



SURREY'S PAST



16th-century tablet in Chaldon church

Preston Howe clay-mill mounds

**Valor Ecclesiasticus
1535 project**

**SCAU community
archaeology
roundup**

**News, Notes
& Events**

Note from the Editors

Welcome to the winter edition of *Surrey's Past*, which contains several pieces of both archaeological and historical interest, covering all parts of the county, as well as select news and events items. We look forward to receiving more of your contributions in the upcoming issues, whether short notes on recent activities or longer research articles, which we are happy to discuss with you in more detail.

Please note this issue will be the last which Rob will be co-editing, as he will be stepping down due to personal and work commitments. We are very grateful to Rob for the four years he has put in to helping shape *Surrey's Past* and making it the high standard of publication it has become, and greatly look forward to future submissions on his behalf!

A final note for members is that membership fees are due for renewal on 1 April 2026. Any members who have requested to receive a physical copy of our publications and would like to contribute to cost-savings on postage, please contact info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk to request that your copy is set aside for you to be collected at Abinger Research Centre (or collected on your behalf).

Welcome to new members

Name	Town	Principal Archaeological and Local History Interests
Ian Mason	West Byfleet	Field walking, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, local history, local historic buildings,
Katie Kemp	Purley	Early medieval and medieval; textiles and tools used in textile production; development of languages
Natalie Watt	Dorking	All areas of antiquity
Alejandra Gutierrez	Andover	
Peter Flatau	East Cowes	Surrey history generally, specifically the workhouse at Hambledon
James Alexander	Weybridge	Mainly around Walton, Weybridge, Oatlands (especially), Hersham,
John Rose	Horsham	
David Statham	Woking	All periods of British history, especially around Woking; motor racing history of Surrey
Allyson White	Cranleigh	Joining digs
Joel Whittaker	Richmond	Keen interest in history and archaeology

Contributor information

Surrey's Past is issued three times a year, normally in February, June and October. There will be two further issues of *Surrey's Past* in 2026. Next issue **503**: copy required by **13 May** for the **June** issue.

Issue no:	Copy date:	Approx. delivery:
503 June	13 May	10 June
504 October	16 September	14 October

Articles and notes on all aspects of research on the history and archaeology of Surrey are very welcome. Contributors are encouraged to discuss their ideas beforehand, including possible deadline extensions and the proper format of submitted material. Guidelines for potential authors are also available online under the *Surrey's Past* section of the website.

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Faith, hope and charity: the stylistic and social contexts of the tablet dated 1562 in Chaldon church

By Rob Briggs

The parish church of St Peter and St Paul, Chaldon is quite rightly best known for the medieval Doom mural across the west wall of its nave. There are several other interesting but less celebrated features of the church and the purpose of this note is to highlight one of them: a carved stone tablet built into the north wall of the chancel (more precisely within a blocked 13th-century arch that once communicated between chancel and short-lived north chapel). It was noted by most 17th/18th to 19th-century antiquarian visitors who wrote about the church (beginning with Aubrey 1718, 93) as well as by more recent architectural historians (NHLE 1029813; O'Brien *et al.* 2022, 179). Today, its image is used as the logo for the Chaldon History Group, who have a useful overview of the tablet on their website (Hutchins 2017). Perhaps the most insightful commentary of all is that published by Philip M. Johnston in 1912:

‘This monument ... is of an altogether unusual type and architectural quality, being in fact quite one of the best bits of early Elizabethan work in Surrey. It is doubly interesting as being a local production, carved in the firestone of the district, unlike the rank and file of the monuments of this period which seem to have been made of imported marbles and stones...’ (*VCH 4*, 193 footnote 76)

Notwithstanding this praise, the social and art historical significance of the tablet has never been explored at length. This note aims to go some of the way towards redressing that under-appreciation, in the hope of encouraging future investigations of the artistic and socio-economic contexts of its production.

Description and interpretation

The tablet (Fig 1) is carved from a single block of Reigate Stone (here perhaps more accurately said to be Chaldon Stone given its probable provenance

from a mine within the parish). It consists of a square panel bearing a textual inscription across 14 lines. The panel is flanked by two ornate carved pilasters and capped with a steep pediment decorated with modillions. The pediment frames a striking three-dimensional sun with a human face, around which the letters *I, R* and *E* are carved in low relief. Almost in the centre of a strip between the panel with text and the pediment, the number *1562* is inscribed, surely signifying the year in which the tablet was carved and/or erected – no work published to date has expressed any reason to doubt its authenticity and I see no reason to diverge from this (there are various pieces of graffiti etched into parts of the tablet, some of which are dated: the earliest on its westernmost lower portions, e.g. *FW 1826*, and later in the tympanum, hence *NCC 1965*).



Fig 1 Undated postcard (probably earlier 20th century) showing the ‘Elizabethan tablet’ in much the same condition as in which it survives today

Very little is known about the tablet beyond the proofs of its existence and whereabouts supplied by antiquarian visitors. It was on the chancel north wall by the time of Aubrey and/or Rawlinson's visit/s in the years either side of 1700 (the latter was certainly at Chaldon on 17 August 1717; Enright 1955, 130). Manning & Bray's description of it being 'in a niche' (1809, 414; this was reiterated later in the 19th century by Brayley 1850, 34) is probably best read as an unhelpfully-worded reference to the blocked arch, rather than to the blocked 14th-century window aperture to the east. It can be noted nonetheless that the tablet would fit rather nicely within the latter (Fig 2).



Fig 2 The north wall of the chancel, showing location of tablet relative to blocked arch and blocked window aperture (this and all subsequent photos by Rob Briggs)

The *VCH* account of the church fabric reports a fancied association between the tablet and one J. Tomkins (4, 193 footnote 76). It may represent a garbled reference to the Tomlins family, and a predecessor of Thomas (died 1815) and Elizabeth Tomlins (d. 1818) who are commemorated in a white marble pedimented plaque placed directly above the tablet. That dubious attribution has been

succeeded by the much more credible proposition of the letters *E*, *I* and *R* being the initials of Ellen and John Richardson, documented residents of Chaldon who died in 1580 and 1584 respectively (the innovator of this identification is likely to be Rev. Rupert Williams, rector of Chaldon and author of a guide to the church issued in 1933; I owe this information to Madeline Hutchins). They appear, as John and Helen (considered to be the more typical post-medieval form of the name Ellen), as the plaintiffs in three fines concerning properties in Chaldon and neighbouring places between 1549 and 1555 (Meekings 1968, nos. 584, 700, 815). The representation of John's initial with *I* instead of *J* is consistent with post-medieval orthographic practice. Possibly the choice of the sun as the central feature (Fig 1) was as a partial rebus for the second part of the surname Richardson. Was the face that of someone well known locally named Richard? Or was the arrangement meant to be read vertically and understood by those in the know, R + sun = Richardson?

Tracing the Richardsons in other sources is not helped by John being the more likely of the two to be recorded yet having a very common name. A little earlier, in 1546, what may very well be the same couple are to be found – as John and Ellen (Elena) Rychardson – as plaintiffs over a debt in Buckinghamshire (Anglo-American Legal Tradition, Henry VIII, 1546: CP40no1127, image 351). If correct, this shows they were of a socio-economic standing to have interests away from the Chaldon area and hence were perhaps of greater wealth than many in the parish.

It has long been known that, in 1613, Nicholas Richardson of Chaldon, London and Merstham 'left by will 10s. a year, to be paid in quarterly sums, for the poor of Chaldon, in the south porch of the church, out of the house where his son Benjamin lived in Bassishaw' (*VCH* 4, 194). This continued until, according to a note entered into a 1781 terrier and survey of Chaldon parish, the house was destroyed in the Great Fire of London (The London Archive, reference [DW/S/026](#); I am grateful to Liz Bonsall for this information). The date 1613 would be consistent with Nicholas being the son (or otherwise heir) of John and Ellen Richardson. A major shortcoming in current understanding of the elder Richardsons' charitable provisions in life and post-humously is ignorance of the contents of their wills.

Nicholas' will was proved in the Archdeaconry Court for Surrey and a copy survives (The London Archives, reference [DW/PA/05/1615/109](#)), but from limited online research the same does not appear to hold true for either John or Ellen.

Comparison with the Cawarden tomb at Bletchingley

My initial reaction to seeing the Chaldon tablet was to make the connection between it and the early Renaissance tomb of Sir Thomas Cawarden (d. 1559) in Bletchingley parish church, a little over 3 miles/5 kilometres as the crow flies south-east of Chaldon (Fig 3; Briggs 2023). It is an earlier monument but only by a couple of years, and likewise was realised using locally-sourced "freestone". Closer inspection reveals both are decorated with similar scrolls (Figs 4, 5; cf. Briggs 2023, 22 Fig 9), and some of the simpler architrave mouldings also invite comparison.



Fig 3 Cawarden tomb, Bletchingley seen from the south-west. Note the relative simplicity of the mouldings and the contrasting tones of the stone used.



Fig 4 (left) Foliate scroll on the Chaldon tablet; Fig 5 (right) Foliate scroll originally from the Cawarden tomb, now built into the west wall of the bell chamber at Bletchingley church

There, the similarities end. Very different motifs used for the most part, with the Chaldon tablet having a much denser and more sumptuous surface decorative scheme. Even the human face/sun central boss is a step up from the very simplistic device of the Cawarden family name on the west side of Sir Thomas' tomb (Fig 6). The Cawarden tomb is also wholly lacking in original inscribed or low relief lettering with which to compare it to the Chaldon tablet. It has gone unremarked that the Cawarden tomb bears fragmentary but widespread traces of surface covering, indicating the decidedly mismatched stonework was originally masked with paintwork (Figs 3, 7). The Chaldon tablet offers more restricted indication of former painting (Fig 8).

The assembled evidence, therefore, weighs convincingly against the tablet and tomb being the work of the same mason. Parts of the design of the tablet, especially the pilasters, go beyond any architectural reality and feel more like they should be carved from wood than stone (compare it with the carved oak chimney pieces dated 1583 and 1592 from the demolished house at Ham, Bletchingley illustrated by Leveson-Gower 1891, plates facing 219 and 221). Indeed, in some ways the design of the tablet fits better with secular architectural detailing (and furniture?) than ecclesiastical monuments of the same period. Dissemination of new designs and details at this time came in the first instance via copying from engraved prints, most clearly perceptible in Surrey in the detailing of the fireplace at Loseley House, sculpted from local clunch chalk and believed to be the work of three French masons working between 1563-66 (O'Brien *et al.* 2022, 509 plus Plate 41). It is likely that something similar applies to the Chaldon tablet, and identification of a potential source or sources for its decorative scheme would be a highly desirable outcome of any future art historical research.



Fig 6 The Cawarden family device on the west side of Sir Thomas' tomb monument



Fig 7 Remains of paint or other surface-covering layer on south side of the Cawarden tomb



Fig 8 Detail of the Chaldon tablet showing the inscribed date 1562, multiple forms of mouldings and decoration, plus remnants of paint/applied surface decoration in pattern carved into the ovolo moulding midway between the date and the sun

Care for the poor in the later 16th century

The inscription on the tablet begins; '*Goode redar warne all men and woomen whil they be here to be ever goode to the poore and nedy*'. It is striking how God, the poor and the reader are foregrounded instead of the patrons of the tablet (and of any charitable initiative beyond it). The text encourages good behaviour through repetition of the point to be mindful of and benevolent towards the poor, and fits well with early English Protestant thinking regarding almsgiving to those in poverty as a spiritual obligation on the part of anyone able to do so (McIntosh 2005, 461). This perhaps ties in with the intended audience of the tablet being literate churchgoers and visitors. The investment made in its production tends towards the conclusion that the intention was not to make a point on an abstract, global level but a real and local one.

The date 1562 grounds the Chaldon tablet in a time of flux in provisions for supporting the poor in England. Many of the institutions (monasteries, hospitals, religious guilds and lay fraternities) that had delivered care for the poor half a century earlier were destroyed in the Reformation, and little had been introduced in their place by the time Elizabeth I became queen in 1558. The population was growing and so was poverty, as economic growth was insufficient to provide jobs for all who needed them (McIntosh 2005, 460). In some towns and parishes, local taxes had begun to be levied to raise funds for distribution among the worthy poor, initiatives that were reinforced by two acts of Parliament, the second of 1563 making the assessments for contributing to the local taxes obligatory (McIntosh 2005, 465). Yet a fully-fledged system would not arrive until the enactment of the Poor Laws of 1598 and 1601, which 'codified and extended throughout the country the best practices that had emerged during the past two generations within particular urban settings' (McIntosh 2005, 458). From the end of the century, new almshouses began to be founded, among the first being Whitgift Hospital in Croydon (1596-99; Fig 9), with more following in other parts of Surrey in the early 17th century.



Fig 9 Whitgift Almshouses (Hospital of the Holy Trinity), Croydon, begun in March 1596

If towns and cities led the way, it begs the question of what is a high-quality physical exhortation to charity doing in the church of a small rural parish in east Surrey? Conceivably the passage in the tablet inscription ‘*the cry of the poore is extreme and very sore*’ stems from Chaldon parish being particularly afflicted by poverty, perhaps as a result of population growth and/or issues with local industries in the early 1560s. The tablet’s inscription is clearly intended to encourage more affluent parishioners to assume greater personal responsibility in supporting the poor, or at the very least maintain whatever they were doing already in this regard. Other responses elsewhere in Surrey are glimpsed in the wills of elite men of the time. Sir Edward Bray had provided housing, seemingly in the Cranleigh area, for ‘poor folks’ at some point before his death in 1558 (English 2022, 37). The following year, Sir Thomas Cawarden bequeathed £15 for the ‘the poore’ of Bletchingley and Horne and £5 for Caterham, credibly for the same purpose – but not neighbouring Chaldon, despite his possessing the manor of Willey in the parish (Kempe 1836, 177; Brayley 1850, 33). Did this remain a sore point in Chaldon *circa* 1562?

Conclusions

This note has sought to shine a spotlight on the considerable significance of the Chaldon tablet in terms of both art history and social history. It may be as close in time as in geography (and geology) to

the better-known Cawarden tomb at Bletchingley, but otherwise stands apart from it in several key respects. So, whereas the Cawarden tomb is in essence an adaptation of a late medieval tester tomb using Renaissance motifs, the tablet is wholly devoid of medieval stylistic traces; arguably, only the choice of *E* over *H* to denote Ellen/Helen Richardson harks back to more traditional practice. Despite its modest size and function, the tablet thus represents an important milestone in the diffusion of Renaissance influences in Surrey, especially in church contexts.

Surrey examples of early Renaissance decorative arts made of stone and wood have not received as much scholarly attention as works produced in terracotta (Smith *et al.* 2014; O’Brien *et al.* 2022, 35, 38, 608, 669-70). The Loseley House fireplace has been mentioned already (there is also 16th-century woodwork of French appearance present in the great hall; O’Brien *et al.* 2022, 508). The sumptuous wooden fireplace surround and overmantel in Reigate Priory was probably commissioned originally by Sir Thomas Cawarden in the 1540s for Bletchingley Place, his former house, and is suspected to have been carved by a French joiner named Robert Trunquet (O’Brien *et al.* 2022, 38, 608-9). The Cawarden tomb has not escaped notice either, but this has been more in terms of its date and who it commemorates than the artistic accomplishment of what remains of it (e.g. O’Brien *et al.* 2022, 43, 141; the *spolia* embedded in the tower walls do not suggest its dismantled upper half was substantially more refined). The Chaldon tablet ranks somewhere in between these pieces quality-wise but, more importantly, it shows that by 1562 a carver using local stone was producing accomplished work employing a classical repertoire, “catching up” the medium with architectural ceramics and wood.

What makes the Chaldon tablet all the more remarkable is that the Richardsons were not of the same socio-economic standing as the Cawardens of Bletchingley or Mores of Loseley, yet were motivated and able to commission a monument of what could be characterised as cutting-edge design – albeit on a scale more befitting their rank than the roughly contemporary works made for richer patrons described above. Whether this is sufficient to rule it out as being work of a foreign-born craftsman, in

contrast to the above-mentioned fireplaces, is an tantalising question. Regardless of the answer, the Chaldon tablet can, and indeed should, in its own modest way assume a more prominent place at a county to regional level in the story of the stylistic developments that made the 16th century one of such great change.

The tablet stands out even more as a totem of social history. Its erection in a tiny church in a minor parish situated high on the North Downs is a stark reminder of how poverty was a universal feature of early Elizabethan life, not one limited to towns and cities. John and Ellen Richardson appear to have gone further than most in recognising, in time honoured fashion, that something had to be done. Perhaps further research will reveal if they turned their carved words into meaningful actions, and inspired their fellow parishioners to do the same and come to the aid of Chaldon's worthy poor.

Thanks

Many thanks to Madeline Hutchins and Liz Bonsall of Chaldon History Group for providing information about the Richardsons and the tablet; to Maureen and Tony of Mo's Postcards for selling me the card reproduced as Fig 1; and to Lyn Spencer for organising the Medieval Studies Forum's July 2025 visit to Chaldon church, of which the tablet was the unexpected personal highlight.

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Making a mound out of a mill

By **Rob Poulton**

Brian Hope-Taylor came to Preston Hawe, near Banstead, Surrey, in 1952 with a mission, ‘It seems very odd, but we know less about the layout and physical organisation of medieval manors and their estates than of, say, Roman legionary fortresses.... Preston Hawe [provides a perfect opportunity to fill] an appalling blank in our knowledge of a fundamental period of England’s development’ (Hope-Taylor 1953, 24-5). He was remarkably successful, showing that a lordly residence was established in the early 12th century that came to lie within a rectangular bank-and-ditch enclosing successive hall and chamber complexes, all abandoned by the later 13th century (Poulton with Hope-Taylor 2023).

Hope-Taylor paid particular attention to the local context of the manorial centre and his eye was drawn to two earth mounds (Fig 1) that lay just outside the south-east corner of the enclosure. He identified them as ‘guard point mounds’, analogous to mottes, but purely symbolic ‘Their presence ... possibly indicates that an ex-professional soldier laid out the site (a retired admiral, for instance, will hang a ship’s bell outside his house, and will call his bedroom his cabin)’ (Hope-Taylor 1952).

The interpretation is enticing but unfortunately the southern of the two mounds is identified on the 1871 Ordnance Survey 25 inch map as a clay mill, associated with brickmaking, the kiln for which is shown just to the east. An illustration of around 1800 (Fig 2) shows a mound developing in association with use of a horse-operated clay mill and the features observed by Hope-Taylor in his excavation of the northern mound (Fig 1) are consistent with this use (Poulton with Hope-Taylor 2023, 53-4).



The southern mound has also been claimed as a possible barrow, in the context of a survey of evidence for early Saxon burial in the Banstead area (Harp & Hines 2003, 119). That is clearly wrong but it is easy to see the attraction of the interpretation. The clay mill technology was in use for over a century during which brickmaking operations proliferated. A very large number of these mounds must have been created. How many archaeological field workers are aware of this formation process for mounds and how many might have been wrongly identified?

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Fig 1 The northern clay-mill mound in 1952 (looking south)

Fig 2 (left) An illustration of brickmaking in c.1800 showing how the horse-drawn clay-mill is creating a mound below it (from a hand-coloured copy of W H Pyne’s *Microcosm, or A Picturesque Delineation of the Arts, Agriculture, Manufactures, etc, of Great Britain* (1808), by courtesy of The Master and Fellows of Emmanuel College, Cambridge)

Valor Ecclesiasticus – rediscovering Henry VIII’s ‘Tudor Domesday Book’

By Sally Jenkinson

The Society’s Medieval Studies Forum first heard from Dr Euan Roger, Principal Medieval Records Specialist at The National Archives (TNA), about a project on the Valor Ecclesiasticus at our Chertsey Abbey study day in February 2023. Subsequently, we were pleased to support a six-month pilot focussing on Chertsey Abbey and its estates (Fig 1). It was a great delight, therefore, to hear in October 2025 that funding of almost £1.5 million had been secured from the Arts and Humanities Research Council by a University of Exeter-led team for a three-year project to produce a digital version of the Valor Ecclesiasticus (see valor1535.org).

The Valor Ecclesiasticus was a nationwide survey of the property and wealth of the monasteries in England and Wales carried out for Henry VIII in 1535. It includes lists of income from demesne farms, mills, woodland, manor courts and churches and payments to collectors of rents and churches. Until now there has only been a rather poor quality, abbreviated Latin transcript available to historians. This project will make a searchable full translation available online free of charge for all to explore, and records will be linked to modern maps using GIS (Geographic Information System) technology (see Merrington 2025 for lots more information).

Chertsey Abbey Pilot

I was privileged to be one of the volunteers who took part in the Chertsey Abbey pilot. The aim was to identify which resources and outputs would be useful to local history groups, archives and museums. In October 2023, volunteers attended an excellent introductory study day at Surrey History Centre with Euan and Professor James Clark of the Department of Archaeology and History at University of Exeter. This was followed by Zoom meetings with many tips on the research, and a visit to TNA in Kew to see the original Valor Ecclesiasticus (Fig 2). Euan used Google Docs to make available scans of documents held by TNA, as well as for us to upload our results. At the end of the pilot he organised an end of project workshop at Chertsey Museum followed by a tour around the remains of Chertsey Abbey.

The volunteers, with our varied interests (including Hatchlands, Effingham, Chertsey, Esher, bells, alms and sacrists), made a wide range of contributions to the pilot. My small part was to help with researching some of the collectors of rents, and with identifying grid references for manor farms, mills and churches. This was all very enjoyable and I learned a lot. In



Fig 1 Portrait of Henry VIII in the illuminated presentation copy of Valor Ecclesiasticus known as the King's Book. TNA, E 344/22, f. 1

particular, James gave me a tip: the men collecting the rents were generally not locals as I had thought, but rather were chosen by King Henry and came from elsewhere. For example, the collector of rents in Frimley was William Burston, and it turned out he was from Milton-next-Gravesend and the land he sold to Henry VIII was used to build forts along the river Thames.

An unexpected bonus for me was a rental dating from c.1547 (reference TNA LR 2-190), which had been on my “must see” list for some time. Armed with information already gathered from other documents and rentals, the boundaries given in this rental were very useful indeed. I was able to confirm the location of a parcel called *Newportis* in Ash and a parcel called *Groverscroft* in Tongham which was south of *Kneppescroft* in Ash, and that the lane east of *Kneppescroft* was then called *Grymeslane*. I also discovered that Henry Vyne of Poyle Park in Tongham held the croft called *Milhurst* in Ash and a parcel called *Poyle* east of *Mendlease* in Ash.

The locations of these historic landscape features are shown in Fig 3. *Newportis* (numbered 1, equivalent to Ash and Normandy tithe parcel 260/261) is now the site of The Elms and part of Parsons Way. *Kneppescroft* (2, Ash and Normandy tithe parcel

259) is now the site of Alden Copse. *Groverscroft* (3, Seale with Tongham tithe parcel 20) was on the other side of the parish boundary from Alden Copse, in the present Spoil Lane Allotments. *Grymeslane* (4) is now part of Surrey County Council byway 219 separating Yalden Gardens from Parsons Way and Alden Copse. *Milhurst* (5, Ash and Normandy tithe parcels 262/263) is now the site of Howard Cole Gardens and part of Parsons Way. *Mendlease* (6, Ash and Normandy tithe parcels 252, 253, 254, 255, 257) and the field called *Poyle* (7, Ash and Normandy tithe parcels 209/210) are among the fields east of Yalden Gardens in the area now known as Ash Green Meadows.*

I also found out more about George Warner, the collector of rents in Ash who appears in the Valor Ecclesiasticus. In 1534 George Warner was a Serjeant at Arms, and he was granted a lease of the manor farm of Ash (Fig 4; labelled A on Fig 3, in Ash and Normandy tithe parcel 166) even though it was already leased to another local gentleman. When he died the property appears to have been reclaimed by a descendant of the previous owner rather than passing to George’s son Thomas. (Happily, Thomas was fine, as before his father died he already owned part of a farm in Ash then known

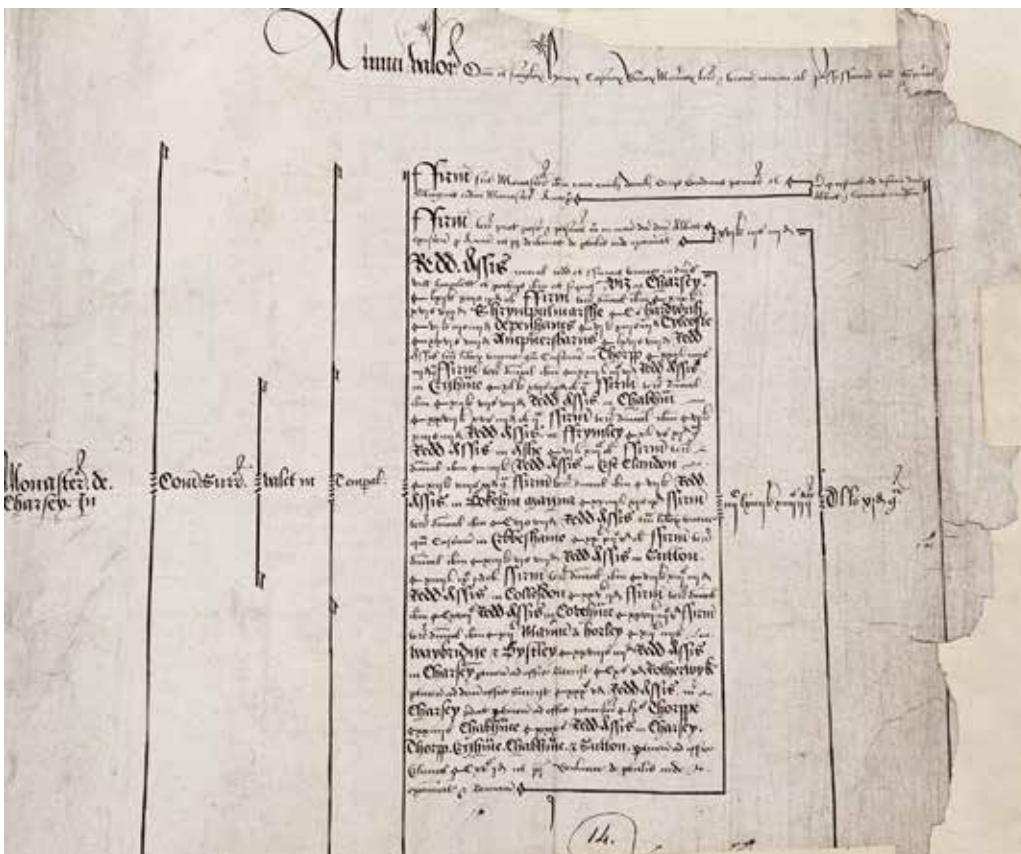


Fig 2 TNA, E 344/15, f. 14



Fig 3 Map showing approximate centre points of land parcels and other features named in the rental of c.1547, based on OS six-inch survey of Surrey sheet XXII, published 1873 (reference Ash Museum 74/1/2). The land parcels are all south of what is now Ash Green Lane West, with the roughly north-south lanes at either end equivalent to Manor Road and White Lane today.

as *Wisdomes and Horsmyll* (B, in Ash and Normandy tithe parcel 44), where the Greyhound Close flats are today, and also held the lease of some land in Frimley.) Whilst disappointed not to have been able to trace George Warner's appointment as a Serjeant at Arms, I did find on British History Online that in 1546 he was made keeper of Bramshill Park for life (Gairdner & Brodie 1908).

Discover the Dissolution

TNA has made some excellent educational resources available online via its [Discover the Dissolution website](#), including examples of documents and interactive maps showing the locations of monasteries and wealth and religious rule of each, and the locations of Knights Hospitallers. A copy of the whole dataset can be downloaded and includes order and mother house as well as net income and national grid reference.

There is also an interactive section called "Dissolution in your area" where schools and history clubs from across the country can enter their answers to a set list of questions about their local Abbey. Several schools have already been using the

resources and submitting their work. In Surrey, year 12 at Fullbrook School have added their work on Chertsey Abbey and year 7 at Harris Academy Wimbledon have been working on Merton Priory. Students can click on a map to choose a monastery or on pie charts to select “year of dissolution” or “order” to filter the entries.

* You can find these places in their early 21st- and mid-19th-century landscape contexts using the Surrey Interactive Map and the Surrey LiDAR Portal respectively. The Surrey Interactive Map on the Surrey County Council website (<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/land-planning-and-development/interactive-map>) allows you to zoom straight to grid references and named roads. The “Countryside Rights of Way” layer can be selected to add numbered byways and bridleways, and the “Boundary - Parish” layer can also be selected. The SyAS Surrey LiDAR Portal (surreylidar.org.uk) currently allows you to overlay modern Microsoft Azure basemaps with the combined Surrey tithe and 19th-century OS maps layer, making it easy to compare then and now in detail. Full tithe records can be consulted at the Surrey History Centre.

Sources

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Winchester, Winchester College, 3229, 3241 and 3242 Rentals, 1492, c.1552 and c.1642 [Ash Manor court records and leases from the same archive were also utilised for the writing of this note]

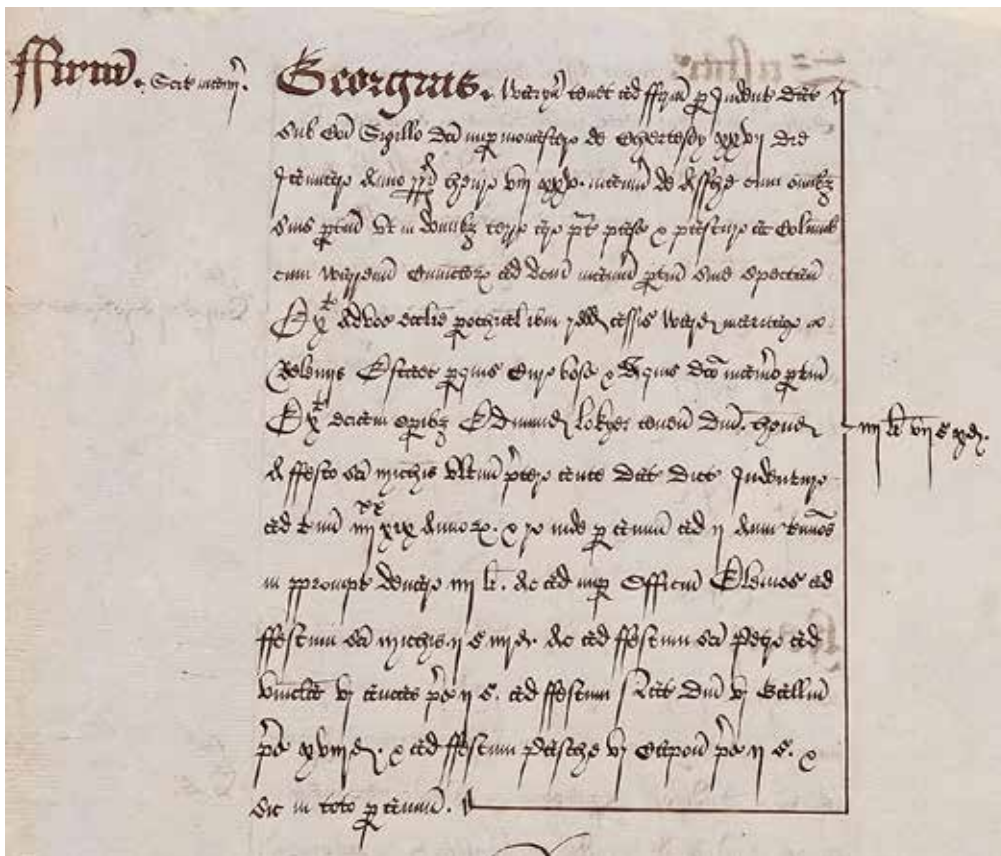


Fig 4 Entry for the manor farm at Ash, leased by George Warner, collector of the rents of Ash (TNA LR 2-190 f183)

Community archaeology round-up 2025

By **Hannah Potter**

Fetcham Springs

We are pleased to announce that following the award of a £250,000 grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund in late summer, Communities at the River: The Fetcham Springs Archaeology Project is now well underway. Thanks to National Lottery players, this five-year initiative is creating new opportunities to explore, conserve and celebrate the nationally significant archaeological heritage of Fetcham Springs.

Since the launch of the project, the first programme of community-led activities has been successfully delivered, including test pitting, geophysical survey and metal-detecting surveys. These initial stages mark the beginning of an ambitious programme of research and public engagement. Over the coming years, professional archaeologists from Surrey County Archaeological Unit (SCAU) will work closely with volunteers of all ages and backgrounds to investigate the site through excavation, survey, specialist training and creative engagement activities.

The project builds upon the landmark 2009 excavations, which revealed an exceptional archaeological sequence spanning thousands of years. Evidence ranges from a Late Upper Palaeolithic/Early Mesolithic hunting camp, through Neolithic and Bronze Age activity, to a high-status Roman building and Saxon features. This remarkable continuity of occupation makes Fetcham Springs one of Surrey’s most important archaeological landscapes and an ideal focus for long-term, community-led research.

Volunteers, schools and community groups will continue to take part in excavations, finds processing and interpretation. A varied programme of public engagement – including flintknapping workshops, Stone Age and Roman re-enactor visits, gladiator training sessions and family-focused events – will help bring the site’s long history to life.



Fig 1 Roman building at Fetcham Springs, 2009

The site is also recognised for its ecological value, having achieved the Wildlife Trust’s Biodiversity Benchmark. Landowners SES Water remain key partners in the project, supporting sustainable land management practices that enhance both natural and cultural heritage.

Project findings will be shared through talks, pop-up displays, an audio guide and a published booklet as work progresses. Further details of the 2026 excavation programme will be released in spring, including information on how to volunteer.

September test pitting

The September 2025 test-pitting programme at Fetcham Springs proved to be a major success. A total of 118 volunteers contributed 1,410 hours of excavation over ten days. More than half of those taking part were completely new to archaeology, and for the majority it was their first time learning about the archaeology of their local area, demonstrating the effectiveness of hands-on archaeology as a tool for skills development and engagement.

Volunteers travelled from across Surrey and beyond, with particularly strong representation from the Fetcham and Leatherhead area. Working collaboratively, participants uncovered evidence spanning thousands of years of activity. Feedback

consistently highlighted the welcoming, well-organised and supportive atmosphere on site. Notably, 65 volunteers stated that there was nothing they would change about the experience. Learning new skills, teamwork and shared discovery were frequently cited as highlights.

The project also reached a wide audience beyond the site itself. Social media coverage during the excavation period generated over 14,000 views on Facebook and nearly 4,000 views on Instagram. This strong online engagement reflected the enthusiasm on site, with many volunteers expressing a desire to return for future phases of work.



Fig 2 Volunteers taking part in Fetcham test pitting (including cover image)

The test-pitting programme recovered a total of 2,206 archaeological finds, providing valuable insights into activity at Fetcham Springs from the Upper Palaeolithic through to the 20th century.

Pottery formed the largest component of the assemblage, including Roman greywares and Samian ware, medieval and post-medieval orange wares, white wares, redwares and later stonewares. Many sherds were small and heavily abraded, indicating significant bioturbation across the site. Additional Roman material included fragments of tegula roof tile, combed flue tile, and probable tesserae. A substantial quantity of worked flint dating to the Upper Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and

Neolithic periods was also recovered, much of it associated with core preparation and tool manufacture. The generally poor condition of the flint assemblage again reflects long-term disturbance. Metal finds were limited but included a heavily worn Roman copper-alloy minim and a medieval copper-alloy pin.

The test pitting demonstrated a largely disturbed stratigraphic sequence, with only the topsoil consistently identifiable. Extensive bioturbation caused by tree roots, burrowing activity and long-term agricultural use has resulted in significant mixing of archaeological material, with datable finds dispersed across spits and representing multiple periods within the same contexts.

No definitive evidence for further elements of the previously identified Upper Palaeolithic/Early Mesolithic hunting camp was recovered. However, a small quantity of flint broadly consistent with this period was identified in nearby test pits. Although these artefacts were in poor condition and likely residual, their restricted distribution suggests a probable association with the earlier-identified activity area.

Evidence from the western part of the site was more suggestive of prehistoric activity. A possible archaeological feature was recorded in Test Pit 10, characterised by a slightly irregular cut and containing a limited quantity of flint, potentially of Mesolithic date.

While no structural remains attributable to the Roman period were identified, Roman material formed a substantial proportion of the overall finds assemblage, with a notable representation of later Roman artefacts.



Fig 3 Additional volunteer participation at Fetcham

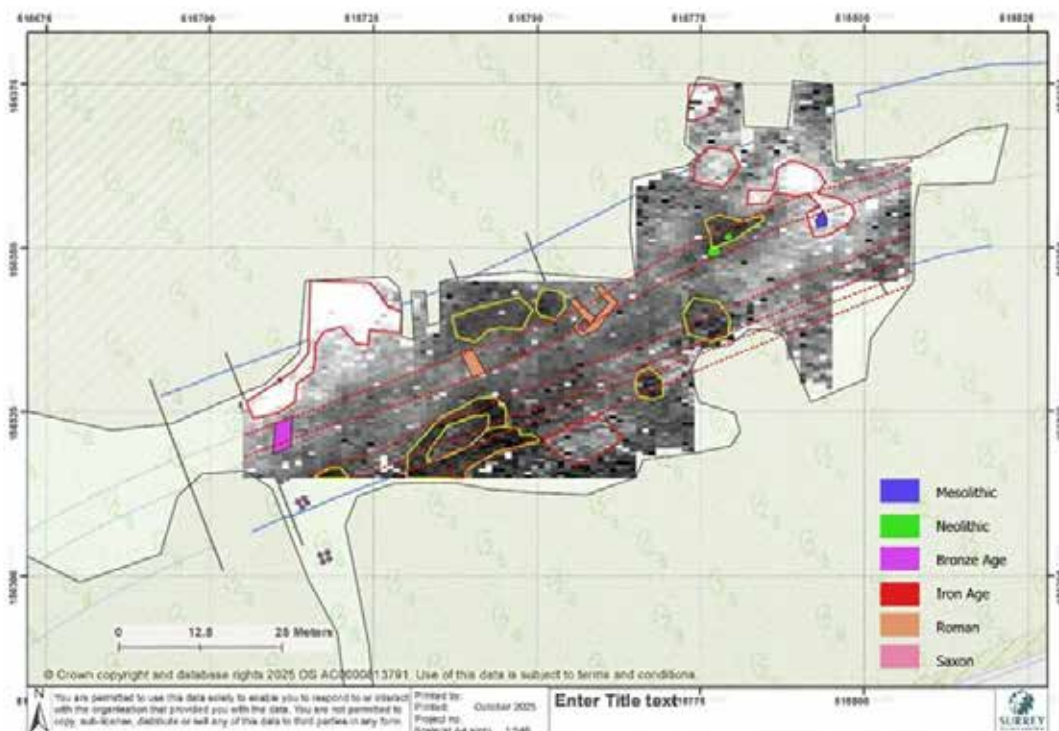


Fig 4 Earth resistance survey undertaken by SyAS volunteers, led by David Calow, in November 2025

Geophysical survey provides new insights

In November 2025, a targeted geophysical survey was undertaken by volunteers from Surrey Archaeological Society, supporting further investigation of areas initially identified during SCAU’s 2009 work.

Magnetometry and earth resistance surveys were carried out within the area cleared during the September test-pitting programme. Magnetometry results were dominated by three underground pipelines, including the 2009 water main and two earlier mains, which produced strong linear anomalies that masked subtler archaeological features. Despite these challenges, areas of relatively undisturbed archaeological deposits were identified. Earth resistance survey results highlighted zones of higher resistance that may relate to prehistoric flintworking activity, alongside lower resistance anomalies potentially indicating pits, ditches or service disturbance. These results will help inform planning of future excavation phases beginning in 2026.

Archaeology for wellbeing at West Horsley Place

In autumn 2025, SCAU collaborated with West Horsley Place Trust to deliver ‘Archaeology for

Wellbeing’, a six-week pilot programme exploring the role of archaeology and heritage engagement in supporting positive mental health and wellbeing outcomes.

Supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, the programme was designed for participants experiencing mild to moderate anxiety, depression, loneliness or long-term health conditions. Participants worked alongside professional archaeologists to explore the archaeology and history of the West Horsley Place estate through small-scale excavation, artefact handling and landscape exploration. The sessions combined learning with opportunities for social connection, gentle physical activity and engagement with nature and the historic environment.



Fig 5 West Horsley Place archaeology wellbeing participants

The estate's historic landscape, including medieval fishponds, Tudor gardens and earlier archaeological features, provided a rich context for exploration, building on previous community excavations undertaken by SCAU in 2022. Participant feedback highlighted the supportive and inclusive nature of the sessions and demonstrated the value of archaeology as a wellbeing-focused engagement tool. The success of the pilot has identified opportunities for similar projects to be developed elsewhere in Surrey.



Fig 6 West Horsley Place wellbeing test pit

Magna Carta Weekend

On 14-15 June 2025, volunteers joined the SCAU Community Archaeologist at Runnymede to mark the anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta in 1215. Activities included medieval games, wood carving and displays by Egham Museum. SCAU hosted a stall showcasing the 'Runnymede Explored' project and archaeological finds from the 2022 and 2023 excavations at Ankerwycke Priory. Volunteers played a key role in engaging visitors and supporting children's activities, including hands-on mini-digs.

Caterham family test pitting

Volunteers of all ages took part in family test-pitting activities on 21-22 June 2025 in Whyteleafe Park, Warlingham, delivered in partnership with East Surrey Museum and Caterham Rotary. Over two days, hundreds of families participated, continuing the project's sixth successful year of test-pitting events in the area.



Fig 7 Magna Carta weekend 2025



Fig 8 Oatlands display

Excavating Oatlands Display

In June, SCAU staff and volunteers attended the opening of a new exhibition of Oatlands Palace artefacts at the Elmbridge Museum exhibition space in Esher Civic Centre. The display brings together material excavated during the 1960s-80s, including Tudor tiles, pottery and glass. These artefacts were re-catalogued by SCAU volunteers between 2019 and 2024, supporting the preservation and interpretation of one of Henry VIII's lost royal residences. The exhibition is also now available online through the Elmbridge Museum website.

Wednesday volunteers

More than 50 volunteers contributed a total of 1,922 hours during the SCAU Wednesday volunteering sessions at the Surrey History Centre in 2025. Much of this time was dedicated to the Store Transformation Project, ensuring the archaeological archive meets modern standards. Volunteers updated box lists, entered data into the project database, processed finds from the Fetcham test-pitting programme, prepared displays for Surrey Heritage Open Day, and completed post-excavation work from the Archaeology for Wellbeing project. Volunteers also supported the preparation of OASIS records for submission to the Archaeology Data Service, enabling wider public access to over 400 SCAU fieldwork reports.

Evaluation of the Wednesday volunteering programme carried out in early 2025 demonstrated its positive impact. 92% per cent of respondents reported developing new skills or knowledge, 96% reported a positive impact on their mental wellbeing, and 76% reported forming new friendships through volunteering – highlighting both the personal and social value of community archaeology.



Fig 9 2025 Wednesday volunteers

The Runnymede Late Bronze Age central place

By **Rob Poulton**

It is 50 years since David Longley began the excavations, the first by the newly established professional archaeological officers for Surrey, that revealed buried remains that are regarded as one of the most important discoveries in the prehistory of Britain. It is fitting that this Scheduled Monument has now been celebrated by the installation of an information board at the Runnymede Hotel.

The period from around 1500BC saw a remarkable expansion of settled farming communities. The island position of Runnymede, enclosed by channels of the Thames creating a unique and attractive topography, enabled it to develop as an accessible but protected centre to which people flocked to meet



Fig 1 In 1978 archaeologists were salvaging evidence of Neolithic and Bronze Age settlements even as preparations for construction of the M25 bridge across the Thames were at an advanced stage (© Stuart Needham, director of excavations)

and exchange goods. It might, as it was later, have been neutral territory where people from different tribes could meet. Large quantities of domestic refuse from the excavations show how densely it was occupied across an area of around 2 hectares.

Much later the island became known as *Tyngeyt* and its southern channel formed the border of the territory of Surrey that emerged in the late 7th century and afterwards it separated the counties of Buckinghamshire and Surrey.

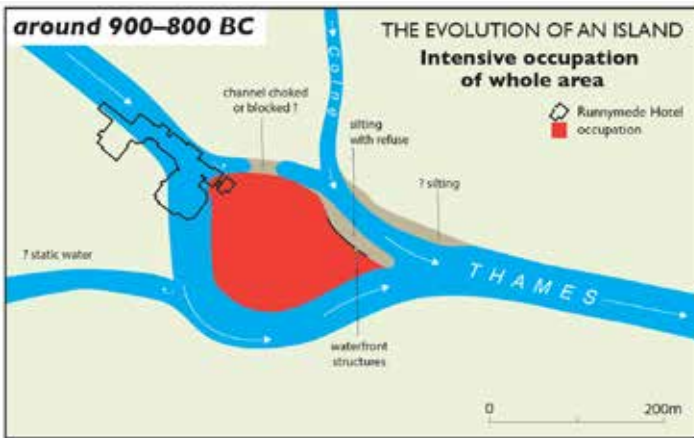


Fig 2 The Late Bronze Age island at Runnymede (Giles Pattison)

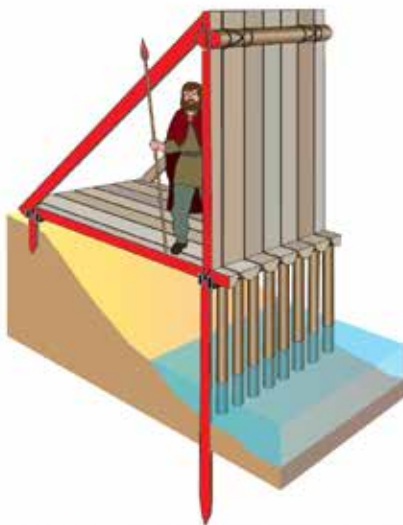


Fig 3 (above) An artist's impression of the Late Bronze Age timber stockade (Giles Pattison) that probably enclosed the island and one of the excavated oak piles (© Stuart Needham)



Fig 4 (left) Late Bronze Age flint-tempered pottery vessel with fingertip impressions along the shoulder (© The Trustees of the British Museum)

Further reading

Longley, D, 1980 *Runnymede Bridge 1976: Excavations on the site of a Late Bronze Age Settlement*, SyAS Research Volume 6

Needham, S P, 1991 *Excavation and salvage at Runnymede Bridge 1978. The Late Bronze Age waterfront site*, British Museum Press

Needham, S, 2000 *The passage of the Thames: Holocene environment and settlement at Runnymede*, Runnymede Bridge Research Excavations, 1

Needham, S, & Spence, T, 1996 *Refuse and disposal at Area 16 East, Runnymede*, Runnymede Bridge Research Excavations, 2



Fig 5 Late Bronze Age antler cheekpieces made on site (© The Trustees of the British Museum), and how they were used (after Denise Longley). Both examples have all over polish. No 1 (right) was cut from the main beam of a red deer antler and is on display at the British Museum. No 2 (top) was made on a red deer antler tine



Fig 6 The information board in situ

Domestic Buildings Research Group – Archive Project

By **Brigid Fice**

Over the past 50 years the Domestic Buildings Research Group (DBRG) has recorded over 4,000 buildings in and around Surrey. Each recording results in a report and on average 10 drawings – plans, elevations, sections, architectural details, photos and artistic drawings. That’s around 40,000 drawings detailing the surviving (and some now demolished) vernacular architecture in Surrey.

Photocopies of the drawings have already been deposited at the Surrey History Centre but the original drawings have been loitering in various dark corners for many years. The Surrey History Centre have agreed to deposit the original drawings in replacement of the photocopies. However, they have to be matched up, prepared in acid free inserts, carefully catalogued and boxed.

The bespoke inserts and archive boxes don’t come cheap. The overall cost will be approximately £4000. Grants have been obtained from the Vernacular Architecture Group (£1000), the Surrey History Trust (£500) and Surrey Archaeological Society (£500), with DBRG putting up the rest.



A group of volunteers having fun with DBRG drawings at East Horsley Village Hall

The Project was planned to take a year starting in May 2025. After a slowish start, we have prepared approximately 2,500 reports so are more than half way there. On 26 November 2025 a group of volunteers met at East Horsley Village Hall to boost the preparations. All were members of DBRG and

some were owners of the recorded buildings. It was a good opportunity to meet up, appreciate the work of the DBRG and ensure this nationally important collection is preserved.

We will be running another session in the spring. If you would like to help, please contact Brigid.fice@btinternet.com. Further information about the DBRG can be found on our website www.dbrg.org.uk.

Note from the Trustees

At the November AGM Nikki Cowlard was elected as a Trustee of the Charity and Director of the Company, replacing Judie English who sadly died during the year.

Members are reminded that membership fees are due for renewal on 1 April 2026. We are pleased to say that fees remain unchanged for another year. Please pay online or via standing order if possible.

Moated sites in south-east England conference

By **Anne Sassin**

On 24 January 2026, the Medieval Studies Forum and Council for British Archaeology South-East held a conference in East Horsley Village Hall on ‘Moated sites in south-east England: 21st-century research and insights’. The day was first mooted as a potential topic which warranted fresh consideration and coordination of recent research, as identified by the Surrey Archaeological Research Framework. By taking a regional view, trends across space and time are more likely to be identified, which are hoped to inspire fresh investigation of this important class of medieval and post-medieval monuments.

Rob Briggs, MSF chair, opened proceedings with ‘Surrey’s moated sites: recent research, themes and thoughts arising’, a comprehensive and thought provoking survey of work on the county’s moated sites published since 2000, which represent both recent excavations and fieldwork conducted in the mid- to late 20th century. The talk began with a summary of past attempts at synthesising the monument type in Surrey, notably by Dennis Turner in the 1970s, before moving to site specific work.

An overview of sites which have had prior fieldwork included South Park Farm, Grayswood; Downside Farm, Cobham; The Manor House, Pirbright; Hope Cottage, Egham; East Shalford Manor, Shalford; Manor Farm, Guildford; Aldertons Farm/Boughton Hall, Send; Woking Palace, Old Woking; Cranleigh Rectory, Cranleigh; and Preston Hawe, Tadworth. Other studies and insights have been enabled through map-based and LiDAR research or field study (Shoelands, Puttenham; Greatlee Wood, Effingham; Great Fosters, Egham; Lagham Manor, South Godstone; Old Palace School, Croydon; Pond Garden, Esher), or in the case of Esher Palace, have historical insights into the digging of the moat from manor accounts in the Winchester Pipe Rolls. Great Wildwood, Alfold; Old House Field, Cranleigh and Old House, Ewhurst have also demonstrated how reassessment of pottery fabrics from the sites can provide new insight into their phasing.

A clear conclusion from the some 150 Surrey moated sites is how vast the range of site morphology and size was, with an obvious and seemingly uneven geographic cluster underlain by geology, with clays naturally ideal for forming water-holding moats than chalk or sands. In addition to the Weald, major river routeways such as the Wey had notable concentrations, though mainly around Guildford and downstream, rather than upriver. Several have origins in the late 11th/early 12th century, at the same time as apparently never-moated sites, with Woking Palace alone amongst the Surrey moated sites in not having an obvious pre-moated occupation phase. This begs the question of why some, but not all, such sites became moated. No one moat was constructed for a single purpose, with most capable of adaptation, and there is no clear pattern of abandonment, instead an ongoing process from the 14th century onwards.

Manorial status is indisputable for many of the sites, but the reflex to link moated morphology with a site being a manorial centre is questionable in some recently-published cases (notably Hope Cottage, Egham). There also seems to have been a late development of new moated sites serving as more obviously ornamental features, containing multiple ponds rather than buildings, a phenomenon with elite-linked examples in Surrey, none of which can be precisely dated and so may be late medieval or early post-medieval.

A more detailed overview of the Surrey moats can be found via Rob's blog at surreymedieval.wordpress.com/2026/02/06/reflections-on-moated-sites-and-more/.

The other talks on the day addressed moated sites in Sussex and Kent, but shared many parallels applicable to Surrey sites. Nathalie Cohen's overview of National Trust properties and recent work highlighted the early, 12th-century development of some, including St John's Jerusalem, Kent and Plumpton Place in Sussex (the latter covered by Diccon Hart of HB Archaeology and Conservation), with a call for further research on the role of women in estate ownership and the relationship of moated sites with the 'working estate', particularly mills. The need for more research on smaller 'homestead moats' was also supported by the talk from Alastair Oswald (English Heritage) on Romshed and Chiddingstone Burghersh in the Weald. My own paper on recent work on Darent Valley moated sites – namely St John's Jerusalem, Lullingstone and Otford – highlighted the fresh insights targeted community fieldwork can bring through high resolution geophysical survey over larger areas, trial trenching and well funded environmental sampling, while Janet Clayton demonstrated the clear value and benefits which volunteer groups such as ODAS (Orpington and District) provide to management of heritage-at-risk sites such as Scadbury Manor.

From a Surrey perspective, it is clear that the county's moated sites would make an excellent topic for an academic dissertation/thesis or research project, though smaller-scale studies are still wholly valuable and should be supported. This is especially so for moated sites outside of parks and focus on activity around the peripheries, with the clear benefits of palaeoenvironmental sampling and analysis already addressed. Given the accepted date of the late 12th/early 13th century for the emergence of moated sites in Surrey, and evidence of earlier 12th-century pottery now known from reassessment of many of the assemblages, consideration might be made of potentially back-dating some of sites.

Many thanks to Rob Briggs for his – as always – thought-provoking contributions both on and after the day, as well as Lyn Spencer, Sally Jenkinson and Pam Savage for their help in organising what proved to be an informative and highly useful conference.

Lecture meetings

Please note that lecture details, in particular venues and format, are subject to change. It is recommended that up-to-date information be obtained from the individual organisations before attending. If you would like your programme included in future editions, please contact the editors.

17 February

‘Sherbourne and Silent Pool’ by Trevor Brook to Acorns History Group at St Mary’s Church, Shalford at 10:00. Visitors welcome: £6

19 February

‘The History of Shepperton Studios’ by Nick Pollard to Dorking Local History Group via Zoom at 19:30. Visitors welcome.

‘The History of Shepperton Studios’ by Nick Pollard to Surrey Industrial History Group on Zoom at 19:15. See www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk/events/all/list for more info.

20 February

‘Frensham Hill before the Heights’ by Roy Waight to Farnham & District Museum Society at The Garden Gallery, Museum of Farnham, West Street, Farnham at 14:30. Visitors welcome: £3

26 February

‘Sir Richard Burbidge – the man who made Harrods’ by Nick Pollard to Egham by Runnymede Historical Society in United Church, Egham at 19:30. Visitors welcome: £2

27 February

‘Findings from the medieval settlement of Albury’ by Anne Sassin to Puttenham and Wanborough History Society at Marwick Hall, School Lane, Puttenham at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £2

2 March

‘Trig Point Charlie!’ by Alastair Clark to Dorking Local History Group in the Crossways Community Baptist Church, Dorking at 19:30. Visitors welcome.

3 March

‘Steaming On (Railway History)’ by Paul Whittle to Addlestone Historical Society at Addlestone Community Centre, Garfield Road, Addlestone at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £3

‘Alan Turing’ by Paul Backhouse to Acorns History Group at St Mary’s Church, Shalford at 10:00. Visitors welcome: £6

5 March

‘In the Wake of the Narrowboat Cressy’ by Alastair Clark to Surrey Industrial History Group at Oddfellows Hall, Bridge Street, Leatherhead at 14:00. See www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk/events/all/list for more info.

7 March

‘When Croydon was the Centre of the Universe’ by Will Noble to Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society in the East Croydon United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon at 14:30. Visitors welcome: £3

9 March

‘Richmond, Suffrage, and Women Parliamentary Candidates’ by Lisa Berry-Waite and Mari Takayanagi to Richmond Local History Society, Duke Street Church, Richmond at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £5

11 March

‘St Mary’s and the Ripley Almshouses’ by Cameron Brown to Send and Ripley History Society at Ripley Village Hall, High Street, Ripley at 19:30. Visitors welcome: £3

13 March

‘The Rise and Fall of Richmond Palace’ by Mark Lucas to Richmond Archaeological Society at Richmond Library Annex, Quadrant Rd, Richmond at 20:00. Visitors welcome.

14 March

‘Arts and Crafts at a Surrey Home’ by Christina Preston to Esher District Local History Society at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Church Road, Claygate at 2:30. Visitors welcome: £3

17 March

‘The Dorking & Petworth Emigration Schemes in the early 19th century’ by Judy Hill to Dorking Local History Group via Zoom at 19:30. Visitors welcome.

‘Law and Disorder’ by Christopher Bell to Acorns History Group at St Mary’s Church, Shalford at 10:00. Visitors welcome: £6

20 March

‘Their Day has Passed: Gypsies in Victorian and Edwardian Surrey’ by Alan Wright to Farnham & District Museum Society at The Garden Gallery, Museum of Farnham, West Street, Farnham at 14:30. Visitors welcome: £3

23 March

‘Old London Bridge and its Houses’ by Dorian Gerhold to Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society in the East Croydon United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon at 19:45. Visitors welcome: £3

26 March

‘A Fresh Look at the History of the Industrial Revolution’ by Laurence Scales to Surrey Industrial History Group at Oddfellows Hall, Bridge Street, Leatherhead at 14:00. See www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk/events/all/list for more info.

27 March

‘Yvonne Cormeau’ by Paul McCue to Puttenham and Wanborough History Society at Marwick Hall, School Lane, Puttenham at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £2

30 March

‘A Romany Lifestyle in Surrey’ by David Rose & Geoff Burch to Dorking Local History Group in the Crossways Community Baptist Church, Dorking at 19:30. Visitors welcome.

1 April

‘The History of Allotments’ by Judith Hill to Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society in St Mary’s Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £4

7 April

‘Mallory’ by Moira MacQuaide to Acorns History Group at St Mary’s Church, Shalford at 10:00. Visitors welcome: £6

8 April

‘Chatham Dockyard – At the Heart of the Industrial Revolution’ by Martin Watts to Surrey Industrial History Group at Oddfellows Hall, Bridge Street, Leatherhead at 19:15. See www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk/events/all/list for more info.

‘History of Metal Detecting’ by Andy Jones to Send and Ripley History Society at Ripley Village Hall, High Street, Ripley at 19:30. Visitors welcome: £3

11 April

‘Tavern Trade and Daily life in post Medieval Bermondsey’ by Jacqui Pearce to Carshalton & District History & Archaeology Society in Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, Carshalton at 14:30. Visitors welcome: £3

‘Surrey’s Battles, Forts, and Forgotten Heroes’ by Paul Le Messurier to Esher District Local History Society at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Church Road, Claygate at 2:30. Visitors welcome: £3

13 April

‘Richmond’s links to [Revolutionary] America’ by Simon Targett to Richmond Local History Society, Duke Street Church, Richmond at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £5

17 April

‘An Archaeological Childhood in Sussex’ by Janet Pennington to Farnham & District Museum Society at The Garden Gallery, Museum of Farnham, West Street, Farnham at 14:30. Visitors welcome: £3

20 April

‘Surrey Memories, 1900s to 1950s’ by Michelle Howes to Dorking Local History Group via Zoom at 19:30. Visitors welcome.

21 April

‘Brief Encounters (Guildford’s historical connections with the theatre)’ by Jeff Thomson to Acorns History Group at St Mary’s Church, Shalford at 10:00. Visitors welcome: £6

24 April

‘Henry Peake’ by Moira MacQuaide to Puttenham and Wanborough History Society at Marwick Hall, School Lane, Puttenham at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £2

29 April

‘Loose Change – the Evolution of Innovation’ by John Griffiths-Colby to Surrey Industrial History Group at Oddfellows Hall, Bridge Street, Leatherhead at 19:15. See www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk/events/all/list for more info.

5 May

‘Frank Conway and the neighbour from hell (Guildford and the IRA bombing)’ by Colin Rumary to Acorns History Group at St Mary’s Church, Shalford at 10:00. Visitors welcome: £6

6 May

‘Kidnapped Kings & Queens’ by Andy Nairn to Addlestone Historical Society at Addlestone Community Centre, Garfield Road, Addlestone at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £3

‘Jane Morris (wife of William Morris)’ John Hawks to Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society in St Mary’s Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £4

11 May

‘Scandalous Surrey! Dirty Dorking!’ by Lorraine Spindler to Dorking Local History Group in the Crossways Community Baptist Church, Dorking at 19:30. Visitors welcome.

13 May

‘Energy in the United Kingdom from the Late 1800s to Today’ by Tristan Aspray to Surrey Industrial History Group at Oddfellows Hall, Bridge Street, Leatherhead at 19:15. See www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk/events/all/list for more info.

16 May

‘Mudlarking: Searching for Lost Treasures’ by Jason Sandy to Esher District Local History Society at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Church Road, Claygate at 2:30. Visitors welcome: £3

20 May

‘Elizabeth Barton – The Maid of Kent’ by Melanie Gibson-Barton to Dorking Local History Group via Zoom at 19:30. Visitors welcome.

28 May

‘Tricks of the Trade: A History of Spying Gadgets and Methods’ by Melanie King to Surrey Industrial History Group on Zoom at 19:30. See www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk/events/all/list for more info.

1 June

‘Chilworth’s Mills’ by Colin Rumary to Dorking Local History Group in the Crossways Community Baptist Church, Dorking at 19:30. Visitors welcome.

3 June

‘The History of the gardens at Painshill’ by Irina George to Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society in St Mary’s Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 20:00. Visitors welcome: £4

9 June

‘Benjamin Ferrey, architect of St Mary’s Church, Shalford’ by Julian Morgan to Acorns History Group at St Mary’s Church, Shalford at 10:00. Visitors welcome: £6

Annual Symposium

The 2026 Annual Symposium will be held on **Saturday 14 March** (10:00-16:15) at East Horsley Village Hall which will celebrate ‘Recent work in Surrey’ in all its forms. The winner of the Margary Award will be announced and on display.

10:10 Anne Sassin (SyAS) ‘Community Archaeology in Surrey – 2025 roundup’

10:40 Simon Maslin (PAS) and David Calow (SyAS) ‘The PAS Database and Archaeology in Surrey’

11:40 Gillian King (Tetra Tech) ‘The Mysterious Discovery of the Epsom Aurochs’

12:10 Andy Taylor (TVAS) ‘Bronze Age occupation and a Middle Saxon enclosure at Moor Lane, Staines’

14:00 Alistair Douglas, (PCA) ‘Saxon Minster, Cluniac Priory, Benedictine Abbey – the story of Bermondsey Abbey’

14:30 Martin Rose (SyAS) ‘A Treasure Trove of Flint Artefacts in Farnham Museum’

15:30 Emma Corke (SyAS) ‘Cocks Farm, Abinger 2023-25: the final three seasons’



Online booking and a full programme is available on the event listing at www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk/content/annual-symposium-7. Tickets £15 until the end of February, when they will then be £17 each (including on the door).

There are limited lunchtime facilities in East Horsley so the audience is advised to make their own arrangements. Please note that volunteers to help with the teas and coffees would be much appreciated.

St Nicolas’ history lectures

St Nicolas’ Church, Guildford will be 150 years old in 2026 but there has been a church on the site for nearly 800 years. A celebratory series of lectures is taking place throughout 2026, which seek to explore the long rich history of the parish and its three churches on the site: from PG Wodehouse, to the earliest church monument in Guildford and the pre-medieval dragon on St Catherine’s Hill. Two of the lectures relate to two articles in the latest *SyAS Collections* (vol 107, 2025) on St Catherine’s Hill and the Loseley Correspondence. The lectures start at 19:30, are all free of charge and will be given either in church or in the adjacent modern Parish Centre which encompasses the Loseley Chapel.



The next lectures will be on **Tuesday 10 March** by Canon Jeremy Haselock on ‘The theology of the Oxford Movement and its influence on church architecture’ and **Thursday 7 May** by Dr Michael Shapland on ‘The Hill of the Dragon: A medieval wayside shrine and regional assembly site by St Catherine’s Chapel’. See www.saintnics.com for the full programme.

Sussex Archaeology Symposium

On **Saturday 21 March**, the annual Sussex Archaeology Symposium will be held both online and in person at Kings Church, Lewes. Organised by Sussex Archaeology and History, this event covers all aspects of Sussex archaeological fieldwork and research. Follow www.sussexarchaeology.org for a full programme and booking info.

Kent fieldwork forum

On **Saturday 21 March**, the Kent Archaeological Society’s Archaeology Research Group are hosting their annual fieldwork forum, which this year is focused on the practical process of on-site recording and is open to KAS members and non-members alike. The day will run from 10:00-16:00 and be held at Lenham Community Support Centre. Tickets are priced at £10 for KAS members; £15 non-members. See members.kentarchaeology.org.uk/events for a full programme and to book.



Surrey Artists

Save the date for the Surrey Local History Committee spring meeting on **Saturday 9 May** at Surrey History Centre on ‘Surrey Artists’. The programme is still to be finalised, but will include talks on Helen Allingham, Leonard Campbell Taylor and the Russells. For more information, see www.surreycc.gov.uk/culture-and-leisure/history-centre/events.



South Border at Munstead Wood by Helen Allingham (Courtesy of Godalming Museum)

For interest in our outreach projects, training and fieldwork, including the Society’s LiDAR project (<https://surreylidar.org.uk/>), please email outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk.

For further events taking place around the region, please follow the Society’s monthly e-newsletters. To be placed on the mailing list, email info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk.