

Surrey Archaeological Society

No 48 December 2024

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 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.surreyarchaeology.org.uk)) 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 another 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 Hatchlands and Pendell Court Bletchingley, and LiDAR groundtruthing at Leith Hill. Along with numerous talks, conferences, open days and publication outputs, important work on local archives has also taken place thanks to our top-notch finds groups. 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 2025 will bring!



Meet our Trustees



Martin Rose (Hon Secretary)

I joined the Society 11 years ago as I moved towards retirement. I originally did a History degree, and since retiring I have gained an MA in Archaeology from UCL, had two spells on Council and co-ordinate the monitoring of the Scheduled Monuments. I live in Sutton and my main interest is in prehistory from the Palaeolithic to the early Iron Age. Many of you will know me from digging at Abinger and I also lead a group analysing the stone artefacts in Farnham Museum. Although I have taken on all formal responsibilities of Hon Secretary from David Calow, I am not also the secretary of Council; that role is currently still with David.

Peter McKee (Treasurer)

I joined the Society in November 2023 at the invitation of Christine Pittman (Society Hon Librarian) to potentially become treasurer. I come from a financial services background, having worked in property insurance for many years, principally in London and earlier in Devon. Now retired, I live in Wimbledon and enjoy golf, football (AFC Wimbledon) and walks in the Surrey Hills. I am keen on cartography, all history but particularly Roman and British naval history.



Emma Coburn



I joined the Society in the late 90s when applying to university to study archaeology. The brilliant summer school run by the Society prepared me for 4 years at the University of Edinburgh with excavations both in Scotland and southern Italy. I graduated with a Masters in Ancient Civilisations of the Mediterranean and the Middle East. Fast forward to 2009, having worked within museums and heritage settings, I joined the Society as the part-time administrator which meant I could juggle being a new mum, working locally in Guildford and continuing my interest in history and archaeology. It was a privilege to get to know the workings of the

Society behind the scenes from membership subscriptions, council meetings and supporting the library. In 2016, I took the role of Head of Care and Conservation at the Imperial War Museums, however I was invited to join Council and then in 2022, I became a Trustee. I now live in Godalming with my two teenage daughters. As a Trustee, I bring expertise in collections management and collections care (I am an accredited conservator) whilst also bringing knowledge of the practical and administrative impact of decisions we may make. My particular interests are sustainability, health and safety and collections care.

Gertrude Jekyll exhibition at Guildford Museum

Guildford Museum and the National Trust have put together a new Gertrude Jekyll exhibition at Guildford Museum. Open from 29 November 2024 to 22 February 2025, *A Glimpse over the Garden Wall* brings together news of the National Trust plans for Gertrude Jekyll's Arts and Crafts house at Munstead Wood and some of Surrey Archaeological Society's wonderful collection of items saved by Gertrude Jekyll and published in her path-breaking book *Old West Surrey*, an acutely observed record of 19th-century rural life and homes around Godalming. This collection, donated to the Society by Gertrude Jekyll and now on loan to Guildford Museum, represents her passion for the beauty in hand-made everyday objects that, even then, she feared were disappearing as mass production took over.



Ian Molesworth, (Munstead), David Calow, Emma Corke and David Taylor (SAS) at the launch of *A Glimpse over the Garden Wall*, a new Gertrude Jekyll exhibition at Guildford Museum, open Wednesday to Sunday 11:00-16:30 with last entry at 16:00



AARG hard at work this year

The Society's various finds groups which comprise our AARG (Artefacts and Archives Research Group) team have all been working hard this autumn. The Roman pottery group, who meet Wednesday evenings, have been continuing assessment of assemblages from The Hythe, Egham near Staines Bridge, excavated by Phil Jones in 1982, as well as the 1970s dig at Hatch Furlong, Ewell which preceded the 2005-9 dig under Jon Cotton and Harvey Sheldon. The full analysis by AARG will complement the final reports for both sites, which are in the process of being completed.



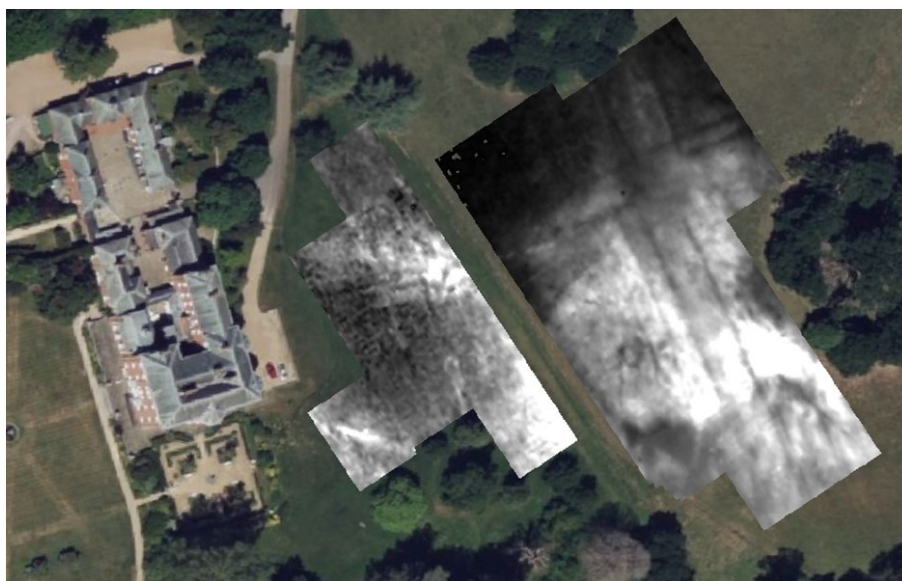
In search of Tudor Hatchlands

Over four days in late October 2024 volunteers from SyAS and National Trust Polesden Lacey joined with Hatchlands volunteers to search for the Tudor house demolished from 1754 by the Boscawens to make space for the house visitors will recognise today. A team of 27 volunteers led and trained by Anne Sassin, the Society's Outreach Projects Manager, and National Trust Archaeologist James Brown undertook magnetometry, resistivity and ground penetrating radar in the meadow and parkland to the immediate east of the main house.



The location was chosen based on historical sources: a letter from Frances Boscawen suggests that the new house was to be built on the lawn close to the old house, an account of 1581 which describes a 'Mansion house newly erected in Hatchlands', and which included gardens, orchards, stables, barns, and outbuildings (SHC G165/72/1). Further documents clearly refer to what is basically a medium-sized farm unit, with stables, brew-house, kitchen, dairy and all the expected facilities of such a property. In 2009, as part of an Oxford Archaeology landscape survey, some targeted geophysical survey was undertaken on three areas of the park. Survey Areas B (30m x 50m) and C (30m x 50m) were located on the lawns and maintained grassland, c.40m and c.130m respectively to the east of the house. Each of these locations included subtle, eroded earthworks that could not be matched to any mapped features or otherwise explained otherwise. The results of the surveys in area B & C located a number of linears and right angles which were interpreted to be the partial plan of a 16th or 17th-century farm complex just to the east of the present 18th-century house. You can read more about this survey [here](#).

The team re-surveyed these areas in the autumn and expanded to cover a much larger area over the four days. The results are still being written up, but in short, though we did manage to reproduce the 2009 results, the enlarged survey area revealed we weren't looking at the Tudor farm complex that was hypothesised in 2009 or which we hoped to





see. The linears best depicted on the resistivity plots (*previous page*) were much more extensive and the GPR survey revealed that these weren't buried foundations or walls, but were more likely to relate to formal gardens or old boundaries. A mapping progression exercise looking at all the changing access tracks and paths laid out by owners shows the closest parallel between mapping and results to be Repton's 1800 plan for Hatchlands, which suggested the results could confirm whether some of Repton's wider landscaping plans were enacted or not. However, when all the data was pulled together it became clear that even with inaccuracies of georectifying historic maps, there wasn't any correlation between the routes plotted on any historic maps and the results from the recent survey.

Though the survey failed to locate or confirm the existence of the previous house or farm complex, it has identified new features that were unknown at Hatchlands and help add to the wider understanding and phasing of the house and grounds. We are now discussing the potential to return to site and evaluate some of the features further to help inform our interpretation and understanding of the wider landscape phasing. A huge thank you is extended to the volunteers who contributed 58 volunteer days to help survey, to SyAS for supplying the survey equipment and to Anne for running the training.

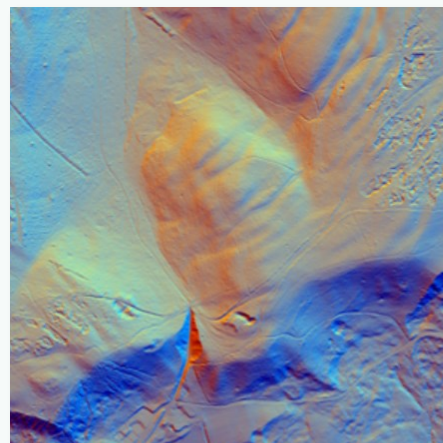
James Brown



LiDAR Portal

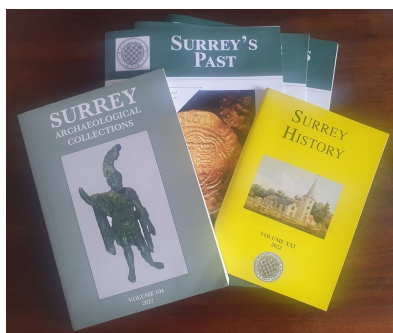
The [Surrey LiDAR Portal](#) is an online interactive citizen science map which includes various LiDAR datasets for all of Surrey, including the historic county, as well as historic maps and HER data to help in analysing the imagery.

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).



Groundtruthing sessions are currently being planned for the winter, including at Hydon's Ball near Godalming and Netley Park. 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 and Slade bequests which have 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.

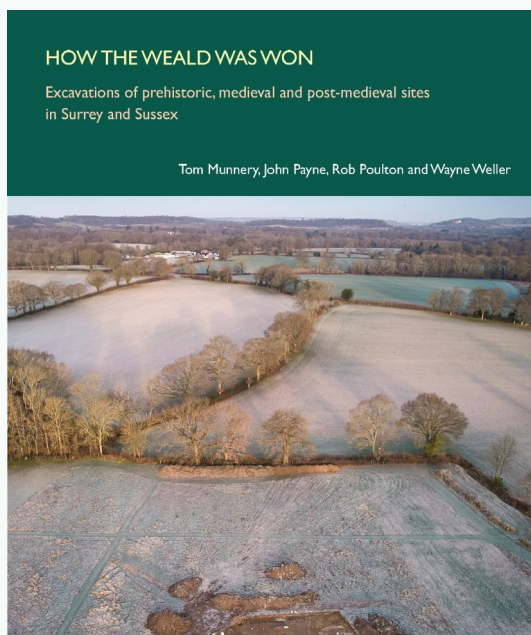
Margary Award 2025

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.

New SCAU publication



How the Weald was won. Excavations of prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval sites in Surrey and Sussex is a new SpoilHeap Publications Occasional 17 by Tom Munnery, John Payne, Rob Poulton and Wayne Weller.

Archaeological investigation in the Weald has been very limited compared to the areas that surround it and this has allowed a simple picture of its Holocene history to be widely accepted. The four excavations reported here are part of an increasing intensity of exploration that is revealing a far more nuanced pattern of development.

Excavations on the site of a new school in North-West Horley revealed the episodic appearance of short-lived settled farming communities, the

earliest, uniquely for the Weald, of the Middle Bronze Age, followed by one of the Late Iron Age-Early Roman period and then another of the late 12th and earlier 13th century. The next evidence was of a dramatic change in land use in the post-medieval period (probably c1550-1700) when a huge number of 'minepits', used to extract iron ore, covered the area.

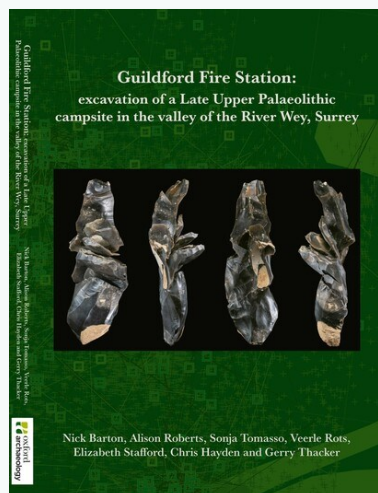
At Brooklands Farm, Cranleigh, a farmstead was identified with later Iron Age features that included roundhouses and enclosure ditches. This developed in the Early Roman period into a more comprehensive system of enclosures or fields with a possible rectangular building. A few other sites in the wealden area show a similar sequence, suggesting the emergence in the later Iron Age of pockets of colonising settlement that were abandoned quite early in the Roman period.

This work at Glebelands, Pulborough, is an example of this. Prehistoric evidence included a Middle Bronze Age bucket urn but more substantial was the remains of a Late Iron Age to Early Roman field system, with indications of nearby domestic activity. The field system had related trackways or droveways, suggesting a pastoral use of the land.

The discovery at Lindon Farm, Alfold of the ditches of a ringwork and bailey castle was a major surprise. Dendrochronological dating of oak timbers has shown that it was in existence by the earlier part of the 12th century and it was out of use, at latest, by 1250. The castle was probably the caput of a group of Surrey manors held from 1086 by Robert de Watteville and his heirs, and it seems likely that its establishment relates to an intensification of agricultural exploitation of the Weald.

Available through: [Surrey Heritage Shop](https://www.surreyheritage.org.uk)

Recently published volume on the Guildford Fire Station available open access



Excavations carried out in 2013 by Oxford Archaeology prior to the construction of a new fire station in Guildford revealed a well preserved, *in situ* Late Upper Palaeolithic flint scatter. The scatter itself dates from the first half of the Late Glacial (Windermere) interstadial (c.1415KBP), with functional analysis of the tools suggesting relatively short occupation during which hunting, small-scale craft activities linked with the re-tooling of hunting weapons and manufacture of hide items, and limited processing of animal/plant materials took place.

The volume was published over the summer, and Oxford Archaeology have recently made it available [open access](#), or hard copies are available for £20 from [Pen and Sword Books](#).

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.

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 **Saturday 7 June 2025**. This will be a hybrid meeting at King's Hall, Lewes (and held online), run jointly with Sussex School of Archaeology. A full programme and further details will be available in due course, as speakers confirm attendance and talk titles.



National Trust call for photos

As part of its 130th anniversary, the National Trust is looking for historic photographs and images of some of its most iconic sites across Surrey Hills (see following list). Ideally, photos will date back to 1895 or be from around the year the sites were acquired by the Trust: Hindhead (1906), Box Hill (1914), Leith Hill (1923), Reigate (1912), Holmwood, Denbies (1963), Bookham (1923) and Headley Heath (1946). Please contact Holly.ONeill@nationaltrust.org.uk with any submissions.

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](#)).