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# Bulletin 451

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**CHURCH MEADOW, EWELL 2014:  
Environmental sampling**

The third and final season of rescue excavation in Church Meadow took place in July 2014. Permission was granted for the original project in expectation of a 10m wide strip of the field being absorbed into the adjacent graveyard within the next five years (for previous interim reports see Cowlard 2012; Cowlard 2013). A change of plans means that the entire field is now to be converted into a sports training ground for nearby Ewell Castle School. Although the field is now 'out of bounds', the School's heritage statement for this development was written by the author, ensuring that the importance of the site was recognised in the planning process. Any ground disturbance will be restricted to the top 20cm of plough soil and the project will carry out a metal detecting survey once the turf has been removed, and further geophysics once the field has been reseeded.

For practical purposes over the three seasons the trench was divided into nineteen 6m sections, named alphabetically with 'A' at the lower end of the field closest to Church Street and 'S' towards the Ewell by-pass at the north-east end. The first two seasons had seen the excavation of 60m of the strip, which revealed evidence for several Romano-British features beneath a horizon of deep ploughsoil. This had destroyed almost everything above early Roman ground level, and is thought to have been carried out by a single episode of steam ploughing in the second half of the 19th century. In 2014, 4m of Area I and the entire 6m of J were re-opened (fig 2), together with 55m of 'virgin' 10m wide strip (K-S) in order to complete the excavation in view of the new plans for the area. A further small area in Area D was re-opened over the previously excavated 'amphora' pit to complete its examination.

At the end of the 2013 excavation a small gully was noted to the west of the deep pit in Area J. Further investigation revealed a ditch of probable 1st century date, shallow and wide in profile, running across the trench in a north-east/south-west direction, roughly in line with the anticipated route of Stane Street across the site. This ditch



*Church Meadow, Ewell 2014: Area J in foreground.*

was filled with grey silt containing some concentrated areas of pottery and other rubbish. There is evidence that the ditch was then recut twice; the first was steep-sided and U-shaped following the eastern edge of the original cut and with a homogenous pale silt fill; the second along the western edge and containing several episodes of fill. The segment excavated close to the pit in J was free of finds, but to the north it contained a grey gritty fill full of rubbish. Finally, a small V-shaped gully was cut into the western edge of the ditch. This sequence mirrored features found in 2012-3 and together they are interpreted as parallel roadside ditches for Stane Street. No agger or road base was apparent between these ditches; the area where it should have been in the trench, F, G, H and part of I, had been noted as a 'barren' corridor with no below Roman ground surface features, in contrast to elsewhere in the trench. It seems probable that the road was built up on a causeway as it descended to the marshy area around the springs. This would have left no evidence for the cutting of the road into the natural as would otherwise be expected, and the causeway and surface would have been destroyed by ploughing, with the stones being used over the centuries for buildings and other roads/ tracks or surfaces in the village. Otherwise the absence of foundation cuts/ base flints for a main thoroughfare is a conundrum.

Between the 'non-agger' and the eastern roadside ditch were areas of closely packed pebbles, chalk, pottery and ceramic building material. On the western side there was an area of scattered flints sunk into the natural clay and a wide, but thin, layer of crushed mortar. These are interpreted as the remains of metalled roadside tracks roughly 3m each in width, with the road about 6m wide on a causeway between them. There is evidence for some chalk and 'chalk over flint' surfaces extending over the ditches and the eastern gully, which suggests encroachment on to the road. It may be that as the roadside ditches went out of use, occupation spread onto the roadside tracks leaving the central agger as a functioning highway. The shallow remains of a gully was found in Area O running north-north-west/south-south-east, at right angles to the road and may be a property division similar to those seen in 2012.



*Ritual pit 241 with flint and bone deposits beneath clay lining.*

The deep pit (241) in Area J, which had been sectioned the previous season, was re-excavated. This circular pit was 1.3m in diameter with clay-lined vertical sides more than 2m deep. It had been cut through the eastern roadside ditch, but not the later gully, and the uppermost layers were 1.4m deep and full of burnt material and rubbish. As well as a number of late 4th century coins, towards the bottom of this layer were deposited the bones of, what have

been identified as, a foetal/neonatal pig and at least one domestic fowl. Beneath this was the base of the clay lining which extended up the vertical sides to the top of the pit, presumably making it watertight. Whether its use was industrial or ritual at this point cannot yet be ascertained, but initial examination of environmental samples have revealed the presence of single spiral water snails. Beneath the clay lining was a layer of 252 flints, 177 of them knapped, mixed with cow bones and part of a horse pelvis. These would have been carefully placed as neither the flints nor the bones were damaged, as they would have been by being thrown in from the surface. Below was a cow skull with horn cores placed on its side against one wall, with the rest of the layer packed with sand. This overlay more flints sitting on loose clay, underneath which was the flat sandy natural base of the pit. Extending across the base was what looked like a raised branch of concreted sand, about 10-20cm in width, more than 20cm deep, and running vertically 40cm up the west wall of the pit. Placed parallel to this natural concretion on the south side was a single animal rib. It appears that the base of the pit cut through part of this linear iron-pan concretion. Three substantial postholes were found cut into the surface of the roadside track to the north-west of this pit. They may have supported posts denoting an entrance from the road to a ritual area; pottery dating may help ascertain whether they are contemporary.

A number of pits were found in Areas N and P-S. Circular pit 324N, with vertical clay-lined sides and 1.2m in diameter but broadening to 1.4m at the top, was only excavated to a depth of 0.75m due to time constraints. The upper fill contained a concentration of charcoal and ash with chalk and mortar inclusions, pottery and bone. Beneath this was a layer, still containing much charcoal, but also more clay which contained a melon bead, an iron tool and a stamped samian base of a Drag 18 or 15/17 shallow bowl or dish from La Graufesenque and of pre- or early Flavian date. The fill beneath was similar but contained more sand and clay in the mix, and was mounded as having been filled from the centre in one episode. The vertical sides and clay lining of this pit are reminiscent of 241J, but rather than being sited at the roadside it is about 12m to the east and 28m north-east of that pit. A shallow scoop was found close by, containing pot and a large quern fragment.

Three pits were sited running under the north-west baulk to varying degrees in Areas P, Q-R and S, and thus were only partially excavated. They were approximately 8m, 13m and 14m respectively from the projected road alignment and may represent activity behind roadside buildings.

About two-thirds of pit 311 in P, extended into the trench and consisted of an outer bowl-shaped pit approximately 2m in diameter. A 0.8m wide steep-sided shaft descended from the base of the pit, and was excavated to 0.8m, with augering indicating it was at least 0.75m deeper. At some point a smaller pit was cut within the fill of the bowl-shaped pit. This was 0.8m in diameter and remnants of a flint and mortar lining, 15-20cm thick, survived on its northern edge. Pottery from the fills suggests a 3rd-4th century date.

About half of pit 319, straddling the junction between areas Q-R, extended into the trench, and again consisted of a bowl-shaped pit over a more vertical shaft, with an inner-lined bowl. The earliest bowl was 3m wide and 1m deep, but in contrast to the pit in P the 0.8m wide shaft descended only 0.3m. The inner bowl was 2.4m wide and 0.5m deep, much shallower than the inner bowl in pit 311. It was lined with hard mortar, laid in patches of differing colour and consistency, and about 10-15cm thick. The lining only survived on the southern curve of the pit, being absent on the base and northern sides. In the fill of the inner bowl where the base should have been was a very large flint, 25.4kg in weight. Early indications suggest a late 2nd to mid 3rd century date for the overall feature.



*Team discussion on Pit 319.*

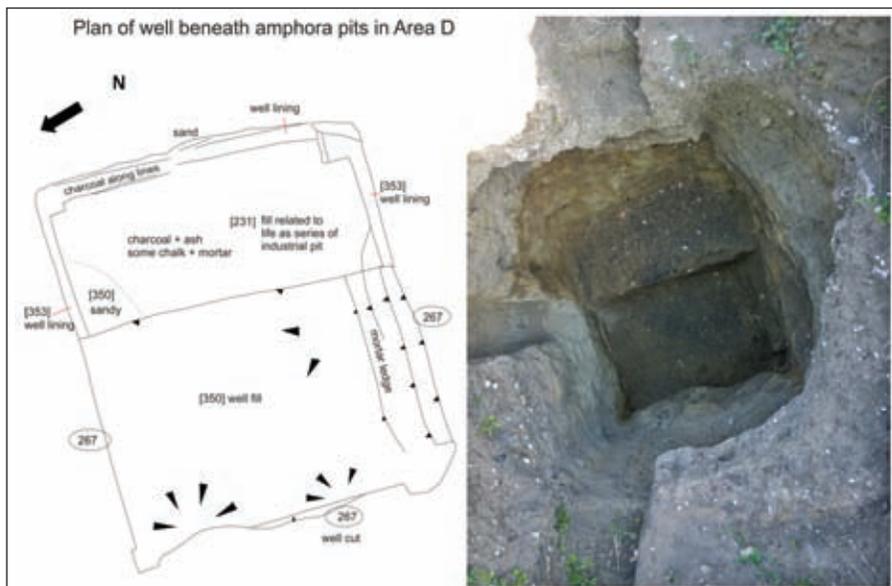
Only the edge of the third pit 316 could be seen in the trench but it probably extended to a diameter of 2.5m. Two layers of fill were evident separated by a band of chalk and mortar fragments. The fills were same in appearance and consistency as those in pits 311 and 319. These pits, together with the amphora pit described below, share characteristics of repetitive use with some indication of mortar lining and burnt material. A mortar-lined flint bowl found in Area B in 2012 may also represent a similar function. It is likely that these pits had an industrial function and parallels are being sought. Environmental samples have been extracted from all the excavated pits and may give us an indication of what use they were put to.

The 1m wide trench from Clive Orton's 2000 excavation (ECY00) was more clearly seen running at a right-angle to the road corridor in I-J (Orton 2000). The flint, pebble and chalk surfaces identified in 2000 were seen to be part of the surface excavated to the west of the 'ritual' pit in 2013-14. The CME14 trench was extended to the north-west in K in an attempt to tie in Frank Pemberton's SMC03 churchyard trench. A flint layer, originally thought to be the surface of the Roman road, was found to mirror the disturbed flint layer found in the CME13 trench. Post-medieval pottery was found beneath both the CME13 and SMC03 flint layers confirming the flint had been turned over by the plough and re-deposited. Exceptionally dry conditions in 2003 meant that it had been impossible to excavate beneath the exposed flint layer.

The 'amphora' pit cut into the roadside ditch in D was re-opened for the second time, as due to its complexity it had been left unfinished until there was time to examine it carefully. Excavation revealed a 1.15 x 1m rectangular feature identified as a timber-lined well. It was probably about 3m deep including an augered depth of 0.8m which was not excavated. The upper 0.75m was dug vertically through clay and beneath that through sand. There was evidence for corner posts with internal planking; the wood only surviving as a sticky grey/white mottled lining often with a band of charcoal on the inner surface. Unlike the earliest of the two wells found in A there was no

barrel in one corner, posts being evident in all four. On the southern side was a mortared ledge parallel to and within the lining, which may be a replacement lining, but more likely belongs to the next phase of activity. About 1.5m below the top of the western edge a niche 60cm wide, 20cm deep and 10cm high had been cut into the side of the well. This may have been part of, or behind, the lining and probably originally held a greyware dish, perhaps as a kind of foundation deposit, since some large sherds were found in the niche and others conjoining were recovered from the main fill nearby.

Following the well phase there was then a series of three pits, one above the other, showing the same sequence of contexts, each apparently involving the setting in place of an amphora (or part of an amphora): 1: Build-up of grey gritty fill with some pottery, 2: mortar bowl, 3: a burnt layer, with the burning not in-situ as there is no sign of burning on the mortar, 4: build-up of grey gritty fill (not present in the top pit), 5: an amphora then seems to have been cut into the side wall and set in mortar; the bowl and sides of the pit lined with flints, mortar and chalk, 6: another burnt layer, possibly from in-situ burning. The amphora in the earliest pit was represented by a sherd sealed beneath the mortar for the next amphora pit, together with a curved depression in the southern wall of the well shaft into which it would have nestled. The fills, as in the later pits in the sequence, were dark and gritty, containing ash, charcoal, mortar and pot.



*Plan of well in D.*

Once the initial pit went out of use and most of the amphora was removed, 40cm of a gritty grey layer containing rubbish was deposited and a second amphora placed in the south-east corner, against another curve cut into the wall. The base of this amphora was approximately 35-40cm above the base of the first. A dupondius of Vespasian, dated to 72-73AD, was found in this area and may have been deposited beneath the amphora base. A mortar bowl was formed around and beneath the amphora, and the gaps between the amphora and the straight wall of the well packed with clay and small flints. Activity then left a burnt residue over the bowl outside the amphora, before levels were then built up around the amphora and a further mortar

lining laid down. A horizontal slot, 10cm in diameter and set at a 45° angle to the pit wall, was evident in the mortar; it contained a soft dark fill and may represent a length of timber laid across the corner to support the amphora while the mortar set. The mortar extended up the walls with flint added in places, especially around the amphora base, perhaps to reinforce it.

When the second amphora was removed the wall of the pit was repaired with pieces of flints, and a grey gritty layer containing rubbish was deposited to raise the floor level of the pit. Again, this was bowl-like, extending a short way up the south-west side, and all the way up the south-east side where the second amphora had been. A thin layer of yellow mortar was then applied to the base, and after at least part of the rubbish layer was removed in the south-east corner of the pit, a thick layer of mortar was put in and the amphora placed on top. As with the second amphora pit there is again evidence that the mortar was laid against a piece of timber. The wall in the north-east quadrant of the pit was then shaped to accommodate the curve of the third amphora, the remains of which were found in the first year of excavation. This amphora was approximately 55-60cm higher up the pit than the last, and burnt residue was again found above the mortar. On this occasion there was no further build-up layer. The pit was then lined to either side of the amphora: in the south-east corner where the 'Vespasian' amphora had been, two layers of closely packed flints were laid without mortar, whilst in the south-west corner these two layers of flints sandwiched a layer of chalk set in mortar. This sequence of pits shows evidence for the same type of process continuing over time, and as with the other 'industrial' pits already mentioned, parallels are being sought.

Following the SyAS environmental course that took place during CME13, 20 bulk environmental samples were taken from 18 features, including pit and ditch fills (see frontispiece). These are being processed by volunteers both at SCAU and in Ewell, and will hopefully add evidence for the environment and human activities in Romano-British Ewell. Whilst a number of interesting finds were retrieved there was the feeling of more mundane pottery with fewer finewares than in previous seasons. Several fragments of quernstone were found together with more than 50 hobnails, and more tile debris and dressed stone fragments.

Roman coins, most of which were found by our dedicated metal detectorists, Mairi Sargent, Dave Williams and Bill Meads, now number around 500 after three seasons. Once identified it is hoped that analysis of the coin assemblage, and comparisons to other coins found in Ewell and other Romano-British sites, will add to our understanding of activity in this part of the settlement. Other interesting finds of Roman date include: the bovid terminal of a cosmetic grinder of probable 1st to 2nd century date, a rare Maxey-type Bow and Fantail brooch dated to the late 1st century AD (the few of these found in this country are mainly from East Anglia); a Knee brooch of later 2nd to early 3rd century date, and a copper alloy dolphin-decorated carrying handle for a legionary helmet. Whilst non-Roman finds have always been in the minority on this site, a number of interesting objects of post-Roman date were recovered this season. They include: a pre-1952 'gold-coloured' metal Royal Army Medical Corps brooch, a WVS badge of WWII issue, two Charles I Rose farthings, a 17th century trader's token from The Boar's Head in Tooley Street, Southwark, a medieval jetton and a stamped clay tobacco pipe fragment of an early giant pipe dating from c1590-1620. This is an exceptionally rare find and the earliest example of a giant pipe that has so far been recorded in this country (D. Higgins, 2015, pers. com). Also of particular interest is a copper alloy button stud, decorated with a single frontal facemask. It bears comparison to the style of Anglo-Saxon button brooches, but rather than the standard brooch fitting it has a central single stud on the rear. A specialist opinion is being sought.



*Open day.*

The second Saturday of the excavation saw an Open Day in conjunction with the Ewell Village Fair and the CBA's Festival of Archaeology. Good weather encouraged more than 200 visitors along to the site where they were given a tour of the trench and the finds area. More than 60 children from the Bourne Hall Museum Club attended for a practical session of excavation and finds washing, and pupils from Ewell Grove School visited over the course of one very busy day.

All dating for features is provisional as post-excavation pottery cataloguing continues. Volunteers meet on a regular basis, assisted by a grant from Surrey County Council's Local Committees Fund. The project has only been possible with support from SyAS, EEHAS, CBA's Mick Aston Fund, St. Mary's Church, SCAU, Jeremy Harte and David Brooks from Bourne Hall Museum and neighbours Jane and Rob Pedler. Thanks must go to the more than 80 volunteers that took part over the three weeks, and to those who are continuing with post-excavation work. In particular I would like to thank the following: David Bird, as Project Director for his support and sage advice; Emma Corke, Assistant Director who ran the trench, co-ordinated the recording, and was an invaluable help in interpreting the archaeology; Frank Pemberton, Assistant (Finds) Director; Andrew Francis – finds tent co-ordinator, together with Lou Hays who also organised the volunteers; Colin Nutley – 'pot washing' supervisor; Jenny Newell, site 'gofer' – a vital role; Michelle Cave – environmental supervisor; trench supervisors – David Calow, David Hartley, Meurig Thomas, Laura Dodd, Phil Stanley, Roger Brookman, and assistant supervisor Pauline Hulse; metal detectorists Mairi Sargent, Dave Williams and Bill Meads; Steve Nelson and Ian West of EEHAS for their on-site help; and Chris and Gay Harris for all their ongoing involvement and support.

This is an amended version to the interim report published in the April 2015 EEHAS newsletter.

## REFERENCES

- Cowlard, N. 2012 Church Meadow Ewell: Excavations in 2012, *SyAS Bulletin*, **435**, 10-13  
Cowlard, N. 2013 Church Meadow Ewell: Excavations in 2013, *SyAS Bulletin*, **442**, 2-6  
Orton, C. 2000 St. Mary's No.5 Churchyard, Ewell, Surrey, unpublished summary report (copy in Bourne Hall Museum, Ewell)

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## COUNCIL NEWS

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### NEW MEMBERS

*Emma Coburn*

Welcome to the following new members who have joined the Society. I have included principal interests, where they have been given on the membership application form.

If you have any questions, queries or comments, please do not hesitate to get in contact with me on 01483 532454 or [info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk)

| <b>Name</b>            | <b>Town</b>          | <b>Principal Archaeological and Local History Interests</b> |
|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ms A Mc Fadden         | Bordon               | Social History; Art                                         |
| Mr J Sandford-McFadden | Bordon               | Battlefield History; History; Family History                |
| Miss S Blackman        | Godstone             | Pre-history; Roman Britain; The Celts; Social History       |
| Miss L Coles           | Ottershaw            | Roman Britain; Abinger Roman Villa                          |
| Mrs Y Delugar          | Bookham              | Roman, Medieval, Tudor, WWI and WWII                        |
| Mr A Islam             | Tooting              | Roman Archaeology                                           |
| Mr D Josey             | Walton on Thames     | Historic Parks and Gardens; Built Environment               |
| Mr M Neve              | Dorking              | Anglo Saxon Period                                          |
| Mrs S Neve             | Dorking              | Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Period. Villages Study Group       |
| Mr S Scott             | Staines              | Chobam Common                                               |
| Miss H Smith           | Kingston upon Thames | Roman History                                               |
| Dr L Smith             | Kingston upon Thames | All periods of history                                      |

### BOOKS AVAILABLE

Horsham and District Archaeological Group have been given the following books, which they would like to dispose of for a donation to the Group.

Old Cottage and Domestic Architecture S. W. Surrey by Ralph Nevill FSA1891

Shell shilling guide, Surrey.

Surrey Archaeological Collections 1954, 1970, 1971, 1973 and Index to volumes from 1931 to1963

Research Vol of Surrey Arch Soc 1974 No 1, No 5

Surrey Arch Soc Bulletins (about 20) from the 1970s

Antiquities of Surrey 4th edition 1951

The Story of Esher Ian Stevens 1966

A Factual Guide to Guildford Cathedral Anita Bassett

Guildford Cathedral by Sir Edward Maufe R.A

If interested in any of the titles please contact [judie.english@bopenworld.com](mailto:judie.english@bopenworld.com); Tel: 01483 276724 or at 2, Rowland Road, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 8SW and she will arrange collection.

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## OBITUARY

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**PROFESSOR SHEPPARD FRERE**  
**CBE, BA, MA, DLitt, FSA, FBA, archaeologist**  
**Born 23rd August 1916, died 26th February 2015, aged 98.**

Professor Sheppard Frere was one of the giants of British archaeology and, as Professor Mike Fulford said at a conference in 2015, was probably the last person who could be described as knowing everything there was to know at the time about Roman Britain.

Sheppard Frere joined Surrey Archaeological Society in 1938, the same year he dug at Little Woodbury with Gerhard Bersu and first joined the Institute of Archaeology. His mother, Mrs Agnes Frere, was a keen lithics collector in Surrey. His cousin, Mary Leakey, became a world famous palaeontologist and his great-great-great grandfather, John Frere, was in 1797 the first to discover and describe what later became known as Acheulian hand-axes in association with the bones of extinct animals at Hoxne in Suffolk.

Sheppard 'Sam' Frere trained as a classicist at Lancing College and Magdalene College, Cambridge. His first position was as History master and House Tutor in Wilson House at Epsom College where he started in September 1938. He immediately established an Archaeological Society helped by a chance discovery on September 29th, 1938 when a Fifth Form group found a Bronze Age crouched burial while digging Air Raid trenches at the school. He energetically arranged lectures, field walking and local excavations, displays of antiquities and visits to excavations, museums and exhibitions and dug at Ewell and Walton on the Hill. The crouched burial at Ewell, a Late Bronze Age hoard from Banstead and his 1939 excavation of a medieval pottery and tile production site at 15 Newton Wood Road in Ashted were published in *Surrey Archaeological Collections* vol 47 and set the pattern for good excavation and publication throughout his career.

Sheppard Frere was a pacifist but staff and pupils at Epsom College actively supported the war. The Masters' Common Room was uncomfortable for him and in December 1940 he moved to Lancing College as a housemaster and joined the National Fire Service. His archaeology with Surrey Archaeological Society continued and in 1942 he excavated the Roman bath-house for the Society at Chatley Farm near Cobham. By 1946 he had accumulated enough experience to become part-time director of rescue excavations at Canterbury and to be elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. He stayed at Lancing until 1954 when he briefly took up an appointment as a lecturer in archaeology at Manchester University. In 1955 he became firstly Reader and then Professor of the Archaeology of the Roman Provinces at the Institute of Archaeology in London and director of excavations at Verulamium where amongst other innovations he used one of the very first magnetometers. In 1966 he became Professor of the Archaeology of the Roman Empire at Oxford University and a fellow of All Souls where he stayed until his retirement in 1983. He was elected fellow of the British Academy in 1971, appointed CBE in 1976 and Emeritus Fellow of All Souls College in 1983. He played a key role in setting up the journal *Britannia* and his standard work, *Britannia: A history of Roman Britain*, which first appeared in 1967 and was several times revised, dominated the subject for 30 years.

Throughout his illustrious career Sheppard Frere's association with Surrey Archaeological Society remained strong. He was elected to the Council three times: 1943-1946, 1947-1951 and 1953-1956. He was a member of the Excavations

Committee from 1951, the year it was founded until 1965, and its chairman for the last three years. He was Secretary of the Southwark Excavations Committee setting up rescue digs so energetically that he was almost arrested as a spy for checking bomb-damaged sites too closely. He was the Society's Honorary Editor from 1958-1963 and regularly checked *Bulletins* and *Collections* and made sure *Britannia* included appropriate references to sites in Surrey. He was a member of the General Purposes Committee from 1959-1963, Vice-President from 1964-1973 and Honorary Vice-President from 1989. Through these years at Surrey Archaeological Society he worked alongside friends and Romanists of the time including Tony Clark, Richard Goodchild, Rosamond Hanworth, Brian Hope-Taylor, Dame Kathleen Kenyon, Capt A W G Lowther, Ivan Margary and Francis Rankine and helped set the academic framework for the future. Sheppard Frere was a leader and a worker and one of those who made British archaeology ready for the twenty-first century.

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## EARLY MODERN STUDIES GROUP

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This new special interest group of SyAS was approved by Council on 1st May 2015 on the basis of the (edited) proposal by Catherine Ferguson that appears below.

### Introduction

A new special interest group for Surrey Archaeological Society will focus on the early modern period, c1500-1700, following a suggestion I made in a lecture for the SHERF conference in November 2014, after which several members of the audience expressed interest.

There is a paucity of high quality research on early modern Surrey, particularly in key areas of social and economic history. The current division of responsibility for the period between the Medieval Studies Forum and the non-specific umbrella of the Local History Group is doing nothing to promote research. TV Tudor costume dramas give an impression that this is an easy period to study, but that is far from the case. Over the past ten years giving lectures on this period to SyAS, I've become aware of either a lack of knowledge about the documentary source material, or else items written without engaging with the nuances of such sources. As a lecturer in History at Surrey University I taught several modules on the English Local History degree course, including *Early Modern Surrey* and *Sources for the study of Early Modern History*. That degree is no longer available, but those topics could still be taught within SyAS, and I would be happy to conduct those courses. My proposal, therefore, includes an educative role for the new Early Modern Studies group with a view to promoting research.

The objectives of the new group will be, firstly to generate interest in this period and bring about a greater understanding of Surrey at this time. Secondly, it would have a role in encouraging and supporting research. Through study days and seminars a deeper knowledge of Surrey's source materials could be generated. It could also provide a skilled forum for initiating research projects and for mentoring and supporting researchers. Thirdly, it would report the outcome of research to the Society through lectures/seminars and publication in the *Collections*.

The structure of the Early Modern Studies Group has yet to be finalised and I am happy to be guided by other more experienced members of SyAS in any aspect of the organisational development of this special interest group. However, I anticipate a preliminary period with a small committee of 6-8 people whilst we get this off the ground, with myself as Chairman of a committee which would meet quarterly.

There is considerable synergy between the Medieval Studies Forum, the Local

History Committee and EMS (and, indeed the Domestic Buildings Research Group) and I would hope that this new development would work for our mutual benefits. A research project on, for example, the Reformation in the county (see section 4 below) would require considerable co-operation between the groups (including archaeology) but bring benefits to all involved. It may be appropriate in the initial period for the Early Modern Studies Group to contribute lectures to conferences/symposia being run by either LHG or Medieval Studies, if that is agreeable to them.

Several former students from my courses at Surrey University went on to do post-graduate research, usually incorporating Surrey topics. Two are still engaged in research at doctoral level. They are members of SyAS and would provide a strong academic core of support for the Early Modern Studies Group and potentially become members of a mentoring group for other researchers. My own contacts via the Hearth Tax Project at Roehampton University have already proved useful in generating speakers for the Local History Committee, but sometimes fail because the general nature of LHC symposia can be off-putting to some early modern specialists.

At the moment the period 1500-1700 is only patchily covered. The Medieval Studies Forum in theory covers the period AD410 to AD1600, but in effect the latter part receives less attention. And the terminal date of 1600 is most unhelpful for any documentary study (no early modernist would choose that date). The Village Studies Group (VSG) has encompassed some of this period in the past as part of its village history remit, but VSG does not seem to be active in 2015; which leaves the LHG to be the main vehicle for delivering information on this period where it has to compete for space with the First World War and Victorian era. I sit on the committee of the LHG and feel that the early-modern period is not being served as well there as it would be in a special interest group. This is particularly the case in terms of encouraging research, which the LHG does not include in its remit.

This period also needs different and separate treatment from the medieval or later modern periods, and a different range of skills and knowledge are required to deal with its source material. It might have rather fluid start/end dates, but there comes a point when you are studying this period when know that you are most definitely not in medieval England, and yet still are far from reaching the modern age. Here are three examples: parish registers (introduced 1537), hearth tax returns (1660s-70s) and assize/quarter sessions documents (survival in parts from Elizabeth's reign). All behave like modern sources in terms of the great quantity of data which they generate; yet at the same time all behave like medieval sources in the problems they present: the palaeographical difficulties, their use of Latin, their sometimes baffling incompleteness and inconsistencies, and the assumption by the compiler of a knowledge of boundaries, communities and local organisations gone long before the 19th century.

The 'big histories' of the county (Manning/Bray/ Brayley/Malden/VCH) were written a long time ago and, in the manner of their times, had little to say about social and economic history (let alone women). Since then a revolution has taken place in terms of access to original source material, both in the record offices and, more recently, online; yet this is not reflected in published research on this period for Surrey. We are extremely fortunate in Surrey to have the Loseley Manuscripts, a key resource, but they remain a little-tapped gold mine. Over the past 10 years I have been giving lectures to SAS on social and economic topics, but in every case have had to compile the research from scratch in the record offices as there is no established corpus of published material. A handful of doctoral theses have included Surrey material but most SAS members will not be aware of these.

In the SHERF lecture I suggested six crucial lacunae in our knowledge of Surrey history, each having a widespread and often complex effect upon aspects of development (or stagnation) in the county. These areas are summarised below:

**Economic growth:** Surrey grew from being ranked 22/39 in the county order of wealth in 1500, to 3/39 in 1700 (Buckatzsch publication is 60 years old but still remains valid. E. Buckatzsch, 'The geographical distribution of wealth in England, 1086-1843', *Econ. Hist. Rev.*, NS., vol. 3, no. 2 (1950), pp. 180-202). Obviously the growth of London contributed to this rise in economic power, but what was happening in the rest of the county? To what extent is it correct to attribute all economic growth in the county to the growth of metropolitan London?

**Demographic developments:** The population of England doubled in the 16th century. What was Surrey's experience? London grew from approximately 50,000 to 500,000 between 1500 and 1700. How did Surrey farmers adapt to produce food to feed the growing county population? And, in addition, to feed London? There is evidence hinting at a drastic depletion of Surrey woodlands caused by the increased demand for wood for building and fuel supplies – especially for industry, but we need to know more.

What was the effect on Surrey parishes of migration to London? The phenomenal 16th century population growth was followed by stagnation in the mid-17th century (although London continued to grow). Some historians suggest a Little Ice Age at this time; certainly crises of mortality are evident in most Surrey parish registers at several points. What was happening? What was the impact of these crises at parish level on the local economy, society – and housing?

**Royal presence:** Surrey had additional demands made on its food supplies by the frequent presence of Tudor monarchs in the county. Elizabeth I, for example, made 227 visits to Surrey and on each progress the whole court travelled with her, requiring, with their horses, to be fed, watered and housed. The impact of the royal presence in Surrey, whether it be requisitioning of food or carts for transport, or the management of hunting grounds and parks, is something of which we have, as yet, a very incomplete picture. The research on Woking Palace might benefit from, or add insights to further investigations in this area.

**Reformation and religious change.** The 16th/17th century was a time of upheaval from national to personal level, yet it has passed almost without comment in the established histories of the county. These have focussed on the dissolution of monastic sites alone, without considering what happened, for example, to the future ownership of their lands. The tangible effect of the Reformation in England was the greatest change in landholding since the Norman Conquest with wide-ranging repercussions on the wielding of power. But what was Surrey's experience? And, to what extent did this contribute to the rise in power of Surrey gentry?

Within the parishes themselves, every medieval parish church in the county bears the scars of this period without us fully understanding how and why. And then there was the impact of religious change on communities and individuals. Preliminary research by me, and my former students, indicates that the response to the Reformation at parish level was intriguingly complex and that some places in Surrey had a long-standing religious radicalism. This would make an exciting shared project with Medieval Studies and LHG.

**Civil War and Interregnum:** When the standard history books talk about the Civil War they focus on battles and troops in the 1642-6 period. But behind and beyond these, stretching across the 1640s and 1650s were seismic shifts in government at both national and local level – and also in terms of the governance of religion. In a period of under 20 years local communities had to adapt and change to deal with government by monarchy, parliament, republic and even military dictatorship under

the Major Generals in 1655; and at the same time adapt to the abolition of the Church of England, the rise of a multiplicity of religious sects, and the establishment of Presbyterian form of church government. The emergence of sects like the Diggers and Quakers were just the tip of the iceberg in Surrey, which had a long-standing connection with religious radicalism. I know of no serious work which has been conducted into this important aspect of the county's history.

### **Conclusion**

My hope is that Early Modern Studies would cast light upon Surrey in the 16th and 17th centuries and bring to members of SyAS an energy and enthusiasm firmly anchored in historical accuracy. The educative role will enrich the historical studies of SyAS members, whether these be studies of individuals, localities, buildings or family history.

If you would like more information please contact Catherine Ferguson through the office at Castle Arch.

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## **RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

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### **THE BIERTON BEQUEST**

The Research Committee invites applications for the Bierton Bequest.

Graham Bierton was an active member who left the Society a generous bequest. The Council wants to use Graham's bequest in ways which will benefit other local amateur archaeologists and historians. Up to £4,000 a year will be available for educational and any other research projects in memory of Graham and his friendship and enthusiasm for the Society. This is in addition to the usual grants. Apply to the Secretary of the Research Committee at Castle Arch for a grant form. Applications for 2015-16 should be received by 30th September 2015.

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## **SURREY INDUSTRIAL HISTORY GROUP**

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### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

*Quennells Hill, Wrecclesham, Farnham, Surrey GU10 4QJ*  
*11th July 2015, 2pm*

After a short AGM, the 33rd Surrey Industrial History Group Annual Conservation Plaque will be awarded to Farnham Pottery. This will be followed by a short talk and refreshments and then there will be a guided tour of the site.

Please contact our Meetings Co-ordinator, Bob Bryson, 01483 577809, meetings@sihg.org.uk, if you wish to attend - so that we have numbers for catering.

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## **MISCELLANY**

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### **BULLETIN INDEX**

*Susan Janaway*

In October 2013 I reported in *Bulletin* 441 that the Index to the *Bulletin* was now completed. Drawing on previous work by Kim Knee in the early 1990s and further

updating by Sheila Ashcroft, I produced a searchable index of issues to 2013.

Up until now this index has only been available to users of the library in Castle Arch. However it has now been put online and can readily be found on the Society's website. Go into 'Publications' in the Main Menu and you will find it at the bottom of the 'Bulletin' section. As recent issues of the *Bulletin* are now available online, I am not planning to update the index further.

## **WORLD WAR 1 AND A LOCAL SOCIETY IN CROYDON *Paul W Sowan***

South London in the Victorian era had a plethora of field clubs, natural history societies and other such bodies, few of which survived into Edwardian times or the post-World War 1 period. One of the survivors is the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society, now a limited company and registered charity.

The society's continued existence is in no small measure a result of its having had a succession of remarkably energetic and enthusiastic officers in the last 145 years. Among these was Frank Marshall Roberts (1880-1917), who served as Secretary from 1910 to September 1914 when he enlisted with the 7th Royal West Surrey Regiment. In line with the Society as a whole, Roberts had wide-ranging interests embracing archaeology, geology and natural history. Whilst at the front he sent home letters and notes on his field observations in the battlefield. One such, on a flint hand axe found in the trenches, was published in the *Bulletin of the South Eastern Union of Scientific Societies* (issue 14, pages 3-5) published in 1917. His note on luminous centipedes noted on the Belgian/French border had been published in *Nature* the previous year. A letter sent home ten days before he was killed in action on 10th August 1917 contained his observations on the flora and fauna of a flooded bomb crater. His obituary is in the Society's Proceedings (8(4), cxxiii-cxxv, 1918) including a portrait.

A result of Roberts enlisting was the Society electing its first lady officer, when Miss Grace Bigby took his place as Secretary. She had graduated with a degree in botany, and was Head Science Mistress at Mary Datchelor Girl's School at Camberwell. She served as Secretary until September 1916, when she resigned to undertake munitions work at Woolwich, presumably in the laboratories. After the war her interests were primarily geological, and she became an active member of the Geologist's Association. She died in 1953.

The Society, of course, also survived and was active throughout the Second World War, and benefitted from a surge of interest in archaeology and local history from the 1940's onwards. It still, astonishingly, maintains a library, a museum and a vigorous publishing programme, unbroken since 1871.

## **WOKING PALACE EXCAVATIONS**

***8th September to 28th September 2015***

### **Excavation and Finds Processing opportunities**

This will be the seventh and final year of excavations at the important medieval and Tudor site in Old Woking, funded initially by Surrey Archaeological Society, Surrey County Council and Woking Borough Council and for the final three years by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

If you wish to dig as an experienced volunteer or on a training course or the one day 'Dig for a Day' scheme for beginners please contact Hannah Potter at Surrey History

Centre via e-mail to [education.scau@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:education.scau@surreycc.gov.uk) or Tel: 01483 518737 for more details and to reserve a place. Places will also be available to help with finds processing, contact Hannah as above.

The public Open day this year will be on Sunday 27th September. Further details will be included in the next Bulletin or can be accessed on [www.woking-palace.org](http://www.woking-palace.org).

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## WEALDEN IRON RESEARCH GROUP

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### SUMMER MEETING AND AGM

*Northchapel Village Hall*

*Saturday 18th July starting at 11am*

The meeting will commence with a presentation on the **Petworth Estate in the 16th and 17th centuries** by *Peter Jerrome*. The Estate included Frith Furnace, which will be the subject of the afternoon visit. This Sussex furnace is not to be confused with one of the same name in Kent.

Stout footwear is recommended for the afternoon visit. The furnace site is a well preserved with a bay (dam) some 100m long, and evidence of the working area at the eastern end. Frith Furnace was recorded in 1574 as being owned by the Earl of Northumberland as part of his Petworth estate. The woods contain minepits and platforms for charcoal production for the furnace. There is also a 'bear' from the furnace bottom in a gully on the furnace site.

Further details of the furnace can be found on the WIRG database at [www.wirgdata.org/searchsites2.cgi](http://www.wirgdata.org/searchsites2.cgi)

Northchapel is located on the A283 between Chiddingfold and Petworth and the hall is in Pipers Lane east of the A283 at the east end of the green.

All are welcome to the talk and visit and a buffet lunch will be available for the price of £10 IF BOOKED WITH ME IN ADVANCE or bring a packed lunch.

*Judie English*

Tel: 01483 276724 or [judie.english@btopenworld.com](mailto:judie.english@btopenworld.com)

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## SURREY HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

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### DESIGNED LANDSCAPES- PARKS AND GARDENS FROM 1000 TO 1800

Research Framework Conference

*Saturday 5th December 2015*

*The Abraham Dixon Hall, The Institute, Leatherhead*

A packed day of presentations from a range of eminent researchers and local speakers, with much of interest to both archaeologists and historians, as well as all who appreciate gardens!

*Paul Everson*, past-Chairman of the Society for Landscape Studies and past-President of the Medieval Settlement Research Group, will open the day with a keynote address entitled **Ghosts of Gardens Past: an archaeologist's view**.

The afternoon session will be opened by *Dr Paula Henderson*, a leading specialist and author on the history of Tudor and Stuart gardens, who will take as her topic ***Rus in urbe: gardens in Elizabethan and Jacobean London***.

Other speakers will include *Rachel Delman* of Oxford University speaking on the **Gardens of the medieval elite** and local researchers *Jan Clark* and *Cherill Sands* who will be focusing on the important gardens at **Albury Park** and **Painshill Park** respectively.

This promises to be a very interesting day so please note the date in your diary now. Full details and the application form will be circulated with the August Bulletin.

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## CONFERENCE

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### **AFTER MARGARET SPUFFORD: ENGLISH LOCAL HISTORY NOW**

***University of Roehampton, Gilbert Scott Lecture Theatre (Whitelands campus), 19th/20th June 2015***

'A historian of the unconsidered people of 16th and 17th century England' so Andrew Brown described Margaret Spufford in his Guardian obituary. Margaret's major publications: *Contrasting Communities* (1974), *Small Books and Pleasant Histories* (1981), *The Great Reclotting* (1984), *The World of Rural Dissenters* (1995), and *Figures in the Landscape* (2000), addressed key issues in the history of English early modern rural communities, and took local history in new directions.

This conference, in the academic home that recognised her with a Chair, aims both to celebrate and commemorate, and to assess and evaluate Margaret's contribution to early modern history in both its content and its methods.

Speakers at the conference will be:

**The Heralds and the Hearth Tax** *Adrain Ailes*, The National Archives

**A Peculiar Parish: Wawne, alias Waghen, in Holderness, East Riding of Yorkshire, 1540-1740** *Mary Carrick*, University of Hull

**TBC** *D'Maris Coffman*, University College London

**Marginal people in a stressful culture: Itinerants, Gypsies, and counterfeit Egyptians** *David Cressy*, Ohio State University

**The Hearth Tax and differing agricultural regions in Surrey** *Peter Edwards*, University of Roehampton

**Pinmaking and the sexual division of labour** *Amy Erickson*, University of Cambridge

**Relative wealth and poverty, as seen through the Hearth Tax, in the parish of Woking, Surrey** *Catherine Ferguson*, British Record Society

**Neither Godly professors, nor 'dumb dogges': reconstructing conformist Protestant beliefs and practice in Earls Colne, Essex, c1570-1620** *Henry French*, University of Exeter

**The micro-management of a late 17th century landed estate** *Steven Hindle*, Huntington Library

**Variations in the recording of the not liable hearths and householders** *Elizabeth Parkinson*, University of Roehampton

**The Hearth Tax and the People of Restoration London** *John Price*, University of Roehampton

**Seventeenth-century women learning Latin: how exceptional was it?** *Amanda Pullan*, University of Lancaster

**A triangular relationship? Catholics, Nonconformists and the Established Church in the local context** *Bill Sheils*, York University

**TBC** *Peter Spufford*, University of Cambridge

**Budget of family and household: an empirical historical study for the paralleling and contrasting of regions in Japan and Europe** *Moto Takahashi*, Ehime University (Matsuyama)

**'Flowered silk is little worn but gold & silver striped is much worn': metropolitan clothing consumption in late 17th century Sussex** *Danae Tankard*, University of Chichester

**The Woolcomber's World: Faith, Family, Fraternity and Fighting Cocks in Later Stuart Essex** *Brodie Waddell*, Birkbeck University of London

**The Hearth Tax and the People of Restoration London** *Andrew Wareham*, University of Roehampton

**'On or about/in and upon': 'dating statements' and the growth of 'almanac time' in the early modern North Country** *Keith Wrightson*, Yale University

**The Development of a Secondary Credit Market: Evidence from Wills and Probate Records** *Patricia Wyllie*, University of Cambridge

<http://www.roehampton.ac.uk/Research-Centres/Centre-for-Hearth-Tax-Research/After-Margaret-Spufford/>

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## DAY SCHOOL

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### SUSSEX ROMAN VILLAS

*Bignor Roman Villa, Bignor, West Sussex*  
*Sunday 14th June, 10.30am-4.30pm.*

Tutor: *David Rudling*.

This illustrated day school will introduce participants to the interesting and varied range of Roman-period villas that have been discovered in Sussex. Sites to be discussed will include those at Barcombe, Beddingham, Bignor, Chilgrove 1 and 2, Eastbourne, Fishbourne, Preston, Pulborough and West Blatchington.

The course will comprise several illustrated talks in a classroom and an in depth guided tour of Bignor Villa. The tutor has directed several excavations at Bignor Villa and is a co-author of a new book (to be published in June) on the site.

Course Fee: £40 (including entry to Bignor Villa). Tel: 01323 811785; [info@sussexarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:info@sussexarchaeology.co.uk); [www.sussexarchaeology.org](http://www.sussexarchaeology.org)

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## EXCAVATION

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### PLUMPTON PLAIN ROMAN VILLA

*Saturday 20th June to Saturday 1st August*

This year the Sussex School of Archaeology will again run a programme of weekday and weekend training courses and also provide weekday volunteering opportunities as part of a project designed to fully expose, assess, and record the plan of the winged-corridor house.

Those wishing to be kept informed of such opportunities should register an interest with the Sussex School of Archaeology ([info@sussexarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:info@sussexarchaeology.co.uk)) or visit its website: ([www.sussexarchaeology.org](http://www.sussexarchaeology.org).) We will again be offering our popular and comprehensive 5-day Excavation Training Courses starting each Monday from 29th

June. The cost of these courses is £190 (or £170 for Friends of SSA). We will also run some of our popular 1-day (Saturday) Excavation Techniques for Beginners 'taster' courses. The fee for these courses is £40 (£35). Both types of our excavation courses provide an excellent start, or refresher experience, in field archaeology. Excavation Volunteering charges are £10 (£5) per day. Other 1-day weekend courses to be run at Plumpton this summer (£40 or £35 each) cover more specialist archaeological topics/skills: Surveying; First Aid for Finds; Planning and Section Drawing; Environmental Sampling; and Photography. Please note that membership of the Friends of the Sussex School of Archaeology is £25 per annum. Details of local accommodation / camping are available on request.

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## LECTURE MEETINGS

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### **2nd June**

AGM and members' talks at Addlestone Historical Society in Addlestone Community Centre, at 8 pm. Visitors welcome: £2.

### **2nd June**

"Shops and shopping" by Janet Pennington to Dorking Local History Group at the Follett Hall, United Reformed Church, 53 West Street, Dorking at 7.45 pm. Visitors welcome: £2.

### **3rd June**

"Excavations in Church Meadow, Ewell" by Nikki Cowlard and Frank Pemberton to Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society in St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 8pm. Visitors welcome.

### **11th June**

"WW1 Local Stories" by Nick Pollard to Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society at Surbiton Library Hall (Ewell Road near Berrylands Road) at 7.30 for 8pm. Visitors welcome: £3.

### **17th June**

"Tracks in a landscape" by David Butler to Holmesdale Natural History Club in The Museum, Croydon Road, Reigate at 8pm.

### **25th June**

"Prehistory of south-west London: part 2" by Jon Cotton to Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society in the Main Hall of the Literary Institute, High Street, Egham at 8pm.

### **26th June**

AGM followed by a local history talk to Wandsworth Historical Society at the Friends' Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street (opposite Wandsworth Town Hall) at 8pm. Visitors welcome.

### **6th July**

Members' evening at Woking History Society in the Holiday Inn, Woking at 8pm. Visitors welcome: £3.

### **7th July**

"Gardens in Surrey" by Cherrill Sands to Addlestone Historical Society in Addlestone Community Centre, at 8pm. Visitors welcome: £2.

### **7th July**

"The curious incident at Cliffton-down" by Peter Evans to Dorking Local History Group at the Follett Hall, United Reformed Church, 53 West Street, Dorking at 7.45pm. Visitors welcome: £2.

### **9th July**

"Magna Carta" by Matthew Smith to Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society at Surbiton Library Hall (Ewell Road near Berrylands Road) at 7.30 for 8pm. Visitors welcome: £3.

### 14th July

“Underground Surrey” by Peter Burgess to Westcott Local History Group in the Reading Room, Institute Road, Westcott at 7.45 for 8pm. Visitors welcome: £1.

### 13th July

“The Life and Times of William Cobbett,” a talk by Katherine Stearn of the William Cobbett Society. An insight into the life of this radical politician and campaigning journalist best known for his book *Rural Rides* an account of rural life in 19th century England. RH7 History Group, 7.30 for 8pm, Lingfield Community Centre, RH7 6AB. Visitors: £2.50

### 15th July

“The veteran trees of Dawcombe Reserve” by Simon Humphreys to Holmesdale Natural History Club in The Museum, Croydon Road, Reigate at 8pm.

### 30th July

“RNLI history and work in action” by Steve Merrifield to Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society in the Main Hall of the Literary Institute, High Street, Egham at 8pm.

### 31st July

“A Journey from Battle Bridge to King’s Cross: the archaeology and history of a London suburb” by Rebecca Haslam to Wandsworth Historical Society at the Friends’ Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street (opposite Wandsworth Town Hall) at 8pm. Visitors welcome.

### 4th August

“WW1 1916-1918. From conscription to remembrance” by Kathy Atherton to Dorking Local History Group at the Follett Hall, United Reformed Church, 53 West Street, Dorking at 7.45pm. Visitors welcome: £2.

## DATES FOR *BULLETIN* CONTRIBUTIONS 2015

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

|     | <b>Copy date:</b>     | <b>Approx. delivery:</b> |
|-----|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 452 | <b>3rd July</b>       | <b>3rd August</b>        |
| 453 | <b>18th September</b> | <b>19th October</b>      |
| 454 | <b>13th November</b>  | <b>14th December</b>     |

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**Next issue:** Copy required by 3rd July for the August 2015 issue.

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