

## SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

CASTLE ARCH, GUILDFORD GU1 3SX

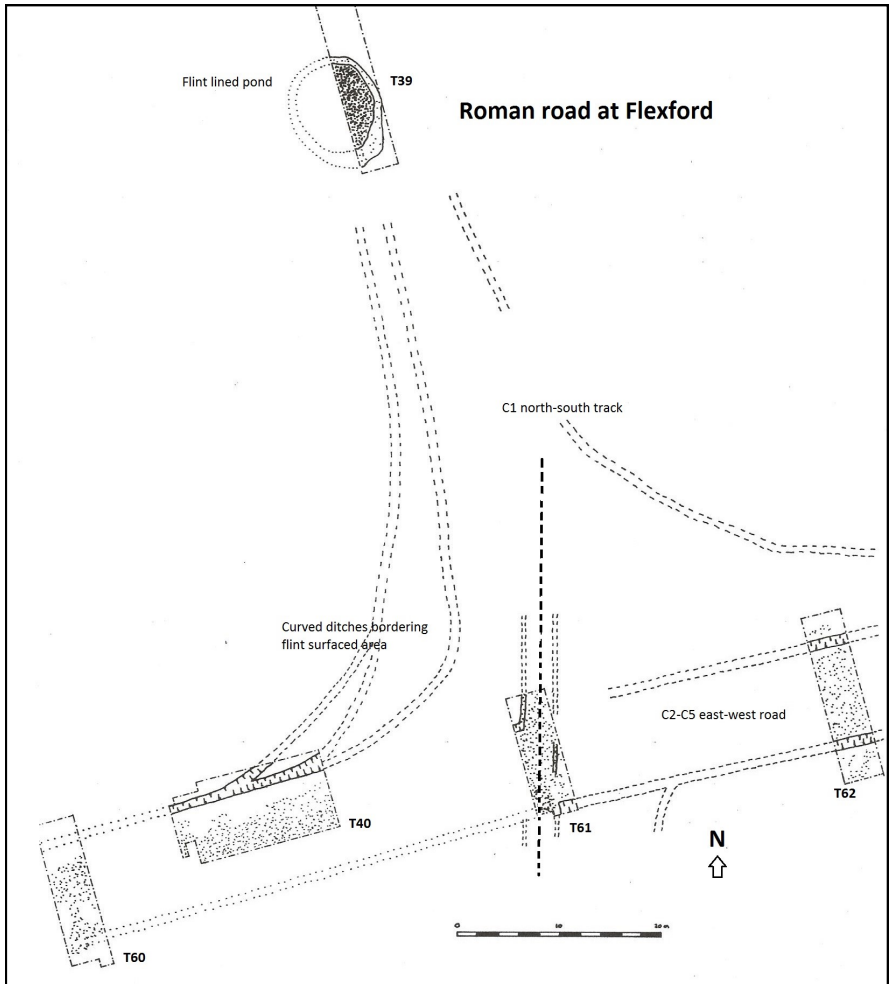
Tel: 01483 532454

E-mail: [info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk)

Website: [www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk](http://www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk)

# Bulletin 462

June 2017



## East-west Roman road at Flexford, Surrey

David Calow

North-west Surrey is a blank space on a map of known Roman roads yet it is reasonable to suggest tracks or roads linked the known Roman settlements and that there was a road south of the Thames from London to Winchester. Fig. 1 shows alternative routes suggested by David Bird (Bird 1987, 167). Clive Orton suggested the most likely route was north of the Hogs Back and used locational analysis to predict a Roman settlement north-west of Guildford (Orton 1999, 3). Geophysics and excavation by the Roman Studies Group of Surrey Archaeological Society have recently discovered a Roman road at the Roman settlement at Flexford, four miles north-west of Guildford, which conforms to the alignment suggested by David Bird. The road appears to have been constructed in the second century AD and to have remained in use until the early fifth century.

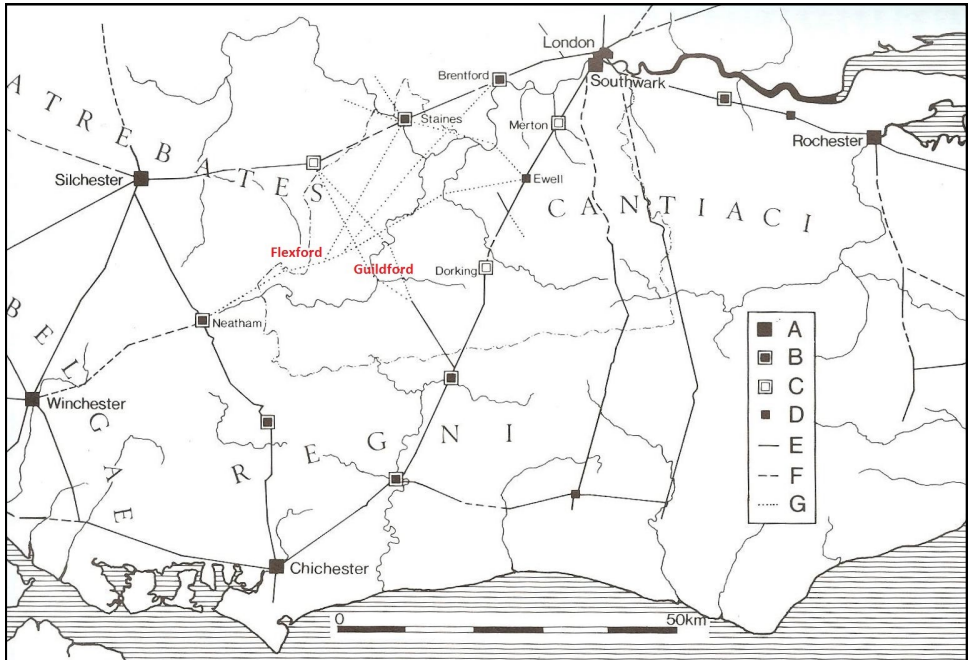
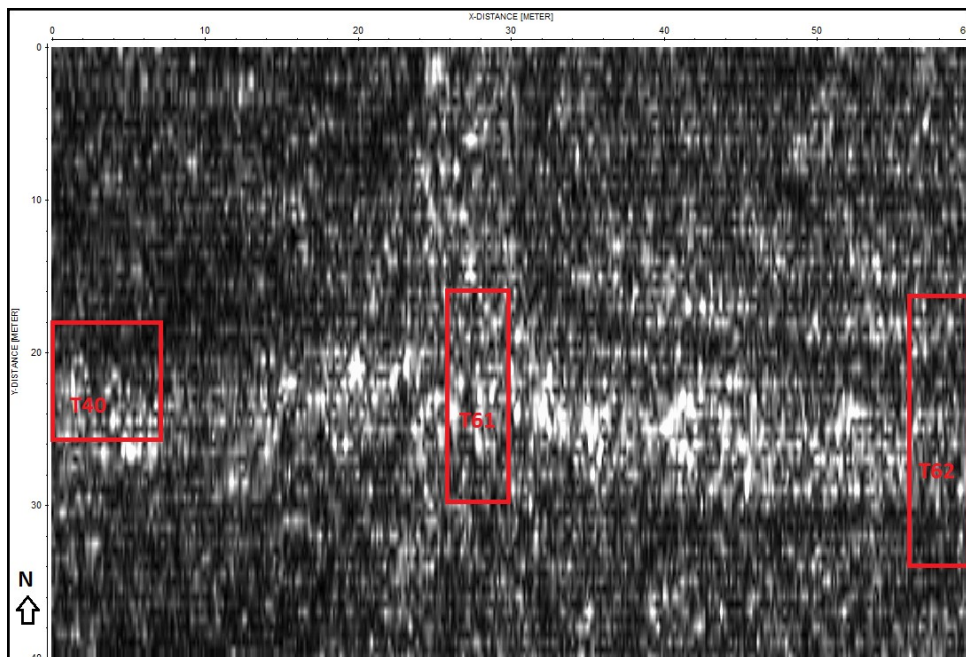


Fig. 1 Roman roads in north-west Surrey suggested by David Bird in *The Archaeology of Surrey to 1540* p 167

The Roman settlement at Flexford spreads over ten hectares of pasture on a low ridge of sandy clay and gravel. Exploration between 2009 and 2015 produced evidence for at least six buildings, flint surfaces, tracks, ditches, iron smithing, wells, pits and funerary activity. Finds include 29,383 sherds of pottery, 697 Roman coins and 21 steelyard weights, parts of 3 millstones and 26 querns, 301 other Roman artefacts, 140kg of iron slag, 89kg of ceramic building material, 38kg of animal bone and 877 nails.

A track running north-south along the low ridge was found in the north of the site but there was no evidence for an east-west road. Excavations in the southern part of the site identified what appeared to be a flint-lined pond in T39 and a flint surface with ditches in T40. Magnetometry, earth resistance and ground penetrating radar (GPR) were used to explore this area in more detail.



*Fig. 2 Flexford: Results of Ground Penetrating Radar survey by David Staveley*

Fig. 2 shows the results of a GPR survey of 60m x 40m east of T40 kindly undertaken by David Staveley. The survey showed a band of high dielectric permittivity (white) about 10m wide running east-west with narrow bands of low dielectric permittivity (black) on either side. This was crossed by a white band running roughly north-south with black bands on either side. The east-west feature showed a slight change of alignment at the crossing point. The northern part of the north-south feature was better defined and appeared to be at right angles with the east-west feature but the less well defined southern part appeared to be at a different angle. The black bands formed curves in the angles between the white areas.

Results from T40 suggested the white areas were densely packed flint surfaces while the darker bands were ditches. T60, T61 and T62 were excavated across the east-west feature in 2015, as shown in Fig. 3, and confirmed the east-west feature was a flint-surfaced Roman road 6m wide with verges 2m wide and side ditches 1m wide and 50cm deep. The grid reference of the centre of the road to the east was SU 93817 50838; to the west SU 93650 50800 and at the crossing SU 93700 50818.

The remains of a narrow north-south track were found underneath the east-west road in T61. The track was about 3m wide with a flint surface and flat-bottomed side ditches about 60cm wide. There were no finds associated with the flint surface or the side ditches.

The curving dark bands and white areas shown by geophysics were not excavated but appear to show a progressive widening of a flint-surfaced area on the north side of the road leading to the feature interpreted as a flint lined pond in T39.

*Cover Image: Fig. 3 Excavations across the east-west road and flint lined pond at Flexford*

A probable road surface of silt and fine gravel was visible above the compacted flints. There was no evidence of a raised agger. Material from the ditches probably formed the verges and an area about 6m wide had been levelled and filled with clay and compacted flints. The road surface had later been repaired with iron slag and pottery sherds in T40 and with smaller flints and pebbles elsewhere. The southern side of the road appeared to have been resurfaced with smaller flints and pebbles which in places extended over the southern verge.

There was a three degree change of alignment of the east-west road at the point it crossed the north-south track but as this was also the higher point of the low ridge it was not clear if it was the crossing or the ridge that had determined the point at which the change of alignment was made.

The land slopes down in the west and earth resistance had indicated the flint surface in this area curved to the south. T60 was located to see if the slope had influenced the construction or use of the road. The road structure was clear but it had been significantly damaged and repaired and, as Fig. 3 shows, the flint surface had spread south. The side ditches were not found. The northern side ditch had been identified in T40 and there was no reason to suppose that the side ditches had not continued into T60. The suggested explanation was that, as the natural ground was sticky clay, the ditches had filled with the same clay and become unidentifiable. The roadside ditches shown in T60 in Fig. 3 are therefore conjectured. The location of the roadside ditches determines the suggested alignment of the road to the west. If the conjectured line is incorrect the alignment could vary by several degrees.

T61 was located at the crossing point and showed clear evidence for north-south and east-west ditches and surfaces. The east-west ditch on the south side of the road in T61 terminated at the north-south track at which point a well-formed post-hole 20cm in diameter and 20cm deep (6112) suggested there had been a gate across the southern extension of the track. An assembly of samian and other pottery sherds shown in Fig. 4 (6113) was found in the upper fill of the ditch terminal. The assembly included a mostly complete samian cup kindly identified by Joanna Bird as Drag 33, die 2a, stamped Peculiaris i of Lezoux and dated AD 115-150. The rim was abraded and the exterior chipped although the breaks were un-rubbed. The missing sherd was later identified amongst finds from adjacent plough soil. Complete samian items are rare at Flexford and, since the upper ditch fill probably dated to the late fourth century, the cup was probably two hundred years old when it went into the ditch. The assembly may be better explained as a ritual deposit than a casual loss.

*Fig. 4 Samian cup and other well-formed Roman pottery in the upper fill of a ditch terminal by the road crossing (6113)*





Fig. 5 shows T62. The 6m wide road metalling was 10-15cm thick and in good condition although lack of time meant that the central area was not fully exposed. The two roadside ditches are clearly visible and the southern verge can be seen covered by flints. A clipped silver siliqua of the House of Theodosius, minted in Milan and dated to AD 397-402, was found near the road surface by the southern ditch.

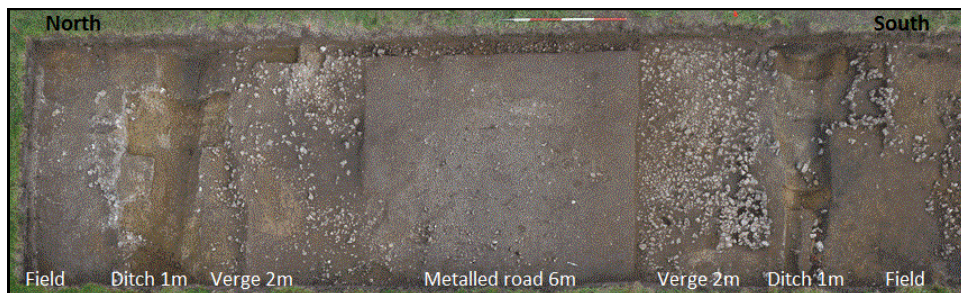


Fig. 5 T62 East-west road 12m wide including ditches

There is some evidence for Late Bronze Age activity but nothing further until ditches, structures, iron smithing and two cremations from the first century AD. The north-south track probably provided access to the site in this period.

The construction of the east-west road in the second century is associated with various changes on the site. Earlier ditches had been aligned roughly north-south and east-west. The east-west road is aligned at about 75 degrees rather than exactly east-west and ditches and buildings dated to the second century were constructed on the new alignment. The curved ditches north of the road suggest the junction widened over time as animals and carts accessed a flint-lined pond. Pottery from contexts below the flint lining of the pond has been dated to AD 60-150 whereas finds from the fill of the pond have been dated to the mid to late fourth century. Five datable coins were recovered from slots cut into the east-west road structure and five from the road surface. The coins from the structure were dated to the first and second century while the coins from the road surface were dated between AD 313 and AD 402. Pottery from the lower roadside ditch fills was generally second century whereas pottery from the road surface and upper ditch fills was largely third or fourth century. The interpretation is that the east-west road was constructed in the mid-second century and continued in use for about 250 years until the early fifth century.

The site has produced 697 Roman coins and 21 steelyard weights. Several aspects are unusual for Roman Britain: the absolute number of coins is relatively high for a rural settlement as is the fact that 59% were minted before AD 260. Very few sites have reported as many as 21 Roman steelyard weights. Fig. 6 shows the find spots of the coins and other artefacts. Most of the early coins are worn and, while the earliest need not have been deposited before the mid second century, such coins appear to have been withdrawn from circulation by the late third century. There are fewer mid fourth century coins than would be expected on a Roman site in Britain but the presence of 22 late fourth century coins, of which one was minted after AD 408, shows the site, and presumably the east-west road, were still in use in the early fifth century.

There is some debate about whether the early coins were ritual deposits rather than casual losses. Both explanations are possible but the absolute number of early coins and weights on a Roman rural settlement site makes it perhaps more probable that the coins are casual losses suggesting Flexford was the site of a periodic market between about AD 150-300 stimulated by the construction of the east-west road. Activity on the site

continued, presumably still linked to the presence of the road, throughout the fourth century and into the early fifth century at the end of Roman occupation.

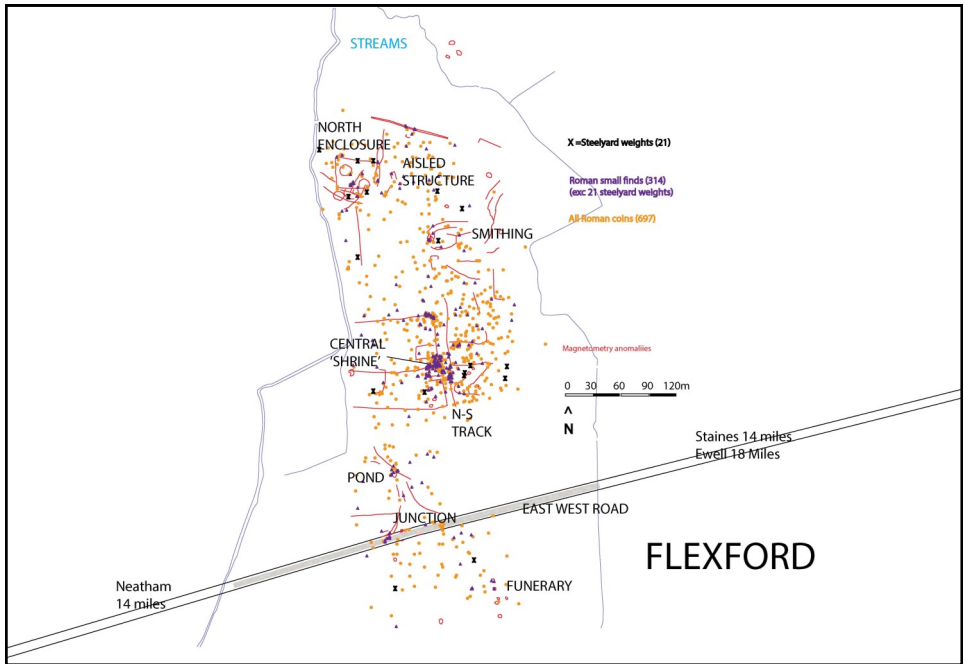


Fig. 6 East-west road south of the main settlement at Flexford

The identification of a Roman road at Flexford supports the idea of a Roman road south of the Thames between London and Winchester. Extended east, the line of the Flexford road would follow the line of the modern road through Wood Street to Rydeshill and beyond. Extended west on the conjectured alignment, the Flexford road would cross the Blackwater close to the crossing of the modern A323. The Flexford road would not, however, pass the Roman temples at Wanborough or other local sites where Roman material has been found such as at Henley, Mисley Copse, Manor Farm, Wanborough, Puttenham, Artington and Shackleford. There must have been other tracks or roads in the area at the time.

It is important to compare the results at Flexford with the detailed report of excavations at Neatham (Millett and Graham, 1986). A north-south road between Silchester and Chichester, probably constructed in the mid-first century, was crossed by a later east-west road about 10m wide that, as at Flexford, passed to the south of an established settlement and was associated with an alteration of the layout of the site. The construction of the surface of the east-west road was dated to the early second century, on the basis of an un-worn samian bowl of c AD 100-125 found in the construction levels of a contemporaneous structure, while the coin series from the road surface continued to AD 388-402 (*ibid*, 13).

Further research is essential before the suggested link of the east-west Flexford road with the east-west road at Neatham can be established but nothing found so far contradicts this interpretation. With 6m of metalling and a total width of 12m including side ditches the Flexford road is a substantial feature that could link Neatham to Staines and Ewell.

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I would like to thank the landowners, Mark and Kim Dawkins, for their help and support. The trenches were supervised by Emma Corke, Nikki Cowlard and David and Audrey Graham and I am very grateful to them and to David Bird for help, guidance and comments on earlier drafts of this article. Isabel Ellis and Lou Hays kindly organised the finds processing. Excavating flint surfaced Roman roads can be hard on knees and special thanks are due to the volunteers from the Roman Studies Group. David Staveley kindly brought his GPR equipment, completed the survey and processed the results. Mairi Sargent and Dave Williams were the metal detectorists, David Williams assessed the artefacts and Sam Moorhead at the British Museum identified the coins.

## References

Bird, D. 1987. The Romano-British period in Surrey, in: Bird, J. and Bird, D. (eds.) *The Archaeology of Surrey to 1540*: 165-196. Guildford, SyAC.

Millett, M. and Graham, D. 1986. *Excavations on the Romano-British small town at Neatham, Hampshire 1969-1979*. Winchester, Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society.

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## Not everything is Ritual

*David Graham*

I read in Emma Corke's interesting article on last season's Cocks Farm, Abinger excavation (*Bulletin* 461) that, among other things, the trench revealed a number of 17th century calf burials with their heads bent back over their spines and the legs tucked into the body. The author suggested that this was the result of a 'curious' ritual activity.

I would like to make an alternative suggestion based on my experience dealing with the occasional young deceased farm animal and that is that, rather than being ritual, the contorted posture is the result of rigor mortis. Rigor sets in, depending on temperature, usually around 3 to 4 hours after death and lasts about 24 hours before the muscles relax again. That is not to say that there is no ritual purpose behind the burials (who knows), just that the calves were buried within a day of death and before the rigor had worn off. I think therefore that it is more likely, given the evidence and late date, that the burials were purely practical in nature.

## Woking Palace and its Park – Monograph: An update

*Richard and Pamela Savage*

The publication date of the monograph containing the full report of the excavations carried out at Woking Palace between 2009 and 2015 has been delayed until September 2017. We hold a list of those who have expressed an interest in purchasing a copy of the monograph and will contact those people just as soon as we have a firm publication date. If there is anyone who wishes to add their name to the list of 'expressions of interest' there is still time to contact [medforum@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:medforum@hotmail.co.uk) or the Society's office to register their interest.

## Annual Symposium – ‘Feeding the County – Agriculture in Surrey’

The Local History Committee held their Annual Symposium on Saturday 25th March at the Surrey History Centre. The symposium covered various aspects of agricultural history from the Early Modern period to the Second World War and was well attended.

Catherine Ferguson chaired the morning session and the first speaker was Peter Edwards from the University of Roehampton, who spoke about ‘Agriculture and Rural Society in Surrey in the Early Modern Period’. Peter showed how probate inventories are a useful source for finding examples of farming implements, livestock and crops.

After coffee we had three short presentations looking at ‘Clues to our Agricultural Past’. Judie English spoke about the importance of improving the soil and looked at archaeological and documentary evidence for lime burning in ‘Agricultural lime burning in South-West Surrey and the Low Weald’.

Sue Jones, a research student at Oxford University, has been analysing information from parish registers. In ‘When shall we marry?’ she showed how seasonal peaks in marriages in early summer or autumn can be pointers to pastoral or arable farming economies.

In ‘Agriculture in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century – information in Tithe Maps and Census’, using Ewhurst as an example, Janet Balchin showed how local historians can build up a detailed picture of farming at a local level, including information on landowners and occupiers, land use, and employment, using 19th century crop returns, tithe maps and census returns.

In the afternoon, two speakers looked at how the agricultural depression in the 19th century affected Surrey and the South East. Dr Judy Hill described how the falling demand for labour after the Napoleonic Wars led to unrest and riots. Using poor law records, she was able to show how the level of poverty affected local parishes and the problems they faced in providing relief.

Jane Lewis, a professional genealogist at the Surrey History Centre, has been undertaking a genealogical and demographic study based on the village of Headley on the Surrey/Hampshire border. In ‘Life and Labour in a Country Village’ she built up a picture of how the changing rural economy affected the community between 1800 and 1914.

Professor Brian Short from the University of Sussex rounded off the day with ‘The Battle of the Fields in Surrey: the county ‘War Ag’ in the Second World War.’ County War Agricultural Executive Committees were developed in every county in Britain to increase food production, but they were soon seen as authoritarian and intrusive, and Brian was able to tell us about what happened in Surrey.

Local history societies put on eight displays in the foyer. The standard was high and the winner of the Gravett Award was Sunbury and Shepperton, with Cranleigh as runner up. With special thanks to the staff of the Surrey History Centre for all their help and support in making the day a great success.

## Autumn Meeting – ‘Hot off the Press – Digital Newspaper Archives and Local History’ Saturday 7th October 2017 at the Surrey History Centre

The Local History Committee’s autumn meeting will be looking at Newspaper Archives. Speakers include Seth Caley, John Price, Gerry Moss, Julian Pooley and Juliet Warren.



## Eric Montague (1924-2016)

Tony Scott

Eric Norman Montague, or 'Monty' as he was known by his friends, was born in Wandsworth on 28 September 1924. He left school at the age of 15, and probably went to Wandsworth Technical College where he matriculated and then began studies for a Public Health Diploma. In 1942, as soon as he reached the age of 18, he was 'called up' for military service in RAF ground crew, during which he gained the nickname 'Monty'. After the war he continued his studies, becoming a qualified Public Health Officer in 1947.

He joined Mitcham Council Public Health Department the same year. I can remember Monty telling me that Stephen Chart, the Town Clerk, and Riley Schofield, the Borough Engineer, interviewed him for the job in Vestry Hall. He was told that one of his jobs would be to collect meat samples from local butchers and the abattoir in Bull Yard (now Church Place), off Church Road, and bring them back to Vestry Hall for inspection by a senior member of staff. He was told that transport would be provided. He was then taken downstairs and shown a tradesman's bicycle with a basket on the front and was given a padlock and chain accompanied by the comment 'Lose the bicycle and you lose your job'. Much later, probably when the London Boroughs were amalgamated in 1965, Monty moved to the newly formed Environmental Health Department of the London Borough of Wandsworth, where he stayed for the rest of his working life.

Monty met a local girl, June, and they married on 20 March 1948 in Mitcham (a photograph of their wedding is in *Mitcham Histories 12: Church Street and Whitford Lane*, p.46). They set up home in Mitcham, just off Streatham Road, and had two children, Robin and Lindsey. It was during the 1950s that Monty became interested in Mitcham history and archaeology and in 1965 joined Merton Historical Society. In 1962 he moved to Sutton, but never lost his interest or love of Mitcham.



In addition to his family and local history, Monty had another love – Vespa motor scooters, which were originally his only mode of personal transport. He and June travelled many miles on them, only purchasing a car when the children came along. I can recall being shown about four Vespas in his garage in the late 1980s, some in stages of re-building.

Monty took part in a number of local MHS archaeological excavations in collaboration with Surrey Archaeological Society. The major ones were Long Batsworth in Phipps Bridge (1965), Gutteridge's site at the Fair Green (1969) and the Mitcham Grove site near the River Wandle downstream of Mitcham Bridge (1973). As the years passed, pre-construction archaeology became more of a commercial and professional enterprise and MHS did not pursue extensive archaeology. However, Monty's interest in the subject did not wane; he gained Diplomas both in Archaeology and in Medieval History at Birkbeck College, University of London, and later an MA in Local History at Kingston University.

I first met Monty when he gave a series of evening classes on Local History in the Adult Education Centre at Eagle House in the 1970s. His clear explanations and obvious enthusiasm for the subject gave me a great interest in local history that has remained with me ever since. Monty undertook extensive research in the original historical sources in local libraries and this resulted in him writing a number of monographs on the history of Mitcham. Monty was a prolific author; he frequently contributed articles to County journals and in the late 1970s wrote a weekly local history piece for the *Mitcham News and Mercury* newspaper. After he retired in 1989 he set about recording for posterity all of his vast researches on Mitcham. These were subsequently published by MHS in 14 volumes under the series title of *Mitcham Histories* (2001–2013), and are now the standard reference works for answering any question on the history of Mitcham.

For many years Monty and his family owned a small seaside chalet at Middleton-on-Sea near Bognor Regis and in about 2000 Monty and June decided to have the property rebuilt as a modern brick house and to move there when it was completed. Monty proudly told me that he had drawn up the plans himself. Sadly, in 2004, during the construction of the house and whilst still at Sutton, June became ill and died. Soon afterwards Monty moved to the new house alone.

Even in Middleton, Monty retained his interest in the local history of Mitcham and he could always be telephoned to answer a particularly difficult enquiry about some aspect of Mitcham history. After Monty's move, my wife Rita and I visited Monty every summer. We would go out to lunch in the local pub and the conversation would generally turn to an aspect of local history, either of Mitcham or of Middleton. He became quite an expert on the local history of his new area, having attended classes and done research on the subject in Chichester, and would regale us with the history of the buildings that we saw as we walked along the road with him. The years may have been advancing but his mind was as sharp as ever. Alas, the years did catch up with Monty and he died on 3 November 2016, aged 92. Merton Historical Society was represented at his funeral in Chichester by Judith Goodman, Rita and I, and Peter Hopkins.

Sarah Gould, Merton Libraries Heritage & Local Studies Manager, writes:

'Eric Montague was a great enthusiast and staunch supporter of anything connected to Merton's heritage. He was an active member of MHS for many years and his many books about the history of Mitcham have always been the 'go to' publications for anyone wanting a clear, detailed and accurate description of that area.

'Eric was a great supporter of my own service (Merton Heritage Centre) from its earliest days and was of tremendous help to me personally and to many of my voluntary staff and library colleagues. Even after his departure to Middleton-on-Sea, he was always happy to respond to phone queries about difficult history enquiries and was often of great assistance when all other avenues had drawn a blank. I know that many of you will have enjoyed Eric's wonderful lectures, articles and books over the years.

'He was, to put it simply, a true gentleman, charming, kind and always ready to offer support. It was a privilege to have known him. He will be greatly missed.' I can only echo these final comments.

## New members

*Hannah Jeffery*

I would like to welcome the following new members who have joined the Society. I have included principal interests, where they have been given on the 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
Ms Emma Brooks	Claygate	Prehistory; Roman; Roman military
Mrs Joanna Mansfield-Tubb	Dorking	Roman Archaeology; Local History
Mrs Heather Robins	Westerham	
Miss Katie Lee-Brown	Addlestone	Prehistory
Miss Yasmin Locock	Horsham	Prehistory; Roman

## Annual Symposium 2017

*Ann Morrison, Sylvia SolarSKI, Lyn Spencer*

There was a good attendance at the Annual Symposium held on 25th February at the Peace Memorial Hall, Ashted. It was chaired by Catherine Ferguson, who welcomed everyone and described a varied and interesting day with many speakers.

The day began with Stuart Needhams's description of a project to survey the Bronze Age barrow cemeteries of Petersfield Heath and the surrounding Rother Valley and Down slopes. The team of seven have been surveying the mound and enclosure barrows there for the last five seasons based on Lidar mapping. The next season, July 2017, will be the last. The team aimed to survey each of 477 barrows they have identified in an area 500 km square. The state of the barrows ranged from reasonably well preserved to almost invisible on the ground; the sizes from high to very low. The team's research objectives included: recording the barrowscape of the area; comparing that to other, similar, recorded material for the region; the intra-valley patterning of barrows (ie is there a true pattern or simply an anomaly?); to consider how the barrows in the valleys, where the majority are situated, compare to those on the hills and downs, and to find an explanation for why there are so many enclosure barrows in this area. Stuart gave a fascinating overview, with slides, of the differences between varying types of mound and enclosure barrows together with examples of the sites where they had been identified.

The talk after the coffee break saw Ian Hogg describe prehistoric activity found at Cherkley Court in Leatherhead. Located SE of Leatherhead on chalk downland, Cherkley Court was the home of Lord Beaverbrook who purchased the 19.1 hectare estate. On his death in 1964 the property was managed by the Beaverbrook Trust; however owing to the costs of maintaining the estate it was sold in 2009 to Longshott Development who are currently converting it to a golf course and hotel complex. Ian led an excavation in 2013, geophysics also having been undertaken by Wessex Archaeology with watching briefs in 2014/15. The site was known to feature three round barrows (likely to be Bronze Age) and is bisected by Stane Street. Strip, map and sample methodology identified Late Bronze Age (LBA) ditches which may indicate a precursor to Stane Street; these include an unusual and prominent "boomerang" shaped ditch. Seventy three trenches identified five excavation sites, the main site of interest revealing 160 post holes, including a small cluster next to Stane Street, roundhouses, post holes forming concentric semi-circles around a central pit with the east side deliberately left open and aligned to Stane Street, and also six possible LBA grain storage post structures. A further area featured ditches, a BA hedge line and grain storage pits which continued into the Iron Age. An IA fence line with square post holes was found to be perpendicular to Stane Street. Of interest is that the archaeology is all on higher ground, the proposed enclosures do not seem to enclose any structures and there is a surprising lack of evidence of either Roman activity or animal bone, given the proximity to Stane Street and the pastoral nature of the land use.

The next speaker, Tom Munnery, discussed the excavation of the former Waitrose site in Dorking. Tom, formerly from the Surrey County Archaeological Unit, and now working for Archaeology South East, described how evidence was uncovered from the early Mesolithic right through to the post Medieval period. The site, on greensand between South Street and West Street, revealed a possible mid-Bronze Age ring ditch. Finds included two possible cremations. The formal organisation of Dorking into tenements in the medieval period was revealed and pottery dated this to the late 13th century. One of the best features was a well filled with medieval pottery. Later cesspits were excavated including some from the late medieval period and the late 18th century.

Leading up to lunch Alexis Haslam gave us an overview of rescue excavations on the old Nescot College site together with detail on some fascinating Bronze and Iron Age finds

made there. The site was evaluated in 2014 and excavated between February and June 2015. Two main areas were excavated. In the first area the two excavated trenches yielded a drove way together and animal pens, the remains of two field systems and a fence line. Alexis reminded the audience that there had been an intensification of agricultural production in the Thames valley in the Bronze Age. The second area was a flint and chalk quarry which had been exploited on a small scale during the Iron Age but then on an industrial scale in the Roman period. Finds in the quarry included the expected pot and bone (animal and human) but also a Late Iron Age Potin coin, Kentish Flat Linear I (100 – 30 BC), picks, axes and a tanged iron knife from the first century AD. The main period of Roman activity was dated to 120 – 160 AD. One coin found was a Judea Capta from Vespasian's reign and in one grave the team found a curled skeleton with a second on top together with wrist bracelets of copper alloy and two glass beads. A third skeleton of an older adult with a snakehead ring was also found. Finally the skeleton of a Saxon girl was found, dated to 675 – 710 AD, and some Saxon Sceat Series B coins.

After the lunch break, Catherine Ferguson praised the many excellent exhibits in the Ralli Room and the Marshall Room and hoped everyone had had a chance to look at them. She explained that the judges had a very difficult task finding a winner out of the superb and wide ranging topics on display. The runner up was Nikki Cowlard and the Epsom and Ewell Group who had a fascinating stand about make-up in ancient Rome. The winner was Isabel Ellis from the Artefacts and Archives Recording Group, who displayed items from the Abinger excavation in 2016, including querns, and building materials such as tile and ancient burnt grain.

Tom Dommett is the project archaeologist with the team working at Clendon following the fire of 27th April 2015. The early 18th century Palladian house was designed by Leoni with contributions by many significant designers. Although severe, the fire has not proved as disastrous as first feared, with the shell remaining and many artefacts salvaged or capable of restoration. One of the initial tasks was to remove potentially dangerous timbers, which was systematically done following archaeological methodologies. Drones were used to take aerial photographs in situ and the 845 timbers were meticulously catalogued in their contexts. Similar recording methods have been consistently employed throughout the salvage operations. Dendrochronology has shown that the Scandinavian timbers were felled in 1729/30. Carpenters' marks from timber, as well as the 700 metal pieces salvaged, will be useful for research; in addition there is now an opportunity to see the 'guts' of the building and how it was constructed. Geophysics conducted in the gardens has revealed features of earlier formal gardens before Capability Brown's 1780 landscaping. Working conditions have been difficult, especially as protection against lead dust is required. The house is now protected with scaffolding and plastic covering; however it is can be visited on open days and the gardens are open as usual. The future plans are for restoration of significant areas with an architectural competition open for the project of creating 21st century spaces. Ideas from the public are also welcome and a roof top café and creating spaces for exhibitions have been popular suggestions.

David Williams started his talk with a description of his recent book – *50 Finds from Surrey*. He presented a map illustrating the finds in Surrey which showed that some areas had few finds. In 2016, 3500 finds were entered on the database by Margaret Broomfield and other volunteers, and David thanked them for all their hard work. He then presented a range of finds from Surrey, Berkshire and other counties. David had grouped the finds into prehistoric, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, Saxon and Medieval. Finds included Bronze Age torques, a socketed axe, coins and a rare silver strap end.

After tea and biscuits, David Calow gave an overview of the findings of the SyAS excavations at Flexford. This was a roadside settlement, but away from the main Roman road. Interestingly, there was little evidence of domestic settlement as few hearths or pits were



found. There was evidence of Late Bronze Age activity in the centre of the site, where a ditch, a pit with calcined flint together with flint-tempered pottery and charcoal were found. There was also evidence of iron smithing including furnaces (this last from c 152 BC onwards). However, iron smithing ceased in the early part of the first century AD and a closing deposit of pots was found (dated to 133 - 232 AD). There appears to have been a major change of use in Flexford after this time. There was evidence of a possible shrine (a dominant single post and enclosure ditch plus a Trajan Semis found in the base of the huge post-hole, drilled antlers, a strange knapped flint gargoye plus pot and bone). But there was also evidence of possible commercial activity with many steelyard weights found. Also excavated was a Roman road junction with sufficient space for a bullock wagon to turn relatively easily. David suggested that Flexford may have been the site of a market with, possibly, an annual shrine associated with it. Many of the Flexford finds were unusual, but there were similarities to the discoveries and finds of the Godstone excavation. Finds at Flexford included 697 Roman coins, 50% of which were dated pre 260 AD; 21 Roman weights; a copper-alloy figurine of a boar; and four busta, plus human and animal bones and pots.

The final talk was given by Gerry Moss who told the story of Iron Pear Tree water. This intriguingly named water was from one of the around 25 spring waters, including Epsom's, bottled in Surrey during the 18th century. Advertised from 1752-59 it was mentioned in Manning and Bray's History of Surrey of 1809. The story of the water's "discovery" centres on a Godstone ale house owner Bonwick, who, tired of a long walk to get his water, dug a well in his garden, near a pear tree. The quality of his beer suffered, however his gout seemed to be cured. News of the apparent cure came to the attention of Prentice, a famous jockey, who went on to sell the water in London for around 2s for 2 gallons making a good profit. Gerry has found advertisements appearing in Dublin, Newcastle and London newspapers. Much of his research has been through the Burnley Collection of newspapers curated by the British Library. Advertisements and leaflets extolled the properties of the water which was claimed to cure ailments including rheumatism, the French disease (syphilis) and green sickness (iron deficiency – the water was indeed high in iron), as well as gout. Two to three pints were to be drunk in the morning or one could bathe in it. A new well was dug close to the original and its water sold by William Halcombe. This was also successful, being widely endorsed, including by the Prince of Wales's doctor, and was sold from several London locations. The two water sources were subject to an inconclusive scientific experiment in 1752, however it was shown that the waters were from different sources. The last advertisement for the 'old' water was in 1759 and the 'new' water in 1760, although there was a revival from 1797 to 1801. The water was often sold in stoneware bottles which sometimes appear in auctions today.

## Elizabethan Star Chamber

*Gerry Moss*

WAALT (Wiki for the Anglo-American Legal Tradition) at the University of Houston, Texas have been putting cases from the Court of the Star Chamber in the National Archives into a database. There are now enough cases to make it interesting. At the National Archives they are located under up to twenty different references so a database such as this facilitates locating relevant documents. Although in English, secretary hand is not easy to read unless experienced. They can be accessed from [http://www.uh.edu/waalt/index.php/Elizabethan\\_Star\\_Chamber\\_Project](http://www.uh.edu/waalt/index.php/Elizabethan_Star_Chamber_Project).

Over fifty cases are listed under Surrey. Places mentioned include Betchworth, Croydon, East Betchworth, Egham, Ewhurst, Grayswood, Guildford, Mitcham, Southwark, Warlingham, Wonerish, and the unidentified North [?Perlesdon?]. Strictly Grayswood is in Hampshire but is linked to Haslemere. Cases may involve land, wills, forgery, death, suicide and even pirates! In many cases only the plaintiff and defendant are listed.

## 50 Finds from Surrey: Objects from the Portable Antiquities Scheme by David Wynn Williams

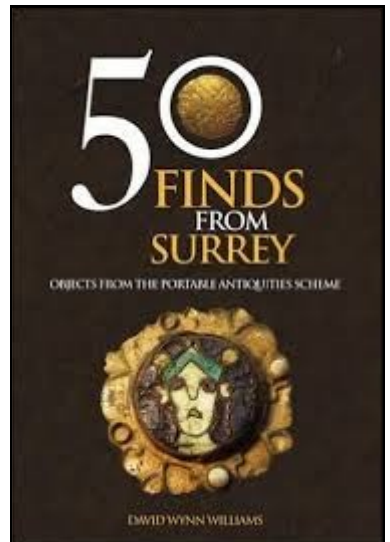
Mary Alexander

*Fifty Finds from Surrey* (Amberley Publishing, Stroud, 2016, £14.99) does what the title says, but it's a lot more than that. For a start, there are photos of far more than fifty objects, expanding on the chosen fifty, or showing other variations to put them in context. David Williams has devoted himself to archaeological finds for many years. He is employed part-time as Surrey's Finds Liaison Officer, and also works for East Berkshire. (Why is he not full-time in Surrey?)

After a short introduction to his work and the PAS, a chapter on the Surrey Landscape gives a brief but informative overview of the geography of the county and the implications for human settlement. This is followed by seven chapters on the traditional archaeological periods. The last one covers the period from c.1500 to the First World War, and it's good to see these centuries represented in archaeology, with the objects highlighting important aspects of life which may not appear in ordinary histories of the period.

The second chapter includes the entire Stone Age and early Bronze Age under the sensible title of 'The Age of Flint', followed by 'The Age of Bronze', 'Age of Iron' etc. Each chapter shows the characteristic objects of that period, so it can be read as a history of Surrey archaeology as well as a book about finds. Choosing fifty objects out of 11,000 PAS records must have been difficult, but the objects are all representative and almost all pleasing to the eye, if not beautiful. Rare exceptions are the Ockham hoard which is badly corroded, but too important to leave out, and a rather rusty eel spear from Shalford (which is actually rather an attractive shape).

Photos of the landscape, excavations, objects in situ, location maps and reconstruction drawings all enliven the story. I even found a class of object which was new to me, even after years of work in a museum! This is a Late Saxon bronze and lead weight: only about ten are known so I am not that stupid.



So, it's a book which can teach professionals something, and would also suit a newcomer to archaeology. Members of the Society will enjoy reading it, and glancing back at the attractive photos from time to time. It is one of a series from each county showing, if it were needed, how important the Portable Antiquities Scheme is in recording our history.

## Surrey Churches Preservation Trust

Mary Alexander

This year is the 20th anniversary of the Surrey Churches Preservation Trust (SCPT), and you should have received a copy of its leaflet with this Bulletin. The SCPT was set up to stimulate interest in churches of all denominations and to make grants for repairs. It is linked to the National Churches Trust (NCT), which is able to make larger grants on the recommendation of the local trust. The NCT was formed in 2007 to take over the work of the Historic Churches Preservation Trust which was formed in 1953 to tackle many years of neglect and lack of funds for church repairs.

Medieval churches were of great interest to the founders of our Society, but the SCPT and the NCT promote and support any Christian church building of historic, architectural and community value. They always need money, of course, so I hope some of you will join the SCPT. If you want to make a one-off donation you can do that by cheque or online. They have an annual lecture in April, with a church visit – this year it was on brasses – and a ‘church crawl’ in October. The main fund-raising event is the national Ride + Stride, in which partakers are sponsored to walk or cycle to as many churches as they choose. [www.surreychurchespreservationtrust.org](http://www.surreychurchespreservationtrust.org) [www.nationalchurchestrust.org](http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org)

## Lecture Meetings

### 7th June

‘The Curtis family of dairy farmers who sojourned in Ewell at the end of the 19th-Early 20th century en route from Balham to Effingham’ by Richard Selley to Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society in St Mary’s Church Hall, Ewell at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £4

### 8th June

‘Archaeology and history of coins and tokens of Kingston’ by Tim Everson to Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society in Main Hall at Surbiton Library Halls, Ewell Road, Surbiton at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £3

### 14th June

‘Roman Wall Plaster from London’ by Ian Betts to Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society in the East Croydon United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon at 19:45. Visitors welcome: £2

### 20th June

‘Restoring the Wey and Arun Canal’ by Graeme Lewington to Albury History Society in Albury Village Hall, Albury at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £3

### 29th June

‘The Tank Factory, Chobham’ by William Suttie to Egham by Runnymede Historical Society in United Church, Egham at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £2

### 4th July

‘Ferguson’s Gang - the remarkable story of the National Trust Gangsters’ by Polly Bagnall and Sally Beck to Addlestone Historical Society in Addlestone Community Centre, Garfield Road at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £3

### 13th July

‘Pottery from excavations in Kingston and Surrey’ by Steve Nelson to Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society in Main Hall at Surbiton Library Halls, Ewell Road, Surbiton at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £3

### 17th July

‘The Loseley Chapel in St Nicolas, Guildford’ by Catherine Ferguson to Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society in the East Croydon United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon at 19:45. Visitors welcome: £2

### 27th July

‘Influence of the Quakers on Staines’ by Joan Gardam to Egham by Runnymede Historical Society in United Church, Egham at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £2

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## Projects and Outreach Three Year Contract for Part-time Officer

Surrey Archaeological Society wishes to appoint a Projects and Outreach Officer for a three year fixed term contract from September 2017. The objective is to create a stronger outreach programme and encourage new membership by means of publicity, outreach projects and displays.

The post is 18 hours per working week. The full time equivalent salary is £24,108 per year and the pro-rated part time salary is therefore £12,054 per year. Reasonable travel expenses will be reimbursed. The days and times worked will be by arrangement.

The job is based at the Society's Research Centre in Abinger Hammer but will require travel throughout Surrey. During the first year the Officer will be responsible for developing a plan for the Society's outreach activity and for submitting bids for grants to help fund the plan. The second and third years will concentrate on implementing the agreed plan. The person will be a vital link between the Society and its members and the public. It is important to enjoy dealing with people by telephone, email and face to face and with the variety of questions they ask.

The person will have a real interest in the archaeology and history of Surrey and will be able to demonstrate success in working with community groups and bidding for Heritage grants.

For further information on the position and how to apply please contact the Society at [info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk)

Closing date for applications 30 June 2017

## DATES FOR *BULLETIN* CONTRIBUTIONS

There will be three more issues of the *Bulletin* in 2017. To assist contributors relevant dates are as follows:

	<b>Copy date:</b>	<b>Approx. delivery:</b>
<b>463</b>	<b>30th June</b>	<b>1st August</b>
<b>464</b>	<b>15th September</b>	<b>17th October</b>
<b>465</b>	<b>10th November</b>	<b>12th December</b>

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

**Next issue:** Copy required by 30th June for the August issue

**Editor:** Dr Anne Sassin, 101 St Peter's Gardens, Wreclesham, Farnham, Surrey GU10 4QZ. Tel: 01252 492184 and email: [asassinallen@gmail.com](mailto:asassinallen@gmail.com)