



# Surrey Archaeological Society

No 27

March 2023

## E-newsletter

Welcome to the Society's March 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*)

### More Society volumes available as e-books

Thanks to recent work in digitising older Society titles, many older volumes are now available on the [website](#) as PDF format e-books. This includes *Aspects of Archaeology and History in Surrey* (2002) and *Early Medieval Surrey: landholding, church and settlement before 1300* (1991), as well as recently uploaded volumes: [Mesolithic Survey of the West Surrey Greensand](#) by W.F. Rankine, [Survey of the Prehistory of the Farnham District](#) (1935) by K.P. Oakley, [Waverley Abbey](#) (1904) by Harold Brakspear, and numerous [Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society \(KUTAS\) papers](#) presented with their permission.



### Annual Symposium

Many thanks must be extended to all our speakers, organisers and helpers for another successful annual symposium this month. It was an impressive line-up filled with fantastic talks, as well as a good excuse to get together and socialise once again.

Thanks as well go to all those who put together displays, with a special congratulations to Spelthorne Museum for their winning exhibition for this year's Margary Award. We are already looking ahead to next year and look forward to more exciting contributions.





## Introduction to Archaeology course

A five-week Introduction to Archaeology course, led by Dr Anne Sassin, is being offered by the Guildford Institute on Thursday mornings 10:30-12:30 from **Thursday 27 April** until **Thursday 25 May**. This course, which will be held in person at the Institute, will provide an overview of what archaeology is and how archaeologists investigate past societies.



It will introduce the history of the science from its antiquarian roots, before looking at excavation methods and other practices that have helped in uncovering details about both the artefacts and sites, including landscape studies and archaeological science.

For course fees and to book, please visit the [website](#).

## Surrey Local History Committee

The SLHC spring meeting 'Music in Surrey' will take place on **Saturday 22 April** (9:30-15:30) at Surrey History Centre. Tickets are £15 and can be booked [online](#).

Stephen Rose (Royal Holloway): 'Music in the Surrey History Centre: parish church and family collections'

Catherine Ferguson (SyAS): "'Fight the Good Fight": hymn writing in Surrey'

David Taylor (SyAS): 'Hubert Parry and his Surrey connections'

Irene Shettle: 'Lucy Broadwood and English Folk Song'

Chris Wiley (Univ Surrey): 'Dame Ethel Smyth: composer, musician and Surrey resident'

Ges Ray: 'Leith Hill Music Festival'

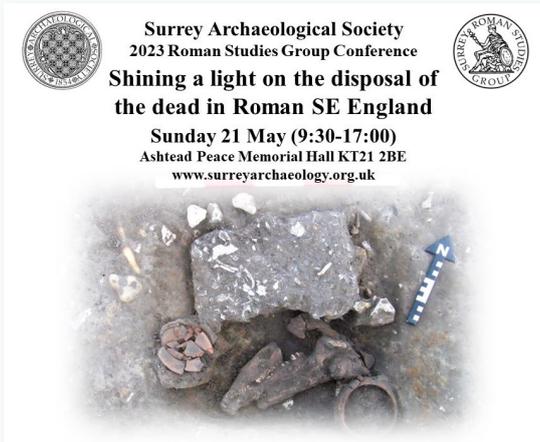
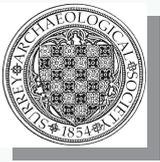
The Local History Committee is also planning a meeting for **Spring 2024** on 'Surrey Eccentrics'. Do you have a local example that could be highlighted? If so, please let Gerry Moss know ([g.p.moss@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:g.p.moss@qmul.ac.uk)). Even better, let him know if you, or someone else, would be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

## Cocks Farm Abinger 2023 dig

The latest season of excavations in the field adjacent to Cocks Farm Roman villa will take place **17 June to 23 July 2023**. The plan is to further explore magnetometry features in the field adjacent to the villa, adding to our knowledge of activity from prehistory onwards.

Provisional dates are as follows: 17-20, 22-26 June, 29 June-3 July, 6-8, 13-17, 20-23 July. If you are interested in taking part in any part of the excavations, 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](#).



## 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](#).

10:00 David Calow (SyAS) Welcome

10:10 John Pearce (King's College London): 'The general character of the Roman funerary world'

11:00 Tea and coffee

11:30 Timothy Champion (University of Southampton): 'Rethinking burial and disposal practices in the Iron Age south-east'

12:00 David Ruding (Sussex School of Archaeology): 'Roman burial practices in South-East England'

12:30 Sadie Watson (MoLA): 'Roman burial in London: a review of the evidence from the City and Southwark'

13:00 Questions

13:15 Lunch

14:15 Ellen Green (University of Reading): 'Fragmented stories: the potential of disarticulated remains for investigating Roman mortuary practices'

14:45 Claire Hodson (University of Reading): 'From roundhouse to villa; exploring revised perspectives of infant death and burial'

15:15 Tony King (University of Winchester): 'Human remains found at temple sites in Britain and Gaul'

15:45 Tea and coffee

16:00 David Calow (SyAS): 'Looking for the dead in Roman South-East England – with help from Northern Gaul'

16:30 Questions and discussion

16:45 David Rudling: thanks and disperse



## Albury Park fieldwork

Despite the occasional rain, our dedicated volunteer team in Albury Park this past week were not deterred from carrying out the first phase of geophysical survey investigating the original, now abandoned settlement of Albury, whose displacement half a mile to the west began in the 18th century. This week focused across the course of the former east-west road which ran through to Shere, before being moved in the later 18th century. Although the survey area incorporated many of the former cottages, they were much disturbed when main services were laid through the parkland in the 1970s. We look forward to moving to other areas – and the second phase – of the fieldwork soon, as we continue to look for traces of the original medieval settlement!

And many thanks to David, Rosemary, James, Sylvia and Andrew for all their hard work!

More info and dates of further Albury fieldwork in early June will be coming soon, but please get in touch and contact [outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk) for expressions of interest in the meantime.



## 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 continuing for digitising and ground-truthing LiDAR features at two sites this spring – Box Hill and Headley Heath – following three successful sessions already in March.

Another groundtruthing session will be taking place at Headley Heath on **Monday 17 April** (10:00-13:00), with a further possible one at Box Hill (date tbc). We will also be running an online introduction webinar for the National Trust on the same day at 16:00 on using the Portal, which is likely to be recorded and made available later. Please get in touch with us at [outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk) to register your interest for either or with any other questions.



## Finds from the FLO

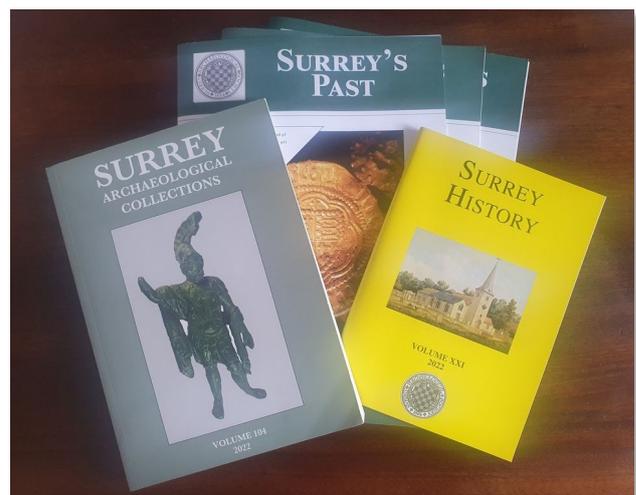
We're not just all about the shiny metal finds at the PAS, and as an example, here is a nice medieval cooking vessel rim [SUR-C58B1A](#) (c. 1150-1250) found during roadworks in Weybridge many years ago and now recorded with finds.org.uk. The grey-brown sandy ware (Surrey series fabric code Q2 or GQ2) fabric is coarse and a reduced light grey with a mixed temper of sand and poorly sorted sub-rounded to sub-angular clasts of crushed tufa, iron oxide and flint (<1mm). Voids in the fabric suggest some organic material may have also been present. The rim is strongly everted with a rounded profile and had an original diameter of 160mm. The only decoration is a recessed margin running beneath the rim around the neck, and there are traces of fire blackening on the exterior.



## Have you renewed (or joined)?

Members are reminded that subscriptions for this coming year are due in April – you can renew [online](#) if you don't pay already by standing order. If you aren't yet a member, but are thinking about it, now is the perfect time to join!

Rates start at £6 per year for junior members (aged 16-20), with £12.50 for students and £30 for ordinary members (£5 associates). In addition to our publications (three issues of *Surrey's Past* a year, our annual journal *Surrey Archaeological Collections* and *Surrey History*), members have access to a wide range of



volunteer fieldwork opportunities, research projects and special interest groups, many of which have their own lecture programmes and study days.



## Womens History Month

In 2017 Surrey Museums Month pulled together the stories of 20 Influential Surrey Women in History to celebrate their lives, work and influence on key moments, discoveries, inventions, trades and industries, arts and crafts, etc. Visit Exploring Surrey's Past [website](#) to learn all about them.

## Ancient Landscapes of Britain

In February/March, Gresham College hosted three of Britain's leading archaeologists – Mike Pitts, Prof Martin Millett and Prof Helena Hamerow – to present online the latest research on Stonehenge, the landscapes of Roman Britain, and the medieval Agricultural Revolution. These lectures are now available online to view [here](#).



## Recent items acquired by the Library

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

## Kent Archaeological Field School field walking and map analysis

On **Saturday 27–Monday 29 May**, the Kent Archaeological Field School will be running a weekend course on field walking and map analysis, which will cover the recognition and recording of artefacts found in the ploughsoil and the importance of regressive map analysis for such projects. This will take place at Graveney Road, Faversham (fee for non-members £25). Details of this and other courses can be found [online](#).

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](#)).