evidence that has been found in Surrey.

Entering the Museum, the eye is immediately caught by an olive grove complete with a replica Roman fountain drawing the visitor into the exhibition itself. The theme is covered in two ways: Firstly, after posing the question "What is Religion?" and explaining that ancient religions would have been very different from what we think of as religion today, a series of panels describe the development of religion from prehistoric to Romano-British times. Key features of religion and ritual are outlined for each period and special topics include Sacred Landscapes, Burials, the Gods, Religion in Daily Life and Temples. At each stage the panels are supported by a generous display of religious or ritual objects that have been found in Surrey. Most of the objects on display are from Surrey Archaeological Society Collections, together with material from private collections and other heritage bodies. Not surprisingly the Roman and Celtic periods provide much of the material on display – the Society was involved with the excavation of all three known temple sites in the County – but there are also many prehistoric objects ranging from Neolithic grooved ware pots to Iron Age cremation bones and outstanding water offerings. We also see a Romano-British priest wearing and carrying (copies of) the regalia found at Wanborough (the originals are safe in the display cabinets.)

The Museum has been particularly successful in providing an exhibition which has much to say without over-burdening the visitor with too much information. It will appeal to all ages and anybody with even a passing interest in the subject. There is a special corner for children, who are asked to pretend that they are a Briton in Roman times and write a request to the gods. The requests that are stuck to the back panel show that many children's wishes have changed little in the last 2000 years. One can only be profoundly touched by the wish of the child who wrote "Please make my parents get back together."

The exhibition's run has been extended until 28th March 2008 and admission is free.

CROYDON, MERSTHAM & GODSTONE IRON RAILWAY

Theft of Plate Rail

Paul W Sowan

Some years ago a short length of reconstructed plateway track comprising four plate rails mounted on six stone block sleepers was placed in the small garden beside the A23 in Merstham, opposite the Feathers public house. This was to commemorate the Croydon, Merstham & Godstone Iron Railway, although the display is a considerable distance from the actual line which terminated at Quarry Dean Farm, demolished in connection with building the M23 motorway.

At some time in 2007 one of the four iron plates was stolen. These plates, three feet long, were obtained from the tramway laid (in part at least using secondhand CMGIR plates plates) in the underground quarry below the A22 at Godstone Hill. Presumably the stone sleeper blocks were found locally.

The accompanying plaque reads:

Merstham Iron Railway

1805-1843

Similar rails & sleepers were used on the 1st public railway in the world between Croydon & Merstham for horse drawn freight

In fact the CMGIR was arguably the world's second or third public railway, and operated from 1805 to 1838 when it was displaced by the construction of the conventional locomotive-hauled London & Brighton Railway, opened here in 1841.

There was once a larger display of plate rails mounted on stone sleeper blocks set in a concrete slab on railway land on the east side of the A23 beside the former Jolliffe Arms public house near the main line railway tunnel portal. All the plate rails were stolen from this display in the 1970s. The slabs and sleepers remain, obscured by weeds.

WEALDEN IRON RESEARCH GROUP

TEBBUTT RESEARCH FUND

The Wealden Iron Research Group is inviting applications for grants from this fund towards research, including associated expenses, into any aspect of the Wealden iron industry. Grants will be around £100. Applicants should write a letter giving details of themselves, together with relevant information concerning the research envisaged.

GUILDFORD MUSEUM

Letters of application should be sent before 31st March 2008, to David Brown, Honorary Secretary Wealden Iron Research Group, 2 West Street Farm Cottages, Maynards Green, Heathfield, Sussex TN21 0DG

HISTORY AND ARTS LECTURE SERIES 2007/8

In collaboration with Royal Holloway College

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 10th January | Why is there no Socialism in the American South? <i>Dr Bruce Baker</i> |
| 31st January | The (Im)Morality of Terrorism: an historical approach <i>Prof Greg Claeys</i> |
| 28th February | Medieval Windsor: Castle, Town or Something More? <i>Dr David Lewis</i> |

All lectures are held in the Guildhall, High Street, Guildford at 7.30 pm. Tickets: £6 per lecture to include a glass of wine or 4 lectures for £5 each, available from Guildford Museum, Quarry Street, Guildford GU1 3SX. Cheques payable to "Guildford Museum" together with SAE please.

PUBLICATIONS

"The Foxenden Quarry Deep Shelter. Guildford's purpose-built World War Two public air raid shelter"

By Helen Chapman Davies. A5 format, 23 pages, 22 black and white illustrations. Price £3 by visiting Guildford Museum, Castle Arch, Guildford GU1 3SX, or £3.50 including postage and packing by calling 01483 444750, or through the Guildford Museum website, or from Helen Davies, 6 St Omer Road, Guildford GU1 2DB.

The Foxenden Quarry Deep Shelter in York Road, Guildford, was constructed beneath Allen House Grounds in 1941 to provide further air raid shelter in addition to the Foxenden Quarry shelter trenches. The shelter was intended to accommodate a thousand people, and is made up of an approximately rectangular network of interconnecting tunnels, with two entrances from what was then a disused quarry. Today these entrances are situated inside York Road car park. Some of the tunnels, referred to as bays, were equipped with two-tiered rows of sleeping bunks. Other facilities included a Shelter Marshal's Post, a First Aid Post, and three blocks of lavatories. At the end of the war in 1945 the shelter went out of use and until recently remained a forgotten and completely hidden part of Guildford's history.

"Two Legs Not Four" by Richard Lambert". A limited edition of 250 copies. ISBN 978-1-869833-58-59. Published by Tony Williams Publications Ltd., Helland, North Curry, Taunton, Somerset, TA3 6DU. Paperback 360pp., numerous illustrations, statistical tables.

A book with an arresting title such as "Two Legs Not Four" must surely attract attention even if the connection between Epsom and horse-racing is not immediately perceived. However, the author has thoughtfully provided a sub-title "the History of Epsom and Ewell F.C. and its predecessors in the Borough" so that the reader knows what to expect. It is a valuable book, attesting to six years of painstaking research by Richard Lambert, a member of the former Supporters' Sunday Team and is certainly a model for any football fan interested in the history of his or her local team.

The mass of material collected is well organised into reports of matches and biographies of players covering the period 1884-2007, culminating in a section with details of matches played. There are many illustrations including team photographs and those of individual players; and an interesting selection of newspaper extracts making possible the comparison of reporting in past years with present day sports pages.

The language in which the book is written is anything but dull, with clear, simple prose, and often with amusing, critical comments. The publication has been produced attractively, mainly in black-and-white, with a four page colour insert.

This is an excellent, readable, record and reference book which should be assured of a place on the bookshelves of fans of one of the most popular of world sports.

It can be bought from the Museum shop in Bourne Hall, Ewell, priced £19.95 or by calling the author on 07796 157077 or emailing Richard.c.lambert@virgin.net.

E. M. Myatt-Price

EDITOR'S NOTE

This is my 98th Bulletin, although we should salute Maureen at Castle Arch for a much longer record of service to the cause. I intend to continue, unless anyone's desperate for the job, but it has been agreed that from my 100th onwards (no 308) the Bulletin will include colour photographs and be on glossier paper, in the manner of no 400, which was something of an experiment. Furthermore, its publication will be at bi-monthly interval, so making it easier to work towards more consistent copy dates.

Copy dates for 2008, therefore, will fall on the following days:

406	19th January
407	9th March
408	20th April NEW FORMAT; NOW BI-MONTHLY
409	31st May
410	27th July
411	14th September
412	9th November

LECTURE MEETINGS

13th December

"Seasonal Celebrations" by Chris Howkins to the Farnham & District Museum Society in the hall of the United Reformed Church, South Street, Farnham at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

13th December

Christmas Social (Members Only). The 40th Anniversary of Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society in the Main Hall, Literary Institute, High Street, Egham at 8 pm.

13th December

Presentation on Merton Priory by Lionel Green and Christmas celebrations at 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 December

"The Work of the Surrey History Centre" to the Leatherhead & District Local History Society in the Abraham Dixon Hall at Letherhead Institute at 7.30 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £2.

14th December

"Living in an Ancient Egyptian Town: the Archaeology of Gurob" by Jan Picton to Richmond Archaeological Society at the Vestry Hall, Paradise Road, Richmond at 8 pm. Visitors welcome by donation.

14th December

"The Work of the Surrey History Centre" preceded by coffee and mince pies. Leatherhead & District Local History Society in the Dixon Hall of Letherhead Institute at 7.30 for 8 pm. Members £1, non-members welcome £2.

19th December

The Christmas Social of Send and Ripley History Society at Ripley Village Hall at 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1.

2008

2nd January

"The Beginning of Public Utilities in Surrey" by Peter Tarplee to Epsom & Ewell History and Archaeology Society in St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 7.45 for 8 pm.

2nd January

"Castles as Past Culture: living with castles in the post-medieval world" by Dr Sarah Speight to the British Archaeological Association, followed by the Association's Twelfth-Night Party in the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries of London, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London at 5 pm. Non-members are welcome to attend occasional lectures but are asked to make themselves known to the Hon Director on arrival and to sign the visitors' book.

5th January

"Bhutan, Land of the Thunder Dragon" by Beryl Palmier to Carshalton & District History & Archaeology Society in Milton Hamm, Cooper Crescent, off Nightingale Road, Carshalton at 3 pm.

8th January

"Frost, Freezes and Fairs" by Ian Currie to Westcott Local History Group in the Reading Room, Institute Road, Westcott at 8 pm.

8th January

Members Open Evening at Addlestone Historical Society at Addlestone Community Centre at 8 pm. Visitors welcome £2.

8th January

"Octavia Hill, her work and influence on Social Housing Provision in Lambeth and Southwark" to Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society at The Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut (almost opposite The Old Vic theatre) at 7pm for 7.30 pm. Visitors welcome £1.

8th January

"Sites and Surveys – a review of archaeological work in Surrey" by David Graham to Surrey Industrial History Group (32nd Series of Industrial Archaeology Lectures) in Lecture Theatre F, University of Surrey, Guildford, 7.30-9.30, Fee for single lecture £5 payable on the night.

10th January

"Golden Age - Making Sense of Treasure Finds" by Angela Care 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 8 pm. Visitors welcome. £1.50.

14th January

"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.

14th January

"An up-date on recent work on the Roman site at Ashted" by David Bird to Guildford Archaeology and Local History Group in the Jubilee Room, United Reformed Church, Guildford at 7.30 pm. Visitors welcome £2. New members always welcome, annual subscription £5.

15th January

"Trade Union Kingston" by Alan Brown 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 to cover expenses is suggested.

15th January

AGM and Slides of Shepperton to the Sunbury and Shepperton Local History Society in the Theatre of Halliford School, Russell Road, Shepperton at 8pm. Visitors £1.

17th January

“Ropes and Lines, Knots and Twines” by Gordon Perry to Farnham & District Museum Society in the hall of the United Reformed Church, South Street, Farnham at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

18th January

“John Evelyn (1620-1706) and his Passion for Gardens” by Beryl Saich, Secretary of the Surrey Gardens Trust to the Leatherhead & District Local History Society in the Abraham Dixon Hall at the Letherhead Institute at 8pm. Members £1, Visitors £2.

19th January

“The Orleans Family in Surrey” by David King to Walton & Weybridge Local History Society at Elm Grove Hall, Hershams Road, Walton-on-Thames at 3 pm.

22nd January

“Portsmouth Dockyard & Industry outside the Wall” by Prof Ray Riley to Surrey Industrial History Group (32nd Series of Industrial Archaeology Lectures) in Lecture Theatre F, University of Surrey, Guildford, 7.30-9.30, Fee for single lecture £5 payable on the night.

22nd January

“A New Approach to the Continental Background of England in the 5th century” by Dr Nick Stoodley, part of the Institute of Archaeology – British Museum Seminar in the Sackler Rooms at the British Museum, below the Great Court at 5.30 pm.

31st January

“The Commonwealth War Graves Commission” by Peter Francis to Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society in the Main Hall, Literary Institute, High Street, Egham at 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1.

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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 19th January for the February/March 2008 issue.

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