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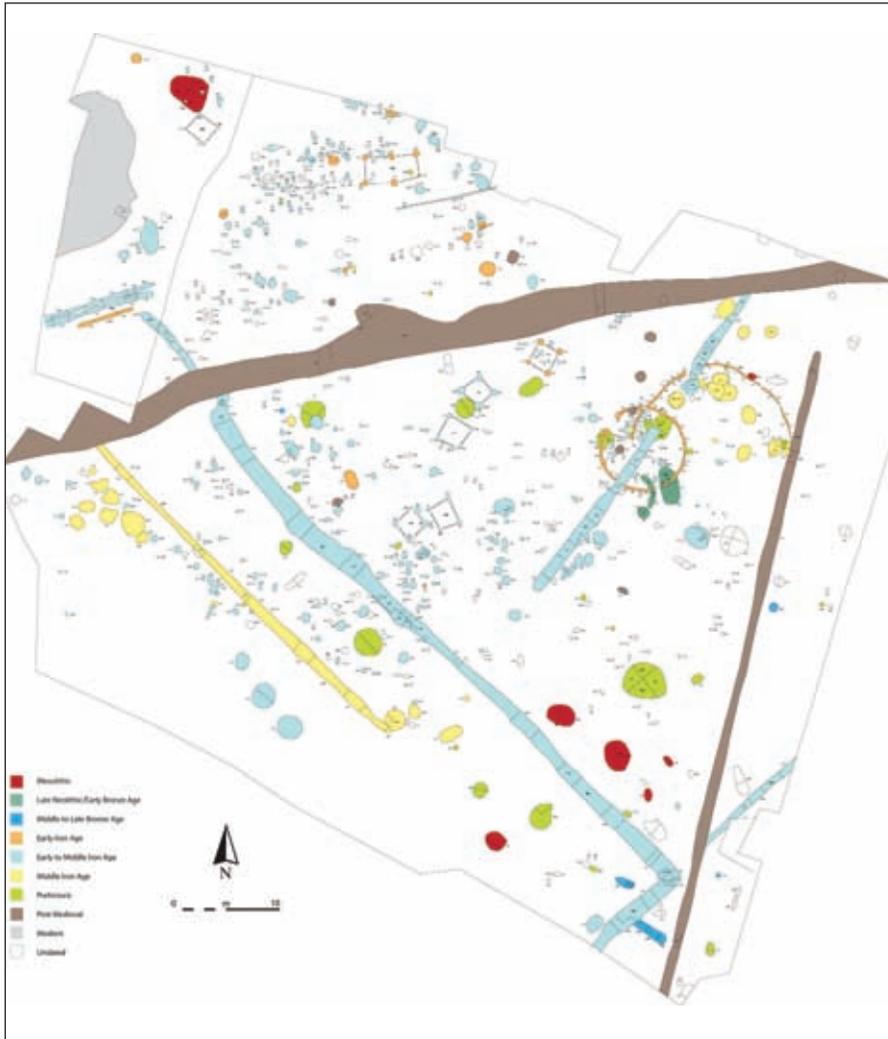
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PREHISTORIC SETTLEMENT AT VIRGINIA WATER

PREHISTORIC SETTLEMENT AT VIRGINIA WATER *Rebecca Lambert*

In 2006 planning consent was granted to Charles Church Homes for the construction of a new playing field on a parcel of grazing land to the east of St Ann's Heath School, Virginia Water (TQ 00326777), as well as a new housing development on part of the original playing field to the west. Fieldwork was carried out by the Surrey County Archaeological Unit (SCAU) in a number of phases, including both evaluation and excavation, and an account of the investigations on the new playing field site was published in *Bulletin 415*, June 2009. This report focuses on the results of the fieldwork carried out on the former playing field, between September 2007 and March 2008, ahead of the new residential development.



Children of St Ann's Heath School with Community Archaeologist Abby Guinness.

The site was located on the Bagshot Beds sand, but gravel deposits were also identified, and are thought to be traces of the Taplow Terrace, River Terrace Gravel (Green 2008). The topography of the site was variable, with the main excavation area situated on a gently sloping plateau of higher ground, but beyond the excavation boundary, the ground sloped steeply down towards the river Bourne. The evaluation trenching showed that a range of features were present, dating from the Mesolithic through to the

Middle Iron Age (Lambert 2007), however the density of the prehistoric settlement was not realised until stripping of the site took place. The site was consequently excavated in small chunks, allowing construction work and archaeological investigation to take place simultaneously.

Three small pits contained Mesolithic flintwork, which, due to the high percentage of burnt flints and knapping residues, appeared to have been purposefully deposited. Similar pits have been found at other sites in Surrey including Charlwood and Perry Oaks (Lewis and Brown 2006), suggesting this type of pit may be a recognisable feature attributable to the later Mesolithic period in the south east. Two very deep pits were of even greater significance, as features of this type have rarely been identified or interpreted. The features were not waterholes, as it is unlikely they would have ever reached the water table, nor are they likely to be flint quarry pits, as gravel pebbles occurred in surface deposits on the site, and would also have been easily collectable from the nearby river bank. The pits are therefore interpreted as animal trapping pits, which subsequently silted naturally as they fell out of use, incorporating Mesolithic flints, but no later material. A number



A cache of iron Age pottery being excavated.



The Iron Age pottery cache.

of tree throws give an indication that the landscape was partially wooded at this time.

A small cluster of features dating to the Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age were identified in the northwest quarter of the site. The presence of Beaker pottery in two of the features is of some interest, as this period has been difficult to document in the region (Cotton 2004).

The later Bronze Age evidence on the site consisted of three cremations, an isolated pit to the west of the site, and a small cluster of features in the southeast corner of the excavation area. The features appeared, however, to be peripheral to a series of ditches

discovered on the new playing field site (Lambert 2008), marking the beginnings of formal organisation of the landscape. The presence of sheep bone and puffed cereal grain in Middle to Late Bronze Age deposits, shows domestication of crops and animals, and a shift away from a hunting and gathering economy. The fact that all the features with such material contained special deposits may, however, indicate that such foods were important and special commodities at this time.

The most extensive use of the area occurred in the Early-Middle Iron Age, when a range of settlement evidence could be identified. The intensification of settlement on the site during this period shows the establishment of a settled community functioning within an organised landscape, and the choice of location close to the river, probably gave an important strategic position for industry, transport, and trade.

Environmental evidence from the site indicates the presence of oats, wheat, and barley, indicating a farming economy (Allott and Morgan 2010). The presence of four and six post structures also supports the evidence for farming, as it would have been possible to use these structures for a range of storage and processing functions. One four poster contained a broken quern stone in one of its post holes, perhaps providing a link to its use as a grain store. On other sites in the Thames Valley, four posters have also been linked to the storage of fodder, suggesting an association with pastoralism (Lambrick 2009), though because animal bone survival was very poor due to the acidic soil, it is unclear whether this was the case at St Ann's.

The use of pits as storage features (primarily for grain), with a later function as rubbish pits, has been attested on many other Iron Age sites (Cunliffe 1992). Whilst this may be the case for a small number of the pits at St Ann's, the majority seem to have been dug for the specific purpose of disposing of waste, with very few remaining open for long, before being backfilled with successive phases of dumped material. The mixed nature of the pit assemblages shows that industrial, domestic, and organic materials were being disposed of together, and this may indicate middening was also taking place, with a possible midden identified on the northernmost edge of the site. Specific study of select pits for phosphate analysis was undertaken, inspired by the studies begun at the Brooklands site, where it was suggested that some of the pits may have had a primary function as cess pits (Hanworth and Tomalin 1977). High phosphate levels from a number of large pits at St Ann's Heath School support this idea, as do the multitude of thin lenses of ash and sandy soil, a characteristic of cess pits, where soil layers are added to aid decomposition, and tamper upcoming smells.

Evidence of ritual or ceremonial activity came in the form of a number of placed deposits, in particular dating to the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age. The placing of items such as querns may be linked to an agricultural fertility rite (cf Bradley and Yates 2007), and a number of features showing evidence of acts of termination, may show links with cycles of life and death. The inclusion of additional deposits in some of the cremations, including a possible food substance, suggests a view incorporating the concept of an afterlife. All of the placed deposits were physically located within the boundary of the settlement, showing the close integration of both the sacred and the profane.

The roundhouse ring gully was the only identifiable evidence for a dwelling, however, it is possible that other structures may be represented by some of the apparently random post hole configurations, or by empty areas between features, where the construction method did not leave a trace, such as with turf or cob walls. The orientation of the roundhouse in a northwest direction is unusual, as it is more common for such structures to face a southerly or easterly direction, towards the rising sun. A comparable west facing roundhouse was found at Brooklands (Hanworth and Tomalin 1977), but its orientation probably directly related to the industrial activities taking place on the site. This does not seem to be the case at St Ann's, as the roundhouse dated to the Early Iron Age, but the majority of metalworking residue was Middle Iron Age, leaving the reasons for a northwest orientation unclear.



The roundhouse ring gully being excavated.

The production of iron is one of the most significant elements of activity identifiable at St Ann's Heath School, and it appears to be one of a number of such sites identified in the northwest Surrey region (Jones forthcoming). Analysis of the slag and hammerscale residues shows the majority of material was related to iron smelting, as well as primary smithing to consolidate the blooms. The vast majority of metalworking material came from pits on the periphery of the settlement, which had dumped fills consisting of mixed domestic and industrial waste. Most of the material was in a secondary location, but probably not far from its original zone of activity, suggesting that metalworking took place on the edge of the settlement. This location may be practical, for example to separate domestic activity from the noise and acrid smoke produced by the process (cf Hingley 1997), or it may be ideological, for example, to create a division to keep people away from the perceived 'spiritual danger' of ore transformation (cf Reid and Maclean 1995). The possibility of iron production being a specialist activity seems likely, and the ability to undertake such

processes may have ensured the community at St Ann's held an important trading and social position.

The location of the site within the grounds of St Ann's Heath School, meant that educational visits were possible, following on from similar activities organised during the excavation on the new playing field site (Lambert 2009). The children were able to learn about the archaeology and history of their area, and about how archaeologists work, and based some of their academic work on their experiences. Site tours were also arranged for interested local history groups, providing an opportunity for first hand viewing and detailed discussion.

The excavation ahead of the new residential development at St Ann's Heath School, has been of considerable interest, as it has produced extensive evidence of occupation, economy, industry, and ideologies for the earlier Iron Age, as well as evidence of activity during the Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, and post medieval periods. The information acquired is both of regional and national importance, and addresses a number of issues raised in research frameworks for the area (e.g. Bird 2006). The earlier Iron Age in particular, has also been recognised nationally as a period with high research potential, as it is poorly understood compared to the later part of the period (Haselgrove *et al* 2001). The assessment report for the site is now complete (Lambert 2010), and it is hoped that further funding can be secured for supplementary analysis and publication of the excavation results.

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned and funded by Charles Church Southern Ltd, and their support is greatly appreciated. The fieldwork was directed by myself (Rebecca Lambert), and project managed by Rob Poulton and Nowal Shaikhley, and we would like to thank all the SCAU staff who participated in the project, our external specialists, and Tony Howe at SCC for monitoring and advising on the project. A big thankyou also goes to the staff and children at St Ann's Heath School, and the local visitors, who showed such enthusiasm for learning about our discoveries.

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BUILDINGS OF PUBLIC INTEREST PROJECT

Rod Wild

The Domestic Buildings Research Group (DBRG) has launched a project to date some of Surrey's finest timber-framed buildings, starting with a grant of £5000 from their research funds. They are asking for suggestions. Dendrochronology (tree-ring dating) will be used and the money is enough for ten buildings. A start has been made with the Crown Inn on Chiddingfold Green, but nine more suggestions are needed.

The Project (BPIP for short) is a follow on from the Surrey Dendrochronology Project. This has been running for a number of years. It was formed jointly by Surrey Archaeological Society and the DBRG, with the support of Surrey County Council. It has dated 160 buildings across Surrey with excellent results. Funds came from the Heritage Lottery Fund as well as DBRG, the Society and sometimes from the building owners. A list of the datings so far can be found on DBRG's website, www.dbrg.org.uk. There is now a wealth of information about the development of timber framing as well as a good deal of local interest. The main task remaining is to analyse the data and write up the results. Whilst this is being done, the new BPIP project will have a change of emphasis.



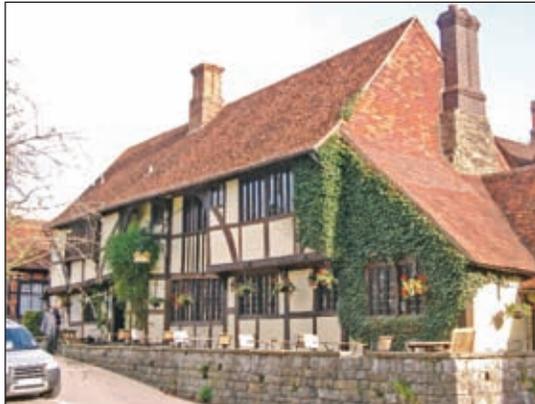
Place Farm, Bletchingley.

Most of the buildings dated so far have been quite humble by today's standards, just simple farmhouses. One exception caused a rethink. Place Farm in Bletchingley doesn't look very unusual, just an interesting mix of old brickwork with only a four-centred entranceway to make a visitor pause. It is known that it is all that remains of the palace of Bletchingley Place, probably the gatehouse, but most experts thought it to have no great age, perhaps 18th century. Internally, it does have splendid roof

timbers, great king posts of oak soaring to the ridge. It is also known that the original Bletchingley Place was given to Anne of Cleves after her divorce from Henry VIII in 1540. The 'Flander's Mare' did not even get past first base in the monarch's estimation, their marriage ending almost before it had begun, but she was given a generous settlement. Could it possibly be that Anne had walked beneath these timbers? Without much expectation, the samples were taken. Everyone was staggered by the date: 1547! In the event, further research by Dennis Turner showed that the palace had been taken out of her hands in 1546 and the wonderful roof must have been built by a certain court big-wig, Sir Thomas Cawarden, who came into the ownership and carried out much needed repairs. But Anne must have been fond of the place. She left £4 for the poor of Bletchingley!

It was the work at Place Farm that brought about the new project. It was realised that some buildings are of exceptional interest and should not be omitted. The funding allows nine more buildings to be chosen. Which should they be? The spectacular Crown Inn on Chiddingfold Green was an ideal choice, a stunningly beautiful timber-framed building, passed by thousands every day. Archaeologists call it a building in the 'Wealden' style, with jutting-out wings and a recessed centre. It has the added advantage that, for the price of a drink or a bar snack, passer bys can go inside and see some of the finest moulded medieval timbers in Surrey - right there in the bar!

At The Crown, nine timbers were sampled and were found to have been felled in the winter of 1438/9, the winter of 1439/40 and the spring of 1440. It is known that medieval carpenters always built straight away with unseasoned oak, so a construction date of 1440 or soon afterwards is likely. This lovely and eye-catching building has long divided historians. There is documentary evidence of a building here in the 1300s, but building archaeologists thought a slightly later date likely and have been proved right. Now visitors will know that they are



The Crown Inn, Chiddingfold.

looking at timbers more than 550 years old. What traffic it must have seen! It is remarkable that it should be built during the Hundred Years' War and still survives in much of its original form.

Dendrochronology in buildings works by drilling six to eight cores (the size of a pencil) from selected beams. The process is simple and clean. The tree-rings on these cores are then examined under a microscope. Some tree-rings will be wide, some narrow, depending on the growing conditions in that particular year. This pattern forms a 'finger print' for that period, enabling a 'felling date' to be calculated. If the sampling includes at least one example with 'bark edge', this date can be exact or nearly so.

Now suggestions are invited as to which other buildings should be tackled. The building should ideally be an eye-catcher in a public place. A number of good candidates have already been dated. The "Guest House" by Lingfield Church rivals the Crown in its quality and is a public library, so very accessible. It dated to 1474. Brewerstreet Farm in Bletchingley is out-of-the-way but has the best close studding

in Surrey so would surely have been considered. It is a little later, 1491, but still a respectable 500 years old. Not that age is a vital criterion. No. 1 Church Street, Godalming (opposite the "Pepper Pot") is another wonderful building in the public eye but with an Elizabethan date, 1571.

Buildings suggested can be a private house, a public building, or a pub. Churches are a possibility, but usually their walls - which represent the "first build" - are of stone. Good timber-framing is important for selection, as is situation. Basically the title of the Project says it all, "Buildings of Public Interest Project". Selected buildings will be sampled and dated free of any charge to the owner (who will get a comprehensive report of the findings). A professional dendrochronologist is used and the Project pays the fee.

I am the Project Coordinator and would welcome suggestions. Dendrochronology always amazes me, no matter often I see it used. It is a wonderful science of astonishing accuracy and allows us to calibrate events and pin point a building in its historical context. Please contact me

COUNCIL NEWS

NEW PRESIDENT ELECTED

Emma Corke was elected President of the Society at the AGM on Saturday 20th November, 2010. Emma succeeds David Graham who has completed his four year term of office.

On behalf of the Society, Audrey Monk thanked David Graham for his enthusiasm, energy and hard work as President and said that the initiatives that had been taken under his four years of leadership both in fieldwork and in many other areas would go a long way to ensure the Society could achieve its objectives for the future. She said the Society was extremely grateful for what he had done and presented him with two gifts to mark his success as President.



David Graham, outgoing President, congratulates Emma Corke on her election as President of the Society.

David Graham replied that it had been an honour to be President and he was grateful to Society members for their kindness and support and for the gifts that he had been given.

Speaking after the election Emma Corke said David Graham had made an immense contribution to the Society. During his Presidency the range and amount of activity of Society members had increased to an unprecedented level. She said that thanks to him the Society was now equipped - both literally and mentally - to undertake

research that would not have been thought possible in the past and with justified confidence in its competence. She also spoke of the co-operative and understanding relationship between amateur and professional archaeologists in Surrey which David Graham had encouraged. He would, she said, be a hard act to follow, but it would be her job to carry on his work by helping to ensure that the current projects are brought to completion in the form of publication, and to encourage and support new ones. Of

course that would not just be purely archaeological projects, but historical research, outreach, training and all the many varied things that Society members do.

The other elections at the AGM were:

Honorary Vice-Presidents for 2010-11: The Viscountess Hanworth, Mr R D Shepherd, Prof S S Frere, Mr F W Holling, Mrs A Watson, Miss J M Carter, Mrs V Ettlinger, Mr S E D Fortescue, Mr E E Harrison, Dr D F Renn, Mrs G M Harvey, Mr J N Hampton, Mr D C H Combe.

Vice-Presidents for 2010-11: Mr D J Turner, Prof A G Crocker, Mr R F Muir, Miss A J Monk, Mr K D Graham, Dr D G Bird, Mr J F Cotton, Mrs G M Crocker, Ms J English, Prof E C Fernie, Mrs A C Graham, Dr G P Moss, Mr A C Sargent, Mr R W Savage, Mr P A Tarplee, Mr P E Youngs.

Honorary Officers for 2010-11: Secretary Mr D Calow, Treasurer Mr A C Sargent, Joint Editors Mrs A C Graham, Ms S Hill, Mr J S Pile, Editor of the Bulletin Mr P M Jones, Librarian Mrs R F Hughesdon.

Members of Council to retire in 2014: Mr Peter Balmer, Mr Roger Brookman, Mrs Anne Lea, Mr Jeff Reading, Mrs Pamela Savage, Dr David Taylor.

PERSONAL DATA

David Calow

Some Society members have expressed concern that addresses or named photographs in the Bulletin can be found by internet search engines now that the Bulletin is available on the Society's website. This has been discussed by the Publications Committee and Council and it was decided, firstly, that full addresses of Society members will not be shown and, secondly, that authors of articles which include photographs with text which identifies individuals in the photographs should get the written consent of those concerned to be identified.

If any Society member is concerned about items in past editions of the Bulletin which are on the Society's website please let Emma Coburn know and she will try to delete the references.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Emma Coburn

For those of you who do not pay your subscription by standing order, the following rates become due on 1st April:

Ordinary Member	£25
Associate Member	£2
Junior Member aged 16 – 20 (with <i>Collections</i>)	£6
Junior Member living at same address as an Ordinary Member (no publications)	free
Student Member aged 21 – 25	£12.50
Institutional Member (Inland)	£30
Institutional Member (Overseas)	£40

Please send your subscription to me, Emma Coburn, at Castle Arch. I am here on Wednesdays, Thursday and Friday 9.45am - 4.15pm; Tel: 01483 532454 or email info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk.

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? With thanks.

If you use email and would like to hear more about the Society via email, please email me so I can update your contact details on our membership database.

I look forward to hearing from you.

NEW MEMBERS

Emma Coburn

I would like to welcome the following new members who have joined the Society. I have included principal interests, where they have been given on the membership application form. If you have any questions, queries or comments, please do not hesitate to get in contact with me on 01483 532454 or info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk

Name	Town	Archaeological/ Local History Interests
Mr C Budleigh	Westhumble	Saxon and early medieval
Mr Scott Collier	Helston	Landscape archaeology, prehistory
Mrs J Conheaney	Westhumble	Saxon and early medieval
Miss Tyler Dadge	Burpham	
Mrs Meryl Evans	Dorking	History of art and local history
Mr Seb Fry	London	Iron Age and Roman studies/periods
Mrs R Glasgow	Merstham	Moat in Merstham; Ancient Egypt
Mr C Hays	Epsom	Iron Age, Bronze Age and Roman
Mrs P Howard	Epsom	Domestic buildings, excavations and surveys, village studies
Mr M McMullen	Godalming	
Mr Shaun Quinn	Camberley	Archaeological volunteering
Mrs Pauline Schwarz	Abinger Common	Co-leadership of a group walking ancient Surrey tracks. Dorking History Society
Miss Alice Smith	Ashtead	
Mr Kenneth Wallis	Berkhamsted	

OFFER: PAST PUBLICATIONS

Mr G T Bellamy, a member since 1951, is retiring from the Society and would like to offer the following publications for collection from his home in Somerset. Should anyone be interested, please contact Emma Coburn for more details:

37 copies of the *Collections*

The complete five volumes of John Aubrey's *History of Surrey*

Several other books, research papers, etc.

Thank you Mr Bellamy for your kind offer.

SURREY LOCAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

PLAGUE, STARVATION AND SEX: PARISH RECORDS AND DEMOGRAPHIC PATTERNS

The local history committee's workshop on parish records was held at the Surrey History Centre on 29th January 2011 and was attended by over 30 people. The workshop was led by Catherine Ferguson, who gave an introductory talk in the morning on the historical background to parish registers. Most people probably use parish registers to trace individuals, but Catherine showed us how they can be used to discern demographic patterns using records from Surrey parishes as examples. In the afternoon we split into small groups for a practical session to work on sets of data and after tea reconvened to discuss our findings.

The day gave a most interesting insight into the wider use of parish registers for local and social history.

SURREY WOODLANDS

Saturday May 21st

Shalford Village Hall (small hall), 2 – 4.30pm

The Local History Committee's spring meeting will have the theme of Surrey Woodlands. **Rob Davies** from Surrey Wildlife Trust will speak about ancient woodland and how tithe maps, and other historical sources have been an invaluable resource for updating the Surrey ancient woodland inventory. He will be followed by **Chris Matcham**, also from Surrey Wildlife Trust who will give a talk about traditional woodcrafts. After tea we will have a talk on Conservation and Management of Historic Woodland by **Sean O'Kelly**, a ranger from Ashted Common.

Please see enclosed flier for full programme. The cost will be £5 payable on the day.

If you would like to attend please register with Janet Balchin e-mail - janet.balchin@btinternet.com Hullbrook Cottage, Cranleigh Road, Ewhurst, GU6 7RN (enclosing SAE if you would like confirmation)

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM 2011

Peter Balmer

The meeting was opened by the Chairman, **Richard Savage**, who welcomed members, drawing attention to the wide range of research that was being carried out in the county, reflected in the diversity of the day's programme.

Sally Jenkinson (Surrey History Centre) and **David Youngs** gave a joint presentation on the Tithe Map Digitisation Project. The tithe maps and their apportionments provide a wealth of information on landholding and agriculture in the years following the 1836 Act that converted payments in kind to cash. The maps vary in accuracy and size, with about one third in Surrey being first class. As part of the project, there will be a CD for each tithe district, including both the map and the apportionment, and a county-wide database, available from mid 2011 at the Surrey History Centre, which will be searchable for a number of variables including individuals. Among potential applications, variations in agricultural productivity can be assessed through differences in rent charge per acre. In future, by linking tabulations to the maps, it will be possible to reconstruct land-use patterns.

Next, **Nick Branch** (University of Reading) focused on the potential for developing greater understanding of Surrey's archaeology through research on palaeoenvironments, especially when combined with palaeoeconomic information. At present, there are many spatial and temporal gaps in our knowledge. Dr Branch's project has concentrated initially on the Mesolithic, a period for which there are few environmental records (only at Elstead and Staines) compared with numerous find spots. He has developed a county-wide accessible GIS-based model which can be refined as more data become available. Research has shown periods of burning in the Mesolithic, but it is unclear whether they result from human activity or climatic change. There are more Bronze Age environmental records, important for looking at heathland evolution, but still big gaps. Medieval wetland information is also poor because of drying out and peat cutting. Boreholes at Woking Palace are assisting in understanding the environmental history of the site. Future work will include analysis of pollen in the moat fills, use of geophysical methods in flood plain contexts, and investigation of medieval water management. Despite the gaps in knowledge, work in Surrey is well ahead of other counties.

Joe Flatman (Surrey County Council) expressed concerns over ways in which changes in the planning framework may negatively affect archaeology (which is often only protected through the planning system). The recent Policy Planning Statement 5 is an improvement on its predecessors in many ways as "heritage assets" are made

a material consideration, even when not specifically designated. Archaeology, historic buildings and landscapes have all been subsumed under one heading. However, there are risks that the new Localism Bill will place heritage in some danger and that the National Planning Policy Framework will significantly reduce protection for archaeology in its attempt to simplify planning guidance. At the same time, local government is losing skilled staff including conservation officers.

Becky Lambert (Surrey County Archaeological Unit) spoke about SCAU's work at St Ann's Heath School in Virginia Water, a site on the Bagshot Beds which are generally low in archaeological potential. Features included pits from the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Early Bronze Age, including some containing flints that were possibly purposely deposited, as well as settlement and industrial evidence from the Iron Age. The site had the advantage of being free-draining and close to the River Bourne. From the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age there are two sherds of Beaker pottery, which is valuable in a period difficult to document in Surrey. From the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age there was a large enclosure ditch, constructed in a more open landscape. There was one early Iron Age roundhouse (unusually north-west facing), but settlement may have been more extensive. Four-poster structures varied considerably in size. Evidence of iron working included smelting and primary smithing, but no furnaces were found. Special deposits, such as burnt pottery, possibly represent terminations within the settlement, suggesting that there was no separation between sacred and profane. Despite the initially unpromising nature of the site, evidence from the Early Iron Age may contribute to national understanding, for example in C14 dating linking pottery sequences.

Before lunch, the Chairman presented the **Margary Award** for best display to the Spelthorne Archaeology and Local History Group, with Leatherhead and District Local History Society as runners-up.

Peter Harplee (Surrey Industrial History Group) resumed proceedings with an outline of Ashtead's surprisingly varied industrial history, apart from its long-running and well-known brick and tile manufacture. A photographic dry plate works was established in the late nineteenth century, succeeded by separate factories for plate and photographic paper, but the takeover by Kodak ended photographic output in Ashtead. The original works had been taken over by automobile electric components manufacture. Other industries included leather and artificial cloth, steam car assembly (up to the First World War), and a pottery works to provide opportunities for disabled servicemen.

Rob Poulton (SCAU) described last season's work at Woking Palace. The previous season had established much of the late form of the palace and some structures from the earlier manor. The 2010 excavation revealed an assemblage of kitchen waste from high status foods, with the waste pit sealed by walls from a new building constructed c1300. Nearby was a detached kitchen building of the manorial complex, which probably remained in use until c1500. To the south the foundations of a brick building with the core of a major staircase were exposed, probably dating from the 15th century before Henry VII took over the palace. Work in 2011 will concentrate on the transformation of the medieval manor into the later palace, including excavating near the gatehouse to better understand the principal court. An important building that has not yet been discovered is the chapel.

David Calow reported on the Romano-British site at Flexford. Initially attention had been drawn there by sherds in molehills. A magnetometry survey revealed an extensive rectilinear ditch pattern. There appears to be some six hectares of protected Romano-British contexts. Excavation so far has produced large quantities of pottery from ditches. There is evidence of a forge, with three pots arranged in a stack within. Some building material has emerged but as yet the only direct structural

evidence is a rectilinear flint area. One small find site produced quantities of lead alloy and pottery, a unique Samian ware bowl and a copper bowl. There is much yet to discover on this important site.

David Graham reviewed the evidence for the development of the keep at Farnham Castle in the light of recent explorations. The castle is often said to have been founded by Henry de Blois in 1138, but it would already have been old-fashioned by that date. Excavations in the 1950s inside the shell keep found a mass of masonry at the centre containing a shaft with Tudor pottery in its fill. There were three metre thick walls, plastered on the outside. This appeared to be the base of a large tower, with the motte stacked up outside, but there was no evidence that the tower had ever been finished. There is documentary evidence of a well shaft building on the motte in 1296. The shaft has recently been explored to a depth of 15 metres, to below natural ground level, and a well shaft (which has not been excavated) continues below this to an unknown depth. At the bottom of the shaft is evidence of infilling of an earlier ditch, indicative of previous activity on the site. The bottom of the shaft has reused masonry, changing to finer quality above the original ground surface.

The final presentation of the day was given by **David Williams** (Portable Antiquities Scheme) who reviewed the most interesting finds reported in Surrey in the past year. The scheme is now operating under the auspices of the British Museum, and its work is secure for now. Highlights included Roman silver coins and a rare Iron Age gold coin from Charlwood, a site that would not have been found without metal detecting, and another important group of coins from Horley. From Cobham there was a medieval Limoges enamel dress fitting, and from Horley a quarter noble of Edward III. A group of coins from Godstone, including gold coins of Henry VIII and Elizabeth may be an indication of the site of an annual fair.

The Chairman closed the day's proceedings by thanking all the speakers and all those who had worked hard to make such a successful day.

MISCELLANY

EXCAVATIONS IN THORPE

Tom Munnery

During the winter of 2008-2009 an excavation by Surrey County Archaeological Unit (SCAU) took place at The American School in England (TASIS) in Thorpe. The excavation took place as a part of the ongoing improvements being undertaken at the school, where in this case a new set of classrooms and administrative building were to be erected. The 10m by 20m site lies only 10m to the north of Coldharbour Lane, the main thoroughfare through Thorpe. The excavations revealed a series of pits, wells and linear features dating from the late Saxon/early medieval period through to the 18th century.

One of the key features exposed was a well-preserved section of medieval road. This once formed a part of what was known as the King's Highway that ran through Thorpe, linking it with Egham. The road was formed of gravel, possibly from St Ann's Hill to the south, which the road passes through, above a stratum of silty clay. This was built up on several occasions by new layers of a similar make-up. The date of origin of the King's Highway is uncertain, but it



Excavations at TASIS, Thorpe.

contained a mixture of late Saxon and early medieval finds from within the basal silt layer, and is believed to have been formed at some point during the early medieval period.

Three Late Saxon/early medieval pits are found that seemingly do not respect the boundary formed by the King's Highway, and therefore pre-date it. Once the King's Highway was constructed it formed the focus of activity, probably with a medieval property fronting the road and the backlands at a distance, to the rear. Unfortunately no structural features were found to clarify the position of this property. Activity became more intensive in the 12th and 13th centuries, with two wells or waterholes included in the feature assemblage. Evidence subsequently decreased during the 14th century, possibly in relation to the bubonic plague that swept through the country at this time. Despite a decrease in the number of features, a large pottery assemblage was recovered from one of the pits. In the late 15th and 16th centuries, an increase in the number of pits suggests an increase in the population, with a rich assemblage of Tudor pottery being recovered from one of the features. The first ditch was also excavated, presumably to separate the lands of adjacent properties.

Documentary evidence suggests that the pitting excavated on this site could have belonged to the house known as Carylls. Sources also show that the road was closed c1720, when the house was demolished and the land incorporated into the grounds of Thorpe House. This can be observed in the archaeology, with the construction of another boundary ditch, and the cessation of backlands features.

The site constitutes a rare Surrey example of a medieval village and backlands plot. Poulton (1998b, 242) notes that there is little evidence of backlands sites within towns, and that within villages the evidence becomes even more scarce (Williams 1991-2, 103 & Bird 2006, 55).

Acknowledgements

The work was funded by TESIS, and was aided by the great interest of Don Bishop of the school. The archaeological work was directed by Tom Munnery with the assistance of Simon Hind, Nick Marples, Nigel Randall and Phil Jones of SCAU, with the help of volunteer Will Thorndyke.

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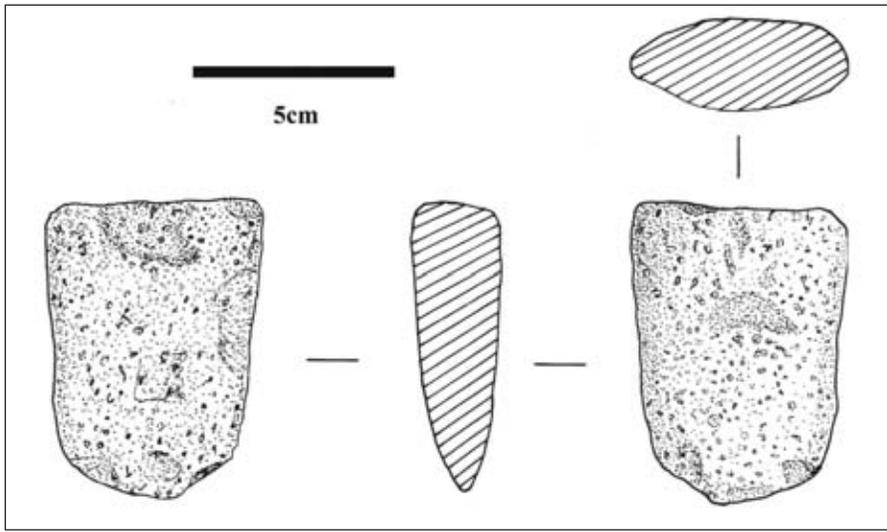
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RE-USE OF NEOLITHIC STONE AXES

Judie English

During excavation by Joan Harding of the Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age site at Weston Wood, Albury, in the 1960s, a Neolithic stone axe was recovered from a pit containing Late Bronze Age pottery (Field & Woolley 1984; Russell 1989). The axe has been recovered with the remainder of the archive and, although the report written at the time is missing, Vin Davis of the Implement Petrology Group has examined the slide (IPG Sy64) taken then and confirmed the material as epidiorite of probable Cornish origin.

Of interest is its discovery in a Bronze Age pit which, from the remainder of the finds, shows no signs of contamination. A number of other axes, mainly from Group I, epidiorite, either show signs of re-use or have been found in later contexts. Both deliberate deposition and a possible function in metal working processes have been postulated (Roe pers com). Of local instances, in Sussex, a serpentinite example (IPG Sx64), from Blackrock Farm, Westmeston, but with no secure context, was re-



Re-used Neolithic stone axe from a Bronze Age pit at Weston Wood, Albury.

used in metal smithing and in the same area a surface find of a Group I axe from Plumpton Plain (IPG Sx197) shows re-use in the form of hammering marks on the broken butt end and asymmetric wear of the blade end (English *et al* submitted); similar asymmetry of the blade end is also shown by an axe from close-by at Alfriston (Woodcock & Woolley 1986; IPG Sx5). At Terminal 5, Heathrow, an axe, probably of epidiorite and in excellent condition, was found in a Middle Bronze Age water-hole (Framework Archaeology 2006, 144-5; Roe in *ibid*), a deposition perhaps paralleled in motivation to that at Weston Wood.

I am grateful to Vin David for re-examining the thin section, to Dave Field for locating the IPG records and to Fiona Roe for information about other re-used Neolithic axes.

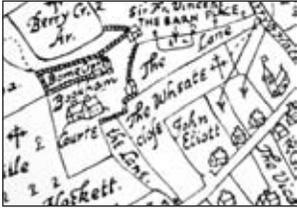
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BOOKHAM COURTE: AN INITIAL EVALUATION TRENCH Lyn Smith

Great Bookham lies on a spring line between the chalk downs to the south and the heavy clay common land to the north. The springs provided the inhabitants of the village with clean water from shallow wells, which was a necessity as the river is some distance from the village.

In a charter dated 675, Frithwald, subregulus of Surrey, and Bishop Erkenwald granted *Bocham* ('settlement at the beech trees') to Chertsey Abbey, and Bookham is recorded in Domesday as having 36 households, a church and a watermill, which must have been on the River Mole.



A section from J H Harvey's interpretation of Thomas Clay's 1614 map showing Bookham Courte and the nearby church.

John de Rutherwyke, one of Chertsey's greatest abbots, may have reorganised the village during the early 14th century into a single north-south street with houses either side. The early Norman church stands at the north-east corner of the crossroads where the north-south road from the Abbey crosses the historic east-west route between Guildford and Leatherhead. The new nucleus was along the southern arm of the north-south road heading away from the church, and since Bookham Court, the site of the abbatial grange that collected produce for the abbey, stood well apart from the planned settlement behind the church, the village is presumably much later than both church and grange.

Chertsey Abbey was dissolved by Henry VIII in 1537, and in 1550, the manor was granted to Lord William Howard, later created Baron of Effingham. The grant includes details of Bookham Courte, the manor house of Great Bookham, which stood on the site of the grange¹. Lord Howard² rented out Bookham Courte to Alexander Tailer³ in 1609³, Edward Richbell in 1647⁴ and Edward's son, Edward Richbell in 1668⁴. A 1720 copy of a lease for Bookham Courte⁵ between Edward Howard and Thomas Martyr of Phenice Farm was not completed.

In 1614, Lord William Howard instigated a survey of Great and Little Bookham, and appointed as surveyor, Thomas Clay of Reigate, who produced a map and survey book of the manor of Great Bookham, which took him three years to complete.⁶ The original is in the custody of the National Trust, but John Hooper Harvey of the Surrey Archaeological Society carried out considerable research in the 1940s using this map and his copies are at Castle Arch.⁷

Sometime in the mid 17th century the Howards decided to live in the expanded sub-manor of Eastwick, and Bookham Courte was probably demolished between 1700 and 1720, with the land incorporated into the Eastwick estate. A map of 1720 shows no sign of the property.

Church Road is an extension of the High Street and is part of the original road that went across Bookham Common via Stoke D'Abernon to Chertsey Abbey. Leading from it is a road called The Park, which was part of the Eastwick Estate prior to 1924 when the land was sold by Arthur Bird, the last lord of the manor of Great Bookham, to developers who built several houses in the 1920s and 30s. Pieces of tile and medieval pottery have been found in the garden of one of these properties, which lies about 250 m north of the church. In some very dry periods the grass in the rear garden has dried in square shapes suggesting some underlying disturbance or structure. Flooding in some areas of the garden has also been noted, and the leg of a bronze ewer dated by David Williams to the late 14th to early 15th century was found during the construction of a path.



Bronze ewer leg found during the construction of a garden path. Possibly early 14th to 15th century.

A test-pit evaluation of the site undertaken by the author revealed a packed flint floor, possibly of a courtyard. Various finds immediately above and between the flints included pottery sherds of medieval and post-medieval date, butchered animal bones and teeth, iron nails, glass and a large quantity of broken clay tiles and building materials.

Thomas Clay's map shows the building known as Bookham Courte on, or very near to, the site of the evaluation trench. The nearby lake, although remodelled over the years, is a useful landmark to help determine where Bookham Courte may have stood. Clay's survey notes describe Bookham Courte as the main demesne, with Eastwick, Slyfield and Polesden as sub-demesnes.

Clay described the manor as:

“Robert Marshe holdeth by Indenture of lease the Mannour House or Capital Messuage called Bookeham Courte well and sufficiently built and covered with Tyle together with other buildings and outhouses belonging to the same viz. 2 greate Barnes wherof one covered with tyle and sufficiently boarded rounde about contayneing ...(left blank) bayes and the other covered with thatche and walled about with loame contayneing ...(left blank) Bayes one Stable covered with thatche contayneing ...(left blank) Bayes one Stable or Oxehouse contayneing ...(left blank) Bayes a gatehouse and a granarie n ye south side of the Courte covered with tyle the gatehouse being now much in decay and with age and for want of reparacion ready to fall; which said Mannour House and buildings to the same belonging together with the greate yard or gate there and the gardens and Orchard therun to appertayneing are situate in Greate Bookeham aforesaid neere unto the Church...”

The flint-packed floor may be the courtyard of the medieval manor, but more investigation is required to determine the position of the building and its courtyard, stables, barns and gatehouse. A geophysical survey may reveal more information and this will then be followed up by a planned evaluation trench.

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- 2 Counterpart of lease for 21 years at £60 pa
 - i) Sir Edward Howard of Kingswood, Ewell, and Lady Howard, widow, his mother
 - ii) Alexander Tailer of Great Bookman, yeoman.Bookham Court with site of manor of Great Bookham, 10 acres at Eastwick and Farnehill Land Woking History Centre, K63/1/10 Date: 7 Jul 1609.
- 3 Counterpart of lease for 21 years at £80 pa
 - i) Sir Francis Howard and Sir Charles Howard, his son
 - ii) Edward Richbell of Great Bookham.Bookham Court with land at Eastwick and Farne Hill Land, Great Bookham Woking History Centre, K63/1/36 Date: 1 Jun 1647.
- 4 Counterpart of lease for 21 years at £80 pa
 - i) Sir Charles Howard
 - ii) Edward Richbell of Great Bookham, yeoman.Bookham Court with Farne Hill Lands and other land, Great Bookham Woking History Centre, K63/1/44 Date: 12 Oct 1668.
- 5 Lease (not completed)
 - i) Thomas, Lord Howard of Effingham
 - ii) Thomas Martyr of Phenice, Great Bookham, yeoman.Great Bookham Court with Bartons Close, Church Close.....Woking History Centre, K63/1/84 Date: 1721
- 6 Thomas Clay's map of Great Bookham 1614-1617. Woking History Centre, ref ZS/82/1-3.
- 7 Three maps based on the Thomas Clay map, J H Harvey, Woking History Centre, ref ZS/129/11-13.
- 8 J H Harvey's investigation into the Thomas Clay's 1614 Survey of Great Bookham. Surrey Archaeological Library, 169/2 (2), p 42-43.

TEBUTT RESEARCH FUND

Grants are available towards research into any aspect of the Wealden Iron Industry or subjects pertaining to it. Applicants may be individuals or groups, and the application can include any associated expenses, such as travelling and photocopying.

It is anticipated that some £500 plus will be available from the fund. The applicant should write a letter giving details of themselves together with relevant information concerning the research envisaged to David Brown, Hon Sec Wealden Iron Research Group, 2 West Street Farm Cottages, Maynards Green, Heathfield, Sussex TN21 0DG.

YOUR CHANCE TO JOIN THE TIME CHEAM

In 2010, the Carshalton and District History and Archaeology Society's *Time Cheam* project, led by Professor Clive Orton and supported by other local archaeological societies, studied the pottery excavated in 1978–80 from the garden of Whitehall, Cheam, especially waster pottery from 14th century kilns. So much had been found that only about half of it could be examined in the time available. To finish the work, Clive is planning another week's work (*Time Cheam 2*) from 4th to 9th July in the Europa Gallery of Sutton Central Library. The aim is to find out as much as we can of what the site tells us about the pottery industry that flourished in Cheam from around 1350–1500, and to let the public see what was found and what it can tell us. Anyone can take part, provided that they can commit themselves to two or four days work, as full training will be provided. You don't need any special skills, but you will be able to make your own contribution to the story of the medieval potters of Cheam and learn how to study pottery excavated in your own area.

If you would like further information or a booking form, please contact Clive at 39a Benhill Wood Road, Sutton SM1 3SL, tel. 020 8641 2003, email cliveorton@btinternet.com. The project's website is www.cheamware.org.uk.

BOURNE HALL MUSEUM CLUB

The club is for young people from eight years of age and meets monthly at Bourne Hall Museum in Spring Street, Ewell. In April there is no usual club meeting but we have three major events instead:

14th April **1066 and all that!** - a visiting Norman knight will tell of the wonderful victory by the Norman army against the Saxons at the Battle of Hastings and explain about life at court as a knight at that time.

16th April **World War 1 Day**. This will involve soldiers from the 10th Essex Regiment re-enacting life in the trenches, plus displays of medals, exhibitions of local life during the war, talks and much more.

20th April **Gladiator School**. Come and train as a Roman gladiator, and discover if you could survive in the arena. Two trained gladiators will spend the day instructing recruits and demonstrating the skills needed to live to tell the tale.

Other events and activities may be added and don't forget the monthly meetings on the second Saturday of the month which will include life in a Roman household and ancient Egyptians.

Further details available from David Brooks, Tel: 020 8394 1734
Email: brooks@epsom-ewell.gov.uk

EXCAVATIONS

ASHTEAD ROMAN VILLAGE AND TILEWORKS

24th August to 13th September 2011

The Roman Studies Group is undertaking a 6th season of excavation on Ashtead Common. Working days are grouped as three sets of five days from Wednesday to Sunday each week:

24th to 28th August, 31st August to 4th September and 7th to 11th September, with the possibility of needing 12th and 13th September for tidying up etc.

Last year's work brought further evidence for several periods of activity on the site, for buildings west of the villa and, at the last moment, the possibility that the tile kiln lay above an earlier one. Survey work during the Spring should provide information for further investigation over the outlying remains.

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 we are attempting to develop an understanding of the whole tileworks complex.

No charge will be made for Roman Study Group members. Members of the Surrey Archaeological Society who are not members of the Group are asked to pay £5 covering all three weeks. Other volunteers are asked to pay £5 for each day that they attend. For inexperienced newcomers preference will be given to those who can attend for at least five days.

Anyone interested in taking part who has not already been in touch please contact Stella Fagg on fagg@freeuk.com or Tel: 07850 285245

BARCOMBE ROMAN BATH HOUSE 2011

A 4th season of research and training excavations will take place under the joint direction of Chris Butler and David Rudling at the Roman bath house at Barcombe, near Lewes in East Sussex. This year's training courses will include:

An Introduction to Field Archaeology (four alternate Saturdays starting 11th June)

Excavation Training Courses (five 5-day courses each Monday from 4th July)

An Introduction to Archaeological Surveying (4-8th July)

Geoarchaeology in Action (10-11th July)

An Introduction to On-site Conservation (16th July)

Planning and Section Drawing (30-31st July)

Site Photography (6-7th August).

Tuition fees (full) range from £50 to £220 (concessions £25 to £155).

Volunteer opportunities are also available, as also details of local accommodation (B&B, camping, etc) – see website.

Open day: Sunday 31st July 2011, 1-5pm.

For further details contact the Centre for Community Engagement, Mantell Building, University of Sussex, Brighton, BN1 9RF; Tel: 01273 678300; or email cce@sussex.ac.uk; www.sussex.ac.uk/cce/barcombe

BOOK REVIEW

“British Cast-Iron Firebacks of the 16th to mid 18th Centuries”

by Jeremy Hodgkinson

hodgebooks ISBN 978-0-9566726-0-5, 278pp Price £24.99

In this book Jeremy Hodgkinson, author of ‘The Wealden Iron Industry’ (2008), charts the development of British cast-iron firebacks from the initial large and often plain examples of the mid 16th century to the generally smaller, though typically more ornate types of the 18th century. In doing so he discusses their manufacture and the social and political messages they may convey. He also raises several questions that could be addressed in the future.

In the preface to the book the author points out that although firebacks have been of interest to British antiquarians for over two centuries, this has resulted in little more than ‘superficial articles in magazines, or short summaries in books on domestic or architectural metalwork’ (p 7). He contrasts this with the wealth of information available on the subject in Germany, and also France, where a survey was published as far back as 1912, and republished 50 years later. This book aims to redress this imbalance and throw some light on this badly overlooked subject.

When initially picking up the book the first thing the reader will notice is the wealth of illustrations that fill the pages: 342 in total. The list of illustrations at the beginning of the book runs from page 11 to page 38, with a more in-depth list of details at the back running from page 221 to page 269. The initial list includes the caption that comes with the image and the page number the illustration can be found on, while the later list gives information that will be of use to future researchers, such as dimensions and museum accession numbers. Given the lack of previous work on the subject the number of illustrations and the depth of information on each is well justified, especially as this book will probably have a two tier role: serving as an introduction for those new to the subject; and as a reference work for museums, private collectors and academics.

In researching the book Hodgkinson has visited a wide range of collections, in both public museums and private homes, as a look at the ‘courtesy off’ part of each caption well illustrates this. Examples from major museum collections, such as the Victoria and Albert Museum, are well represented, as well as collections from around the Weald, where the first datable fireback was produced at Worth Furnace, Sussex, in 1547-8. Guildford Museum has four firebacks illustrated in the book, nos. 219, 251, 270 and 297. Despite this wide scope of research he warns that the book should not be seen as a complete catalogue, as there are inevitably numerous examples in private homes, some of which could represent types or decorations not covered. There is, therefore the need for future research into the subject.

The content of the book is broken down into eight chapters, plus an introduction, with titles such as ‘Simple Stamps’ and ‘Carved Patterns’ which will allow readers using the book as a reference work to go straight to the section they are looking for. Further subtitles in each chapter deal with specific types of fireback, such as those bearing royal or civic arms. The introduction begins with a brief description on how firebacks were made, with the shapes and designs pressed into green sand (sand mixed with small amounts of clay), as well as a summary of some of the documentary sources that relate to them. From this we learn information that places firebacks in their historical setting, like the fact that while they were never the main output of blast furnaces they were deemed important enough for John Browne, gunfounder to the crown, to petition in 1633 for a crown patent to be the sole manufacturer of, amongst other things, firebacks. Apparently his complaint was that there was not enough work

to keep the business going, and that if his business were to go under, important experience would be lost. While the patent was granted, it seems it was not followed as Hodgkinson finds no evidence that their production was thereafter limited to one producer.

I found some of the most interesting parts of the book came when it dealt with elements of social history of firebacks, and what this can tell us about the people who made them, commissioned them and even in some cases appeared on them. For instance early examples that featured writing were produced by setting individual letters into the sand to spell out a word, message or date. The setting of letters in this way resulted in a negative image being produced, and combined with the lower levels of literacy that seem to have been present at the time. This has led to several examples displaying jumbled or backwards lettering, such as no.49 where the initials 'R.D' are placed backwards. Presumably the original owners of the firebacks did not mind, or possibly could not see what was wrong, about the spelling on their new possessions.

The book also raises intriguing questions about designs that feature on firebacks and what they could mean. I found the most interesting to be a number of firebacks that feature the inscription from the grave slab belonging to Anne Forster, fig. 169, who died in 1591 (although the caption that appears alongside the image in the book gives the date as 1592). Remarkably the carved inscription was then used as decoration on several firebacks, figs. 125, 126 and 170, one of which is dated as 1593. Why this woman's grave slab inscription was used on apparently unrelated firebacks seemingly produced so soon after she was buried is a mystery that may never be solved, but which I found myself wanting to know more about.

The book ends with the chapter headed 'Original or Copy', in which Hodgkinson aims to give advice to those collectors looking to purchase a fireback but are unsure if what they are looking at is the original version, or a later reproduction. As throughout the book his advice is useful and helpfully set out in plain language with illustrated examples. This chapter also serves to bring the subject into the present day for, as Hodgkinson points out, firebacks are amongst the few historical artefacts that are still used for their original purpose. This is doubly interesting when it is considered that this use can be so damaging to the artefact.

A very readable, thoroughly researched and interesting book, *"British Cast-Iron Firebacks of the 16th to mid 18th Centuries"* can serve as an introduction to the subject for novices or as a reference book for those seeking to check their facts, and seems to admirably make up for the lack of preceding works on this subject.

Nick Booth

LECTURE MEETINGS

4th April

"The Spike: the Guildford Workhouse casual ward" by John Redpath to Woking History Society at The Lightbox, Woking at 8 pm.

5th April

"The History of Chobham" by Richard Devonshire to Addlestone Historical Society at the Community Centre, Garfield Road, Addlestone at 8 pm. Visitors welcome £2.

6th April

"Emma Darwin, wife of Charles" by Linda Heath to Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society in St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 7.45 for 8 pm.

7th April

“The History of Lagonda, Staines” by Peter Maynard to Spelthorne Archaeology and Local History Group at Staines Methodist Church, Thames Street, at 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1.

7th April

“The Diaries of Sarah Hurst 1759-1762: the world of a young woman from 18th century Horsham” by Susan Djarbi to Farnham & District Museum Society in the hall of the United Reformed Church, South Street, Farnham at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

8th April

“Ancient Dairying” by Bas Payne to Richmond Archaeological Society at the Vestry Hall, Paradise Road, Richmond at 8 pm. Visitors welcome by donation.

11th April

“Richmond and the Restoration of 1660” by Tony Adler to Richmond Local History Society in Duke Street Baptist Church, Richmond at 7.30 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1.

11th April

AGM followed by talk by Catherine Ferguson on her research on the Mores of Loseley and their connections and role in society to Guildford Archaeology and Local History Group in the Meeting Room, United Reformed Church (side entrance), Portsmouth Road, Guildford at 7.30 pm. Visitors welcome £2.

12th April

“Excavations at Holywell Priory” by Hana Lewis to the Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society in the New Cut Housing Co-operative Hall at 7 for 7.30 pm.

14th April

“Excavation at the Stanley Park School site, Carshalton” by Duncan Hawkins to Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society at the Richard Mayo Centre, United Reformed Church, Eden Street, Kingston at 7.30 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1.50.

15th April

AGM followed by “Fetcham parish boundary - beating the bounds” by Alan Pooley to Leatherhead & District LHS at The Institute, 67 High Street, Leatherheas at 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1. Coffee served from 7.30 pm.

16th April

“The Croydon Canal” by Paul Sowan to Merton Historical Society in Raynes Park Library Hall at 2.30 pm. Visitors welcome £2.

16th April

“Theodore Wratislaw - Walton’s poet” by Darren Sheppard to Walton & Weybridge Local History Society at Weybridge Library Lecture Hall at 3 pm.

20th April

“Guildford, The War Years” by David Rose to Send & Ripley History Society in the Ripley Village Hall Annexe at 8 pm.

20th April

William Henry Barlow, an eminent Victorian engineer” by Chris Lewis to Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society (GLIAS) in Willoughby Theatre, Charterhouse Square at 6.30 pm. Further details 020 8692 8512.

21st April

“The Surrey Swing Riots in 1840-32” by Judy Hill to Farnham & District Museum Society in the hall of the United Reformed Church, South Street, Farnham at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

3rd May

“Oak lore - why do the English like their oak trees so much?” by Chris Howkins to Addlestone Historical Society at the Community Centre, Garfield Road, Addlestone at 8 pm. Visitors welcome £2.

4th May

“Woking Palace” by Richard Savage to Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society at St Mary’s Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 7.45 for 8 pm.

5th May

AGM and short talk to Spelthorne Archaeology and Local History Group at Staines Methodist Church, Thames Street, at 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1.

5th May

AGM of Farnham & District Museum Society in the hall of the United Reformed Church, South Street, Farnham at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

6th May

“Entertainment in Battersea 1850-1914” by Aileen Reed to Wandsworth Historical Society at the Friends’ Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street, SW18 at 8 pm.

9th May

“Evidence of prehistoric settlement in and around Guildford” by Becky Lambert to Guildford Archaeology and Local History Group in the Meeting Room, United Reformed Church (side entrance), Portsmouth Road, Guildford at 7.30 pm. Visitors welcome £2.

10th May

“Recent archaeological works in advance of the British Museum World Heritage and Exhibition Centre” by Becky Haslam to the Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society in the New Cut Housing Co-operative Hall at 7 for 7.30 pm. Visitors welcome £1. Enquiries 020 8764 8314.

10th May

“Powell’s stained glass” by Dennis Hadley to Westcott Local History Group in the Westcott Reading Room, Institute Road, Westcott at 7.45 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1.

12th May

“The Bayeux Tapestry” by Nick Pollard to Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society at the Richard Mayo Centre, United Reformed Church, Eden Street, Kingston at 7.30 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1.50.

13th May

“St Mary Magdalene Leper Hospital, Winchester” by Julie Wileman to Richmond Archaeological Society at the Vestry Hall, Paradise Road, Richmond at 8 pm. Visitors welcome by donation.

18th May

“Frosts, freezes and fairs” by Ian Currie to Holmesdale Natural History Club in The Museum, 14 Croydon Road, Reigate at 8 pm.

18th May

AGM followed by lecture to Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society (GLIAS) in Willoughby Theatre, Charterhouse Square at 6.30 pm. Further details 020 8692 8512.

20th May

“Lovelace in Surrey: a project” by Peter Hattersley and Andrew Norris to Leatherhead & District LHS at The Institute, 67 High Street, Leatherheas at 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1. Coffee served from 7.30 pm.

27th May

Archaeological talk tba to Wandsworth Historical Society at the Friends' Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street, SW18 at 8 pm.

1st June

"History of horse racing in Epsom" by Bill Eacott to Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society in St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 7.45 for 8 pm.

6th June

"Isambard Kingdom Brunel" by Peter Bosomworth to Woking History Society at Mayford Village Hall, Saunders Lane, Mayford at 7.45 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £2.

9th June

"Excavation of the medieval Greenwich Tide Mill" by Simon Davis to Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society at the Richard Mayo Centre, United Reformed Church, Eden Street, Kingston at 7.30 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1.50.

DATES FOR *BULLETIN* CONTRIBUTIONS 2011

There will be four further issues of the *Bulletin* this year. To assist contributors relevant dates are as follows:

June issue	427	Copy date: 6th May	publication: 4th June
August issue	428	Copy date: 8th July	publication: 6th August
October issue	429	Copy date: 30th September	publication: 22nd October
December issue	430	Copy date: 25th November	publication: 17th December

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Next Issue: Copy required by 6th May for the June issue.

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