Holt Pound: An Early Roman Religious Site on the Surrey/Hampshire Border

David Graham and Anne Sassin

Holt Pound lies about 150m inside Hampshire, a few miles south-west of the town of Farnham and close to the village of Wrecclesham on the A325. Just to the north of that road and to the rear of the Forest Inn public house is a circular 1.2ha enclosure currently under rough grass. It is delineated by a shallow bank and ditch boundary and functions as a recreation ground owned by Binsted Parish Council. The ground was the site of one of the earliest cricket pitches in England (there by 1784 and claimed to be the original design for the Oval in London). Holt Pound, as a name, refers to the medieval bishops of Winchester’s animal pound (to hold straying livestock) at the north end of the Alice Holt forest. The medieval pound is likely to lie just across and to the south of the main road where it is marked on early OS maps as ‘Old Holt Pound’.

Back in the 1980s a metal detectorist searched the recreation ground and recovered a spread of Roman coins, ranging in date from Claudius (AD41-54) to Commodus (AD180-192), and a range of metal objects such as sceptre terminals, parts of torcs, several brooches and a pair of shears. These were reported to Audrey and David Graham and, following a small excavation which only produced a scatter of 1st and 2nd century pot sherds, a note was put in the annual Archaeology in Hampshire roundup and later a report was published in BAR British Series No 574 (2012, p 248).

Earlier this year and in advance of the possible construction of a pavilion, the authors received permission to carry out a geophysical survey and test pitting programme within the recreation ground. The original detectorist had kept a plan showing the location of his various finds and this, together with the earlier excavation results, guided the recent work, which took place in June and early July with the help of local volunteers.

A magnetometer survey over the centre of the site produced little in the way of results but resistivity, while not recording any other features, clearly showed the square area of the cricket pitch itself. The underlying geology is Gault clay covered by a thin band of sand and gravel, in turn covered by c 10cm of topsoil. At some point the gravel/sand layer had been cleared from the area of the pitch and, again shown by the resistivity results, this material had been dumped just to the north-west of the pitch. Co-incidentally this was the most productive general area for the 1980s finds of metal objects and also for the recent recovery of pot sherds from the test pits (and sondages). The pottery, which is currently being worked on by the Society’s AARG team, was clearly redeposited and largely consisted of small sherds of thin walled vessels including some pieces of samian ware. None of the remaining spread of test pits produced any evidence for intact stratigraphy and in most cases away from the ‘core’ area were entirely sterile of finds. An additional detector survey was undertaken but no further finds of Roman material were made – it appears that the site was thoroughly cleared in the 1980s. Finally, a larger trench was opened across a section of the boundary ditch (which is internal to the bank) and this was found to be 13cm deep and contained only relatively recent material. It seems that this boundary is connected with the cricket pitch phase and not to anything earlier.
In conclusion it appears that the core of the Roman site lay in the area of the later cricket pitch and was destroyed during works on that pitch, with the material being deposited close by. The general scatter pattern of finds does, however, fit with the only other similar site in the area at Frensham (SyAS Collections 100, 187-211). The 1st and 2nd century Roman dates are very similar; the lack of any archaeologically detectable structures are the same as is a core deposit of pottery surrounded by a wider spread of offerings of metal objects. Perhaps the centre of worship was a sacred tree or grove for which no evidence remains. The 18th century and later century cricket pitch phase produced few finds except the occasional clay pipe stem and, from the 1980s work, a scatter of Georgian coins.

The authors are grateful to all those who helped on the site and in particular to Tim Wilcock for the land survey work (using the Society’s new Trimble GPS system), Mr and Mrs Burke for the detector survey and to John Peters for the geophysical surveys and his other work on site. The project was part of the Society’s community archaeology programme, and a number of these volunteers took part in the test pitting.

Research Committee Annual Symposium – Saturday 29 February

A programme for this event in the Ashtead Peace Memorial Hall is in preparation. A number of talks include contributions about the HLF test pitting events. Simon Maslin, the Surrey Finds Liaison Officer, will cover recent finds in Surrey. Once finalised the programme will be available to view on the Society website and a booking form will be included in the December Bulletin.

We would like to see as wide a range of displays as possible so if anyone or group wishes to participate, please let us know by either contacting rosemary.hooker@blueyonder.co.uk or info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk to book a space.

Volunteers to assist the committee in managing the day would also be welcome.
Project to assess the Henry Bury FSA collection of Palaeolithic artefacts from Farnham

Rose Hooker and Christopher Taylor

This note is to inform the Society of a milestone reached with the project to assess the Bury Collection of Palaeolithic artefacts from the Farnham river terraces. The milestone is the completion of the assessment of all of the artefacts, over 800, from 16 boxes, at Farnham Museum, 190 at the British Museum, 46 from the Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology and Bournemouth museums, plus a few more at Guildford collected by the Rev. HR Huband and Robert Garraway Rice. Of the artefacts at the BM, the majority, 172, are not Bury items but from the William Sturge collection. Unfortunately it was quickly noticed that these do not have the characteristic details of provenance within Farnham (terrace etc) written on them; their value to archaeology is therefore somewhat limited.

The project was launched at a Palaeolithic study day in November 2017. The first meeting at Farnham Museum was in April last year and a group has met there every six weeks or so since then. So far over 20 people have made a contribution to this project and we’d like to express great thanks to them – without their help the project would not have been possible. The work has been to record the Palaeoliths onto pre-printed analysis sheets using calipers and scales to aid with assessment of every artefact. Bulletin notes on progress (465, 467, and 473) have been issued along the way and a talk given on the project at the SHERF Conference at Ashtead in November last year.

The next phase of work will be to photograph a selection most representative of each axe type and probably all those axes which have some temporal significance. Tim Wilcock has very kindly said he will be happy to spearhead this work. The so-called Bury Notebooks will hopefully soon be scanned and will also be factored into all this as important extra pieces of information (it is hoped) on individual axes. The plan is to place the notebooks and photographs on the Society’s website. Lastly the results of the project will be written up, it is hoped, for the Collections. It is also planned to have the list of the assessment metrics printed and bound and copies placed for long-term record at Farnham and Guildford museums (and possibly others) and at Abinger.
Guildown and Ashtead: early medieval gallows – or ‘mortuary houses’?

Rob Briggs

David Bird’s series of notes on the Guildown cemetery printed in Bulletins 464 to 470 touched upon all manner of interesting points. For me, one of the most novel contributions was the identification on a copy of a plan drawn by W J Pickering of an arrangement of four post-holes just to the east of grave 139, features that were not included on the published site plan. Bird takes this important new piece of evidence to represent ‘the location of the gallows in use at one or more periods in the life of the site’ (2018b, 5). The following note seeks to introduce an alternative interpretation inspired by a recently-published article, and to apply it not only to Guildown but a similar grouping of features in another excavated early medieval cemetery in Surrey.

The spatial arrangement of both phases of burials at Guildown (i.e. “primary” 6th century, and later execution/’heathen’) is distinctive, and demands explanation. Andrew Reynolds introduced the idea of three barrows to account for the distribution of the graves belonging to the earliest phase of the Guildown cemetery, with the largest mound covering the well-appointed grave 139 (reported in Semple 1998, 119, Fig. 3a; repeated in Reynolds 2009, 139-40). This hypothesis has been accepted by others and has been cited in works published right up to this year (hence Lewins and Falys 2019, 1, 41). Less well known is his related postulation, amplified by Sarah Semple, that a square ‘shrine’ enclosure, perhaps defined by a fence or path, was established after the 6th century as this would explain the distribution and linear arrangement of some of the burials belonging to the later phase (Semple 1998, 117, 119 Fig. 3b; Reynolds 2009, 141). What follows does not modify Reynolds’ second suggestion (which is intriguing and calls out for further research), but does offer an alternative to the barrow hypothesis.

The alternative explanation is inspired by a recent article by Kathryn Meyers Emery and Howard Williams that argues for a class of timber-built ‘mortuary houses’ attested in a number of cemeteries of the 5th and 6th centuries CE across the area of southern and eastern England (Meyers Emery and Williams 2018). These mostly-square structures appear to have been connected with practices associated with cremation burials, specifically with housing cremated human remains after the funeral pyre. The article builds upon an earlier assessment of the remains of 33 such structures, encompassing four-post and five-post arrangements as well as more complex ones, found as a result of the excavations at the late 5th- to 7th-century cemetery at Apple Down in Sussex (Down and Welch 1990, 25-33; also 206-207 for reconstruction drawings). Of these, 31 were or had the appearance of being associated with cremations; a further two were associated with inhumation burials, albeit with possible relationships to earlier cremations (Down and Welch 1990, 15). A little closer to Guildown, two comparable ‘rectangular trenched structures’, both with gullies (although one was noted to be badly plough damaged), are known from the partly-excavated mixed-rite cemetery at Alton in Hampshire (Meyers Emery and Williams 2018, 60, 62 Illus. 2, 76; Evison 1988, Figures 2, 49-50; also 35-36 for discussion of cognates and their possible function).

It is necessary to note at this point that one four-post structure has already been identified in an excavated early medieval cemetery in the historic county area, at Park Lane in Croydon (McKinley 2003, 15, 18; Meyers Emery and Williams 2018, 75 Illus. 12, 77). Direct evidence for cremations was relatively limited: one unurned burial with an unexcavated possible second close by, plus residual cremated bone (McKinley 2003, 13). The four post-holes defined a parallelogram with two long and two shorter sides, at the approximate centre of which lay a pit that contained a pottery vessel. This pit was not fully excavated so it is unknown whether this held a cremation, but one of several similar pits...
uncovered close by was investigated and neither the urn nor the fill it contained was found to contain any trace of cremated remains. This led to its interpretation as a ‘cenotaph’ deposition, memorialising a deceased individual whose remains were buried elsewhere – a suggestion that has now been developed to reimagine the four-post structure as the housing for the bones of the person – or people – commemorated by the vessel interred beneath it (McKinley 2003, 13–15; Meyers Emery and Williams 2018, 77). The Park Lane cemetery does seem to be unique in this regard, but the diversity of design within this class of monument exemplifies why generalisations are best avoided, at least until such time as there is a bigger and better-understood body of evidence.

Without dismissing altogether the possibility that some of these structures were associated with inhumation burial practices, generally speaking, their presence in several cemeteries does point towards cremation being a more important rite than would otherwise be suspected from the numbers of burials excavated. This would certainly seem to be the case at Storey’s Meadow, West Meon in Hampshire, where a commercial archaeological evaluation (which, like the recent Guildown excavation, was conducted by Thames Valley Archaeological Services) found no fewer than 49 inhumation graves and a single mid-6th- to mid-7th-century cremation, but also a quadruple post-hole arrangement resembling the one at Guildown (see Mees 2019, 165, 166 Fig. 41).

The status of Guildown as a mixed-rite burial-place rather than simply one for inhumations is not in doubt, although here too the evidence for cremations is meagre. Lowther’s comment that cremations ‘were few in number and that the urns were buried close to the surface’ (1931, 26) represents an empirical statement that tends towards the conclusion that burials of this kind were in the minority (while simultaneously admitting the possibility more shallow-buried cremations were lost to the plough). Bird is surely correct in linking the remains of three urns found with ‘small pieces of coloured bone’, described by Lowther as coming from ‘towards the centre of the area excavated’, with one of the points marked on the published Guildown excavation plan as being the provenance of pottery (Bird 2018a, 6; Lowther 1931, opposite 1, 29). It is striking to see that the four post-holes lie only a short distance to the north of where the evidence for cremations was found. This does not prove they were functionally related, of course, and the proximity of inhumation grave 139 to the post-hole cluster cannot escape notice. To what extent the existence of the proposed ‘mortuary house’ might serve to redress this imbalance is moot, and in truth is an unanswerable question. Nevertheless, it could now be permissible to conceive of Guildown as a ‘tri-ritual’ cemetery (following Meyers Emery and Williams 2018, 81), with above-ground stored cremations alongside below-ground inhumation and cremation burials – but perhaps no barrows.

Excitingly, much the same explanation might also be applicable to a 6th-/7th-century cemetery in Surrey which has otherwise not yielded any evidence of cremations. As Bird notes (2018b, 5), a comparably-sized five post-hole cluster has been excavated at the former Goblin Works cemetery, Ashtead – another in which a normative phase (all inhumations) was followed by execution and/or deviant burials. The original excavation report discusses the features but does not offer an explanation beyond cautiously postulating they may have comprised parts of ‘a small over-ground structure’ (Hayman 1991-92, 5). Reynolds (2009, 135) went much further by interpreting the post-holes as the steadings for a gallows structure (but did not mention that a feature found in previous excavations at the site was posited to be a post-hole for a gallows or gibbet: Poulton 1989, 68; Hayman 1991-92, 17).

Considered in the context of five-pit arrangements found at some of the above-mentioned cemeteries, the Ashtead example does exhibit many of the same characteristics. Indeed, the proximity of other pits close to this cluster might be paralleled by what was found at Park Lane, although no cremated human remains or early medieval pottery were found in any of them (and the fill layers in one pit are said to be ‘indicative of a post pipe’; Hayman
1991-92, 6). It is notable that the nearest inhumations to the post-holes (eye-catchingly arranged in an evenly-spaced row) are co-orientated on virtually the same east-west axis, to a significantly greater extent than any of the later burials. Grave goods from the inhumations are consistent with a late 6th- or 7th-century date (Hayman 1991-92, 15). One possibility might be that they are the graves of a social group, perhaps a family, who switched from above-ground stored cremation to below-ground inhumation but retained the ‘mortuary house’ because of the link to previous generations it represented. This is mere speculation, and by itself does not disprove the gallows interpretation; the placement of the post-holes could have been guided by mounds surviving above the graves. Nevertheless, the number of regional analogues, plus the over-elaborate design for a gallows that would have served an area of rural Surrey, does strongly suggest interpretation as a ‘mortuary house’ is preferable.

The identification of two possible ‘mortuary houses’ related to the storage of cremations at Guildown (thereby explaining a conspicuous gap between the 6th-century burials) and Ashtead brings to three the number of examples known from historic Surrey. However, it is highly likely that these structures were a feature of more of Surrey’s early medieval cemeteries, but the manner is which many early excavations were conducted – often on a small scale, and with the focus very much being on the graves and their contents – means that their presence was overlooked, or at least was not recorded in the final published report. It is to be hoped that future archaeological excavations in the county area, and maybe also archival research such as Dr Bird has done in the case of Guildown, will turn up further instances.

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At the recent SHERF conference in Ashtead there was a fascinating talk on the use of LiDAR for archaeology. Audrey and I have been looking at LiDAR in our area and thought that readers might be interested to see a particular image we recently downloaded of a section of countryside about 2 miles west of Farnham. It shows three Norman castles, the most obvious of which is Barley Pound. This is a mottle and multiple bailey castle (four baileys in all, one of which has been destroyed) owned by the bishop of Winchester and probably a precursor to the much better known Farnham Castle. Close by and to the south is Bentley Castle (modern name), a small siege earthwork that was excavated by a team from Southampton University in the early 1980s. The third castle is about ½ mile to the east of Barley Pound and is a small ringwork, known as Powderham Castle.

All three castles have been known for many years, but the new LiDAR image shows their relationship particularly clearly. The late Derek Renn, one of our senior members, suggested that Barley Pound, which used to be known locally as Bedelie, can be identified as the ‘Lidelea’ castle mentioned in a 12th century document known as the Gesta Stephani, which says that Lidelea:

‘belonged to the Bishop of Winchester, and he had it in that region to ward off various raids of plunderers and especially to protect the lands of his church, which he owned in the neighbourhood. But when one of the companions of Brien (fitz Count), a man very crafty and cunning in all deeds of evil, had taken it by a trick [furto] and stripped the bishop’s lands and possessions by grievous pillaging the bishop [Henri de Blois], who was always wise in judgement and most vigorous in action, acted on his own behalf, gathered a mighty host and with great energy built two castles in front of this one [duo ante ipsum caste/la instantissime erexit], and by garrisoning them adequately with knights and footmen reduced the besieged to the extremity of hunger. When the Earl of Gloucester with three other earls and his whole army in countless numbers had planned to bring in supplies of food for them and destroy the bishop’s castles the king, on being summoned by the bishop, arrived suddenly, put the earl and all his men to flight in panic and when the castle was surrendered to him delivered it over to the bishop.’

So, almost certainly, the LiDAR image is showing us an incident in 1147 during the Stephen and Matilda wars of the Anarchy period. Full acknowledgement to Derek and his colleague whose original article was published in The Antiquaries Journal (vol 51, pp 301-3).
Kayt Hawkins from Archaeology South-East discussed the need for pottery in Surrey to be analysed using a pottery type series. Ideally there would be a pottery type series for the whole of the country but this will take time to develop and in the meantime Surrey has developed a type series for Medieval and will use the Museum of London codes for Roman. Prehistoric pottery needs further work.

The second talk by Dr Ian Betts was on the uses and limitations of scientific analysis of brick and tiles. Dr Betts explained that these materials can be analysed by examining the inclusions in the clay. He illustrated the use of petrological thin sections by discussing the results of work at York and other sites. Other technologies can be used including portable XRF, ICP analysis or Neutron Activation analysis. In addition to these technologies, the researcher needs many years of experience examining tiles.

Dr Ceri Falsys from Thames Valley Archaeological Services described the use of isotope analysis and ancient DNA in the examination of 30 bodies found in the centre of Oxford. The suggestion was that the bodies, which were thrown in a ditch, may have been massacred on St Brice’s Day. A historical reference to the massacre of Danes in AD 1002 described Danes seeking refuge in a church, which was then burnt to the ground. Some of the bones were burnt and all displayed sharp force trauma. The analysis dated the bones to AD 880-1000.

Tim Wilcock, from the Surrey Archaeological Society, introduced our Trimble GPS, purchased with assistance from HLF, which, via mobile phone, satellite and laptop, locates a site within the world, being an advance on the Total Station, which locates points only within a site. David Calow, also from the Surrey Archaeological Society, explained the differences between resistivity and magnetometry, and pointed out their relative strengths and weaknesses. Anyone interested in learning to use these instruments is encouraged to contact the Society.

Krystyna Truscoe, from the University of Reading, spoke on the uses and limitations of LiDAR analysis, which looks at inaccessible areas, both on land and sea. Although results may be affected by vegetation according to the time of year, 3D elements of features may be revealed, and the results can be used alongside maps and photos as part of a toolkit for investigating landscape. Recommended reading includes ‘Using airborne LiDAR in archaeological survey’, by Simon Crutchley, downloadable from Historic England, while the ‘relief visualization toolbox (RVT)’ is a useful application and available at https://iaps.zrc-sazu.si/en/rvt#v.

Finally, Professor John Hines explained the complexities of radiocarbon dating. While it may be expensive and needs to be carried out in laboratories by experts, it is useful with targeted sampling, rather than spot dating. We should be wary of results in research published from the 1950s to 1970s, as these may need to be recalibrated due to advances in the understanding of the calculations, and in the realisation that this science also has its own strengths and weaknesses.

Many thanks to David Bird for arranging the programme, as well as to Rose Hooker for her usual organisation of the day and to Emma Corke for chairing the sessions. The Society looks forward to seeing more applications of these techniques in due course, both in its own fieldwork and in other research undertaken in the county.
Fascinating insights into the early medieval people of southern Britain can be gained from their burial practices. In Surrey alone, there are over 60 burial sites consisting of the graves and cremations of at least 900 individuals of the 5th to 7th centuries AD. Associated with these people were over 800 objects, a vast array including weaponry, jewellery, glassware, and more mundane items such as knives, beads, and spindle whorls. Studying these assemblages and their locations in the landscape give us important information about past lives. The sheer scale of this information has been difficult to encompass, but digitisation now allows us to collate and present this data in a publicly accessible and freely available format.

The UCL Early Medieval Atlas is pleased to announce the launch of the *Beyond the Tribal Hidage* burial data. This is the base line research data of the Leverhulme Trust funded project *Beyond the Tribal Hidage: the early Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of southern Britain AD 450–650* directed by the late Dr Martin Welch FSA at UCL Institute of Archaeology, 2006–9. The project aimed to bring together in an accessible format all the available evidence for burial and material culture in southern Britain from the 5th to 7th centuries AD. Over the years Martin had compiled a meticulous card catalogue of sites in the knowledge that only the full deployment and accessibility of the data would allow the fundamental questions of the early Anglo-Saxon period to be addressed with clarity. This ambition was realised as a digital census created by Sue Harrington and Stuart Brookes.

The process of data acquisition was one of desk-based assessment by county, followed by discrete searches to both published and unpublished grey literature and other archive material held by county archaeological societies, research libraries, national and county journals, museum day books and accession registers, as well as through various communications with local researchers. In general, it was possible by this additional level of search to add 10 per cent to the number of sites recorded by national and county archaeological registers. Next, discrete county site lists were assembled, and museum and archive visits arranged to view the relevant objects from these national listings. Data was collected geographically in county sets working clockwise around the study region, beginning with East Sussex in November 2006 and finishing in Kent, Surrey, and Greater London in August 2008. This iteration of the dataset also includes listings of new sites appearing between 2008 and 2017.

The study area extends south from the River Thames and westwards into Somerset. The downloads comprise: Sites table lists of 834 burial sites with grid references; the Individu-
als table of 12,379 people for whom there are partial or complete burial records; and the Objects table noting their 26,043 associated artefacts. The three tables can be freely downloaded from: https://www.ucl.ac.uk/early-medieval-atlas/map-data/beyond-tribal-hidage-data. The data enables users to explore the nature, distribution and spatial relationships of burial sites in their landscape context.

The web page also gives a full list of references and suggested further readings. We are pleased to also announce that Dr Audrey Meaney FSA has given us permission to include pdfs of her 1964 gazetteer of Early Anglo-Saxon burial sites.

As originally envisaged, this data is being made public in the expectation that future researchers will be able to enhance and extend its content. The conclusions of the project, as presented in the project monograph (Harrington and Welch 2014) could thus be tested, challenged, revised and extended as others see fit in the future, aware that what is presented there is but one assessment of the wonderfully complex and engaging material for this crucial period of early medieval studies.

If you would like further information, please contact: Data content: Dr Sue Harrington FSA s.harrington@ucl.ac.uk; Website: Dr Stuart Brookes FSA s.brookes@ucl.ac.uk


Shedding new light on prehistoric pottery from Weston Wood

Helen Chittock

Joan Harding (1911-2004) was an archaeological pioneer in many senses, and one whose work was firmly rooted in Surrey. Between 1961 and 1968, she directed rescue excavations at Weston Wood, Surrey, ahead of sand extraction. Findings at the site included Mesolithic and Neolithic occupation layers and the remains of a Late Bronze Age settlement, including at least two post-built structures, along with other features such as pits. A rich assemblage of finds was recovered, including a significant assemblage of prehistoric pottery, representing one of the largest from the county.

Recent analysis of the site’s pottery, which was given by Joan’s family to the Surrey Archaeological Society following her death in 2004, has been carried out by Michael Russell (Historic England) with financial assistance from SITA UK and Project Management from AOC Archaeology Group. The resulting report analyses the full assemblage of prehistoric pottery, contextualising it within the wider regional assemblage to draw new conclusions about prehistoric life at the site. It has been published on AOC Archaeology Group’s website, and is available for download at http://www.aocarchaeology.com/news/article/online-publication-prehistoric-pottery-weston/.
Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society has recently published the full report of the excavations carried out on the site of Tolworth Court Farm in 2000 & 2002. Steve Dyer who directed the work produced a draft interim report but was unable to finalise this before his death in 2013. His draft has been substantially revised and edited. The excavations were designed to establish the extent of archaeological survival on the moated site and wider area. While there was extensive disturbance from farming use, the main features of the moat, island and outer earthworks were recorded. Reports on the finds include a significant review, by Lyn Blackmore of Museum of London, of the Saxon and medieval pottery recovered and which describes the range of fabrics and types of this date to be found in the Kingston area and north east Surrey in general. Copies of the report are available from Steve Nelson, 4 Church Street, EWELL, Surrey KT17 2AS. Price £7 inclusive of p&p. Cheques to S Nelson.
Lonesome Lodge – a lost Palladian villa  

Mary Day

‘Lonesome Lodge’ is the first attempt to tell in detail this fascinating story of the creation of a wealthy gentleman architect’s idyllic and lavish retreat in the Surrey Hills, from its inception in c. 1740, right through to its eventual demise in 1854. The book is the result of teamwork by members of the Capel History Group, each bringing their own particular interests and skills to bear on the various sections.

Significant attention is devoted to the house itself, but also to Theodore Jacobsen, its owner and architect. His designs, though small in number, are impressive by any standards, and his place amongst the pantheon of notable gentleman architects of the period has perhaps been underestimated, or even unjustifiably omitted, by some. Jacobsen’s preferred style, Palladian, was highly fashionable at that time, which also saw the beginnings of naturalistic landscaping. His creative and ambitious use of water leaves a legacy that remains a highlight of this treasured area to the present day. ‘Lonesome Lodge’ traces the owners and occupants of the house, delving into their personal stories, several of which are striking and some deeply troubled. These glimpses of individual lives are set against the backcloth of 18th and 19th century Britain.

Published by The Cockerel Press and available from Dorking Museum online bookshop (price £12.00 + £3.00 p&p). The museum is open on Thursday, Friday and Saturday each week for counter sales. Soft cover, 128 pages.

Cocks Farm Abinger Excavation June-July 2020

Although we might feel like tucking up indoors over the winter period we are also beginning to look ahead to our 2020 excavation at Cocks Farm, Abinger. We will be continuing work in the field north of the Roman villa looking for further evidence of Iron Age and Roman rural activity. The dates for 2020 are as follows:

Saturday 13th - Wednesday 17th June
Saturday 20th - Wednesday 24th June
Monday 29th June - Wednesday 1st July
Saturday 4th - Wednesday 8th July
Saturday 11th - Tuesday 14th July

This gives us 22 days in total with a long weekend off mid-excavation. If you have not taken part previously we ask that you commit to five days over the month. If you are interested in taking part please do let me know (exact dates will be sought nearer the time).

Nikki Cowlard (Volunteer Co-ordinator) nikki.cowlard@btinternet.com; 01372 745432
Hunting the Chief Lodge of Guildford Park

Rob Briggs

Every day new information is added to the Surrey Historic Environment Record, drawn from all manner of published and unpublished works. Perhaps the main source of new information stems from the implementation of planning-related archaeological works, with the steady influx of reports of results produced mainly by commercial archaeological and heritage contractors. The Surrey HER receives dozens of new Desk-Based Assessments and reports on the results of archaeological investigations from across the county every year. This so-called “grey literature” provides an enormous amount of data which can be, and frequently is, tapped for information by anyone researching a particular area or subject. It is perhaps not as well-known as it should be that the HER has the county’s largest library of grey literature pertaining to sites in Surrey.

In the past year or so, we have added a number of archaeological desk-based assessments for inner Guildford west of the Wey, an area that was once inside the bounds of the medieval hunting park of Guildford Park (e.g. Hawkins 2016 [Surrey HER Source 19445]; Da Silva 2016 [Source 19491]). The existence of the park is reasonably widely known, but the same cannot be said of its internal geography – which is where the various reports, and above all their inclusion of historic maps of the area, have caused us to look a little closer at one building in particular: the park’s chief lodge.

Cartographic and documentary evidence for The Chief Lodge

The Chief Lodge is entered in the Surrey HER as Monument 23055. This particular name-form is derived from the label ‘The chiefe Lodge’ attributed to a group of three buildings marked on John Norden’s 1607 map of Guildford Park, on the eastern extremity of the park adjacent to the south end of a bend in the River Wey (the map has been published in various studies over the years, e.g. Crocker 1999, and can also be viewed online as part of the British Library’s Online Gallery). Norden mapped two other lodges in the park at this time: Coles Lodge and Palmers Lodge (both of lesser status to judge from their names). Owing to its proximity to an area of meadow named The Lees on Norden’s map, The Chief Lodge has been identified as ‘the Lodge called the Le’ recorded in 1514, when it was subject to major repairs (Crocker 1999, 37). The lodge was probably established earlier in the Middle Ages, and it could be the case that it originated not long after the enclosure of Guildford Park around the start of the reign of Henry II in 1154 (Crocker 1999, 26). Helen Davies has made the perceptive suggestion that its visible riverside location on the eastern perimeter of the Park was chosen because it was ‘a strategic position to receive visitors arriving by river or road to the Park’ (1995, 21).

Figure 1 Excerpt from the version of William Seller’s map of Surrey with ‘many additions’ by Philip Lea, printed circa 1693, showing the ‘Lodg’ inside the eastern boundary of Guildford Park.
The post-medieval history of Guildford Park is one of decline. The right to dispark was granted as early as 1630 but hunting continued for some time into the 18th century (Crocker 1999, 38). It is not surprising, therefore, to find a ‘Lodg’ [sic] shown on the east side of the park on Philip Lea’s 1693 version of William Seller’s map of Surrey first published in 1679 (Figure 1 – also, perhaps derivatively, on Moll’s equivalent of 1724). By contrast, no trace of any building appears in the same location on John Senex’s 1729 county map. His map does show a substantial building in the general vicinity, but on higher ground surely representative of Stag Hill (Figure 2). This puts the mapped building closer to the site of the later-recorded Lodge Farm, which without doubt took its name from the lodge. But does this mean the lodge had been demolished and its site abandoned by 1729? Or did Senex accidentally omit it from the published outcome of his survey? What is clear is that the next map to show the area, John Rocque’s county survey published in 1768, shows two buildings in much the same location as where Norden had marked the Chief Lodge over a century and a half earlier.

Correcting a misunderstanding: Lodge Farm, later Guildford Park Farm

Leaving aside the suggestive but inconclusive testimony of John Senex’s 1729 map, the earliest direct cartographic indication of the existence of Lodge Farm (SHER Monument 22998) is also to be found on John Rocque’s county map of 1768 (Figure 3). Crocker (1999, 37) misunderstood the label Lodge Farm shown on Rocque’s map as pertaining to the buildings referred to above as The Chief Lodge; possibly he was influenced by Davies’ earlier suggestion that ‘the Chief Lodge … may have become Lodge Farm and subsequently Guildford Park Farm’ (1990, 10). Reference to a succession of later 18th- and 19th-century cartographic sources (see Figure 4) proves this name applied to the building(s) depicted on (more often than not sitting atop) Stag Hill north-west of the town of Guildford as it existed at the time. For the reasons highlighted above, Senex’s map can be interpreted in one of two ways: proving Lodge Farm was in existence by 1729, or indicating it was established in the mid-18th century. Crocker (1999, 38) gives 1709 as a terminus post quem for the establishment of farms inside the former bounds of Guildford Park, and it is highly unlikely that the several that were created all came into being very soon after this date.
On the 1841 tithe map for the parish of St Nicholas Guildford, the farm is labelled as Wilderness Farm. This is likely to be an error; other maps locate Wilderness Farm to the west, where West Wilderness Farmhouse still stands in what is now Onslow Village (SHER Monument 8531). The name of the farm certainly was changed in the mid- to late 19th Century, as it appears on Ordnance Survey maps from 1873 as Guildfordpark Farm, and as Guildford Park Farm from 1920. All maps which show the farm in a sufficient level of detail seem to record that it consisted of a large farmhouse in a garden, with most of its associated farm buildings arranged around a large yard very close by to the south. Other smaller buildings as well as two ponds lay beyond. The farmhouse was demolished after the Second World War to make way for Cathedral Close, although the farm buildings to its south survived and were still in existence at the time the area was remapped by the Ordnance Survey for a survey published in 1973. These buildings were later demolished and their site redeveloped for houses along Scholars Way and Ridgemount.

Figure 4 Excerpt from Lindley and Crossley's 1793 county map, in many respects derivative of Rocque's earlier survey, but here unambiguously showing that the name Lodge Farm pertained to the buildings on Stag Hill and not those beside the river.

Figure 5 Excerpt from St Nicholas Guildford tithe map of 1841, as an overlay to the present detailed Ordnance Survey mapping to show the relationship between the site of Barton’s Cottage (and hence perhaps The Chief Lodge), Trinity Quarter and adjacent plots, and the River Wey. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Surrey County Council, OS licence No.100019613, 2010.
Barton’s Cottage – the true site of The Chief Lodge?

As has been highlighted already, buildings are again shown close to the Wey in much the same location as The Chief Lodge as depicted by Norden in 1607 from the later 18th century, beginning with Rocque’s 1768 county map. None of these maps identifies the grouping by name, but the St Nicholas Guildford tithe apportionment of 1841 does supply one; Barton’s Cottage (SHER Monument 23052). The counterpart tithe map of the same year (Figure 5) shows the post-1768 buildings in more detail, mostly set within a sub-square garden plot. It is possible that in the late 18th and early 19th centuries the cottage was associated with Lodge Farm to the south-west, rather than being a farm in its own right.

Ordnance Survey 25 Inch maps published between the 1870s and 1910s show little change occurred to the footprints of the buildings, but the 4th edition of 1934 shows that all buildings within the plot had been demolished, although its boundary remained intact. Oblique aerial photographs taken in 1928 and viewable online via the Britain From Above website show the buildings were still standing at that time (best seen in photograph reference EPW022657, a view looking north). Subsequent to this, at a date prior to 1963, the plot boundary was obliterated and a large garage building erected on the site.

Equating the site of Barton’s Cottage with that of The Chief Lodge depends in a large part on accepting the accuracy of Norden’s depiction of the course of the River Wey in this vicinity, and to a lesser extent the perseverance of boundaries through to the advent of measured cartographic surveys and detailed maps in the 19th century. Certainly, there are enough commonalities as to recommend that Barton’s Cottage was on or else close to the site of the medieval lodge. If this is the case, and accepting that Senex erroneously omitted the lodge buildings or depicted them standing in an “incorrect” location on his map, occupation of the site of The Chief Lodge may have continued essentially uninterrupted for several centuries until the demolition of Barton’s Cottage at a date between 1928 and 1934. The alternative is to treat Senex’s map as accurate, with The Chief Lodge demolished by 1729 (possibly to be replaced by Lodge Farm), and a gap in the sequence thereafter until new buildings were erected on or close to its former site at some point prior to 1768.

Recent archaeological and geotechnical work

Whatever question marks remain about the accuracy of the cartographic sources for the site of The Chief Lodge, one thing not in doubt is that the site of Barton’s Cottage falls within the new Trinity Quarter development (Figure 5). An archaeological evaluation of the site, commissioned by CgMs and undertaken by Archaeology South-East in February 2017, found no archaeologically-significant finds, features or deposits, although five pieces of probably ‘later Post-Medieval’ ceramic building material were recovered from a truncation layer in its south-west corner (Archaeology South-East 2017, 8). An optimistic interpretation of these fragments would be that they derived from Barton’s Cottage, but there is an equally strong likelihood that they were never part of its fabric. The extent of truncation and contamination across the Wey Corner site was considerable, so it is possible all archaeologically-significant layers had already been removed long before the evaluation was undertaken (Archaeology South-East 2017, 9). Similar results were obtained during geotechnical investigations in 2014 and 2018 at nearby Kernel Court – once the site of the Colbrook’s Ice Factory – on the opposite side of Walnut Tree Close (Townend 2018).

There is a strong likelihood that all intact physical remains of The Chief Lodge of Guildford Park have been destroyed as a result of later developments on its site, perhaps most detrimentally in the mid-20th century by the construction of a large garage. It can be the case that physical remains of something even as large as a multi-building farm no longer survive, despite what maps and other forms of historical evidence may suggest. This can
be due to later disturbance, comprehensive demolition and removal, or that structures were of flimsier construction than the available information might lead us to believe. This does not mean the historical sources are faulty and it never existed in the first place; absence of evidence is not evidence of absence, after all. The recent archaeological investigation work in combination with historical research has provided us with a significantly better understanding of the changes that occurred on the site(s) of The Chief Lodge and Barton’s Cottage between the 17th and 21st centuries. A great deal of redevelopment is underway or planned in the immediate area, and it is hoped that future archaeological fieldwork undertaken as part of the planning process may yet recover medieval and earlier post-medieval archaeological evidence, perhaps in the form of residual pottery sherds, to add further details to the picture that we possess at present.

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Hidden objects and old buildings  

Simon Maslin

The artefacts recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) can help illuminate all sorts of mysteries from the past, including long forgotten traditions and strange superstitions which were once a part of ordinary domestic life. Sometimes these finds can turn up in situations more commonly dealt with by other heritage specialists, such as those concerned with the built environment, which is (by definition) rarely an area dealt with by the county Finds Liaison Officer.

A recent example of this comes from a number of strange objects found during work being overseen by the Historic Buildings Officers of the Surrey Historic Environment Planning team, which had been intentionally walled up in a 16th century grade II listed building in Nutfield, Surrey. These objects included a child’s boot or shoe (SUR-C78410) which had been hidden along with a small wooden whipping-top toy (SUR-C7C19E). The shoe has a stacked heel, front-lacing tabs to the ankles with copper alloy eyelets and a nailed sole. It is of UK child size 10 which suggests that the owner would have been around 5 years of age. Both these objects are probably of the same early 19th century date and it is tempting to speculate that they both belonged to the same child.
These were not the only finds that the building has produced however. A wooden stick with carved numerals or notches (SUR-C7FF15) which represents a simple type of tally or mnemonic device was also found inside an exterior wall next to a window. A comparable example of an unsplit tally with the same X and I style notching is pictured on p225 of Gertrude Jekyll’s ‘Old West Surrey’ from 1904, where it is described as a notched hazel stick "bill" used to keep accounts by illiterate local farmers in Surrey prior to the middle of the 19th century. The reason for its intentional concealment remains unclear – perhaps it may have represented a symbolic discharge or binding to the household of a debt or obligation?

Other parts of the building and the garden around the house have produced more common types of domestic finds including clay pipe bowls which date from between the early 17th and late 18th centuries and demonstrate the length of occupation of the house. These were likely made in London, Guildford, Horsham and Reigate and are typical of this area during the period (David Higgins, pers com).

Although strange, these discoveries are far from unique. A comparable local example of concealed shoes in old buildings is recorded on the Portable Antiquities Scheme database as a result of work by Surrey County Archaeological Unit (SCAU) in 2017 during the redevelopment of a 17th century grade II listed building in Ockley, Surrey. Here a child’s front-lacing boot (SUR-B4C651) was found within a wall adjacent to a chimney and a second, possibly earlier, latchet-fastening shoe (SUR-B4CD73) was discovered in the roof. Unlike the finds from Nutfield however, these shoes were not found in apparent association with other types of objects.
So what is going on with these finds? It seems that they demonstrate the use of shoes as talismans to ward off evil or bad luck as part of an old practice, going back well into the medieval period and which apparently survived well into the 19th and even early 20th century in many parts of the country. Typically these finds are well-worn single shoes, often from a child and hidden near to an access point or portal to the building, such as a doorway, chimney or a window. By doing this, perhaps it was thought that the “essence” of the individual would be incorporated into the fabric of the house which would bring luck or ward off evil from the family.

Other manifestations of this sort of idea can be seen in the use of hidden “witch bottles”, as well as horseshoes and apotropaic marks over doorways and windows. Such talismans were widely used as a diversion or deterrent to deflect the attentions of evil spirits and prevent witches or demons from entering and harming anyone in the house. The Surrey Historic Environment Record (HER) can demonstrate a range of other examples of this practice from around the county, including a late 17th century witch bottle from Reigate (21519 - MSE21519) as well as further examples of hidden objects (16927 - MSE16927) and apotropaic marks around fireplaces in old houses (15871 - MSE15871).

Whatever magical or spiritual power they embodied, the use of objects in this way was widespread across the country; Northampton Museum has an entire Hidden Shoe Index, set up in the 1950s, with thousands of instances known across the country. Most are of single, well-worn shoes, around half of which belonged to children and around half of which date to the 19th century, as with these examples from Surrey. The inclusion of other types of objects with hidden shoes is known from examples from other parts of the country (eg DEV-867707) where groups of finds such as fragments of clay pipe, bone, shell, glass and stone and whole items such as stoneware vessels are known components of “witch” or “concealed” deposits. In the case of the example from Nutfield, the toy forms an unusual addition and certainly adds poignancy to the little shoe.

The tradition of concealing artefacts in buildings clearly seems to have been a widely accepted and practiced tradition in this country. Although we no longer have a precise understanding of the beliefs and superstitions which led to it being a part of the psychological landscape of rural life, through recording and preserving the examples that we find, either on the PAS database or county HER, we can help to shed a little light on this fascinating set of practices which undoubtedly shaped family life in rural households during previous centuries.
John Hampton OBE FSA

David Bird

John Hampton, one of the Society’s Honorary Vice-Presidents and a member for over 50 years, has died recently at the age of 97. He is probably best known to current members for his work on the site of the Ashtead Roman villa and tileworks but he also played important roles on this Society’s Council and committees as well as being a leading aerial archaeologist at the head of the Air Photographs Unit of the RCHM(E). John was also active on more local committees, notably as Chairman of the Epsom Protection Society.

When the Society set up the post of County Archaeologist in 1972 John had already established an embryo SMR for Surrey and he was always ready with assistance where such records were concerned and of course on aerial photographic matters. It was unfortunate that Surrey is not the best place for aerial archaeology: too many trees, too many people, less than ideal subsoils and Britain’s two biggest airfields on the doorstep. But I recall that he was able somehow to gain permission for a quick survey of the site at Stanwell, just the other side of the Heathrow boundary, so long as he did just one pass at about 6:00 am (I think he cheated and did a quick circuit). This was of considerable value when Martin O’Connell tackled the site with its unexpected cursus, now better known from work further to the north. Steve Nelson recalls that ‘in the 1970s and 80s RCHM(E) was in the same building as the old Ancient Monuments Department where I worked. In 1986 Bourne Hall Museum undertook the rescue of the Saxon cemetery at Headley Drive, Tadworth. I went and saw John, on the floor below me. He was interested and said he would pop up and have a look. I assumed he meant he would visit the site. Actually he meant he would go up in his plane and take a photo – which he duly did and produced a print the next day’.

John started his project at the Roman site on Ashtead Common in 1962. He already knew the area as he and his father had walked through it 30 years earlier when visiting John’s grandparents in Ashtead. His wife Peggy and daughter Caroline were involved in the dig and the latter has memories of this activity that will strike a chord with those involved in the more recent excavations:

‘The first trenches were dug in the summer of 1962, and excavations continued annually for the next 3 years, and then intermittently into the 1970s. Excavating in the woods during the 1960s and 70s was far from a “walk in the park”, there was no vehicular access, and everything including fencing to stop walkers falling into the trenches, buckets, spades, trowels, and large heavy duty plastic sheeting which was rigged up as a shelter, scout style, should it rain, had to be carried, pulled and pushed a mile, often through thick yellow clay, into the centre of the wood. Typically John-style, the wooden pegs to align the trenches were hand-made by him, Peggy’s wicker shopping trolley was pressed into use, the small wheels designed for pavement use being replaced with large 12 inch diameter wheels to get through the mud, and even Peggy’s red nail varnish was used to mark trowels and buckets so they weren’t lost amongst the dirt and bracken. At the end of the day, all finds, including the heavy Roman tiles, had to be carried...
back the mile through the narrow woodland paths, along with everything that had been taken up for the day’.

John’s work on Ashtead Common was of considerable importance especially as it acted as a bridge between Lowther and Cotton’s dig of the 1920s and the more recent excavations. In particular he had saved important background documentation following Lowther’s death, while his own detailed field survey was of great assistance in tackling a site now mostly covered by dense vegetation. The high quality of that survey can be seen by comparison with the LiDAR data now available. His survey and excavations kept alive interest in this very important site and he was a great help in the planning of the further work that was undertaken in 2006-13. It was particularly pleasing that he was able to visit the site of our excavations on a number of occasions, even in 2013 when he was over 90.

**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.

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<td>Michael Wilkins</td>
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One hundred years of archaeology in Carshalton and District

One of Surrey’s oldest local archaeological societies, the Carshalton and District History and Archaeology Society, will celebrate its Centenary in 2020. Formed as the Beddington, Carshalton and Wallington Archaeological Society in November 1920, it expanded its catchment area in 2006 to include the whole of the London Borough of Sutton, while remaining focussed around Carshalton (the Borough’s geographical centre). The year will be marked by a Centenary Tea for members in October 2020, as well as other events for the public throughout the year. A Heritage Treasure Hunt (with prizes) will be held in July/August, coinciding with the start of the national Festival of Archaeology, and other events are planned. To keep up with their plans, visit the society’s website, cadhas.org.uk.

Lecture meetings

6th January
‘London to Brighton Veteran Car Run’ by David Ralph to Dorking Local History Group in the Crossways Community Baptist Church, Dorking at 19:30. Visitors welcome: £2

7th January
‘A Drop of the Hard & the Soft Stuff - a Century of Brewing & Mineral Water Making in Bury Street, Guildford’ by David Rose to the Surrey Industrial History Group at Church House Guildford, 20 Alan Turing Road, Guildford GU2 7YF at 19:30. Details from Bob Bryson meetings@sihg.org.uk. Visitors welcome: £5

8th January
‘The Croydon Ponds Project’ by Adam Asquith to Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society in the East Croydon United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon at 19:45. Visitors welcome: £2

9th January
‘The Diary of Dick Perceval’ by Becky Edmonds to Farnham & District Museum Society at United Reformed Church, South Street, Farnham at 19:45. Visitors welcome: £3

‘Coins in Britain from Roman Times until 1660’ by Tim Everson to Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society at Surbiton Library Halls at 20:00.

‘Wealden Gunfounding’ by Jeremy Hodgkinson, to the Surrey Industrial History Group at The Institute, 67 High Street, Leatherhead at 10:00. Details from meetings@sihg.org.uk. Visitors welcome: £5

13th January
‘The 800th anniversary of St Mary Magdalene’s – aspects of the history and development of Richmond’s historic parish church” by Paul Velluet to the Richmond Local History Society at St Mary Magdalene Church, Richmond at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £4

15th January
‘Norman architecture in England’ by Prof Eric Fernie to Godalming Museum in The Octagon, St Peter and Paul, Borough Road, Godalming at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £5

16th January
‘Profumo Affair’ by Terry Johnson to the Surrey Industrial History Group at The Institute, Leatherhead at 10:00. Details from meetings@sihg.org.uk. Visitors welcome: £5
21st January
‘The Zeppelin Onslaught- Britain's Forgotten Blitz’ by Ian Castle, Airship Heritage Trust, to the Surrey Industrial History Group at Church House Guildford, 20 Alan Turing Road, Guildford at 19:30. Details from meetings@sihg.org.uk. Visitors welcome: £5

23rd January
‘Talking to each other in the Iron Age’ by John Goodenough to Farnham & District Museum Society at United Reformed Church, South Street, Farnham at 19:45. Visitors welcome: £3

27th January
‘What’s in a Name’ by Ian Payne to Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society in the East Croydon United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon at 19:45. Visitors welcome: £2

30th January
‘Forty Years Catching Smugglers’ by M Nelson to Egham by Runnymede Historical Society in United Church, Egham at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £2

31st January
‘Mass Observation Project, 1937-1949: Introducing our diarists’ by Kirsty Pattrick to Puttenham and Wanborough History Society at Marwick Hall, School Lane, Puttenham at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £2

DATES FOR BULLETIN CONTRIBUTIONS

There will be six issues of the Bulletin in 2020. To assist contributors relevant dates are as follows:

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Articles and notes on all aspects of fieldwork and research on the history and archaeology of Surrey are very welcome. Contributors are encouraged to discuss their ideas with the editor beforehand, including on the proper format of submitted material (please do supply digital copy when possible) and possible deadline extensions.

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Next issue: Copy required by 29th December for the February issue

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