



Surrey Archaeological Society

No 35 November 2023

E-newsletter

Welcome to the Society's November 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 Marie (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*)

SHERF recordings and other lectures now available on YouTube

Many thanks to all those who made our recent annual Surrey Historic Environment Research Framework such a success, both those committee members who worked behind the scenes and the fantastic range of speakers. All of the talks from Pills, Potions and Poison have been recorded and are now online on our [YouTube channel](#).

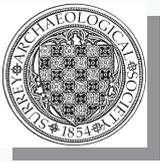
Do be sure to follow us, as well as check out other previous talks, including the recent annual Medieval Studies Forum lecture by Dr Gabor Thomas on '[Unearthing monastic Cookham](#)' and the monthly Roman Studies Group lecture by Prof Tony King on '[Meonstoke – temple or villa?](#)' (please note Prof King's lecture will only be online for a limited time and removed from the channel in January).

Pills, Potions and Poison
Surrey Historic Environment Research Framework Online Conference 2023
Saturday 25 November (10:00-15:00)
surreyarchaeology.org.uk Tickets £5

Lithics group at Abinger



The new Lithics Group is now busy recording flint assemblages mainly from Surrey excavations. Members are learning a good deal about flint tools with expert support from Chris Taylor. The group meets once a month on a Sunday morning and would welcome new members – no previous knowledge is required. The next meeting is on **Sunday 3 December** (11:00-13:00) at the Abinger Research Centre with another meeting on **Sunday 28 January**. If you are interested, please contact Sylvia (sylviasolarski@aol.co.uk).



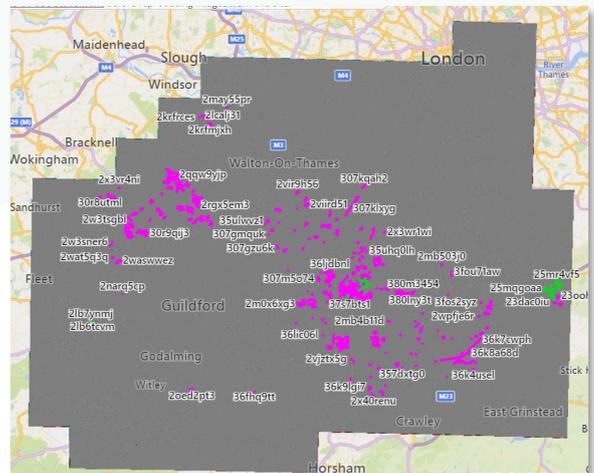
Surrey LiDAR Portal full county coverage!

We are thrilled to finally have the addition of the full county 1m LiDAR coverage for Surrey on the [Surrey LiDAR Portal](#). This long awaited dataset makes available for the first time LiDAR imagery for all of Surrey, including the historic county.

The Portal is an interactive citizen science tool which hosts all of Surrey's LiDAR, including higher resolution datasets, such as the 0.5m coverage, which includes Surrey Heath Borough, and a small area of 0.25m data surrounding Limpsfield. With the addition of historic maps, courtesy of Surrey History Centre, and HER data, a wealth of information is available to help in analysing the imagery.

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 involved and help in digitising potential features should read the available tutorials and are encouraged to attend online training sessions. The next available online session will be **Wednesday 13 December** (10:30-12:00). Register to attend this session [here](#).

Dates for forthcoming winter training sessions and 'groundtruthing' fieldwork activities will be announced shortly, but in the meantime, please email outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk with any queries.



'A Gathering Place' archaeology and choreography project

This summer, local artist Katie Green worked with archaeologists at two Iron Age sites as part of an innovative archaeology and choreography project: Langton Herring in Dorset and Holmbury Hillfort in Surrey. The research for this project included interviews with the local archaeologists involved in the excavations and fieldwork, as well as hands-on experience at current digs, including Cocks Farm Abinger. Three short films were produced which give a sense of the work-in-progress and what choreographic responses to archaeology could look like. To read more about the project and view the videos, please visit the [blog page](#).



Prehistoric Pottery Study Day



The study day took place at the Leatherhead Institute on Saturday 21 October and was organised by Rose Hooker, with Tim Wilcock managing the projector. The study day was led by Anna Doherty and Steve Patton from Archaeology South-East/University College London and focused on Neolithic and Early Bronze Age pottery. Four tables were set up in the room with 3-4 people at each table, and this arrangement was ideal for the handling session that took place later in the day.

Anna's presentation examined each ceramic tradition, its characteristic fabrics, forms and decoration for Early, Mid and Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age pottery. The forms and fabrics for each period were discussed in detail and lists of useful references provided. Decoration on the pots was explained with the use of illustrations, and Anna attempted to provide examples from Surrey including Shepperton, Betchworth and Beddington.



The presentation was paused after each period to enable the group to examine the many sherds that Steve had laid out on a separate table. Steve then gathered these up and displayed a fresh set of sherds ready for us to examine for the next period. This proved to be very interesting with a variety of sherds from ASE excavations in Sussex and Essex.

After the presentation and the examination of relevant sherds, we all took part in a handling session where we were given a bag of sherds and asked to identify them. A recording sheet was provided and there was much lively discussion on which period they belonged.

Of particular interest was a caution by Ann that some accepted chronologies have been challenged by PhD theses, in particular the Collared Urn and Beaker sequences (Sylvia Solarski).

The study day was very enjoyable, and Rose hopes to arrange a second study day on later prehistoric pottery on **18 May 2024**, with limited places available.

Lyn Spencer



Margary Award 2024

The Research Committee has agreed that a new approach to the Margary Award will be trialled in 2024 with the following guidelines:

- i. The award is a recognition of a new contribution to the knowledge of the past of the historic county of Surrey.
- ii. The research or its demonstration should have taken place within the previous year, and not previously made public.
- iii. Any individual or group may enter provided there is no professional input.
- iv. Submissions for the award could take a variety of forms such as illustrations, Powerpoint displays, videos, short reports and traditional displays.
- v. Nominations should be received by the committee by **31 December 2023**, with completed entries submitted at least one month before the date of the Symposium.
- vi. The judging panel will be the choice of the Research Committee, and may still be formed by the Chair of the Research Committee, the President of the Society and an invited third party.
- vii. There will be one award of £300 and a runner-up if the number of entries justifies.

The committee would like to invite all members to consider nominations and submissions by **31 December**. This is an opportunity for community activities, youth groups and individuals to be creative in how they approach publicising their work. Nominations can be made at any time by contacting the Secretary of the Research Committee via info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk.

Surrey Industrial History Group lectures

SIHG is continuing their online lecture series this autumn, with Thursday morning talks such as 'The History and Evolution of Motor Vehicle Registration in the UK' and more.

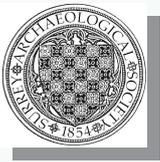


Any member of SIHG or SyAS who would like to receive details about joining one or all of these meetings, and don't already get details sent to them, should send their name and email address to meetings@sihg.org.uk.

Recent items acquired by the Library

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

Please also note that the library will be closed on **Tuesday 5 December**, but will be open as usual on Monday 4 and the following week.



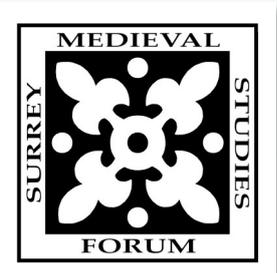
Finds from the FLO



This medieval pictorial lead alloy token, [SUR-B8FBC3](#), found while mudlarking along the Thames foreshore near Southwark, is probably one of the best preserved examples known and a particularly spectacular object. Dating to the reign of Edward I, one side depicts a pelican, with a shield chevronny on the reverse.

Medieval Studies Forum members day

A meeting of the MSF will take place on **Saturday 2 December** (12:00-16:00) at East Horsley Village Hall, with a series of talks presented by members of the Forum on a wide range of interesting topics, as well as mulled wine and mince pies! See the [events page](#) for the full programme and details. Cost is £5, with admittance open to all, including non-members (though to help with catering, please email medforum@hotmail.co.uk to register your intention to attend).



Roman Southwark walk

On **Saturday 2 December** at 11:00, join Pre-Construct Archaeology for a heritage walk through the archaeological sites and historical landmarks of Southwark. Explore the rich history of the area around Avonmouth House, where Roman roads, mausoleums, temples and Tudor remains intertwine with post-medieval cattle burials, medieval inns and prisons. The walk will begin at Avonmouth House, Avonmouth Road SE1 6NX and is expected to last 2-3 hours. No booking required, just turn up on the day.

Digging up Britain talk

Join the Archaeological Institute of America on **Wednesday 6 December** (18:00) as Mike Pitts presents on discoveries from his award-winning book, *Digging up Britain: Ten Discoveries, a Million Years of History*. This event is free, but you need to [register in advance](#).

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