



Surrey Archaeological Society

No 8 August 2021

E-newsletter

Welcome to the Society's August e-newsletter, which highlights a few of the various events – conferences, lectures, training sessions, news items, etc – which we hope to be of interest to our members. Although general queries should continue to be directed to Hannah (info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk), those interested in volunteer opportunities or general outreach can contact me at outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk. Please also keep up-to-date via the website and social media ([@surreyarch](https://www.instagram.com/surreyarch)) for group and event updates.

Anne Sassin (*SyAS Outreach Projects Manager*)

Heritage Open Days

Heritage Open Days is back this year from **10-19 September** with a multitude of events, tours and talks at venues spread across the county. To find out what is local to you, visit the [HODs website](#).



On **Saturday 11 September**, Godalming Museum and Surrey County Archaeological Unit will be holding a special event on life at Witley Camp during the First World War, with highlights including finds from the recent excavations and a re-enactor. For further information, see the [event page](#).



On **Saturday 18 September**, the Society will be set-up at two other free open day events to support with our own outreach material:



The annual Ewell History Day at Bourne Hall will feature a full day of exciting activities and living history displays this year, including the Ewell Grove Players and Ancient Craft flint-knapper James Dilly. See the [event page](#) for a full itinerary.

An event at the Museum of Farnham to celebrate its 60th anniversary will also involve various family activities, including an archaeological dig in the garden (see the [event page](#)).

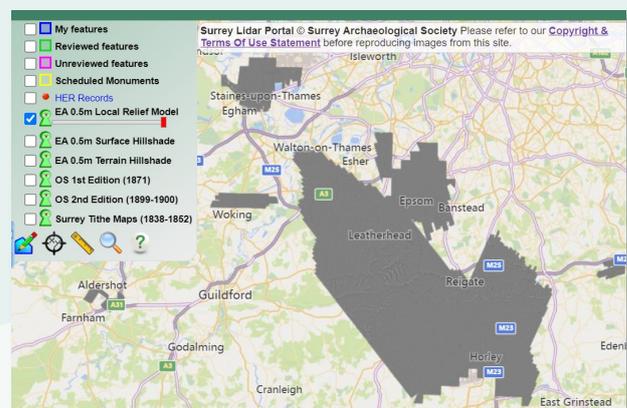
Be sure to use this opportunity and take advantage of your local heritage over the course of the week!



Surrey LiDAR Portal

An exciting new interactive citizen science tool for the county, the Surrey LiDAR Portal (surreylidar.org.uk), has recently been launched by the Society. This will act as a long-term outreach and engagement tool which makes available imagery from various LiDAR datasets in Surrey. With the right set of eyes and careful research, LiDAR has enormous potential to uncover previously unknown archaeological features, whether old field boundaries, hillforts, bomb craters or other hidden sites waiting to be revealed. By helping map and interpret these potential features online, volunteers can then go out into the field and investigate them on the ground, ultimately working to build a more complete story of the local landscape.

The Portal is an online mapping tool in which the public is able to assist in the detection, identification and record creation of LiDAR features of potential archaeological interest. It is modelled after similar portals which have been created for other current and past LiDAR projects, including the Secrets of the High Woods in the South Downs, Beacons of the Past in the Chilterns AONB and Kent Downs AONB's Kent LiDAR Portal. The Surrey Portal incorporates visualisations of the LiDAR which are the most commonly used (and favoured) for archaeological prospection: Multi-Hillshade and Local Relief Modelling. It also uses different basemaps to aid in interpretation, including the Tithe maps and First and Second Edition Ordnance Survey maps, alongside HER records. Currently, the Surrey Portal incorporates the 0.5m EA data for the county, approximately 635km² coverage, alongside a small area of 0.25m bespoke data in the east, flown under the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme.



Anyone is welcome to register for a free account, which will allow access to the interactive map, once the terms of use are agreed to. Volunteers who would like to be more involved in the citizen science process itself and help in digitising potential features should read the available tutorials and are encouraged to attend online training sessions.

For those who missed the initial online tutorial 'Using the Surrey LiDAR Portal' in August, another session (which is a repeat) will be offered on **Thursday 23 September** (15:30-17:00). This is an introductory session and will serve as a basis for more in-depth follow-up sessions in the autumn. The tutorials are free and will take place on Zoom. The sessions do need to be booked in advance to obtain the meeting link and info, so please email to acquire a place.

To get involved, please e-mail outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk with any queries and to express your interest in the training sessions or other work related to the LiDAR project.

Cocks Farm Abinger summer 2021

After two digs with a maximum of six people on site and social distancing in the trench it was a great joy to have a full team on site again. Up to twenty-one people digging and four members of the finds team made for a very social atmosphere, with break-times sometime getting extended due to animated conversations.

There was plenty to do in the trenches. Almost the whole surface of T30 was covered by a scattering of thousands of pieces of ironstone, almost certainly the base of a courtyard. This courtyard surrounded three sides of a post-built building, while the whole was edged by fences. Trowelling round the stones was slow work even though for most of the time the sand was damp and soft. An eye had to be kept open for potential postholes and areas of burnt sand.



T31, although only 8x6.5m, contained over 100 postholes. Many of these clearly belonged to an extension of building I, identified in T28 to the south in 2019, and others to the round-house found in T29 to the west in 2020. The function of the others is not (yet) clear.

Finds were not very numerous, but of course included Roman pottery and building material. Quite a lot of pre-historic pottery was found. Preliminary examination of this suggests it dates from the Early Neolithic to the Bronze

Age, with a very little Iron Age. As usual on this site, there was a considerable amount of struck flint.

Many thanks to all the hard-working and enthusiastic diggers and to the efficient finds team who got everything marked and bagged and back to the Research Centre. Work continues on site: recording and further excavation of a few selected features.

Emma Corke



Lonesome Lodge Live walk

On **Sunday 5 September** at 14:00, Dorking Museum is offering a one-off opportunity to explore the rediscovered site of a wealthy gentleman architect's idyllic and lavish retreat in the Tillingbourne Valley and to hear its fascinating story. The tour, in aid of charity, is led by Robin Daly, one of the authors of an extensively researched book on the subject, and provides exclusive access to many features not otherwise open to the public.



A limited number of tickets are available. The tour includes a copy of *Lonesome Lodge*, with the price of the book going to the Museum and the remainder to the UK registered charity Yes to Life. Please book through the [Museum website](#).

Wanborough Manor: Surrey's School for Secret Agents

The Friends of Guildford Museum will be running a series of public talks, beginning with this lecture by Paul McCue on **Friday 10 September** at 14:30 at the Guildhall in Guildford. Visitors are welcome (£10). See [Visit Guildford](#) to book.

Traditional Domestic Architecture in Surrey

This five-part course, which will be taught by Brigid Fice and Martin Higgins of the Domestic Buildings Research Group and run as an online Zoom series via the Guildford Institute, covers the history of traditional houses in Surrey and how they have changed over time. Themes considered include the construction and layout, location and materials used. The course will also cover how to date historic buildings, how to find out more about their purpose and the people who built them.



The course will run every Thursday (10:00-12:00) from **4 November** to **2 December**. For tickets and more info, see the [course booking](#) on the Guildford Institute's website.

The DBRG will also be running a special visit to the Weald and Downland Living Museum on **Thursday 14 October** which will be an opportunity to apply what has been learned from the Surrey Dendro Project. Further details will appear on the website ([dbrg.org.uk](#)) but to register your interest, please contact brigid.fice@btinternet.com.



Medieval Pottery Group

The Society's Medieval Pottery Group are hoping to restart its sessions at Abinger in October. The group meets on Sundays, usually between 10:00 and 16:00 at fortnightly intervals. They assess various collections, some from excavation, others from field-walking.

If you are interested in learning how to identify the various medieval pottery fabrics and joining the group, please get in touch with either David Hartley (hartley1949@msn.com) or Judie English (judie.english@btopenworld.com / 01483 276724).



Deep Time LiDAR Pastronauts with DigVentures



Deep Time is a brand new project launched by Dig-Ventures which is using volunteer assistance to search for previously unknown archaeological sites from LiDAR images, in this instance focused on the Discover Brightwater Landscape Partnership Scheme area in County Durham. The deadline for applications to join a team of currently 100 participants ('Pastronauts') is **9 September**, followed by an online 8 week course. See the [DigVentures website](#) for more info on how to apply.

Richmond Local History Society talks

From September, the Richmond Local History Society will be resuming its talks both in person at the Fellowship Hall, Duke Street Church, Richmond and live streamed via Zoom. The first talk will be on **Monday 13 September** at 20:00 by Melanie Backe-Hansen on 'Tracing the history of your house'. If you want to attend a talk in person, you must book in advance, by contacting the Secretary, Elizabeth Velluet (rich.hist@yahoo.co.uk / tel. 020 8891 3825). For more info, visit their [events page](#).

Movement in the Ecclesiastical Landscape conference

This year's annual Society for Church Archaeology conference will take place online over two days (**Friday 17 and Saturday 18 September**), with talks on a range of topics including movement and the senses in parish churches, pilgrimage routes and sacred landscapes, cemeteries and 'deathscapes', and the cathedrals at Old Sarum and Salisbury. See the [conference page](#) for more info.





Surrey History Centre online talks

2021 Surrey History Centre online talks via Zoom will continue in the autumn, with topics including:



8 September ‘Richard III: A Drama in Three Acts’

22 September ‘To the Manor Born: An Introduction to Manorial Records for Family Historians’

1 October ‘The Changing Face of Nursing: Black Nurses in Surrey Hospitals’ (a talk for Black History Month by Dr Catherine Babikian)

6 October ‘The Gentleman's Magazine: A Panorama of Georgian Surrey for Family and Local Historians’ (a talk for National Libraries Week)

13 October ‘Netherne c. 1955: A Surrey Psychiatric Hospital in Focus’ (a talk for World Mental Health Day)

17 November ‘The Most Wretched Man in the World: The Life and Loves of the 5th Viscount Midleton’

Tickets £5. Please see the [SHC events page](#) to book a place online.

Sussex School of Archaeology talks and courses

The School has been developing new online offerings and expanded its remit to cover aspects of history, partially led by the widespread appreciation on online technology and regional gaps for the provision of local courses.

Offerings in Autumn 2021 will include online courses of weekly 2 hour classes, online Saturday study days, and 1 hour ‘Meet the Experts’ lectures followed by Q&A. Courses will include: (from **20 September**) ‘Romans in Sussex’, (**21 September**) ‘The Vikings’, (**22 September**) ‘The Victorian World’ and (**30 September**) ‘An introduction to the Aegean Bronze Age’.

On **Saturday 9 October** (9:00-17:00), the annual Sussex Archaeology Symposium will also take place at King’s Church, Lewes, with a number of confirmed speakers including Richard Toms, Dr David Rudling and Mark Roberts Cost: £35 which includes refreshments and a pre-ordered lunch. Booking and more information on this and the online courses is available from www.sussexarchaeology.org.

For more information on opportunities in your local region, be sure to follow SCAU (education.scau@surreycc.gov.uk and [@diggingsurreypast](https://twitter.com/diggingsurreypast)), as well as the Council for British Archaeology South-East (www.cbasmouth-east.org and [@CBASouthEast](https://twitter.com/CBASouthEast)).