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## SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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# Bulletin 448

December 2014



**ROSAMOND HANWORTH WITH THE ABINGER  
VILLA MOSAIC IN 1995**

*(photo: Shirley Corke)*

## ROSAMOND HANWORTH 1919-2014

Rosamond Hanworth, who died in October at the age of 97, played an absolutely key role in this Society's activities for a period of over 30 years. For some time she was both President and Editor of the *Collections*. She has left a lasting mark on most aspects of the Society's activities throughout the many changes to archaeology that started in the 1960s.

She was, strictly speaking, The Viscountess Hanworth, but was always keen to be known simply as Rosamond in archaeological circles. This sometimes led to her being incorrectly referred to as 'Lady Rosamond Hanworth'. She was good-humoured, with an infectious laugh, but could show strength when it was needed. The writer can still remember a pub lunch in which the mistakes made at Arnhem and the strain on bomber crews and their families in World War II formed part of the discussion. She had high standards but was very supportive and encouraging of others.

She is probably best known to most people in Surrey now for her excavations of the Rapsley Roman villa and the prehistoric and medieval site at Brooklands. There was a rescue aspect to both of these major excavations (Rapsley had to be rescued from over-enthusiastic digging) and Rosamond worked hard with others in the South-east, such as Alec Down and Brian Philp, in the first responses to the growing rescue crisis. As Chairman of the Society's Excavations Committee she had an important role when the Society employed the first professional archaeologists in the county. The writer can recall several site visits to excavations in her Morris Minor (which had an Austin Healey engine under the bonnet!); she was also very supportive to this then new County Archaeologist, who had to establish the role from scratch.

Later on, Rosamond had a key role in setting up the Wanborough excavation of 1985-6 (making strategic use of the 'Lady'), and in the subsequent campaign that led eventually to the Treasure Act (it can be very useful having an inside line to the House of Lords).

The work at Rapsley and Brooklands was done to professional standards with amateur excavators (and a small semi-permanent team at Brooklands), who were also encouraged to play key roles in the preparation of the reports for publication (in the *Collections* and the *Research Volume* series respectively). Rosamond ran archaeological courses which drew in new people both for this work and for other projects such as one devoted to a translation of a key French publication on Roman food because there was no British equivalent (the typescript is lodged with the Roman Society). She was also persuaded to give the first talk in a programme at the University of Surrey that evolved over time into an industrial archaeology series that still continues, and played its own part in the formation of the Surrey Industrial History Group.

Rosamond was editor of the *Bulletin* for over 60 issues, setting the standards from early on. Then she took on the Editorship of the *Collections* and developed it into the fine series of publications that continue to this day, also being responsible for the change to a more modern format. Joanna Bird, who assisted her in the editorial role, recalls that, while rigorously maintaining the highest intellectual standards for the Society's publications, she was also immense fun to work with, and not above an attack of the giggles when some memorably infelicitous expressions appeared in a text.

She was the first of the Field Monument Wardens covering the county and was very frustrated when the absurd rules of the time meant she had to give it up because she had reached a certain age (at which she showed far more energy and enthusiasm than many people far younger).

There were many other strings to her bow both within archaeology (Cyprus, mosaics) and in the wider world and she will be remembered with great affection by many people in all walks of life. Without her this Society would have been a much lesser organisation.

*David Bird*

## THE CHURCH AT GREAT BOOKHAM

*William Whitman*

One hundred years ago, Philip M Johnston, FSA, FRIBA, published a paper<sup>1</sup> that put the dating of St Nicolas, Great Bookham back to the 11th century and showed that our present church incorporates elements of that which stood on the site at the time of the Domesday Book. He also described the church in some detail and included a floor plan.

This paper remarks on some of the information that has become more readily available since the time of Johnson's important discovery. In the last hundred years so much has changed. The village of 1914 has expanded but the same church capacity still serves. Printing and information gathering techniques have given us ready access to many sources, as well as enabling us to make widely available the results of our studies.

### The Norman window

Johnston discovered the decorated window in the north wall of the nave arcade, and painted it to record the vivid colours and sharp outlines, because at that time colour photography was not readily available. A black and white photograph of that painting taken in November this year shows that the colours, so vivid at the time, have now faded. It would be good to locate this painting.



*Johnson's painting*



*The same painting today*

In 1984 Anne Ballantyne<sup>2</sup> was invited by the Rector, Andrew Warner to visit the church and advise on the preservation of the window. She made proposals for work,

but it was not until 1987 that funds became available, thanks to a 'Festival of Flowers' in the church that raised £796 towards the costs. A sum of £50 was also received from the Society of Antiquaries. A faculty was granted in May 1987 and the work was carried out during that summer and reported on by Miss Ballantyne in December of that year. A further visit was suggested on various occasions but in May 1995 and again in 2000 there was no encouragement from the Parish to seek to carry out further work.

Anne Ballantyne removed the hard cement 'mends' that had been used after the window was uncovered in 1913, replacing them with lime mortar; as well as restoring, as far as possible, the original outline of the window which had been damaged by settlement<sup>3</sup> when the wall was arcaded. The painting, of red and yellow ochres, was 'fixed' by multiple applications of limewash. Her opinion was that the white dots observed by Johnston were probably accidental splashes rather than painted spots. She opined that the wall painting was likely to have been of an angel censing something.

Early churches lit only by small slit-like windows high on the walls were useful as defensive buildings. There are two in Provence, at Stes-Maries-de-la-Mer in the Camargue and Fontaine de Vaucluse, east of Avignon, and the Domesday church in Great Bookham must have been rather like these.

#### **Level of south side of early church**

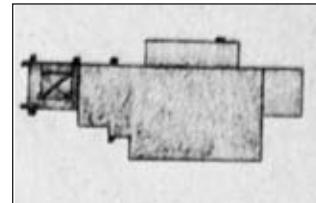
The pillars on the south side of the nave stand on plinths about two feet high. The doorway into the former staircase to the room over the early south porch is also substantially above the present floor level. These indicate that when the pillars and doorway were built, the floor level was higher than at present. This implies that the floor of the nave was on two levels: higher on the south side than on the north.

Why should this have been? My personal view is that this is a continuation of a circumstance arising when an earlier church was built of wood on great oak floor beams. The south side soil was free-draining and compacted, so, rather than go to

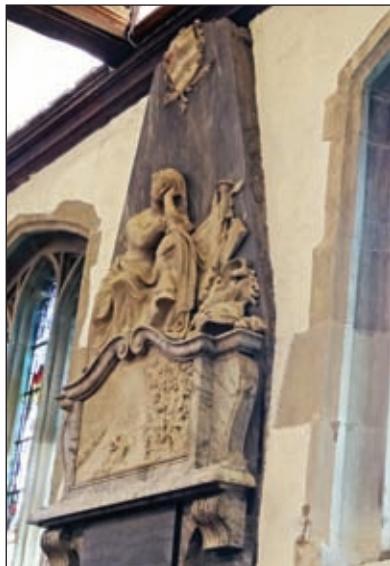


the labour of digging out hard packed soil, the two levels were accepted. We know that the soil is free-draining because, about ten years ago, a large vertical plastic pipe was inserted into the flower bed towards the east end of the outside of the south aisle. This pipe has been inspected from time to time but even after the heavy rainfall of last December and January there was no build up of water in the pipe. We have reason to believe that the north side was less compacted because, around 1200, the north-east corner of the tower, then being built, settled, and the rear-most arcade on that side was blocked off. The question, perhaps, should be: why was the north side of the church built at a lower level than the south side? Was there not enough space to move the church 10 yards south and east?

A ground penetrating radar survey of part of the interior of the church in 2001 by W A McCann followed a dowsing survey by Stephen Fortescue. The GPR survey indicated a possible structure within the line of the nave arcades from the font to the chancel steps. This would be consistent with an earlier wooden church around which our present church was built.



*Cracklow's plan of 1838*



*The Geary monument*

We do not know when the floor of the south aisle was brought down to that of the north aisle but it had been done when A Heales wrote his description of the church in 1871<sup>5</sup>. The plinths were encased in cement during Butterfield's work on the church in 1885<sup>6</sup>.

The extensions on the south side of the church: the Slyfield Chapel and the wall connecting the two storey porch and the chapel were both built to the level of the north side, but the entry to the stairs leading to the upper room of the porch was built to the higher level.

There is a pronounced outward lean to the outer wall of the south aisle. This is now monitored and shows no sign of developing. It is not mentioned in any of the earlier descriptions of the church such as those by Heales<sup>1</sup> and Johnston<sup>1</sup> but, when the Geary monument was moved from the south side of the chancel to the south aisle during Butterfield's rearrangement of the church in 1885<sup>6</sup>, the monument was mounted close to the vertical at an angle to the wall. This can clearly be seen as the top of the monument protrudes from the wall more than the bottom.

the vertical at an angle to the wall. This can clearly be seen as the top of the monument protrudes from the wall more than the bottom.

### **North aisle.**

Cracklow's floor plan shows this to have been about twice as wide as the south aisle. We do not know when this wider north aisle was built but the structure pictured in the etching by PS Munn<sup>3</sup> from the north-west, and the painting by JMW Turner<sup>9</sup> from the north-east, both show a conspicuous gable window whose function would have been to light the pulpit. The position of the pulpit at that time is shown in Hassell's picture of the church interior<sup>3</sup> in 1827. Such an emphasis on lighting the preacher implies a

puritan style of worship, post 1600. The style of building of the north wall with roof lights and a very small window at floor level, shown in Turner's painting<sup>9</sup> might well be early Stuart.

Johnston's plan of the church, which is still used as the basis of the centrefold plan of the Church Guide<sup>10</sup>, indicates that the rear-most arcade of the north side of the nave is 'modern'. Cracklow shows that this arcade had been filled in when he made his plan. This is shown very clearly in the plan of the church in 1800<sup>10</sup>. It is probable that this arcade, and the adjoining one, were filled at the time of the subsidence of the north-east corner of the tower between 1300 and 1400.

### The tower and its timber frame

Johnston<sup>1</sup> says, 'It is difficult to date the timber framework carried up within the tower for the support of the timber upper storey and spire. They are probably not older than the 15th century and may be later.'



341 Tower Timbers looking up

Elphick<sup>7</sup> says that the treble bell may date from early in the 15th century, although the tenor is dated 1675. Parts of the 17th century bell frame are made from an earlier bell frame of a type in general use during the 14th and 15th century.<sup>11</sup> It appears that this brace has survived from the frame formerly carrying the medieval treble bell.<sup>12</sup>

This seems to indicate a date for the framework timbers in the 14th century but not as early as the date of the end of the 12th century indicated in the NADFAS description of the church. In 1999<sup>8</sup> it was discovered that the four oak framework posts were 'in a perilous condition due to an advance state of

decay.' The decay was cut out and replaced by sections of wrought oak, all secured within a steel corset and clad in a waterproof skin within new weatherboarding.

The masonry of the tower is massive. The available space inside the tower is less than half the external plan area.

### Chancel arch and arch on the north side of the chancel.

Johnston<sup>1</sup> ascribes a date in the 14th century to the chancel arch, but we know from Hassell's paintings of the church interior in 1822 that at that time the arch had a wider, more rounded form similar to the arcades of the south nave. The present narrower, pointed arch must have been built at about the time of the widening of the



St Nicolas from the N.E. J M W Turner  
© National Museums, Liverpool

Turner's painting

north aisle of the nave (the Church Guide<sup>3</sup> suggests 1846/48). At the same time the pulpit would have been moved to its present position.

Johnston refers to the arch at the west end of the north side of the chancel as ‘a curious two-centred arch rising from semi-octagonal piers...that cannot be earlier than c.1500.’ This arch is not shown on Hassell’s painting. If we assume that Hassell’s is a complete representation, then the arch must have been imported after 1820. At present it gives access to the organ pipes.



The stone of this arch is similar to the soft yellow sandstone of the two north windows of the north aisle. It is possible that all were brought in from another building by Carpenter<sup>3</sup> when he was building the north aisle.

In 2013 the pews were removed from the north side of the north aisle to provide a more versatile space that is used for social interaction but may also be furnished with chairs when larger congregations are anticipated.

#### **Names and people**

GS Bird was rector from 1905 to 1926. He died in 1946 and is buried in the churchyard with his wife, Eliza, as is his father, Arthur, with his two wives and his parents. The aged parish clerk who gave Johnston the information about the room above the south porch having been used for a Sunday school was Richard Ragge who was Parish Clerk for 55 years. He was born in 1851 and died in 1922. Reverend Dr John Reeve’s memorial stone is now at the west end of the south aisle. He was vicar from 1584 and died in 1620. A translation by Ruth Little of the dedication is: ‘the body is interred, the soul sleeps. Johannes Reeve (Dominus) who was former Vicar kept the peace (and) lived wisely and honestly. Like a radiant star his memory shines on.’

In a footnote Johnston refers to three further memorials, but there are small errors: the memorial to Cornet Geary (not Glary) is in the south aisle: the armorial memorial stones in the north aisle are to Mary Jernegan, 1653 and to William Hilder, 1659.

## **Jubilee screen and west door**

The Jubilee screen was moved from the east to the west side of the tower arch in 2013 to accommodate a new glass door, and the west door to the tower was at the same time modified so that normal access to the church is now by a flat route through the tower. Johnston had moved the Jubilee screen from the chancel arch.

The church is now enriched with over 200 embroidered kneelers from our Millennium Project; we have new lighting and projectors and screens visible to all in the nave and aisles.

## **Acknowledgements**

I was greatly helped in this work by Terry Staff, our archivist and by John Adie, a fellow church historian. My wife, Gillian, was, as ever, a vital helper, taking photographs, and incorporating illustrations into the text.

## **REFERENCES**

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2. Ballantyne Papers. St Nicolas Parish Archives.
3. St Nicolas Church, Illustrated Guide.
4. SyAS Bull/351,2001, WA McCann.
5. SyAS Coll 5, 1871, pp 24-52, A Heales.
6. Faculty for reordering the church, 1885. Parish Archives.
7. LDLHS. Proceedings 1969, 86, W Elphick.
8. St Nicolas Parish Magazine, Nov 1999, pp12-13, Church Wardens
9. *A History of St Nicolas Church, Great Bookham*, 2012, William Whitman
10. 1800, Great Bookham at the time of Jane Austen. St Nicolas Church.

## **Sources of other illustrations referred to in this paper.**

*St Nicolas Church, Interior looking East and Interior looking West* by E Hassell. Lambeth Archives, also ref 9.

*St Nicolas Church from the NW* by P S Munn. Guildhall Library, also ref 9.

*Plan of St Nicolas*, 1800. N Fenner.

*1800, Great Bookham at the time of Jane Austen* Ref 9.

## **EXCAVATION AT BOOKHAM COURTE    *Pauline Hulse and Lyn Spencer***

In August 2014 a small archaeological evaluation was undertaken by members of the Society at a property in The Park, Great Bookham. Medieval pottery appears randomly all over the garden and a test pit dug in 2010 contained a flint surface covered in medieval and post-medieval pottery. A trench measuring 5m by 4m and orientated northeast/southwest was positioned at the end of the back garden in an area of high resistivity found in a survey conducted by David and Audrey Graham in 2013, with the aim of determining whether the garden had once been part of the manor complex of Bookham Courte, which was demolished about 1720.

Great Bookham was owned by Chertsey Abbey until the dissolution, and the earliest mention of Bookham Courte is in the Abbey Cartularies of 1332. A description given in Thomas Clay's 1614 map and survey of Great Bookham refers to it as a capital messuage, manor or farm. The map shows a complex of buildings north of St Nicolas church and near to the existing lake in The Park, which is near the site. Bookham Courte was tenanted between 1590 and 1720 and the leasehold agreements are in the Surrey History Centre. Maps show that by 1798 all trace of it had gone and the land was emparked as part of the park around the Earl of Effingham's new home at Eastwick. It is possible that Bookham Courte may have been the original abbey farm set up by Chertsey Abbey as mention is made of the Seneschal of Great Bookham in the Cartularies and a seneschal was usually appointed to an abbey farm.



*Part of Clay's map of 1614 showing Bookham Courte*

The excavation uncovered a flint cobbled surface extending over most of the trench at a depth of 30-40cm. A considerable amount of medieval roof tile was recovered from the soil above this surface. In the south-west corner of the trench two areas of flint surface of different construction separated by a long shallow depression or gully, included one of pea gravel over flints and the other of slightly larger flints and no pea gravel. The gully between the two was cleaned but no finds were recorded. It is probable that these areas reflect make-up of the surface at different times. A 2.5m x 0.3m section dug through these two areas of flint and the gully revealed chalk blocks at one end and large flints at the other at a depth of c20cm below the cobbled surface. A horseshoe was embedded in the soil between the chalk blocks and the gully.

The flint surface did not extend to the eastern corner of the trench where a chalk surface was uncovered beneath large flints. Medieval pottery sherds were found in this area.



*Chalk scatter under flints*

The medieval pottery assemblage was dominated by Surrey whitewares of Kingston, Cheam and Surrey Border types dating between the early 13th century and the late 15th centuries, but only one sherd of Grey/Brown Sandy Ware of 12th and 13th century date was recovered. Post-medieval wares comprised a fairly restricted range, most of which could fall within a date range of later 15th to 17th century. These included post-medieval redwares and one or two pieces of German stoneware.

Building materials such as ferricrete (ferruginously cemented gravel) and Greensand were found in the north-eastern part of the trench. The Greensand included worked pieces and may be part of a window embrasure.

After four days of scheduled work the exposed area of chalk and the flint section were covered, but further excavation is planned for 2015 to explore these features.

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## COUNCIL NEWS

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### NEW MEMBERS

*Emma Coburn*

Welcome to the following new members of 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](mailto:info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk)

Name	Town	Principal Archaeological and Local History Interests
Miss S Arnold	Surbiton	Bronze Age to Anglo-Saxon periods
Mrs D Bannister	Addlestone	Surrey History, General
R P Gadd	Clevedon, North Somerset	Roman History / Ancient History
Ms N Kistell	Sutton	Roman History / Ancient History
Miss C Knight	Sutton	Roman/Pre-Roman,
Mrs M Knight	Abinger Hammer	Abinger Excavation
Mr N Merryweather	Farnham	Local History, Coombe Hill,
Dr M Sarkany	Kingston Upon Thames	Prehistoric Settlements
Miss L Walker	Dorking	Practical experience and theory of archaeology
Mr W Whitman	Leatherhead	Church history, built environment

### IF YOU RENDER TO CAESAR WHAT IS CAESAR'S WE CAN RECLAIM WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY OURS

*Mike Edwards, Treasurer*

A cheap headline-grabbing title, but that does not belie the importance of the subject matter, which is **Gift Aid** and its impact on our Society.

The Society is a registered charity and as such is entitled to recover income tax equivalent to 25% of its qualifying income.

Our claim is based substantially on annual subscriptions received from ordinary and associate members. At current subscription rates we can claim back £7.50 for ordinary members and £1.25 for associated members, PROVIDED those members have individually paid at least that amount of tax either by way of income tax deducted at source on interest and dividend income; income tax on earnings including occupational and state pensions; tax on rental income and capital gains tax but excluding VAT and Council Tax.

Currently the Society has 587 ordinary members of which 225 (38%) are not currently being treated as available for Gift Aid. There are also 63 associate members of which 43 (68%) are not being treated as available for Gift Aid. This represents a significant number of our total membership.

The current personal allowance for people born after 5th April 1948 is £10,000 rising to £10,660 for people born before 6th April 1938. This means that members on a state pension and a modest occupational pension may not pay any income tax and so their subscriptions may not qualify for Gift Aid, but to put this into some sort of perspective, if the subscriptions of only half of these members currently flagged as not available for Gift Aid prove to qualify for Gift Aid, the society would recover an additional £860 from the Treasury - almost equivalent to 30 new ordinary members. We could double that if we can also lodge a claim for the previous year.

In a time when SyAS, along with many societies, is facing at best a static, at worst a slow decline in membership it is all the more important that we maximise our income from existing membership.

I would therefore urge all tax paying members and especially those who pay their annual subscriptions by standing order who might ordinarily throw the form away, to complete the gift aid declaration when they receive their subscription renewal notice and return it to Castle Arch.

Any queries on this article please email [maedwards@ntlworld.com](mailto:maedwards@ntlworld.com)

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## PREHISTORIC GROUP

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### FIELDWALKING AT CHILWORTH

*Rose Hooker*

Members undertook a field-walking exercise in Chilworth in June 2014 after being alerted by Andrew Norris that a field on the southern slopes of St. Martha's Hill belonging to Chilworth Manor had recently been ploughed. It had been pasture for many years and was being prepared for the planting of a vineyard, so this provided a limited opportunity to walk over land on the hill, which is mostly mixed woodland and open grassland.

Chilworth Manor lies within the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) on the southern slopes of St. Martha's Hill. The area is dominated by the Greensand ridge crowned by St. Martha's Church, and the land falls steeply downhill, with the present field pattern formed in the 19th century. There is evidence for prehistoric activity on the hill, particularly during the Mesolithic period, though the Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods are also represented in the SHHER records.

The field, centred at TQ 028476 and c325x132m in size, includes a WW2 pillbox in its south-west corner (SHHER 6480), but a possible ring ditch (SHHER 4729) in the centre of the field is now thought to have been the remains of a pond recorded on 19th century maps. The field-walking finds appear to concur with that supposition.

The field was walked in a north-south direction at 4-5m intervals starting at the eastern end. Struck flints and more recent artefacts were found on every line, and of some 300 flint artefacts about 10% were tool forms, mostly blades, cores and scrapers. Two probable Romano-British sherds were recovered as also some late medieval and post-medieval fragments of ceramic building materials. These CBM were largely found in a central band 10m either side of the baseline set at c60m OD.

The results are unremarkable, however, with no significant clusters for any period, except that the finds demonstrate the long-term and widespread use of the Chilworth

area beneath the hill and beside the Tillingbourne stream.

We are grateful to the landowner, Graham Wrigley, for permission to work in this field. Thanks are also due to the volunteers who did the exercise: Antony Allen, Judie English, David Lea, Anne Morrison, Jenny Newell, Andrew Norris, Sylvia SolarSKI, Matthew ©

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## ROMAN STUDIES GROUP

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### VISIT TO VERULAMIUM

*Alan Hall*

On 28th June twenty-one members of the Group travelled to St. Albans to enjoy a guided tour of the upstanding remains and museum displays of the Roman town of Verulamium. The town had its origins in an Iron Age settlement of *Verlamion* and continued in occupation throughout the Roman period as *Verulamium*. It was the third largest town in Roman Britain and covered an area of some 200 acres of which only c10% has been excavated.

Although there had been some antiquarian investigation of the site, the first work to modern standards was conducted in 1930 by Sir Mortimer Wheeler and his wife Tessa. Notably, the Surrey archaeologist, Anthony Lowther, played a part in this.

Our tour began at the site of the Theatre which lies alongside Watling Street and adjacent to a temple to Mercury. Although all signs of the wooden seating have vanished the remains are, nevertheless, impressive as it is thought to have housed an audience of 2000. It was originally excavated in the 19th century, but more work was undertaken in 1939 by Dame Kathleen Kenyon.

Within the town, we saw the London Gate and the deep defensive fosse with some upstanding wall but the only other constructional remains to be seen are a very fine mosaic pavement and hypocaust within a large townhouse.



*Members of the Group examining a painted wall in the Museum*

Lunch for many of us was at the nearby Six Bells, which is on the site of a bathhouse (not visible).

The afternoon included a visit to the excellent on-site museum, which houses a magnificent collection of mosaic pavements and decorated plaster walls together with a wide-ranging assemblage of artefacts. Of note was the statuette of Mercury together with his animal attendants including a cockerel of the type we found at Ashtead.

An enjoyable and informative day, which was not in any way marred by indifferent weather.

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## RESEARCH COMMITTEE

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### ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

**Peace Memorial Hall, Woodfield Lane, Ashtead**

**Saturday 28th February 2015**

9.30	Registration
10	Chair:
10.05	<b>Recent finds in Surrey: FLO:</b> <i>David Williams</i>
10.35	<b>Betchworth Castle 2014 excavations</b> <i>Martin Higgins</i>
11.10	coffee
11.40	<b>Dismantling and displaying the Reigate Roman tile kiln fire tunnel</b> <i>Corke and Peter Burgess, SyAS</i>
12.10	<b>Papermaking in Surrey</b> <i>Alan Crocker SIH</i>
12.45	lunch
2	<b>Presentation of the Margary Award</b>
2.10	<b>Recent excavations in the village of Thorpe:</b> <i>Phil Jones</i>
2.45	<b>A Late Upper Palaeolithic site at Guildford Fire Station</b> <i>Gerry Thacker, Oxford Archaeology</i>
3.15	tea
3.45	<b>Weston Wood: AOC</b>
4.15	<b>Recent Archaeology excavations at Horley</b> <i>Dan Swift/Simon Stevens, AOC</i>
5pm	close

Tickets: £10 (£12 on the door); students £8 if booked in advance from Surrey Archaeological Society, Castle Arch, Guildford, GU1 3SX

All day parking available at the further end of the car park; Ashtead station ten minutes walk away; pubs and cafes locally for lunch; Margary Award displays.

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## LOCAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

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### DEATH, DISEASE AND DAMNATION

**LHC Annual Symposium**

**Saturday 2nd May 2015**

**Ashtead Memorial Peace Hall.**

The theme is the exploration of attitudes to death and its causes, belief, burial and commemoration. It will be attended by local historians from across Surrey and local

history societies will put on displays. The Gravett Award will be presented to the group presenting the best display.

Speakers include Peter Balmer who will be talking about Surrey chantries, followed by Catherine Fergusson and Sue Jones who will show how parish records can be used to interoperate trends. Barney Sloane will tell us about the impact of the Black Death and Mike Brown will look at cholera in the 19th century. After lunch Hilary Underwood will be giving a talk about the Watts Chapel and cemetery and we will round off day with a look the First World War when John Clarke will tell us about Brookwood cemetery focusing on military burials and Zafar Iqbal will tell us about the Muslim burial ground at Horsell.

A full programme will be issued with the February Bulletin.

If you would like to reserve display space (which is free) please contact Glenys Crocker, 6 Burwood Close, Guildford GU1 2SB; 01483 565821; [glen@gldf.freemail.co.uk](mailto:glen@gldf.freemail.co.uk)

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## COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY

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### FINDING FARNHAM: 2014 Season

*Anne E Sassin*

September saw the wrapping-up of the preliminary season of Farnham's test-pitting programme of its community archaeology project: *Finding Farnham*.

Led by the Museum of Farnham and local archaeologists Anne Sassin and David Graham of SyAS, the project finished its first year with 19 single metre<sup>2</sup> test pits dug throughout the town centre in July, which involved over 500 participants. Overall, the project team was pleased with this year's results, as well as the fulfilment of its main objectives in bringing awareness of basic archaeological skills and appreciation of the local heritage to the general public.



Map of Farnham with location of 2014 test pits

Excavation was undertaken in two core groups of community members: adults and families on weekends (just under 200 in all), and school groups in the week (330 children from both Rowledge and St Peter's primary schools). Whilst the majority of the community days were devoted entirely to completion of the test-pits, the school children engaged with a range of extra activities, including taking levels, washing and identifying finds, drawing plans and interpreting sections.

Three separate open days from

May to September also allowed both young and old to engross themselves in finds-specific workshops, including the popular animal bone, artefacts, and marine archaeology stalls.

Test-pits were located in Farnham Park, High Park Road, Farnham Library, the Museum of Farnham, the Old Vicarage, Bishop's Meadow, the Memorial Hall, and the West Street allotments – a wide distribution throughout the town centre, though generally outside of the known medieval core and the 12th century planned town. As a result, little was found of this date, other than some residual 12th/13th century

pottery at the Library and Memorial Hall along West Street, attesting to the ribbon development westward during this period known from former rescue excavations in the Willmer House (Museum of Farnham) gardens (Graham and Graham 1997). Most finds, however, are of post-medieval and Victorian material, whether through its location outside of the medieval core or restrictions of excavation.



*Test pit 2 in the garden of Willmer House (Museum of Farnham), West Street, exposing probable Georgian floor of unknown ancillary building*

A small amount of prehistoric worked flints were uncovered, however, above the natural riverine sand of the West Street allotments, an area of known Mesolithic activity (SMR nos 2669/2670).

Whilst the near-absence of medieval pottery and poor archaeological visibility of many of the test pits resulted mainly in targeting alternative areas for future excavation, features for further re-investigation were also uncovered, including potential chalk wall footings at Farnham Park, and Georgian, and possibly Tudor, floors to ancillary buildings at the Museum respectively.

Overall, the consensus is that this year was an overwhelming success in terms of participation and the learning experience provided. Plans are firmly in place for a 2015 season, with more properties scheduled for test-pits along Castle Street and the town centre.

This year's project was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Farnham Town Council, Surrey Archaeological Society, and the Farnham and District Museum Society, with special thanks extended to David and Audrey Graham; Sophie Smith and Liz May at the Museum; Martyn Allen for running the bone workshops; Mike Brace, Ian Barefoot, Anne Lea and Chris Hayward for their excavation supervision; and Susannah Russell and Maria Feibusch for coordinating the schools' participation.



*School children excavating and taking levels at the West Street allotments/cemetery site*

#### **REFERENCE**

Graham, A & Graham, D 1997 'Excavations at Willmer House, West Street, Farnham', SyAC 84, 169-80.

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## **LIBRARY COMMITTEE**

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### **NEW SERVICES FROM THE LIBRARY**

*Rosemary Hughesdon, Honorary Librarian*

The Library will be providing some new services from January. Each month the list of new books which currently appears on the website will be emailed directly to those of you with an email address, together with details of any articles relevant to Surrey which have appeared in our journals during the month. Should you wish to unsubscribe from this service, please contact the librarian.

Additionally I would like to remind you that we have a Current Contents service, which provides a copy of the contents pages of those of our journals which you select. There will be a list of journals on the website. There is currently a small charge for this service, though the first six are free.

For those of you who are not on email and wish to receive these services, please provide us with a supply of stamped (large letter) self-addressed A4 envelopes.

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## SURREY HISTORY CENTRE

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### GIS-ENABLED TITHE AND OS MAPS OF SURREY

*Saturday 7th February 2015, 11am-3:15pm (registration from 10.30)*

Surrey History Centre is launching a new range of ‘seamless’ GIS-enabled digital tithe and 25inch OS maps of Surrey. This course will provide an introduction to the maps and the software needed to use them.

Tutor: David Young

Fee: £10

Further details from Surrey History Centre, Goldsworth Road, Woking.  
[www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritage](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritage) events or Tel: 01483 518737

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## MISCELLANY

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### MYSTERY SHAFT

*David Graham*

In October 2014 the owner of a house on a small cul-de-sac in Lower Bourne (just over 3km south of Farnham) noticed to her surprise that a large hole had appeared in the middle of her back lawn (SU8454 4379). This was reported to the local council and to Farnham Museum and the site was subsequently visited by the author. A very cautious closer inspection showed, under the collapsed turf, an approximately 1.7m wide circular vertical shaft. The shaft was about 7m deep and appeared to have a low tunnel leading off roughly eastwards from the base.



The hole looks like a mine shaft- the problem being that there is no previous evidence for mining on the sands of the Folkestone beds south of Farnham, although there are a number of small sand quarries in the general area. Equally, there is no evidence for ironworking and ore extraction in this part of the Weald. The local carrstone is too low in iron to make it a viable source of the metal and the nearest known iron sites lie several kilometres to the south-east. There are shafts from flint mining on the Hog's Back and around Selborne, but the only flints immediately south of Farnham come in the form of river terrace gravels which, being surface deposits, do not require mining and in any event there is no gravel immediately around Frensham Vale.

It is therefore hard to think what was being mined and what the purpose of the shaft might be, although I suppose it could be an exploratory excavation. Equally, it does not look anything like a WWII Home Guard hide. An alternative explanation could be that it is an entirely natural sinkhole/frost crack dating from the end of the last Ice Age. These are very occasionally visible in section in the faces of local quarries and can be quite deep, but the ones I have seen are all filled with soil.

I should be interested to hear if anyone has any other ideas or has come across a parallel for this feature (contact me via the office at Castle Arch). In the meantime it is very fortunate that no one was hurt in the collapse, which has caused understandable concern to the owners and their neighbours in case there are other such shafts in the vicinity.

### **COCKS FARM ROMAN VILLA, ABINGER: CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS IN 2015**

*Nikki Cowlard*

A 6th season of excavation will take place close to Cocks Farm Roman villa during June (provisional dates 1st- 3rd, 6th-10th, 15th-17th, 20th-24th, 27th-30th).

Last year's field trench will be re-opened and expanded to further investigate Iron Age and Roman features found during 2014. Work in the fields around the Roman villa is adding enormously to the picture of pre-villa occupation and the transition to a Roman way of life.

Volunteers from the Society will be given priority, and non-SyAS members will be charged £25 a week (or part thereof) to cover costs. If you would like to register your interest please contact the volunteer co-ordinator Nikki Cowlard.

[nikki.cowlard@btinternet.com](mailto:nikki.cowlard@btinternet.com) Tel: 01372 745432

### **A MEDIEVAL SEAL MATRIX FROM SEND**

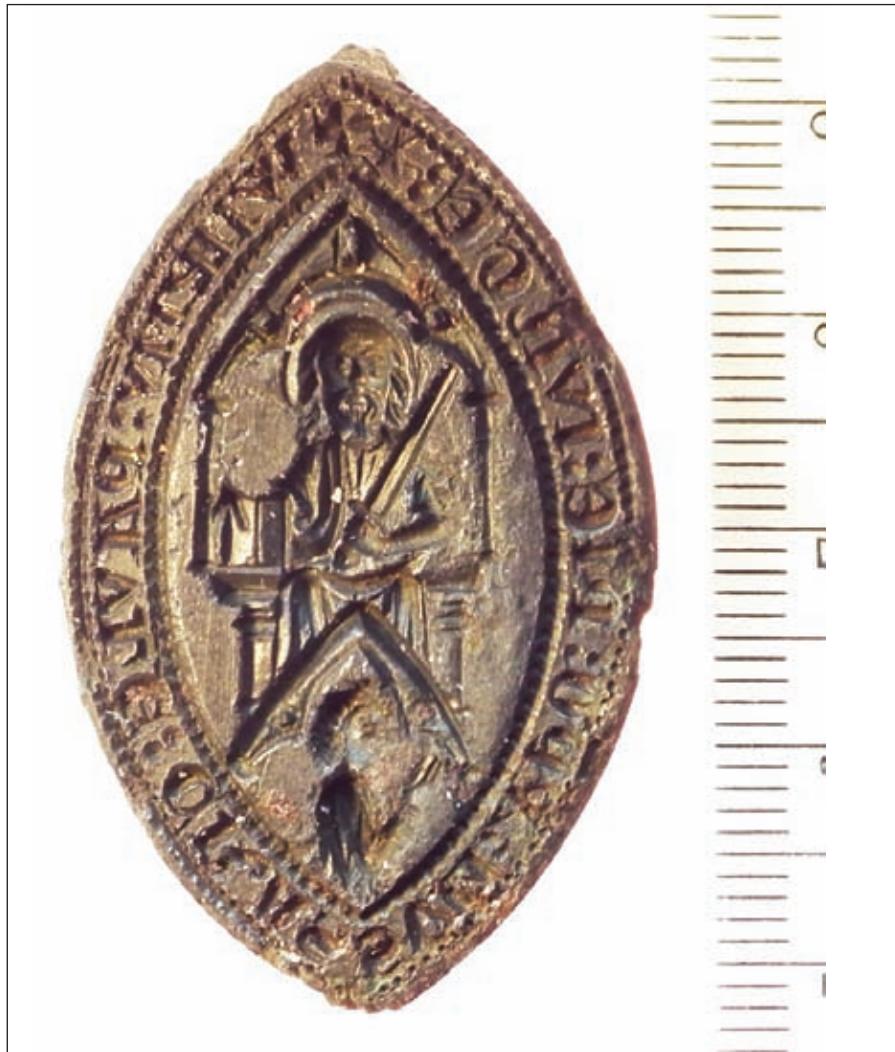
*David Williams, Surrey Finds Liaison Officer*

In May 2014 a fine medieval seal matrix was found by Mr Chris Heath on the edge of a medieval moated site at Send, to the south of Send Marsh Road. No metal detector was involved, the seal being found on a patch of bare soil adjacent to the footpath which skirts the south side of the moat. It may have been exposed following the removal of a fallen tree. Little appears to be known about this well-preserved moated site, which is Scheduled. The matrix is recorded on the PAS database as SUR-69389A.

The seal matrix is in very fine condition. It is of double oval form and measures 44.13mm by 27.28mm. The seal depicts St Paul, enthroned, within a rounded trefoil arch. Below St Paul is a praying figure within a pointed arch with quatrefoil spandrels. On the back, at the apex, is a suspension loop from which a tapering projection runs to the lower point of the matrix. The matrix probably dates to the 14th century.

Professor Paul Harvey of the University of Durham kindly comments:

'I read it as WILLELMVM:PAVLE:CRASSVM:XPO:PIE:IVNGE, ie Paul, join



Willelmus Crassus to Christ in piety, the figure being St Paul with the suppliant/sigillant below and 'Paule' being indeed the vocative. Crassus is an acceptable surname: modern Crace etc. It's a bit odd putting 'Paule' between forename and surname, but there was probably some idea of scansion and I don't think one need look far for parallels; one that is similar is 'Mantone leta Radulphi claudio secreta' (Ellis, Catalogue of seals in PRO, no. 1711).'

William Crassus (or Le Gros (Fat)) appears not to be a name known in Surrey. An earlier William Crassus (d.1219) was the son of Stephen Le Gros. That William was from an Anglo-Norman baronial family long established in central Normandy. He inherited Sodbury in Gloucestershire from his uncle, William le Gros, 1st Earl of Albemarle, primo-genitus. He was granted a licence to hold fairs and markets in (what is now) Chipping Sodbury in 1217. He was appointed Seneschal of Normandy in 1203 by King John of England, and was a noted kinsman and follower of the elder William Marshal, 1st Earl of Pembroke.

William married Margaret, daughter of Robert Fitz Warren. By Margaret he had at least one son, his namesake, William Crassus, or Le Gros.

There is also a family of this name in Kent: a Sir William Le Gros, b.1250 in Kent; married Eleanor de Formeals.

## A MOUNTING BLOCK AT ROEHAMPTON DATED 1654

Derek Renn

Volume seven of *Milestones and Waymarkers*, just published by the Milestone Society ([www.milestonesociety.co.uk](http://www.milestonesociety.co.uk)), contains detailed articles by Philip Evison and Lionel Joseph on this mounting block (aka ‘upping stone’), which once stood beside the Portsmouth Road at Roehampton Vale, the larger part of which survived in the WandsworthMuseum, at least until its closure in 2014. An ‘upping stone’ was a stepped block to help horse riders to mount and dismount. A note about the block (there described as ‘from Wimbledon’) was printed in *Surrey Archaeological Collections* 37 (1927), p102, derived from Walter Johnson’s account in the *Transactions of the London & Middlesex Archaeological Society*, new series VII pt.ii, (1924), pp138-52.

The stone was first recorded (and illustrated) in *The Gentleman’s Magazine* for December, 1787. It bore several inscriptions, including THO NVTHALL/SVRVAYER OF/ ROWN ANO/DO. 1654 (the year in which each parish was first ordered to appoint a surveyor of local roads), another giving the distance from London to Ports Down as three score miles.

This block seems to be the oldest dated post-Roman ‘milestone’ surviving, apart from a rumoured slightly earlier one in Oxford.

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## LECTURE MEETINGS

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### 6th January

Open Evening – short talks by members of Addlestone Historical Society in Addlestone Community Centre, Garfield Road, Addlestone at 8pm. Visitors welcome: £2.

### 7th January

“The Thames Discovery Programme” by Natalie Cohen to Epsom & Ewell Archaeology & History Society at St Mary’s Church, London Road, Ewell at 8pm. Visitors welcome: £4.

### 8th January

“Surrey Roads from Turnpike to Motorway”, by Gordon Knowles of SIHG, in Room G6, The Institute Leatherhead, 67 High Street, Leatherhead KT22 8AH, 10am-12 noon. Part of the Surrey Industrial History Group Leatherhead lecture series. Single lectures £5, payable on the day, but please contact Bob Bryson, Tel: 01483 577809, meetings@sihg.org.uk, beforehand as seating is strictly limited.

### 8th January

“The Temple of Mithras and the Bucklersbury site, London” by Jessica Brian and Mike Tetreau at Staines Methodist Church, Thames Street at 8pm. Visitors welcome: £2.

**10th January**

“Recent Researches” short talks by MHS members to Merton Historical Society at Christ Church Hall, Colliers Wood at 2.30 pm. Visitors welcome: £2.

**10th January**

“The Golden Age of Islam” by Judie English to Carshalton & District History & Archaeology Society at Milton Hall, Coopers Crescent, off Nightingale Road, Carshalton at 3pm. Visitors welcome: £2.

**10th January**

“Using maps in local history” by Carole Garrard to Walton & Weybridge Local History Society in Weybridge Library Lecture Hall at 3pm. Visitors welcome: £2.

**10th January**

New Year Social and “Highwaymen of Hounslow Heath” by Andrea Cameron to Richmond Archaeological Society at the Vestry Hall, Paradise Road, Richmond at 8pm.

**12th January**

“Richmond Park as a royal hunting landscape” by Chris Sumner to Richmond Local History Society at the Duke Street Church, Richmond at 7.30 for 8pm. Visitors welcome: £2

**12th January**

“Flexford – results of 2014 work by the Roman Studies Group” by David Calow to Guildford Group at the United Reformed Church, Portsmouth Road, Guildford at 7.45pm. Visitors welcome: £3.

**13th January**

“Roman archaeology in Southwark from Kenyon to today” by Harvey Sheldon to Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society at the Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut almost opposite the Old Vic Theatre at 7 for 7.30pm. Visitors welcome: £1.

**13th January**

“Vaughan Williams in Surrey” by Robin Wells to Westcott Local History Group in the Westcott Reading Room at 7.45 for 8pm. Visitors welcome: £1.

**15th January**

“The History of Pubs - Going, Going, Almost Gone” by Dr Geoff Brandwood to the Farnham & District Museum Society in the United Reformed Church, South Street, Farnham. 7.45pm. Visitors welcome: £2.

**15th January**

“Death of a Light Bulb,” John Otten – Engineer, in Room G6, The Institute Leatherhead, 67 High Street, Leatherhead KT22 8AH, 10am-12 noon. Part of the Surrey Industrial History Group Leatherhead lecture series. Single lectures £5,

payable on the day, but please contact Bob Bryson, 01483 577809, meetings@sihg.org.uk, beforehand as seating is strictly limited.

### **15th January**

“History of brewing from 2014 BC to 2014 AD” by Dave Roberts to Newdigate Local History Society at the Surrey Oaks public house at 7.30 pm.

### **16th January**

“The story of the Crystal Palace” by Ian Bevan to the Leatherhead & District Local History Society at the Leatherhead Institute (High Street) at 7.30 for 8pm. Visitors welcome: £2

### **20th January**

“Railway electrification”, Peter Bosomworth, Locomotive Engineer and Railway Enthusiast, to Surrey Industrial History Group in The Education Centre, Guildford Cathedral, Stag Hill, Guildford GU2 7UP, 7.30-9.30pm. Part of the 39th Series of Industrial Archaeology Lectures in Guildford. Single lectures £5, payable on the night. Enquiries to Bob Bryson, Tel: 01483 577809, meetings@sihg.org.uk.

### **20th January**

“Eyots and aits of the Thames” by Miranda Vickers to Sunbury & Shepperton Local History Society in the Theatre at Halliford School, Russell Road, Shepperton at 8pm. Visitors welcome: £2.

### **21st January**

“Digging Surrey’s Past – A year of Surrey Community Archaeology” by Abby Guinness to Holmesdale Natural History Club in The Museum, Croydon Road, Reigate at 8pm. Visitors welcome by donation.

### **22nd January**

“Three Victorian Railway Bridges”, Douglas Irvine - Structural Engineer, in Room G6, The Institute Leatherhead, 67 High Street, Leatherhead KT22 8AH, 10am-12 noon. Part of the Surrey Industrial History Group Leatherhead lecture series. Single lectures £5, payable on the day, but please contact Bob Bryson, 01483 577809, meetings@sihg.org.uk, beforehand as seating is strictly limited.

### **24th January**

“The Guildford to Horsham Railway 1865-1965” by Michael Miller to Bramley History Society in Holy Trinity Church Room at 2.30 pm.

### **28th January**

“Architecture: From Surrey to New Delhi, a journey with Sir Edwin Lutyens OM” by Martin Lutyens at Godalming Museum at The Octagon Parish Church at 7.30 for 8pm. Tickets available from the Museum: £5.

**29th January**

“Ante-rooms of heaven - art in medieval hospitals” by Christopher Herbert to the Farnham & District Museum Society in the United Reformed Church, South Street, Farnham. 7.45pm. Visitors welcome: £2.

**29th January**

“Steam Power in Miniature”, Frank Paine - Lecturer, in Room G6, The Institute Leatherhead, 67 High Street, Leatherhead KT22 8AH, 10am-12 noon. Part of the Surrey Industrial History Group Leatherhead lecture series. Single lectures £5, payable on the day, but please contact Bob Bryson, 01483 577809, meetings@sihg.org.uk, beforehand as seating is strictly limited.

**30th January**

Nick Fuentes Memorial Lecture to Wandsworth Historical Society at the Friends' Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street at 8pm. Visitors welcome.

**2nd February**

“The role of the workhouse in the early nineteenth century: care or punishment?” by Judy Hill to Woking History Society at the Holiday Inn, Victoria Way, Woking (parking available in hotel car park) at 7.45 for 8pm. Visitors welcome: £3.

**3rd February**

“Harry Ferguson and the Agricultural Revolution”, Ed Marshall, Newcomen Society, to Surrey Industrial History Group in The Education Centre, Guildford Cathedral, Stag Hill, Guildford GU2 7UP, 7.30-9.30pm. Part of the 39th Series of Industrial Archaeology Lectures in Guildford. Single lectures £5, payable on the night. Enquiries to Bob Bryson, 01483 577809, meetings@sihg.org.uk.

**3rd February**

“Eldridge Bell Founders 1614 to 1716” by Malcolm Loveday to Addlestone Historical Society in Addlestone Community Centre, Garfield road, Addlestone at 8pm. Visitors welcome: £2.

**4th February**

“Archaeology in Dalmatia” by Frank Pemberton to Epsom & Ewell Archaeology & History Society at St Mary’s Church, London Road, Ewell at 8pm. Visitors welcome: £4.

**5th February**

“Papermaking in Hertfordshire”, Michael Stanyon - Archivist, in Room G6, The Institute Leatherhead, 67 High Street, Leatherhead KT22 8AH, 10am-12 noon. Part of the Surrey Industrial History Group Leatherhead lecture series. Single lectures £5, payable on the day, but please contact Bob Bryson, 01483 577809, meetings@sihg.org.uk, beforehand as seating is strictly limited.

**5th February**

"WW1 Family History – Finding Uncle Ernest" by John Chapman at Staines Methodist Church, Thames Street at 8pm. Visitors welcome: £2.

**20th February**

"Crime and murder in Surrey's past" by Julie Wileman to the Leatherhead & District Local History Society at the Letherhead Institute (High Street) at 7.30 for 8pm. Visitors welcome £2

**DATES FOR *BULLETIN* CONTRIBUTIONS 2015**

There will be six issues of the *Bulletin* in 2015. To assist contributors the relevant dates are as follows:

	<b>Copy date:</b>	<b>Approx. delivery:</b>
449	2nd January	2nd February
450	27th February	30th March
451	1st May	1st June
452	3rd July	3rd August
453	18th September	19th October
454	13th November	14th December

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The Council of the Surrey Archaeological Society desires it to be known that it is not responsible for the statements or opinions expressed in the *Bulletin*.

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**Next issue:** Copy required by 2nd January for the February 2015 issue.

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***Merry Christmas to all members, from  
Phil Jones and Maureen Roberts***