



Surrey Archaeological Society

No 16

April 2022

E-newsletter

Welcome to the Society's April e-newsletter, which highlights a few of the various events – conferences, lectures, training sessions, news items, etc – which we hope to be of interest to our members. Although general queries should continue to be directed to Hannah (info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk), those interested in volunteer opportunities or general outreach can contact me at outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk. Please also keep up-to-date via the website and social media ([@surreyarch](https://www.instagram.com/surreyarch)) for group and event updates.

Anne Sassin (*SyAS Outreach Projects Manager*)

Excavations at Badshot Lea moated site



Badshot Lea is the site of a medieval and later moat, the island of which underwent limited excavation in the 1960s in advance of the surrounding housing estate's construction. In October 2021, a small team of local volunteers placed a couple test pits to establish the presence of archaeological remains on the island. This small-scale excavation work will be continued over a few days from **Friday 22 – Monday 25 April**. Space will be very limited, but email outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk if interested.

Rowhurst excavations

Another small Society-led excavation will take place in May at Rowhurst, Leatherhead, in the grounds of the Fire and Iron Gallery in May. Current dates are **9-11, 14-15, 17-18, 21-22 May**. This is a difficult site with heavy clay and is not suitable for inexperienced diggers. There are limited places for diggers, but volunteers for finds processing are welcome. If you would like more details, please contact Lyn Spencer (lyn-spencer16@sky.com).





Climate Change and the Environment

At last year's Council Strategy Meeting held in April 2021, there was general agreement that Surrey Archaeological Society should do what it can to minimise the impact it has on the environment and climate change. The discussion was wide ranging and engaging, highlighting the importance of this theme. Whilst progress is being made, the following activities were highlighted as areas where improvements can be made: Buildings, Meetings, Excavations, Publications and Processes.

We hope to bring an update to each e-letter on current initiatives, reports and opportunities to support environmental sustainability; hopefully these will be of interest to the readers of the e-newsletter.

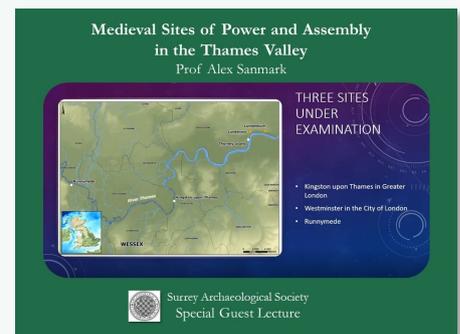
In this first update, we are sharing links from the [National Trust](#), [Historic England](#) and the [Climate Heritage Network](#). These introduce how heritage organisations are approaching climate change and highlighting how we can do our part.

Emma Coburn (SyAS Council)

MSF online lecture and newsletters

On Thursday 31 March, the Medieval Studies Forum arranged a special lecture by Prof Alexandra Sanmark (University of the Highlands and Islands) on 'Medieval Sites of Power and Assembly in the Thames Valley', which included the case studies of Runnymede, Kingston and Westminster. This was followed by a short presentation on the Heritage Funded Runnymede Explored project by James Brown, National Trust South East and London regional archaeologist. This event was recorded and is now available for viewing on the Society's [YouTube channel](#).

The MSF has also recently uploaded its most recent newsletters (plus annexes) to its own section of the [website](#), which are searchable documents available to download and read. Although they have recently ceased, the MSF had regularly circulated newsletters which contained various articles on subjects related to the medieval history and archaeology of the county.



Surrey Local Group lectures

The Society maintains an abridged online list of [Surrey Local Group lectures](#), monthly lecture meetings undertaken by the various archaeology and local history societies around the county. This information is often dependent on online details being available and can change regularly (we advise you check with the organisers before attending). If you would like your meetings to be included, please contact outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk.



The Society seeks a new Treasurer

The Society's Articles of Association limit the time anyone can hold the office of Treasurer of the Society to eight years. As a result, the current Treasurer, Mike Edwards, will resign on or before the 2024 Annual General Meeting and the Society is looking for a replacement.

In addition to being a trustee of the Society the principal roles of the Treasurer are to manage the Society's finances; prepare an annual budget and prepare and submit the annual set of final accounts to the Society's Independent Examiner for inspection and then report the results to members of the Society at the AGM. The Treasurer also chairs the Society's Investment Committee.

Anyone interested in this position should have a reasonable degree of accounting knowledge and experience in putting together a set of accounts. However, if that sounds a little daunting, bear in mind that the Treasurer has excellent support from two very capable people. First, there is our Administrator, who manages the day to day accounting and makes the entries from the bank statements into the Sage electronic accounting system. Secondly, there is an external accountant who manages the payroll and the Sage accounting system, provides any financial reports from Sage that may be required and produces the draft annual accounts for review by the Treasurer that provide the basis for the submission of a final set of accounts to the independent examiner. The independent examiner is also available for technical advice when needed.

Anyone interested in taking on this role would shadow the current Treasurer to get a much clearer understanding of what is involved. This is a worthwhile voluntary position at the heart of the Society and, if you are interested, please let Mike know or email the office (info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk).

Prehistoric Group E-news



The Prehistoric Group e-letter contains weblinks to various archaeological news items from Britain and around the world. During the pandemic, it extended its remit and format to advertising lectures and events with some illustrations and is not wholly dedicated to prehistoric news items. The new format has now reached its 200th edition. Recent highlights include a discussion of Mesolithic mummification, surveys of the Rutland Villa and of Trimontium and the study of pigments used at Catalhoyuk.

It is open to members and non-members of the Society, and if interested please contact rosemary.hooker@blueyonder.co.uk.



CBA-SE 2022 lecture series

The last of CBA South-East's Spring online lecture series will take place on **Thursday 28 April** at 19:30, when Dr Martyn Allen, Oxford Archaeology, will be talking on 'Animals and Roman Britain'. To register, please visit the [CBA-SE events website](#) for more details.

Recordings of the two previous talks are now available on [CBA-SE's YouTube Channel](#), including Dr Andy Margetts, Archaeology South-East on 'Medieval pastoralism in South-East England: Lessons for our landscape' and Dr Will Rathouse, Museum of London Archaeology on 'Archaeology supporting mental health and well-being since 2012'

Dendrochronology today: some new techniques and new findings

On **Saturday 23 April** (14:00) at East Horsley Village Hall (KT24 6QT) the Domestic Buildings Research Group will be giving a special lecture preceding their AGM, 'Dendrochronology today: some new techniques and new findings' by Dr Andy Moir. This talk will be covering some of the new techniques available in dating buildings such as C14 wiggle matching and isotopic analysis, as well as some of the newer Surrey tree-ring dated examples and improvements in the Building Archaeology Research Database. Members and non-members welcome (£3 per head).



Surrey Heritage online talks

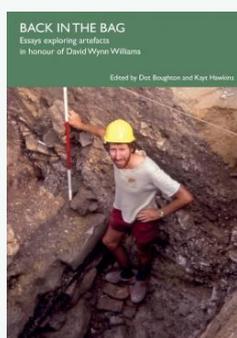
2022 Surrey Heritage monthly online Zoom talks will continue this spring at 17:30 on Wednesdays. Tickets £5. Please see the [SHC events page](#) to book a place online.



27 April – 'Gertrude Jekyll, Gardener and Craftswoman'

11 May – 'Out of Sight, Out of Mind? Sources for the History of Surrey's Mental Hospitals, 1770 to c.1990'

15 June – Let the Road Rise to Meet You: Tracing Your Irish Ancestors



Back in the Bag: Essays exploring artefacts in honour of David Wynn Williams

This volume brings together papers in memory of David Williams, who made a substantial contribution to Surrey's archaeology over many years, including as its Finds Liaison Officer. In 2019 a conference featured several papers relating to working with and alongside David, including an introduction to his substantial art portfolio. The volume is now available for £20 from Surrey History Centre or the online [Surrey Heritage Shop](#).



Historic Environment Record blog – major update to the HER data on Exploring Surrey’s Past



The first major update to Surrey’s online Historic Environment Record data since 2014 has recently taken place on [Exploring Surrey’s Past](#), with thousands of new or improved records now available online. This new comprehensive update was uploaded in January 2022, with 40-50% of the HER entries now online either new to ESP or enhanced versions of what were previously available, representing a substantial improvement to the resource. Rob Briggs, HER Officer, explains more in the latest [HER blog](#).

Surrey LiDAR Portal

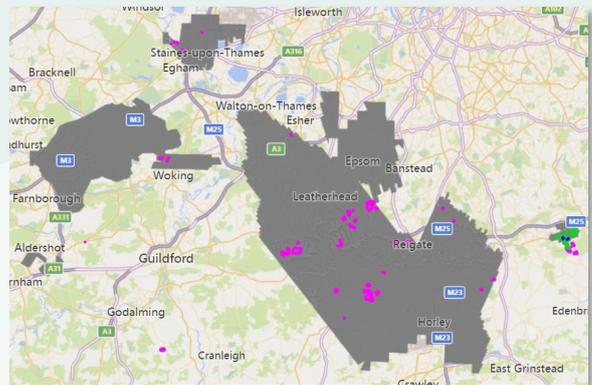
The Surrey LiDAR Portal (surreylidar.org.uk), an interactive citizen science tool which makes available imagery from the county’s LiDAR, now includes the high resolution 0.5m Surrey Heath dataset. The Portal currently contains all 0.25m and 0.5m data for the county, with the full 1m county coverage to be added in April.

LiDAR has enormous potential to uncover previously unknown archaeological features, and by helping map and interpret these potential sites online, volunteers can work to build a more complete story of the local landscape.

Anyone is welcome to register for a free account, which will allow access to the interactive map. Volunteers who would like to be more involved in the citizen science digitising process should read the available tutorials and are encouraged to attend online training sessions.

Anyone who would like to be involved in the training sessions or other work related to the LiDAR project, including both fieldwork such as ‘groundtruthing’ and landscape survey and desk-based work, please e-mail outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk.

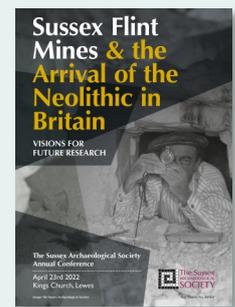
Further sessions are scheduled to take place soon, following the Portal’s update in late April/May, to include the full county coverage of 1m LiDAR data.





Sussex Archaeological Society conference

The annual conference, 'Sussex Flint Mines and the Arrival of the Neolithic in Britain: Visions for Future Research', will be held on **Saturday 23 April** at Kings Church Lewes and will comprise a packed day of lectures. Both in-person delegate tickets (£45), which include lunch and access to all talks and demonstrations, and virtual tickets (£15) are available. Visit the [webpage](#) to book.



Culver Archaeological Project fieldwork

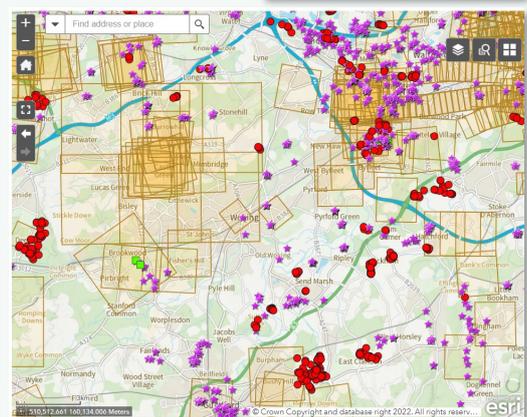
Dates for the 2022 fieldwork season for the Culver project, founded in 2005 to investigate the historic landscape surrounding the Barcombe villa complex and alluvial plain of the Upper Ouse Valley, are now available: **30 May-8 July**, with the training course **30 May-10 June**. For more information, email information@culverproject.co.uk or visit their [website](#).

Lullingstone Castle sunken garden dig

The Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme in West Kent is running a community dig at Lullingstone Castle, Eynsford, investigating the historic sunken garden adjacent to the house's original Tudor north wing. Dates run from **Tuesday 10** until **Saturday 28 May**, with an open day on **Saturday 21 May** and the Castle's annual Medieval Weekend on **28-29 May**. Volunteers interested in finds processing or excavation should email anne.sassin@kentdowns.org.uk or visit the [website](#) for more info.

Historic England's Aerial Photo Explorer

Historic England has recently launched its new [Aerial Photo Explorer](#) site, which allows users immediate digital access to search and explore an online map showing aerial photographs of England from 1919 to the present day. Over 400,000 images have been added already, with more to come as the platform expands and as more of the six million aerial images in HE's archive are digitised. Surrey images are numerous, including 1920s aerial views of villages pre-green belt development and post-war shots of various sites.



For more information on opportunities in your local region, be sure to follow SCAU (education.scau@surreycc.gov.uk and [@diggingsurreyspast](#)), as well as the Council for British Archaeology South-East (www.cbasmouth-east.org and [@CBASouthEast](#)).