



Registered Charity No: 272098

ISSN 0585-9980

SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

CASTLE ARCH, GUILDFORD GU1 3SX

Tel/ Fax: 01483 532454

E-mail: info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk

Website: www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk

Bulletin 432

April 2012



SHEPPERTON RANGES ON A SPRING MORNING IN 1987

Mr Jacobowski (right) discusses work with a rival drag-line operative. His tally of recovered swords was then two compared to the one of his colleague. He later retrieved a 'set of hub-caps' that proved to be a votive deposit of late Roman pewter plates. (see p19)

BETCHWORTH CASTLE: Recent research and access arrangements

Martin Higgins

During 2011 significant conservation work took place at the ruins of Betchworth Castle near Dorking. Scaffolding allowed the first close inspection of the medieval building and has thrown up some interesting questions.

The schedule entry for the site describes it as a fortified manor house. Few of these survive nationally, and this is the only example in Surrey of the nine that once existed¹. In 1449 its owner, Sir Thomas Browne, was granted a licence to *crenelate and embattle his manor of Bechesworth* and this is the date traditionally ascribed to the present fabric. The licence repeated one of 1379 and it may be that work was undertaken on both or neither occasion: other documentary sources are silent on the matter. Not all fortified manor houses had licences from the Crown, but having one meant that nobody could challenge the owner's right to call his home a castle.

Two early images of the castle survive. One, made by John Aubrey in 1673 (illustrated), shows it from the north with a large tower - interpreted as a chamber block - to the east (left) and a tall tower over a gatehouse to the west. The second image is a copy of a painting which once hung in the hall of the castle. This is a view from the east, and shows from left to right a range of reception rooms, a text-book great hall with roof lantern, ancillary rooms of indeterminate use and the large chamber block on the corner.



Betchworth castle: redrawn by William Stukeley.

These two images demonstrate that this was a large, approximately square courtyard building, set in an imposing location of the crest of a hill. The east elevation measured 50m (160 feet).

Margaret, the last of the Browne family, married William Fenwick in 1691. It seems he did not wish to live in a large, draughty, old fashioned castle, and he *pull'd down most of the Castle, & turning it into a small dwelling*². Fortunately the section that Fenwick retained included the great hall and the low-end rooms - the core of the fortified medieval house.

Previous reconstructions assumed the gatehouse was in the centre of the west range, where it would be opposite the cross passage door. Rocque's map of c1770

shows the drive then in use, which may still be seen as an earthwork running across the adjoining golf course. The alignment of this drive is such that the gatehouse must in fact have been in the south range, close to the south-west corner. Magnetometry and resistivity surveys undertaken in 2000 revealed no other approach, but the actual footprint of the courtyard (and gatehouse) could not be surveyed owing to extensive tree cover.

English Heritage recommended that the self-seeded sycamore trees be felled to prevent damage to the archaeology of the site. Felling took place during winter 2010/11, and David Calow and Alex Smith kindly used the Society's magnetometer over the previously unsurveyed areas. While faint traces of other features were recorded the gatehouse remains elusive. Resistivity or ground penetrating radar may yet locate the gatehouse and establish the full extent of the medieval house.

While the ruins were scaffolded the opportunity was taken to make a close examination of the stonework³. The internal faces of the walls are mostly chalk, with some Upper Greensand. Chalk is also used for the carved fireplaces, doorways and corbels. Hard chalk (containing flint) forms the majority of the quoins and window mullions, with two small areas of Upper Greensand around the east doorway to the cross passage. Five main mason's marks occur on the dressed chalk blocks. The marks are intermingled and occur over all of the surviving structure, suggesting most or all of the surviving fabric is of the same date⁴.

The dating problem that has been thrown up is how to reconcile the following features:

- Brick was used to form relieving arches over the fireplace openings, and in a number of other locations, where they appear to be original. The bricks are large, measuring the same as the Tudor ones at Woking Palace. These are unlikely to be as early as 1449.
- The in-situ and ex-situ window mullions are all ovolo in form. The earliest known ovolo moulding is 1533⁵.
- The common joist sockets indicate 'upright' joists (normally post-reformation), while the stub ends of the main beams have a form of diminished haunch tenon. The earliest known example is 1510-12⁶.
- But most perplexing of all, the roof of the open hall was supported on corbels formed as a fully classical cornice, rather than medieval mouldings.

Over time it may be possible to form a coherent story that enable these jig-saw pieces to be fitted together. Samples have been taken for dendrochronological dating of the main beams, once funding is available. Mortar analysis may demonstrate that the classical corbels are not contemporary with the walls into which they are set (although the archaeology illustrates that they did exist at the same time as the open hall). Finally rehydroxylation dating of the bricks may narrow down the date range for the building.

The current working theory is that the surviving parts of the castle were rebuilt entirely for show in the late sixteenth century. The striking white chalk terrace wall, 100m long and 2.4m high, is a very visual demonstration of wealth and status. The house was raised up a further three metres on vaults, and the great hall given a large roof lantern. An onlooker would be in no doubt that this was the home of an ancient family with roots in the age of chivalry.

Betchworth Castle forms part of the 'Hope Springs Eternal' lottery bid, which, if successful, will enable further investigation of the location of the gatehouse, and possibly a community excavation to learn more about the development of this nationally important site.

Public access to Betchworth Castle is permitted on foot during daylight hours. Park in the loop of road opposite the garden centre on the A25 east of Dorking near the 'Betchworth Park Golf Course' sign. (Grid Reference TQ184 501) Follow the 530m long trackway which starts at the five bar gate. To prevent vandalism the gate in the railings surrounding the ruins have to be kept locked, but you may access the terrace and view the main elevation by following the mown path to the right. The boundary between the golf course and the castle land is marked by white posts.

Please do not attempt to access the ruins via Castle Gardens, along the riverside or across the golf course. All these routes are private.

¹Fortified manor houses identified by Philip Davies on the Gatehouse website, plus Starborough..

²John Aubrey added this note to his sketchbook.

³No geologist report has yet been commissioned. The stones listed are those suggested by the author and Cecil Hewitt *English Historic Carpentry* 1980 p281 should not be taken as definitive.

⁴The only marks found on the north wall were around an opening, which may have been inserted. This wall was part of the chamber block, and may have been earlier. The opening seemed to be access to a garderobe.

⁵Vernacular Architecture Group Newsletter 62, Jan 2012 p24.

⁶Cecil Hewitt *English Historic Carpentry* 1980 p281

Ed: you would'nt have guessed from the above that Martin owns the castle, having completed the purchase of the ruins from Mole Valley District Council in 2011 for £1. Since 2008, family, friends and Reigate Area Conservation Volunteers have helped to clear the site of too much vegetation.

23 CASTLE STREET, FARNHAM: A MEDIEVAL BURGAGE PLOT

David Graham

Farnham, the second oldest named settlement in Surrey, is generally thought to consist of two parts: an original Saxon core around the parish church and a later 12th century planned town, a few hundred metres away to the north-east, around The Borough and Castle Street. As a result, for many centuries the rent rolls refer to 'the town and borough of Farnham' as two separate entities. It has also been noted that many of the properties lining Castle Street are either 32ft or 16ft wide or multiples thereof - the usual size for burgage plots as in some of the other planned towns known to have been laid out by the bishops of Winchester - Farnham's feudal lords.

There have been a number of excavations within the town over the years, which have produced evidence for part of the line of the medieval town defences, for the existence of pottery and tile kilns within or close to the town centre, as well as scatters of medieval pottery from various sites.

A recent site watching brief in the garden behind no 23 Castle Street has, for the first time, located a medieval ditch directly underlying and on the same alignment as the existing boundary wall. This almost certainly means that the boundary has not changed in the 800 or so years since the original 16ft wide burgage plot was laid out. The ditch was filled with sherds from Surrey whiteware jugs with thumb impressed bases, a variety of fine walled beakers and large numbers of oyster shells. These obviously reflect the point at which the ditch was filled in rather than cut and give a probable termination date in the 13th/14th century - albeit for the ditch and not for the boundary itself.

The Winchester Pipe Rolls (the medieval accounts) contain many references to ale houses in Farnham - nearly always in relation to fines for selling weak beer. Just possibly the jugs, drinking vessels, oyster shells and complete lack of cooking

vessels hint that one of these ale houses occupied the site in the medieval period. That, of course is complete speculation. What is not is that this is the first time that physical confirmation has been found that at least some of the property boundaries along Castle Street are indeed medieval in origin. This goes a long way to supporting the theory that this part of the town was deliberately laid out by the bishops, probably towards the end of the 12th century, and in any event before the surviving pipe rolls start in 1208.

COUNCIL NEWS

DAME SARAH GOAD DCVO JP

David Calow

We were very pleased to learn that the Society's patron, the Lord-Lieutenant Sarah Goad JP, was made a Dame Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (DCVO) in the New Year Honours list. As HM The Queen's personal representative in Surrey, Dame Sarah works hard to support business, the armed forces, voluntary service and faith groups as well as charitable organisations such as our own. Our President, Emma Corke, has written to Dame Sarah on behalf of the Society to offer our congratulations.

This announcement coincides with the launch of a new website for the Surrey Lieutenancy which provides a broader understanding of the way the Lord-Lieutenant provides an important conduit to the Royal Family. The new site www.surreylieutenancy.org includes information and links for the public on how to nominate an individual for an Honour or a Queen's Award and how to apply for a congratulatory message from HM The Queen for a special birthday or anniversary.

The Society will provide a permanent link from our website to the new website of the Surrey Lieutenancy.

OUR 157th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

David Calow

The 157th AGM of Surrey Archaeological Society was held in the Brew House, Guildford on Saturday 26th November 2011.

The Society's President, Miss Emma Corke, welcomed members to the meeting and said 2011 had been a busy year for the Society with many exciting discoveries and new projects. Amongst others she highlighted excavations at Woking Palace and at Ashted and the transcription of the Surrey Tithe Apportionments. A generous bequest from Sir Martin Wedgwood had already helped the Society contribute to the rescue of the valuable Thorp documents which were now available to the public in the Surrey History Centre. She said, however, that she was concerned that the Society's subscriptions, which had not been raised since 2001, were falling behind inflation and that this would damage the Society's capacity for the future. She thought that unfortunately members should anticipate an increase.

She thanked Professor E Fernie, Mr P Tarplee and Mr D Turner who were standing down as Vice-Presidents after many years of support for the Society and said she was pleased they had agreed to remain as Honorary Vice-Presidents. Mr D Shepherd had stood down as patron of Surrey Industrial History Group and as an Honorary Vice-President of the Society and she thanked him for his support.

Members re-elected the remaining Vice-Presidents and Honorary Officers and Mr A Hall was newly elected a Vice-President. The following new members of Council were elected: Mrs J Balchin, Mr M Edwards, Mrs I Ellis, Dr C Ferguson, Mrs M Korndorffer and Mr A Norris.

M G Beattie and Company Limited were appointed Independent Examiners for 2011-12.

After the meeting Mrs J Draper, Heritage Manager of Guildford Borough Council, spoke about her role and plans for Guildford Museum. She said the project for the redevelopment of the Museum required funding from the Heritage Lottery and she hoped she could make a submission for a grant in 2012.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Amanda Clements

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

Ordinary Member	£25.00
Associate Member	£2.00
Junior Member aged 16 – 20 (with <i>Collections</i>)	£6.00
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 at Castle Arch. I am here on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 9.45 - 4.15 and can be contacted by 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 would like to hear more about the Society via email, please contact me so I can update your contact details on our membership database.

I look forward to hearing from you.

NEW MEMBERS

Amanda Clements

The society welcomes 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, Tel: 01483 532454 or info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk

Name	Town	Principal Archaeological and Local History Interests
Michael Howers	Sutton	Military History
Rianna Langdale	Horley	Ancient History, Egyptology
Elaine Faye	Esher	Archaeological digs
Kevin Williams	Tadley	Medieval Landscapes, Vegetarian history
James Jones	Godalming	Roman Studies

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

11th February 2012

On a bitterly cold day **Emma Corke**, SyAS President, welcomed 100 people to Ashted for a day of stimulating talks.

The first presentation by **Dr Catherine Ferguson** (University of Sussex) gave an excellent summary of 16th century government in *Loseley Manuscripts and Tudor Power*. During the Tudor period the power vacuum created by the Wars of the Roses

allowed the elevation of ordinary men, including Christopher More of Loseley, son of a London fishmonger. Henry VIII's break with the church in Rome created a climate of fear with enemies abroad and within the country. Henry's response was to tighten government control. The period saw a massive increase in centralised power, exercised at local level through existing offices such as Sheriff and JP, and new posts of Lord Lieutenant and Church Commissioner. Christopher, his son William and grandson George all held these posts and gained in wealth and prestige as a result, all three being knighted. Protestant William More survived the reign of Mary Tudor as he was too useful to remove. The number of JPs increased threefold and those in post were working harder than ever before. Litigation increased massively due to the greater legislation and the unrest generated by economic hardship resulting from a number of failed harvests at the end of the 16th century. The More family are just one example of many that rose to prominence under the Tudors.

Using previously unstudied 13th century documents, a LiDAR survey, geophysics and test-pitting, **Richard Savage** (Surrey Archaeological Society) gave an update entitled *New Views on Old Woking*. The 'received' view of Old Woking had been as a basically Saxon settlement, overlying a small Roman farmstead/settlement, with a Saxon Minster church established by 700 and the Saxon estate passing as a royal manor at the Norman Conquest. In the 12th century a small planned town developed that grew to support the new Woking Manor (later the Tudor Palace) established a mile or so downstream in 1200. The settlement was thought to have declined after abandonment of the Palace and its demolition in about 1630, with the new Lord of the Manor instituting a revival in the 1660s.

Richard considered the new evidence and came to rather different conclusions. Woking Manor was granted c1200 to Sir Alan Basset, a significant royal servant from the Basset family (described as 'new men' under Henry I). The lands then taken into demesne consisted of 214 acres of arable, 60% of which was described in 1327 as 'sandy and almost sterile', and 80 acres of pasture, half of which flooded annually. Newly translated documents showed that Basset had created a deer park by 1234 and was a very active landlord over the remainder of the extensive manor. Test-pitting in Old Woking has uncovered virtually no prehistoric or Roman domestic pottery, though there was some Roman building material near the church (possibly brought to the site early in the 1100s for the building or rebuilding of the church in stone). On the basis of current dating in Surrey, nothing had been recovered from the Middle Saxon period and only a very few sherds dated close to the end of the Saxon period. However pottery became plentiful in the late 11th/ 12th century, but then declined substantially after 1350 until a strong recurrence of pottery in the 17th century. Geophysics and evaluation trenches had uncovered massive brick 'clamps' just to the east of the settlement, the largest estimated as capable of firing at least 60,000 bricks at one time, and, although not scientifically dated, these probably supplied the rebuilding of the Manor in the 15th century. Richard argued there is little sign of the Saxon presence and that we should see the manor by 1100 as a wholly fee farmed 'manorial estate' consisting of largely dispersed settlement. Simultaneously, the Norman centre of the Old Woking settlement developed when the church was rebuilt (or built). The Manor was much improved from 1200 by Alan Basset. Contrary to the 'received view' that the glory days of the settlement were from 1200 to 1600 to support the manorial centre on its new site, the archaeological evidence from test-pitting was that during these years the settlement was little more than a sleepy rural village.

Tom Munnery of the Surrey County Archaeological Unit reported on some *Recent Research in Fetcham* between 2009 and 2011. A new water pipeline provided an opportunity to dig 'an extremely long trial trench' that uncovered two especially notable features. A flint scatter, six metres long but of uncertain width proved to be

of Late Palaeolithic/Early Mesolithic date. Consisting of cores, crested and long blades, end scrapers, microliths and a bruised blade, the flints were distributed in a pattern that suggested that actual knapping took place on the site. Finds dated to this period, around 10,000BC, are rare anywhere and certainly in Surrey. A second feature found was a Roman building consisting of mortared flint and chalk walls of shallow depth. A small room had a floor of crushed tile, not found in the second, larger room. One nearby ditch contained 17kg of mid 2nd century pottery while another contained combed box flue tile fragments. Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery was found, plus a little Roman pottery from the 2nd to 4th centuries. Due to the small area excavated the nature of the building is uncertain but if a villa, this would fill a gap in the villa distribution, though its location near the river would be unusual.

The second excavation was of burials of Late Saxon date at the top of Hawks Hill, the first opportunity to excavate such a site using modern techniques. Eighteen graves located in a 'planned' site with east-west orientation yielded grave goods of a domestic nature including knives, a hone, nails, a silver *denarius* reused as jewellery and glass beads, but no pots.

Abby Guinness and **Laura Joyner** presented *Digging Surrey's Past – Two Community Projects*. Working as part of SCAU, the community team provides opportunities for local people to experience archaeology. At Sayers Croft, schools' groups received training in archaeological methods before excavation began on two 2nd World War air-raid shelters. Later in the season, adults participating in an accredited training course continued the work, learning about surveying and planning as well as excavation.

At Preston Housing Estate in Tadworth a community group met regularly to analyse finds and a documentary archive from an excavation by Brian Hope-Taylor in 1952-4. Lengthy and painstaking effort resulted in an interpretation but an excavation was required to confirm the exact location of the recorded buildings. Lottery funding for a geophysical survey and nine days of excavation allowed 200 children and 40 adults to participate. An open day after the 'dig' attracted 165 visitors. (see p00)

The Margary Award was made to the Church Meadow, Ewell Group, with the Chilworth Gunpowder Mills Group of Surrey Industrial History Group as runner –up. The standard of entries was very high.



Margary Award being given by Emma Corke to Nicki Cowlard and Frank Pemberton of the Church Meadow, Ewell group.

After lunch the meeting heard from **Rob Poulton** (SCAU) on *Further Excavations at Woking Palace*. Alan Basset, erected the first manor building c1200, and high status structures have been discovered from soon after that date. The earliest phase of the site had a Great Hall, gatehouse and lodgings surrounded by a moat on three sides and the River Wey on the fourth. A kitchen midden indicated a high status diet, provided in part from the new deer park. The midden survived because it was sealed below the floor of a new phase of buildings in 1300. New kitchens were built, timber framed on sill walls, with a number of on-edge tile hearths. Water channels were found, possibly for toilets, only present in high

status buildings. The Palace was owned by Margaret Beaufort, mother of Henry VII from the 1460s. She was responsible for further major developments.

In 1503 Margaret surrendered the palace to her son who made further improvements. Later phases of the site contain additional lodges, stables, kitchens and elaborate

privy lodgings for the king and queen, completing the plan of a grand courtyard house. In their turn Henry VIII and Elizabeth continued the process. Medieval walls supported on brick arches, between brick piers, are believed to be the Tudor kitchens. They are comparable to Wolsey's kitchens at Hampton Court, of the same date. In the late 16th and early 17th centuries the palace fell out of favour, as there was a surfeit of palaces in the Thames Valley. In the mid 17th century it was demolished. As a footnote, there is a question about the use of a building with 4 metre high walls and no doors or windows. It is now considered possible that they represent the remains of a real tennis court – perhaps the earliest sporting structure in Surrey!

Nick Branch (Reading University) tackled the complex subject of *The Environmental Context of Woking Palace* and helped us to understand the various techniques employed. A team including pre and post graduate students are using Woking Palace to evaluate the potential of various techniques to describe the wetland environment, and human interaction with it, over the last 14,000 years. Ground penetrating radar (GPR) has been considered an unsuitable method for use in wetland situations but this view is disputed. Sedimentary modelling uses core samples taken over a grid. This confirmed that Woking Palace was built on a raised 'island' of sand and gravel, higher in the north and west and subject to more regular flooding in the east and south. A gradiometry survey indicated lots of anomalies in the site worthy of investigation including a structure that could be the base of a water tower. It also indicated an ancient water channel. GPR picked up the drain, also found by gradiometry and excavation. At 1.77m it located a paleochannel, confirmed by borehole. Evidence was also found of an earlier bank of the River Wey before it migrated southwards. LiDAR indicated two low-lying areas in the west of the site. All three arms of the moat may once have joined the Wey with the western and middle arms linked by a cross channel. Evidence suggests that these two arms were filled in between the cross channel and the river at an earlier date and then the cross channel silted up leaving the accepted E-shaped moat. Lead 210 (Pb210) analysis has the ability to determine whether sediments have been disturbed. Future work will use this technique, together with about 11 core samples distributed around the moat, to assess the reliability of pollen analysis of moated sites. Watch this space!

The final session began with **Robert Davies** (Surrey Wildlife Trust) on the *Ancient Woodlands Survey – revised*. Robert has spent two years updating the database of woodland that has been in continuous existence for 400 years. This is valuable for use in planning decisions and to increase awareness of the conservation issues. Surrey is known to have 22.4% of its area as woodland, of which 6% is ancient. However, areas under two hectares were not detected by previous survey methods. Robert used a desk based mapping process using aerial photos and all maps available at the start of the survey. This suggested a possible 90% increase in ancient woodland. He then visited hundreds of woods to look for indicator species of plants and other features such as old banks or boundaries, charcoal pits etc. The new resource available to the survey was the Tithe maps, recently digitised with their apportionments transcribed by volunteers. This allowed areas still in doubt to be searched with ease. The project has identified nearly 2000 hectares of additional ancient woodland, a worthwhile outcome.

The session finished with *Recent finds* presented by **David Williams** (SCC). He was able to show the audience a range of the new finds made during the previous year. Of particular interest was the number of Bronze Age finds dispersed into the Weald below Reigate. There have also been many Iron Age coins located in the last year. David Williams was able to report that the seal found at Cobham and reported in the recent Bulletin may be permanently displayed in the church of Stone in Staffordshire, the site of its origin.

SURREY LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

DEPOSITED PLANS MEETING

Surrey Local History Group's early 2012 meeting on Deposited Plans held on 28th January at the Surrey History Centre in Woking was well attended. Those who came heard interesting and informative talks from **Julian Pooley** on deposited plans available at the Surrey History Centre and their, often under-utilised, value in local and personal research. **Mari Takayanagi's** talk on *Deposited plans in the Parliamentary Archives* was too short for the wealth of detail available to the interested public although given the shortage of space at the Houses of Parliament Document store it is advisable to book a time slot. The Parliamentary Archives only holds material that obtained an Act of Parliament, many of these projects never came to any thing or were only partially achieved. A local example is that of the Grand Surrey Canal, originally planned from Rotherhithe to Epsom and Kingston with branches to Lambeth, Borough (Southwark), Peckham, Croydon and Hackbridge. In fact it only reached Camberwell and later a short branch to Peckham. The research by **Gerry Moss** on *The history of Redhill from deposited plans* shone a light on a specific area in Surrey and showed what can be achieved with dedication, interest and knowing where to look. The last speaker was Professor **Mark Casson** from Reading University whose talk on *Deposited plans and books of reference; their place in economic history* was inspirational. All the talks opened up a window to give a glimpse of documentary archives which are available for those with an interest in both family and local history.

Lesley Hays

ROMAN STUDIES GROUP

THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRY IN SOUTHERN ROMAN BRITAIN

Day Conference 12th May 2012
Chertsey Hall, Chertsey, 9.30am to 5pm

This third major biennial conference of the Surrey Roman Studies Group will focus on six significant industries and discuss their development in the southern part of the Roman province.

Conference chair: Professor *Mike Fulford*

Roman non-ferrous metal working in Southern Britain *Justine Bayley* (formerly English Heritage)

The Supply of Tile to Roman London *Ian Betts* (Museum of London)

The Development of Iron Production in the Roman Weald *Jeremy Hodgkinson* (Univ. of Sussex)

Roman Leather Working *Jackie Keily* (Museum of London) and *Margaret Broomfield* (SyAS)

Clay, water, fuel: the development of the pottery industries supply in Roman London *Louise Rayner* (Archaeology South-East)

The Glassworkers of Roman London *John Shepherd* (Independent archaeologist) Chertsey Hall is readily accessible from Junction 11 on the M25 or by train – full directions will be provided).

Tickets: £15, to include morning coffee and afternoon tea. A hot lunch will be available at the Hall for approximately £8 for two courses.

To reserve a place at the conference please make your cheque payable to Roman Studies Group and send to Surrey Archaeological Society at Castle Arch, Guildford, Surrey GU1 3SX, enclosing a SAE. Please indicate if you would like to book a lunch to be paid for on the day.

DATABASE OF ROMAN PERIOD SITES AND FINDS IN SURREY

Alan Hall

The Roman Studies Group has created a database of all recorded sites of finds and excavated sites within both the Administrative County and the London Boroughs.

The screenshot shows a web-based form for a heritage record. The main title is 'Abinger Common, road from villa to Stane St'. The form includes fields for 'Site Name', 'Address', 'Grid Ref' (SU48 134), 'Date' (19), 'County' (Surrey), 'District' (Woking), 'Parish' (Abinger), 'Site type' (Road), and 'Dating' (Roman-British CI-2). There is a 'Notes' section with a detailed description of the site's discovery and a 'Publication Preferences' section with checkboxes for 'List', 'Map', and 'File'. The interface also includes 'Add Item', 'Close Site Entry', and 'Close' buttons.

The data has been compiled with reference to the Sites and Monuments Record, the *Bulletin* and *Collections* of the Society and other appropriate publications including the Portable Antiquities Scheme database and *The London Archaeologist*.

Some 3317 entries to date have been made in the format shown below:

Data may be displayed also in tabular form and tables can be re-sorted to highlight particular classes. Data may be searched by:

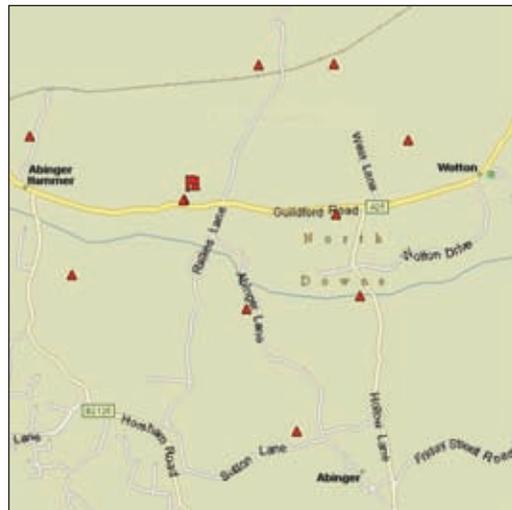
- 1 Dating
- 2 Site type
- 3 Nature of evidence
- 4 Location

Sites revealed by search can be displayed on a map within specified

map co-ordinates or within a radius from a specified point. And it is hoped that over time, the distribution of finds and sites will add to our interpretation of settlement patterns within Surrey.

The Society has given undertakings to The Portable Antiquities Scheme that we will restrict use of the database to serious researchers in a manner which precludes "treasure hunting" and is available for use by all members of the Society within the Library at Castle Arch but with access being restricted by password available from the duty Librarian.

It should be stressed that the database will remain under construction and development as new information becomes available. A work of this size may well include errors in data entry and any comments will be



Roman sites within 2km of Abinger villa.

welcomed and should be addressed in the first instance to the Librarian who will be able to offer basic information on how to access information.

The structure and operation of the database owes much to the skilled endeavour of Phil Stanley, and Alan Hall has undertaken the collection and entry of data.

ASHTEAD ROMAN VILLA AND TILEWORKS

David Bird

In early March, members of the Roman Studies Group carried out a short programme of test pitting aimed at clarifying certain aspects of the Ashtead villa and tileworks. The work was surprisingly productive in a short time but inevitably raised new questions that will need to be explored in more formal excavations.

The separate bath-house was partly cleared of vegetation so that David and Audrey Graham could prepare a contour survey. The probable locations of the circular laconicum and the large Room B were identified and the results of the survey could be correlated with Lowther's plan (1930, opposite 148). A small trench here could give confirmation and provide useful information about the wall construction (and if we are very lucky provide dating evidence); this will be considered if nature conservation requirements can be satisfied.

Lowther mentions the discovery of iron collars probably from wooden water pipes supplying the bath-house but unfortunately does not locate them any more closely than 'north of Room C' (1930, 133). The source of this water for the baths or indeed any other aspect of the site (dwellings and tiler) is not known. A small depression to the north of the newly discovered building west of the villa was tested in the hope that it might prove to be a well and the results do not rule this out, so further excavation will be required. Initial silting was found to give way to other deposits with Roman tile and pottery in a way that suggested that the surface depression is unlikely to be the result of a tree throw. Consideration was also given to the possibility that the enigmatic linear earthwork on the northern edge of the eastern quarried area was a water tank, but careful checking of relative heights indicated that it was too low for the villa and for at least most of the tiler complex. As it also lacks any sign of an outflow channel this must be regarded as conclusive and its purpose therefore remains obscure; it is unlike any of the quarries and a very large oak in its base surely rules out any link with 20th century military activities.

Some test pitting was devoted to exploring missing elements of the tiler complex. Magnetometer survey had suggested a possible building near the villa enclosure corner (though with considerable provisos because of the nature of the terrain), but test pits in this area showed no sign of any altered surface below the shallow topsoil (or indeed any tile, most unusually for this part of the site), confirming results from the earlier trenches that recorded the enclosure wall. Further test pitting explored the possibility that the rough tiled surface found in trench 13 had extended right across to the kilns but this did not seem to be the case; some tile was found but not a consistent layer. Other test pits showed that there was no sign of a kiln between the excavated kilns and John Hampton's K3 mound nearby, but just a scatter of tile debris. The area from here eastwards toward Newton Wood was walked and more quarries noted but no other features of interest; a 'road' said to exist hereabouts running towards the villa was ruled out as modern and heading in the wrong direction.

A shallow depression between the known kilns and the villa had drawn attention because it did not seem to be a quarry and was more or less circular. Test pitting revealed two clay levels below the topsoil both with substantial pieces of tile below them, so formal excavation will be needed to test the possibility that this feature is a puddling pit. Hampton's detailed topographical survey, carried out in the 1960s when the site was much clearer of vegetation, recorded this feature and also identified a similar one west of the villa and near a separate area of quarrying (Hampton 1977,

30). The relationship between the enclosure wall and these latter quarries is of some interest because the wall cuts across the area. Test pits and the results of trench 19 dug in 2010 suggest that the wall post-dates the quarrying, perhaps indicating that these quarries relate to an earlier period of tile-making, associated with the newly discovered building. This important aspect will need further detailed survey.

Thanks are due to our ever-enthusiastic team members, coordinated by Alan Hall, and to Sean O'Kelly for facilitating our presence and David and Audrey Graham for the detailed surveys.

REFERENCES

Hampton, J N, 1977, 'Roman Ashtead', in A A Jackson (ed), *Ashtead a village transformed*
Lowther, A W G, 1930, 'Excavations at Ashtead, Surrey. Third report (1929)', *Surrey Archaeological Collections*, **38.2**, 132-148

Editor's apology: In the last Bulletin the flagging-up of this years' excavation began with a line referring to the involvement of the Surrey Local History Committee. This was the result of our printers' Apple gremlins! Don't ask me how or where from- not even a line from the same issue- but I should have picked it up in the proofs. Its not the first time it's happened.

MEDIEVAL STUDIES FORUM

ADVANCE NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Our new Meetings Secretary, Brian Creese, has been busy planning events for the coming year. The next meeting will be the first in a couple of ways – the first visit of the Forum to a major medieval monument (or two) and the first time we have been out of Surrey for a meeting.

WINCHESTER STUDY TRIP

Saturday 23rd June

We will meet at the Westgate Museum in Winchester between 10am and 10.30am, from where we will walk to the Cathedral for guided tours (in small groups with experienced and knowledgeable guides) starting at 11am. After an hour's break for lunch (there are plenty of opportunities in Winchester) we will reconvene in a meeting room at the Cathedral for two talks, including one by Dr Ryan Lavelle on "Winchester, Wessex and the Anglo-Saxon Kings of England". Finally, after tea, there will be an optional walk to the Hospital of St Cross for a tour of "England's most perfect almshouse" (Simon Jenkins) with the day finishing there at 5pm. The cost of the day is expected to be between £15 and £20 per person, but will be dependent on numbers attending. Numbers may have to be limited to ensure small groups for the special tours of the Cathedral. While tea is included in the afternoon, the charge does not include lunch or travel to and from Winchester.

Please contact Brian Creese (see below) if you would like to attend as we need a good idea of numbers before finalising arrangements.

THE MEDIEVAL MIND

Saturday 24th November

Full day meeting at East Horsley

Brian is arranging the external speakers. As ever, contributions from members on any aspect of the topic will be welcome. If you would like to give a presentation please contact Brian.

SAXON BRITAIN

Saturday 16th March 2013

This will be the Forum's second meeting devoted to the pre-Conquest period. We are very fortunate that Dr Stuart Brookes of the Institute of Archaeology has agreed to give the keynote presentation and again Brian would welcome a variety of contributions from members.

Richard and Pamela Savage: 22 Fairlawn Park, Woking, GU21 4HT Tel: 01483 768875 e-mail: medforum@hotmail.co.uk

Brian Creese, Meetings Secretary: 7 Acacia Road, Guildford, GU1 1HL Tel: 07860 104012 bjc@briancreese.co.uk

VILLAGES STUDY GROUP

SPRING MEETING

28th April 2012

Church Gate House Centre, Downside Bridge Road, Cobham, 10 to 4pm

The meeting will include **John Pile** on *Reading the Village Map* and **Brigid Fice** on *Buildings and the Landscape*. There will also be updates on work in progress on Esher, Ockham and Bookham and a short walk around the historic centre of Cobham led by David Taylor.

There are plenty of eating places in Cobham or packed lunches can be eaten at the Centre. Cost: £6 per person, payable on the day.

Please pre-register with Jo Richards: email jomrichards@yahoo.co.uk

PREHISTORIC GROUP

ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICE IN ARCHAEOLOGY

22nd May 2012 in the Dorking Christian Centre at 8pm

A talk by Rebecca Lambert of Surrey County Archaeological Unit on the increasingly important topic of environmental practice in archaeology: why things need to be done and how they can be done. A small entrance fee will be charged to cover expenses.

COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY

DIG PRESTON 2011

Preston Archaeological Project gets positive feedback from public

Laura Joyner

Last November saw the hunt for Preston's very own medieval manor house with Dig Preston 2011. The project was organised by the Preston Community Archaeology Project group, Raven Housing Trust and Surrey County Archaeological Unit. The team set out to find Preston Hawe, the manor house that stood on the site between the 12th and 15th centuries, using the results of geophysical surveys and a set of rough plans drawn up by Brian Hope-Taylor, an archaeologist who investigated the site in the 1950s.

Unfortunately, since Brian visited the site, the area had been used as a rubbish tip, which the team had to clear before even reaching the archaeology. In spite of this, the dig was a huge success and turned up some fantastic finds!

The enthusiastic volunteers, working alongside members of Surrey County



Brenda tries geophysical survey work.

Archaeological Unit, Surrey Archaeological Society and the Preston Community Archaeology Project, managed to locate and uncover sections of the manor house itself and the chapel that served the wealthy families that lived there. The dig has provided us with important information regarding the location and positioning of these buildings, as well as the construction techniques and materials used. In addition, the team uncovered lots of interesting artefacts, including medieval roof tiles, a variety of glazed and patterned pottery and even the site of a human burial.

Dig Preston has been a brilliant opportunity for members of the local community and over 200 children from local primary and secondary schools to discover archaeology and help to uncover Preston's secret past. The students taking part in the dig were given an historical tour of the site, they learnt excavation techniques and finds identification and processing skills, and even got a chance to work with our team of metal detectors. An evaluation survey undertaken after the event has demonstrated an overwhelming support for the project. In answer to the question 'What did you most enjoy about Dig Preston' replies were very positive, such as:



Young people help with finds washing on site.



The Dig Preston Team on site.

'Camaraderie; the challenge to find something!'
'Participating in an event of historical significance literally on my doorstep.'
'Getting involved with the field archaeologists and learning new skills'
'Doing something different and helping out.'
'The whole thing'
'Finding out more about the area and the history'

Following the excavation, the next stage of the project is to produce an information

booklet and interpretation board about the site. The Preston Community Archaeology Project Group continues to meet regularly to work on the archive and the results of the new dig. This project has been kindly funded by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

For more information on the project and how you can get involved please visit www.surreycc.gov.uk/digpreston or email Abby Guinness or Laura Joyner, Surrey's Community Archaeologists, on education.scau@surreycc.gov.uk.

LIBRARY NEWS

ACCESSIONS TO THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY IN 2011 (*continued*)

Excavations and evaluations carried out by units working within the County, which are reported periodically elsewhere in the *Bulletin*, are omitted here. Each entry includes the author, title, publisher and date of publication, followed by the four-digit accession number, and classification number indicating the shelf location of the book.

GENERAL (*continued from Bulletin 431*)

- Whittle, Alasdair *et al* *Gathering Time. Volume 1 and Volume 2.* 2011 10833 and 10834 H2
- Williams, Emily & Peachey, Claire (editors) *The conservation of archaeological materials: current trends and future directions.* 2010 10888 E5
- Williamson, Tom *Shaping medieval landscapes@ settlement, society, environment.* 2003 10892 D5

PLACES OTHER THAN SURREY

- Andrews, Phil *et al* *Settling the Ebbsfleet valley: volume 1.* 2011 10882 F32
- Andrews, Phil *et al* *Settling the Ebbsfleet valley: volume 4,* 2011 10885 F32
- Barnett, Catherine *et al* *Settling the Ebbsfleet valley: volume 3,* 2011 10884 F32
- Biddulph, Edward *et al* *Settling the Ebbsfleet valley: volume 2.* 2011 10883 F32
- Brossler, Adam, Early, Robert & Allen, Carol *Green Park (Reading Business Park): phase 2 excavations 1995, Neolithic and Bronze Age sites.* 2004 10894 F41
- Cunliffe, Barry *Danebury hill fort; 4th edition.* 2011 10880 F35
- Dawson, Tim *St Mary's University College, Twickenham, London Borough of Richmond: an archaeological watching brief.* 2010 10792 F34
- Dobraszczyk, Paul *Into the belly of the beast: exploring London's Victorian sewers.* 2009 10881 R34
- Fitzpatrick, A.P. *The Amesbury Archer and the Boscombe Bowmen: bell beaker burials on Boscombe Down, Amesbury, Wiltshire.* 2011 10886 F42
- Ford, Ben M. *et al* *Winchester: a city in the making: archaeological excavations between 2002 and 3007 on the sites of Northgate House, Staple Gardens and the former Winchester Library, Jewry Street.* 2011 10887 F35
- Framework Archaeology *Landscape evolution in the middle Thames valley: Heathrow Terminal 5 excavations volume 2.* 2010 10733 F41
- Fulford, Michael *et al* *Silchester Insula IX: the 'Town Life@ Project 2009-2010.* [2010] 10827 F35
- Grainger, Ian & Phillpotts, Christopher *The Cistercian abbey of St Mary Graces, East Smithfield, London.* 2011 10811 F34
- Lambrick, George & Robinson, Mark *The Thames through time. The archaeology of the gravel terraces of the upper and middle Thames. The Thames valley in late prehistory: 1500 BC-AD50,* 2009 10799 F41
- Malcolm, Gordon *et al* *Middle Saxon London: excavations at the Royal Opera House 1989-99.* 2003 10758 F34
- Mills, Sarah *A Study of bronze figurines in Sussex.* 1993 10870 J33

- Notter, Markus (editor) *Schweizerisches National Museum: Die Sammlung. Les Collections. 2008-2009.* 2011 10844 A
- Sharples, Niall *Social relations in later prehistory: Wessex in the first millennium BC.* 2010 108905 I42
- Simmonds, Andrew *et al Excavations in north-west Kent, 2005-2007: one hundred thousand years of human activity in and around the Darent valley.* I2011 10895 F32
- Thomas, Gabor *The later Anglo-Saxon settlement at Bishopstone: a downland manor in the making.* 2010 10822 F33
- Vincent, Alex *Neolithic villages near Worthing.* 2010 10778 H33

MISCELLANY

SOCIETY FOR CLAY PIPE RESEARCH

Annual Conference

15th-16th September 2012

Vine Baptist Church Hall, Park Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent

The 28th annual SCPR conference will focus on the Kent clay tobacco pipe industry and will be complemented by displays. In the evening there will be the optional conference dinner at a local restaurant. A visit to a local historical attraction is to follow on the Sunday morning. Non-members of the Society will be very welcome to attend.

Further information is available on the Society website (<http://scpr.co>) or from Brian Boyden (email:brian.boyden@dsl.pipex.com) or Chris Jarrett (email: cjarrett@pre-construct.com)

GET ON-LINE AND JOIN IN WITH SURREY HERITAGE

Surrey Heritage is now regularly updating social media sites with the exciting work it undertakes across its five teams. Not only will these sites keep you as up to date as possible with the fascinating and interesting projects and activities Surrey Heritage are involved in, but there are now even more opportunities for members of the public to get interactive with their local heritage.

Find out for yourselves on:

Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/surreyheritage> and <http://www.facebook.com/diggingsurreypast>),

Twitter (<https://twitter.com/SurreyHeritage>),

Flickr (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/bobkh/sets/72157594427556277/>),

Films (on YouTube: Preston Community Archaeology Project -

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zyOGv1w01F0>, Digging Sayers Croft -

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kYxRk8t0jSk>, and Woking Palace -

<http://www.exploringsurreypast.org.uk/wokingpalacevideoblog/>) and

Fact, don't forget Exploring Surrey's Past

<http://www.exploringsurreypast.org.uk>), your first port of call finding out about heritage in Surrey.

TITANIC REVEALED

GODALMING MUSEUM TRUST

Saturday 7th April

Borough Hall, Bridge Street, Godalming

Film, talk and question and answer session.

Starts 7.30pm, Bar open from 7.

Brigitte Saar is one of the few people to have visited and filmed the Titanic wreck site
Gunter Babler owns a phenomenal collection of Titanic memorabilia and is a consultant on the subject for major television and radio productions
Tickets from Godalming Museum, 109a High Street Godalming, Tel: 01483 426510
Early booking recommended

CRETE STUDY TOUR

12th - 19th June 2012

A Baxter Hoare Event in association with the Centre for Community Engagement, University of Sussex.

Tour Leader: David Rudling, Senior Lecturer in Archaeology, CCE.

Full details from David Rudling, CCE, Mantell Building, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9RF or email d.r.rudling@sussex.ac.uk

EXCAVATION

WOKING PALACE: Excavations 2012



With most of the funding for the fourth season of excavations now promised, we are moving forward with planning.

In previous years the excavations have taken place in July, but it is expected that this year they will occur in the second half of September, although the exact dates have not yet been fixed.

Society members who would like to dig at Woking Palace this year are invited to register their interest with Richard Savage by e-mail at richard.savage@btinternet.com or Tel: 01483 768875, giving contact details and availability

and for newcomers an indication of their excavation experience.

REVIEWS

“Woking Palace – excavating the moated manor”

by Rob Poulton with Giles Pattison, produced by SpoilHeap Publications

The fully updated 2012 edition of the Woking Palace booklet is now available for sale. Read about the history of this exciting site, which includes the results of three seasons of excavation on the Woking Palace Archaeology Project 2009 to 2011.

The booklet is priced at £5. Please visit the SpoilHeap Publications web page for details of how to order the book online from the Surrey Heritage Shop, or directly from SCAU, via the following web link: bit.ly/SpoilHeap

Further information may be obtained by contacting Jane Robertson at SCAU on 01483-518778 or by email jane.robertson@surreycc.gov.uk

“Settlement Sites and Sacred Offerings: Prehistoric and later archaeology in the Thames valley, near Chertsey”

Graham Hayman, Phil Jones and Rob Poulton
SpoilHeap Monograph 4

SpoilHeap Publications, a joint venture of Archaeology South-East (part of University College, London) and the Surrey County Archaeological Unit (SCAU) have recently published Monograph 4 which looks at the prehistoric and later archaeology in the Thames valley, near Chertsey, an area which has seen a large amount of archaeological work in the last 25 years. This volume details the results from four of the sites investigated, and provides a review of their geological, topographic and archaeological context.

Prestige artefacts, including the only Iron Age shield in Europe made entirely of bronze and a Late Bronze Age axe with wooden haft, were recovered at Abbey Meads and Shepperton Ranges, from former channels of the Thames. These votive deposits belong to all periods from the Mesolithic to the Late Saxon, and suggest that particular places along the river acquired and retained sanctity over a very long time.

A trial trench sectioned the earthworks of the hillfort at St Ann's Hill, and another established that at least one area within the enclosure had been densely occupied during the Early Iron Age.

Excavations at Thorpe Lea Nurseries revealed a Middle Bronze Age rectilinear field system and associated occupation sites. More intensive Iron Age occupation began in the Middle Iron Age, and one farmstead was then continuously occupied until the end of the 4th century AD. Rare and important evidence for an Iron Age iron smelting industry was widely distributed.

The monograph has been published with the aid of a grant from English Heritage.

The book price is £20 + £3 p&p. Please visit the SpoilHeap Publications web page for details of how to order the book online from the Surrey Heritage Shop, or directly from SCAU, via the following link: bit.ly/SpoilHeap

Further information may be obtained by contacting Jane Robertson at SCAU on 01483-518778 or by email jane.robertson@surreycc.gov.uk

“The Pilgrims’ Way, Fact and Fiction of an Ancient Trackway”

by Derek Bright. The History Press. 160 pages

I picked up this volume in the Society's library and wondered whether anything new could possibly be said. Surely this myth of medieval travellers following an ancient route across the North Downs from Winchester to Canterbury had been firmly rejected by many writers from Wilfrid Hooper onwards. The author is not known to me and there is nothing in his book to tell me about him. However I gleaned from the Foreword that he has organised walking holidays along the route and from this I may be right in deducing that he feels there may still be truth in the myth.

The book is well written and presented and gives a clear resume of the various misguided writers who have written about the Way, including Cartwright and Belloc. Photographs enliven the text but few are particularly relevant. Swayed by an Ivan Margery quote that the route is ‘one of the most important ancient trackways in Britain’ the author describes a possible prehistoric North Downs trackway and makes much of such a track as part of a through route to Stonehenge. He makes no mention of the Thames as a possible important route towards Wessex in prehistory and whether in ignorance or deliberately he makes no reference to Dennis Turner's paper in *SyAC* 72 (1980). Turner could find no evidence for a long distance prehistoric route along the North Downs in Surrey or of a through route along the Downs between the Beaker period and the Middle Ages.

Various possible prehistoric and medieval routes in Kent are discussed as well as which routes may have been taken leaving Winchester. However, the author's knowledge of Surrey appears slight (mention of Catherham and Mertsam (p51) are evidence enough for this) and he refers to the A25 as once being a Turnpike road

(p27), which it never was. The passage of Edward I across Surrey is discussed and while the author admits that *'this doesn't prove that he followed the Pilgrims' Way it is evidence of one medieval traveller who opted to travel between Guildford and Canterbury passing through towns and villages along the edge of the North Downs'*. But Surrey's towns and villages on this route are not found *'along the edge'* of the Downs but to the south of the scarp on the accompanying belt of sand.

The author can receive full marks for referring to records of ampullae recorded on the database of the Portable Antiquities Scheme. However the two examples from Godstone come from the outskirts of the village and were not found *'close to the Pilgrims' Way'*.

What surprises me most about Bright's book is that the writer omits to give any consideration to the use of the A25 route as a possible route from prehistory through the Middle Ages. The evidence is clear and, for the Middle Ages at least, considerable. A continuous route westwards from Sevenoaks to at least Albury or Shalford can be shown to have a great antiquity. In Surrey parts of this route are deeply cut into the sand (see, for instance, the tall and narrow cutting as the road crosses the valley of a minor stream west of Buckland and the similarly deep cutting as the road rises beyond Westcott). Along this route many medieval towns and villages are situated (Westerham, Oxted, Godstone, Betchingley, Reigate, Buckland, Dorking, and so on) and they are there because their main streets follow a pre-existing thoroughfare on sandy well-drained soil. That this route was used in the Saxon period can be shown by the substantial bank and ditch which straddles the road on the Kent/Surrey border and which appears to have formed some kind of control, but this is not mentioned by Bright. In the Roman period the settlement at Dorking occurs where Stane Street crosses the A25 route and the same route runs adjacent to the villa at Abinger; and there are doubtless other examples. For prehistory the evidence may be less clear but the route runs for instance adjacent to or through substantial prehistoric activity at Betchworth and through sandy areas where flint tools have been found in abundance.

The author concludes with a discussion of how many pilgrims could theoretically have used a route from Winchester to Canterbury and admits (p130) that the number would have been very small indeed. On p129 it is estimated that *'if only 10 per cent of the eligible population from the nine southern and western counties undertook a pilgrimage to Canterbury then on any one day across six months of the year one could expect to see five pilgrims commencing a journey using the North Downs trackways'*. The number can be reduced if it is assumed they travelled in winter too. Is this a book which needed to be written?

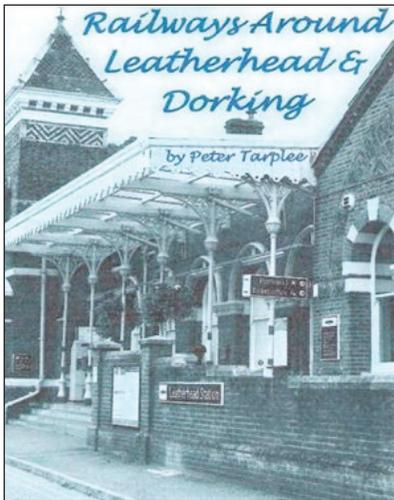
David Williams

"Railways Around Leatherhead & Dorking"

by Peter Tarplee

ISBN 978 0 9552785 6 3: 158 pages - 136 B&W photographs & 11 maps

Peter has aimed his latest book at the general reader and, as he says in the introduction, not at "rivet-counting railway enthusiasts and 'gricers'". Nevertheless there is much to inform even those who already have some knowledge of the area and its railways. Many of the generally excellent illustrations are from the Leatherhead & District Local History Society and various other local collections, but there are some that are not attributed that I suspect Peter has taken himself. He has also uncovered some that are new to me, and, I suspect, to most readers. There is a useful map in the frontispiece showing the opening dates, not only of those lines around Leatherhead and Dorking, but also covering the complicated system around Epsom and on to London; and also West to Guildford and South to Horsham. It is a



pity that the two towns that feature predominantly in the book are in the fold in the centre of the map. Perhaps a foldout map would have been better, but no doubt the question of cost influenced that decision.

There are fourteen chapters; they range from the first railway in the locality, that of the Reading, Guildford and Reigate through Dorking in 1846, and other early local railways, including Leatherhead's first in 1859 and the extension on to Dorking in 1867. The 'new line' to Guildford via Cobham is discussed as is the route from Leatherhead to Effingham junction across and under Bookham Common, both in 1885. Peter then covers the electrification of the local lines and the extension from Chessington to Leatherhead that never was - stopped by the outbreak of WWII. Station architecture is not

overlooked, from the classic London & Brighton at Leatherhead to the typical London & South Western at Bookham and on the Cobham line.

Industrial lines too are not forgotten, both standard and narrow gauge. The quarry systems at Betchworth and Brockham and the tram lines at Chilworth gunpowder works and at Mizen's watercress farm at Fetcham are covered and illustrated; as are the Epsom hospitals railways from Ewell West. Preserved and model lines are included and finally Peter looks at the post WWII situation and speculates on the future.

The book covers a wide spectrum and is a good read. It is recommended to both the industrial archaeologist and the social historian as well those with a more general interest in local history. It is a fitting companion to the earlier work by the late Alan Jackson published in 1999, "*The Railway in Surrey*" and adds to the wide range of books now published by the Leatherhead & District Local History Society. Jackson covered the whole county and obviously did not go into as much detail as Peter has done on the local scene. There is a useful list for further reading, and what is not always found in books of this format, but essential for the serious reader and researcher, is an index. The only proof reading error I have spotted is in the *Introduction* which conveniently lists the opening dates of the various local lines. 1867 is shown correctly for the line from Leatherhead to Dorking and Horsham, but it is preceded by "1867 Leatherhead to Leatherhead"!

The perfect-bound book costs a very reasonable £10 and is available from local bookshops, at the Leatherhead Museum or post free from the Sales Secretary, Leatherhead & District Local History Society, The Museum, 64 Church St., Leatherhead KT22 8DP.

Gordon Knowles

LECTURE MEETINGS

4th April

"Archaeology and landscape in Peru and the Galapagos Islands" by Frank Pemberton to Epsom & Ewell History and Archaeology Society at St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 7.45 for 8 pm.

5th April

"The 1908 London Olympics" by Anne Wheeldon to Spelthorne Archaeology and Local History Group at Staines Methodist Church, Thames Street at 8 pm. Visitors welcome £2. Further details from Nick Pollard on 01932 564585 or nick.pollard@o2.co.uk

10th April

"Excavations of Roman workshops at 8-10 Moorgate" by Alison Telfer to Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society in The Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut, almost opposite the Old Vic Theatre at 7 for 7.30 pm. Visitors welcome £1. Enquiries Tel 020 8764 8314.

12th April

"Roman Staines" by Nick Pollard to Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society in the United Reformed Church at the corner of Union Street and Eden Street at 7.30 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1.50.

14th April

"Calico Printers" by David Cufley to Merton Historical Society at Christ Church Hall, Colliers Wood at 2.30 pm. Visitors welcome £2.

14th April

"The Oaks uncovered" by Paul Williams to Carshalton & District History and Archaeology Society in Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, off Nightingale Road, Carshalton at 3 pm.

14th April

"Cobham Bus Museum" by Peter Duplock to Walton & Weybridge Local History Society in Elm Grove Hall, Walton-on-Thames at 3 pm.

16th April

AGM followed by "The place of medieval churches in the landscape of Surrey and Sussex" by Peter Balmer to Guildford Archaeology and Local History Group in the Meeting Room, United Reformed Church, Portsmouth Road, Guildford at 7.30 pm. Visitors welcome £3. New members always welcome.

18th April

"The History of penicillin" by Gilbert Shama to Send & Ripley History Society in the Ripley Village Hall Annexe at 8 pm.

18th April

"Tales of a bird ringer" by David Ross to Holmesdale Natural History Club at The Museum, 14 Croydon Road, Reigate at 8 pm. Visitors welcome by donation.

19th April

"Surrey and the Motor" by Gordon Knowles to Farnham & District Museum Society in the United Reformed Church hall, South Street, Farnham at 7.30 pm. Members £1, visitors welcome £2.

20th April

AGM followed by "Surrey 100 years ago" by John Wettern to Leatherhead & District Local History Society in the Abraham Dixon Hall, Letherhead Institute (top of High Street), at 7.30 for 8 pm. All welcome £1.

20th April

"Southwark Cathedral" by Nathalie Cohen to Richmond Archaeological Society in the Vestry Rooms, Paradise Road, Richmond at 8 pm. Visitors welcome by donation. Further information from Peter Brown Tel. 020 8948 0070.

23rd April

"Domestic life in the Georgian Royal Family at Kew" to Richmond Local History Society at the Duke Street Church, Richmond at 7.30 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1. Further information from Elizabeth Velluet Tel. 020 8891 3825 or www.richmondhistory.org.uk

24th April

'The Drummond Family' by Dr. Maurice Milne to Albury History Society in Albury Village Hall at 8 pm. Visitors welcome £2

27th April

Local History talk TBA to Wandsworth Historical Society at the Friends' Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street (opposite Wandsworth Town Hall) at 8 pm.

1st May

Recent landscape archaeology work in Surrey" by Judie English to Addlestone Historical Society at Addlestone Community Centre, Garfield Road at 8 pm. Visitors welcome £2.

2nd May

"The History of Brooklands" speaker TBA to Epsom & Ewell History and Archaeology Society at St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 7.45 for 8 pm.

3rd May

AGM and short talk to Spelthorne Archaeology and Local History Group at Staines Methodist Church, Thames Street at 8 pm. Visitors welcome £2. Further details from Nick Pollard on 01932 564585 or nick.pollard@o2.co.uk

8th May

"Thomas Hope and the Deepdene - A lost landscape" by Alexander Bagnall to Westcott Local History Group in the Westcott Reading Room, Institute Road at 7.45 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1.

8th May

"Further work at Drapers Gardens" by Neil Hawkins to Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society in The Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut, almost opposite the Old Vic Theatre at 7 for 7.30 pm. Visitors welcome £1. Enquiries Tel 020 8764 8314.

10th May

"Steaming jungles and Mayan ruins" By Richard Watson to Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society in the United Reformed Church at the corner of Union Street and Eden Street at 7.30 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1.50.

11th May

"The playhouses of Shakespeare's London" by Julian Bowsher to Richmond Archaeological Society in the Vestry Rooms, Paradise Road, Richmond at 8 pm. Visitors welcome by donation. Further information from Peter Brown Tel. 020 8948 0070.

12th May

AGM followed by members' short talks to Walton & Weybridge Local History Society in Weybridge Library Lecture Hall at 3 pm.

14th May

"Woking Palace" by Richard Savage to Guildford Archaeology and Local History Group in the Meeting Room, United Reformed Church, Portsmouth Road, Guildford at 7.30 pm. Visitors welcome £3. New members always welcome.

16th May

"Village signs of Surrey" by John Chisholm to Leatherhead & District Local History Society in the Abraham Dixon Hall, Letherhead Institute (top of High Street), at 7.30 for 8 pm. All welcome £1.

16th May

"Rebuilding Ockley Windmill" by Peter James to Holmesdale Natural History Club at The Museum, 14 Croydon Road, Reigate at 8 pm. Visitors welcome by donation.

18th May

"Village signs in Surrey" by John Chisholm to Leatherhead & District Local History Society in the Abraham Dixon Hall, Letherhed Institute (top of the High Street) at 7.30 for 8 pm. All welcome £1.

21st May

AGM followed by “French émigrés in Richmond 1789” by David King to Richmond Local History Society at the Duke Street Church, Richmond at 7.30 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1. Further information from Elizabeth Velluet Tel. 020 8891 3825 or www.richmondhistory.org.uk

22nd May

“Victorian Portrait Photography” by Stephen Furniss to Albury History Society in Albury Village Hall at 8 pm. Visitors welcome £2

25th May

“Excavations at the British Museum” by Rebecca Haslam to Wandsworth Historical Society at the Friends’ Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street (opposite Wandsworth Town Hall) at 8 pm.

28th May

“History of weather forecasting” by Ian Currie to Woking History at Mayford Village Hall, Saunders Lane, Mayford at 7.45 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £2.

DATES FOR *BULLETIN* CONTRIBUTIONS

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

433	4th May	4th June
434	6th July	6th August
435	21st September	22nd October
436	16th November	17th December

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Next Issue: Copy required by 4th May for the June issue.

Editor: Phil Jones, 5, Hampton Road, Newbury, Berks RG14 6DB. Tel: 01635 581182 and email: crockpot.jones8@gmail.com