



Surrey Archaeological Society

No 41

May 2024

E-newsletter

Welcome to the Society's May 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*)

Festival of Archaeology

This year's Festival of Archaeology, themed around Archaeology and Community, will run from the **13-28 July**. The Council for British Archaeology (CBA) will be celebrating its 80th anniversary in 2024, making it the perfect opportunity to celebrate the incredible grassroots groups, societies and individuals that share a passion for archaeology across the UK.



There will be several exciting events, both nationally and more local, whose listings can be found on the [Festival website](#). More events will be listed over the course of the next month (check listings for full details), but include:

Thursday 18 July – Talk on Ewell Grove at Bourne Hall Museum at 19:30 (entry £6)

Saturday 20 July – Living History day at Bourne Hall Museum

Tuesday 23 July – Nonsuch Park and Palace walk at 13:30 (email dbrooks@epsom-ewell.gov.uk)

Wednesday 24 July – Cave painting at Bourne Hall Museum at 11:00 and 14:00 (email dbrooks@epsom-ewell.gov.uk)

Thursday 25 July – Bronze Age metal smelting by Dr James Dilly at Bourne Hall Museum (multiple times available)

Saturday 27 July – Talk by Martin Rose (SyAS) on Stone and Bronze Age tools at 11:00, followed by children's soap knapping flint tool session (12:30-14:30) at Farnham Museum

Saturday 27 July – Saxon Fayre in Kingston's ancient market place (11:00-17:00), to include a falcon display, working forge, living history, displays and other family activities

Sunday 28 July – Open day at Albury Park to include displays, family dig, walking tour of Albury at 14:00 and talk on the project in the church at 16:30 (details tbc)



Albury Park community test pitting

We will be returning for a second year of test pitting this season at Albury Park 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!

Our first week of test pitting will take place from **Monday 10 to Thursday 13 June**. Volunteers are welcome for both finds and digging; no prior experience needed and all tools provided.

A second week will run from **Monday 29 July to Thursday 1 August**, and as part of the Festival of Archaeology, there will be an open day on **Sunday 28 July** (12:00-16:00) where members of the public are invited to see some of the finds and have a go at helping to dig some of the pits. Families welcome! Parking is available by the Saxon Church. A bookable guided walk around the Park will also be available at 14:00, with a talk on the project in the church at 16:30 by the project director (details tbc). The final week of test pitting is currently planned for **Monday 9 to Thursday 12 September**.

If interested in taking part and wanting to be added to the project mailing list, please contact our community archaeologist Anne at outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk.



Excavation at Cock Farm Abinger 2024

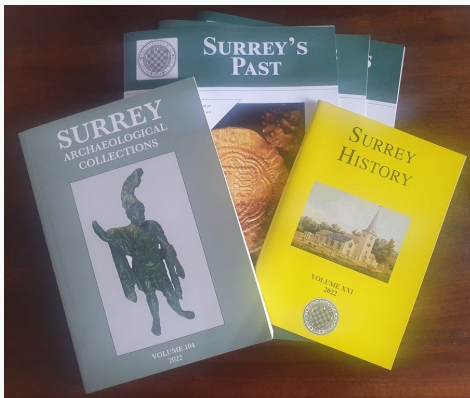
Our Summer excavation 2024 will take place at Cocks Farm Abinger, with this year's focus on the field adjacent to the villa, where magnetometry indicated a series of field boundaries, ditches, pits and other anomalies (see [interim reports](#) for detail).

This may be the last season of large scale excavation so don't miss out on taking part! The dates are as follows: **14-15 June** (a RSG visit is taking place on Sunday 16 so the site will be closed), **17, 20-24, 27 June-1 July, 4-6, 11-15, 18-22 July**. The site will be closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Priority will be given to Roman Studies Group and SyAS members but non-member are welcome to apply. At this stage all that is needed is an expression of interest. For any queries, please e-mail romanstudiesgroup@btinternet.com.



Thinking about joining and getting involved?



If you aren't yet a member of SyAS, now is the perfect time to join! Rates start at £6 per year for junior members (aged 16-20), with £12.50 for students and £30 for ordinary members (£5 assoc). In addition to three issues of *Surrey's Past* a year, annual journal *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, please visit our [website](#). Some groups you might wish to join include:

Artefacts and Archives Research Group (AARG) – On-site initial sorting, cleaning and marking 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.



Monumental Brass Society meeting at St Mary's, Beddington

On **Saturday 20 July**, the Monumental Brass Society will be holding an afternoon event at Beddington church (from 14:00), following a morning meeting, which is free and open to all. The programme will begin with a guided tour of the church by Christine Morgan, followed by a talk by John Phillips on the Carew family and the church, and ending with one of the MBS vice presidents, Stephen Freeth, talking on the St Mary's brasses.

The chancel contains important medieval brasses to the Carews, who lived in Carew Manor, and while for many years these brasses were inaccessible, those in the main aisle have recently been uncovered, and the Victorian choir stalls will be temporarily dismantled to expose other brasses for the visit. The Carew Chapel also contains a stone tomb for Sir Richard Carew d.1520, and a huge tomb with alabaster effigy for Sir Francis Carew d.1611. The church does not have a car park but there is some parking in Church Path by the Church and at the end of Church Road, with other car parks a 10 minute walk away.

Finds from the FLO



For #FindsFriday, this farthing token ([SUR-A051AE](#)) was issued in the 1650s-1660s by Richard Garner (or Gardiner), a tailor of Woking. On its obverse are the Mercers' arms and RICHARD GARNER OF, with G/RE triad, WOKINGE IN SVRREY on the reverse. Found near Dorking, it is one of a very small number of token varieties issued by Woking tradespeople.

This post medieval (17th to 19th century) cast copper alloy trinket ring or fair ring ([SUR-9F5DBA](#)) found near Westcott, which comprises a simple copper alloy hoop with moulded rosette decoration, has been broken deliberately with the whole bent into a heart shape. Made cheaply, bought for pennies, bent into a heart shape and then lost, is it a token of lost love? Either way, it is a good example of how single objects can contain some intriguing details of social history, and why recording with the [Portable Antiquities Scheme](#) is so important.



Recent items acquired by the Library

In April, 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. Currently, the Margary Room at Abinger is open to everyone (including non-members) on Mondays and Tuesdays (10:00-16:00). Please check with the Librarian before visiting to ensure the Library will be open and that the items required are available.

Heritage Open Days

The Society will hold a Heritage Open Day at their Research Centre in Abinger Hammer on **Sunday 15 September** (10:30-15:00). The Lithics Group will be in attendance studying and cataloguing lithics collections and there will be an opportunity to explore the Library.

Please check other local HOD listings to see what events are in your area nearer the time.

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](#)).