



# Surrey Archaeological Society

No 25 January 2023

## E-newsletter

Welcome to the Society's January 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.instagram.com/surreyarch)) for group and event updates.

Anne Sassin (*SyAS Outreach Projects Manager*)

### Annual Symposium

Booking is now open for the Annual Symposium, focusing on 'Recent Work in Surrey' on **Saturday 18 March** (10:00-17:00) at Ashted Peace Memorial Hall KT21 2BE. Tickets £12, booked via the [website](#).

The Margary Award for displays will be taking place on the day; to book a space, contact [rosemary.hooker@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:rosemary.hooker@blueyonder.co.uk). Volunteers to assist with the tea breaks are also welcome (please also contact Rose at the above address).

10:00 Chair: Tim Wilcock (President, SyAS)

10:10 Simon Maslin (Surrey FLO): 'Recent finds from Surrey'

10:45 James Brown (National Trust): 'The National Trust in Surrey'

11:20 Tea

11:40 Becky Haslam (AOC Archaeology): 'Mercer's Farm – a multi period site'

12:15 Andy Hood (Foundations Archaeology): 'Prehistoric and later activity at Spelthorne Leisure Centre'

12:50 Lunch, followed by Margary Award

14:10 Ian Goode (SyAS): 'Frensham Mesolithic points'

14:30 Martin Higgins (DBRG): 'The Surrey Dendro Publication'

15:10 Tea

15:40 Jessica Bryan & Helen Chittock (MoLA): 'Investigating a Saxon Cemetery in Coulsdon'

16:15 Emma Corke (SyAS): 'Cocks Farm, Abinger – an update'

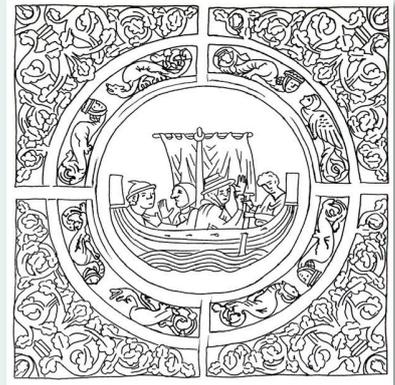
16:50 Q+A and close



## Chertsey Abbey Study Day

On **Saturday 25 February** a Study Day will be held at Chertsey Museum (10:00-15:30) which will consider various aspects of Chertsey Abbey, its estates and the impact it had on local communities.

There will be opportunity to view some of the Chertsey tiles during the lunch break. Tickets are £10. As space is limited, registration in advance is necessary (see the [website](#) to book).



10:00 Registration and coffee/tea

10:30 Rob Briggs (SyAS Medieval Studies Forum/Surrey Historic Environment Record): Welcome, followed by 'Chertsey Abbey 1362 Re-imagined', a video reconstruction of Chertsey Abbey

10:40 Rob Briggs: 'Chertsey minster and its lands: old charters, new perspectives'

11:20 Dr Euan Roger (The National Archives): 'So much national magnificence and national history: Chertsey Abbey in the late Medieval period'

12:10 Prof Amanda Luyster (College of the Holy Cross): A video tour of 'Bringing the Holy Land Home: an exhibition about the Chertsey Tiles in Worcester, Massachusetts'

12:30 Emma Warren (Chertsey Museum): 'Chertsey Abbey tiles and how they were made'

12:40 Lunch (with some Chertsey Abbey tiles on display)

13:40 Dr Mark Forrest (Victoria County History, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire): 'Tenants and tenancies: customary land on the estates of Chertsey Abbey after the Black Death'

14:30 Dr David Taylor (SyAS Medieval Studies Forum): 'Cobham: a Chertsey Estate'

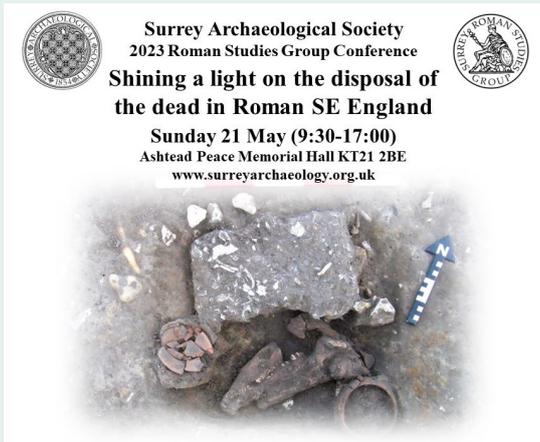
15:10 Discussion and closing remarks

## Environmental Sustainability

The Guildford Environment Forum (GEF) aims to improve the environment in and around Guildford for wildlife and for people and to build a sustainable future. Their quarterly newsletter contains lots of information about local issues and community action, with articles on biodiversity, volunteer groups and local views on proposals for tackling the climate crisis in Surrey. You can view their most recent newsletter, which includes news on Waverley Abbey's ancient yew recently being named 'Tree of the Year', [here](#).

Any members who may be interested in helping the Society to work with me on our Environmental Sustainability strategy and targets, which includes sharing out attendance at the occasional daytime event, please contact ([emma.coburn@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:emma.coburn@hotmail.co.uk)).

*Emma Coburn (SyAS Trustee)*



## The disposal of the dead in Roman SE England conference

The Roman Studies Group announces its bi-annual conference to be held at Ashtead Peace Memorial Hall, Ashtead on **Sunday 21 May** (9:30-17:00). This conference aims not only to discuss evidence uncovered for death in the Roman period in the South-East and how it differs from continental practices, but also to explore what might account for the millions of dead that we do not see in the archaeological record.

Tickets are £15 and bookable on the [website](#). The finalised programme will be available shortly, but includes the following confirmed speakers:

Dr. John Pearce (King's College London), keynote talk: 'The general character of the funerary world', which will include the Roman funerary process and aspects of its legal, spatial, cultural, socio-economic context and monuments raised over the dead.

David Calow (SyAS): 'Looking for the dead in Roman South-East England – with help from Northern Gaul'

Ellen Green (PhD research student, Reading University): 'Fragmented stories: the potential of disarticulated remains for investigating Roman mortuary practices'

Professor Tony King (University of Winchester): 'Human remains found at temple sites in Britain and Gaul'

Dr David Ruding (Sussex School of Archaeology): 'Roman burial practices in South-East England'

Dr Sadie Watson (MoLA): 'Roman burial in London: a review of the evidence from the City and Southwark'

### Cocks Farm Abinger 2023 dig

The latest season of excavations in the field adjacent to Cocks Farm Roman villa will take place **24 June to 23 July 2023**. The plan is to further explore magnetometry features in the field adjacent to the Roman villa, adding to our knowledge of human activity on the hill from prehistory onwards.

Provisional dates are as follows: 24-26 June, 29 June-3 July, 6-8, 13-17, 20-23 July. If you are interested in taking part, please contact us via [romanstudiesgroup@btinternet.com](mailto:romanstudiesgroup@btinternet.com).

If you are interested in learning more, links to interim reports can be found [here](#).



## Roman Studies Group talks

The Roman Studies Group continues its online monthly lecture series, with next month's talk on **Tuesday 7 February** (19:30) focusing on the 2022 excavations at Cocks Farm Abinger by Emma Corke, followed by 'Roman coins used in Britain' by Dr David Rudling on **Tuesday 7 March**.

Though free to attend, talks are available to RSG members only. If you are a member of SyAS but not yet a member of RSG, you can join for £5, giving you free access to the Winter Series of talks as well as visits and seminars. See [RSG's webpage](#) for details.

Previous talks, including Martin Millet's January talk on the 1984-92 excavations at South Farm, Lightwater, Windlesham, dug by Geoff Cole for Surrey Heath Archaeology and Heritage Trust, are now available online on the Society's [YouTube](#).

## Surrey Local History Committee

The Local History Committee is planning a meeting for **Spring 2024** on 'Surrey Eccentrics'. Do you have a local example that could be highlighted? If so, please let Gerry Moss know ([g.p.moss@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:g.p.moss@qmul.ac.uk)). Even better, let him know if you, or someone else, would be able to talk about this person.

The next symposium organised by the Committee is on 'Music in Surrey' on **Saturday 22 April** at Surrey History Centre. A detailed programme and booking for the symposium will shortly be available on the [website](#).

## Surrey Industrial History Group Zoom lectures

SIHG continues its online Thursday lecture series (at 10:00), with talks including:

**Thursday 2 February**, Doug Bateman (Farnborough RAE and U3A speaker): 'Copper mining, two mines – old and new, and aspects of recycling'

**Thursday 16 February**, Roger Potten (Historic Croydon Airport Trust): 'Croydon – A Model Airport (1916-28)'

**Thursday 2 March**, Stuart Wilkinson (Brighton Belle Trust): 'Bringing back the Brighton Belle'

**Thursday 16 March**, Richard Mellors (ex Union-Castle Line & P&O): 'The Voyage South'

**Thursday 30 March**, Graham Rood (Curator FAST): 'Farnborough Air Sciences Trust'

**Thursday 13 April**, Simon Knapman (Wey and Arun Canal Trust): 'A Journey along London's Lost Route to the Sea'

For more information on how to join the talks, please visit the [SIHG webpage](#).



## National Trust condition monitoring training at Ankerwycke

On **Tuesday 31 January** at 12:30, the National Trust archaeologists will be holding a session which will cover the findings from last year's events, as well as the opportunity to get into the site's history from previous investigations and historical sources. They will also be offering instruction on condition monitoring, many of the skills for which will be essential to groundtruthing, so that volunteers are well equipped to monitor independently as a group.

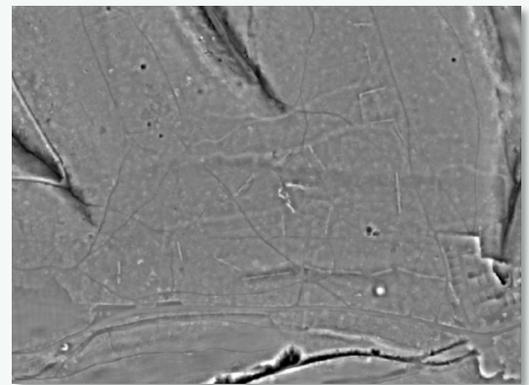
SyAS volunteers are welcome to join in the discussion and training on the day which will revolve around the NT HART programme, using volunteers to include new feature identification and recording which can hopefully, one day, turn into volunteer submissions and additions to the NT HER. There is no obligation to join the HART team, but new additions and support would definitely be welcomed by the small and lovely Runnymede team, and the option will be available to join future surveys and the NT HART programme

The session will last the afternoon (no longer than 4 hours). Good boots or wellies are needed, and do please wrap up warm. Flasks of tea and snacks are recommended.

Parking will be at the Georgian Mansion space (Rosendale Gardens, Wraysbury, Staines TW19 5AGA), as per the summer dig for those that attended. For any questions, please contact [harry.farmer@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:harry.farmer@nationaltrust.org.uk).

## LiDAR groundtruthing

Interested in joining the Surrey LiDAR team? In addition to the general digitising work, which has currently recorded over 300 features of interest from the higher resolution (0.25 and 0.5m) coverage of the county on the [Surrey LiDAR Portal](#), targeted work is being arranged for digitising and ground-truthing LiDAR features at three sites during February and March: Chobham Common, Box Hill and Headley Heath.



*0.5m Local Relief Model LiDAR at Box Hill*

An online session ([registration required](#)) on using the Portal, digitising features and groundtruthing will be held on Zoom on **Monday 13 February** (16:00-17:30). If you cannot attend this session but would like to be involved or even arrange an alternative session, please let the Project Coordinator, Dr Anne Sassin, know.

Preliminary first dates (weather dependent) for groundtruthing are **Tuesday 28 February** – **Thursday 2 March**, with the venues and further dates to be confirmed shortly. Please get in touch with us at [outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk) to register your interest or with any questions.



## Updates from the Surrey Historic Environment Record (HER)

### *Visiting the HER*

The Surrey HER is now open again to visitors for the first time in almost three years, after being closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and our move from County Hall in Kingston to its current premises at Quadrant Court, Woking.

Standardly, visits to the HER are for the purpose of consulting printed or hard-copy items that are not available via other means and are not appropriate to be reproduced and supplied electronically or by post. The HER is not a library, nor an archive in the same way as the Surrey History Centre, but is nevertheless a potentially valuable resource to assist you with research on an aspect of the county's historic environment.

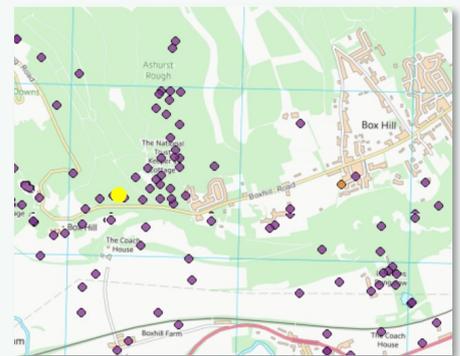
A visit to the HER must be requested in advance by as many days as possible. Firstly, this is to establish that an in-person visit is the best way of satisfying your requirements and would not entail an unnecessary journey being made (we're striving to do our bit to help alleviate the climate and cost of living crises). If a visit is agreed to be the best option, having plenty of prior notice gives HER staff members the time to arrange to be in the office on the day in question and make the necessary preparations for your visit.

You can get in touch with the HER via [email](#) or by one of the other means given on our [contact webpage](#).

### *Improved HER content on Exploring Surrey's Past*

Another way of accessing Surrey HER information is through the Exploring Surrey's Past (ESP) website. Some readers will be aware that the HER dataset on ESP was updated in January 2022, delivering a considerable expansion in the number of entries accessible online. Unfortunately, the means of searching for and finding HER entries relevant to a particular place or topic has not been particularly obvious, and as a result the dataset may not have been utilised as much as it might in recent years.

The HER, with the assistance of colleagues at Surrey History Centre and Orangeleaf Systems Ltd, has now completed a series of improvements to several ESP pages with the aim of helping users to find what they are looking for more easily. Perhaps the single most useful innovation in this regard is a [guide](#) to finding HER information via word-based and map-based search methods. More information about the project and its outcomes is available in the following [HER blog post](#).



(Staying on the subject of ESP, you might also like to check out another recent [HER blog post](#) on a very different topic – a guide about what to do if you think you may have found human remains in your garden or while out for a walk!)



## Recent items acquired by the Library

In December, the following [new items](#) were acquired by the Library. To view other [recent acquisitions](#) or browse the online Library [catalogue](#), please visit the website.



### Cartophilia county map resource

A recent relaunch of [Cartophilia](#), a website rebuild of the now-defunct 'Genmaps' website which featured over 4,500 County maps of England and Wales, has taken place. The maps are free to download for non-commercial use and extend back as far as the 16th century. Surrey-specific maps can be browsed at the following [webpage](#).

## Frontiers and Borderlands lecture

On **Wednesday 22 February** at 18:30, Prof Andrew Gardner (UCL IoA) will give his Inaugural Lecture, 'On Empire's Edge: frontiers and borderlands in Roman archaeology – and beyond'. In this talk, critical developments in the field over the last thirty years will be reviewed through the lens of frontier archaeology, showing how new insights into border processes can inform very contemporary debates about identities, boundaries and social transformation. This event is free, though [booking](#) is essential.



## Other news items of interest



Although not Surrey, MoLA's recent work on the National Highways A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Improvement Scheme has resulted in some amazing discoveries, in particular waterlogged wood remains, including an Iron Age ladder (*left*). More details are available on the following [blog post](#).

PCA has also uncovered unusual evidence of a possible cetacean feast from one of their Roman sites in North Kent (more in the following [news item](#)).

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 [@diggingsurreypast](#)), as well as the Council for British Archaeology South-East ([www.cbasmouth-east.org](http://www.cbasmouth-east.org) and [@CBASouthEast](#)).