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Abstracts

St Catherine's chapel, Guildford: a casket-like medieval chapel on a hill opposite Guildford Castle and Royal Palace, by David Calow

St Catherine's chapel is dramatically sited on a hill opposite Guildford Castle and Royal Palace. Manning and Bray, leading Surrey historians, showed its early history involved at least three kings and numerous bishops and knights but did not say why it was built. Whoever made that decision had the money and power to make an important statement and explanations that it was built as a chapel of ease or a stopping place for pilgrims are unconvincing. Two documents in the Surrey History Centre, recently transcribed and translated, provide new evidence which, with historical resources and research now available, help reassess the people involved and suggest the chapel was built for the cult of St Catherine of Alexandria in memory of Queen Eleanor of Provence.

Downside Mill, Cobham: an evaluation with notes on observations at Coxes Lock Mill, Addlestone, by Tony Howe, Richard Savage and Pamela Savage

Between 30 July and 12 August 2008 a team from Surrey Archaeological Society undertook a training excavation in the form of an evaluation, on the site of one of the former iron- and copper-working mills at Downside, Cobham, operated by Alexander Raby between 1770 and 1806. Two trenches were opened to investigate the nature and survival of the mill structure, search for evidence of possible medieval utilisation of the site, and ascertain the precise location of the large dwelling house (set in pleasure grounds) shown on a plan of *c* 1798. The search for the house was unsuccessful and no evidence was recovered for medieval activity on the site. However, the work revealed remains of substantial exterior walls of the targeted former mill with some internal features, together with the filled-in courses of the former millraces that channelled water to the waterwheels. Significant concentrations of demolition material were recovered, particularly from one of the filled-in millraces, including large quantities of metallurgical industrial residues. Specialist analysis of the large pieces of slag in the demolition material from Downside Mill and of rectangular slag blocks from Coxes Lock has suggested these came from reverberatory furnaces used for reheating iron and recycling scrap iron for the manufacture of iron hoops, iron bar, iron plate and tinned iron plate. The slag masses lining the tail-race and river at Downside Mill were from chafery hearths. Documentary sources suggest that the copper foundry may have been used for the manufacture and recycling of copper sheet for sheathing naval ships. The site archive will be deposited at Elmbridge Museum under accession no 1.2017.

Iron Age and Roman occupation at St John's School, Garlands Road, Leatherhead, by Nigel Randall

An archaeological watching brief was conducted on land at Garlands Road, Leatherhead as a condition of planning approval granted to St John's School for the construction of artificial sports pitches, a car park and a store/toilet building. Features dating from the Early Iron Age through to the Roman period were revealed. The principal Early Iron Age features were a probable well and two pits. Pottery associated with these offers new insights into the Early Iron

Age ceramic traditions of the area, while the recovery of struck flint of the same date constitutes some of the best evidence within Surrey for its use extending into the Iron Age.

A large boundary ditch of Middle or Late Iron Age date may have continued in use or was later re-used in the early Roman period. The ditch probably enclosed a domestic occupation site. Early Roman finds from a probable well and 2nd or 3rd century finds from the boundary ditch suggest a prolonged period of occupation. The finds included samian pottery, tile, plaster and rare donkey bones that suggest nearby settlement of some significance.

Excavation of a prehistoric and Romano-British site at Betchworth, 1995–6, by David Williams

Rescue excavations in advance of sand quarrying recovered evidence for a series of phases of activity of mainly prehistoric and Roman date on two adjacent sites. On Site 1, a closely concentrated group of three phases of pits was associated with a dense concentration of lithic material. These phases comprise a group of pits of possible late Mesolithic date; three pits of considerable importance containing large quantities of Late Neolithic Grooved Ware, the first large group from Surrey; and a group of Late Bronze Age cremation pits. On Site 2, a metallised trackway of Late Bronze Age date with associated wheel ruts and stake line was also found and this may have a ceremonial explanation. On Site 2 also a series of conjoined enigmatic enclosures dating to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD may be domestic but seem more likely to have had a non-domestic function, perhaps as a shrine.

A Late Iron Age/early Roman rectilinear enclosure at Westcott, by Gabrielle Rapson

Aerial photography carried out during the 1940s and 1970s revealed a soil-mark depicting a rectilinear enclosure with a single east-facing entrance in fields north of Westcott, near Dorking. In 2002, a trial excavation was undertaken as a research project. The purpose of this excavation was to determine whether archaeological remains were present and to gain some information as to the nature, date and significance of the feature. Excavation recorded a large V-shaped ditch containing a series of charcoal-rich fills. Finds included: animal bone, particularly the skull of a mature red deer stag with the antlers sawn off and placed in the base of a recut; the remains of some triangular loomweights; part of a small decorated clay disc, and a useful Late Iron Age and early Roman pottery assemblage.

‘Patriotism in things of beauty’: Thomas Cecil Farrer, historical continuity and liberty in the Surrey countryside, by Keith Grieves

On 21 April 1918 Thomas Cecil (2nd Lord) Farrer addressed the Surrey Archaeological Society’s AGM on the theme of ‘Patriotism in Things of Beauty’. In the context of sacrifice and shortages in the fourth year of war, he sought to protect scenes of natural beauty in Surrey and their historical associations. Liberty, historical continuity, local patriotism and incessant watchfulness were his abiding points of reference in war and peace in defence of an older England in the open spaces and villages of Surrey. His public social action was historically minded, steeped in place-awareness and acknowledged that landscape preservation could memorialise the fallen of the Great War. Examples of preservationist and access issues involving documentary records, material culture and historic buildings and monuments will be explored. These will illuminate Lord Farrer’s activism in the Surrey

Archaeological Society, the National Trust, the Commons and Footpaths Preservation Society and the County Ancient Monuments Committee. Being rooted in the past and by walking the ground, Lord Farrer valued everyday scenes in mid-Surrey which all were entitled to enjoy amid intact, but often endangered, landscapes in the aftermath of war. His practical liberal mindedness was consistently evidenced in 40 years of public engagement, but after 1918 the urgent quest for peace and quiet in the countryside had a deeper resonance for lovers of Surrey. As an 'old Liberal', who believed in peace, retrenchment and reform, Farrer strove to make sense of the conflict between beauty and utility amid history and nature near metropolitan London.

An early Roman ritual site on Frensham Common, by David Graham and Audrey Graham

This report describes the discovery of a small rural ritual site dating to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, on the edge of Frensham Common in south-west Surrey. The site consisted of a series of coin deposits and other finds included spearheads, iron rings, bronze sheeting – possibly from a head-dress – and skilfully-made priestly sceptre terminals of a previously unrecorded design. These deposits surrounded a group of small pits in and around which had been placed a number of miniature pots, at least two of which contained cannabis pollen and others may have contained oils. The site was located in the corner of what appeared to have been a terraced field at the time, but there was no evidence for any structure or other features associated with the ritual deposits.

Five Palaeolithic handaxes from Farnham, with a comment on the Huband flint collection, by Christopher Taylor

In 2015 the Lithics section of the Prehistoric Group of Surrey Archaeological Society assessed and listed a collection of flint artefacts found by the Rev H R Huband and presently held at Guildford Museum. Further research has established the exact provenance around Farnham of five of the Lower Palaeolithic handaxes so that the river terrace of the Wey where they were found can be identified. This is significant because Lower Palaeolithic finds from the area are frequently not provenanced beyond the name of the town. These handaxes are considered and their Farnham river terrace contexts described. A summary of the collection is provided in the Appendix, including a note on an unusual Neolithic core that was made on a fragment of a ground axehead.

Medieval potters in west and central Surrey, by †Phil Jones

Contemporary documents name over a dozen potters who might have made Surrey whiteware in west Surrey between 1244 and 1348, and others refer to clay-digging and the transportation of both clay and pots. These are presented and discussed, together with the results of a fieldwalking survey that sought to identify production sites and clay pits.

Excavation of a moated site at Cranleigh Rectory, 1985, by Judie English

Minor excavations across the moat and on the island in advance of development of Cranleigh Rectory in 1985 produced evidence of pre-moat occupation throughout the 12th century and of construction of the moat during the early 13th century. It seems likely that the island has been lowered, probably during construction of the Victorian rectory in 1863, and that this, together with 19th century cleaning of the moat, had removed evidence of later medieval or post-medieval occupation. The suggestion is made that this was the site of the manorial caput first of 'Cranleigh' and later of the Rectory Manor.

Roman Ewell: a review of the querns and millstones and implications for understanding the organisation of grain processing, by Ruth Shaffrey

To understand how the production of flour was organised in a settlement it is necessary to study the tools (querns and millstones), structures (such as corn-driers, mills, bakeries and granaries) and environmental evidence (plant remains) that form the archaeological record. This article focuses on the main tools involved in the process -- the querns and millstones -- and draws in other strands of evidence. A total of 338 fragments were found at eighteen sites in and around Ewell, a roadside settlement situated on Stane Street c 21km from London, and these are described together with an analysis of their forms, lithology, dating and spatial distribution. Discussion then focuses on where the querns in the settlement were coming from and how this supply was organised before addressing wider points of interest such as whether grain processing was dominant in any particular area, to what extent grain processing was centrally organised inside the settlement and, significantly, what further research questions this analysis poses for Ewell and for the research agenda.