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SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Bulletin 406

February/March 2008



ASHTED ROMAN VILLA: *Work in progress in trench 3: in the foreground is the corridor floor of crushed brick; beyond that the dark line marks the location of the front wall and the gutter; beyond that again is the area of debris thought to be the result of Roman (or later) robbing of the site.*

A second season of fieldwork was undertaken by the Society's Roman Studies Group on Asstead Common between 29th August and 18th September. After our 'summer' the weather was amazingly friendly, with hardly any rain. As we are not yet in a position to undertake potentially complex environmental sampling, work was confined to the area of the villa itself. The main aims were better understanding of the villa plan and its phasing, clarifying the relationship between the approach road and the villa, and gathering information about the current state of preservation of the buried archaeological remains.

Only two trenches were opened as the archaeology proved more complex than expected; it was surprisingly difficult to identify the backfill of Lowther's excavations with certainty (see pp. 10 & 11). One trench (4) was sited to examine the junctions of the walls of rooms 10-13 and we can now be almost certain that room 11 predates the rest, which strongly suggests that the villa started as a single line of rooms like so many others. The walls were not easy to interpret, and there was nothing as satisfactory as an obvious butt joint, but those around room 11 had foundations that went more or less straight on down and the corner was reinforced with tiles which bonded round the corner and did not go beyond it on the 'outside'. The walls around room 12 had offset foundations and these were shallower than the others; there was no tile reinforcement.

The foundations were made by digging trenches into the clay and packing them with flints, roughly coursed. The walls above foundation level were also entirely of flint, except for the tile-reinforced corner, already described. In excavation the wall lines were seen before walls as such were found, which suggests that Lowther found the walls in some way and left an un-dug piece of site debris above them, as though each room was a trench and the walls were the berms. The wall between rooms 10 and 12 refused to turn into a 'proper' wall until foundation level, but there was so much debris along the line that the most reasonable explanation is that it was treated as a 'wall' by Lowther but was in fact a robber trench which was left standing as an island. A mortared floor level was found in room 11 but the others had only a disturbed sticky grey layer over the natural, most probably a mixture of trample in the 1920s and the original ground surface. A possible tile hearth was located in room 10.



ASSTEAD ROMAN VILLA: Fragment of samian cup of form Dr. 30R (photograph Alan Hall)

In the other trench (3) a large area of the corridor was examined to the west side of the supposed porch, where Lowther's plan indicated that there had been considerable disturbance in antiquity and therefore it might be possible to sample earlier levels without destroying much surviving archaeological evidence. The trench had a small extension to sample the south wall of room 11, which survived at foundation level, and from there crossed the corridor, still floored with a layer of crushed brick, the line of the front wall and the gutter, and then a large mound initially thought to be one of Lowther's spoil heaps but later seen to be mostly debris that probably relates to robbing of the villa in the Roman period or subsequently. There was very little surviving evidence for the front wall, even

at foundation level, and the gutter was represented only by a few pieces of the chalk blocks said to have lined it and a solitary example of the *tegulae*, laid flange down, that originally formed its base. This one *tegula* had presumably been left by Lowther because it was in three pieces; when they were lifted they proved to have been laid on clean yellow sand.

Most of the trench was then left untouched but with English Heritage sanction two deeper excavations were begun, one cutting across the corridor where it had mostly already been destroyed and the other sectioning the mound of debris. The first produced evidence indicating an earlier phase or phases below the corridor, with a possible wall suggesting an earlier, narrower corridor. The second showed that the debris seemed to have distinct layers, with from the top: flint and tile rubble, then mostly wall and floor plaster with some tile, in turn over yellow gritty material with some cobbles overlying a hard-packed flint surface. This surface has yet to be fully explored but it is in the right place to be the approach road, with signs that it was extended sideways to the 'porch'. The latter could not be recognised where Lowther's plan suggested it should be but there may have been a smaller version. An area of the debris in front of the possible porch produced many finds and may have been a pit, but it has not yet been possible to define the edges and it may prove to be material sinking into the top of a deeper feature not yet properly recognised. Finds included what seemed to be part of a stack of *pilae* on edge, *tesserae* including a few small black and white ones, good quality pottery, a gaming counter and what may be a tile marked out as a game board. It was noticeable that little bone was found in the debris – or metalwork, although regular checks were carried out with a metal detector (expert assistance was provided by Bill Meades and John Cole, who also helped out in various other ways).

Work in the second trench could not be completed in the time available and it will be reopened in 2008. If possible, further investigations will also be undertaken then in order to gain more information about the earlier plan of the villa and its dating. At the same time it is hoped to test other possible buildings in the area, including the corner of the enclosure identified by John Hampton in the 1960s and relocated this year.

As part of the excavation campaign the deep pit left by Lowther on the site of the villa's attached bath-house was backfilled, and part of one of the old spoil heaps was used to backfill this year's trenches. The excavation made clear that the corridor was only covered by a shallow layer of topsoil, having apparently been hardly backfilled by Lowther. Its floor still survives in part, however, as does the floor in room 11, and some of the walls are also well-preserved. Many of the trees have now been removed from the villa site by the estate keepers and further conservation work can now be planned.

Ashted Common is a National Nature Reserve and a Site of Special Scientific Interest, which means that excavation must be planned in advance and must take account of nature conservation requirements. The villa site is a Scheduled Monument which also imposes constraints. Fortunately both Ralph Hobbs of Natural England and Richard Massey of English Heritage have been very supportive of the project and have been able to balance the various requirements. Access to the site requires a long walk for volunteers, whose numbers must be restricted to avoid overmuch general disturbance, and we cannot rely on machine help for tasks such as backfilling. We are therefore very lucky to have the keen support of the estate keepers (especially Sean O'Kelly) and their nature conservation volunteers, who not only cleared and fenced the site but also provided a compound, delivered tools, water and other necessities and removed the finds when required.

As well as the excavation, other work has been undertaken on the project over the course of the last year. Magnetometer and topographical surveys were carried out by

Archaeology South-East around the villa and a possible building was identified. This work was generously arranged by the Estate. Further surveys are planned as site clearance continues. Further research was carried out on the tile kilns aspect of the site, aided by a workshop (about *tegulae*) given by Peter Warry to RSG and AARG earlier this year, a training session given by Ian Betts and the SIHG visit to the Swallows Tiles works near Cranleigh the latter providing many practical illustrations of the work involved). Most of the ceramic finds have now been gathered together, and the whole of John Hampton's archive. With the aid of new equipment Alan Hall and Margaret Broomfield have begun to make a superb photographic record of the finds. It is intended to extend this to include finds currently in the British Museum.

Thanks are due to all who took part, especially those who carried out the thankless task of backfilling. Alan Hall again played a key role in setting up and carrying out the work on site. Margaret Broomfield has coordinated all aspects of the work on the finds, most of it carried out by AARG. We are now in a position to know what we can expect to achieve with fieldwork (so long as it does not rain very much) and to have a much better idea about what questions we can hope to answer and how to tackle them. If funding can be secured for the key aspects of environmental sampling and a scientific study of the tiles (including 'Ashted' patterns found elsewhere), then this will add further to the important results that can now be expected from this programme of work.

Please note that this year's excavation is planned for 27th-31st August; 3rd-7th September and 10th-14th September. Further information will be made available in due course.

WAS SURREY CELTIC?

Gavin Smith

Graham Gower (*Bulletin 404*) raises the issue of our earliest place-names. Perhaps there are four principal questions needing an answer:

1. Were our prior Surrey place-names Celtic?
2. Do any Romano-British (RB) place-names remain?
3. When were most of them replaced?
4. By whom, and why?

Taking the second question first: clearly, some Romano-British names survive. Notably London, and further afield, names like Kent, Dover and parts of the names Winchester and St Albans (a Roman ecclesiast). The names, in other words, of the region's chief 'central places' (in geographer's terms), and, to a smaller extent the names of its subregions and institutions. This raises the question of lesser central places. Several of the Surrey place-names Gower cites as possibly Celtic or Latin (Croydon, Chertsey, Leatherhead, Caterham by the *cadet* of War Coppice hill-fort?) are those of our local central places. So did the basic economic structure of north and east Surrey survive the Dark Ages, together with the names of its central places? Possibly, yes.

Then there is that set of north-east Surrey *walh* place-names. *Walh* is regarded as meaning 'foreigner, Briton, slave'; but could it mean 'British-speaker'? Note that these names may be no earlier than the late 7th century, since some contain the relatively late element *tun*². Once again the names seem associated with local central places: Wallington (a hundred name), Walton on Thames (site of a sub-minster)³, Walworth (by Southwark), *Waleport* (by Kingston). This distinctive pattern presumably has social significance – I would suggest, economic and political.

The third question – when were Romano-British place-names replaced – may be partially answered by these *tun* names. Answer, perhaps: relatively late. The 250 years between the departure of the Roman legions in 410 and the late 7th century is

about ten generations - plenty of time for an extant population to change its cultural fashions, including the language of its dominant classes. There is no over-riding need to assume some massive influx of new-comers. Instead, we may presume some consistent and very strong cultural influences.

The fourth question – by whom and why our Romano-British place-names were changed. (I'm assuming that every RB settlement and farm had a name, having never met a culture where they didn't). Top candidates must be John Morris's⁴ Germanic *foederati* settled in north-east Surrey by Roman and post-Roman authorities to defend London and the south-east coast (of whom the most famous but perhaps merely the most recent was Hengist). Did these *foederati* become the tall pagan 7th century Germanic heroes Poulton⁵ notes buried ostentaciously in barrows across north-east and central Surrey, and are Hine's⁶ Germanic folk the same lot? Again there is perhaps no need to suppose some later and larger Germanic influx into our part of the world (though the situation could be very different in East Anglia).

Elsewhere I have proposed several 7th century place re-naming processes⁷. Each infers a distinct estate re-naming agent, or combination of agents. These models infer four additional later 7th century candidates for estate re-namers. Thus, the name 'Surrey' could be a royal ecclesiastical Kentish *-ge* ('territory') re-naming associated with a putative minster at Southwark c605, 'south' of St Paul's (see also Smith, SyAS Bulletin 372). Then, *-ingas* names (Godalming, Dorking, etc.) could be a royal ecclesiastical Wessex re-naming of the estate at the focus of each hundred in south-west and central Surrey associated with the diocese of Dorchester on Thames (from c635), using a Germanic formula derived from East Anglia (Bulletin 369). While *-ham* parish names in north Surrey (Egham, Chobham, Cobham, Cheam, etc.) could be a Mercian re-naming (containing the current estate-holder's name) of estates captured in the 670's, again using a Germanic formula derived from East and Middle Anglia, recorded by the authorities at their pro-cathedral Chertsey Abbey (whose 'province' retained its Kentish ecclesiastical name, 'Surrey') (Bulletin 376). East Anglia is influential because of its probable Germanic population influx and its support (together with the successor over-kingship of Northumbria) for the Latin and Irish Church from the days of over-king Raedwald c620 onwards.

Thus (*pace* Gower) Mitcham, Streatham, Peckham, Balham, etc. may not be very early Germanic *-ham* names from *foederati* days; unless perhaps they contain *-hamm* ('enclosure', as in Eynsham one of the four *tunas*, see below), in which case conceivably they might be.

Dating from *foederati* days probably are however, the *-dun* names of north-east Surrey (Wimbledon, Morden, Waddon, etc.), using a *patois* Germanic formula derived ultimately perhaps from British *-dunon*, 'hill (settlement)'.⁸ Parallel may be names in *-cumb*, 'valley (settlement?)', as at Coombe in both Kingston and Croydon, derived from a word that became Welsh *cwm* ('valley'). But most significantly, perhaps the subsequently dominant *-tun* names in Surrey are concentrated in a band (Ditton, Merton, Beddington, Addington, etc.) intermingling with, and south of, the *-dun* names. Rather radically, I have suggested (Bulletin 376) that *tun* may not be a parallel to Germanic *zaun* ('fence/enclosure') but a development of *dun*: as perhaps visible in the paired estate names Morden/Merton which could once have been a single name before being split between two hundreds.

The picture I am painting (shared by the late Kenneth Cameron) is one of British/*foederati* cultural fusion, emanating outwards from north-east Surrey and dating from a period embracing the perhaps late 7th century *walh-tun* names Walton and Wallington. Given that eastern England became illiterate during the 5th and 6th centuries, it is not surprising that most, lesser, Romano-British estate names

perished. Nobody was writing them down. When Church and kings recommenced recording estate names, after AD 600, they used names appropriate to their own times (though retaining many of the RB main central place names). Personal-names too, whether of Britons or new-comers, would have been Germanised by them (just as they were to be Normanised soon after 1066 – it's a class and fashion thing). Now, John Morris is good on the limited Continental, Irish and Welsh documentation – often ecclesiastical – of the times. But the even thinner English evidence does at least not contradict the models suggested above. Most events the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* (ASC) records for before AD 600 are associated with place-names either of the *-burh* ('fort') or *-ford* type, or are Romano-British derived. For AD 457 the ASC says '(the Britons) fled to the fortress of London' (perhaps 'their' fortress?). The suffix *-dun* appears first in the ASC with *Wibbandun* (traditionally identified with Wimbledon), re AD 568. That of *-tun* appears first in the four *tunas* (Eynsham, Aylesbury, etc., subsequently royal estates, west of the Chilterns and close to Buckinghamshire's *-dun* zone) the ASC records for AD 571, and *-ge* appears first in a royal ecclesiastical charter of AD 605⁹ re the name of the Kentish minster site Sturry. *-ham* first in a Mercian charter of c675 concerning Chertsey Abbey, Mercia's pro-cathedral whose 'provincia' retained its Kentish name *Surrey*. All merely circumstantial evidence, but perhaps useful.

So, our very first question – were prior Surrey place-names Celtic? This is not a rhetorical question. 'Briton/British' were the terms Bede and the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* normally use. Were our Britons Celtic? Recently, some writers¹⁰ have suggested eastern England's pre-Roman inhabitants were of Germanic stock, speaking a Germanic language that ultimately became 'English'. They argue for example that the Iron Age Belgae were Germanic-speakers from Belgium, and genetic and linguistic supporting arguments might be sought in Oppenheimer¹¹ or Sims-Williams¹². So, have names like Leatherhead, Penge, Caterham, Limpsfield and Liss been misinterpreted as containing Celtic elements? Are their elements early English instead? The case remains unproven. My own guess is that the 'Celtic' person *Cerot* appearing in the name Chertsey could be (like *Maelduib* at Malmesbury) an Irish founder abbot. My further inclination is that the Weald and London itself (though not its Dark Age Frisian traders) may have spoken Celtic even if other parts of the South East did not. The clue again may lie in our place-names. If we could but agree from which language come *-ford* (Guildford and *Craeganford* / Crayford -from which the Britons did their fleeing to London in AD 457) and *-leah* (Horley, Ripley and *Andredesleage* – the Wealden waste into which the ASC has the Britons flee from Roman *Anderitu* / Pevensey in AD 477). *-ford* resembles both Welsh *rhyd* and German *furt*; *-leah*, Latin *lucus* and English dialect *lea*. Are they Celtic or Germanic?

References

1. JEB Gover, et al., *Place-Names of Surrey*, 1934, EPNS.
2. M Gelling, *Signposts to the Past*, 1988.
3. J Blair, *Early Modern Surrey*, 1991, SAS.
4. J Morris, *The Age of Arthur, a History of the British Isles from 350 to 650*, 1973.
5. R Poulton, Saxon Surrey, in (eds) J&DG Bird, *The Archaeology of Surrey to 1540*, 1987, SAS.
6. J Hines, Suth-ege, the foundations of Surrey, in (eds) J Cotton et al, *Aspects of Archaeology and History in Surrey*, 2004, SAS.
7. Smith, *Place-Names of Surrey*, Heart of Albion Press, 2005.
8. See 3.
9. E Ekwall, *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*, 4th edn, 1960.
10. MJ Harper, *The History of Britain Revealed*, 2002.
11. S Oppenheimer, *The Origins of the British*, 2006.
12. P Sims-Williams, *Ancient Celtic Place-Names in Europe and Asia Minor*, 2006.

A NOTE FROM M J LEPPARD

Graham Gowers' thought-provoking article in *Bulletin* 404 prompts the tentative suggestion that in some cases the Saxon settlers might have translated the Celtic or Roman place-names they found in use. How that could ever be substantiated, however, it seems impossible to say.

COUNCIL NEWS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Peter Youngs

The Society's Annual General Meeting was held on 25th November 2007 in Guildford's Guildhall. It was preceded by a brief Special General Meeting at which approval was given for the anachronistic entrance fees for new members (hitherto £1.00 for full members and £0.25 for student members) to be reduced to zero; it was explained that the fees could not simply be abolished without amending the Society's formal Memorandum of Association.

In his report to the AGM the President, David Graham, drew attention to the Annual Report for the year to 31st March 2007 that had been circulated to all members beforehand; he then provided an up-date on the latest developments, the main points of which are summarised below. The full minutes will be published in due course.

A major issue continued to be the future of the Society's accommodation at Castle Arch; discussions with Guildford Borough Council were continuing and the Society was hopeful that it would be able to negotiate a favourable new lease, with the possibility of more space being made available in the medium term.

The President told the meeting that he had set up a small working Group, under Mr Alan Bott, to review the workings of the Society and to make recommendations for any changes the Review Group thought necessary. The Group was due to report to Council in March 2008; in the meantime it would welcome comments from the Society's members generally, which should be sent to the Honorary Secretary at Castle Arch.

The Bulletin would, in future, be reduced to six issues a year; the cost savings would allow the use of colour for photographs or illustrations. Work was continuing on a new and sophisticated website which would provide an additional source of information about Society events. Was there a volunteer in the audience willing to be Website Manager? [There was no immediate taker and the offer remains open]

The specialist Groups continued to thrive and during the past year there had been a number of excavations and surveys; more were planned for 2008, including a possible training dig at Cobham. The Society had also started to acquire 'high-tech' equipment which would enable geophysical surveys to be undertaken in-house.

The President thanked all those who had given their time to the Society during the year mentioning in particular the Honorary Editors for the *Collections*, the *Bulletin* and *Surrey History*, as well as John Price for the displays he provided at numerous events across the County, and Chris Taylor for his work with the Local Secretaries. The Castle Arch staff, the public 'face' of the Society, were thanked for their unflinching cheerfulness and efficiency. Sheila Ashcroft, the Assistant Librarian, was however retiring; the President especially thanked her for her services and extended the Society's good wishes for the future. Finally he thanked the retiring Members of Council for their work on behalf of the Society – Margaret Broomfield, Gabby Rapson and Edward Walker.

The Honorary Treasurer introduced the Report of the Directors and the Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2007 as previously circulated. These showed a wholly

satisfactory financial position. M G Beattie & Co Ltd were re-appointed as Auditors or Examiners, as appropriate, of the Society's accounts for the current year.

The President welcomed Rosemary Hughesdon, who was elected as the new Honorary Librarian, and introduced David Calow, who was elected to take over from Peter Youngs as Honorary Secretary. The other Honorary Officers and the Vice-Presidents were duly re-elected; Jon Cotton and Peter Youngs were also elected Vice-Presidents. Janet Balchin, John Boulton, Nikki Cowlard, Alan Hall, and Chris Taylor were elected as new Members of Council to serve for four years.

In a less formal vein, before the meetings Marjorie Williams led a small group to see a few of Guildford's historic buildings which, with others, were the subject of an illustrated talk after the AGM by Mary Alexander. Both the visits and the talk were much appreciated. Also appreciated was the assistance of the Guildhall staff who, as well as making the room available, arranged for refreshments and made it possible for those present to see the Guildford regalia.

NEW MEMBERS

Susan Janaway

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

Name	Address	Principal Interests
Alexander, Ms I	Hill Rise Deanery Road Godalming GU7 2PG	Roman
Atherton, Ms K	Brook Meadow Mid Holmwood Lane Mid Holmwood RH5 4HE	Holmwood and Dorking
Carr, Ms E	Tall Trees Woodland Avenue Cranleigh GU6 7HZ	Environmental history
Clampitt, Mr R W	Waltham Cottage Horsham Road Capel Dorking RH5 5JJ	Roman through to Late Saxon
Evans, Mr D J	Pegasus Cottage 56 Cheapside Horsell Woking GU21 4JL	Bronze, Iron and Romano-British. Also World War II defences
Forrester, Miss N A	96 Conifer Way Swanley Kent BR8 7UJ	Guildford
Harvey, Dr T A	8 Friars Gate Onslow Village Guildford GU2 7PQ	Conservation and processing artefacts, buildings and Industrial Archaeology
Hewitson, Mr E	97 Habershon Drive Frimley Camberley GU16 9YW	
Hinton, Mr C R	Christmas Hill Chinthurst Lane	Local History

Horgan, Miss S	Shalford Guildford GU4 8JS 115 Dorset Road Wimbledon London SW19 3EQ	Wanting to gain experience and knowledge of practical archaeology and the historical archaeology of the local area
Lattimer, Mr M G	37 Norfolk Farm Road Woking GU22 8LF	
Mitchell, Mr I E	Greenway Cottage Greenway Tatsfield Westerham TN16 2BT	Local History
Musser, Miss R	Room B House 24 University of Surrey Guildford GU2 7TG	
Sadler, Ms H	71 Crondall Lane Farnham GU9 7DG	Pre-Roman
Shepherd, Mr D P	36 Strathcona Avenue Bookham KT23 4HP	Classical civilisations, archaeology and palaeontology
Smith-Jones, Mr H	75 Caen Wood Road Ashtead KT21 2JE	Romano-British
Thirtettle, Mr M E	2 Echo Hurst 17 Warwicks Bench Road Guildford GU1 3TQ	Landscape, village settlements, lime kilns and quarries
Ward, Mr M	17 The Mead Glory Mead Dorking RH4 2NG	
Widdowson, Mr F C	2 Fairoak Close Kenley CR8 5LJ	The development of East Surrey 100BC-1500AD

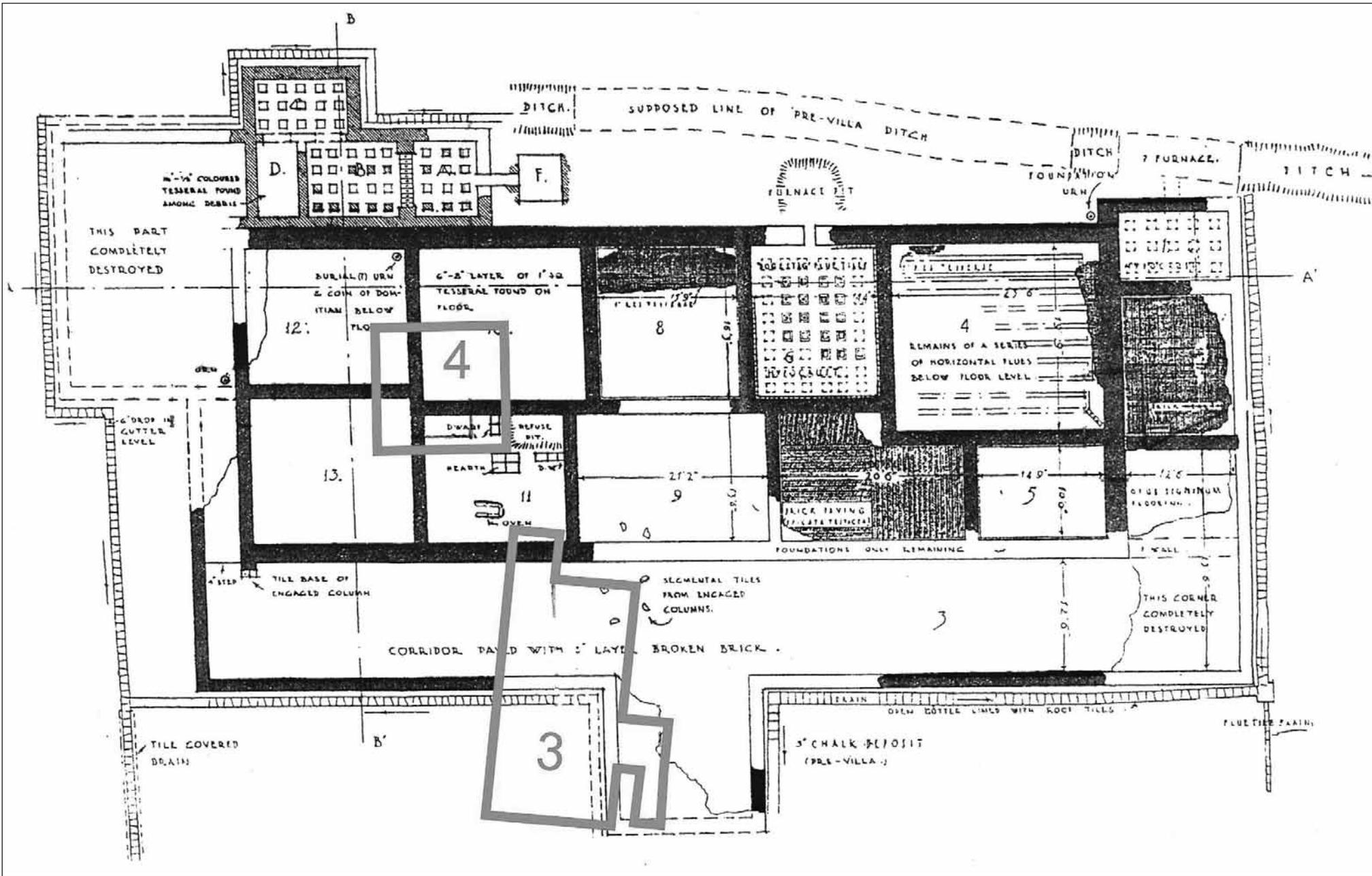
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

Saturday 23rd February 2008, 10am-5pm

**ASHTEAD PEACE MEMORIAL HALL,
WOODFIELD LANE, ASHTEAD**

- 10am Chairman's Introduction (David Graham, President SyAS)
Romano-British Site at Hatch Furlong, Ewell *Jon Cotton*, Museum of London
Working with Volunteers at Chilworth Gunpowder Mills *Andrew Norris*, Surrey Industrial History Group, SyAS
- 10.50 coffee
- 11.20 **Prehistoric Creation of the Downlands** *Mike Allen*, University of Sussex
Recent Work of the Surrey County Archaeological Unit
Betchworth Castle *Martin Higgins*, Historic Buildings Officer, SCC



ASHTEAD ROMAN VILLA: Trench location plan overlaid on the plan of the villa published in 1930. (Photo by Alan Hall)

- 12.35 lunch
 2pm Margary Award
Landscape Survey Projects:
Newark Priory *Jeanette Hicks, SyAS*
The Bee Garden; an Earthwork at Albury Bottom, Chobham Common *Isabel Ellis, SyAS*
Holmbury Hill *Rose Hooker, SyAS*
The Society's New Website *Andrew Larcombe, SyAS*
- 3.05 tea
 3.35 **exploringsurreypast.org.uk** *Giles Carey, SCC*
Ashtead Roman Villa *David Bird, SyAS*
Waynflete's Tower, Esher *Peter Harp, SyAS*
Surrey Finds *David Williams, Surrey Finds Liaison Officer SCC*
- 4.45 close

If you have not already bought your ticket, now is the time! Tickets are cheaper in advance. A programme/booking form was included with the December Bulletin. If you've lost it, just send £8 (cheque payable to '2008 ARC Symposium') and sae to Sue Janaway at Castle Arch. Tickets on the door: £10.

There is ample parking behind the hall, which is 10 minutes walk from Ashtead railway station. A selection of pubs and cafes are nearby.

PREHISTORIC GROUP

BRONZE AGE WARFARE

The Granary, South Park, Bletchingley
15th March 2008, 2.30pm

Julie Wileman will discuss her PhD topic on Bronze Age warfare at this meeting. Numbers will be strictly limited, so if anyone is interested in attending could they contact Rose Hooker as soon as possible since the list is growing.

Tel: 01293 411176 or e-mail: rosemary.hooker@btinternet.com

DOMESTIC BUILDINGS RESEARCH GROUP

2008 WORKSHOP SERIES

Upper Hall, Shalford Village Halls, Kings Road, Shalford (TQ005469)

Each meeting opens at 7pm for a prompt start at 7.30 pm. No admission fee – Guests welcome.

Thursday 21st February **VARIATIONS IN TIMBER-FRAMED BUILDINGS IN SURREY**

Martin Higgins

Thursday 20th March **SURREY PROBATE INVENTORIES 1558-1603**

Brigid Fice

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 19th April, 11am

Wanborough Village Hall (SU 934 489)

At 2pm there will also be a guided tour of the Great Barn (1388), St Bartholomew Church (early 13th century), and the Granary (late 18th/early 19th century).

MEDIEVAL STUDIES FORUM & VILLAGE STUDIES GROUP

VISIT TO BAGSHOT

Saturday 8th March

The Archaeology Centre, 4-10 London Road, Bagshot, GU19 5HN

Please note that there has been a change in the date of this meeting:

Originally advertised in *Bulletin* 405 as the 15th March; it will now take place on Saturday 8th March.

10am Presentation by *Peter Tipton* on the important **Border Ware** pottery industry, demonstrating how local history studies have played a major part in defining many aspects of this industry in conjunction with the artefact studies.

Phil Stevens will follow with a presentation on **The development of Bagshot Park and Village**, using both archaeological and historical sources, and setting the development of the settlement in the context of the Forest organisation of NW Surrey. He will also conduct an introductory tour of the Surrey Heath Archaeology Centre.

After lunch there will be a **Walking Tour of Bagshot Village** centre, which will include visits to the medieval wall paintings dated to the decade from 1537 to 1547 in the earlier timber-framed building at 44 High Street – formerly the Red Lion and earlier still the Saracen's Head (see *Bulletin* 366, April 2003) – and to various other medieval and post-medieval buildings in the village centre.

Finally *Peter Tipton* will demonstrate **HEATHHIST**, a web-based research forum for local archaeological and historical societies in NW Surrey, NE Hampshire and SE Berkshire, as a model that could be followed elsewhere to facilitate a more interactive approach among those working on Surrey's heritage.

There is plenty of parking at the Centre; tea and coffee will be available from 9.30am. There will be a charge of £5 payable on the day.

Application forms have been sent to members of the Medieval Studies Forum and the Village Studies Group; however, the meeting is open to all members of the Society and application forms can be obtained from Richard and Pamela Savage (medforum@hotmail.co.uk or tel 01483 768875) or Phil Stevens (philstevens@ntlworld.com or tel 01276 506182).

ROMAN STUDIES GROUP



David Bird

THE USES OF WATER IN ROMAN BRITAIN

31st May 2008, Chertsey Hall

A day-long conference is being prepared, chaired by **Professor Michael Fulford** and with speakers expected to include **Professor Miranda Green** (on religious aspects); **Bill**

Putnam (on the Dorchester aqueduct); **Ian Blair** (on the London water-lifting machine); and **Dr Bob Spain** (on watermills).

This should be a very interesting event so pencil in the day now! Further details will be made available in due course.

FROM DINING ROOMS TO CHURCHES: The Ritual Use of Domestic Space in Roman Britain

A note should already have appeared before this one, but please note that the date of *Dominic Perring's* talk to the Group will be on 12th February (not 14th as stated in a previous Bulletin). The subject should be of interest to a wide range of the Society's membership; come along and help us to fill the hall!

SURREY LOCAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

The Committee regrets that it has been necessary to cancel the Spring Meeting it was proposing to hold at Godstone on 8th March and apologise to members of the Society for any inconvenience that this may cause. **Alan Crocker**

MISCELLANY

STORM ALERT AT NEWARK PRIORY

Jeanette Hicks

A routine call to Grayshott Farm to check whether the Newark Priory site was open following foot-and-mouth closure resulted in a quick dash to view a fallen tree. The amount of tile debris on view led to a 'rescue' evaluation on Friday 4th December when, in the teeth of a bitter north wind (even Jessie the dog complained), we paddled into a hole in the bank left by the bole of a large oak tree. This had been tied to the bank to prevent it being swept away by the full flood of the Eel Trap stream. Incidentally, the Environment Agencies' intention was to stand it up again!

The tiles, which at first sight had fooled me by having a swirl of frost masquerading as white slip, were actually in and around the roots of an older oak, which pre-dated the fallen one. English Heritage had agreed to the removal of the tiles, so we have approximately 2 kilos to identify and date. Is there an expert who can help, please?



Newark Priory Rescue: Personnel, left to right – Judie English, Gillian Lachelin, Jeanette Hicks, Margaret Broomfield, Geoff Stonehouse. (Photo: Isabel Ellis.)

The position of the tiles suggest they pre-date Captain Pearce's 1928 excavation, so, are they priory rubble used at some time to repair the bank? Were they discarded when good stone was removed by river? Or is there a kiln nearby? Yet another query in the Newark Priory saga.

My thanks to the intrepid team who joined me at very short notice.

WOKING PALACE: Heritage Lottery Fund Grant

It is reported that the HLF have offered a grant of £30,700 to the Friends of Woking Palace to improve the presentation of, and access to, this important site.

Dennis Turner

RECENT ENGLISH HERITAGE AND RELATED PUBLICATIONS

A new expanded version of *Informing the Future for the Past. Guidelines of the Historic Environment Records* was launched in late June. There are over 300 pages and 69 illustrations, many of them in full colour. It is said to be available 'free' on line at www.ifp-plus.info.

The *Buildings at Risk Register for 2007* was published by English Heritage last July. The printed version comes in two volumes, one for London and the other for the rest of the country. Only the former has illustrations. The information is said to be available electronically at www.english-heritage.org.uk/bar

Heritage Counts 2007 is the sixth annual survey of the state of England's historic environment. It is five years since the publication of the original *State of the Historic Environment* and this year's report looks at the principal changes which have occurred in the historic environment since 2002. It also includes a focus on the historic environment as a learning resource and on the issues faced by the sector in relation to the skills of the workforce. Alongside the national report, a suite of regional reports provide further detail on the state of the historic environment in each of the nine government office regions. *Heritage Counts* was prepared by English Heritage on behalf of the Historic Environment Executive Committee and the Regional Environment Forums [sic] and all the components, including a summary, are said to be viewable on-line at www.heritagecounts.org.uk

English Heritage rightly draws attention to the publication by government in 2007 of three key documents which will set the framework for the management of the historic environment for a number of years to come, viz:

DCMS's long awaited White Paper *Heritage Protection for the 21st Century* (March).

Department for Communities and Local Government White Paper *Planning for a Sustainable Future* (May). (As the proposals in this document seem to lay the way open for an even less democratic approach to major infra-structure projects, the title was probably not *intentionally* ironic.)

The Treasury's *Comprehensive Spending Review* (October 9th).

It would seem that the traditional procedure of publishing Green Papers for public consultation before issuing White Papers seems to have been abandoned.

DISPLAY YOUR WORK AT GUILDFORD MUSEUM

Guildford Museum is offering archaeologists the chance to publicise their work, formally or informally. This is a chance to let people know what you are doing without having to wait until the site is published. The work does not have to be finished – it can be work in progress. The space available can vary from a small panel of text and

pictures, to a case for objects. There is also the chance of evening receptions for the public.

For further information contact Mary Alexander at Guildford Museum, Castle Arch, Guildford, GU1 3SX; 01483 444750; or mary.alexander@guildford.gov.uk

COMMUNITY EXCAVATION IN SOUTHWARK

Kate Sutton

Finds Liaison Officer and Community Archaeologist, LAARC

Following on from the success of the previous years' community excavations in east and north London, this year the LAARC (London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre) team headed south to Walworth in Southwark. Schools, families and other local groups all participated in this summer's Museum of London community dig.

The excavation took place in the grounds of Michael Faraday Primary School located within the Aylesbury Estate. The estate is renowned as the largest estate in Europe, with a very diverse population who are living in challenging circumstances.

Before commencing with the dig, we investigated the history of the site through old maps and written sources. The earliest map of the area, dated 1681, shows little settlement in the area and the land seems to have been open fields or woodlands belonging to Walworth manor. By 1799, there was more development, with rows of small terraced houses that had long narrow gardens and small front yards. The site continued to develop and by the mid 19th century there were tightly packed streets of working-class houses and workhouses, and by 1873 two common schools, one for boys and another for girls and infants.

At the end of May, Charlie North (MoLAS Senior Archaeologist) and I opened the evaluation trench. Peeling back the layers, we uncovered foundations and surfaces which were likely to relate to the Victorian school and possibly the 18th century terraced housing. In addition, we also found evidence of the 18th century gardens and the first artefacts were revealed, including pottery, clay pipes, glass fragments and building material; all typical objects for this type of site.

For two weeks the pupils from the Michael Faraday Primary School and other local schools became archaeologists. We also opened the dig during the weekend and ran after-school sessions for families and other local groups to participate. Each session comprised an introduction to archaeology, the site and the history of the area; the groups learned excavation techniques and took part in the dig, then moved on to finds processing where they discovered more about the artefacts and finally how their findings added to the interpretation of the site.

Each day, pottery, clay pipes, bone and building material turned up as well as some star finds including a Mesolithic flint blade, medieval pottery and Victorian slate pencils. Information, photographs and results were regularly posted on the fence of the school and online (www.museumoflondon/communitydig.org.uk). Our on-line presence consisted of images, videos and a blog that could be updated by members of the public as well as staff.

Early results from the evaluation forms reveal that all involved enjoyed the sessions and improved their understanding of archaeology and their local history. The audience with which we were engaged were not traditional museum visitors and previous exposure to archaeology or heritage had been limited. One teacher reported that 50% of her class were now considering archaeology as a career option.

The Museum's contact with this estate will be continued in the form of a follow-up visit in the autumn term to the Michael Faraday Primary School. Talks and visits to local community groups and the results of the dig will be published both in paper form and online.

Thanks to Ralph Jackson, John Shepherd and the University of East London; Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Excavation Committee; Spear and Jackson and the Standing Conference on London Archaeology, whose donations and contributions made the community dig possible.

HELEN ALLINGHAM'S PAINTINGS REVISITED

Helen Allingham (1848-1926) made her name painting vernacular architecture in the Home Counties, with occasional excursions into Gloucestershire and Devon. Annabel Watts (who lectured recently to the DBRG) has revisited as many of the locations as she could find and shown what the intervening years have wrought in a new publication. *Helen Allingham's Cottage Homes Revisited* (issued by Craddocks Printing Works, Great George Street, Godalming, GU7 1EE).

In many cases, the outsides of the cottages have changed little but in most the ambience has changed much. The 'cottages' have clearly moved sharply up-market while ill-kempt hedges and roadsides have given way to roads and verges fit for motor cars.

GOODBYE SURREY? DOES ANYONE CARE ABOUT OUR HERITAGE?

An Illustrated Lecture and Reception by Dr Simon Thurley, Chief Executive, English Heritage

The Menuhin Hall, Stoke D'Abernon, Surrey

Friday 20th June 2008

Doors open at 6.30pm and the lecture commences at 7pm. It is possible to picnic in the grounds and a cash bar will be available from 6.45pm.

Tickets: £12 (including a glass of wine), available from the box office of The Menuhin School, Stoke d'Abernon, Surrey KT11 3QQ (SAE please) or from the Society at Castle Arch, Guildford, GU1 3SX.

VISITS

EARLY MEDIEVAL TREASURES OF BURGUNDY

17th-24th May 2008

An eight day, two-centre tour led by Dennis Turner and Dr Pamela Marshall

The tour will concentrate on monuments from the 11th to 13th centuries and will include visits to **Tournous, Cluny, Paray-le-Monial, Autun, Fontenay** and **Vézelay** £1025 (£95 single supplement) to include half-board hotel accommodation; travel by Eurostar to France and by TGV and coach in France; admission fees, gratuities, etc.

Further details from Pamela Marshall, Realms of Gold Travel, Mylnmede, Moor Lane, Potterhanworth, Lincoln, LN4 2DZ. Tel: 01522 792 780

E-mail: p.marshall752@byinternet.com; www.realmsofgold.co.uk

LECTURE MEETINGS

14th February

"Historic Kingston Buildings" by Ian West 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.

15th February

“The Great British Seaside” by Brian Bloice to the Leatherhead & District Local History Society in the Abraham Dixon Hall at the Letherhead Institute at 7.30 for 8pm. Visitors £2.

18th February

“Brixton Windmill” by Richard Santhiri to the Streatham Society at ‘Woodlawns’, 16 Leigham Court Road at 8pm.

19th February

“The Sentinel Steam Engine” by Jim Hatfield to Surrey Industrial History Group (32nd Series of Industrial Archaeology Lectures) in Lecture Theatre ‘F’, University of Surrey, Guildford, 7.30-9.30 pm. Fee for single lecture £5, payable on the night.

19th February

“Secret Surrey” by Brian Thorne to the Sunbury and Shepperton Local History Society in the Theatre at Halliford School, Russell Road, Shepperton at 8pm. Visitors £1.

20th February

“Haig and Montgomery, a Comparison” by Gordon Corrigan to the Surrey Branch of the Western Front Association at the Day Centre, Lushington Drive, Cobham (behind Waitrose) at 7.45 pm. Admission free but donations welcome to cover costs.

28th February

“St Anne’s Hill” by Emma Warren to Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society in the Main Hall, Literary Institute, High Street, Egham at 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1.

1st March

“The Changing Face of London from the air” by Tom Samson to Carshalton & District History and Archaeology Society in Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, off Nightingale Road, Carshalton at 3 pm. Visitors welcome £1.

3rd March

“Brooklands Centenary: life and times of the world’s first motor track” by Tony Hutchings to Woking History Society in Mayford Village Hall, Saunders Lane, Mayford at 7.45 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £2.

3rd March

“Recent Local History Discoveries” by various speakers to the Streatham Society at ‘Woodlawns’, 16 Leigham Court Road at 8pm.

4th March

“Richard Trevethick – steam pioneer” by Peter Maynard to Addlestone Historical Society at Addlestone Community Centre at 8 pm. Visitors welcome £2.

4th March

“Mills of the Muslim World” by Michael Harverson to Surrey Industrial History Group (32nd Series of Industrial Archaeology Lectures) in Lecture Theatre ‘F’, University of Surrey, Guildford, 7.30-9.30 pm. Fee for single lecture £5, payable on the night.

4th March

“Young Henry VIII” by Hampton Court curator Brett Dolman in Kingston Museum Art Gallery at 7pm. Tickets: £3.50. Tel: 020 8547 6460; www.kingston.gov.uk/eticketing

4th March

“Aspects of Saxon London” by Bob Cowie, 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.

4th March

“Surrey Vineyards Ancient and Modern” by Richard Selley to Dorking Local History

Group at the Friends' Meeting House, Butter Hill, South Street, Dorking at 7.30 pm. Visitors welcome £1.

5th March

"The Archaeology of Leicester Abbey" by Richard Buckley 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.

6th March

"The Great Fire of 1986 – Hampton Court" by Dennis Ashbourne to Farnham & District Museum in the hall of the United Reformed Church, South Street, Farnham at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

10th March

"Riverside Royal Palaces and Religious Houses of West London" by Bob Cowie to Richmond Local History Society at The Old Town Hall, Whittaker Avenue, Richmond at 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1.

10th March

"Medieval Woking" by Richard Savage to 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.

11th March

"Barn Construction" by Joe Thompson to Westcott Local History Group in the Meeting Room, Institution Road, Westcott at 8 pm.

11th March

"The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London, Past and Present" by Dee Cook to the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society in The Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut, almost opposite the Old Vic Theatre at 7 for 7.30 pm. Visitors welcome £1.

11th March

"Kingston's Inns, Ale Houses and Pubs" by Richard Holmes to the Friends of Kingston Museum in Kingston Museum Art Gallery, Wheatfield Way, Kingston at 7 for 7.30 pm. Voluntary donation of £1.50 to cover expenses is suggested.

13th March

"Excavations at Oatlands Palace" by Rob Poulton 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.

13th March

"Feast to Famine, Elizabeth to Victoria" by Margaret Henderson to Farnham & District Museum in the hall of the United Reformed Church, South Street, Farnham at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

13th March

"Channel Tunnel Rail Link Investigations Within the Lea Valley" by Andy Crockett to the Streatham Society at 'Woodlawns', 16 Leigham Court Road at 6.30pm.

14th March

"The Human Occupation of Britain" by Chris Stringer or Nick Ashton to Richmond Archaeological Society in the Vestry Hall, Paradise Road, Richmond at 8 pm. Visitors welcome by donation.

18th March

"Cobham Park" by David Taylor to the Sunbury and Shepperton Local History Society in the Theatre at Halliford School, Russell Road, Shepperton at 8pm. Visitors £1.

19th March

“Armoured Cars in the Great War” by David Fletcher to the Surrey Branch of the Western Front Association at the Day Centre, Lushington Drive, Cobham (behind Waitrose) at 7.45 pm. Admission free but donations welcome to cover costs.

20th March

“The Enigma Story” by Ron Croucher to Farnham & District Museum in the hall of the United Reformed Church, South Street, Farnham at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

27th March

“Sculpture in Ancient Egypt” by Dorothy Downes to Farnham & District Museum in the hall of the United Reformed Church, South Street, Farnham at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

27th March

AGM of Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society in the Main Hall, Literary Institute, High Street, Egham at 8 pm. Members only.

1st April

“The History of the Crystal Palace” by Ian Bevan, following the AGM of Dorking Local History Group at the Friends’ Meeting House, Butter Hill, South Street, Dorking at 7.30 pm. Visitors welcome £1.

2nd April

“Letters and Letter Boxes: The History of the Postal Service” by Brian Bloice to the Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society at St Mary’s Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 7.45 for 8pm.

2nd April

“Hanoverians and Archaeology?” by Dr Thomas Cocke 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 April

“Steaming on – Britain’s Heritage Railways” by Paul Whittle to Carshalton & District History and Archaeology Society in Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, off Nightingale Road, Carshalton at 3 pm. Visitors welcome £1.

7th April

“Surrey on film, 1914-1953” by Di Stiff to Woking History Society in Mayford Village Hall, Saunders Lane, Mayford at 7.45 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £2.

8th April

“Wenceslaus Hollar, the man who drew London” by Gillian Tindall to the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society in The Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut, almost opposite the Old Vic Theatre at 7 for 7.30 pm. Visitors welcome £1.

10th April

“Archaeological Surveying in Surrey” by Judie English 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.

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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 9th March for the April issue.

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