

# Surrey Archaeological Society

No 19 July 2022

## E-newsletter

Welcome to the Society's July 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](mailto:info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk)), those interested in volunteer opportunities or general outreach can contact me at [outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk). Please also keep up-to-date via the website and social media ([@surreyarch](https://www.facebook.com/surreyarchaeology)) for group and event updates.

Anne Sassin (*SyAS Outreach Projects Manager*)

### Ankerwycke excavation tour



On **Tuesday 26 July** (18:00-20:00) join National Trust archaeologist James Brown and assistant archaeologist Harry Farmer on site at their Ankerwycke excavations this month for a guided walk around the site, sharing the most recent findings and insight as well as the wider story. The site is a hive of intrigue with both a Medieval nunnery, a Tudor mansion and possibly more sited within the investigation area.

The tour is free and open for all – no booking necessary. Parking is also free and accessible to the dig, as only a five-minute walk from the excavation site. 17:50 meet on site at Ankerwycke site carpark gate, for a walk to start at 18:00, ending around 19:30. For further directions, visit the [event listing](#) on the Society's website.

### Medieval Studies Forum pottery study day

On **Saturday 1 October** (10:00-15:20) at East Horsley Village Hall, the MSF will be hosting a study day on medieval pottery, covering topics from the clay used, the techniques of pot making, pottery identification and the impact on the people of medieval society. Confirmed speakers include Duncan Brown (English Heritage), Jacqui Pearce (MOLA), Lorraine Mephram (Wessex Archaeology), Lisa Backhouse, Mark Eller and Lyn Spencer. Nikki Cowlard will also pay a tribute to the late Steve Nelson.

Further details, including the application form, will be circulated to MSF members and then posted on the Events page of the Society's website when the programme is finalised.

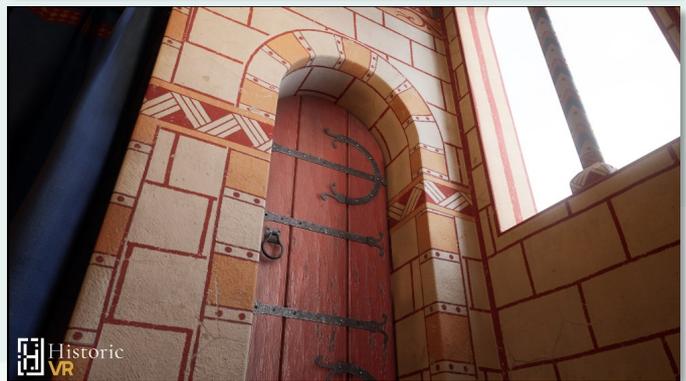




## A day in 14th century Guildford

A video of 14th century Guildford has recently been made available on [YouTube](#) which is taken from a Virtual Reality tour of Guildford Castle in about 1300 and was released this year by Historic VR in Guildford. Society-led excavations and research were used extensively in the medieval town recreation, from the major excavation reports of the medieval palace complex and Dominican Friary, to papers on the town mills and dugout boats which feature on the river. Mary Alexander acted as the project’s principal historical advisor, and shares her experience:

‘Guildford Museum put [Historic VR] in touch with me and I agreed to be their historical consultant. I had very interesting



Zoom conversations with the people involved which made me think very hard about what the buildings were actually like. VR is all Greek to me. The reconstructions of objects and buildings are based on scenes they bought off-the-peg, so they are generic houses or whatever, but I think they are good enough, even if there are a few details one might question. The [VR tour](#) is available world-wide (it also can be viewed on [YouTube](#), with more screenshots via [ArtStation](#)) and I think it gives a very good impression of medieval Guildford Castle and the town.’

The video is tied to the exhibition ‘Videogames. Made In Guildford’ at Guildford Museum, which is about the gaming sector in Guildford and open until 24 September.

## Medieval Graffiti recording day, St Andrew’s, Cobham

On **Saturday 10 September** (approx 10:00-15:00), the Medieval Studies Forum will be working with Dr David Taylor to offer a trial workshop on medieval graffiti, using St Andrew’s Cobham as a case study. The day will include a talk and tour of the church from David Taylor, overview of medieval graffiti and its recording, and group sessions to record some of the graffiti within the church. Spaces will be limited, due to the confined areas. Please contact [medforum@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:medforum@hotmail.co.uk) to reserve a place.



## Introducing TerraCycle!



Most of us know what can and cannot be recycled in our doorstep collections. But what about those items that cannot be recycled or re-used. Have you heard of TerraCycle? Their mission is *Eliminating the Idea of Waste®*, finding solutions to recycle the unrecyclable.

Working with business, communities and well-known brands, specific items can be collected and recycled from designated drop-off locations. Examples include empty make up containers, dental products, disposal razors, hair care products, coffee pods, vinyl gloves and more.



Find out more about TerraCycle [here](#). Local communities and businesses can set up as drop off locations. Some local drop of locations in Surrey include: [Guildford](#), [Cranleigh](#), [Walton on Thames](#). Search your local area [here](#).

*Emma Coburn (SyAS Member and Member of the Outreach Group, Surrey Climate Commission)*

## Roman Beddington: Journey to the Afterlife

On **Saturday 23 July**, to celebrate the Festival of Archaeology, local historian and archaeologist John Phillips will give a talk on the ‘Roman Past of St Mary’s Church & Beddington Park’. This is a chance to see the Roman coffin discovered in the 19th century and held at St Mary’s Church. There will also be hands-on activities for children and young people (ages 5-16) inspired by Roman casting methods and art techniques.



The talk will run from 14.30-15.00 and is free to attend, though booking is required via [Eventbrite](#). More information and full schedule can be found on the [Festival of Archaeology event listing](#).



## Clandon Park: a great house laid bare



National  
Trust

The National Trust has recently revealed new plans for the fire-ravaged Clandon Park, offering a unique ‘X-ray’ view of how a country house is made (see the recent [video](#) on these plans). Clandon Park, designed by Giacomo Leoni, was catastrophically damaged by fire in April 2015. The fire was the most devastating in the Trust’s history. It completely destroyed the roof, many of the internal walls and floors, along with much of the decorative interior, leaving a brick shell, open to the elements and filled with several feet of fire-damaged collections and building debris. Immediately after the fire, work had to focus on protecting and stabilising the building and painstakingly salvaging damaged collections and building material. Over subsequent years, specialist research and investigative conservation has revealed more and more about how the house was originally designed, constructed and decorated. The Trust’s new approach to Clandon responds to the evocative spaces created by the fire and the findings the team have uncovered.

The Trust’s plans will see most of the interior thoughtfully conserved in its fire-damaged state. The external walls and windows of the house are being restored, with work already underway by leading heritage craftspeople. Suspended walkways and platforms will give visitors new views and perspectives through the house where floors once were. A new roof with public terraces and roof lights will give views down into the house from above and out across surrounding countryside. The Speakers’ Parlour which survived the fire will be repaired, creating a counterpoint to other rooms. The new Clandon will be a special place to explore how great houses were made, a backdrop for a creative programme of events, exhibitions and activities, some created with communities connected to the house.

Work has been heavily focused on maker and craft – how the house was built in the 18th century and who may have made it. As many readers will know from the recent article on Clandon’s brickmakers which featured in *Surrey’s Past*, research has been initiated by the need to understand Clandon better, but also to repair and conserve as sensitively as possible (in this case ensuring the right clay was used for new bricks).

As Senior Curator Sophie Chessum states, ‘The fire at Clandon stripped most of the house completely bare, leaving only fragments of decoration. This makes restoration of the interior spaces extremely challenging. Given how little of the original decorative interiors survive, it would be less a case of restoration than of complete modern replication, and we have concluded that this wouldn’t be the right approach to take. The one important exception is the Speakers’ Parlour which survive the fire almost intact, although badly water damaged. Here, there’s a great opportunity to repair and conserve the beautiful plasterwork ceiling using traditional craft techniques. Our new plans for Clandon promise the very best future for this house – conserve and preserve what survives to the highest standard, and provide a peerless visitor experience using state of the art accessibility and interpretation that will break new ground for our understanding and appreciation of how great houses like Clandon were originally built and crafted.’



## Surrey Archaeological Society Membership Renewals 2022-2023

May I please remind members that the Society's membership year runs from 1 April until 31 March. Could those of you who have yet to pay your membership for the current year please consider paying it soon to save me having to send you a reminder letter in August.

If we do not receive a payment by the end of August, you will no longer receive copies of Surrey's Past or our other publications until payment has been received.

You can pay online through our website (<https://www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk/membership/renew>). You do not have to be a member of PayPal to pay this way, or you can pay by cheque to the office in Abinger.

If you do not wish to remain a member of Surrey Archaeological Society or have any other query concerning your membership could you please let me know, preferably by email to [info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk).

*Hannah Jeffery*



## Information concerning the Surrey Archaeological Society Card Catalogue

Now that the Library catalogue is available online, it has been decided by the Libraries and Archives Committee that the card catalogue will no longer be updated.

The intention is to remove and dispose of the card catalogue. If anybody has any major objections to this course of action could they please let me know by 19 August 2022.

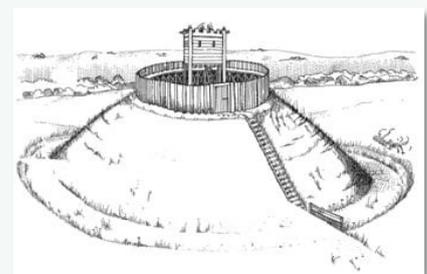
*Hannah Jeffery, Librarian,*

[librarian@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:librarian@surreyarchaeology.org.uk)

## SHERF 2022

On **Saturday 26 November**, the Society will host its annual Surrey Historic Environment Research Framework (SHERF) conference, this year on the theme of 'Defensive structures: symbols of power?' This will be an online conference, held via Zoom, with a range of speakers, including Barney Harris on linear earthworks, Krysia Truscoe on oppida, Stuart Brooks on Anglo-Saxon burhs, William Wyeth on timber towers, Peter Mills on Civil War defences and Paul Ferris on WW2 defences.

A full programme and booking information will be available soon, but for now, please save the date.



*Abinger motte reconstruction (drawing by David Williams)*



## Finds from the FLO

This this rather grotty looking thing is a mudlarking find of a medieval Anglo-Gallic 'black money' billon (base silver) denier coin of Richard II ([SUR-0B8AF5](#)) issued as Duke of Aquitaine in France (1377-1399). It is a very rare coin, found near Wandsworth, and is the only example yet recorded by the PAS.



## Surrey Heritage online talks

Surrey Heritage will resume their online heritage talks this autumn, which run on Wednesdays from 17:30 and are available to purchase for £5 [online](#).



**Wednesday 7 September** – Where there's a will

**Wednesday 21 September** – A Burden on the Parish: sources for the history of Poor Relief in Surrey

**Wednesday 5 October** – The book that changed my life (Julian Pooley)

**Wednesday 26 October** – John Evelyn in Surrey

**Wednesday 9 November** – In the Shadow of the Great War: Surrey 1914 to 1922

## Heritage Open Days

A HOD event at the Society's offices in Abinger will take place on **Thursday 15 September**. This will coincide with an AARG working day, with other groups invited to set up displays. The library will also be open to browse, with free admission for members and non-members alike. Contact [info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk) if you wish to participate.

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