



Surrey Archaeological Society

No 36 December 2023

E-newsletter

Welcome to the Society's December 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.

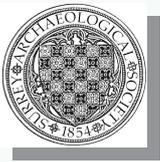
Anne Sassin (*SyAS Outreach Projects Manager*)

Seasons Greetings from all of us at Surrey Archaeological Society!



This past year has been a busy one for SyAS. Community fieldwork has included our test pitting at Albury, annual excavation at Cocks Farm Abinger, Roman road investigation near Ewhurst, geophysics at West Horsley Place and Pendell Court Bletchingley, and groundtruthing at Box Hill and Headley Heath as a result of our county-wide LiDAR Portal. Along with numerous conferences, study days and publication outputs, none of our work would be possible without the dedication of our volunteers who make up the various special interest groups, committees and trustees. A very happy holiday season to all and best wishes for what 2024 will bring!





Ankerwycke dig nominated for rescue project of the year award

The National Trust is proud to announce that its archaeology work at Ankerwycke has been nominated for Current Archaeology's Rescue Project of the Year. The award celebrates achievements of archaeological projects over the past 12 months to areas that are under threat and their conservation efforts to prevent further loss. Voted for entirely by the public, we are appealing for votes to make the project a winner.



The work at Ankerwycke formed part of wider National Lottery Heritage funded project at the National Trust's Runnymede and Ankerwycke aimed at improving access and understanding of this internationally significant landscape. A series of community archaeological excavations led by Surrey County Archaeology Unit followed on from extensive geophysical surveys by Berkshire Archaeological Society to reveal the medieval cloistral layout of the site preserved beneath Tudor landscaping gravel. Alongside the research

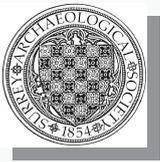
excavations, the Trust worked with Cliveden Conservation and Historic England to conserve and consolidate the upstanding remains as an essential stepping stone for visitors to be able to understand the site and its fascinating history. In partnership with the Ankerwycke Yew, the L-shaped chalk wall witnessed the changing fortunes of Ankerwycke from the early medieval period through until the present day.

The results of the historic research, geophysical survey, excavation and ruin conservation have all been used to create a suite of the new interpretation for Ankerwycke including podcasts, 3D models (you can explore the ruins, trenches and finds on the NT Archaeology [Sketchfab account](#)) and a set of illustrations commissioned from Phil Kenning that reveal the Medieval and Tudor phases of Ankerwycke for the first time to our visitors and neighbours, completely changing how people are engaging with the site and understanding the significance and heritage value of this corner of the Thames.

Voting is open now and closes on **5 February**. People can cast their vote by visiting [Current Archaeology Awards](#).

You can also see more of Ankerwycke when it features on 'Digging for Britain' which airs on **Wednesday 3 January**.





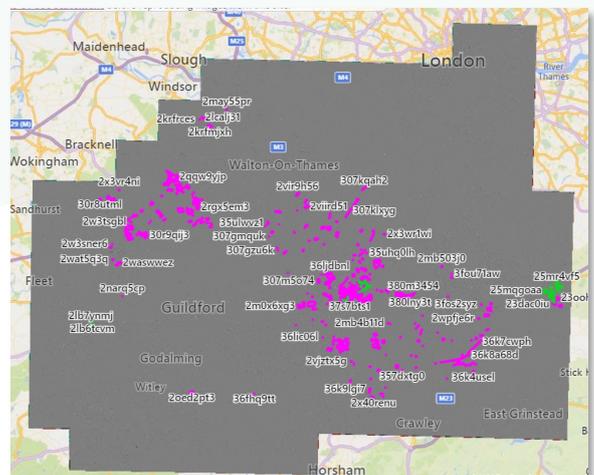
Surrey LiDAR Portal full county coverage!

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 **Monday 15 January** (14:00 -15:30). 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.



Terror from the sky: mapping air raids on Surrey in World War II



On **Wednesday 10 January** at 17:30, Surrey History Centre volunteer Martin Stilwell will be giving an online Zoom talk on his current World War Two bomb incident map project. Martin is leading a team of volunteers at SHC in a project to map all bombs, crashed aircraft, Doodlebugs and Rockets that crashed into Surrey during the Second World War and plot them onto an [interactive map](#) on Exploring Surrey’s Past. The project will run for two years and has already uncovered some great stories. This talk will

discuss the project, its aims, successes and also some of the lessons being learned along the way. Tickets £5 – please book [online](#) or visit the current map page to learn more.



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.

Symposium 2024

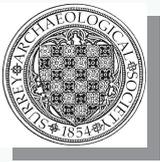
The Society's Annual Symposium will take place on **Saturday 9 March** in East Horsley Village Hall. Online booking via PayPal will be available in due course, along with a full programme of speakers, but for now, please save the date!



Surrey Industrial History Group lectures

SIHG is continuing their online lecture series this winter, with Thursday morning talks such as 'The development of the battleship', 'The story of the Queen Mary Reservoir', 'The War Years 1939-45 in Surrey', 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. Please see the [website](#) for a full list of talks.



Finds from the FLO



This month sees the birthday of the emperor Nero, born on the 15 December in AD 37. Much maligned in historical sources, he was the last of the Julio Claudians. This worn silver plated copy of a denarius of Nero ([SUR-720034](#)) dates to AD 65 and was found near Shamley Green, before being recorded with the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

Recent items acquired by the Library

In November, 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 25 December until **8 January**, when it will be open 10:00-16:00.

Historic Environment Record blog

The Surrey County Council Historic Environment Record has a regular blog on Exploring Surrey's Past which features a number of fascinating pieces on recent work in the county. Archaeological Officer Matt Saywood has written a recent guest blog, '[Strange Bones: recent discoveries in Epsom](#)', on some unusual bones uncovered by Pre-Construct Archaeology during trial trenching in Epsom.



Departing HER Officer Rob Briggs also provides two fascinating blogs during his final month with the team. '[Recognising sites of Gypsy, Romany and Traveller archaeological significance in Surrey](#)' looks at encampment sites which have been added to the HER, while '[HER Monument 1 and the Mesolithic archaeology of Surrey](#)' reflects on the county database's very first Monuments record, the Mesolithic flint working site in Cockshott's Hollow near Leith Hill. We will miss Rob as head of the Surrey Historic Environment Record and wish him all the best in his future work!

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](#)).