ROYAL HARNESS BOSS FOUND AT EPSOM
KING CHARLES' HARNESS DECORATION

David Williams

A perhaps unique gilded copper alloy harness decoration depicting the Arms of the House of Stuart has been found by metal detector user Mark Davison and reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme's Surrey Finds Liaison Officer David Williams (see frontispiece). The find was made close to the large house in Epsom called The Durdans which is known to have been visited by King Charles II on at least two occasions, in 1662 and 1664.

John Evelyn writes in his diary under 1st September 1662:

'Being by my L: Geo: Berkely invited, I went to Durdens, where dined his Majestie, the Queene, Duke, Dutchesse, Prince Rupert, Pr: Edward, & aboundanc of Noble men'.

The King’s visit is also confirmed by Samuel Pepys who was prevented from visiting the Duke of York at St James’ Palace owing to the Duke’s departure with the King.

While harness decorations and particularly bosses are reported frequently to the PAS this example is of the highest quality. It seems very likely that it became detached from one of the horses of the Royal Household in perhaps 1662 or 1664.

FIELDWORK AT HOLMBURY HILLFORT

Rose Hooker and Judie English

Holmbury (TQ 105430) is one of three hillforts located on the scarp edge of the Greensand ridge between Guildford and Dorking, of which only Anstiebury has been subjected to an analytical survey. Clearance of the interior of Holmbury gave access to this enclosure and its immediate surroundings.
The level approaches to north and west are addressed by a substantial array of double banks and ditches, that to the north apparently having been constructed in two, or possibly, three stages. The eastern and southern limits of the hillfort are positioned atop steep slopes. On the east side an inner bank is separated from its ditch by a berm and a vertical, rock cut face, the latter exposed beneath the root plate of a wind-felled tree. Outside this ditch there appears to have been a second bank, now largely destroyed, and below it, cut into the steep hillside, a further vertical face. To the south the scarp face at the end of the spur appears to have been sculpted into a series of three terraces, separated by vertical faces, which stretch round the protruding ‘nose’ at the south western corner of the enclosure. This ‘nose’, formed by one of a number of bands of harder chert running from the north towards the scarp edge, stands higher than any of the enclosure banks, at least in their present, eroded, form, and has a viewshed across the Weald to the South Downs – only to the immediate east is the view blocked by the higher ground of Leith Hill.

Quarrying, mainly during the 19th and early 20th centuries, has damaged the north-west corner, the probable site of the original entrance, and an area of the south-west corner. A number of small platforms have been cut into the south-western and south-eastern slopes below the hillfort; these may represent later lookout points, or planting positions for specimen trees, but the possibility that their construction was contemporary with the enclosure should not be ignored.

The results of this survey emphasise the skill with which the original builders utilised the existing topography, and also their concern that the monument should be visible from, and overlook, the expanse of the Weald to the south. The enclosure occupies a position such that its western and eastern boundaries overlie chert strata and a further two strata abut the northern boundary, although only one of these continues as a scarp across the interior. To the east the ground falls away steeply whilst to the west a number of these ridges, relatively closely spaced, cover the remaining high ground. Thus the enclosure was positioned to take advantage of the widest areas of flat ground available. The break in slope noted along most of the length of the central scarp may result from the cutting back of its lower levels to increase the width of the flat area to its east. Indeed, it is not impossible that the original intention was to use this scarp as the base for the western boundary, but a requirement to include the high point and the southernmost ‘nose’ resulted in its inclusion within the interior and the staged increases in height of the inner and outer northern banks. Terracing of the southern flanks of the hill would have resulted in the exposure of an area of sandstone some 80m across and 50m deep; whether vertical cuts into the hillside or revetted banks the sandstone, greenish/gold when freshly cut would have weathered to a brilliant gold. Facing into the sun, this would have been visible from any clearing within the Wealden woods for a considerable distance and, perhaps saliently, from the ridge which forms the watershed between the Wey and Arun basins. This ridge, which could have provided the only east/west route into the western Weald, would have had view of both Holmbury and Hascombe to the north and Chanctonbury on the South Downs. Looking up at the Greensand ridge from the Weald the central scarp produces a distinctive profile and would have identified the location of Holmbury hillfort from a greater distance than would visibility of the terraced slopes.

Concern about the dates assigned to the Greensand hillforts has led to a reassessment by Mike Seager Thomas (2008) of the pottery recovered at excavation (Thompson 1979). It is intended that this report will be submitted for publication in the Collections but a précis of the main points is relevant here. Both Holmbury and Hascombe produced small amounts of Late Bronze Age pottery but their floruit was in the Middle Iron Age, and there is no evidence of occupation into the Late Iron Age. By contrast, the assemblage from Anstiebury contained a only small amount of
Middle Iron Age pottery and the main periods of occupation appear to have been the Late Iron Age and into the Romano-British. Of particular interest are stylistic links with Iron Age ceramic traditions from Sussex as opposed to those from sites in the Thames Valley.

In addition to the analytical survey, a damage report has been prepared, which emphasized erosion exacerbated by use of mountain bikes. Considerable effort towards ameliorating this threat has now been made by the Hurtwood Control Trust warden, Mark Beamont who, with the help of some of the cyclists, has prepared a track in one of a series of quarries outside the scheduled area. Considerable damage has also been caused by the root plates of trees felled by the wind, but such damage also served to confirm an impression that, on the east side at least, a steep slope outside the inner rampart was, in fact, a rock cut vertical face.

Copies of the survey and damage reports (Hooker & English 2008a; 2008b) have been deposited with English Heritage and other interested bodies including this Society.

This fieldwork could not have been undertaken without the time and skills of Mike Brace, Roman Golicz, Alan Hall, Pauline Hulse, (who undertook much of the site drawing), Gillian Lachelin, Nick Moore, Jen Newell, Hannah Sadler, Geoff Stonehouse, Ed Walker, Ken Waters and Keith Winser; SMC was granted by English Heritage, and access facilitated by the Hurtwood Control Trust and their Ranger, Mark Beaumont, and to all these we are most grateful.
DARWIN AND COCKS FARM, ABINGER

David Bird

Between 1995 and 1997 Surrey Archaeological Society carried out excavations under the direction of Steve Dyer to investigate archaeological evidence revealed when a tree blew over at Cocks Farm, Abinger (Dyer 1996; 1996-7; 1997; Lachelin 2008, passim). When well-preserved remains of an east-west range of a Roman building were discovered, the fieldwork was targeted to provide information for the future management of the site and to indicate a suitable area for scheduling as an ancient monument. The Society’s Roman Studies Group has recently begun a project to build on the previous work, by examining the setting and function of the villa and aiming to achieve publication of all fieldwork relating to the site (Bird 2009). Useful information has already been obtained by magnetometer survey and fieldwalking (Cowland 2009), and Steve Dyer has undertaken to complete, in the near future, an interim report on his excavations. Full details of finds etc will follow when the overall project is completed.

As part of this project it seemed appropriate in a year that marks the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin’s birth and the 150th anniversary of the publication of The Origin of Species, to try to locate trenches he recorded cutting through the villa in 1877 (Darwin 1888, 180-194). As the exact location of the rooms exposed in Darwin’s trenches was not definitely established during the 1990s excavations, this remains to be established by the current work.

Darwin had close family links with Thomas Henry Farrer, whom he had known since the 1850s. They had cousins in common before Farrer married Darwin’s niece Katherine Euphemia Wedgwood as his second wife in 1873, and in January 1880 Farrer’s daughter Ida married Darwin’s son Horace. In 1876 part of a Roman villa was found by chance in large-scale gardening work near Farrer’s new house, Abinger Hall. It seems that no member of the family was at the site then, or learnt of the discoveries until somewhat later. Farrer himself visited Darwin at Down House in May 1877 but probably did not arrive in Abinger until the summer of that year. The remains found earlier had mostly been destroyed, but in August he put in hand further work in an adjacent field that located part of a room with a tessellated floor. Knowing of Darwin’s interest in the effects of worm action on ancient sites, Farrer invited him over from Kent. He wrote later that “There had been doubts whether Mr and Mrs Darwin would pay us a visit: but on hearing of these remains he at once decided to come – not however for the sake of the antiquities, but for the sake of the worms”. Darwin asked for two trenches to be cut across part of the building, giving us the first, albeit schematic, section through a Roman site in Surrey (1888, 182). He kept careful records over a week or so of worm casts on the building’s floors to match against those obtained for him from other sites such as Silchester (1888, 178-231 passim). Records were also subsequently made for him by Farrer and Horace Darwin.

Darwin’s section has been ‘read’ wrongly in the past, including by the writer; there is a natural tendency to see it as a normal archaeological section, and therefore the open trench in the centre, alongside one of the walls, is seen as an archaeological trench, ‘le long de mur’. In fact the open trench is Darwin’s own; he extended the
section schematically in each direction on the basis of what he could see in the sides of the trench. This is made clear by correspondence between Farrer and Darwin some time later, when the latter was preparing his book and asking for extra information to help him unravel his notes. It was by now clear that this trench had been cut in another room, the existence of which was not known until October 1877, when Farrer had extra work carried out locating further rooms. Relocating Darwin’s section would fix the position of the four or five rooms found in 1877 and provide an opportunity to gain better understanding of the stratigraphy of the site without disturbing surviving archaeological evidence.

Using information from the earlier excavations and from documentary sources the most likely place for Darwin’s trenches was identified by Emma Corke. Excavation was carried out over two weeks in early June, in a trench 8x2m which eventually reached over a metre in depth. Difficulties were caused by the stratigraphy sloping from east to west and north to south and by the nature of the soil which made it hard to see changes or features (whether the conditions were wet or dry) even when it was possible to demonstrate that they must have existed. The main features found were a ‘platform’ which could not be satisfactorily interpreted as it was in a corner of the trench; this was fringed by largish unworked greensand blocks and capped by a crumbling mortar surface. At a slightly lower level a probable wall of rough greensand blocks was found at a slight angle to the section at the western end of the trench; the angle would make it roughly parallel to the walls of the main building found in 1995. On the opposite side of the trench a marked linear feature was found composed mostly of jumbled pieces of opus signinum, sometimes still attached to fragments of tile. This feature was fringed by a series of post holes marked out by stone and occasional tile packing. They were mostly very obvious even though no soil change could be associated with them and they were seen within a more general rubble spread. Some seemed to be post pads with chocks rather than holes and it is likely that the posts they held were not set very deep into the soil. It was not possible to be sure of their true relationship with the opus signinum feature. The latter had probably been cut by another linear feature that crossed the trench diagonally towards the wall. Its course was marked by finds of tile, small stones and opus signinum,
the latter forming a trail as though dragged out from the opus signinum feature.

Dating of these features is difficult. The higher levels contained some late material including clay pipe stems and one bowl dated to around 1700, but otherwise all datable material was of the Roman period. It was noticeable that the minims that were found occurred only in the higher levels, although preliminary analysis suggests that later Roman pottery was found even just above the natural subsoil. Stone and tile robbing is suggested by the state of the wall and the opus signinum feature, the latter perhaps the result of the breaking up of a hypocaust floor to remove the tiles. This might have happened later in the Roman period, or, perhaps more likely, at some time after the site was abandoned. Detailed analysis of the finds may make it possible to offer a more definite interpretation. These finds included several minims; many fragments of painted wall plaster, some with patterns; white, red and black tesserae, some very fine and some still held together in an opus signinum matrix; building material including all types of tile, some almost cream or yellow; parts of a
fine glass vessel; and, mostly later, Roman pottery.

In the event, there was nothing to suggest that Darwin’s trench had been located, but the work on site has added to the evidence from previous work and may have answered the question about the location of Farrer’s building. This will require further analysis of our existing evidence and probably a second season of fieldwork in 2010, which could also be targeted at answering some of the other questions raised by the results of the 2009 dig.

The excavation was carried out by a small experienced team from the Roman Studies Group (the size of the team was restricted by the availability of on-site facilities). Nikki Cowlard is the coordinator for the overall project and set up the excavation with Emma Corke who arranged the necessary permissions and provided on-site facilities (as well as being part of the excavation team). Alan Hall coordinated recording with the assistance of David and Audrey Graham. Bill Meads provided metal detector expertise and was responsible for the recovery of most of the minims. Margaret Broomfield and members of AARG looked after the finds and took the opportunity to sample the building material from the 1990s excavations that had remained on site, in order to make a comparison of fabrics and establish a flue tile relief pattern catalogue. Richard Massey of English Heritage was very supportive. We were also pleased to welcome Mike Pitts of *British Archaeology* to the site as part of his preparation of an article on Darwin and his earthworms.

**References**

(Some of the information above is based on documentary research by Shirley Corke which is to be published in due course, and discussions with Emma Corke)


Darwin, C, 1888. *The formation of vegetable mould through the action of worms, with observations on their habits*


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**THE BRIAN HOPE-TAYLOR ARCHIVE**

Rose Hooker

Brian Hope-Taylor was an archaeologist of considerable repute who started his career in Surrey where he excavated several sites, often on behalf of the Surrey Archaeological Society. However, most of these sites were not fully reported and some not at all. After his death in 2001 a quantity of material relating to these and other sites was found in his house and garage. This archive is now in the hands of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland in Edinburgh. There is an English Heritage report available at [http://lmid1a.rcahms.gov.uk/bhtreport.pdf](http://lmid1a.rcahms.gov.uk/bhtreport.pdf) which details the conservation work necessary and lists the conserved archive, most of which comes from Surrey. A brief biography of Brian Hope-Taylor is also included but there is no explanation as to why this archive was transported from Cambridge to Scotland. We must assume that good conservation facilities were offered there and they are, in fact, kept in excellent archival conditions.

In May 2009 I visited the RCAHMS archive by arrangement and accompanied by Jen Newell. We were unable to see the whole of the Surrey archive but did look at a large part of it. Some of the smaller archives are being digitised at the moment and will eventually be available through the Archaeological Data Service. It became evident
that the archive is extremely disjointed with short notes about various sites scattered randomly in the notebooks and papers. The drawings are of variable quality with plans at different scales and stages of completion. Some of the manuscripts are in fact private correspondence though with some limited references to excavations planned or in progress and the notebooks have been used for brief notes and rough sketches rather than as site logbooks. There are also large numbers of photographs, again which includes some that appear to be of a personal nature and those of excavations or sites rarely have a scale within them or any point of reference (unless you count the poodle in the ditch at Abinger).

The following list can also be seen on the website, but here I have added some comments from our review of the archive available to us:

**Abinger Motte**: Norman motte and bailey excavated from 1949-50 which set new standards in the examination of earthen castle mounds. This was published in the *Archaeological Journal 107*, 15-43, 1950 and in the *Archaeological Newsletter 3*, 12, 1951. There are 19 drawings, 27 manuscript items, 184 negatives and 263 photographs in the archive. The photographs give an excellent representation of the excavation, and there are plans and photographs of the postholes of the structure. There are also sections across the motte and the ditch, as well as a survey of the landscape and drawings of pottery finds.

**Croham Hurst Barrow**: a Bronze Age barrow excavated in 1945. This was published in *Surrey Archaeological Collections* 49. This is apparently recorded or at least mentioned in a notebook but it was not amongst the items viewed by us.

**Crohamhurst Place**: a Romano-British village (rubbish pit in drainage trench) excavated in 1947. This was published in *Surrey Archaeological Collections* 50, xxiii. There are 8 drawings and 3 manuscript items in the archive but these were not amongst the items viewed by us.

**Farthing Down**: Anglo-Saxon inhumation cemetery excavated from 1948-49. This is published in *Surrey Archaeological Collections* 51, x-xi, and 52, x; but no final report. However, this has recently been re-excavated and reassessed and there is a report forthcoming in the *Collections*. There are 40 drawings, 107 manuscript items, 1 map, 98 negatives, 3 notebooks and 349 photographs in the archive. As usual the notebooks contained items not relevant to Farthing Down, and some of the letters were more personal than professional.

**Ham**: Anglo-Saxon hut excavated in 1950 with S Frere. This was published in *Surrey Archaeological Collections* 52, 102. The archive consists of 2 drawings, neither of which we saw.

**Lime Kiln, Thursley**: undated lime kiln excavated in 1947 with W Featherby. This was published in *Surrey Archaeological Collections* 50, xxiv. There are 4 drawings in this archive, and none were seen.

**Limpsfield Vicars Haw**: medieval pottery kiln excavated in 1951 and not published. This archive consists of 2 drawings, 6 manuscript items, 35 negatives and 38 photographs. The collection of photographs was not that informative and the other items were not available to view.

**Moorhouse Sandpits**: Roman and medieval excavations commenced in 1948-51 and a medieval kiln was discovered. Published in *Surrey Archaeological Collections* 52, 101 and 53, xi. This archive consists of 1 drawing, 7 manuscript items, 11 negatives and 15 photographs. The drawing is a map of the sandpits, and a notebook in the Farthing Down archive contains notes on the site.

**Preston Hawe**: medieval manor excavated from 1952-1954 for the Ministry of Works. This was published in *Surrey Archaeological Collections* 52, xxvii; 54, 157-8 & 169-70; and the Purley & Coulsdon Advertiser, 22/8/52. The archive consists of 98
drawings, 14 manuscript items, 3 maps, 5 notebooks, 713 negatives and 1007 photographs. This large collection has been digitised and has been lodged with the Archaeological Data Service.

**St Leonard’s Chapel:** medieval chapel excavated in 1954. There are 13 drawings in this archive which RCAHMS believe have been deposited with ADS since the chapel was associated with Preston Hawe. There are also a few notes about the site in a notebook in the Farthing Down archive [MS 5106/05]. A carved stone head in the archive is thought to have come from this chapel and RCAHMS hope to return it to Surrey.

**Star Lane, Hooley:** a Romano-British village. This was a rescue excavation following drainage trenches for a housing estate in 1947. Published in *Surrey Archaeological Collections* 50, xxii-xxiii. The archive consists of 1 drawing and 15 manuscript items. There is a site plan and rough drawings of sections of two RB ditches which were found.

**War Coppice Camp:** the survey and excavation of an Iron Age hill fort in 1950. This was published in *Surrey Archaeological Collections* 52,101. The archive consists of 2 drawings, 2 manuscript items and 12 negatives. The drawings are a scale outline of a bank and ditch with no reference as to which part of the bank and ditch was measured and a detailed site section; the manuscript items are a form from UCL to determine if there was work available to students and a letter which may have contained a sketch of St Leonard’s chapel but had no information about War Coppice (the archivists had been misled by the address, since Hope-Taylor had lived in the house situated within the hill fort during the 1950’s). Seven of the negatives were of the bank alongside War Coppice Road, and there were four views of a trench which may have contained a hearth in one corner.

**Warlingham Flint Mine:** the recording and excavation of a prehistoric flint mine in 1951, as reported in the Purley & Coulsdon Advertiser on 21/9/52. This archive consists of 2 drawings and 2 manuscript items. These gave the address of the site as 34 Crewes Avenue.

It should also be said that the 1953 notebook for Yeavering contains notes on Preston Hawe, Ham, War Coppice and Limpsfield Vicars Haw. This was unfortunately not available to us that day. Due to the fragmented nature of the archive we noted that the folder containing a map of the Moorhouse sandpits and the drawing of the Warlingham flint mine included a drawing of the Roman villa at Windmill Bank, Walton on the Hill.

As can be seen Brian Hope-Taylor left a confusing legacy which is not at the moment easily accessible for assessment. Even if fully digitised and easily available it would be a challenge to determine the usefulness of the archive after all these years. It may be that the brief reports for many of the smaller sites is sufficient, but the evidence is now difficult to review and the frequent lack of any grid or location references means that they cannot be traced with any certainty. It could be said that much good work has been undone.

### COUNCIL NEWS

#### CHANGES AT CASTLE ARCH

Sue Janaway and Maureen Roberts have both decided to retire by the end of this year after nearly thirty years working for the Society. Their hard work, knowledge and kindness will be very hard to replace but happily both have said they will continue in a more limited way in 2010. Sue will work a few hours one day a week to prepare documents for the Treasurer and Maureen will help with the *Bulletin* from home. There will be retirement presentations later.
This creates a vacancy at Castle Arch for a part time administrator to handle membership administration, deal with event bookings and invoices, coordinate publications, help when the assistant librarian is not available, answer the many different enquiries and generally look after the office. Eventually the person will take over the book keeping and banking from Sue and the Bulletin from Maureen. We expect the hours will be 9.45am to 4.15pm Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (18 hours per week) so the office is always open and so there is one day a week, Wednesday, when the administrator and assistant librarian are both in the office.

The position will be advertised in the Surrey Advertiser and on our web site. The closing date for applications is September 4th 2009.

It is important that the person has a real interest in archaeology and local history. If you know anyone who would like to apply and would like further details please contact the office.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Farnham Castle
Sunday November 22nd 2009 at 3pm

If weather permits David Graham will lead a tour prior to the proceedings, of the exterior and interior of the castle starting at 1.30pm. Tea will be served and the meeting should finish by 4pm.

All members of the Society are welcome; if you are planning to attend please inform Sue Janaway at Castle Arch so we have better ideas about the numbers expected.

OLD RECORDS

Do you have any old records of the Society?

We are cataloguing the Society’s historic records and find we are short of records from the 1950’s and 1960’s. If you can remember those years and have files of committee minutes or correspondence you would like to donate to the Society, please let us know.

David Calow

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.

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<td>2 West Lodge 321-323 Staines Road West Ashford Middx TW15 1RS</td>
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Cranmore Lane  
West Horsley  
KT24 6BY  

Sharp, R L D  
The Whym  
Windmill Lane  
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KT17 1HY  

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KT17 2JU  

Wheaton, Mrs E  
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RH19 3QG  

Wootten, Miss S  
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Reading  
Berks  
RG6 1BB  

Wootten, P  
104 Mill Lane  
Earley  
Reading  
Berks  
RG6 7JE  

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

GRANTS  

Rose Hooker, Secretary

The Committee will consider applications for grants at its meetings which are to be held at quarterly intervals (the next meetings are in early October and January).

The Committee is authorised to award grants up to £2000 within its allocated budget. Any larger sums will be submitted to Council with the Committee’s recommendations.

If the matter is agreed to be urgent, certain officers of the Society are empowered to make a decision in advance of these meetings.

The Committee will welcome applications which will assist archaeological and historical research within the county. There is no hard and fast rule as to what may qualify for a grant, but applicants will be expected to demonstrate in what ways the proposed research will further understanding of the County’s archaeology and history. It is anticipated that some form of Project Design will be submitted (as long or short as the occasion demands, but essentially to say what the project is about, why it should be done, how it will be done, by whom, how much it will cost, and when and how it will be archived, written up and the results disseminated.) Application forms and guidelines for applicants are available from Castle Arch and may be sent to the Secretary of the Research Committee at that address.

PREHISTORIC GROUP

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

13th October
Dorking Christian Centre

The AGM of the Prehistoric Group will begin at 7.30pm, and will be followed at 8pm by
“Keeping up appearances: prehistoric adornment in Britain”
a talk by Dr Ben Roberts of the British Museum that will include illustrations from Surrey. All are welcome. There will be a charge of £2 to cover costs as usual.

ROMAN STUDIES GROUP

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Notice is given that the Roman Studies Group AGM will be held on Tuesday 6th October 2008 at soon after 7.30pm at the Dorking Christian Centre. The meeting will receive and consider the Chairman’s and Treasurer’s reports and elect officers together with up to three committee members. Nominations may be made to the Secretary, Alan Hall, c/o Castle Arch. As usual, the AGM will be followed by a talk, part of the winter talks programme which is in the process of completion. Full details will be circulated to members in due course, and published in the Bulletin. They will take place on the following dates (all Tuesdays): 6th October, 3rd November, 1st December, 5th January, 2nd February and 2nd March. Doors open at 7.30pm and the talks will start a little later. Please pencil in these dates; talks will be at the Dorking Christian Centre as usual.

DANEBURY ENVIRONS ROMAN PROGRAMME

Members will recall the talk by Barry Cunliffe at the 2007 SARF conference, entitled ‘Approaching the Roman Countryside: the Danebury Environs Project. Ten years of research.’ With Professor Cunliffe’s usual promptitude this work has now been published in two volumes, the first an overview and the second in a number of separate parts, devoted to individual sites. There will also be a website with much extra supporting information.

The publication shows what can be achieved by a carefully targeted programme of work and it may serve as a model for what we should be trying to achieve in Surrey, and how to go about it. The results are also relevant to this county as the target area is not very far distant and has some similarities in terms of geology and topography. We may expect differences in our own locality but they are not likely to be very marked. The Danebury programme has shown clearly how the distribution of villas is strongly influenced by subsoil and topography, thus backing up similar suggestions for Surrey and the South-East in general. It also provides much food for thought, for example in its study of the importance of aisled halls and the existence of Roman-period water mills, as in the example closely associated with a villa at Fullerton.

The Society’s library now holds a copy of this important publication, which is strongly recommended to anyone interested in the realities of the Roman period in our part of the country.

MEDIEVAL STUDIES FORUM

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

WOKING PALACE EXCAVATIONS OPEN DAY
9th August 2009
The site will open to visitors at 11am with the last tour of the excavations taking place at 4pm. Visitors should park in Old Woking and then follow the way-marked pedestrian route of about a mile to the Palace. For disabled access, please contact Richard Savage before the day.
FORUM MEETING AT BANSTEAD
14th November 2009:
The next meeting of the Forum will feature presentations on a further selection of Surrey’s towns and larger settlements, including Croydon, Kingston, Lingfield and Haslemere.

SURREY HERITAGE ANNUAL LECTURE
28th November 2009
Two afternoon talks at Surrey History Centre – Rob Poulton on this year’s excavations at Woking Palace and Dr Michael K Jones giving the annual Surrey Heritage Lecture, this year on Woking Palace and the birth of the Tudor Dynasty. Further details to follow.
For further details please contact Richard and Pamela Savage at 01483 768875 or medforum@hotmail.co.uk

SURREY LOCAL HISTORY COMMITTEE
EARLY BUILDINGS AND DOMESTIC LIFE IN SURREY 1100-1700
Chertsey Hall
Saturday 24th October 2009
This year’s annual local history symposium will include:
Evidence from the Buildings for the Changing Domestic Arrangements in Surrey’s Vernacular Houses up to 1700 Martin Higgins
Tree-ring dating Surrey’s buildings, from the 13th to the 18th Century Rod Wild
Elizabethan Domestic Life from Probate Inventories Brigid Fice
Pots for every purpose – a survey of Surrey-Hampshire border wares in the domestic context Jacqui Pearce
Feeding the Tudor and Stuart Household Sara Pennell
There will also be the opportunity to view the displays put on by participating local history societies and the Gravett Award will be presented for the Best Local History Display.
Tickets: £10 (£9 for block bookings of five or more, £11 on the door) are available from Janet Balchin, SLHC, c/o Hullbrook Cottage, Cranleigh Road, Ewhurst Surrey GU6 7RN
Please see the flier enclosed with this Bulletin for more details and application for tickets.

LITHICS WORKING GROUP
A meeting has been arranged for Saturday 12th September at the Dorking Christian Centre from 2-4pm. It will be led by Peter Harp who will give a short talk about the Palaeolithic period with illustrations and handling material. There will be the chance to see what other lithics the group is working with and those attending are welcome to bring their own collections (or part thereof) for discussion. A small charge of £2 to cover our costs will be made.
THE CURIOUS CASE OF THE UNDATED KILN

Phil Jones

It has probably escaped the notice of most Society members that a medieval pottery kiln was discovered in Egham over four years ago. As a specialist in medieval pottery, I was only made aware of it from a throwaway line at the end of a sentence summarising work undertaken by AOC at the High Street site in the ‘Archaeology in Surrey 2005-6’ catalogue published early this year (Howe, Jackson and Maloney 2008, 367). The relevant passage reads ‘..., with the medieval features surviving along the street frontage including ditches, postholes and a pottery kiln.

Final sentence missing

To gain some knowledge of its date and products, I read the ‘grey literature’ which informed me that the pottery was the coarse sand and flint-tempered ware codified as QFL in the Surrey type series.

Next four paragraphs missing

It is a pity that AOC had not been enabled to anticipate the possible presence of kilns, since in a survey prepared a decade previously, just such a production site was flagged-up for the area near the parish church and close to where the kiln was found. William le Crakyere acquired a cottage in Egham in 1326, eight years later he was admitted with his wife Alice to (another?) cottage next to the church, and in 1337 he enlarged this holding with a small enclosure to the ‘east of the headland of their house. Further enlargement followed in 1342 with the enclosure of 22’ by 14’ at the western headland and 11’ at the eastern headland (Jones 1994). These areas may have encompassed the kiln site.

Final sentence and concluding five paragraphs missing, including a comment by Duncan Brown, President of the Medieval Pottery Research Group.

The author has been instructed to remove the missing parts of this note.

For further information contact Pat Reynolds. Tel: 01483 518737.

References

Eddisford, D 89-95 High Street & 1-2 Denham Road, Egham Post Excavation Assessment. AOC Archaeology Group
Jones, P. 1994 North-West Surrey Heathlands: A Rapid Identification Survey. HBMC
Jones, P, forthcoming Medieval Potters in West Surrey

HERITAGE BILL DROPPED AGAIN

There is deep disappointment again that the Heritage Protection Bill for England and Wales does not appear in the Draft Legislative Programme for 2009/10 announced by the Government this week.

The Programme indicates the legislation likely to be included in the Queen’s Speech for the next parliamentary session. Clearly, there is now little expectation of the
legislative reforms which the 2007 White Paper promised would place the historic environment at the heart of the planning system. The Bill aimed to simplify and strengthen existing legislation and introduce opportunities for people to be more involved in protecting and enhancing their local heritage.

It also paved the way for the signing and ratification of the Hague Convention, the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. Without the Bill, the UK will soon be the only international power not to have signed the convention.

Mike Heyworth, CBA’s Director said:

‘The lack of Government commitment to these uncontroversial and widely supported reforms is deplorable. The Council for British Archaeology will be responding to the publication of the Draft Legislative Programme in the strongest terms. We will be working with the All Party Parliamentary Archaeology Group to progress the most badly needed reforms, some of which are possible through secondary legislation, and to press Government to deliver on other objectives for the heritage. Our historic environment fundamentally shapes the quality of our surroundings and is integral to policies for sustainability. It must be at the heart of new policies for the way places are designed and planned, not side-lined as a low priority.’

For more information on the history of heritage protection legislation across the UK, visit: http://www.britarch.ac.uk/conservation/heritagereform

THURSLEY, THUNOR, AND THIRTEENTH-CENTURY PIPE ROLLS

Rob Briggs

Thursley has, in terms of its original meaning, been considered ‘a difficult name’ since at least the 1930s (Gover et al 1934, 211). It has been suspected to contain the name of the pagan god Thunor in combination with the common Old English term leah, a pairing attested in five other place-names from England; three of these, however, are known solely from their appearance in sets of pre-Conquest charter bounds (Gelling 1975, 107-108; Meaney 1995, 41). All possess forms exhibiting the medial -n- acknowledged to be diagnostic of a derivation from Thunor – as do all of the medieval forms of Surrey’s only certain place-name of this type, Thunderfield near Horley (Gover et al 1934, 295). By contrast, what has hitherto been the earliest known form of the place-name Thursley – Thoresle (on record in 1292 and 1296) – lacks this characteristic, and it similarly fails to occur in any of the subsequent later medieval instances of the name (Gover et al 1934, 211). This has led to Thursley being compared with a superficially-identical Rutland place-name, recorded as Thures lege in a set of charter bounds of 1046, whose first element has been suggested (despite a shortage of attested examples) to be an Anglo-Scandinavian man’s name, Thor or Thur, rather than that of the god Thunor (Meaney 1995, 33; Gelling 1975, 108).

Recently I happened upon strong evidence that Thursley in Surrey was indeed partly formed from the name Thunor. This takes the form of a surname shared by three men, presumably all members of the same, sometime-landowning family, who appear at least six times in the royal Pipe Rolls between 1214 and 1224 (I have been using the editions produced by the Pipe Roll Society held in a library lacking the full collection of those volumes published so far; future editions for the years after 1224 may provide further references). In each case their surname contains the medial -n- necessary for its identification as a Thunor-derived name. None of the men is specified as being associated with Thursley, but all appear solely in relation to Surrey, thereby inviting a connection to be made. All of the editions of the rolls in which their names are to be found have been produced since The Place-Names of Surrey was published in 1934, and together with the obscurity of the source material (not an obvious source of early place-name forms), this accounts for their failure to
have been identified until now. What follows are the six relevant references identified so far (I have highlighted the forms of the place-name in bold for emphasis).

1214: Hamone de **Tundesleg’** (PRS 1959, 37)
1220: Robert de **Tundesleg’** (PRS 1987, 41)
1221: Robert de **Tundesleg’** (PRS 1990, 212)
1223: Adam de **Tundeslé** (PRS 1999, 161)
1223: Adam de **Tundesle** (PRS 2008, 43)
1224: Adam de **Tundesle** (PRS 2005, 170)

These spellings are unique among the collated forms of other Thunor-related place-names published to date (although it must be admitted that the corpus is somewhat limited), as they lack an initial -h- and, more significantly, an -r- (compare for instance Thunderley Hall in Essex, Tunresleam in 1086 and Thunderl(e) in 1247: Reaney 1935, 546-47). However, both are to be found in the later forms of the place-name referred to previously, so when the two sets are combined, they collectively exhibit a remarkably similar (if chronologically slightly later) development to another Essex place-name, Thundersley (Tunresle(gh) from 1203 and Thur(e)se(i) from 1226: Reaney 1935, 172). Its status as a place-name originally derived in part from the name Thunor – presumably that of the pagan god – has never been doubted, and it therefore seems reasonable (at least to a non-linguist like myself) to see Thursley as being of identical formation.

The evidence presented above cannot prove that Thursley did not obtain its name in a “manorial” fashion, that is to say that a family settled there at some point before the late thirteenth century having come from elsewhere (most likely Essex). However its essentially Wealden location resembles that of Thunderfield, as well as Underslaw near Cranleigh, another possible Thunor place-name (being Thondurslaghus in 1419; see English & Turner 2004, 108). That Thursley is also the site of a medieval chapel built in a strongly Anglo-Saxon style (but not necessarily being of pre-Conquest construction) suggests it had been a place of some significance for more than a century before Hamone de Tundesleg’ made his appearance in the Pipe Roll of 1214. What is more, the discovery of a Saxon urn nearby (Hope-Taylor 1949) adds weight to the notion that it might have been a focus of pre-Christian activity. Regrettably no published article has so far ascribed a date to the vessel, and until such time as a suggestion of this nature is advanced, it cannot be correlated with the established view that pagan place-names were coined in the period circa 600 to 700 (Gelling 1988, 111), the inference being that the loci to which they were attached were still in regular ritual use at the time.

Interpretations of the place-name Thursley normally render the second element as ‘sacred grove/clearing’ (for example Mills 1996, 328), implying a limited – but not necessarily sharply-defined – area which bore the name of the god. However, Gavin Smith’s suggestion that in Surrey leah seems to have often been attached to areas of open grazing land (Smith 2005) looks to have particular merit in regard to Thursley. Not only does it lend its name to an extensive common, but to the east is Witley Common (it is plausible to contend that the leah pre-dated the settlement with which its name is most obviously associated), and to the west Hankley Common. Another notable nearby name is Ockley Common, ocan lea – perhaps “Oc(e)a’s leah” – in AD 909 (Gover et al 1934, 208; for comparable personal name see PASE 2009, ‘Ocea 1’). All are extensive tracts of heathland, and have presumably been so since at least the early medieval period (for the Bronze Age vegetation of Ockley Bog, part of the common of the same name, see Branch & Green 2004, 14). Consequently, to interpret leah in the place-name as indicative of a single limited ritual focus may be underestimate the sense of what would at first seem to be an innocuous generic place-name element with no specific significance of its own.
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Branch, N P, & Green, C P, 2004 Environmental history of Surrey, in Aspects of Archaeology & History in Surrey (eds J Cotton, G Crocker & A Graham), SyAS, 1-18
English, J, & Turner, D, 2004 Medieval settlement in Blackheath Hundred, in Aspects of Archaeology & History in Surrey (eds J Cotton, G Crocker & A Graham), SyAS, 103-118
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The Great Roll of the Pipe for the 8th year of the reign of King Henry III, Michaelmas 1224 (Pipe Roll 68), Publications of the Pipe Roll Society, New Series, 54 (London: Pipe Roll Society, 2005)

OBITUARY

LYN CLARK

A stalwart member of the Society for many years, Evelyn Clark (known affectionately as Lyn) died suddenly on the 21st June in Guildford at the age of 87. Lyn read history at St. Anne’s College, Oxford, subsequently becoming Head of History at Tormead School in Guildford where she soon became involved in supporting the work of the Society, which she joined in 1960.

Between 1983 and 1988 she was a member of the Visits Committee organising many of the outings to surrounding villages and or almost ten years she was an active member of the Library Committee. She was also a long standing member of the Guildford Group.

With her delightful sense of humour and positive outlook, her interest in history never diminished. Her work in the Society’s Library had already stimulated her interest in origins of Stoke next Guildford and, when the Society decided to celebrate the Millennium by studying Surrey Villages, Lyn chose present her findings as a traditional history which was published in 1999.
Although perhaps not known outside Guildford, Lyn's unobtrusive support for the Society was much valued and she will be sadly missed by those who knew her.

*Audrey Monk*

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**HERITAGE CENTRE**

**HERITAGE OPEN DAY**

Discover High Ashurst  
*Friday 11th September and Saturday 12th September*

Since September 2007, groups of young people have been working with archaeologists to uncover the footprint of the demolished stately house at High Ashurst. This event includes a guided tour of the site, the chance to meet and see archaeologists in action (and have a go yourself if you wish), as well as looking at some of the discoveries and archive materials.

Tours start at 10am, 12.30pm and 3pm, and last for approximately 2 hours.

Please meet at the Coach House, High Ashurst Outdoor Education Centre, off Headley Lane, Mickleham, Dorking, RH5 6DQ. There is limited parking outside the Coach house.

If you would like to have a go at digging, it is at your own risk. Please wear old clothing, appropriate to the weather conditions. All equipment provided.

This event is free but spaces are limited. To book a place contact: Abby Guinness, Community Archaeologist, 01483 518772, abby.guinness@surreycc.gov.uk

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**Surrey History Centre**  
*Saturday 12th September at Surrey History Centre*

Surrey History Centre will be providing two behind-the-scenes tours at 10.30 am and 2pm. They will take an hour and a half and must be booked in advance.

To book, Tel: 01483 518737.

Book stall – There will be a second hand book stall of local history books and items throughout the day.

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**OTHER EVENTS**

**Before The Mugshot: Mid-Victorian Asylum Photography**  
*Surrey History Centre*  
*Thursday 17th September 2009, 7.30pm*

An evening talk by Colin Gale and Caroline Smith of Bethlem Royal Hospital Archives and Museum focusing on the extraordinary photographs taken by Henry Hering in the late 1850s of patients at Bethlem Royal Hospital in Southwark. The evening will explore the use to which photography was put in the development of Victorian mental health treatment at hospitals such as Bethlem (as well as Springfield in Surrey) and attempt to place asylum photography in the context of mainstream photographic portraiture.

Tickets £3. There are a limited number of places. To book telephone: 01483 518737

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**First and Second Steps in Old Handwriting**  
*Surrey History Centre*  
*Saturday 19th September*

Join Surrey Heritage archivists as they take you through the first steps of reading
Tudor and Stuart handwriting with the chance to practice reading from copies of items held in the archive.

Beginners session: 10.30am - 12.30pm
Intermediate session: 1.30pm - 3.30pm
Tickets cost £5 per session. Places are limited.
To book Tel: 01483 518737.

VISIT

ROMAN GLASSMAKERS’ WORKSHOP
Quarley, near Andover
November 26th

Some places are still available on this visit, which is being organised by Roman Studies Group and will take place on the afternoon of Thursday 26th November. The visit will consist of a half day demonstration of the ‘GLASSMAKING EXPERIENCE’. Full details of what is included in the visit can be found on the Roman Glassmakers website (www.romanglassmakers.co.uk).

The cost will be approximately £3 per person.

In addition there will be an opportunity to visit the Museum of the Iron Age on the way down to Quarley. This excellent museum is located in Andover and contains much material associated with the Danebury hillfort excavations.

For further information about either of the above please contact Edward Walker (01428 682232 or edwardwalker2@googlemail.com).

CONFERENCES

DEATH AND REMEMBRANCE: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL VIEWPOINT
CBA South East ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2009
Methodist Centre, Gloucester Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1BP
Saturday 31st October, 10am to 5pm

9.30am Registration Coffee available in Aldersyde Room
10 Introduction Andrew Richardson, Chairman, CBA SE
10.05 Roman Period Burials in Sussex David Rudling (University of Sussex)
10.40 The Archaeological Evidence for the Emergence of Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms in South East England Dr Martin Welch (UCL)
11.15 Coffee/Tea Aldersyde Room
11.35 The Black Death of 1348-50 in Southern England Prof. Tom James (University of Winchester)
12.10pm Pets, Pods and Patriots: 21st Century Trends in Death and Disposal on the South Downs Maire McQueeney (Author)
12.45 Questions
1 Lunch
2 AGM
2.30 In their flowing cups: Memories, Myths and Person kinds in Beaker Funerary Ritual Dr Paul Garwood (University of Birmingham)
3.05 Tea/Coffee Aldersyde Room
3.25 Two 1st Century AD ‘Warrior Burials’ from Ashford in Kent Casper Johnson & Jim Stevenson (East Sussex CC and ASE)
What do Funerals Mean? Dr Jake Weekes (Canterbury Archaeological Trust)
4.35 Questions
4.45 Close
Tickets: £20 CBA SE Members; £25 Non-members
Available from Steve and Eva Corbett, 4 Ditchling Close, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN23 8LS
e-mail: cbase@scorbett.co.uk Tel: 01273 905004

LOST CITIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN COUNCIL FOR KENTISH ARCHAEOLOGY
Old Sessions Lecture Theatre, Christ Church University, North Holmes Road, Canterbury
Saturday 24th October 2009, 2 - 5.30 pm
Pompeii: Living under the Volcano by Dr David Plummer
Cyprus: The Lost Roman Coastal Cities by Edna Mynott
Leptis Magna: The African Queen by Ruth Plummer
Malta: Pearl of the Middle Sea by Brian Philp
Tickets: £4 available from CKA, Sandy Ridge, Borough Green, Kent TN15 8HP. SAE please.
Further information from the web site www.the-cka.fsnet.co.uk or from Ruth Plummer, Conference Organiser on 020 8777 7872 or email: davru58-arch@yahoo.co.uk

RELIGION IN SOCIETY AND THE LANDSCAPE SURREY RESEARCH FRAMEWORK CONFERENCE
10th October 2009
Dixon Hall, Letherhead Institute, Leatherhead
9.45am Registration
10 Opening remarks by Barney Sloane, Head of Historic Environment Commissions, English Heritage (Conference Chairman)
10.05 Liquid Assets? Watery deposition in Surrey and beyond Jon Cotton, Senior Curator (Prehistory), Museum of London
10.35 Roman-period Religion in Society and the Landscape in Surrey David Bird, Chairman of the Roman Studies Group
11.05 coffee
11.25 Keynote presentation: Monastic Houses in the South East Judith Roebuck, English Heritage
12.10 panel discussion
12.30 lunch
1.30 Introduction to afternoon by Barney Sloane
1.35 The Granges and Smaller Properties of Waverley Abbey Mark Service, Birkbeck MA Archaeology Graduate
2.05 Newark Priory Judie English and Jeanette Hicks, Surrey Archaeological Society
2.45 tea
3 Monastic Mills Alan Crocker, Surrey Industrial History Group
3.30 The influence of Winchester Diocesan carpenters on Surrey’s domestic buildings Rod Wild, Co-ordinator Surrey Dendrochronology Project, DBRG
4 panel discussion and closing remarks
4.30 disperse

LECTURE MEETINGS

1st September

2nd September
“The Classic Post Office. The GPO from from 1900 to 1989” by Paul Wood to Epsom & Ewell History and Archaeology Society in St Mary’s Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 7.45 for 8 pm.

7th September
“English Landscapes” by Judie English to Woking History Society at Mayford Village Hall, Saunders Lane, Mayford at 9 pm. Visitors welcome £2.

8th September
“Operation Pied Piper” – a meeting devoted to the evacuation 70 years ago of children from London to Westcott. To Westcott Local History Group in the Reading Room, Institute Road, Westcott at 8 pm.

10th September
“New Evidence for Early Occupation in Britain” by Scott McCracken to the Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society in the Mayo Hall of the United Reformed Church, corner of Union Street and Eden Street, Kingston at 7.30 for 8pm. Visitors £1.50.

10th September
“Victorian Life in the Surrey Hills” by Matthew Alexander to Farnham & District Museum Society in the hall of the United Reformed Church, South Street, Farnham at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

15th September
“History of Sunbury Regatta” by Nick Pollard to Sunbury and Shepperton Local History Society at Sunbury Cricket Club, Lower Hampton Road, Sunbury at 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1. For further information contact Peter Bailey, Tel: 01932 221979.

16th September
“Roman Roads – recent work by the Roman Studies Group” by Alan Hall and David Calow to Holmesdale Natural History Club at The Museum, 14 Croydon Road, Reigate, RH2 0PG at 8 pm.

16th September
“Newark Priory” by Jeanette Hicks to Send & Ripley History Society at Ripley Village Hall Annexe at 8 pm.

24th September
“History of Old Windsor” by Margaret Gilson to Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society in the Main Hall, Literary Institute, High Street, Egham at 8 pm. Visitors welcome £2.

29th September
2nd October
AGM of Friends of East Grinstead Museum followed by talk by Revd Canon Clive Everett-Allen at East Grinstead Museum, Cantelupe Road, East Grinstead at 8 pm.

5th October
“Women in World War II” by Carol Brown to Woking History Society at The Lightbox, Woking at 8.15 pm. Visitors welcome £2.

6th October
“A History of Inholts Farm/North Holmwood” by Alan Barker to the Dorking Local History Group at the Friends’ Meeting House, Butter Hill, Dorking at 7.30pm. Visitors £1.

7th October
“Royal Kingston’s Archives” by Jill Lamb to the Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society in the Mayo Hall of the United Reformed Church, corner of Union Street and Eden Street, Kingston at 7.30 for 8pm. Visitors £1.50.

13th October

17th October

17th October
“Border Ware: the Addlestone Connection” by David Barker to Walton & Weybridge Local History Society in Weybridge Library Lecture Hall at 3 pm. Visitors welcome £1. Enquiries to 01932 848638.

21st October
“Secret Surrey” by Brian Thorne to Ripley & Send History Society at Ripley Village Hall Annexe at 8 pm.

22nd October
“Medieval Farnham” The Coverdale Lecture by David Graham to Farnham & District Museum Society in the hall of the United Reformed Church, South Street, Farnham at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

27th October

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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 11th September for the October issue.
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