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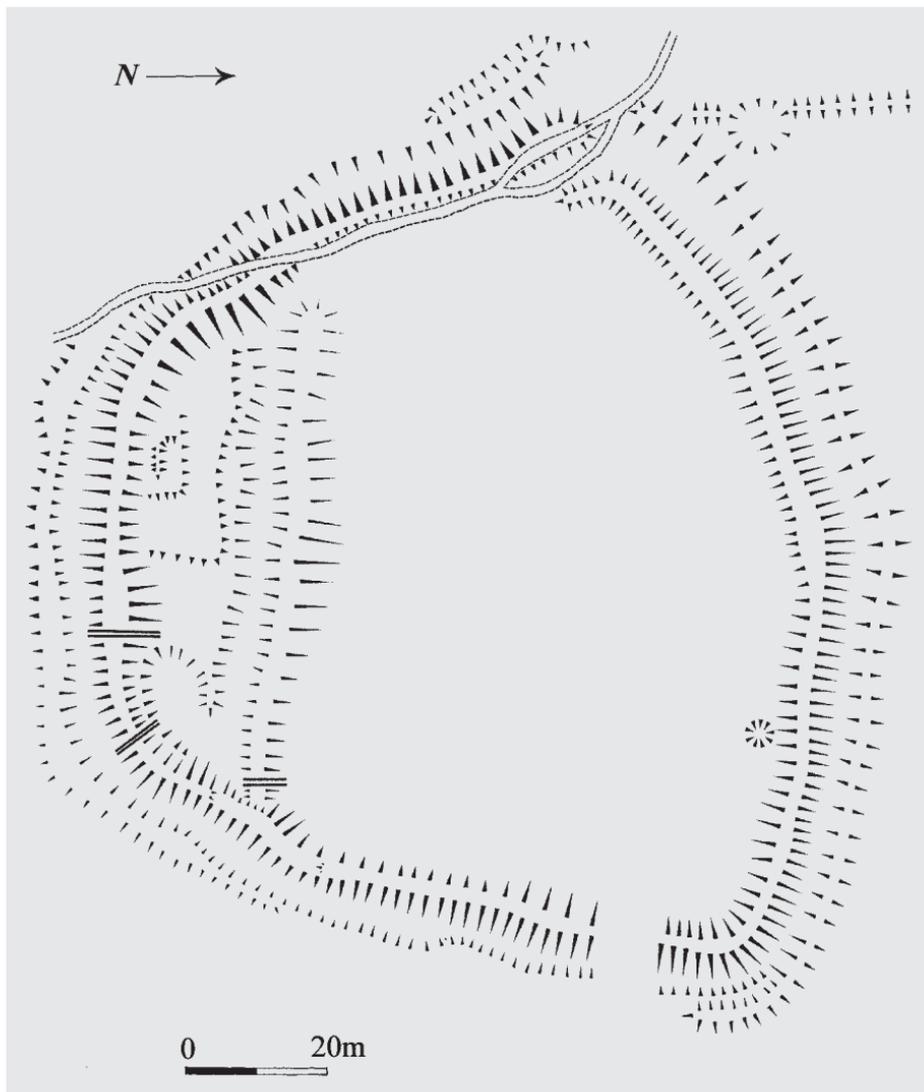
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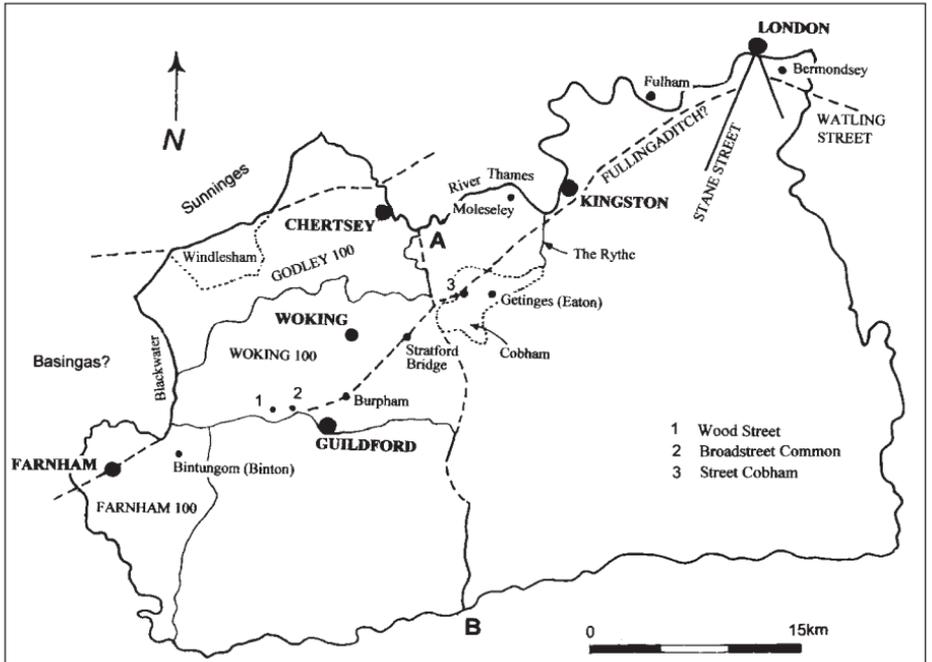


THE BEE GARDEN, CHOBHAM COMMON

**FINDING THE *FULLINGADIC* :
FRITHUWOLD'S ENDOWMENT OF CHERTSEY ABBEY, AND NEW
PERSPECTIVES ON SURREY IN THE 7th CENTURY** *Rob Briggs*

The charter in which Frithuwold, sub-king of the then Mercian-controlled 'province' of Surrey, increased the size of the monastic estate belonging to the monastery at Chertsey to 300 hides, can be reliably dated to 672-74. It is not prudent to include the content of the entire document here (full Latin transcription in Whitelock 1979, 54; English translation in Blair 1988, 97-98); instead quotations of relevant passages will be given in order to illustrate a number of points that appear to be problematic with previous interpretations. Central to this is the enormous size of the grant. It has been hitherto dismissed as deliberate inflation or a scribal error, but may in fact represent an accurate (as far as early medieval hidages can be considered accurate) estimation of the area being granted to the monastery. Four other estates of 300 hides are recorded, at least one of which – the quarter of the Isle of Wight Bede noted as being given to Wilfrid by Caedwalla of Wessex – is held to be reliable (Blair 2005, 87). The geographical and political features named in the charter, which John Blair (1988, 97) calls the earliest precise English description of local topography, defined the Chertsey estate; their identification can also be used to offer a new perspective on the shadowy sub-kingdom of Surrey in the late seventh century.

The argument previously advanced by Blair (1991, 25) is that 300 hides represents an inflated figure that serves to confuse the enlargement of a small monastic estate, presumably given at the foundation of the monastery by King Egbert of Kent circa 666, into an area coextensive with the extent of the later Godley hundred. Of the eight 'diverse names for the above-named land', at least two – Molesey and Eaton in Cobham – lay outside the hundred, and have been interpreted as outliers. That one such outlier existed is certain, for ten of the 300 hides constituted 'a separate part ... by the port of London ... on the same river on the southern side'. Yet this strongly



Finding the Fullingadic. AB marks Blair's proposed line of the boundary.

suggests that the remaining 290 hides formed a cohesive whole not comprehending outlying detached estates. The ten hides near London seem to have formed part of the 200 hides Frithuwold gave for 'strengthening' the monastery. Added to this were five hides intended for the same purpose at Thorpe, and the probably negligible amount of land 'for increasing the monastery' (presumably the monastic complex). Thus there are up to 95 hides unaccounted for, which are most likely to represent the pre-existing monastic estate, perhaps given at the monastery's foundation several years prior. That this was commensurate with Godley hundred is supported by its pre-Conquest assessment as recorded in Domesday Book totalling 100 hides. Therefore Blair (1991, 25) was incorrect in calling Godley hundred 'unmistakably the same area' as Frithuwold's endowment. The supposed outliers may in fact hold the key to understanding the extent of this estate.

Frithuwold was at considerable liberty to give Chertsey land where he wished, but could only do this within the territory he ruled, hence the statement that the estate was delimited in part by 'the boundary of the next province', which is named as *Sunninges*. Clearly he had no jurisdiction there. The Chertsey lands (new and old) are said to be 'by the river which is called the Thames', yet it can be reasonably inferred that it constituted another boundary of the estate, arguably beyond which Frithuwold again had no competence (although see Blair 1988, 106-07). The main reason for thinking this is because all of the aforementioned 'diverse names' occur to the south of the Thames. The only other named boundary, which has been presumed to define its eastern extent, is described in the charter as 'the boundary which is called the ancient ditch, that is the *Fullingadic*'. Blair's proposition of a near-continuous linear boundary running from the south bank of the Thames deep into the Weald representing this (1988, 100; 1991, 14) has a number of attractions. It separated hundreds for its entire length, often in the form of a ditch. Large sections of ditch running on this alignment close to the Iron Age hill fort at St George's Hill, Weybridge (Blair 1991, 16) complement the opinion that it may be connected with the Wealden transhumance economy. Blair (1988, 98-100) uses this as the basis for dividing the county into four *regiones* or 'primary' territorial units, Chertsey lying in that termed *Woccingas*. Thus its boundaries would sufficiently pre-date seventh-century monasticism as to merit the description 'antiquus' (ancient). But this *regio* model has recently been questioned by Hines (2004) and, making particular reference to the line of the *Fullingadic*, English and Turner (2004, 111-12). The enlarged Chertsey estate, taking in Molesey and Eaton, would have cut across this supposedly still-important line. If, as seems likely, this was not the *Fullingadic*, then correctly identifying the boundary becomes of greater importance not only for defining the lands of Chertsey, but the configuration of the early Saxon province of Surrey.

It is proposed here that the *Fullingadic* was in fact the long-conjectured Roman road between London and Winchester. Although it has not been traced archaeologically in Surrey, its most likely course has been suggested to be approximately coincident with a section of the later London Road between Portsmouth and the capital (Bird 2004a, 39, 43-45; 2004b, 66-67). Running south west from Kingston, it passes through Esher, Cobham and Ripley, before crossing the Wey at Burpham north of Guildford (Bird 2004a, 44). From there it ran north of the Hog's Back to the Farnham area, beyond which its line is partly followed by the modern A31. A Roman origin would explain a number of suggestive place-names, not only Stratford in Ockham (noted and dismissed by Gover *et al* 1934, 143), but also Street Cobham (*Streit Coveham* in 1298), and Broad Street and Wood Street in Worpleston, although both of these lack recorded medieval forms (Gover *et al* 1934, 87, 164, 165). It should also be noted that part of the present Surrey-Berkshire border follows the line of the London-Silchester road; it almost certainly represents the boundary between Surrey and *Sunninges* in the 670s.

Identifying the *Fullingadic* in this way allows Molesey to be comfortably accommodated within Frithuwold's estate. Eaton ('*Getinges*') in Cobham lay to the south of the road, and hence was outside this boundary. However, Caedwalla's grant of ten hides at Binton ('*Bintungom*') c.687 shows it to have also had an early *-ingas* name, as well as a substantial estate (Gover *et al* 1934, 181; Blair 1991, 25). It is plausible that *Getinges* was of comparable size, consisting of land either side of the road, part of which fell within the new monastic bounds. The parish of Cobham similarly straddles its line. The closeness with which the postulated line of the road comes to the Thames between Thames Ditton and Seething Wells to the south west of Kingston may identify the easternmost extent of the estate. Here the Rythe (Old English *ryth*, 'small stream') could have constituted a negligibly short stretch of boundary between the river and *Fullingadic*, and it emerges as a hundred boundary.

Although the 'fossatam' called *Fullingadic* ('the ditch of the people of Fulla', a personal name also found across the Thames at Fulham: Blair 1988, 100) may not immediately connote a road, the derivation of Ackling Dyke in Dorset and the Fosse Way (the latter an eight-century name: Mills 1991, 135) should be noted. A line of names incorporating the element *Poling-/Paling-* has been proposed along the line of Stane Street from Sussex into Surrey (Copley 1950), although it is arguable that their distribution shows a greater affinity with the course of the River Arun. The ten-hide endowment near London is said to be 'by the public way', and while this may denote a Roman road, it may be read as deliberately differentiating it from the *Fullingadic* or London-Winchester road. It also suggests that it remained in use in the early Saxon period. The apparent superiority of the route along the dip-slope of the Downs should probably be borne in mind as much as a successor to the London-Winchester road east of the Wey as to the prehistoric ridgeway atop the chalk ridge. Whether or not the *Fullingadic* was still a principal line of communication, it would have been an existing linear feature ripe for adoption as an obvious boundary.

Perhaps the best evidence for the existence of the Chertsey estate boundary is at its very southernmost edge. Blair (1988, 100) proposed the ridgeline of the Hog's Back as the boundary between the Woking and Godalming *regiones*, but his assertion that 'no parochial or manorial connections cross this line' is demonstrably incorrect. Instead, a more realistic proposition would be the continuous east-west line of parish boundaries along the Green Lane to the north of the Hog's Back, which is probably substantially coterminous with the London-Winchester road (see Bird 2004a, 157), even if it was too far removed from the Thames valley to be called *Fullingadic*. But was this the boundary of Frithuwold's estate, or an early boundary of different origin? No place-names are given in Frithuwold's charter south of Woodham, and there is no other documentary evidence that testifies to such a connection. However, the Farnham minster estate granted by Caedwalla in the latter part of the 680s arguably used this line between the '*gloran ige*' and '*hlos wudu*' mentioned in the copied charter-bounds of probable early tenth-century origin (Gover *et al* 1934, 166-67).

Furthermore, an explanation presents itself that would allow for this extensive tract of land in Woking Hundred to have been comprehended in Frithuwold's endowment, and thus confirming the accuracy of the charter. The monasteries of Bermondsey and Woking appear as satellite houses of *Medeshamstede* in the early eighth century (Blair 1988, 105-106). There is a strong likelihood that the former was established on the ten-hide Chertsey estate opposite London (in which case the 'public way' may be Watling Street heading east into Kent), whilst Woking, which lay well to the north of the London-Winchester road, may have been carved out of the excessive amount of land granted to Chertsey. Their foundation probably occurred before the onset of West Saxon overlordship under Caedwalla in the late 680s. This may also offer a better explanation for the detached portion of Woking land at Windlesham, slightly later than the two possibilities identified by Blair (1988, 104). Clearly Frithuwold's

extraordinary benefaction did not survive unaltered for long, yet later Mercian royal patronage appears to have taken place within the limits of the Chertsey estate partly defined by the *Fullingadic*.

All of the above has major implications for our understanding of early Saxon Surrey. The reinterpretation of the *Fullingadic* as an east-west boundary, which had seemingly once pertained to an early cross-Thames territorial unit, cuts across the supposedly clearly-defined pattern of north-south units. Indeed it may be worth suggesting that Surrey should not be thought of as being divided into *regiones* configured on extended north-south axes facing the Weald, but as being divided by an east-west line, coincident with the North Downs. Furthermore, given the extent of the archaeological and documentary testimony, how far did the province of Surrey as ruled by Frithuwold in the 670s extend south of the Downs? The evidence is unfortunately equivocal as to whether the breaking-down of the massive Chertsey estate into smaller monastic units respected earlier territorial divisions, but the importance of Woking, a supposed regionally-important territorial centre, certainly becomes open to question. Has the significance of *-ingas* names been overstated? A royal manor and hundred centre at Domesday does not necessarily imply an early Saxon territorial centre, particularly now it has little claim to have been Frithuwold's vill.

Previous analyses have not only failed to correctly identify the *Fullingadic*, but more fundamentally have not accurately described the orientation of those boundaries which can be securely identified. The Thames is strictly speaking the north-eastern boundary of the estate, and the border with the province of *Sunninges* its north-western limit. The *Fullingadic* or London-Winchester road was its southern boundary. This leaves its western boundary, the Blackwater River, as the only portion of its bounds that goes entirely unmentioned. It is likely that this constituted the border with the *Basingas* (Blair 1988, 99), and, being the part of the estate furthest away from Chertsey and Frithuwold's vill, it is not surprising that it was not named, given the charter only mentions places in the northern portions of the estate closest to them. Thus it can be stated that the Chertsey monastic estate, following Frithuwold's grant, was largely delimited by two important Roman roads (at least one of which was a pre-existing provincial boundary) and by two rivers, the Thames and the Blackwater. Frithuwold had more than tripled its size, undoubtedly because he wished to identify himself with the monastery. In the charter he promised to 'deliver' himself and his only son into the monastic life there, and was enshrined in the church after his death. If it was not so already, then by 674 Chertsey was the most important monastery in early Saxon Surrey.

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THE BEE GARDEN

Isabel Ellis & Judie English

In April 2007 fire destroyed the vegetation over some 40ha of Chobham Common including the southern half of the Scheduled Ancient Monument known as the Bee Garden (NGR SU 9742 6430), and in August a survey of the visible earthworks was undertaken (see front page). The enclosure, approximately trapezoidal in shape, is defined by a bank with an external ditch and, for most of its perimeter, a counterscarp bank. This outer bank is clearly defined to the north and south of the enclosure but to the west and east quarrying has impinged close enough in some places to render its identification problematic but it is probable that it originally surrounded the entire monument.

It is possible that an original entrance has been identified for the first time at the north-west corner, but the area has been heavily damaged by two public rights of way and this cannot be assigned with absolute certainty. The northern bank has a short spur which runs parallel to the northern end of the eastern bank providing a short 'neck' approximately 5m wide. It is unfortunately not possible to determine whether or not there was a corresponding break in either the ditch or the outer bank from the above ground evidence due to the damage.

There is a bank running from east to west across the interior of the enclosure approximately 25m from the southern end with a ditch to its southern side. Despite a modern cut across this bank it can be seen to abut the eastern bank at a lower level. At its western end the bank terminates short of the western bank and at this end the ditch is overlain by slump. It seems likely that this represents an entrance between the two parts of the interior of the enclosure but again this cannot be said with certainty. Opposite the ends of this interior bank the bank defining the whole enclosure diverts slightly inwards from its line suggesting perhaps that the present interior cross bank represents the original southern limit and that the present southern portion was an added annexe.

No evidence has been found to allow determination of either the date of construction or the purpose of this earthwork. The morphology of the main, northern enclosure suggests a prehistoric or Romano-British date, a conclusion which receives some support from the place-name Albury Bottom. There is no direct evidence to allow differentiation between habitation or stock management as a primary use for the enclosure although its size might suggest the latter. The position of the southern annexe appears designed to include higher ground within the area enclosed and slight earthworks suggestive of yards or possibly buildings could add some credence to the belief that a medieval date adheres to this portion and that it possibly does relate to stock management during the tenure of the Common by Chertsey Abbey.

A full report of this survey has been written and copies lodged with English Heritage, Surrey Wildlife Trust and this Society among others. It is hoped that further work may address both the dating of the monument and the environment in which it was constructed.

We would like to acknowledge the fieldwork skills of all those who took part in the survey – Margaret Broomfield, Bryan Harmer, Jeanette Hicks, Rose Hooker, Pauline Hulse, Gillian Lachelin, Dave McKay, Jen Newell and Geoff Stonehouse. We are also grateful to the Surrey Wildlife Trust Ranger for the area, Andy Wragg, for all his assistance.

In May 2005, Jill Stephens, a governor for the Saxon County Primary School in Shepperton, Surrey, approached Spelthorne Museum with the idea of excavating her back garden, which lies immediately adjacent to the Saxon School playing field. Jill had been previously restricted from any attempt at excavation at the school because the field is a scheduled ancient monument due to the early medieval cemetery underneath it. Surrey County Archaeological Unit excavations have additionally revealed an 8th century Saxon midden within the field boundary. Some of the important material to come out of the SCAU excavation includes decorated bone combs, bone pins, weapon fragments and an abundance of evidence for early metal-working. The site has also produced two rare early medieval coins, and is very likely only a small part of a much larger early medieval cemetery that has been lost, along with a fair amount of other historic and prehistoric archaeology, to the gravel extraction industry along the Thames. The governor's proposal had the full support of the Saxon school head teacher, Shirley Lawrence. When asked why they would want to organize and take part in a garden excavation both noted that they were interested in edifying their students and the community about the 'Saxons' under the school, but also, they hoped to promote the school – and keep it open as student numbers have been dropping. The project went forward with the preliminaries of most community archaeology undertakings:

- 1 A project design that calls for industry standard recording and archiving.
- 2 We obtain some semblance of a blessing from the county archaeologist.
- 3 Perhaps somewhat unique, this was designed as both an archaeological and educational research project for the community and with the intention of sharing results.

Fortunately, Shirley Lawrence is a rare head teacher who is willing to experiment with national dictates in education, and allows archaeology for her students even though the study and practice is no longer a specific part of the National Curriculum. This does not mean that children are no longer learning about archaeology; it just means that teachers are now more creative in how they qualify and involve archaeology or 'material culture' in lesson planning. One of the most important elements in this project was the training sessions for the teachers on alternative approaches to education. Also, our project design called for mixed age groups on site and no planned curriculum activities at our 'field school' beyond a commitment for expert teaching of excavation techniques and recording practices. In other words, beyond the basics, the teachers were encouraged to 'go with the flow', to see where the children's interests led them and consequently how these could then be considered in the greater context of the National Curriculum.

David Bird, then Surrey County Archaeologist, was agreeable, so we gave the project a name: The Briar Road Big Dig. This is an all volunteer run project though we have received whispers of promises for funding from the local council for conservation work and environmental research as we develop.

In addition to the Saxon school children, there were also local home educating families, young archaeologist club members, regional historians, and believe it or not, our trenches were opened up by two chapters of members from the University of the Third Age – with an average age of about seventy-five.

Primarily, three archaeologists were involved from both the Spelthorne Museum and the local community, with myself as archaeological director. We have also had assistance from several other archaeologists between the seasons, and as luck would have it, the site owner, Jill Stephens, is an historic environmentalist. For one week each in September 2005 and in May 2006, nearly 200 participants between the ages of 3 and 87 excavated archaeological finds, suggesting continuity from the Neolithic through to WW2.

Even though most of the finds were in unstratified and heavily tilled soil, an exciting variety came out of each section. Throughout the week, enthusiastic participants unearthed worked flints, Roman brickwork, late medieval pottery, Georgian blue and white sherds, Victorian iron fittings, WW1 bullet casings, 1950's Coke bottles, bones galore and nearly everything in between. For the children and other participants this continuity of occupation was inspiring. Instead of a formalised lesson plan all were encouraged to consider the material as it was revealed. When they came across Victorian material we discussed the local buildings. With the Tudor sherds we invoked images and tales of Henry VIII and his nearby Hampton Court Palace, and when we came across worked Neolithic pieces, the children identified the material with *The Flintstones*, so we trailed off into cartoon and film history and because there was no set plan, there were no wrong answers. Not only did the children enjoy the experience, but the teachers were clearly encouraged by this approach because it meant that they did not feel a responsibility to know all the answers at once, and that this was a sustainable practice. They could build upon this experience once back in the classroom. It was fun, it was archaeology, and there was learning. All involved were building upon connections from the finds to extended disciplinary subjects that stimulated their interests, causing deeper considerations and promoting critical thinking.

Roman building material is abundant throughout the area and just holding these pieces in hand and feeling the different material fabrics fully delighted the children. In this physical manner, their contact with the past became inextricable and sparked creative discussions on the way things are made. With the extensive amount of found animal bone and animal 'sand' bodies, participants discussed the princely burials at Sutton Hoo in Suffolk. From this momentum, we continued with the local 'Middle' Saxons, the early medieval cemetery under the school, and the other contemporary sites in our region.

Most essentially, the children were absolutely captivated by a natural curiosity that archaeology encourages. For those involved, these unimportant, unstratified finds represented the mystery of previous cultures, the significance of their ways and means, traditions, and best of all ... rituals! All of this calls to us if only for a short while, but it is long enough to launch connections into deeper considerations. It is long enough to have questions asked and where there is one question effectively answered there is learning.

The primary aim in this project has been to utilize the study of archaeology as a significant tool in education, a springboard into other connected disciplines as well as for promoting critical thinking and extended learning. In addition to introducing and applying methods in alternative education, this project was also conducive to our teaching practical and theoretical archaeology in the field. We did not 'dummy down' terminology, and from the start children learned about archaeology as a study of their past, rather than a 'treasure hunt'. Not only did participants become familiar with archaeological field practices and their own local heritage, but they were also introduced to other research organisations such as the Surrey SMR and English Heritage.

John Carmen suggests that there are two systems of archaeological work in the world: state and private (2002, 61-95). With the increasing amount of responsible community archaeology, there is clearly a third system as well. Through direct and personal connections to the heritage, individuals in the community can design, present, utilize and support the archaeology, not because they have to, but because they want to. Not only has the Briar Road Big Dig inspired the children and staff to undertake fairly advanced levels of research, but now the local community and clubs are all very keen to participate, and as a result, the project has extended from being a small experimental research endeavour into an annual Saxon heritage and

archaeology extravaganza. All very exciting, but mostly this strikes at the point that practicing archaeology has such tremendous potential to bring children and their community together in a productive and meaningful way.

The student numbers at the Saxon School have in fact increased during the year since we started the project, but this may have nothing to do with us. And even though we came across a lovely collection of worked flint tools, and late medieval pottery sherds, and we did not find our Saxons – there was no distinctive early medieval material from our finds. Are we bothered? No.

What has changed in the community is that people seem to be thinking about our heritage a lot more. Our local museum is being completely refurbished and the area schools are interested in learning about alternative methods in education. There is a revised interest not only in popular archaeology but practical archaeology, which has previously been completely stamped out for community participation, mostly because of PPG 16 and thus replaced by county and professional units. For the community at Shepperton Green, the Briar Road Big Dig has been a unique opportunity to make connections to the communal past through a 'hands on' and intuitive exercise.

Our meagre finds may be of little interest to most, and are certainly of no interest to the local archaeological units, as they have seen plenty of this – but there is an intense importance for this collective material by the local community. That is, where no one else would want to, these folks have created a utility and a value for this material that reaches beyond the mere production of knowledge and into the important realm of communal memory. Here, identities in the present are influenced by the tactile exchange with the material past. Throughout the community, the dig participants of all ages considered these scrappy finds as evidence for communally-linked past mentalities and personhood that they have been associated with through oral and documentary sources for much of their lives. The excavations at Briar Road gave the community the opportunity to not only enjoy fun new ways of learning, but also fun new ways to value, appreciate, and connect to their past through archaeological practice.

All this leads to a broader debate in community archaeology that cannot be fully addressed in this paper, yet begs the question: if this is our community, is this our archaeology? And if so, what is our access and how can we make use of it? With hope, this paper has provided greater insight into the importance of and potential for archaeology as alternative education within the learning community

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COUNCIL NEWS

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Susan Janaway

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

OBITUARY

FRED HASTINGS

"If I were to describe Fred Hastings in three words they would be: integrity, courage, modesty" – so wrote Rosamond Hanworth of Fred Hastings back in 2004. It is with regret that we now report Fred's death late last year. With his passing the Society has lost an Honorary Vice-President and one of its most dedicated and innovative members.

Fred's long interest and association with archaeology arose from his employment as a draughtsman by the Ordnance Survey. This involved the study of every item published in Britain that notified the discovery of a new site or artefact and plotting the location on Ordnance Survey maps, a demanding task at the time classed as 'unqualified'. This led Fred to join the lobby pressing for a way to become qualified and the result was the Diploma in Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology in London, Fred being one of the first students.

After graduation he, together with a few fellow students, joined the Surrey Archaeological Society and there began a new and exciting period of intensive excavation. This was particularly demanding physically for Fred who had lost a leg in a motorcycle accident in his youth. Despite this, Fred's careful and thorough excavation, especially of the Iron Age farmstead at Hawks Hill, Leatherhead in the early 1960s, led to a total reappraisal of the efficiency of prehistoric farming, showing that it was both more sophisticated and thorough than had previously been thought.

Fred's work at the Ordnance Survey was honoured by the award of the British Empire Medal in the 1970's but his archaeological achievements were not recognised in the same way. Fortunately however, his qualities were appreciated and valued by all who knew and worked with him; Professor Barry Cunliffe, who analysed the pottery found at Hawks Hill, writes "I remember him as a gentle, quiet person with a real dedication to his subject. He was very professional always intent on doing the job to the highest standards." After all, the affection of friends and esteem of professional colleagues is more to be prized than any official honour.

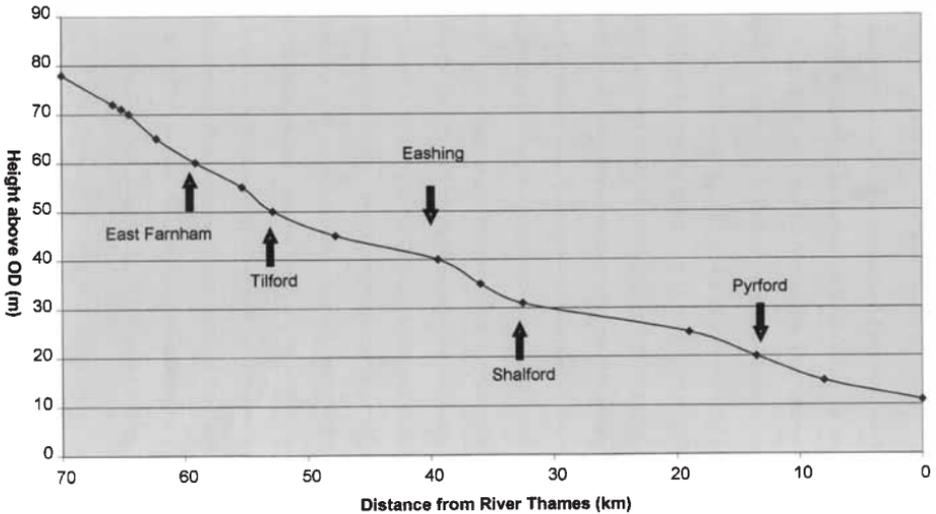
Maureen Roberts

MEDIEVAL STUDIES FORUM

Surrey's Waterways in Medieval Times

Twenty-five members attended the second meeting of the Forum, held on 13th October 2007 at Leatherhead. Charles Abdy opened the day with a presentation on the differing characteristics of Surrey's four principal rivers, the Wey, the Mole, the

Long Profile of the River Wey



Hogsmill and the Wandle. He demonstrated that man's activities had substantially changed long stretches of all these rivers, and showed that the long famous 'disappearing' River Mole between Dorking and Leatherhead had not dried up any summer since 1975, due to the volume of clean, treated water put out by the effluent treatment plant that now serves Dorking.

Richard Savage spoke about the geomorphology of the Lower Wey and of studies into the creation and dating of artificial watercourses around Newark Priory between Pyrford and Ripley. He demonstrated a 'longitudinal profile' of the river gradients that he had prepared in 2003 (see illustration); this confirmed that the river was still in a geologically 'juvenile' state even in its lower reaches. The 'knick point' – shown by the change in gradient – between Byfleet and Pyrford explained why in 1653 the Wey Navigation diverged from the main river valley at Pyrford and headed across country to only meet the Wey again at Weybridge on the Thames. The steep gradients of the original river in this section would have made upstream movement of cargoes difficult in earlier periods – and the historical records suggest that prior to 1653 the Wey was used only for downstream movements of cargo. A fuller discussion of the navigability of the Wey before the 1653 Navigation improvements is in Richard's dissertation in the Society's library (Savage, 2003 pgs 40-49 and 95-106).

Immediately after lunch, Derek Renn led a most interesting walk around medieval Leatherhead.

Mary Alexander opened the afternoon sessions when she spoke on the substantial man-made watercourses of the Wey as the river approached the gap in the Downs at Guildford. From the evidence of administrative boundaries she hypothesized that the substantial channel leading to the site of the 'Town Mills' could well be pre-Conquest in origin.

Judie English spoke on 'water meadows', during which she described the two principal methods of 'floating' the meadows, a practice which became common in the early modern period (from the early 1600s onwards). There was, however, evidence suggesting that the practice had begun much earlier. She referred to Court Rolls of the 14th century showing that tenants in Pyrford had a duty of "damming the water to overflow the Lord's meadow, once a year".

Alan Crocker gave a presentation prepared by him and Glenys on early watermills. No pre-Conquest mills have yet been discovered in Surrey, although Domesday indicates that there were then about 114 'mills' in Surrey (although it is not clear whether these references are to sites, wheels or pairs of stones). The earliest reference to a windmill in Surrey is at Warlingham at the very end of the twelfth century, which is close to the date of introduction of windmills elsewhere in England.

From these various presentations it became clear that there is still much scope for further research into the development and use of Surrey's watercourses throughout the medieval period (and indeed earlier). The day closed with a discussion on possible other research topics and areas of interest to be included in future Forum meetings.

Reference

Savage R W, 2003, "A review of the evidence for the archaeology of the Wey Valley in Surrey to 410AD"

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

ASPECTS OF SURREY'S MEDIEVAL CHURCHES

Saturday 14th June 2008

St Mary's Church, Guildford

A day devoted to Surrey's medieval churches, with varied contributions on their architecture and place in society.

SURREY – MONASTERIES, ROYALTY AND SURVIVAL: THE CORPUS OF ROMANESQUE SCULPTURE IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

Sabrina Harcourt-Smith, who is working on the Surrey material for the online corpus.

WRITING GUIDEBOOKS TO SURREY CHURCHES – SOURCES AND PROBLEMS

Alan Bott, Surrey's acknowledged expert with eight highly regarded Guides published and four in preparation will be discussing his sources and methods of research.

THE FORMS AND FUNCTIONS OF SURREY'S OLDEST CHURCH TOWERS

Rob Briggs, who will be presenting some of the conclusion he has drawn from the research on Surrey's churches carried out for his recent MA dissertation.

ST MARY'S GUILDFORD – THE BUILDING AND THE PEOPLE

Mary Alexander, Curator of Archaeology at Guildford Museum and a Churchwarden of St Mary's, who has done much work on the history of the church; her presentation will include a tour of the Church itself.

SURREY PARISH INCOMES AND RELATIONS WITH RELIGIOUS HOUSES IN THE LATER MEDIEVAL PERIOD

Peter Balmer, a member of the Forum will be placing the Church in the context of wider medieval society.

Tea and coffee will be available from 10.30am with the meeting beginning formally at 10.50am and ending about 4.30pm. The cost will be £6 per person, payable on the day. Bring a packed lunch or eat in Guildford.

SURREY'S MEDIEVAL TOWNS

Saturday 15th November 2008

The Holmesdale Natural History Club, Reigate

By popular request, the autumn meeting of the Forum this year will be devoted to Surrey's medieval towns, beginning to carry forward the thinking in Martin O'Connell's "*Historic Towns in Surrey*" in 1977 (SyAS Research Volume 5), Dennis Turner's contribution on towns in the 1984 "*Archaeology of Surrey to 1540*", the 1998 historic Surrey towns volume (no 85) of the Collections, and the contributions by Phil Andrews and John Schofield in the 2004 "*Aspects*" volume. This may be the first of what may turn out to be a number of meetings on medieval towns in Surrey.

The Present State of Knowledge about Surrey's Medieval Towns **Rob Poulton** has agreed to give a presentation as the basis for a discussion on research topics that could now be pursued.

The Governance of Medieval Towns **Helen Carrel**

The Urban Excavations in Reigate **David Williams**

Guildford **Mary Alexander**

What Domesday can tell us about the Early Towns **Patrick Molyneux**

As the proposed venue limits attendance to 40 people, Richard and Pamela would be grateful if those interested in attending could let them know.

SAXON SURREY

Saturday 28th March 2009 (provisional)

Guildford

This will be the first meeting of the Forum devoted to the pre-Conquest period, with contributions hopefully ranging from the earliest Pagan Saxon times through to the 11th century. Those interested in giving a presentation at this meeting should please contact Mary Alexander or Peter Youngs, who will be jointly organising the agenda.

All members of the Society are welcome to attend the above meetings. Application forms for them will be sent directly to those registered with the Forum, and other members of the Society can obtain application forms or register with the Forum for regular updates and newsletters.

Please contact: Richard & Pamela Savage medforum@hotmail.co.uk or 01483 768875

As always, if you have research that you would like to share we would be delighted if you were to contact any member of the Committee of the Forum to agree a suitable meeting for this.

Committee Contacts:

Richard & Pamela Savage (as above)

Mary Alexander

mary.alexander@guildford.gov.uk

Phil Stevens

philstevens@ntlworld.com

ROMAN STUDIES GROUP

AQUA BRITANNICA

THE USES OF WATER IN ROMAN BRITAIN

Saturday 31st May 2008

Chertsey Hall, Chertsey, 10am-4.45pm

Throughout prehistory water was of critical importance to life and



society in the British Isles. With the coming of the Romans, however, demand for water increased rapidly. The Romans introduced new technologies into its handling and distribution, as well as widening its uses. At the same time, the mystical significance of water continued to be an important element of Romano-British religion. A conference has therefore been arranged dedicated to the fascinating subject of water in Roman Britain to explore key aspects of its availability, use and religious functions.

A reminder to members to book soon for what promises to be a very special occasion.

The conference will be chaired by **Michael Fulford** and speakers are expected to include:

Religion and Water	Miranda Green
The Dorchester aqueduct	Bill Putnam
The London Water-lifting Machine	Ian Blair
Watermills	Bob Spain
Water for Domestic Needs	Anne Jones
Water in Mining	David Bird

Tickets: £12 (£10 for members of the Roman Studies Group) including morning coffee and afternoon tea. A two course hot lunches will also be available at the hall for approximately £5.

Contact Castle Arch to book or for further information. Further details including booking form on the Society's website: www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk

ASHTEAD ROMAN VILLA: Excavation of the Villa and Tileworks

27th August to 14th September 2008

The Roman Studies Group is undertaking a third season of excavation on Ashted Common. Working days are grouped as three sets of five days from Wednesday to Sunday each week.

Dates are:

Wednesday to Sunday	27th to 31st August, 3rd to 7th September 10th to 14th September with the possibility of needing 15th and 16th September for tidying up etc.
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The report in February (*Bulletin 406*) explained how last year's excavation had begun to reveal the archaeology untouched by the 1920's excavation. This year we hope to extend our work in the 'porch' area, begin work around the corner of the tile-lined room and explore the implications of the new magnetometry survey. Our enthusiasm has to be moderated by the status of the site as a Scheduled Monument, an area of Special Scientific Interest and a National Nature Reserve but with the considerable assistance of the City of London who own the site there are far more possibilities than we are allowed volunteers.

As time and numbers are limited, priority will be given to those able to sign up for one or more complete 5-day weeks. No charge will be made for Roman Study Group members. Members of the Surrey Archaeological Society who are not members of the Roman Studies Group are asked to pay £5 covering all three weeks. Other volunteers are asked to pay £25 for each five-day week that they attend.

Anyone interested in taking part who has not already been in touch please contact Stella Fagg on sf38@tutor.open.ac.uk or XTel: 07850 285245.

MISCELLANY

HOLMBURY HILLFORT BIKE TRAILS

Rose Hooker

The survey team would like to report that action is being taken over the damage caused by mountain bike riders to Holmbury Hillfort. In July 2007 a meeting with biking clubs and others was arranged by the Hurtwood Control at which it was explained that the Hurtwood area is not public land but private property. Although the Hurtwood Control committee is supportive of the use of mountain bike trails it has become clear that some have spread. The meeting heard that English Heritage had written to express extreme concern about the damage done by bikers to Holmbury Hillfort.

Therefore the Hurtwood Control committee proposed to implement a structural plan which would limit biker activity to purpose-designed single track downhill trails which would take several years to complete. After some months of pre-planning and consultation, the first half of 2008 was set aside for survey, design and planning, and urgent fixes. The strategic plan is expected to be gradually developed between 2008 and 2013.

When the archaeological survey team were on the hillfort on February 10th they were pleased to see that a bike trail was being created to replace the one which has caused damage to the northern ramparts at Holmbury. It is the intention of the Hurtwood Control to remove trails from the hillfort and to provide them in less sensitive areas nearby. We hope to see further progress and biker compliance in the future.

OCCAM (OF OCKHAM) AND HIS RAZOR: A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

I am in the process of writing a book about William of Ockham and his famous razor and wondered if any of your members are aware of any information on the village of Ockham in the 13/14th century (William was born about 1285) when William would have lived there, or about the whereabouts of a Franciscan convent in the area that he might have been sent to (he was 'given' to the Franciscans aged about 10). Or, indeed, any novel information on the famous Franciscan himself.

John Joe McFadden, Professor of Molecular Sciences, School of Biomedical and Molecular Sciences, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5XH; Tel: 01483 686494; email: j.mcfadden@surrey.ac.uk

CHILWORTH: PROPOSED AREA OF SPECIAL HISTORIC LANDSCAPE VALUE (SHLV): A Call for Volunteers

Philip Masters

Surrey County Council and The Surrey Archaeological Society have commissioned an assessment of whether the Chilworth/St Martha's Hill area should be designated an Area of Special Historic Landscape Value. Particular emphasis is being given to the significance of the water supply to the Chilworth Gunpowder Works, but the attractive landscape around St Martha's Church is also included in the study.

Volunteers interested in landscape archaeology and documentary research would be very welcome to help with the project and will have the opportunity to learn from local experts.

Please contact Philip Masters on pm@actaland.com 01580 881256

WEALDEN STUDIES RESEARCH GROUP

The Wealden Iron Research Group is pleased to announce the publication of its

online database of Iron-working Sites in the Weald of Sussex, Kent, Surrey and Hampshire. Access is via links from the Group's website – www.wealdeniron.org.uk

Extensively searchable, the database comprises over 800 sites, of both the direct (bloomery) and indirect (blast furnace and finery forge) processes, dating from the pre-Roman Iron Age to the early 19th century AD. Where available, bibliographical references are given, and these are also searchable.

It is intended that the database will continue to be developed, with sites being added as they are discovered, and the bibliography being enhanced to become a source of reference to works about the iron industry which are not necessarily related to specific sites.

Jeremy Hodgkinson

SURREY HISTORY CENTRE

EARTH, AIR, FIRE and WATER: Surrey's Industries in a rural setting

Industries Study Day

Saturday 5th April 2008, 10am- 4pm

Programme

9.30am Registration and coffee

10 **Industry and the Building of Guildford and Oatlands Palaces**

Rob Poulton, Surrey County Archaeological Unit

10.45 **Sorting the Wheat from the Chaff: Sources for Researching Industrial History at Surrey History Centre** ***Di Stiff***, Surrey History Centre

11.10 **The Knitters and Tanners of Godalming** ***Martin Stilwell***

11.30 Coffee

noon **The Railways of Surrey: As they are, as they were, and as they might have been** ***Professor Mark Casson***, University of Reading

1pm Lunch. Please bring own sandwiches

1.45 ***Giles Carey*** and ***Emily Brants*** will show you how to use 'Exploring Surrey's Past' website and the Historic Environment Record, to start researching Surrey's Industries

2.30 **'The Wooded Surrey Hills as a Material and Recreational Resource in War and Peace 1800-1950'** ***Dr Keith Grieves***, Kingston University

3.30-3.45 Conference round up and questions

3.45-4.00 Tea and close

Tickets: £15 including tea and coffee. There are a limited number of places.

To book telephone: 01483 518737

Will include Surrey Industrial History Group display and bookstall

TRAINING EXCAVATIONS

DOWNSIDE MILL, COBHAM

JOINT TRAINING EXCAVATION AUGUST 2008

The Society and the Heritage Team at Surrey County Council are jointly sponsoring a training excavation this summer as part of our Community Archaeology and Outreach programmes.

The training excavation will take place at Downside Mill in Cobham, where it is intended to uncover part of the remains of a watermill included within Alexander

Raby's late 18th century Iron and Copper Works, and also to locate and excavate part of the foundations of the house built for and occupied by Mr Raby and his family. The excavation will be directed by Tony Howe of the SCC Heritage Team with Richard Savage of the Society acting as the project manager. Trainees will be on site from Saturday 2nd August to Sunday 10th August with an Open Weekend for members of the public to visit on 9/10th August.

The training excavation was announced at the ARC Symposium on 23rd February, when sufficient experienced volunteers came forward for us not only to be able to run the training excavation but also to plan a simultaneous research evaluation on a presumed medieval toft in a nearby field. The first priority for our experienced volunteers will be to staff the training excavation and mentor the trainees.

Publicity will shortly commence to advertise the training excavation to members of the general public. Members of the Society who wish to learn more about the techniques of excavation and of site and finds recording are also invited to apply for a place on this training programme. It is expected that the training will be divided into a 4-day module and a 5-day module with the possibility of trainees attending for all nine days if they wish.

To register interest in taking part, either as a trainee or as an experienced volunteer, please contact Richard Savage by email at medforum@hotmail.co.uk, or Tel: 01483 768875 or by post to Burford House Hockering Road Woking GU22 7HJ.

Please specify whether you are registering for a place on the training programme or as an experienced volunteer/mentor.

BARCOMBE, EAST SUSSEX

14th July-12th August 2008

Excavation and other fieldwork training courses (ie Site Photography or Planning and Section Drawing) will form part of a new project of research and training excavations a Roman site in the vicinity of the villa complex at Barcombe, near Lewes, investigated between 2000 and 2007.

Academic credit is awarded to those who successfully complete these courses. Fees for the five-day excavation training courses are £185 (full-fee) or £130 (for concessions). Accommodation leads given.

Centre for Continuing Education at the Sussex Institute, Essex House, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, BN1 9QQ, Tel: 01273 678527, s-enquiries@sussex.ac.uk, www.sussex.ac.uk/cce/archaeology.

COURSES

PRACTICAL ARCHAEOLOGY WEEKEND COURSES AND SUMMER SCHOOLS

Centre for Continuing Education, Sussex (various locations)

The courses will include:

The Recording of a Sussex Church: Parham	(four alternate Saturdays starting 17th May)
Environmental Archaeology in Action	(Saturday 24th May)
An Introduction to Field Archaeology	(four alternate Saturdays starting 14th June)
Exploring Medieval Sussex	(four alternate Saturdays starting 14th June)

Excavation Training Courses

(four five-day courses starting
14th July)

An Introduction to Archaeological Conservation (Monday-Friday 21-25th July)

Ancient Crafts and Technologies (Monday-Friday 21-25th July)

Early Buildings and Ancient Technologies (Monday-Friday 22-26th
September)

Academic credit is available for all of these courses.

Centre for Continuing Education, Sussex Institute, Essex House, University of
Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, BN1 9QQ; tel 01273 678527; www.sussex.ac.uk/cce

EXHIBITIONS

RUNNYMEDE IN PERSPECTIVE

Exhibition of Watercolours by John and Edward Hassell

Chertsey Museum

Until Saturday 28th June 2008

John Hassell (1767-1825) and his son Edward (died 1852) produced over 1750 watercolour drawings of Surrey during the period 1820 to 1832, covering virtually every parish. This new exhibition brings together from the museum's collection nineteen works of Chertsey, Ottershaw and Addlestone, with paintings of the Egham area on loan from the Egham Museum Trust.

For further information contact Emma Warren, curator, Tel: 01932 575370 or email emma.warren@runnymede.gov.uk

HADRIAN: Empire and Conflict

British Museum

24th July to 26th October 2008

This exhibition will explore the life, love and legacy of Rome's most enigmatic emperor, Hadrian (AD117-138). On display will be objects from 31 museums worldwide and finds from recent excavations that will provide fresh insight into the sharp contradictions of Hadrian's character and challenges faced during his reign.

For more information www.britishmuseum.org/hadrian. Advance booking available (group discounts for parties of 8 or more) tel: 020 7323 8181 or email: boxoffice@britishmuseum.org.

LECTURE MEETINGS

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.

5th April

"A Social History of the London Bus from Shillibeer to Bendi" by John Wagstaff to Merton Historical Society in Snuff Mill Environmental Centre at 2.30 pm. Visitors welcome £2.

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

“Ash Ranges” by Judie English to Wonersh History Society in the Turner Room, Lawnsmead at 7.15 pm. Visitors welcome.

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.

11th April

“Brave New World: Hellenism in the East Mediterranean” by David Price Williams to Richmond Archaeological Society in the Vestry Hall, Paradise Road, Richmond at 8 pm. Non-members welcome by donation.

14th April

“Heathrow from Iron Age to Jet Age” by Nick Pollard to Richmond Local History Society in the Old Town Hall, Whittaker Avenue, Richmond at 7.30 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1.

16th April

“Guildford in 1913” by Roger Nicholas to Send and Ripley History Society in the annexe of Ripley Village Hall at 8 pm.

16th April

“Researching German WW1 Documents” by Brigitte Mitchell 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.

18th April

“Monks Green Farm” by Derek Banham, following the AGM of Leatherhead & District Local History Society in the Abraham Dixon Hall of the Letherhead Institute at 7.30 for 8 pm. Members £1, non-members £2.

19th April

“St Martha’s” by Andrew Norris to the Walton and Weybridge Local History Society at Elm Grove Hall, Hershaw Road, Walton at 3pm.

27th April

“Pubs of Wimbledon Village” by Clive Whichelow to Wandsworth Historical Society at the Friends’ Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street (opposite the Town Hall) at 8 pm.

6th May

“The Swing Riots in Surrey 1830-1832” by Judy Hill to the Dorking Local History Group at the Friends Meeting House, Butter Hill, Dorking at 7.30; visitors £1.

7th May

“Much More a Matter of Trade than of Art? Embroidery in 15th century England”, by Kate Heard 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.

7th May

“Made of Clay, Part II: Tiles” by Ian West to Epsom & Ewell History and Archaeology Society at St Mary’s Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 7.45 for 8 pm.

8th May

“Holmbury Hill and Camp” by Rose Hooker 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.

9th May

“The Ancient Merv Project, Turkmenistan” by Tim Williams to Richmond Archaeological Society in the Vestry Hall, Paradise Road, Richmond at 8 pm. Non-members welcome by donation.

12th May

“Anglo-Saxons” by Paul Hill to Guildford Archaeology and Local History Group in the Jubilee Room, United Reformed Church, Portsmouth Road, Guildford at 7.30 pm. Car parking available behind the church. Non-members welcome £2.

13th May

“A Year in Southwark’s Archaeology” by Chris Constable to Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society at the Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut, almost opposite the Old Vic Theatre at 7 for 7.30 pm. Visitors welcome £1.

13th May

“The Golden Age of Postcards” by Michael Miller to Westcott Local History Group in the Meeting Room, Institute Road, Westcott at 8 pm.

13th May

AGM followed by participatory meeting concentrating on William Cobbett of Rural Rides at Wonsrsh History Society in the Turner Room, Lawnsmead at 7.15 pm.

13th May

“Memories in Miniature: considering the role of portable artifacts in early medieval construction” by Howard Williams, part of the Institute of Archaeology – British Museum Seminar in the Scakler Rooms at the British Museum, below the Great Court at 5.30 pm.

16th May

“The Homewood, Esher” by Andrew King to Leatherhead & District Local History Society in the Abraham Dixon Hall of the Letherhead Institute at 7.30 for 8 pm. Members £1, non-members £2.

20th May

“History of Pears’ Soap” by Andrea Cameron to the Sunbury and Shepperton Local History Society at the Theatre, Halliford School, Russell Road, Shepperton at 8pm. Visitors £1.

25th May

“Nonsuch Palace” by Jeremy Harte to Wandsworth Historical Society at the Friends’ Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street (opposite the Town Hall) at 8pm.

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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 20th April for the May issue.

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