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BALLOONS UP AT THE END OF OUR VICTORIAN EXTRAVANGZA

Why do we speak English in Surrey? The common-sense answer is “because we are English”. Old English place-names traditionally have been used as proof that we are racially Anglo-Saxon, but this truth requires re-examination. I have submitted a paper to the English Place-Name Society (*Old English Place-Names as a Class-Based Phenomenon: The Case of -ingas*, Smith, publication not yet agreed), challenging the conventional wisdom. I briefly here sketch the wider implications for Surrey archaeology.

Modern language theory (Janson; Sims-Williams) recognises that the language a people speak says nothing about their *race*. In my paper I put forward a double paradigm (on paradigms see Clarke): that Surrey’s population remained *in the majority* unchanged between the late Roman Empire and late “Anglo-Saxon” times, but that Old English was adopted gradually throughout this lengthy period. My chosen point of entry is a re-evaluation of *the distribution of like-sets of parish names* (the writer is a geographer). The findings may be expressed as four proposals, each rather radical for place-name studies:

- 1 *Religious history had a significant influence on place-naming.* This influence began in pagan times. I concur with Higham that local cult centers were focal in post-Roman pagan times. Celtic **cruc** “(sacred) barrow”, occurs at both Crooksbury Hill and in *Cherchefelle* Hundred (the latter probably focused on a lost barrow at Crutchfield / Thunderfield / *Wedreshulle* - see Blair - by Burstow, “the **burh** at the sacred meeting-place”). The pagan Germanic word **hearg**, “temple”, at Peper Harow, is tellingly close to a subsequent political center at Eashing’s Burghal Hidage fortress. Religious influence did not lessen after the conversion to Christianity. Bede notes that several Anglo-Saxon kings abdicated either to join a monastery or to retire on pilgrimage to Rome; one of the latter was Caedwalla of Wessex, originally a pagan with a Celtic personal name (Morris), who became overking of southern England and briefly suppressed Sussex and Kent in the late 680’s AD. In *Bulletin 369* I suggested that Germanic **ingas**, “people”, means not “(Germanic) tribe” but “royal (monastic) household”, as evident in the place-names of Woking, Godalming, Dorking, *Bintungom*, etc., the foci respectively of the hundreds of Woking, Godalming, Wotton, Farnham, etc., in west and central Surrey. In my EPNS submission I argue this usage of **ingas** was brought to Wessex from Germanised East Anglia after 635 AD, the date of the investiture of Birinus as first bishop at Dorchester on Thames under the patronage of joint Wessex and Northumbria. **ingas** as “royal household” marks the hybridization of the traditional proto-hundredal royal manor (in Wessex probably a British as much as an Anglo-Saxon phenomenon) and the proto-minster brought in by papal emissary Birinus and his successors.
- 2 *Political history explains changes in place-name type.* Politic influence is pervasive. **ingas** in west Surrey reflects the emergence of Germanised royal families in “Wessex”. Earlier, around 600 AD Surrey had been subject to the control of Aethelberht of Kent, from his vantage point of dominating London. This era left its mark not only in the county name whose Kentish **ge** suffix likely means “(minster) district” (see my piece in *Bulletin 372*), but perhaps in the swathe of Old English **stede** (“place”) place-names of east Surrey (Oxted, Banstead, Ashted, Sanderstead, *Walkingstead*, etc.). Whereas from the 670’s AD north Surrey was temporarily under the control of Mercia, leading I suggest to a local renaming of estates into **ham** (Egham, Chobham, Cobham, Bookham, Effingham, Epsom, Cheam, etc.) so prominent in Mercia’s Chertsey Abbey charter of 675 AD (Gover et al); **ham** is likely another place-naming

fashion fresh from Germanised East Anglia where it is the standard form for central-place names (a characteristic unknown in Surrey).

- 3 *Most archetypical Old English place-name elements derive from the seventh century.* Above, I have claimed this to be so for **ingas**, **ge**, **stede** and **ham**, all of which hitherto have been thought to be older and presumed to date from the advent of the Anglo-Saxons from the early fifth century onwards. The seventh century was an era of relative (though only relative!) stability and economic growth associated with the steadying influence of Irish-Northumbrian monasticism and the centralized papal Church. I identify the seventh century as the principal era of national language change from Celtic to English, though probably only for the upper classes – including the aristocratic and ecclesiastical place-naming classes. For the era prior to the seventh century I propose locally a phase of Celtic-Germanic *patois* probably associated with the intrusion of minority but locally influential *foederati* (mercenary) Germanic communities into north-east Surrey and elsewhere, associated with the earliest Germanic-culture cemeteries (Morris, Poulton). Resulting are the **dun** names of north-east Surrey (Wimbledon, Maldon, Morden, Chessington, Waddon, Chaldon, Selsdon, etc.), which I would date from the sixth century and for which I accept Gelling's interpretation "(British)" hill (village)" and a derivation from British **dunon** (Welsh **dinas**, "hill-fort"). Do such names reflect a temporary retreat to defensible sites during the troubled late Empire and thereafter? Other *patois* forms include **ford** (British **ritu**, Welsh **rhwyd** / **ffordd**) and quite likely **leah**: forms recorded, together with bawdlerised pre-Germanic place-names, in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* for the years 400-600 AD. By contrast, the Old English suffixes I allocate above to the seventh century do *not* occur in the *Chronicle* for this period. A final unification of British /*patois* / Germanic cultural forms occurred thereafter in the universal place-name suffix **tun** (our "town") - which I suggest is not related to Germanic **zaun** ("fence") but is a linguistic development from **dun**. It first occurs as **tunas** in the *Chronicle* for the year 571 AD relating to possible *foederati* defended sites at Limbury, Aylesbury, Benson and Eynsham (Morris; the last contains **hamm**, "enclosure", not **ham**), but is utilized as a general place-namer from the late seventh century onwards, its first appearance being perhaps Sutton recorded in the Chertsey charter. The relative rarity of **tun** in Surrey (see Gover et al) reflects the pre-eminence here of older place-name formulae (see above, and following), thereafter extinct. Arguably in confirmation of this explanation is the distinctive band of **tun** names immediately south of the **dun** parishes of north east Surrey, at Ditton, Merton, Carshalton, Wallington, Walton on the Hill, Sutton, Addington, etc.; indeed, the twin parishes Morden and Merton might perhaps be derived from a single *patois* **mor dun**, from which evolved the version **mere tun** (cf. Ekwall) when the estate was split between two hundreds.
- 4 *The base layer of Surrey place-names is Celtic.* Coates has shown that Leatherhead and Merrow, previously assumed to be Old English, are pure Celtic names; it might be that similar "difficult" names (eg. Coulsdon, Wimbledon, Esher, Merstham) could at least in part be the same. I have said that Caedwalla in the 680's had a Celtic name. Chertsey's name contains a Celtic personal name. I take Liss close by in Hants (Welsh **llys**, "hall") and Penge on the Kent border (Welsh **pen coed**, "end of the wood") both to be late *post-Roman Celtic*. The partly pre-Germanic elements within the medieval town names of north Surrey (Croydon, Chertsey, Leatherhead, London itself, and *Waleport* by Kingston – for this last see Wakeford) I take to reflect the *partial survival of pre-Germanic central-places within a post-Roman British city-state focused on London* (for whose own survival note Macphail & Scaife's comments on the *urban* nature of late Roman and post-Roman "dark earth"

deposits). Surrey's situation thus replicates that found by Everitt for Kent focused on the administrative survival of Canterbury, Rochester and again London. Following Rutherford-Davis's work on the Chilterns, I further suggest the "nature name" parish names of west Surrey (Shere, Ash, Send, Byfleet, Shalford, Wonersh, etc.), lacking typical Old English suffixes, to be direct late translations into English of Celtic precursors; English Send ("sandy place") is thus of a type with Celtic Merrow ("marly place"). Such names parallel equally the east Surrey "translation plus **-stede**" formula by then extinct: thus Ash parallels Ashted, and Send, Sanderstead. Finally, I suggest the **walh** ("Briton") names of north Surrey (Walton on Thames, Wallington, Walworth, Walbrook in the City, *Waleport*, *Wealagate* and *Wealas huthe* by Chertsey – for the latter see Gover et al) mark *Celtic-speaking communities close beside Germanic-speaking ones*, and their date to be late seventh century – the recognised earliest date for **tun** in place-names (Gelling). Parallel may be possible later **wealisc** place-names in the south Surrey Weald (Walliswood, Wallis Gill, Wallace Brook in Reigate, and the associated surnames Waleys, etc.; Gover et al). **Feld** in south-east Surrey (Limpsfield, Tatsfield, Lingfield, Nutfield, Linkfield, etc.) and **wudu** in south Surrey (Wotton, Charlwood, Newdigate, Earlswood, Shelwood, etc.) I propose to be subsequent translations of **leah** – the latter I suspect of being pre-Germanic in origin, meaning "common pasture" (Smith, forthcoming) and certainly the most frequent place-name formula across Surrey (Leigh, Horley, Cranleigh, Thursley, Horsley, Kenley, etc.).

In sum, Janson's model of national language change can very happily explain the non-random distribution dynamics of place-name types in Surrey (though Janson himself does not apply it to the adoption of English). It suggests a 200-300 year transition period for the shift from Celtic to Old English over the period say 550-750 AD, and probably longer for the remote rural peasantry – Wood has suggested Celtic was spoken on the Hampshire Downs into medieval times. I appreciate this theory upsets all sorts of apple-carts in both place-name studies and perhaps amongst some historians and archaeologists, and that there has been room to expound only the bare bones here. But the prospect is held out of a fruitful re-unification of place-name, historical and archaeological research. For example, one anticipates that the social motors for the adoption of Old English lay with a Germanic-identifying aristocracy, the associated Church, and with the Frisians who dominated London's international trade in the seventh century. Language change would have been uneven geographically: thus the vicinity of Peper Harow / Eashing is irregular for west Surrey in showing both early Old English forms (eg. Elstead, Polsted, etc.), but also *patois* forms including a concentration of **ford** (Shackleford, Oxenford, etc.) and **cumb** (Compton, Binscombe, etc.) from Welsh **cwm** which may be "valley (settlement)" and reflect the return to low-lying sites, seen also at Coombe by Wimbledon / *Waleport* / Kingston and Coombe by Selsdon / Croydon in north-east Surrey.

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NOTE ON A NEWLY-DISCOVERED MULTI-PERIOD SITE NEAR DORKING

Gabby Rapson

Summary

During the summer of 2003, a pipeline was laid between Dorking and Leatherhead pumping stations by the Sutton and East Surrey Water Board, and the major part of it ran north-south along the River Mole valley bottom following the A24 road. Due to a regrettable failure in the planning system, no provision was made for archaeological investigation prior to the commencement of works.

A watching brief, started after works had commenced, and conducted by members of Surrey Archaeological Society, resulted in the discovery of a multi-period site on a spur of the Lower Chalk overlooking the 'Dorking entrance' to the Mole Gap. Several archaeological features were investigated, although excavation was limited to actual areas under threat from the pipeline. They include a Neolithic circular ditch, an area of late Roman activity and a 7th century Saxon cemetery, apparently focussed on the Neolithic ditch.

Late Neolithic

A 10m section of a curving, 2m wide U-shaped ditch with a projected diameter of c30m was cut by the pipeline. Deposits in the fill included a flint assemblage, a sherd of bird bone-impressed pottery, charcoal, human and possibly animal bone. A cushion-shaped mace-head from the topsoil may be associated with this feature (fig 1).

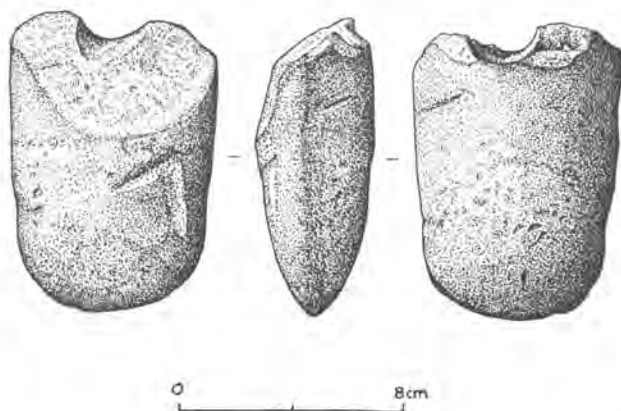


Figure 1

Late Roman

Pottery sherds, representing c100 vessels of 3rd/4th century types, were recovered close to the Neolithic feature, as well as several coins in two shallow features, two ditches, animal bones, some large iron nails and a fragment of a lava quernstone. No tiles were recovered, One of the ditches and another feature could represent a trackway between Dorking and Mickleham. Many sherds of a grog-tempered jar were recovered, of a form that is often considered sub-Roman (fig 2).

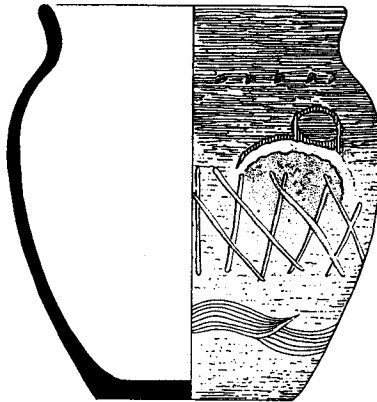


Figure 2

Saxon

Fourteen east-west inhumations of a Saxon cemetery, apparently focussed on the Neolithic earthwork, were located and excavated. All were adults between their mid 20s and their mid 50s, but only one was accompanied with grave goods: a male with his small iron knife (dated to the mid to late 7th century by British Museum staff) (fig 3).

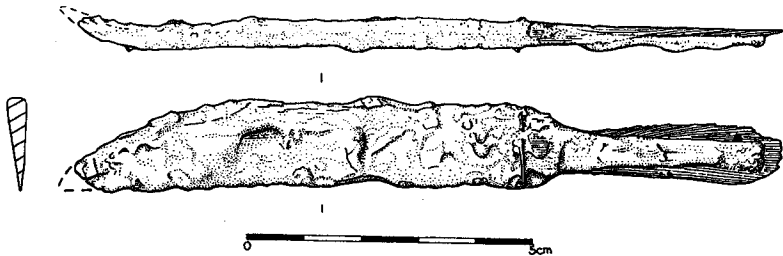


Figure 3

Discussion

The presence of Neolithic, Roman and Saxon activity is an exciting discovery in an important location. Most of Dorking lies on easily worked sandy soils, so the choice of location for the Neolithic monument and Saxon cemetery indicates that the site itself was significant to these populations, rather than the practicalities of digging. We do not have enough evidence to explain the Roman activity, but a villa in this position would not be unexpected. The presence of earlier monuments and activity, and the relationships between boundaries, trackways and local populations may have been important factors in siting the Saxon cemetery. Aerial photographs kindly donated by Dorking Museum and local residents suggest that the site contains many more

features. Hopefully, this excavation and future work will enable us to include this site in future research

Many thanks to everyone who assisted in the excavation.

150th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The key up-coming events to report are the Summer Meeting of the Surrey Local History Committee, the Open day at the South Park Moated Medieval Site and the demonstrations and displays at Tilford Rural Life Centre.

SHLC SUMMER MEETING

Details of the meeting on 18th July were circulated with the last edition of the Bulletin and it looks as if it will be every bit as popular as the Spring Meeting. Tickets at £5 can be ordered through Castle Arch.

SOUTH PARK MOAT OPEN DAY

David and Audrey Graham will be leading a "Medieval Fun Day" at South Park Moat on Sunday 25th July from 10am to 4pm. The day will feature medieval re-enactments, guided tours of the site and a children's colouring competition (Children, please bring crayons and an A4 size board.) Why not bring a picnic lunch!

The moated site is at South Park Farm, Grayswood, near Haslemere (SU 915356). Access is via a single track lane on the west side of the A286, about 500 yards north of Grayswood Church, opposite a white bungalow. Cross the railway bridge and follow the signs.

GOING BACK IN TIME – From Industrial Archaeology to the Stone Age

A day for all the family is planned at the Rural Life Centre, Tilford on Sunday 22nd August. Organised by the Society, Surrey Industrial History Group and other local history groups, the day will feature a wide range of demonstrations, displays, exhibits and other attractions. Full details are provided in the flyer inserted with this edition of the Bulletin. All this will take place against the background of the Rural Life Centre's permanent collections of buildings, artefacts and machinery, including the Old Kiln Light Railway that runs regularly on Sundays. Refreshments will be available at the café and there is ample free car parking. Admission is by normal entry to the museum. Do try and come along. Children and grandchildren will find lots of interest.

The Celebration of the Inaugural Meeting of the Society in Southwark in 1854

This was held at the Southwark Cathedral Conference Centre on 15th May and was a particularly enjoyable occasion. After a welcoming coffee and an introduction to the day by our President, Audrey Monk, delegates joined either a guided walk around parts of historic Southwark or a guided tour of the cathedral. They returned for the official launch by David Miles and Jon Cotton of the Society's latest publication "Aspects of Archaeology and History in Surrey: towards a research framework for the county." Then after a buffet lunch came talks by Harvey Sheldon on the "Archaeology of Southwark" and Julian Ayre on "Excavations preceding the London Millennium Bridge." Special thanks go to John Boulton for organising this very special occasion which was held in exceptional surroundings on a beautiful day.

Finally, the need to meet copy deadlines mean that a full report on the 150th Victorian Birthday Garden Party will appear in the next issue of the Bulletin. For the moment, suffice to say that about 200 people joined in the fun on a perfect English summer

evening (see front and back pages). Charles van der Lande and Mike Rubra are to be congratulated on ensuring that the whole evening was so successful. More to follow!

GUIDED WALKS IN HISTORIC SURREY

Throughout the Spring and Summer months a series of guided walks in historic Surrey have been arranged to mark the Society's 150th Anniversary year. The remaining programme is listed below. Fuller details of the later walks will be printed in future editions of the Bulletin.

THORPE VILLAGE

Saturday 3rd July 2-4pm

Leader: Mrs J. Williams – Egham by Runnymede Historical Society. Distance: 1½ miles. Duration: 2 hours. The walk will cover the heart of the village and attempt to cover the village's growth through the years. Not suitable for children or those with impaired mobility. No dogs. Meet at entrance to Church Approach by notice board. Parking in street outside Village Hall, NOT in Church Approach.

ELSTEAD

Saturday 3rd July 2.30-4.30pm

Leader: Gillian Drew. Distance 2 miles. Duration: 2 hours. A brief talk in the church will be followed by a walk through the village to the mill and back, passing many of the older buildings. Not suitable for children. Partly accessible for disabled. No dogs. Meet at church. Parking at church.

COBHAM

Saturday 10th July 10am-noon

Leader: David Taylor. Distance: 3½ miles. Approx. Duration: 2 hours. Some rough ground. Children welcome but must be accompanied by an adult. Dogs must be on a lead.

A guided walk around Cobham's four conservation areas. A fairly easy walk on roads and partly on well maintained bridleways. Opportunity for pub lunch. Meet: St Andrews Church Car Park, Bridge Road, Cobham. Nearest car park: Hollyhedge Car Park in Downside Bridge Road, Cobham (opposite Waitrose) - 2 to 3 minutes from the church.

FARNHAM

Sunday 8th August 1.30-3.30pm

Leader: David Graham. Distance: 2-3 miles. Approx Duration: 2 hours. Not suitable for disabled people because of unavoidable steps and steep hill. A guided tour of town centre and castle – entrance fee to castle. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. No dogs. Meet: Central Car Park, Victoria Road, Farnham.

ELSTEAD

Sunday 15th August 2.30-4.30pm

Leader: Gillian Drew. Distance 2 miles. Duration: 2 hours. A brief talk in the church will be followed by a walk through the village to the mill and back, passing many of the older buildings. Not suitable for children. Partly accessible for disabled. No dogs. Meet at church. Parking at church.

HISTORIC BOOKHAM

Saturday 4th September 2.30pm and Sunday 5th September 2.30 and 7.30pm

SURREY LOCAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

SyAS, through its newly formed Surrey Local History Committee, has taken over the role played previously by the Surrey Local History Council, providing an opportunity for closer collaboration with local history societies. The Committee has arranged to publish articles on local history societies in *The Bulletin* and the fourth of these appears below.

NONSUCH ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

Charles Abdy

The excavation of Henry VIII's Nonsuch Palace in 1959 is said to have been the biggest archaeological operation in a single year carried out in this country: the whole of the foundations of the building were laid bare. Although a team of professional archaeologists was in charge of the digging, the work relied heavily on volunteers, some 500 of whom worked on the site for varying periods. It was an enterprise remarkable for the excitement and enthusiasm that it generated and it is not surprising that many of the friendly team of volunteers should wish to keep in contact with one another when the work was completed and the trenches back-filled. Proposals were made for forming an 'An Association of Nonsuch Diggers' and this came into being following a public meeting in 1960, although the name was changed to 'The Nonsuch and Ewell Antiquarian Society (NEAS)' and again, in 1972, to 'Nonsuch Antiquarian Society.' The field of activity was extended to include Epsom as well as Ewell.

The work of the Society is organized by a General Committee consisting of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and eight other members. There is a President: the first was Martin Biddle (now Professor Martin Biddle) who was in charge of the Nonsuch Palace excavations; the present President is Jonathan Cotton, Keeper of Pre-history at the Museum of London.

Aims of the Society

Although the Society had its origins in archaeology, from the outset there was an intention to be involved in history also. The present day aims can be summed up as archaeology, history and conservation. For this short article to be published in *The Bulletin* in relation to the setting up of the Local History Committee, the local history activities need to be given prominence. The Society has long contributed to the work of the Surrey Local History Council and its successor, the Surrey Local History Committee of SyAS, by providing displays for the symposia and distributing copies of Surrey History.

Documentary Group and Publications

In the early days the Society set up a Documentary Group to collect and record references to Ewell in printed or written sources, including making transcriptions of Parish records in the Public Record Office and the Surrey Record Office. More recently, documents have been consulted in the Surrey History Centre. The mass of information that has been gathered together has been invaluable to local historians writing for publication. The Society has published a series of Occasional Papers in A5 format, now more than 40 in number, dealing with various aspects of local history, many of them drawing on the work of the Documentary Group whose papers are accessible at Bourne Hall Library. In my own recent books, 'Ewell Past' and 'Epsom Past', I have been pleased to acknowledge the help derived from this source.

An important means of communication with members has been the Newsletter, that appears approximately every two months, and includes short articles on local history subjects, as well as information on current activities.

In September, 1997 a new class of publication was introduced, the Nonsuch Extra, in A4 format, to cover subjects that are too long for convenient inclusion in a Newsletter, but not of sufficient substance for an Occasional Paper. This is ideal for such things as reminiscences.

Members of the Documentary Group serve as volunteers manning the information desk at the Local History Centre in Bourne Hall Library that was opened in January 2002.

Lectures and Visits

An essential element of NAS activities is the monthly meeting. Talks are given on a wide range of subjects connected with archaeology or local, sometimes not so local, history. For many years we have met on the first Wednesday of each month in St. Mary's Church Hall, Ewell. The task of finding a suitable succession of speakers has for something like 30 years been in the hands of Peggy Bedwell, who is our current Chairman as well as Speakers' Secretary. Most speakers come from outside, but sometimes our own members give talks. Attendance at these meetings is usually at least 50 people. Our membership at the end of 2003 was 91 ordinary, 27 family and one corporate.

There are occasional visits to places of historic interest: in August 2003 it was Silchester, while the visit planned for June 2004 is to Faversham.

A number of symposia have been arranged, the most recent being 'Epsom and Ewell Through the Millennia' in May 2000.

A Change of Identity

At the AGM in March, 2004 it was decided that the Society would benefit from a change of name to something that would indicate the area we cover and our activities. Therefore, from 1st September 2004 we are to be known as Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society.

GRANTS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE

The Committee has a budget of £3,500 for the present year 2004/2005 and invites applications for grants for projects that further research into, or otherwise add to our understanding of, the history of Surrey. Application forms are available from the staff at Castle Arch and should be submitted to the Honorary Secretary of the Society before any work is undertaken; grants are not made retrospectively though post-excavation work may be admissible as being work distinct from the excavation itself. After consideration by the Committee, all applications are submitted to Council for a decision.

Peter Youngs, Secretary

COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY

THE CROYDON, MERSTHAM AND GODSTONE IRON RAILWAY *Mike Rubra*

The railway is 200 years old this year and was the subject of a very interesting talk by Paul Sowan on April 24th at Gatton Park as part of our 150th Anniversary programme.

On 23rd May members of several Surrey archaeological societies and groups helped the Downlands Countryside Management Project team and their volunteers clear a considerable length of the track bed of a section of this railway in a deep cutting at Merstham. We removed trees, saplings, undergrowth, litter and fly-tipped rubbish that will open up the site and assist in its protection and evaluation.

I am very grateful for all the help that was given so freely and thank all who were there for their part in the conservation of this important industrial scheduled ancient monument.

But we have by no means finished the work.

I would welcome any help anyone can offer for our next working party with the "Downlanders", which will be announced later and, if you could spare some time, please contact me; Tel: 01737 843025.

MISCELLANY

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

I always enjoy very much reading Bulletins. Thanks for all your excellent work. What a pity though that often I don't receive my copy until it is too late to attend many of the advertised lecture meetings.

My Bulletin for May for instance arrived today, 11th June. The lectures listed begin with one on 21st May, and I find I have missed all those on the list until the last two, for 24th and 29th June. I would have been most interested to hear the lecture for 7th June by Chris Howkins, but didn't know about it. I have looked on the Society's website, but I can find no programme for these lectures there, and of course they are not organised by the Society. Perhaps I have missed something.

I realise that circulation problems are probably nothing to do with you, and space is likely to be very important, but in the absence of a more efficient system of circulation, is it possible perhaps to include in the list a few more future lectures?

Joan Prosser

Quite right to be annoyed, of course, and apologies are also due to all lecturers involved since I well know how important the Bulletin is to the advertisement of their endeavours. Between Maureen and myself Bulletin copy was delivered to the printers reasonably on schedule, but as I understand it, a flyer that was to accompany its delivery had to be reprinted because of a wrong date.

NETWORKING FOR ARCHAEOLOGY

Trudie Cole & Becky Lambert

The lack of active involvement of the younger members of SyAS (18-35 year olds) has been an issue for sometime. As young people, we feel it would be conducive to our greater involvement in the Society if there were more events aimed at us. It can be very daunting turning up to a lecture or activity where you don't know anyone and everyone else is of a different generation.

We would like to try and help remedy the situation by creating a group specifically for young adults within the greater umbrella of SyAS; the idea being to 'draw other people out of the woodwork' by staging events specifically aimed at them. It is hoped that once young people begin to feel at home within the society they will participate actively in other society events and activities. We hope to do this by running a lecture series based in Guildford (easily accessible by public transport) with an informal feel, and which will hopefully also become sociable events. These lectures have yet to be arranged, but, ideally, they should be strongly focussed on new ideas in archaeology. We aim to attract one or more 'big names' every year, but also cover the work of other

groups within the society. Additionally, we would like a summer meeting to act as a platform for students to present their dissertations to a public audience.

We aim to secure the venues and speakers, and charge entrance fees to cover the costs, although we may need a small amount of financial assistance in the early stages to aid the development of the group. If the lectures are successful we will consider holding others elsewhere in the county that are also readily accessible by public transport.

Our underlying ethos must be the involvement of many more young adults in the Society, and we hope these lectures will provide the way forward.

FIELDWALKING AT HOME FARM, ALBURY

Judie English

Following persistent rumours of Roman coins recovered from a 10ha field attached to Home Farm, Albury (TQ 064482), it was fieldwalked early this year in north/south lines 10m apart and with return lines at 5m. The site lies on Lower Greensand within c400m of both the Tillingbourne and Sherbourne streams.

Seventy-two struck flints were found, of which most are of poor quality workmanship, suggesting a Bronze Age date. The collection is dominated by crude primary and secondary flakes, but a blade segment and blade core are in black flint. The only tools are a fabricator with a D-shaped profile and a scraper made on a chunky flake.

Three sherds of 13th century-type Grey/Brown Sandy Ware include a rim, and there was a thin scatter of post-medieval pottery and tile fragments.

The archaeological fieldwork was undertaken with the kind permission of Albury Estates, and arrangements were made with Mike Borrell.

ST. MARTHA'S, GUILDFORD

David Graham

St Martha's church lies approximately three miles south-east of Guildford on a high ridge overlooking the village of Chilworth and the Tillingbourne valley at TQ 0275 4826.

The site is unusual in that it is isolated and has no adjacent village, but nevertheless is clearly visible from a wide area - particularly today from the south. Although the site is thought to be Saxon in origin, the present structure is basically Norman in date though it fell into disrepair and was extensively rebuilt in the mid-19th century.

Earlier this year Andrew Norris, a member of the Society and the quinquennial inspecting surveyor for the St Martha's Parochial Church Council (PCC), reported proposals to provide a water supply to the church for a potential and modest extension that would require prior archaeological investigation. He suggested that the Society might be interested in excavating a trench adjacent to the church itself before the laying of the water pipe.

With the kind permission of St Martha's PCC, a preliminary geophysical survey was undertaken in February this year. The survey, using a resistivity meter, was intended as a limited test of the suitability of the site - a cemetery on a sandy hill - for geophysics. In the event the survey area, immediately to the west and partially to the north of the church showed surprisingly clear results and indicated the line of the existing electricity supply and the location of a number of graves. The survey also indicated that a wide band of material giving higher resistance readings surrounded the walls of the church. However, there was no indication of the presence of any structures in the area likely to be affected by the trench for the new water supply.

In order to check the validity of the geophysical survey as well as to look for prehistoric material, which is recorded from elsewhere on the hilltop, a small trial

trench (4.2 x 0.9m) was opened outside the west end of the nave and on the line of the proposed water pipeline. The work was curtailed by bad weather (bitterly cold winds and rain with episodes of horizontal hailstones), but the centre of the trench was excavated to a depth of 1.13m where natural yellow sand was encountered. The section showed that above this, the ground had been artificially raised by the deposit of a thick band of mixed mortar, sand, small pieces of ironstone and fragments of roof tiles - all consistent with the cleaning off of masonry for re-use in the reconstruction work on the church in the mid 19th century.

Certainly the door at the west end of the nave respects the existing ground surface and is therefore presumably part of the rebuilding works. What is also clear is that the medieval ground surface lies just over a metre below that of the present day. This may well also explain why the floor of the nave is lower than the modern ground surface. The other interesting point is that, as already mentioned, the re-deposited material lay directly on undisturbed yellow sand. This must mean that the top of the hill had been levelled at some stage and this has had the effect of removing the original ground surface and with it any prehistoric material from at least this part of the site.

This suggestion is supported by the fact that the only finds that were made consisted of one Mesolithic flint blade, one sherd, probably of medieval date, and several clay pipe stems, all of which came from within the layer of rubble.

The size of the trench was inadequate to establish whether the hilltop had been levelled in the medieval period prior to construction works or by the Victorians during their reconstruction and repair works.

Whichever the case, there was certainly no indication of any surviving prehistoric levels within the small area that was examined. It therefore seems unlikely that the proposed water pipeline trench will disturb any archaeological levels, at least around the church.

At the same time as the trenching work was undertaken, the geophysical survey was extended to include the entire north and east sides of the church. Though the results were much less clear than previously, because of the wet conditions, they nevertheless indicate that the band of re-deposited material continues around the church and also hinted at the presence firstly of a square structure, perhaps a tower, north of the north transept and secondly that a primary cemetery wall may lie buried within the existing cemetery, presumably as the result of an extension at some period. These results however are tentative at present and would need to be confirmed by further work.

Thanks are due to all those who helped on site, to Andrew Norris for making the arrangements and to St Martha's Parochial Church Council for their kind permission and for making a donation to the Society to cover the costs

FIELD-WALKING SURVEY IN THE GODSTONE AREA

David Williams, Finds Liaison Officer

Volunteers are required for a fieldwalking survey of an extensive Romano-British site in east Surrey. The survey, which is being carried out as part of the operation of the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Surrey, is expected to take place in early October, after sowing, but the precise date cannot be determined until closer to the time. It is expected that the survey will be run along the lines of the Chiddingfold villa survey with some of the material being disposed of back onto the field. Unlike that survey, however, for the moment at least, only a sample transect across the site will be made.

The site has already yielded a quantity of material covering the whole of the Roman

period, as well as a small amount of earlier and later material.

To correspond with the landowner's wishes the location of the site cannot be divulged in the Bulletin and no report on the survey will be published beyond informing those immediately involved. Participants will be asked not to spread the location of the site or details of the survey and will participate on this clear understanding. Further details will be provided closer to the time. There will be a limit to the number of participants but this is yet to be agreed. It is also hoped to provide some sort of temporary cover for the work of sorting and weighing.

In the meantime could any intending participants please contact me in writing via Flat 5, 20 Somers Road, Reigate.

TELEGRAPH HILL, CLAYGATE

Rose Hooker

The landscape survey of Telegraph Hill has been put to bed for the summer, due to the aggressive nature of the undergrowth. We have concentrated on laying out the framework for more intensive surveying in the autumn, when we also hope to arrange at least one training day using the theodolite recently presented to the Society by the Plateau Group. An enthusiastic core group has now formed but new recruits will always be welcome and the date for the start of the new season will be announced in the Bulletin for all those who might be interested.

SURREY HISTORY CENTRE

A RARE GLIMPSE OF SURREY'S PAST CAUGHT ON CAMERA

Di Stiff, Archivist (Collections Development)

Surrey History Centre and The South East Film and Video Archive have just launched their first commercial film project entitled ***Surrey on Film 1914-1953: A Community in Peace and War***, produced by from films and archive material in their holdings.

This fascinating compilation of films brings together rare moving images of Surrey in the first half of the 20th century. They have been selected around the theme of community and show towns, villages and families celebrating in times of peace and coming together in response to the stress of two World Wars. They really capture the experiences of ordinary people across the county as they react to some of the great events of the century and are full of poignant moments that bring the past vividly to life. One such example is an amateur film of the Gowlland family of Croydon during World War II, as on the 9th of May 1945, it includes the *Telegraph* newspaper headline 'Germany Capitulates', after which Union Jacks appear all down the street and blackout boards are hauled out for burning".

The films featured are spread across the county and begin with a procession through Godalming, once thought to be c1913 but which has now been dated to December 1911, making it one of the earliest surviving moving images of a Surrey town. Other films featured are:

Women War Workers at Cross Farm, Shackleford, World War I

Presentation of a Red Cross ambulance, Godalming, 1917

Reigate Borough Carnival 1926 (including a giant Horse of Troy with fighting Greeks and Trojans)

Empire Day at the Southern Railway Servants' Orphanage, Woking (now Woking Homes), 1933

Primrose Road, Hersham celebrating the Silver Jubilee of King George V, 1935

The Emberton family of Chobham, 1936-1938

War Weapons Week Parade, Walton on Thames, 1941

Surrey Land Club in Reigate, 1942

Civil Defence in Leatherhead during World War II

Horley Cricket Club Coronation Fete, 1953

The video can be purchased from Surrey History Centre, price £10, DVD £15 (special price for schools of £7.50 and £12). For further details please contact: Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking, GU21 6N Tel: 01483 518737

Email: shs@surreycc.gov.uk Website: www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreyhistoryservice

The full-length versions of the films used in the compilation and others in the archive film collection can be viewed at the Surrey History Centre. Film can be very fragile and we are always looking to preserve further Surrey footage. If any readers have Surrey films that they would like to deposit with us we would be happy to hear from them.

EXCAVATION

There is sometimes the suggestion that the Society does not offer as much excavation experience as it used to, particularly in the days before PPG16, but although projects need to have clear research aims and objectives, and costs have increased dramatically, the Society still endeavours to carry out a number of digs each year (some of which are of short duration, and some longer). I would like to take this opportunity to flag up one of the Society's ongoing excavations which began in May 1998. Work takes place on Sunday mornings from about May to September, and there is an annual fee of just £10 to help cover costs.

In 1903, Walter Johnson and William Wright, in their book *Neolithic Man in North-East Surrey*, reported that "*our best discoveries were made in a field not far distant from the Tumble Beacon tumulus, on a spot which was evidently the camp or working site of the Neolithic inhabitants of this district*", and two later books also mentioned artefacts found in the vicinity. The Tumble Beacon, in Banstead, has been suggested as the largest Bronze Age barrow in the county, measuring about 15m wide and 2.5m high, and it was decided to start an excavation situated midway between the three documentary references to artefacts, placing the trenches in the Tattenham Way allotments and Nork Park.

Over the last seven years nine trenches have been excavated, and fieldwalking, topographic surveying and metal detector surveys have been carried out, as well as the necessary historical research. This is a very brief overview of the archaeology discovered:

Palaeolithic: One complete Lower/Middle Palaeolithic biface (an ochreous, twisted ovate) likely to date to c400,000 years ago, as well as an unfinished biface, a crude biface and several flakes, all either ochreous or white and in sharp, but often weathered, condition suggesting *near-situ* deposition, and possibly associated with a significant palaeochannel running north-west through the site.

Mesolithic: A pit in the bottom of a probable tree-throw hollow contained waste connected with tranchet axe production – tranchet flakes and very short tranchet axes, together with a tranchet axe broken during attempts to resharpen it. There was also evidence of blade manufacture, but very little evidence of microlith production. Several small deposits of blades were scattered throughout the site, and also stray Mesolithic axes and a 'Thames pick'. The interpretation is that the site was wooded and tree-throw hollows were being exploited as a source of flint, and also possibly offering shelter. Tranchet axes were produced, and blades made as a by-product, which were possibly only finished into microlithic forms elsewhere according to need

(only one microburin and two microliths have been recovered so far from the site itself). The highest survival of Mesolithic archaeology is in either pit deposits or on areas of land surface that survive in a network of small palaeochannels or gullies crossing the site.

Neolithic/Bronze Age: A Neolithic transverse arrowhead was found 30m away from two Neolithic flint axes, one of which was ground and rechipped, while the other is a square-ended axe of Scandinavian type, made from a pink flint coming from either Scandinavia or the eastern coast of England. Several thousand Bronze Age struck flints have been recovered, as well as sherds of Bronze Age pottery. The other notable Bronze Age finds are a barbed-and-tanged arrowhead in a non-local flint, and a siltstone pendant with bevelled edges and hourglass perforation that had been placed in a deposit at a depth of 1m. Technologically this has parallels with Early Bronze Age bracers or wrist-guards, and the only other British example was recovered from a barrow at Aldbourne, Wiltshire in 1879. The location of this deposit some 425m from the Tumble Beacon further along the visible top of the dip-slope of the North Downs, may suggest the presence of funerary activity. Two thumbnail scrapers were recovered 20m away from the pendant, and are typical of the Beaker culture, although their basic craftsmanship suggests that they were for domestic use, rather than funerary deposits. Most of the Neolithic/Bronze Age flint consists of scrapers, awls, and occasional axe fragments. There is a very high percentage of retouched material (about 20%) suggesting long use of the site and re-use of debitage.

Iron Age: Pottery, in a variety of fabrics and finishes, survives generally as very small sherds beneath the ploughsoil. The presence of later prehistoric pottery in the ploughsoil itself is slight, presumably having been lost through weathering. The range of fabrics might suggest that the sherds were deposited with field-manuring, rather than indicating Iron Age habitation on the site itself.

Romano-British: Approximately 500 sherds of pottery have been found, and with the exception of one sherd, all are late forms dating to the 3rd to 5th centuries, mainly low-status Alice Holt wares, but also including Oxford mortaria, Oxford colour-coated, and Nene Valley wares. A significant proportion of Portchester 'D' and Late Roman Grog-tempered wares suggests the use of the site into the early 5th century. No ceramic/stone building material has been found, but the relatively tight spread of pottery, and possible RB whetstone fragments, is aligned perpendicular to a sunken lane, running along the crest of the dip-slope, which probably dates to the prehistoric period. A coin of Constantine II (AD 346(350) minted in Alexandria and found in a nearby garden on the alignment of the pottery spread appears to date from the same phase, although an account of recent finds of other coins, or indeed Evelyn's famous reference to a Roman town near Sir Christopher Buckle's (the house was about 150m away) have not led to the discovery of any major local site. The interpretation is that these finds represent the artefacts from a late Roman farmhouse, probably aligned on the sunken lane. Notable finds have included a fragment of a possible beehive, and a late Alice Holt rim form not previously recorded. A single sherd of 1st to 2nd century pottery may either have been an heirloom, or the result of field-manuring from an early RB site discovered 700m away to the south.

Anglo-Saxon and Medieval: One sherd of Anglo-Saxon organic-tempered pottery has been found, although Anglo-Saxon activity locally is mainly represented by the large number of burials, both as barrow inhumations, cremations and the cemetery at Headley Drive. Several hundred sherds of medieval pottery appear to derive from field-manuring or dumping from the nearby manor house of Great Burgh, which was demolished and replaced by the current building some distance to the north, and most are either 11th or 12th century wares with tempers such as chalk, flint or shell, Earlswood-type wares, or 12th/13th century Grey/Brown sandy ware. The latter

outnumbers sherds of Surrey whitewares, suggesting a change in deposition practice. It could be speculated that it was at the time of the Black Death that the site obtained its title map name of 'Great Meadow', suggesting a lessening of agricultural intensity and change in field-manuring practice. The site is covered with a very large number of medieval tile fragments, possibly related to major building work on the manor house in the Elizabethan period. The most significant find has been a ceramic foot from a knight finial – the foot is depicted in chain-mail and is quite likely to have been made by 'John Pottere' at Cheam, as there is a documentary reference of 1372 referring to two such knight finials being bought, at 1s. each, for use on Banstead manor house in the adjacent manor. The knight finial would have depicted a knight on horseback, situated as finials on the gable ends of the manor house. Based on documentary evidence from records held at the Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art in New York, a trench was dug in Nork Park to look for the medieval church of Burgh, the location of which had been lost since the 18th century. The excavation revealed a series of pebble and chalk floors, but it is still unclear whether this represents the church or another building. Elsewhere, excavations in a former pond containing an island in Nork Park suggested that it was originally a 12th century sandpit, located for extracting a very localised deposit of coarse sand and its value as a later pond destroyed by tree-roots from the surrounding Victorian arboretum.

Post-Medieval: The site is dominated by the proximity of Nork House, now destroyed: a grand country house built by the Buckle family c1720. Finds have included a wig-curler dated to c1800, post-medieval pottery, hundreds of clay pipe fragments (including one decorated redware example), and a silver sixpence dated 1583. A survey was carried out of a 18th/19th century soft-water filtration and storage system, later used as an air-raid shelter in the Second World War. One of the most recent finds was a badge of the Royal Air Force Escaping Society.

This Year's Excavations: We will be concentrating on the later prehistoric aspects, and our work will be particularly suitable for people wishing to obtain experience with lithics, although as shown by the previous finds, anything could turn up. There is parking 50m from the site, an ASDA within walking distance, and we even have a picnic table for lunch! The basic geology is Thanet Sand, so the trowelling is easy, although as it can get saturated we ask people to telephone in advance to check that the dig is on. The excavation runs from around 9.30am to 1pm on Sundays, sometimes followed by fieldwalking or surveying in the afternoon. Excavators do not have to attend full sessions and can fit it around other commitments. It is not necessary to be a member of the society to take part, and the £10 fee covers the whole year.

For further information, e-mail Stella Hill of the Plateau Group: stellahill@nutwood66.fsnet.co.uk

The site is also listed in *Current Archaeology's* Directory of British Digs. For a small additional fee excavators can also attend the meetings and field-trips of the Plateau Group

PUBLICATIONS

Aspects of Archaeology and History in Surrey: Towards a research framework for the county, edited by Jonathan Cotton, Glenys Crocker & Audrey Graham

Members will shortly be receiving a copy of the above book, officially launched by David Miles, Chief Archaeologist at English Heritage, at a special meeting held at Southwark Cathedral to mark the Society's 150th anniversary. The volume contains

a number of the papers originally presented at a weekend conference held at the University of Surrey, Guildford, in June 2001. Other papers were specially commissioned to plug gaps or pursue specific themes, but all follow the lead given at the 2001 conference in attempting to provide a more rounded picture of the county's past.

The eighteen contributions explore a wide range of topics including, for example, the prehistoric and Roman perceptions and uses of the Surrey landscape; the historic county's Saxon origins, its medieval manors and vernacular architecture; and the diverse impacts wrought upon it by royal landholding, London, industry and the Second World War. *Aspects* is certain to be of interest to members, and takes its place alongside the Society's 1987 volume *Archaeology in Surrey to 1540*, edited by David Bird and Joanna Bird, as a statement of current knowledge.

However, its publication is not the end of the story, as the word 'towards' in its subtitle makes clear. For the Society is determined to push on to the formulation of an archaeological research agenda and, beyond that, to the formulation of a research strategy which sets out priorities and the methods of achieving them. Indeed, discussions are already under way for a follow-up conference, likely to be held in the autumn of 2005. Furthermore, it is to be hoped that the deliberations from this and subsequent meetings will feed into a wider archaeological research framework for the south-east region (Kent, Surrey and East and West Sussex), which is itself at the planning stage.

For now, however, the Society is grateful to all those involved in the production of *Aspects*, and in particular to David Miles and English Heritage for wholeheartedly supporting the venture from the outset.

LECTURES, SYMPOSIA AND VISITS COMMITTEE

HERSTMONCEUX CASTLE

Thursday 22nd to Sunday 25th July 2004

For three nights, or any combination of these dates.

Herstmonceux Castle in East Sussex is a 15th Century brick-built moated castle, set in beautiful parkland and superb Elizabethan gardens, and is a popular conference and wedding venue. It is not generally open to the public and is used in term time as an International Study Centre by its Canadian owners, Queen's University. It has a purpose built Hall of Residence in the grounds of the estate, which provides excellent and high standard accommodation. Breakfast and Dinner are taken in the Great Hall and in the evenings we have a private room in the Castle for talks, slides and videos, together with the use of '*The Headless Drummer*', the Castle's own personal pub. Also within the grounds lies the former home of the world-famous Greenwich Observatory. This is now open to the public and has been converted into a Science Centre and Discovery Park.

Other visits to include:

Lewes + Mount Caburn and Glyde

The Pre-Raphaelite Trail: East Sussex churches

Dallington: The Sugarloaf: one of Mad Jack Fuller's Follies

Wartling: Cold War Bunker

Battle Abbey

Beauport Park Roman Bath House

Brede Pumping Station or Hastings

**Cuckmere Haven Coastal Path: Birling Gap, Belle Tout
and Beachy Head**

Prices from £45 per person per night.

	<i>En Suite</i>		<i>Standard</i>	
	3 nights	per night	3 nights	per night
Single Room	£205	£69	£140	£47
Twin Room	£180	£60	£135	£45
Double Room	£165	£55	—	—

These prices are per person, inclusive of Dinner, Bed, and Breakfast. Meals are taken in the Great Hall of the castle.

En Suite Rooms have a telephone, T.V., tea/coffee, and either bath or shower facilities in the room. Standard Rooms have no telephone or TV in the room, and have shared kitchen, lounge, shower and wash facilities.

Prices include talks/ lectures on sites we are to visit. Also included is a guided tour of Herstmonceux Castle, and admission to any English Heritage sites. You are responsible for any extras incurred, such as drinks, teas, newspapers, phone calls.

Transport will be in private cars; lift shares can be arranged. No insurance has been taken out, as this is a voluntary fieldtrip.

A deposit of £20 per person is required ASAP to secure your booking. The balance to be paid before 1st July. If you are interested or want to know more please do let me know, Tel: 01483 420575 or liz.whitbourn@btinternet.com

LECTURE MEETINGS

7th July

"World Heritage Sites with special reference to Britain" by Richard Butler to the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society at St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 7.45 for 8pm.

13th July

"Earthworks in the Landscape of Surrey - Pre-history to the nineteenth century" by Judie English to the Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society in the Lower Hall of the Friends' Meeting House, Eden Street, Kingston upon Thames at 8pm. Visitors £1.30.

29th July

"Three Hundred Years of Mud and Crime: the work of parish constables and highway surveyors in Surrey" by Ron Cox to the Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society in the Main Hall of the Literary Institute, Egham High Street at 8pm.

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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*.

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