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SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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MUSING ON THE MESOLITHIC. Nick Branch of ArchaeoScape in a test pit through the buried soil at Bletchingley

AN IMPORTANT MESOLITHIC SITE AT BLETCHINGLEY

Summer Excavations 2005

North Park Farm, Bletchingley is a sand quarry located on the Folkestone Beds sand, just to the south of the North Downs, in East Surrey. The quarry has been operational for many years, but the current work relates to an extension which began in 2001. Evaluation by trial trenching took place and this indicated a general background of archaeological activity. A condition was therefore attached to the planning consent requiring topsoil stripping under archaeological supervision, followed by sampling and recording. Five hectares of controlled stripping revealed a scattering of features and artefacts, including material of all periods from the Neolithic to the early medieval.

The most exciting evidence to emerge was, however, of Mesolithic date. This included the unusual and important discovery of a series of pits, some in clusters, but an even more significant, and entirely unexpected, finding was a buried soil containing only material of Mesolithic date. This soil lay within a topographic hollow (technically, a valley head depression) occupying an area of around one hectare. English Heritage agreed to fund an evaluation of the hollow through the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund so as to establish the significance of the site.

The evaluation revealed that the buried soil had a complex formation process both during, and perhaps prior to, Mesolithic activity. *In situ* evidence was revealed for flint working at several of the sampled locations, and there was also evidence of fires and/or cooking activities. Repeated visits were evidently paid to the area from around 8000BC to around 4300BC. The evaluation demonstrated that the hollow is unusual and important, and it is difficult to find any comparable sites.



Despite their activities extending over 4000 years, Mesolithic people have left no visible trace on the landscape. Their camps, whether for the summer or a few days, rarely seem to have involved activities that had substantial below ground impact. The result is that the vast majority of evidence for Mesolithic society consists of isolated scatters of flint artefacts. Set against this background, the discoveries at North Park Farm provide a remarkable contrast. They reveal a single site that was visited repeatedly by these communities for millenia, showing the development and maintenance of tradition over a length of time that is hard to comprehend. The preservation of this evidence within and beneath a buried soil means that North Park Farm has a sequence and variety of evidence that is unique.

Excavations 2005

A detailed programme of excavation has now been devised in order to explore this evidence as fully as possible, and will be taking place between June and October of this year. The project is being run by the Surrey County Archaeological Unit in conjunction with ArchaeoScape (Royal Holloway College), who have particular responsibility for the palaeoenvironmental and scientific dating programmes. The quarry is owned and managed by WBB Minerals Ltd, and they were responsible for funding the work in the quarry prior to the evaluation of the hollow, and they are now jointly funding the present work with English Heritage, who are using funds allocated to them through the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund.

The dig will have a number of areas of community involvement and outreach. In particular, there will be opportunities for training and participation by volunteers in the work during August and September. Full details will be available shortly.

If you think that you would be interested we would be very pleased to hear from you. Please contact Nowal Shaikhley at the Surrey County Archaeological Unit (130 Goldsworth Road, Woking, GU21 6ND; telephone 01483 518779; e-mail nowal.shaikhley@surreycc.gov.uk).

NEW MAPPING RESOURCES FOR SURREY ARCHAEOLOGISTS

David Stokes

Recently some useful mapping resources have become available to help amateur archaeologists in Surrey. The originals are all in colour and thus easy to interpret. With all these resources you can pan and zoom across the landscape and select a map centred on any point and view at any scale up to the maximum.

Mapping. The Ordnance Survey 1:25000 Explorer maps are now available online and tiles can be downloaded free. The map will display the National Grid reference of anything you point to with the mouse.

Surrey County Council have made available online their GIS map of the county. It is interactive so that you can choose to display contours, parish boundaries, etc. It will display grid references and calculate distances between points. But what may be of most interest to archaeologists is that for the first time it gives access to the OS 1:2500 maps online – both instantly and free of charge.

Tiles of 1873 OS maps are still viewable at www.old-maps.co.uk

Aerial Photographs. For a while now it has been possible to view and download aerial photographs free of charge from Multimap. These images have a resolution of 2m and cover approximately 1km squares and print at a scale of 1:5000.

Alternatively you can buy the complete same set of aerial photographs of any county from getmapping (High in the Sky CDs for about £20). These give several advantages – principally in the ability to pan and zoom quickly and seamlessly. You

can view as a single image an area at any scale ranging from the complete county right down to 1:5000. You can also centre the image on any point. The CD comes with tools that will give you the National Grid references of anything you point to; and will calculate the distance between any two points.

As can be seen the resolution of the Multimap image and the GetMapping CD is not really sufficient to identify objects of house size or smaller – so you are unlikely to be able to spot crop marks showing Iron Age roundhouses but is nevertheless very useful for landscape studies.

The SCC GIS map now includes superb high-resolution aerial photography. The whole county is also available on a CD which I believe costs several thousand pounds – you might find it in a library or the Surrey History Centre.

Restrictions. The online maps and aerial photographs display only one tile at a time. If a larger area is required, it is possible, although time consuming, using a graphics software package to seamlessly join together several of these tiles.

Although the resources are very useful for planning and investigating sites they cannot be used in your eventual publication since they all have copyright restrictions regarding publishing – even making multiple copies.

URLs

Ordnance Survey	www.getamap.co.uk/getamap/
Multimap	www.multimap.com
Getmapping	www.getmapping.com
SCC Interactive	www.surreycc.gov.uk/maps

CHIDDINGFOLD ROMAN SITE

David Bird

Among the many curious aspects of the Roman site at Chiddingfold are several circular stone-lined ‘tanks’ (so-called by the excavator, T S Cooper). One of the best-preserved examples is described as ‘3 feet 6 inches [c1m] deep with a stone foundation [presumably base]; the sides were also stoned to the full depth in regular courses, and the opening was 2 feet [c0.60m] square’. They do not seem to be wells but their purpose is obscure. Most of them apparently straddled or were set into walls of buildings. Although this implies that they may not be Roman, it is difficult to suggest a context for them at a later date.

It is of interest, therefore, to note a possible parallel from recent excavations in Southwark. The Roman-period roadside cemetery adjacent to Watling Street, found at 165 Great Dover Street in 1996, included a structure interpreted as a temple-mausoleum. The possible *cella* was about 3m square. ‘To the north-west was a partly robbed, stone-lined well 0.80m in diameter and with a base at 0.00m OD. The well appeared to have been built as an integral part of the northern corner of the *cella*’. The excavator could not find a parallel but in view of the context considered the possibility of a ritual use, although there was nothing from the backfill of undoubted ritual significance (Mackinder 2000, 9-11).

There are obvious similarities between the Great Dover Street circular structure and those at Chiddingfold. Although the former is described as a well it seems to be very shallow. The religious aspect of the site as a whole is therefore of interest in any consideration of the possibility of a wider ritual use for the complex of buildings at Chiddingfold (Bird 2002).

Bird, D, 2002, ‘Chiddingfold Roman villa: a suggested reinterpretation’, *SyAC*, **89**, 245-8.
Mackinder, A, 2000, *A Romano-British cemetery on Watling Street. Excavations at 165 Great Dover Street, Southwark, London*. Museum of London Archaeology Studies Series 4.

During the second (2004/5) season of landscape survey a limited search of documentary sources was made.

The Eynsham Cartulary of 1005 gives the bounds for Esher that include, on the east, *mela hulle* – most probably Telegraph Hill. Professor R.A. Coates of Sussex University has interpreted the name either as the hill of speaking (a name for a meeting place, perhaps of a hundred or similar) or meaning multicoloured, mottled. Either is possible – the Kingston Hundred boundary crosses the hill and the geology of Claygate Beds gives a mottled appearance to the soil.

By 1241 the hill has become *Hengesteshill* (Assize Rolls), and variations on the name occur through to *Hynkeshill* in 1539¹. Bryant's map of Surrey (1823) shows a wood on the north slope called *Hinslet Wood*, and in 1843 the Tithe Awards name different areas as Hinks Hill Wood and Close, Upper Hinks Hill, Coopers Hill and Beggars Hill. It seems possible therefore that the northern slope became wooded by the early 18th century and this is supported by evidence within the wood. Amongst the now dominant oak and sycamore are 25 elderly sweet chestnut trees that appear to be the remains of a plantation grown for timber. The largest tree can be estimated at 325 years giving a planting date of around 1680.

From 1058 to 1527 Claygate was part of the endowment of the Almonry of Westminster Abbey and the muniments room of the Abbey holds over 200 related documents. The index descriptions enabled us to select a few of the most promising which Judie English has transcribed to give a tantalising glimpse of medieval Claygate. Of particular interest is a grant² of 1283 concerning an acre of land with appurtenances in Claygate lying in the common field before the Great Gate of the Court of Claygate; a 1284 account³ of the Abbey Mills listing one in Claygate, sadly without detail, and a 1328 account⁴ of repairs to a solar, chapel and dovecote which required 250 bundles of lathes, 200 bundles of heart lathes, 600 plain tiles and a quantity of angle tiles. Clearly there was a building of considerable importance in this small community.

An extent of the Manor⁵ in 1341 lists open fields, woods and their tenants, some of which have local place names; further research may enable identification. Other documents mention people whose names refer to the hill; *Peter de Hencsesnull* was a witness c1300 and *John de Henxhull* was a tenant in 1351. The name ending *atte Hulle* occurs quite often within the manor, as does *atte Mersche* – at the Marsh.

Later manorial records held at Surrey History Centre indicate that Claygate extended further to the north than the present boundary of Telegraph Hill. The volume 'Manors of Claygate and Ditton 1783-1866'⁶ has a terrier of 'a customary piece ... of land situate ... in the Upper Hook in Claygate'. This open field is north of Telegraph Hill extending east to Claygate Lane. A court roll of the Manor of Claygate 1735⁷ deals with 'one messuage ... and diverse lands ... being in Thames Ditton Marsh within this Manor'. Among the Speer Family papers⁸ is a lease of 1819 giving a schedule of fields at Claygate Marsh which can be identified from the Tithe map as the Couchmore Farm area. These lands may have been lost when Claygate was formed as an ecclesiastical parish from Thames Ditton in 1841.

References

- 1 The Place Names of Surrey
- 2 WAM Accession no. 1870
- 3 WAM Accession no. 18829
- 4 WAM Accession no. 18973
- 5 WAM Accession no. 27228
- 6 SHC ref. 1280/3
- 7 SHC ref. G165/58/6
- 8 SHC ref. 3400/1/37-40 and 3400/4/1

COUNCIL NEWS

NEW MEMBERS

Susan Janaway

A special welcome to the following new members. I have again included principal archaeological interests, where they have been given on the membership application form. I hope this will be useful for the Society's Local Secretaries and Committee Chairmen.

Name	Address	Principal Archaeological Interests
Allen, Mr S	1 Royston Avenue Byfleet, KT14 7PR	
Boyton, R J	43 Blencarn Close Goldsworth Park Woking, GU21 3RW	History and archaeology of the Woking and Guildford area. Writing a history of Horsell
Bradford Gibson, Mrs E	Chennells The Green Dunsfold, GU8 4NB	Local History, specifically Dunsfold
Brumfit Mrs A	24 Oakfield Drive Reigate Hill RH2 9NR	Landscape
Cattermole, Mrs M	4 Critchmere Vale Haslemere GU27 1PS	Local History, Archaeology, Industrial History
Cox, Dr Barry	Forge Cottage 11 Blacksmith Close Ashtead KT21 2BD	Village history, timber-framed buildings
Marchant, Mrs J E	Corby Gate 3 Lissoms Road Chipstead CR5 3LE	British History
Micklewaite, Mr J	Friars Elm Dogkennel Green Ranmore Common Dorking, RH5 6SU	
Pooke, Mr and Mrs	32 Barnby Road Knaphill Woking, GU21 2NH	Roman
Pringle, Miss S	195 Ruskin Park House Champion Hill London SE5 8TN	Roman archaeology in particular
Stephenson, Mr R	21 The Rise Tadworth KT20 5PT	Public archaeology, archaeology of London Boroughs historically part of Surrey, esp. Southwark
Turrall-Clarke, Mr R	Homestead Farmhouse Pockford Road Chiddingfold, GU8 4XS	

Council Meeting 22nd April 2005

David Williams was co-opted as a member of Council. Mr D Turner, Chairman of the Finance Committee, reported on the continuing negotiations for the future management of the Society's investments. Mr A Sargent, Honorary Treasurer, reported that the 150th Anniversary Appeal was expected to raise about £10,000; the basis of the Appeal was that the funds raised should, in due course, be applied for the benefit of the Library.

Concern was expressed about the ending of a course at Surrey University leading to a BSc degree that included archaeology; representations had been made to the Vice-Chancellor of the University and to the appropriate Head of School.

The Society had been represented at a seminar about the draft South East Plan. The Plan was criticised because of its focus on commercial development and the associated infrastructure, especially housing; there was little or no recognition of the need to conserve the historical and archaeological heritage of the South East. Also severely criticised was the flawed public consultation process.

A small committee had been set up to consider how membership of the Society might be encouraged; the present total membership in all categories is 929. Another small committee was proposed to examine how publicity about the Society might be improved. Reports were received from the Society's Committees generally and from the Society's representatives on outside bodies. A variety of other matters were also discussed.

The next meeting of Council will be on 15th July 2005.

LIBRARY NEWS

LIBRARY CATALOGUE ON-LINE

At last it is possible for members to gain access to most of the library catalogue by clicking the link on the Society's website.

This represents a major breakthrough, as for the first time the Society's major collection of local material is properly indexed, and accessible to interested researchers. You can search by author's name, title or subject heading. The only thing to be wary of is to remember to be as specific as possible. A search for a very general heading, eg Guildford, will not show all of the Library's many hundreds of items on the subject.

AVAILABILITY OF COUNTY JOURNALS AND MAPS

We regret to say that the county journals, and other items at present stored at the Guildford Institute, will not be accessible for approximately twelve weeks from June 1st. This is because they are having to be moved while the Institute carries out maintenance work in our storage area. Obviously we are very sorry for the inconvenience, but as moving all the material to Cranleigh was not felt to be a practical proposition, we really have very little alternative, and we hope members will bear with us.

On a brighter note, we wonder if members realize that the Library's large collection of Ordnance Survey and other sheet maps, which used to be at Cranleigh, are now back at Castle Arch and are fully accessible again.

SURREY HISTORY CENTRE

NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK

Free Art Workshops

July 16th

A series of free art workshops will be held at the Surrey History Centre to launch a county-wide drawing competition in which children and young people will be encouraged to draw their favourite artefacts at their local museum. The age categories will be 5-10, 11-14 and 15-18 years old. Places on the workshops are limited, but any child or young person can enter the competition. Prize giving and free archaeology workshops, run by Julian Richards of *Meet the Ancestors*, will be held at the Centre on 10th September.

Contact Nowal Shaikhley for further information. Tel: 01483 518779.

NETWORKERS FOR ARCHAEOLOGY

YEARLY REVIEW

As many of you are probably aware, for some time there has been concern about the lack of younger people joining and being involved in the society. The participation of younger people in archaeology is both desirable and essential to the future of the society. A year ago, Trudy Cole and Becky Lambert, with the support of the committee set up '**Networkers for Archaeology**', a sub-group of SyAS aimed at encouraging involvement, providing a means of communication and a social group for those aged 18-35. As it is just over a year since the 'Networkers' began, we thought it was appropriate to summarise what we have been up to over the last 12 months!



The original idea for the group was to have a series of informal and specifically archaeological lectures in an easily accessible location, followed by a social gathering at a local pub. Consequently we have had some informative sessions either at Guildford museum, or Guildford Institute, followed by lively debate at either the Kings Head or Three Pigeons pub. Our guest speakers have included an Australian PhD student, Tim Schadler-Hall of UCL, Mary Alexander from Guildford museum and recently Jerney Harte of Bourne Hall museum. Subjects have ranged from 'Assessing the value of artefacts' to 'Structural deposition and Roman holy wells'. These events have been a success although having had mixed attendance, ranging from 2 people to 20.

Field visits are proving to be very popular and we have had a tour of the Iron Age hillfort, St Annes Hill from Phil Jones and an in depth visit to Chilworth Gunpowder Mills led by Mr and Mrs Crocker. The next visit will be to the Surrey History Centre and the offices of the Surrey County Archaeological Unit.

As you can see it has been a productive and inspiring year, BUT we still need your help in several ways.

Networkers events are open to all ages, as well as members/non-members. We actively encourage this as it allows communication between different groups of people and financially ensures the continuation of the group, so if you haven't been to one of our events yet, please come along and support us. Also a number of young people have approached us regarding opportunities for practical activities and involvement in fieldwork, so if you have a project, however big or small and need volunteers please let Becky or Trudie know. Over the next six months we are hoping to organise more field trips to archaeological sites, but it is always good to have a 'tour' from somebody who knows the area, so if you feel there is an interesting site that you could talk to us about or even give a lecture on, please get in touch. Lastly, if you know a young person who is interested in archaeology but is not sure how to get involved – tell them about us!

FORTHCOMING VISIT

Surrey History Centre/Surrey County Archaeological Unit HQ,

130 Goldsworth Rd, Woking, Surrey.

Saturday 25th June – 11am-12.30pm

This visit will provide a 'behind the scenes' view of what goes on in a professional Archaeology Unit. There will be a tour of the building, demonstration of environmental archaeology/finds processing and a chance to handle artefacts excavated by the Unit, as well as ask any questions you may have about professional archaeology. This is an excellent opportunity, particularly for those studying archaeology and numbers will be limited, so contact Becky to confirm your place asap!

£2.50 for under 35's £3.50 for over 35's (Followed by drinks at the local watering hole).

Networkers contact details: rebecca.lambert@surreycc.gov.uk or (07813) 121258

MISCELLANY

TREES GROWING ON COINS

The gold coin shown on the cover of the last Bulletin is that of no 3 in the accompanying list, and not no 5. I blame the stupid editor. David Williams, who wrote the piece, has written to say that the cover coin shows the head of Apollo: "Perhaps

you thought it showed a tree, but the face, in profile, is in the bottom left hand quadrant. It's all much clearer if you tilt the image 45° clockwise".

Apologies to both David and the finder, although, squint as much as I can, the immortal one has not yet emerged from the background. Bit like those miracle images – the Virgin Mary on a stale crust of bread, and such like. Can you see him?

ROMAN RABBITS

David Sapsted

Years of division among academics over whether the Romans or the Normans introduced rabbits into Britain appears to have been resolved. An archaeological dig in Norfolk has uncovered the remains of a 2000-year-old rabbit – by far the oldest of its kind found on these shores and regarded as final proof that the creatures are now on the list of what the Romans ever did for us.

Many believed that the Normans introduced rabbits for their meat and fur. However, others have always insisted that the creatures were brought in by the Romans, citing Marcus Terrentius Varro (116-27BC) who wrote that the legions brought rabbits from Spain, where they were reared in walled enclosures and then served up as a gourmet dish.

The remains were found at Lynford, near Thetford. Jayne Brown, the manager of the Norfolk Archaeological Unit, which is conducting the dig, said: "We can date the rabbit to the first or second century AD from the pottery fragments found beside it. Some of these fragments included domestic pots which could have been used for cooking. "We could tell all the bones had been butchered."

KINGS WAYS

A letter from Keith Stanley:

There are two roads in Great Bookham that intrigue me. In her lecture to the Society (L&DHS) in October 2003 and in her guided walks around Polesden Lacey, Heloise Collier speaks of an old road, now almost totally lost, running down the valley between Effingham and West Humble. This she identifies as a king's way (or is it kings' way). In the Chertsey Abbey Cartularies there are several references to another king's way apparently running north-south through the village presumably on or near the line taken by Church Road, High Street and Dorking Road.

My understanding is (I may of course be wrong) that a king's way would have been a trackway used by, among others, king's messengers, and of sufficient importance in the national network to warrant particular legislation to ensure they be maintained in a good and passable condition. A sort of medieval trunk route perhaps. Given their undoubted importance, most such appear to have been vital trade routes also, it is perhaps slightly suprising that the one should have disappeared so completely whilst the other is now severely downgraded, severed, where it passes over the common.

Is it known what particular purposes these two ways served in their heydays and why and when they lost their importance? Were there other ways of a similar standing in the area?

A reply from D F Renn:

The way from Bookham to Dorking was called the king's highway early in the 13th century, according to the late John Harvey. What exactly was meant – and its route – is doubtful. The laws of Edward the Confessor granted the king's peace over four major roads, only one of which (Watling Street) touched Surrey. The laws of Henry I defined the width of royal road (*via regia*) leading to towns and castles; Dorking is marked on a 14th century road map in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, although the route of any road is not shewn. The Norman chapel at West Humble does point to a

steady traffic along this way, although it may have been a short distance. I suspect that 'king's highway' was a term often used loosely, especially when responsibility for upkeep, encroachment or other offences were in issue. I do not know how the royal messenger service worked in early times; it was certainly efficient: King Harold at York heard of William's invasion of Sussex only four days previously, for example. But we are talking about main roads between towns here, and it is difficult to imagine royal messengers often needing to pass between Effingham and Dorking. Beyond Dorking is the intractable Weald; there were Roman roads through it, but no large settlements before the coast.

We discussed the track across Bookham Common at a recent Society (L&DHS) meeting. I see it as the route to Chertsey Abbey, going out of regular use after the Dissolution of the monasteries, when the new lord of the manor was based to the east. The heavy clay of the woodland would have been difficult in winter, but there might have been occasional need still to reach the main London to Guildford road. I wonder how they got the timber out for Nonsuch Palace?

First published in the February 2005 Newsletter of the Leatherhead & District Local History Society, with many thanks to the editor and the authors.

DORKING LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Vivien Ettlinger

In 1967, prompted by a few enthusiasts, it was decided that the Dorking, Leith Hill and District Preservation Society (now the Dorking & District Preservation Society) should form a local history committee. Although in theory this was open to all members of the Society, in fact for the next few years it consisted of a handful of members meeting together once a month to discuss any aspect of the history of the town, or occasionally the villages, which happened to take their fancy.

A series of WEA evening classes in the early 1970s attracted a number of members not previously involved in the Local History Committee, and encouraged them to undertake some rather more serious research into the history of the district. This led to the formation of a study group, or working party as it was first known, which met monthly, independently of the self-perpetuating Committee. These early meetings were informal, but as time went on and the number of participants grew, it was thought desirable to put them on a more formal basis and after consultation with the Committee it was agreed that a new body should be formed. Thus in 1978 was born the Dorking Local History Group. It was to remain under the aegis of the Preservation Society but would be semi-autonomous, with an elected Committee and membership restricted to those members of the main Society who expressed an interest and were willing to pay a separate annual subscription, at first the modest sum of 25p.

The objects of the Group were, and are, to conduct research into the history and archaeology of Dorking and district and to record, publish and give lectures on the result of such research. Also to stimulate an interest in local history by arranging lectures, exhibitions, walks and visits.

Since 1997, membership has no longer been restricted to members of the Preservation Society and, as well as increasing local membership, this reform has brought in people from many places who have an interest in Dorking, making an average annual total of around 250. Meetings are still held monthly when we have guest speakers on relevant subjects which attract attendances of 60+. Most of these are, as in similar groups, members who enjoy being told their local history, but are otherwise not interested in discovering it for themselves, although we try to have at least two meetings a year devoted to short talks and discussions on topics related to Dorking history to which members are encouraged to contribute.

Luckily we have always had a small but enthusiastic core of members who are actively engaged in research, and the result of their work has enabled us to produce

a number of publications including an annual journal. In 1991 we were able to publish a history of the town, something which was badly needed as nothing similar had appeared since the 19th century, and a great deal of information had been accumulated in the meantime.

Outside activities include visits to places of historic interest, guided walks of the town during Heritage weeks, mounting occasional displays at Dorking Museum, with which the History Group maintains an excellent relationship, and of course a display at the annual symposium of the Surrey Local History Committee where this year we were proud to receive the Gravett Award.

REFORM OF THE PLANNING SYSTEM IN LONDON

The new Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act is replacing the system under which each London borough had its own Unitary Development Plan, very recently overlaid by the Mayor's Spatial Development Strategy (or 'London Plan'). Each borough, like local planning authorities elsewhere in England and Wales, will in future have to prepare a Local Development Scheme, under which there will be Local Development Documents setting out the borough's policies relating to the development and use of land in the area, and including a 'Statement of Community Involvement'. The Statement of Community Involvement will set out the standards to be achieved by the borough in involving the community in the preparation, alteration and continuing review of all local development documents and planning applications. It is to be a clear public statement enabling the community to know how and when they will be involved and consulted. It should identify the community groups that need to be involved and the techniques required to involve them effectively, both informally and formally.

Among the Local Development Documents will be a 'core strategy' setting out the key elements of the planning framework for the area, a spatial strategy, core policies, and a monitoring and implementation framework, with clear objectives for achieving delivery. It must be kept up-to-date and, once adopted, all other development plan documents must be in conformity with it.

The core strategy is to set out the long term spatial vision for the authority's area and the strategic policies required to deliver that vision. It should seek to implement the spatial and transport policies of the regional spatial strategy (ie, for London, the Mayor's London Plan) and incorporate its housing requirement. It should set out broad locations for delivering the housing and other strategic development needs such as employment, retail, leisure, community, essential public services and transport development.

These documents will be subject to independent examination and the Inspector's decision will be binding on the borough. Archaeological societies should discover what their local authorities are doing and try to ensure that the documents they prepare give sufficient attention to the historic environment. Specific mention of the historic environment in government guidance hitherto seems limited, but there are openings which local societies can use to get it better recognized.

Reprinted from the SCOLA Newsletter, Autumn 2004.

THE GREATER LONDON ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADVISORY SERVICE (GLAAS)

Last summer saw a continuous flow of planning applications, but perhaps fewer translating into active fieldwork. There are a number of ambitious tall buildings schemes, particularly to achieve the Mayor's residential building densities, and these take some time to get through the planning process.

The rapid implementation of the Environmental Impact Assessment for the Olympics Bid was a challenge for all parties to prepare and comment on within the timescale. Meanwhile English Heritage has commissioned a rapid Characterisation of the entire Thames Gateway regeneration area. It is hoped that this will be taken on board by the Urban Development Corporations, and other bodies charged with steering the regeneration. Further infrastructure will be needed to support these areas, and we have commented on the Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed new Thames bridge.

Mark Stevenson has successfully steered through a bid to the European Union for funds under the Interreg III scheme linking the Woolwich Arsenal with other sites in Malta, Spain, Estonia and Denmark. SHARP – the Sustainable Historic Arsenal Regeneration Programme – will look at common regeneration schemes such as the reuse of historic buildings, industrial archaeology, decontamination, and encouraging public access.

Notable archaeological discoveries recently have been the identification of an apparent Roman road at Leyton; and the discovery of Bronze Age timbers in the Lea Valley, at Edmonton, that are being interpreted as a possible ‘crannog’.

Meanwhile the future location of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (including the Greater London Sites and Monuments Records) is still under review, with an external review about to be commissioned, leading to considerable uncertainty.

The London Region of English Heritage, part of the Planning and Development Department, is being re-organised as a whole, with the post of Regional Director vacant and being advertised. The Historic Buildings Inspectors and Historic Areas Advisers are to be re-organised from 3 into 4 teams, each with a team leader. These will report to a Head Team Leader, Paddy Pugh, who will report to the Regional Director. Others in the region, such as strategic planners and GLAAS, will report direct to the Regional Director.

The former Regional Director, Philip Davies, has been promoted to ‘Territorial Director – South’ overseeing the work of the South East and London Regions. He will report to the departmental Director, Steve Bee. Certain aspects of the Department’s activities, such as Heritage Protection (headed by Roger Bowdler), and financial arrangement, will be brigaded at the territorial level. Management of our Heritage Properties – as ‘Visitor Operations’ – is now within the Properties and Outreach Department. The Research and Standards Department, including English Heritage’s national archaeology remit, is being re-organised; details should be available shortly.

Note: According to Dr Thurley, its Chief Executive, the aim of the re-organisation is to make English Heritage “a sharper, fitter, faster-acting and more client-focussed organisation ... setting standards and promoting best practice and making sure that the benefits of a healthy historic environment are understood at the heart of government.” SCOLA is particularly concerned at the uncertainty being faced by the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, and is pressing to be fully consulted in the course of the external review.)

Rob Whytehead in SCOLA Newsletter Autumn 2004.

ROSEMARY NICHOLSON MBE 1919-2004

Rosemary Nicholson has been a person of great significance in Lambeth’s recent history. Without her, the church of St Mary at Lambeth* would no longer exist, nor would we have the Museum of Garden History that occupies the building.

She was born in 1919 and much of her childhood was in South Africa and India. At the beginning of WW2 she married John, then a dashing young naval officer, and

soon started a family, remaining a housewife, if very active, until the Tradescant Trust loomed. They lived in Chelsea and attended the Old Church.

The Nicholsons became interested in the Tradescants, gardeners and ambassadors to Charles I and Charles II. Their research soon brought them over Lambeth Bridge to St Mary's, deconsecrated and abandoned, its roof leaking and the churchyard an overgrown tip being used by tramps who dossed there: it was at the start of the Jubilee Walk to be opened in 1977. It was proposed to knock it down and use the site for a coach park for visitors to the Palace of Westminster.

In 1976 Rosemary, with the wholehearted help of John, took on the Church Commissioners, nominally headed by the Archbishop next door in Lambeth Palace, English Heritage and Lambeth Council. Despite its history – the tower is 13th century – and having six Archbishops buried there, the Church Commissioners had to be persuaded that the building could have a viable future: Rosemary proposed a Museum of Garden History, commemorating the Tradescants who were buried in the churchyard. She marshalled help, taking advantage of any opening that presented itself, from the high – the House of Lords does have clout – and low, soon gathering a keen band of volunteers. Even the tramps took an interest; one man very usefully recording grave stone inscriptions (many have since eroded away). She started to raise funds, writing to businesses far and wide with gardening and ecclesiastical interests; her letters – in her beautiful left hand – often got results (cheques!) instead of being put in the wastepaper basket.

Her considerable persuasive talents worked, and in 1977 she formed the Tradescant Trust with herself as Chairman (not chairwoman or chair), which position she held until 1999. She was the prime initiator and organizer of what is merely outlined here. Eventually, the Church Commissioners granted a lease. Gradually, as money was garnered, a firm of ecclesiastical architects was engaged, who made the church building habitable (the Commissioners admitting Crisis at Christmas two years in succession set this back), restored electricity, refurbished the roof, cleaned the walls and repaired the stained glass windows. The publically accessible front part of the churchyard was separated by a fence, behind which seedlings were planted to grow into the present thick hedge, from a planned 17th century garden incorporating existing graves, particularly featuring the wondrous Tradescant tomb and the classical Bligh tomb (Bligh was on a botanical mission at the time of the famous mutiny) using plants they would have known.

During the Commonwealth period between the reigns of Charles I and II, a room in the Tradescant's house (near what is now Tradescant Road off South Lambeth Road) had been set up as a museum called the 'Ark', displaying objects they had brought back from foreign expeditions. These were later to become the basis of the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford – Ashmole is buried at St Mary's.

The museum took shape, with donations and purchases of historic gardening tools and other paraphernalia. One fortunate acquisition was an iron gateway believed to have come from the Tradescant garden, now to be seen inside the porch. Functions were held from the outset, both musical (the church has good acoustics) and exhibitions; later, horticultural courses were introduced. Rosemary Nicholson was always looking for ways to advertise the museum, locally, nationally and internationally; both Tradescants had been round Europe and the Younger to Virginia, America; Bligh added an Australian interest, having become governor there. Branches of the Trust were well established in English counties in America and Australia. For all this Rosemary Nicholson was awarded a well-deserved MBE.

A building, the other side of the Lambeth Palace frontage along Lambeth Road, was purchased to ease storage problems and provide space for functions – and called the Ark. A library was started, now with quite a large collection (using Royal Horticultural

Society classification): an early acquisition was a print of the original catalogue of the Rarities at the Ark, the *Musaeum Tradescantianum* of 1656 (too costly for the funds then in hand, but bought with the help of friends).

Very early in this process, Rosemary Nicholson had been invited to speak to the Vauxhall Society – this was advertised to the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society whence I relayed it to my mother, who was arranging a series of 'Buildings of London' talks for the Townswomen's Guild at Blackheath. Rosemary came and immediately got volunteers to help – including my mother, who helped with cleaning the church of its many years of grime. My father took an interest in the clock in the tower and, pending extensive refurbishment, suggested getting it going again with an electric drive – he died before this was done and my mother carried it out in commemoration of him. As a widow, my mother was persuaded to start the shop – on one card table, gradually building it up to its present size. After SLAS's Albert Embankment dig finished, I went too and became an odd job man on Sundays for many years – other SLAS members may remember being roped in for the odd task. Rosemary Nicholson was an excellent boss, saying what needed doing then letting one get on with it; though occasionally people took advantage of her. John too was a tower of strength, sometimes literally, but also quietly doing the less glamorous jobs, particularly the financial drudgery – his decline and death in 1997 was a serious blow to Rosemary.

In 1999 Rosemary was 80 and the Trust felt it was time to have a new chairman. To her chagrin she suddenly found herself excluded from day-to-day affairs (and her files). However, her very large circle of contacts from around the world, who would all have regarded her as a friend, still rang her first.

A well-attended memorial service was held at Chelsea Old Church on 16th December 2004. The address brought out her childhood background, her strong Christian belief and a love of poetry. This was complemented by on 19th January by a Commemoration at the Museum of Garden History, with about 300 friends of the Trust in attendance. Formal proceedings began with addresses by three of the original helpers.

The first was by Dowager Marchioness of Salisbury, our host, who recalled a letter from Rosemary asking if there were any records of Tradescant the Elder for the time he had worked at Hatfield House – she soon found herself involved with the design of the Tradescant garden. She became president of the Trust, helping it with fund-raising events at Hatfield House. She went on to introduce Prince Charles, himself a keen gardener, who became Patron, and the late Queen Mother, who formally opened the Museum in 1983.

The next was Prudence Leith-Ross, who started by writing some magazine articles about the museum. She recalled how Rosemary had acquired a long out-of-print book on them, had not been able to persuade a publisher to reprint it, and in any case had found many inaccuracies in it – then had asked her to write a history of the Tradescants. This she eventually did, one year becoming four as it was researched, written and published.

The third address was by Mary Searles, a gardener in the Borough of Lambeth, who also had deplored the sad state of St Mary's in the mid 1970s, and volunteered her help. She also became involved, with John Drake, in the garden design; then with its planting and nurture. She mentioned the plant sales at which plants grown on from cuttings and seeds from the garden were sold.

After the address, Lady Salisbury led those present into the garden where she unveiled a memorial stone, mounted on the wall under the east window. It reproduces the image of a (s)well dressed gardener with his spade from a 17th century shop sign (on loan from the Museum of London).

*The medieval parish of Lambeth closely conformed to the present borough. River access was then prized, and the church was built by the Thames, where most activity was concentrated; the hinterland being relatively sparsely farmed. In the last couple of centuries the farmland has been built over and served by daughter churches, leaving a relatively small area to support the old parish church. Its last major event was enlargement in an 1850s rebuilding – not much more than a decade before the embankment and railway cut Lambeth from the riverbank, causing much depopulation in the immediate locality. Although restored after WW2 damage, maintenance was neglected and, as leaves were not cleared from the gutters, so the roof rotted. In its latter years a tradition of funding missionaries depleted St Mary's resources as an aging congregation dwindled. It was declared redundant.

Richard Buchanan

First published in the June 2005 Newsletter (no 102) of the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society, with many thanks.

CONFERENCES

MINES, QUARRIES AND TUNNELS OF THE SOUTH-EAST AND BEYOND

Juniper Hall Field Centre, Mickleham, Dorking

Friday 8th to Monday 11th July 2005

Organised by the Wealden Cave and Mining Society in association with the National Association of Mining History Societies

The conference offers a rare opportunity to visit and learn about the mining industries of Surrey and elsewhere in the south-east, and will include lectures and field visits above and below ground.

Lecture Programme:

Friday: **A Mole's Eye View of the South-East** (an underground overview) by Harry Pearman

Saturday: **Refractories and Mineral Pigment-working Hearthstones and Hearthstone Underground** (Quarries and Mines in the East Surrey Upper Greensand for refractory Stone Slabs and for Step-whitener) by Paul W Sowan.

The Wealden Iron Industry: The History of Iron Extraction in the Weald, with special reference to the mining of ore. By Jeremy Hodgkinson.

Mining Silver Sand at Reigate Castle, by Paul W Sowan.

The Princes Channel Wreck: Wealden Iron Ingots (retrieval and study of evidence from a Thames wreck). By a spokesperson from Wessex Archaeological Unit.

Sunday: **Historical Development of the Quarry Field Area and its Relationship to the Croydon, Merstham & Godstone Iron Railway** (early 19th century underground building stone quarries at the railway's terminus). By Peter M Burgess.

Diving Discoveries in the Flooded Merstham Quarries (underwater exploration in early 19th century underground building stone quarries). By Matthew Clark.

Miners in Wartime- Subterranean Military Structures in the South-East. By John Smiles.

Mole Valley Quarry Microclimates and Bat Conservation in the West Humble Underground Chalk Quarry at Mickleham. By a spokesperson from the Surrey Bat Group.

Old Quarries Below Paris. By Frederic Glinec.

Field Visits

The underground visits range from very easy (E) with no special clothing or equipment needed, to medium (M) with scrambling required underground, to hard (H) to include caving ladder pitches and full caving gear required (enquire for details). Good lamps or torches and hard hats are essential for underground visits. Helmets can be borrowed (enquire for details). There is a choice of visits each day.

Saturday: **Chaldon Quarries (H), Reigate Castle Baron's Cave and the Tunnel Road East And West Silver Sand mines (E), Godstone Hill Quarries (M), Godstone Marden Quarry and Hearthstone Mine (M), Godstone Carthorse Quarry (E).**

Sunday: **Wadhurst Snape Wood Ironstone Mine (H), Chatham Fort Amhurst (Napoleonic)(E), Westerham Hosey Common Ragstone Quarries (M), Reigate Lodge Silver Sand Mine (M), Chaldon Bedlams Bank Quarries (H), Godstone Silver Sand Mine (E), Godstone Carthorse Quarry (E), Chislehurst Chalk Mines (E), Dover Western Heights Citadel (E), Grays, Essex, Hangman's Wood Deneholes (H), Godstone Arch Quarry (H), Croydon, Merstham & Godstone Iron Railway Centenary afternoon surface walk (E) and Kew Steam Museum (E).**

Monday: **Croydon, Merstham & Godstone Iron Railway morning surface walk in Merstham; and afternoon walk at the Betchworth and Brockham Limeworks and Hearthstone Mines.**

Further details about the lectures and field visits from Paul W Sowan, Tel: 0208 681 6293.

Full information about booking instructions are available on the website <http://namho2005.wcms.org.uk> or by mail from NAMHO 2005, 13 Beaufort Road, Reigate, Surrey RH2 9DQ.

SAXON SHORE FORTS AND ROMAN MARITIME ACTIVITY

Council British Archaeology (SE)

Saturday 12th November 2005

Museum of London

A one-day conference is being organized in conjunction with the CBA(SE) AGM. The theme (title to be announced later) will be built around the Saxon Shore forts and related Romano-British maritime activity.

'ASPECTS' AND AFTER

"Aspects of Archaeology and History in Surrey" pointed the way towards a research framework for Surrey, and this forthcoming conference aims to follow this up by providing foundations for future archaeological work in Surrey.

The conference will mark the half-way stage between all the work developed or published and the eventual publication of the Research Framework itself.

So, book the date now! Flyers and application forms will shortly be available from Castle Arch and will be circulated soon.

LECTURES, SYMPOSIA AND VISITS COMMITTEE

OLD SARUM AND SALISBURY

26th June

Coach leaves Farncombe Railway Station, near Godalming at 9am, parking available nearby.

10.30 am **OLD SARUM** an inclusive guided tour around this enormous and evocative earthwork, which was in use from Neolithic to Tudor times. The huge bank and ditches contain the remains of the prehistoric fortress, Norman palace, castle and cathedral all built before the founding of New Sarum, or Salisbury, in the valley below.

The coach leaves Old Sarum at 12 noon, 2 miles to the City centre.

At Old Sarum there will be time for a picnic; alternatively there is a cafe in the Cathedral and a variety of pubs and restaurants in the City, or bring sandwiches.

Salisbury Cathedral is open to visitors between services, morning service ends approximately 12.15 and evensong starts at 3pm.

2-3.30 pm **Optional Walking Tour: 'The City and Close'**, run by an official Blue Badge guide. It is the main introductory tour for Salisbury, lasts approximately 1½ hours and costs £2 per person; please let me know if you wish to join this, as it must be pre-booked. Leaves from the Guildhall in Market Square.

For those with any energy left there is **Mompesson House** (National Trust), in The Close. An elegant 18th century house, featured in 'Sense and Sensibility', with a fine tearoom!

Admission £3.90 - adults, open: 12.30 - 5 pm.

We leave Salisbury at 5 pm.

Cost £20 – to include coach and admission to Old Sarum, plus an additional £2 for the guided walking tour – please let me know whether or not you wish to join this, as it has to be pre-booked. Please send a cheque made out to 'Mrs E Whitbourn' to: 65 Binscombe Crescent, Binscombe, Surrey, GU7 3RA. All Welcome.

For more information ring: Elizabeth Whitbourn 01483-420575; e-mail liz.whitbourn@btinternet.com

Archaeological Visit in Conjunction with the ROMAN STUDIES GROUP

SILCHESTER IN THE SUMMER

Sunday 7th August 2005

A visit to Reading University's excavations within Insula IX at the Roman town of Silchester, during the last week of the 2005 excavations.

Coach leaves Farncombe Railway Station, near Godalming, at 11am, parking available nearby.

Lunch at 'The Calleva Arms'

2pm - walk to the excavations, stopping en route at the small museum.

3pm - Exclusive guided tour from Professor Mike Fulford.

We will then carry on to walk the remainder of the walls and to the amphitheatre.

Coach leaves Silchester at 5.30 pm.

Please send a cheque to 65 Binscombe Crescent, Binscombe, Surrey, GU7 3RA, made out to Mrs E Whitbourn, for £15 per person, which will cover coach fare, guided tour and donation to site excavation funds.

For more information Tel: 01483-420575

SUMMER GUIDED WALKS

THORPE VILLAGE

Sunday 17th July 2005

Thorpe has a number of listed buildings, many of which are tucked away from sight and can be seen more easily on foot. This walk will cover the growth of the village through the years.

Some parts are available only to pedestrians. 1.5 miles, some uneven rough ground and unavoidable steps. Approximately 2 hours.

Meet at Entrance to church approach by noticeboard. Park in Coldharbour Lane near Village Hall (c50 m away). Parking is NOT allowed in Church Approach.

Under 16s to be accompanied by an adult. No dogs.

Charge £1 to include Thorpe Trail.

Public transport. Buses on Sunday only to Thorpe Park, approx. 1 mile away - nos. 442 from Staines 12.59, or Chertsey 12.06, or no. 950 every 20 minutes from Staines Rail and Bus stations.

Virginia Water Railway stn. approx. 1 mile

Contact: Jill Williams – 01932 560476

HISTORIC BOOKHAM

Saturday 6th August 2005.

The story of Bookham is bound up in its houses. The walk will pass many of them and the leader will explain something of their history and former occupants. Approximately 3 miles, fully accessible, though sometimes no pavements.

Approx. 2 hours. Meet at Lower Shott Car Park. No dogs.

Public Transport. Buses 479/489 to meeting point. Nearest station Bookham, approx. 1 mile.

Contact: Derek Renn 01372 454880

THORPE VILLAGE

Sunday 21st August

Details as for 17th July

LECTURE MEETINGS

6th June

"Aerial Photography and its Application in Historical Research" by David Graham to Woking History Society at the Mayford Village Hall, Saunders Lane, Mayford at 8 pm. Visitors welcome £2.

9th June

"The Wey and Arun Canal" by Gordon Knowles to the Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society in the Lower Hall of the Friends' Meeting House, Eden Street, Kingston at 7.30 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1.50.

16th June

"Surrey's Coin Collection Database" by Brian Wood and Norman Clarkson to the Surrey Heath Archaeological and Heritage Trust at the Archaeology Centre, Bagshot at 7.30 pm. Members £1; non-members £2.

28th June

The National Archives' Trafalgar Bicentenary lecture will be given by Professor Andrew Lambert on the relationship between Nelson, Cook and Bligh who in the late 18th century came to define the heroic and anti-heroic in naval command at the National Archives, Kew at 7 pm. Tickets £5 (concessions £4) from The National Archives, tel. 020 8392 5202.

6th July

"Guildford Castle" by Mary Alexander to Epsom and Ewell History and Archaeology Society at St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 7.45 for 8 pm.

12th July

"The Collections of Kingston Museum" by Cheryl Smith to Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society in the Lower Hall of the Friends' Meeting House, Eden Street, Kingston upon Thames at 7.30 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1.50.

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

Next Issue: Copy required by 3rd June for the July issue

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