



Surrey Archaeological Society

No 46

October 2024

E-newsletter

Welcome to the Society's October 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 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*)

SyAS AGM and special lecture by Prof Mike Parker Pearson



This year's Society AGM will be held online via Zoom on **Saturday 16 November** at 14:00. This will be followed at 15:00 by Professor Mike Parker Pearson's free talk on 'Recent Discoveries at Stonehenge'. A Professor of British Later Prehistory at University College London Institute of Archaeology and expert on Stonehenge, Prof Parker Pearson's talk will no doubt be of great interest, particularly with recent announcements about the origin of the 'altar stone'.

The invite link for the AGM and lecture can be found on the [event webpage](#).

Medieval Studies Forum lecture and AGM

The AGM of the MSF will take place online on **Thursday 14 November** at 19:00. This will be followed by a talk by Professor Ian Freestone (UCL Institute of Archaeology) on Medieval Glass.



When visiting many of our great churches we are struck by the beauty of the stained glass windows that illuminate them. This can lead us to wonder when the use of coloured window glass began and where? Who were the glaziers? Where was the coloured glass sourced and who were the glassmakers? Why are these windows so vulnerable to the weather? Professor Freestone will discuss the production of medieval glass and how modern archaeology and science are casting light on many of its mysteries.

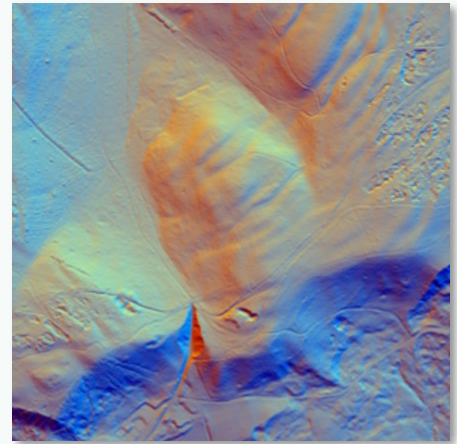
The lecture is open to all, but registration in advance is required. Please visit the [event webpage](#) for the registration link. Note that only registered members of the Forum may vote at the AGM.



LiDAR Portal

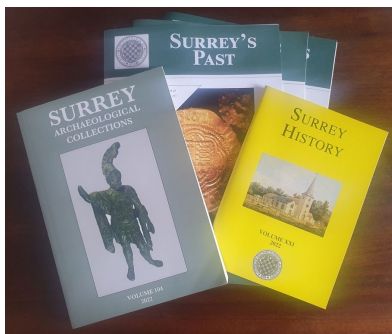
The [Surrey LiDAR Portal](#) is an online interactive citizen science map which includes various LiDAR datasets for all of Surrey, including the historic county, as well as historic maps and HER data to help in analysing the imagery.

LiDAR has enormous potential to uncover previously unknown archaeological features, and by helping map and interpret these 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 features should read the available tutorials and are encouraged to attend online training sessions (please contact us at outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk if you are interested, as we can discuss arranging a bespoke session).



Although no groundtruthing sessions are currently scheduled for the autumn/winter season, we will hopefully be able to provide some dates and venues soon. Please also contact us if you are interested in groundtruthing work.

Thinking about joining and getting involved?



If you aren't yet a member of SyAS, now is the perfect time to join! In addition to three issues of *Surrey's Past* a year, the annual journal(s) *Surrey Archaeological Collections* and *Surrey History*, members have access to a wide range of fieldwork opportunities, research projects and special interest groups, many with their own programmes. To join (and see the full range of what is offered), please visit our [website](#). Some of the groups you might wish to join include:

Artefacts and Archives Research Group (AARG) – On-site processing of artefacts, with further work carried out at weekly meetings, including lithics and pottery; for more details on sessions and work available, visit the [AARG webpages](#).

Medieval Studies Forum – In-person and online talks with workshops and visits focused on the period from c.400-1600; for more details, visit the [MSF](#) webpage.

Prehistoric Group – In-person meetings, regular newsletter and study of collections in museums; for more details, visit the [PG](#) webpage.

Roman Studies Group – A varied programme which includes fieldwork, monthly lecture meetings, full-day seminars and day trips; for more details, visit the [RSG](#) webpage.



Research Committee Grants

The Research Committee would like to remind all members that grants are available for Surrey projects and are available to Society groups with no budget and to external groups with limited resources. Society excavations such as Abinger in 2024 and post-excavation for Ashted, Abinger and Flexford have been funded. Surveys, documentary research, training and scientific analyses are all suitable for consideration and have been supported by Society grants in recent years, such as work on the historic excavation at Lightwater and to enable a report on the more recent Hatch Furlong dig to commence. Scientific analyses are also specifically covered by funds from the Bierton-Slade bequest which has recently funded C14 dating for the Abinger excavation.

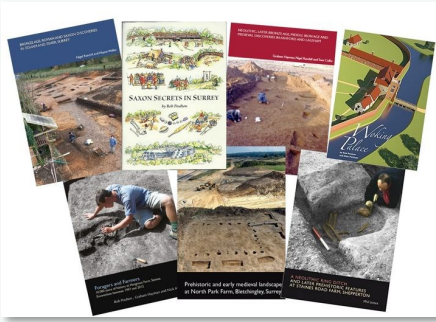
Applications are considered throughout the year and the Committee's decision is final. Details and an application form are available on the website or from the office.

Margary Award 2025

The Research Committee initiated a new approach to the Margary Award in 2024 with the following guidelines, and now invite submissions for 2025.

- 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, Power-Point displays, videos, short reports and traditional displays, with physical evidence available to view at the Annual Symposium required. This need be no more than a digital photograph which could be used as part of a rolling PowerPoint during the day.
- v) Nominations should be received by the committee by **31 December 2024**, 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. There will be a runner-up if the number of entries justifies it.

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 Research Committee via info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk.



SCAU publications on ADS

A selection of Surrey County Archaeological Unit publications are now available for free online on the Archaeology Data Service. Monographs are available [here](#) and Occasional Papers [here](#). Hard copies of publications are still available to purchase from the Surrey History Centre and the Surrey Heritage Online Shop.



Surrey Industrial History Group lecture series

SIHG hold regular short talks at Leatherhead and via Zoom between September and April which are free to SIHG members (annual membership costs £10, but is free until the end of 2024; contact membership@sihg.org.uk).

Talks can be found [online](#), including the next one with Bill McNaught on ‘Brunel – Father, Son & Grandson’ on Zoom on **Thursday 7 November** at 19:15. See the website for the full programme.

Roman Studies Group 2024-2025 lectures

RSG talks are generally held on the first Tuesday of the month on Zoom, beginning at 19:30. Although free, talks are limited to RSG members. If you are a SyAS member you can join RSG for free through the [membership page](#), follow instructions to join RSG. Any queries should be directed to the secretary at romanstudiesgroup@btinternet.com.

Talks can be found [online](#), including Chris Gibson on ‘The latest Roman road fieldwork around Ewhurst’ on **Tuesday 3 December**. See the website for the full programme. Many of the previous talks have been recorded and are available on our [YouTube channel](#), including last month’s lecture on Bridge Farm.

Also, save the date for the latest in the series of bi-annual RSG conferences, ‘Shining a Light on Roman Rural Settlement in South-East England’, on **Sunday 8 June 2025**. This will be a hybrid meeting at Ashted Peace Memorial Hall (and held online), run in conjunction with the Sussex School of Archaeology. A full programme and further details will be available in due course, as speakers confirm attendance and talk titles.



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