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SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Bulletin 427

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WOKING PALACE: FINAL SEASON 2011

Processing work in progress last year

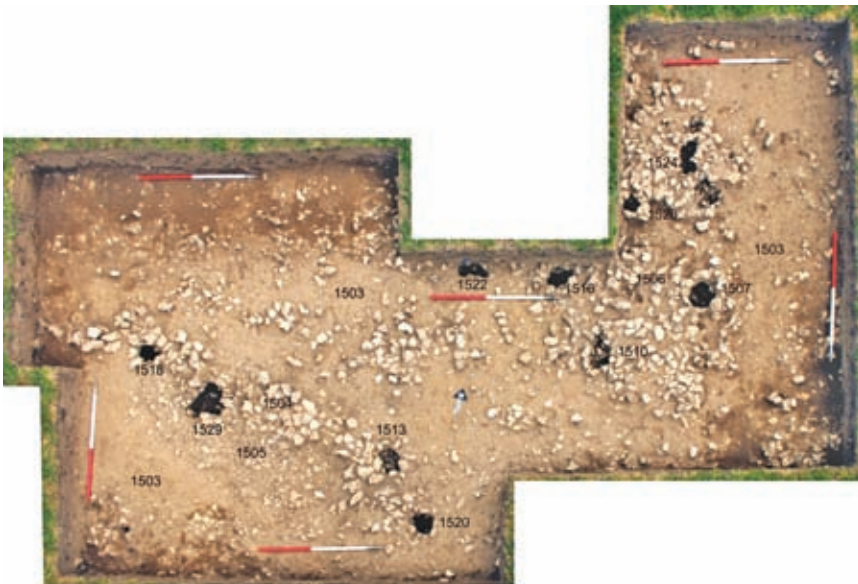
The third season of Society excavations at Flexford was held from April 4th to April 15th 2011. The site continues to reveal more surprises as more is discovered.

This year the first objective was to understand whether the large Roman ditch at the north of the site was as limited as the magnetometer had suggested. Emma Corke supervised excavations which showed that the ditch continues some distance into the neighbouring field where she found two similar but converging Roman ditches not seen by magnetometry. This raises the question of how much more may be found by excavation which the magnetometer has not identified.

The second objective was to understand more about the Roman furnaces. Alan Hall supervised excavations which located a further Roman furnace which seems to be similar to the two already identified which also had a rather unusual two metre long gully leading to the hearth. These appear to have been used for small scale iron production but we do not yet know whether the gully indicates that more than smithing took place.

The third objective was to understand the possible building floor. Nikki Cowlard supervised the excavation of a further 20m² of packed flints and found postholes, earth and flint surfaces, fragments of tegula, imbrex, floor tile and even an antefix from a ridge or eaves. Encouraging as this evidence was, the layout and purpose of the building or buildings remain a matter of conjecture. There may be more than one building and more than one phase and further work is required.

Alan Hall brought the Society's new vertical photography equipment to the site and his picture of the building floor is shown. This system greatly reduces the distortions usually associated with site photography and makes it possible to have a photographic plan of each trench as well as photographic back up which can be used to help resolve later questions about site drawings.



Flexford 2011 Trench 15 showing packed flint and earth and flint floors with post holes.

We were very fortunate to have the support of David Williams and four metal detectorists. Their patient work meant that it was possible to search the entire site for metal finds rather than just the trenches and spoil heaps and much was learned which excavation could not have revealed. This use of metal detectorists had no implications for the archaeology which is below the reach of their machines but meant that finds from the plough soil which might have been taken by others could be properly recorded and a finds distribution map produced. From their work we can see the area of the site where there seems to have been most activity and we have additional evidence that the site was active in the 2nd century. The type of finds was also unusual, with only two brooch fragments but six lead weights and what appears to be a fixing from a Roman scale pan.

The site was run by volunteers from the Roman Studies Group. Isabel Ellis and her team from AARG kindly ran the finds processing. We are very grateful to the landowner for permission to excavate and to people living near the site and the Normandy Historians for their help and encouragement.

SURREY'S EARLIEST RECORDED SUBDIVIDED FIELD? *Rob Briggs*

The November meeting of the Society's Medieval Studies Forum dedicated to the subject of agriculture in Surrey (and beyond) - summarised by Peter Balmer in *Bulletin* 424 - threw into sharp relief the patchiness of our present state of knowledge in many aspects of the topic. One particular area of deficiency concerns direct evidence for pre-Conquest arable production in Surrey. Palaeoenvironmental remains aside (mostly recovered from Early Anglo-Saxon contexts, e.g. Pat Hinton's analysis of charred plant remains in Andrews 1996, 95-99), what knowledge we do possess comes from a tiny handful of documentary sources (foremost among which has to be Bishop Denewulf of Winchester's letter to King Edward the Elder of the very early tenth century, detailing the depleted agricultural resources of the once-valuable Beddington estate in the wake of the first wave of Viking incursions: Sawyer [= S] 1444). But none of these give much indication for the manner in which cultivation was practiced in this period, a crucial failing given it was one in which it is generally held that the open-field system of arable farming (with "fields" being subdivided into strips held and cultivated by a number of different farmers) came into being (e.g. Fowler 2002, 290-92; Reynolds 1999, 155-56; Jones & Page 2006, 92-95 - but see Oosthuizen 2010, 123-27, for a considerable number of earlier examples from across England). John Blair (1991, 66) believed the earliest documentary attestations of open-field agriculture in Surrey are those found in deeds and fines of the 12th century, but he may have overlooked one valuable - and more importantly pre-Conquest - exception.

Some places outside Surrey are fortunate to have fairly obvious record of open or common fields - for instance the reference of 963 to *singulis jugeribus mixtum in communi rure huc illacque dispersis* ("single acres dispersed in a mixture here and there in common land") at *Afene* in Wiltshire (S 719; Reynolds 1999, 156) - yet these are few and far between. One source of additional written testimony for arable farming and more specifically open-field agriculture in the later Anglo-Saxon period are charter boundary descriptions. A typical example is S 673, a Berkshire charter of 959 that incorporates a boundary clause delimiting an estate at Longworth which in part ran to than heafod æcere northweardon thonon ondlang æceres to than andheafdan ("to the head acre northward thence along the acre(s) to the headland..."). Old English *æcer* is one of the most frequently-encountered terms that could be considered a potential indicator of land divided into strips, yet occurs just twice in Surrey, a county whose charter boundary descriptions are dominated by points explicit or indicative of woodland and enclosures of probable pastoral function.

In fact, the same place-name accounts for the brace of incidences, being the third point on the boundary of a nine-hide estate at Thames Ditton identified in near-identical delimitations appended to a royal diploma of 983 (S 847) and confirmation charter of 1005 (S 911). It is this rarity, coupled with the term's widely-attested use in relation to subdivided fields, that invites careful deliberation of its significance in this name. The relevant sections of Old English (taken from the respective entries on the LangScape website) are as follows:

S 847: on tha seofan æceras eastwearde · of tham seofan æceran

S 911: on · uii · æceras eastwearde · of tham · uii · æceron

There are a number of issues to be considered, first and foremost among which is the location of the boundary mark in question. The compilers of *The Place-Names of Surrey* in the 1930s went so far as to state that the opacity of the bounds made them 'impossible to trace' (PNS 1934, 90), and it would certainly take much more time and effort to offer a detailed interpretation than was practicable within the confines of this note and the precursory research process. The most straightforward translation of the phrases above might be "to the seven acres, eastward from the seven acres...", but arguably there is greater justification in preferring a rendering along the lines of "to the eastern part of the seven acres, from the seven acres..." (as suggested in the Landscape glosses for both sets of bounds), since this gets around the stumbling block of having the River Mole - the next named mark in both descriptions - to their east, contrary to the recorded line of the Thames Ditton parish boundary (although it is clear from the absence of any mention of the Thames in the pre-Conquest boundary descriptions that the estate and medieval parish were not coextensive). From what little evidence there is to go on, all that can be said with any authority is that "the seven acres" must have lain east of the Mole, and moreover not so far from the river.

But what of their claim to be indicative of open-field agriculture? Could "the seven acres" have been a piece of land divided seven-ways into individually-cultivated strips? Certainly it is not impossible that the name connoted a subdivided furlong, perhaps formed out of an earlier enclosure, of a larger open field. Old English *æcer* has two senses: "(plot of) cultivated land" and "area of land able to be cultivated in one day" (see Gelling & Cole 2000, 263). The latter has been preferred so far in light of its aforementioned use in late Anglo-Saxon charters, but some thought should be given to the possibility that in this case it was being used in the former sense. In this regard it is worth noting Old English *seofon* has been shown to be proportionally overrepresented in Old English charter bounds when compared with other numbers, a fact which may well point to it having had other, more abstract connotations, as I alluded to in my recent discussion of "seven ditches" on the Farnham estate boundary (Smith 1956, 119; Briggs 2010). Nevertheless, one should not go too far in attributing more esoteric meanings to a name simply because of its very early record; many later medieval Surrey field-names similarly combine "acre" with a numerical prefix (PNS 1934, 355). Taken alongside its use in a plural form, it seems more logical to consider *æcer* was in these instances being used in its "cultivated" sense (this respects the conclusion of Gelling & Cole 2000, 264, concerning numerical prefixes to the term).

Boundary marks referent to open-field agriculture could only exist when such cultivation was taking place adjacent to the estate boundary, often at a considerable distance from the estate centre or other significant settlement locations. Thus in Surrey estate boundary descriptions of the tenth and eleventh centuries, the preponderance of non-arable features, or at least of fields and such like held individually rather than in common, implies open-field agriculture had not been extended as far as the boundaries of those landholdings fortunate to possess such delineations. What is more, given the frequency with which appears in a subdivided

field sense on estate boundaries in the West Saxon chalklands, it is somewhat curious that in Surrey the term is to be encountered at Ditton and not in the bounds of Merstham (S 528, of 947) or Chaldon (S 753, of 967). However, its position in the Thames Valley, and specifically on the mid-Thames terraces, means it lies within an area Roberts and Wrathmell (2000, 42-43) characterised as one unusually dense in nucleated settlements and with some evidence for 'townfield' agriculture having predominated once, in effect making it an outlier of the Central Province in which nucleated villages and open-field agriculture are widely believed to have begun in the ninth century. While such contentions are a long way from providing corroboration for the existence of equivalent practice in Thames Ditton in the latter part of the tenth century, they do offer some contextual support for the hypothesis.

It is regrettable, if rather inevitable, that this note has not been able to provide conclusive proof one way or the other of the true meaning and significance of "the seven acres". The matter must await further analysis, more extensive and more rigorous than has been possible here. The means of going about this, however, are eminently achievable. Firstly, attempts must be made to obtain later forms of the name which would help in pinpointing its geographical location (in this regard it is gratifying to note how *bulan weorthe*, a mark in the 1005 bounds of Esher also from S 911, recurs as *Bulworth* as late as 1526: *PNS* 1934, 380), in tandem with research into the form and location of open-field agriculture in Thames Ditton parish. A comprehensive review of the archaeological evidence may also be worthwhile; Anglo-Saxon grass-tempered pottery and later, medieval wares recovered from a site at Giggs Hill Green have been posited to derive from field manuring ('HER 4759 - Saxon grass-tempered pottery'). Only when these tasks have been more or less completed may it be possible to say whether we do indeed have written record of open-field agriculture in Surrey over a century before the Domesday Survey.

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A 17th CENTURY TRADING TOKEN FROM STREATHAM

David Williams & Tim Everson

The token which forms the subject of this note was found by Mr David Hunt who was using a metal detector just outside Godstone. The token was reported to David Williams as the local Finds Liaison Officer for the Portable Antiquities Scheme on whose database it can be found (SUR-885237). The diameter of the token, which is very worn, is now 18.1mm and its weight is 0.55g.

Trading tokens were issued by individual traders between 1649 and 1672 to serve as small change, which was not being issued by central government. Surrey Archaeological Society holds a superb collection of over 300 varieties for Surrey, mainly from collections formed by Penfold and Wetton.

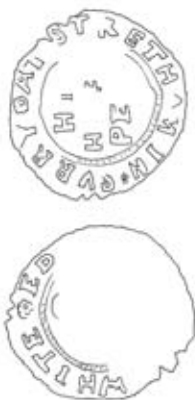
This discovery is the first known 17th century trading token from a business in Streatham and is a very exciting find. Unfortunately it is in rather poor condition. The drawing shows the letters and design which are clearly visible, and much of the remaining legends can be reconstructed from similar tokens in the series. The initial marks both sides (where the legend begins) appear to be rosettes.

The Obverse reads: ED[....].WHITE = Lion rampant?

The Reverse reads: AT.STRETHAM.IN.SVRRY = HISIHALFEIPENY

The obverse design appears to be a lion rampant, two paws of which are just visible. The word 'WHITE' is too far away from the first name to be a surname, and the legend must read 'AT.THE.WHITE' or 'AT.Y^E.WHITE' with the sign name being completed by the picture. This is a frequent occurrence on tokens.

The Obverse legend might then read: ED[...].AT.THE (Y^E).WHITE = Lion rampant.



The identification became a certainty on learning of the important inn at Streatham called The White Lion. A property calling itself The Lyon was standing in 1507 and is first known as The White Lion in 1608. This developed into a prominent village inn and parish meeting place. It was in the Manor of Leigham and was associated with the Holland family from 1558 to 1623, after which the trail dies out.

Our only missing piece of the jigsaw now is the name of the issuer. This is probably Edward rather than Edmund, and if the first name is written in full, rather than EDW:, which is a slight possibility, then the surname is fairly short. Parish records no longer survive for this period in Streatham but the Hearth Tax does. The only Edward paying the Hearth Tax in 1664 is Edward Sims who remains a likely candidate, but the Hearth Tax does not specifically connect him with the White Lion and the token may be issued by an as yet unknown Edward, of

which there are plenty of candidates. The name Sims is also connected in the Manor Rolls to a different property. We may have to wait for a clearer example, or perhaps more letters will appear following conservation.

The token is presently with Mr Hunt who has signalled his intention to donate it to Guildford Museum.

Thanks to John Theobald for putting us in touch with each other, and to Janet Wilmshurst, John Brown and Graham Gower of The Streatham Society for the Streatham research.

David Williams is the Finds Liaison Officer for Surrey and east Berkshire.

Tim Everson is the Editor of Token Corresponding Society Bulletin and is currently writing a new classification for the 17th century tokens of Surrey (and Southwark)

COUNCIL NEWS

GIFT AID

David Calow

The Society has been advised that claims for Gift Aid for subscriptions to the Surrey Industrial History Group, the Roman Studies Group and other Groups of the Society are unlikely to be accepted by HMRC unless payment has been made directly into the Society's bank account. This is because these organisations are not considered to be independent charitable bodies. Members should be aware that their subscriptions made to these Groups before 5th April 2011 should not be included in their claims for tax relief on charitable giving.

Subscriptions for the Surrey Industrial History Group and paid directly to Surrey Archaeological Society after 5th April 2011 will be eligible for claims for tax relief on charitable giving. Subscriptions to the other Groups will be reviewed in 2011-12.

TOOLS REMINDER

Emma Coburn

Could we remind members who need to borrow tools or equipment, to book them through Roger Brookman and then return them promptly to the Store to enable use by others.

If you require any information regarding tools or have any specific requirements, please contact Roger Brookman on bregor752@aol.com or 020 8661 0382. There is now an updated booking request form, obtainable from Roger Brookman, via email or post for the request of the Society's tools and equipment to be used on various digs.

If you would like to help with the tools and equipment and live near Merrow in Guildford, please contact Roger Brookman.

STAFF WORKING HOURS

Mrs Emma Coburn's working hours have changed from 1st May 2011:

Wednesday 10am – 12.00

Thursday 8.30am – 12.45 and 1.15 – 5pm

Friday 8.30am– 12.45 and 1.15 – 5pm

NEW MEMBERS

Emma Coburn

I would like to welcome the following new members who have joined the Society. I have included principal interests, where they have been given on the membership application form. If you have any questions, queries or comments, please do not hesitate to get in contact with me on 01483 532454 or info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk

Name	Town	Principal Archaeological and Local History Interests
Mrs R Ayers	Ripley	Medieval, Villages, Roman, Woking Palace
Miss E Bowden	Reigate	History, Latin, Classical Civilisation
Mr M Bower	Ashtead	Prehistory to Roman
Mr D Brown	Ash Vale	Roman and earlier
Mrs S Brown	Ash Vale	
Mrs T Chipps	Hampton	Medieval History
Mr T Clay	Woking	Roman, Medieval, Industrial
Dr M Corden	Weybridge	History
Mr B Creese	Guildford	Early Medieval Church History
Mr D Dearlove	Isleworth	Roman and Medieval Archaeology, Artefacts, Metallurgy, Glass

Mrs C Fagan	Hersham	History
Mrs E Felton	Woking	Roman, Tudor
Ms J Gregory	Claygate	Beginner – keen to get involved in excavation
Mrs I Gregory	Claygate	
Mr S Howard	Cobham	Roman; Artefacts
Miss S Howard	Cobham	Roman; Artefacts
Mrs L Howe	Carshalton	Roman History
Mr D Hughes	Frimley	Tudor, Industrial Archaeology
Mrs N Humphrey	Merstham	Osteology; Burial archaeology; Conflict Archaeology; Survey; Excavations; Archaeology of London and the South East
Dr S Jones	Essex	Materials, History
Mr D Parkes	Walton on Thames	History of books, libraries. Local History
Mr D Reidy	Coulsdon	East Surrey, Local History
Mr A Summers	Barnes, London	
Mr R Symonds	Horsham	Landscape studies, Geophysics, Romano British Studies
Mrs P Worthy	Esher	

OBITUARY

FELIX HOLLING 1915 - 2011

Felix Holling, formerly Curator of Guildford Museum, died on 3rd April 2011.

He was born Margaret Frances Robinson in Ilford, Essex on 6th September 1915, and was brought up as a girl. During the war he joined the ATS and later the Women's Royal Army Corps. He served with the Royal Engineers in Hong Kong, and rose to the rank of Major. Leaving the army in 1955, he decided to live as a man and adopted the name Felix William Holling. After studying geology and archaeology, he came to Guildford Museum as Technical Assistant in 1963.

He became involved at once in local archaeology; acting as supervisor for amateur digs and carrying out small-scale investigations during building development in the town centre, during which he became familiar with local pottery wares. In 1973 his exploratory trenches on the site of the Dominican Friary in Guildford prepared the way for the full-scale excavations of 1974 and 1978. He attempted to persuade Guildford Borough Council to introduce a requirement for archaeological investigations as a condition for planning consent. He was unsuccessful, and it was not until 1990 that PPG 16 realised his aspiration.

He will be best remembered for his excavation of the important late medieval and Tudor kiln site at Farnborough Hill, Hampshire between 1968 and 1972. In 1967 a member of the public brought in pottery found in the grounds of Farnborough Hill Convent. He was quick to recognise its significance and in the following year, a series of trial trenches uncovered enough evidence to show that the site had been a centre for Surrey-Hampshire Border Ware production. Four seasons of excavation uncovered the remains of four kilns, several large waster dumps and some 622 kilos of pottery. He published a preliminary survey of the industry in the Surrey Archaeological Collections in 1971, based largely on the material recovered from Farnborough Hill, as well as from nearby sites at Hawley and Ash. A second article, on aspects of the late 15th-century kiln, was published in *Post-Medieval Archaeology* (1977). However, the full publication of the site had to wait until 2007, when Jacqui

Pearce of the Museum of London published it in collaboration with Guildford Museum. Felix Holling gave the project his full backing and cooperation.

He became Curator in early 1971 and set up the Museum's school loans service, which enabled original finds and artefacts to be studied in schools. He retired in September 1980, and devoted the rest of his life to animal welfare, founding Felix Cat Rescue in 1990.

Those who knew him will remember Felix Holling as a kindly man, a zealous archaeologist and historian, and supportive of others' endeavours in the subjects he loved.

Matthew Alexander

EVENTS COMMITTEE

Mr John Boulton, Chairman of the Events Committee, has said he wishes to give up his position as Chairman after many years of successful work and a replacement is sought.

The Events Committee meets about four times a year and is responsible for the Lecture Series, the Annual Prestige lecture at the Menuhin Hall and for providing help as requested for other Society events.

If any Society member would like to become more involved in the Society's work and would like to take on this responsibility please contact John Boulton and he will tell you more about what is involved.

MEDIEVAL STUDIES FORUM & VILLAGES STUDY GROUP

TEST-PITTING AND VILLAGE STUDIES

March Joint Meeting

Peter Balmer

The CORS strategy (Continuously Occupied Rural Settlement), outlined by Carenza Lewis, has been to dig one metre square pits, preferably at least 25 in a village, spread over a wide area. By proceeding 10cm at a time and keeping finds separate, clear chronologies have emerged, often allowing the identification of a Saxon core of a village, areas of later medieval expansion, and sometimes areas of post-Black Death shrinkage. Some regional variation has emerged, with substantial amounts of Late Saxon material in currently occupied settlements in Cambridgeshire and central Suffolk but little in Essex or south Suffolk, where more early Saxon material is frequently found. Fenland villages appear to have expanded less than others in the High Middle Ages but were least hit by contraction after the Black Death. Without this project, such variations in post-Black Death shrinkage would not have come to light because they have been hidden by later expansion of existing settlements.

Moving forward in time and switching to documentary sources, **Dr Catherine Ferguson** (University of Sussex) linked Hearth Tax (1662-1689) records to those from the Poor Law and parish registers of baptisms and burials as indicators of village development. The 1664 Hearth Tax for Surrey shows the greatest density of hearths in the north of the county and in towns, with most one-hearth households in the south, most exempt households on poor soils, and 10-hearth households predominantly near London. In general, Surrey Hearth Tax returns follow a pattern of showing important people first, which facilitates linking the records to early maps. Woking provides an interesting case where the Hearth Tax permits the identification of people in separate tithings in a period when there are also very good Poor Law records and detailed parish registers. These can be combined to show that Townstreet (also known as Townend) tithing had more industrial and trade occupations than the more

rural tithings, although some of these also had small industrial areas. In Shalford, the trend of baptism and burial records is negative throughout the seventeenth century, showing outward migration, contrasting strongly with the inward migration in Putney. The parish of St Nicholas Guildford shows an interesting contrast between the urban part of the parish, with many two-hearth households, and rural Artington, where these are rare. There were numerous cloth workers in the area, but the number of Hearth Tax exemptions is illustrative of an industry in decline. Holy Trinity parish in Guildford had many multi-hearth premises, but, contrary to the common assumption that this would indicate an area of large households, many of these turn out to have been inns or industrial buildings.

Richard Savage outlined the results of test-pitting in Old Woking, a place of particular importance as the centre of a hundred, the site of a minster church, a manor that was held either by royalty or their close associates throughout the Middle Ages, and the site of a royal palace from 1486 to 1620. Key questions include whether there was Romano-British settlement in the later village area around the church, assumed to be the principal focus of Saxon settlement, and whether Woking had been a small planned town in the Middle Ages. Analysis of early maps has suggested that the medieval settlement did not extend as far east as the entrance to Woking Park. A magnetometry survey in 2009 and resistivity in 2010 prior to test-pitting showed high magnetic anomalies east of the church which excavation indicated were the remains of large brick clamps which were probably of medieval date, lying just within the pale of Woking Park. Test pitting in 2010 to the east of the church found post-medieval material, often to the bottom of the pit, together with residual Roman building material in the lowest layers. In pits closer to the churchyard there was clearer splitting of layers. One pit had significant quantities of stratified pottery from c1150-1250. Thus far, the tentative conclusions were that there probably had been at least one Romano-British building in the locality, no evidence of Saxon occupation, plenty of evidence for occupation in the centuries immediately following the Norman Conquest period and less pottery from 1350 to 1650 AD than would have been expected. Further test pitting in other areas of the village was planned for the weekends following this meeting.

A programme for the future roll-out of a test pitting programme across the county (linked to the Society's Villages Study Group project) was described by **Chris Hayward**. Village groups were asked to volunteer and give reasons. This would then allow an order of priority to be established. The pace of the programme would be restricted by how quickly finds and interpretation could be written up.

Abby Guinness (Community Archaeologist, SCC) outlined the possibilities for a test pitting programme that would reach a wider audience across Surrey, possibly funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and other sources. Outreach and educational work included the potential for test pitting in school grounds. Community programmes suggest that there are plenty of people who want to sample archaeology. This has been demonstrated in successful projects in Merstham and Preston Hawe (near Tadworth), the latter with a large, previously unexplored and problematic archive, work on which will be followed up by a test dig.

Another dimension of engaging young people in archaeology was described by **Paul Bowen** (County Youth Development Officer, SCC), extending beyond those in schools to those who were more marginalised. At High Ashurst, a demolished early nineteenth century large house on land belonging to Surrey County Council, an archaeological project started in 2005 for young people required to do 25 hours compulsory education outside the school system saw some of the participants later come back as volunteers. On an intensive support project, most of the young people engaged in archaeology without problems although with a good deal of supervision. This was not necessarily a model capable of wide extension but indicated the

possibilities inherent in archaeology in engaging many people from diverse backgrounds.

VILLAGES STUDY GROUP: Next Meeting

Please note your diaries that the next meeting of the Villages Study Group will take place on Saturday 1st October at the Surrey History Centre in Woking.

The morning will consist of a presentation and then workshop session on use of the new Tithe Digitisation project records, led by Sally Jenkinson and David Young. In the afternoon Richard Savage will talk on how the results of the test-pitting programme carried out in Old Woking have raised fundamental questions about the development of the settlement. The final session of the day will consist of three update presentations from local groups on the progress of the studies in their villages. Further details will be included in the next Bulletin.

WOKING PALACE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT

This summer's excavations will conclude the active fieldwork in the three year archaeological project supported by the Society. Members of the Society will have the opportunity for a special visit to Woking Palace on Saturday 30th July, immediately following the conclusion of the excavations. Weather permitting, it is suggested that members of the Society and their guests might like to bring a picnic to the site prior to a tour of the excavations by Richard Savage to take place early in the afternoon. Unusually, some parking will be available close to the site. As the number of places for the tour will be limited please let Richard know if you would like to attend (medforum@hotmail.co.uk or by phone 01483 768875).

Those unable to attend on Saturday 30th July may wish to note that the public Open Day will run from 11am to 4pm on Sunday 31st July.

MISCELLANY

NEW LIGHT ON THE EARLY YEARS AT WOKING PALACE

Richard Savage

Following the second season of excavations in 2010, I have been catching up with some background reading, particularly on the years between the foundation of the Manor House on its new site around 1190 and the execution of the Despensers in 1326/7. I started with *Parks in Medieval England* by S A Miles (published in 2009 by Oxford University Press), the first comprehensive review for many years of the growth of deer parks across England covering the period from the 11th century through to Tudor times. This detailed work contains a footnote referring to the documents that had apparently led Arthur Locke to claim that Gilbert Basset had a deer park at Woking in 1234, believed until recently to be the earliest reference to a deer park here (but see the following paragraph). Many other matters in Miles' book are likely to be relevant to the development of the manorial complex at Woking, although this review will mention just two of these. Miles refers to the distinction at many such sites between the Little Park and the Great Park, with deer usually restricted to the Great Park. Norden's plan of Woking in 1607 states specifically that "the game cometh not" within the Little Park. And the rather mysterious large bank along the inside of the moat at its north-western corner can be paralleled at other high-status manorial sites from the 13th century onwards, where such banks are thought to be viewing platforms located inside the privacy of the bounded gardens looking out over the deer parks.

Sarah Abbott had brought to my attention *Basset Charters, c.1120-1150* (published in 1995 by The Pipe Roll Society). This includes five legal documents dating back to the time of Alan Basset, to whom Richard 1 had granted Woking Manor at some point

between 1189 and 1199. One of these documents refers unambiguously to Alan Basset's park at Woking, the context showing that the park was either newly set up or recently extended over lands to which others had rights. So we can now be reasonably certain that the first park at Woking was part of the establishment of the new manorial site on its 'island' next to the Wey by Alan Basset.

Notes:

1. First published in the January 2011 Newsletter of the Friends of Woking Palace and reproduced with their permission.
2. A copy of *Parks in Medieval England* by S A Miles (published in 2009 by Oxford University Press) is held in the Society's library.

EARLY MEDIEVAL MOOTS, COURTS AND MEETING PLACE

Landscapes of Governance is a study of early medieval assembly sites led by Anglo-Saxon specialist Andrew Reynolds and supported by Stuart Brookes of UCL and John Baker of the University of Nottingham. The aim is to unite archaeology, place-names and topography in an interdisciplinary study of moots, courts and meeting-places: see <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/research/projects/assembly>.

The project involves fieldwork examination of the sites of hundredal courts and other outdoor assembly places. I've offered to co-ordinate reports on sites in Surrey, and would much appreciate help from any SAS members who are interested in this topic. If anyone would like to do a field survey, I can send copies of the recording form. It would also be a great help if local historians could contribute any clues on the location of hundredal meeting places in their area. I've already consulted the VCH, *Place-Names of Surrey*, 'Anderson's *Hundred-Names*, the notes in SAC on the meeting-places of Blackheath and Copthorne Hundreds, and Graham Gower's note in this Bulletin on Brixton – but there must be more material out there in the archives'? Any communications to Jeremy Harte at Bourne Hall Museum, JHarte@epsom-ewell.gov.uk.

CHURCHES IN THE COMMUNITY

Charles Abdy

Church-going in the United Kingdom has been declining steadily since 1890. In the years 1968 to 1999 Anglican church attendance almost halved from 3.5% of the population to just 1.9%.

However, although the influence of the Church on religious beliefs may have diminished, no-one can deny its importance in shaping the townscape of our villages and towns.

It is said that the difference between a hamlet and a village is that the latter has some sort of community centre where people can get together: that was commonly a church. The Church has been the nucleus around which settlements have clustered and grown, giving us our built environment. The building of a church could be the work of one of a number of agencies, the two most common being a religious foundation or a lord of the manor. Abbeys and Priors were frequently large landowners with estates donated by kings or nobles, and they had churches built to serve groups of tenants. Similarly, the lord of the manor might build a church, partly to serve his tenants, but also as an investment: he would be entitled to receive the tithes. During the 12th century many lay builders of churches or their heirs made them over to religious houses as an act of piety.

In Saxon times there were numerous minster churches built for groups of priests who would service surrounding communities in chapels, or sometimes in a church that had been built by the lord of the manor. The name lives on in such buildings as York Minster and Beverley Minster.

Although in most cases the church came first and dwellings were then built near it, it

could be the other way around, with a church built to service an existing hamlet, which then grew because of the availability of the church. Both Ewell and Epsom Churches were built on land owned by Chertsey Abbey and it is likely that the Abbey was responsible for the earliest churches. At Ewell it is probable that there were already dwellings in the vicinity, given the suitability of the area for settlement, and that the village grew to the west of the church nearer the springs that are the source of the Hogsmill River. At Epsom the church was situated on the chalk to the east of the river terrace gravel on which the centre of Epsom around the High Street was built. The original settlement was close to the church and to the west of it. It is of interest that both churches are very close to Stane Street, but it is not known to what extent this is significant.

Churches are more than reminders of the site of the early development of an area: they are frequently the most outstanding buildings. It is noteworthy that in *The Buildings of England*, that invaluable account of buildings of historic and architectural interest initiated by Nikolaus Pevsner, the report on a town or village invariably starts with the church. Few other buildings have so much to show of fine architecture. Until recently, there had been a tendency to decry Victorian architecture, but now its quality and the fine workmanship are being appreciated. Certainly St. Mary's Ewell (1847-8) has details of great beauty and is a big improvement on the old church which had been referred to as having a patched and unprepossessing exterior and having altogether been much maltreated. St. Martin's Epsom too, with its three periods of architecture, is fascinating: it has been described as an oddly composite building. The oldest part, the tower, dates from 1450. The nave dates from 1824 and the chancel and transepts result from a big rebuilding scheme that started in 1908 but was not completed. It had been hoped that the rebuilt church would become a cathedral in the new diocese that was to be created, but in fact Guildford was chosen as the site.

The monuments in the churches and their inscriptions (in the case of Ewell some came from the earlier church) with the information they give on prominent former residents provide a useful starting point for an understanding of the local history.

It would be difficult to overestimate the part churches have played in the development of society. In medieval times churches had no pews and their large floor spaces enabled them to fulfil their function as community centres, much as a church hall or social club today. There would be a few benches around the walls for the infirm and elderly. This is thought to be the origin of the expression, 'the weakest go to the wall.' Church vestries made up of representatives of the congregation have been important organs of administration of local government. By the end of the 16th century they had become responsible for matters such as the upkeep of local roads and bridges and the care of the poor and orphans as required by the Poor Laws and they eventually took over most of the functions that had been exercised by the manorial courts. These administration duties came to an end in 1894 with the Local Government Act which created urban and rural districts with councils made up of elected members. These varying functions of churches have left us with a unique collection of buildings which form a significant part of the national heritage. Society would be much poorer without them.

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FROM ROYAL VILL TO RURAL PARISHES

Transcription of article in Leatherhead Advertiser of Thursday 24th February 2011 by Pamela Savage

Shere, Gomshall and Peaslake Local History Society: Splendid book

More than 60 members and visitors filled Shere village hall on the evening of Tuesday February 8th for an eagerly-awaited talk entitled "From Royal Vill to Rural Parishes" which summarised the research, many interesting findings and the enormous amount of work that had been done over five years culminating in the publication by Surrey Archaeological Society of the splendid book entitled GOMSHALL, PEASLAKE and EWHURST Rural Villages from Royal Vill.

The meeting was delighted that Ann Noyes had been able to join us for the duration of the talk and after receiving a particularly warm welcome it was Ann who gave a splendid introduction which, in her obvious enthusiasm for the subject, might have lasted the entire 90 minutes that we were to enjoy had not John Whitaker been hovering meaningfully with his sheaf of papers.

Ann introduced the rest of the team, David Hicks who brought to the project his extensive research and map drawing expertise and John Whitaker who contributed his knowledge of buildings and medieval history.

Ann gave an apology that Janet Balchin was unable to attend and reminded us that all four are members of the Surrey Archaeological Society Villages project, she also thanked other members of the project, in particular Peter Hopkins, whose computer expertise in setting out the maps and text was of enormous help. Detailed acknowledgements are published in the book.

John eagerly launched into some background and explained that whereas Shere is a village with a square, church, river crossing, roads and tracks in and out and a cluster of houses about the centre, Gomshall had a marsh at its centre and the fewer old houses being more spread out.

The vill of Gomeselle and Shere extended from the top of the North Downs to the Sussex border and included Ewhurst and part of Holmbury St Mary and John covered the history of Gomeselle which became a manor in the Domesday inquest, from the Norman invasion to recent history including Roman times when it was a single estate for the Tillingbourne valley and he also discussed the period when Gomshall was divided east and west between Tower Hill priory and Netley priory.

Explanations of rights to graze, perambulations, hundreds, and why holdings were often relatively long narrow parcels of land orientated north and south reflected his huge amount of re-search in Surrey county records and the National archives.

David presented slides of a large number of maps, some of which he had researched and drawn, starting with a map of the local geology from the Weald clay to greensand and chalk and the subsequent formation of watershed, rivers and streams, notably the Tillingbourne which supported a large number of mills.

There followed an explanation of how this determines the scenery and the soil types, thereby governing the used to which land can be put such as crops or grazing.

Other maps included one of the location of prehistoric and Roman finds and a map of the Netley estate lands from the time that the feudal system was dismantled, also a map showing farms in Gomshall with cross-correlation of holdings shown in William Brays rent books.

Barbara Karlsson thanked the team for their presentation and introduced Handa Bray, the present Lord of the Manor, who rose to thank Ann and the team very much for a very interesting presentation and for the huge amount of work which had left her speechless in admiration for what they had achieved.

Copies of the book sold out within minutes after the talk, however further copies are available directly from the society, from the shop at Shere museum, from the church or from the usual local retail outlets where a range of local history publications are available at very reasonable prices given the wealth of information they contain.

Jeff Nellist

SURREY ARCHIVES

Interested in our archives? – Now is your chance!

In order to safeguard the more vulnerable items in our archives, Council has decided to place some of them on long-term loan at the Surrey History Centre. So that we can still have access to these items at Castle Arch, we would like to make digital copies first. We can use the excellent facilities at the Surrey History Centre to do this. Would you like to help? Full training will be given and someone is always on hand to help. To find out more, please get in touch with me, Rosemary Hughesdon, on 01932 846428 (answer phone) or email me at rhughesdon@univ.bangor.ac.uk.

Hannah Jeffery would also appreciate a little help with routine tasks in the library and to take material to and from the Research Centre in Abinger, so if you are able to spare an hour or two and would like to find out more about our wonderful collections, please contact Hannah at Castle Arch on 01483 532454 or email librarian@surreyarchaeology.org.uk.

LECTURE SERIES

SURREY INDUSTRIAL HISTORY GROUP 36TH SERIES OF INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY LECTURES Lecture Theatre F, University of Surrey, Guildford

Eleven fortnightly meetings on Tuesdays, 7.30-9.30pm, 2011-2012

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 4th October | The Changing Nature of Innovation- an Historical Overview
<i>Dr John Russell</i> , president of the Newcomen Society |
| 18th October | Historical Buildings and Materials
<i>Martin Higgins</i> , Historic Buildings Officer |
| 1st November | No Place Too Dangerous- Women and Children of the Cornish Mining Industries
<i>Lynne Mayers</i> , researcher and author |
| 15th November | Iron and Steam in the vale of the White Horse
<i>Tony Hadland</i> , former administrator Vale & Downland Museum, Wantage |
| 29th November | The Life and Works of John Rennie
<i>Peter Cross-Rudkin</i> , ICE Panel for Historical Engineering Works |
| 13th December | Members Talks |
| 10th January | The Lost Countryside: Images of Rural Life
<i>Chris Shepherd</i> , Director Rural Life Centre |
| 24th January | The Role of the Surrey Archaeological Society
<i>David Calow</i> , SyAS Secretary |
| 7th February | The History of the London Underground
<i>Tony Earle</i> , Scientist and commuter |
| 21st February | Surrey Brickwork up to 1850
<i>Ian West</i> , Building Surveyor |
| 6th March | Personality Clashes and Power Struggles in the History of British Radar 1935-41
<i>Dr Phil Judkin</i> , University of Buckingham |

Fee: members SIHG/SyAS £35 (£30 if paid before 31st July)

Non-members £40 (£35 if paid before 31st July)

Single lectures open to all: £5 each, payable on the night.

Enquiries to Programme Co-ordinator Bob Bryson Tel: 01483 577809,
meetings@sihg.org.uk

PUBLICATION

“HAMMER AND FURNACE PONDS

Relics of the Wealden Iron Industry” by Helen Pearce

Pomegranate Press; A5 pp96, 16 colour illustrations

This new book is the first ‘popular’ guide to the history of these beautiful surviving ponds that lie hidden within Sussex and parts of Surrey and Kent. The Surrey sites include Abinger, Thursley, Hedgecourt and Wiremill Lake.

The book includes a glossary of terms and ideas for further reading, a list of museums with iron industry displays and a complete gazetteer of surviving ponds with map references and access details.

For details contact the author at hspearce@hotmail.com or www.hammerpond.org.uk

LIBRARY NEWS

ACCESSIONS TO THE SOCIETY’S LIBRARY IN 2010

Excavations and evaluations carried out by units working within the County, which are reported periodically elsewhere in the *Bulletin*, are omitted here. Each entry includes the author, title, publisher and date of publication, followed by the four-digit accession number, and classification number indicating the shelf location of the book.

GENERAL

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COURSES

UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX

Courses and Events Summer 2011

Weekend Day Schools

- Geoarchaeology in Action** *Michael Allen* 9-10th July at Barcombe
- An Introduction to On-site Conservation** *Adrian Tribe* 16th July at Barcombe
- Planning and Section Drawing** *Jane Russell* 30-31st July at Barcombe
- The Art of Flint Knapping** *Robert Turner* 30th July & 13th August at Amberley Museum and Heritage Centre
- Site Photography for Archaeologists** *Lisa Fisher* 6-7th August at Barcombe
- Stone Age Boot Camp: Ancient lessons for modern living** *Matt Pope, Ian Dunford, Anna Richardson and Ken Mackriell* 24-25th September at Michelham Priory

Summer Schools

- An Introduction to Archaeological Surveying** (X9003); Monday-Friday, 4-8 July, 10am-5pm, at Barcombe, tutors: Peter Skilton and Andrew Maxted.

Ancient Crafts and Technologies (X9006); Monday-Friday, 11-15 July, 10am-5pm, at Michelham Prior (near Hailsham); tutors: Tristan Bareham, Ian Dunford, et al.
Geoarchaeology in Detail (X9637); Monday-Friday, 11-15 July, 10am-5pm, at Barcombe, tutor: Michael Allen.

Excavation Open Afternoon

Sunday 31st July, 1-5pm.

An opportunity to visit the Barcombe Roman bath house excavations in Church Field, next to St Mary's Church, Barcombe BN8 5TS. www.sussex.ac.uk/cce/barcombe

Centre for Community Engagement, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, BN1 9RF. Tel: 01273 678300; Email: cce@sussex.ac.uk

www.sussex.ac.uk/cce/shortcourses

LECTURE MEETINGS

7th June

AGM followed by Members' Talks to Addlestone Historical Society at the Community Centre, Garfield Road, Addlestone at 8 pm. Visitors welcome £2.

9th June

"Excavation of the medieval Greenwich Tide Mill" by Simon Davis to Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society at the Richard Mayo Centre, United Reformed Church, Eden Street, Kingston at 7.30 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1.50.

24th June

AGM followed by "Horace Walpole and Strawberry Hill" by Michael Snodin to Wandsworth Historical Society at the Friends' Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street at 8 pm.

30th June

"The Workings of Egham Museum" by Volunteers from Egham Museum to Egham by Runnymede Historical Society in the Main Hall of the Literary Institute, High Street,, Egham at 8 pm. Visitors welcome £2.

5th July

"Waynelete Tower - its history and residents" by Penny Rainbow to Addlestone Historical Society at the Community Centre, Garfield Road, Addlestone at 8 pm. Visitors welcome £2.

6th July

"A Journey through Jordan" by Richard Watson to Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society in St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 7.45 for 8 pm.

12th July

"The Dorking, Darwin & Russel Wallace Mystery" by Richard Selley to Westcott Local History Group in the Westcott Reading Room, Institute Road, Westcott at 7.45 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1.

14th July

"A Journey through sites in Jordan" by Richard Watson to Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society at the Richard Mayo Centre, United Reformed Church, Eden Street, Kingston at 7.30 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1.50.

DATES FOR *BULLETIN* CONTRIBUTIONS 2011

There will be four further issues of the *Bulletin* this year. To assist contributors relevant dates are as follows:

August issue	428	Copy date: 8th July	publication: 6th August
October issue	429	Copy date: 30th September	publication: 22nd October
December issue	430	Copy date: 25th November	publication: 17th December

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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 8th July for the August issue.

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