



Surrey Archaeological Society

No 62 February 2026

E-newsletter

Welcome to the Society's February 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 Community Archaeologist*)

Renewal reminder

All members are reminded to renew their membership by **1 April** irrespective of when in 2025/26 they joined the Society. The rates are unchanged:

Ordinary Member	£30.00
Associate Member (same address as an Ordinary Member)	£5.00
Student Member aged 21–25	£12.50
Junior Member aged 16–20	£6.00

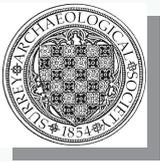
Many members pay by standing order but, if not, to help keep costs down, please renew online at surreyarchaeology.org.uk/membership/renew. Payment is through PayPal with a credit or debit card. Please send any cheques to Hackhurst Lane, Abinger Hammer, Surrey RH5 6SE.

Margary Award deadline fast approaching!

The Research Committee would like to remind all members to consider nominations/submissions for the Margary Award by **28 February 2026**, contacting the Committee via info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk. This is an opportunity for community activities, youth groups and individuals to be creative in how they approach publicising their work. The award is a recognition of a new contribution to the knowledge of the past of the historic county of Surrey, which should have taken place within the previous year, and has not had professional input. There will be one award of £300. For more details on criteria, see the [website](#).



2025 Margary Award recipients



Book now for the Annual Symposium

The 2026 Annual Symposium will be held on **Saturday 14 March** (10:00-16:15) at East Horsley Village Hall which will celebrate 'Recent work in Surrey' in all its forms. The winner of the Margary Award will be announced and on display.

10:10 Anne Sassin (SyAS) 'Community Archaeology in Surrey – 2025 roundup'

10:40 Simon Maslin (PAS) and David Calow (SyAS) 'The PAS Database and Archaeology in Surrey'

11:40 Gillian King (Tetra Tech) 'The Mysterious Discovery of the Epsom Aurochs'

12:10 Andy Taylor (TVAS) 'Bronze Age occupation and a Middle Saxon enclosure at Moor Lane, Staines'

14:00 Alistair Douglas, (PCA) 'Saxon Minster, Cluniac Priory, Benedictine Abbey – the story of Bermondsey Abbey'

14:30 Martin Rose (SyAS) 'A Treasure Trove of Flint Artefacts in Farnham Museum'

15:30 Emma Corke (SyAS) 'Cocks Farm, Abinger 2023-25: the final three seasons'

Online booking and a full programme is available on the [event listing](#). Tickets £15 until the end of February, when they will then be £17 each (including on the door).

There are limited lunchtime facilities in East Horsley so the audience is advised to make their own arrangements. Please note that volunteers to help with the teas and coffees would be much appreciated.



Surrey Archaeological Society
Annual Symposium 2026
Saturday 14 March
10:00-16:30
East Horsley Village Hall
www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk



Chaldon Court test pitting



A test pitting programme is planned for two days over the weekend of **2-3 May 2026** at Chaldon Court. Three test pits will be set up on the lawn areas, and the pits will be positioned over the two areas of high resistivity found during a resistivity survey in October 2024. If time permits, a fourth will be located next to the house.

This is a community project that will be targeted at members of the public from the modern village of Chaldon who will be encouraged to visit and take part in the test pitting and finds processing. Approximately 8-10 Society members will be needed to help dig the pits and support any Chaldon volunteers. If you are interested, please contact Lyn Spencer (lyn-spencer16@sky.com).

The 14th-century Chaldon Court is a Grade II* listed building that has many original features, including a Durn doorframe and 14th-century carved bargeboards to the gable front. The house is a two-storey, three bay, timber-framed building, built circa 1320-1370, representing the cross wing of a large hall that no longer exists. The building has been extended and altered over the years. The Church of St Peter and St Paul at Chaldon lies next door to Chaldon Court and is internationally renowned for the 12th-century Doom mural on the west wall of the church. The church will be open for those interested in viewing the painting.

Research questions include investigating if there is any early evidence of habitation on the site in the form of pottery or other items. A lack of smoke blackening of the original roof timbers suggests the building had no central hearth and possibly no continuous habitation in its early phases. A second research question involves the high resistivity readings from last year's survey. Does this indicate a wall or floor area of an unknown building or extension, or just a garden path?

SyAS Library

The Society's library at Abinger Research Centre is open on **Mondays** and **Tuesdays**, 10:00-16:00. Our librarian, Helen Lynott, can help with research, in person and via email. In addition to new books, we have journals, newsletters, excavation reports, pamphlets, postcards, photos and colour slides. Some archival material is held at the Surrey History Centre, but is still listed on our library catalogue. Email librarian@surreyarchaeology.org.uk or phone 01306 731275 with any queries.





Albury Park community archaeology

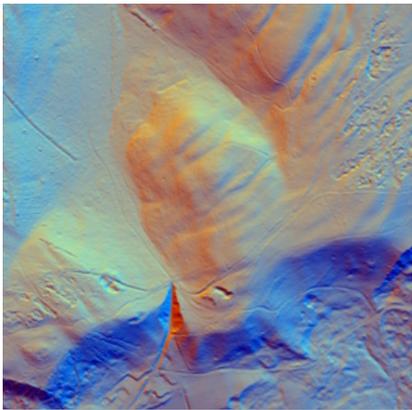
We will be returning for a fourth year of excavation this season at Albury Park to continue to investigate its deserted medieval settlement, displaced in the early 19th century (to the current village of Albury). Though little now remains of the former cottages, with the help of survey and a large-scale series of test pits spread across the site, we are working to uncover and learn more about the original settlement, which has now been revealed to include Roman activity.

Currently for 2026, there will be limited test pitting over the weekend of **24-26 July**, as part of an open day event for the Festival of Archaeology (volunteers will be needed, though space will be more limited than usual). A larger dig will also take place in September, although dates are not yet confirmed. Volunteers are welcome for both finds and digging; no prior experience needed. If interested in taking part and wanting to be added to the project mailing list, which will be updated with dates soon, please contact our community archaeologist Anne at outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk.



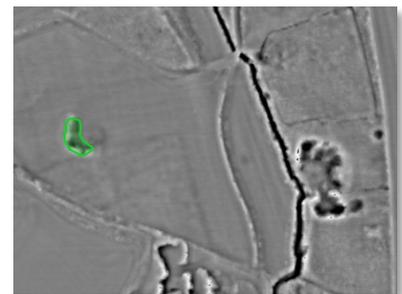
LiDAR Portal

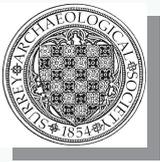
The [Surrey LiDAR Portal](#) is an on-going online interactive citizen science map which includes various LiDAR datasets for all of Surrey, including the historic county, as well as historic maps and HER data to help in analysing the imagery.



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 in digitising features are encouraged to read the tutorials and attend online training (contact outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk if you are interested, as we can discuss arranging a bespoke session).

A recent sub-project has also begun which is focusing specifically on the historic pits and quarries in Surrey. Volunteers are methodically covering areas by parish and revealing interesting insight into local industries, as well as links to the archaeological discoveries which resulted from the quarrying. Please also get in touch if you want to be more involved in this citizen science mini project.





Roman Studies Group lecture series

The final of this year's RSG lecture series will take place on **Tuesday 3 March** (19:30) with a Zoom talk by Emma Corke on 'The final season of excavation at Cocks Farm Abinger'. RSG members will be sent a Zoom link a week in advance. If you would like to join the talks and are a member of SyAS, you can join RSG for free (see the [membership page](#)). Many previous talks can be found on the [Society's YouTube channel](#) under the RSG playlist.



Surrey Industrial History Group lecture series



SIHG hold regular talks at Leatherhead and via Zoom throughout the year which are free to SIHG members (contact membership@sihg.org.uk). Talks can be found [online](#), including the next one at Leatherhead, 'In the Wake of the Narrowboat Cressy' by Alastair Clark on **Thursday 5 March**.



Medieval pottery group

The Medieval pottery group meets on alternate Sundays at Abinger Research Centre (9:30-15:00) and would love more people to join. Why not come for a taster session? No experience is necessary, only a fascination with the past. Contact Emma (info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk) if interested.

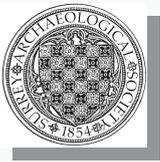
Collections review group

The aim of the group is to reassess all the collections held by the Society, using up-to-date methods and codes, to produce a digital record that will ultimately be placed on the website. The group meets on **Thursdays** at Abinger (10:00-15:00) (sometimes elsewhere by arrangement) and looks at every kind of find: some building material, pottery, bone, glass, metal – some days it is tiny sherds, others complete vessels! The group welcomes new members and students on work experience; previous experience is an advantage but training is given. Contact info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk to get involved.

CBA South East grants

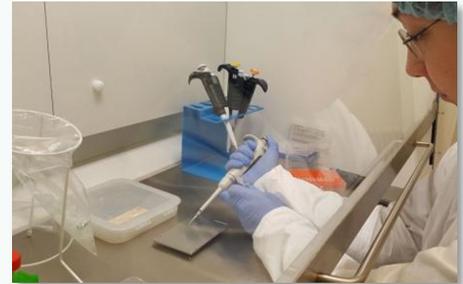


The CBA-SE distribute a limited number of small grants to go towards research, outreach or publication, as well as a Young Archaeologists Grant which allows YAC groups, museum clubs and other youth organisations to apply for funding towards sessions, materials or other costs. For more on this scheme, visit the [CBASE grants page](#).

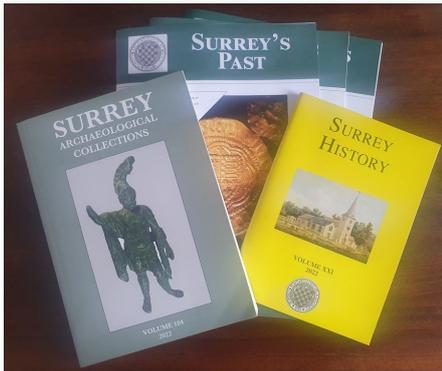


SyAS Research Committee Grants

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 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 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.



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, plus 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 of which have their own events programmes. To join (and see the full range of what is offered), please visit our [website](#). Some of the groups include:

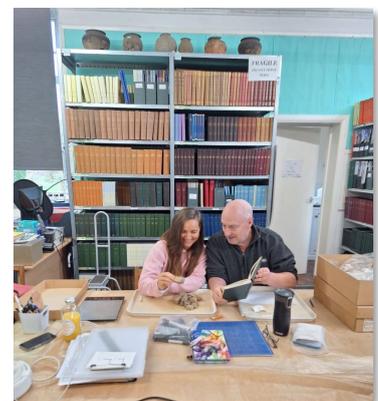
Artefacts and Archives Research Group – On-site processing of artefacts, and assessment at weekly meetings, including lithics and pottery; for details, visit the [AARG webpages](#).

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.

Surrey Industrial History Group – In-person visits, regular meeting programme, bi-monthly newsletter and annual journal; for more details, visit the [SIHG webpage](#).





St Nicolas' 150th anniversary history lectures for 2026

St Nicolas' Church, Guildford will be 150 years old in 2026 but there has been a church on the site for nearly 800 years. A celebratory series of lectures is taking place throughout 2026, which seek to explore the long rich history of the parish and its three churches on the site: from PG Wodehouse, to the oldest monument in Guildford and the pre-medieval dragon on St Catherine's Hill. Two of the lectures relate to two articles in the latest *SyAS Collections* (vol 107, 2025) on St Catherine's Hill and the Loseley Correspondence. The lectures start at 19:30, are all free of charge and will be given either in church or in the adjacent modern Parish Centre which encompasses the Loseley Chapel. The next lecture will be on **Tuesday 3 March** by Canon Jeremy Haselock FSA, on 'The theology of the Oxford Movement and its influence on church architecture'. See www.saintnics.com for the full programme.



Minerva House lunch and learn webinar

On **Friday 27 February** at 12:00, Museum of London Archaeology will be holding an online webinar on their work on London's Southbank as part of GPE's development at The Delft (aka Minerva House). Discoveries include Roman waterside developments to Tudor nightlife, as well as the creation of beautiful tiles and pottery at one of London's first Delftware kilns. See the [webpage](#) for booking.



An Evening with National Trust Archaeologists

Ever wondered what archaeology looks like behind the scenes at National Trust places? Join ArchaeologyUK for a free online evening on **Tuesday 3 March** (19:00-20:30) exploring the archaeology cared for by the National Trust, from community digs and hilltop enclosures to Roman gold mining. The evening features three short talks from National Trust archaeologists: 'Weir Garden Community Project' by Viviana Caroli, 'Highdown Revisited: a summer of archaeology at Highdown Hill' by James Brown and 'Dolaucothi Gold Mines' by David Thomas. Booking via the [website](#).

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