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**SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**  
**CASTLE ARCH, GUILDFORD GU1 3SX**  
**Guildford 32454**

# Bulletin

Number 293

June/July 1995

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## COUNCIL NEWS

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### Appointment of Librarian

**Gillian Drew**  
**Hon Librarian**

We are pleased to say that Mrs Sheila Ashcroft has been appointed as Assistant Librarian in succession to Mrs Janette White. She will be working each Monday, Tuesday morning and Wednesday and the first Saturday morning of each month in lieu of the Tuesday.

She has already started work and would appreciate, I know, members who are in Castle Arch introducing themselves to her.

### New Members

We are very pleased to welcome the following new members to the Society:

Geraldine Andrews, 21 Amberley Road, Milford, GU8 5ED  
Judith Billingham, 22 Lawday Place Lane, Farnham, GU9 0BT  
D J Cooke, 44 Shaef Way, Teddington, Middx. TW11 0DQ  
Mrs I Dallinger, Hurlands Cottage, Hurlands Lane, Dunsfold, GU8 4NT  
Mrs M Evans, 57 Croham Valley Road, South Croydon, CR2 7JG  
D J Funnell, 5 Heather Mount, Broad Street, Guildford, GU3 3AJ  
M Harding, 108 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4UQ  
Mr & Mrs S Leverett, 5 Osbourne Court, 79 Osbourne Road, Farnborough, Hants  
GU14 6PT  
Mrs P McInnes, 1 Sissinghurst Road, Addiscombe, Croydon, CR0 6NH  
Mrs N Main, 13 Orchard Way, Send Hill, Send, Woking, GU23 7HS  
Mr & Mrs G Pattison, 3 Ernest Cottages, Kingston Road, Ewell, KT17 2DS  
F Pemberton, 73 Cannon Beck Road, Rotherhithe, London SE16 1DF  
J Quinlan, 60 Gorsewood Road, St Johns, Woking, GU21 1XG  
Mrs G Rapson, 15 Furlong Road, Westcott, Dorking, RH4 3PP  
C Shephard, Rose Cottage, 22 Ridgway Hill Road, Farnham, GU9 8LS  
A Smith, Domus, Grange Road, Ash, Aldershot, Hants GU12 6HB  
K Thomas, Woodsmoke, Albury, GU5 9EP  
N Tsukada, 776-17 Komejima, Showamachi, Saitama, Japan 344-01

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## LIBRARY COMMITTEE

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### Thank You

A note from Janette White, who retired at the end of March:

Thank you very much for the best reminder I could have of my ten happy years working in the Society's Library. The beautiful original water colour of Castle Arch, painted by Sally Gorton, is in pride of place in my home. Thank you all for your gifts, flowers, cards, chocolates and good wishes. I shall miss you all.

I wish my successor, Mrs Sheila Ashcroft, all the very best. I know she will enjoy working in such an interesting and challenging environment and meeting so many new friends and members of the Society.

To everyone who has helped me in the smooth running of the Library during the past ten years I give my sincere thanks, especially to Gillian Drew, who has been the best of employers and a very good friend.

My good wishes to you all and thanks again,

Janette

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## VISITS COMMITTEE

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**11th June 1995 — Visit to Essex** (see details in Bulletin 291). Cheques and details to Mr David Evans, 48 Guildford Park Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5NF — Tel. 01483-564079.

**14th June 1995 — Evening Walk at Norbury Park, Leatherhead.** Steve Dyer will be leading a Midsummer walk at Norbury Park on Wednesday 14th June. Meet at the Young Street Roundabout at 7.00 pm. For further details contact Steve Dyer Tel. 0181-890-0305.

**9th July — Coach visit to Romney Marsh and Smallhythe.** (See Bulletin 292 for details)

**5th August — The Visit to Betchworth has been cancelled.** It is hoped that it will be possible to rearrange this at a later date.

**19th August 1995 — Visit to Painshill Park, Cobham.** Due to work being carried out on the Grotto, the visit (originally planned for the 14th) has been postponed to Saturday August 19th 1995, starting at 2 pm. There will be a guided tour round the 18th century park, including the Grotto, not normally open to the public. Attractions include the Gothic Temple, Turkish Tent, Lake, Hermitage, Mausoleum, Waterwheel etc — a fascinating place to visit with lots to see.

The visit, including grotto and tea with sandwiches and cakes, will cost £6.50 per person.

To reserve a place please write, enclosing a cheque for £6.50, made out to Surrey Archaeological Society and enclosing a sae, to Rosemary Hunter, Burrow Hill House, Pirbright, Surrey GU24 0JS. Tel: 01483 474777.

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## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

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### **Annual Symposium 1995**

**Mike Rubra**

The Archaeological Research Committee's Annual Symposium took place at Dorking on February 25th and was enjoyed by everyone present.

The Symposium was chaired by Dr Tony Clark whose work in geophysics and active archaeology is well known. His opening remarks described the good balance now being achieved by non-invasive methods and the use of excavation only where essential.

The speakers covered the work of the local groups and the professionals, but it is impossible, in a few words, to do justice to the great interest of their talks and the excellence of their pictures.

David Graham described the work carried out by Greta Turner et al on the South Park Moated Site at Grayswood. This is the first site the Society has managed and has already attracted 3000 visitors, mostly from schools.

Judie English took us for a pictorial walk around Dunsfold and showed us some of the important settlements lost to the area when the needs of wartime defence created the airfield.

Rob Poulton followed with descriptions of the many projects undertaken by the County Unit during the year, and those planned for the future.

With plentiful examples Gillian Drew reminded us of the fascinating research material, now indexed, available for research at the Society Library ("phone first please").

In the break the opportunity was taken to look at the work of the various groups, evoking much interest. The Margary Award was presented to Steve Dyer for his untiring work on the Historic Landscape Surveys, the Archaeological Research Committee, and for the Society. A well deserved Second Prize was awarded to the Leatherhead and District LHS.

In the afternoon Geoff Stonehouse described the work and methodology of the Historic Landscape Study Group and identified the features found and plotted around Sheepleas, E Horsley.

Jeff Potter described the work in the County's London section, in Croydon, Wimbledon and Kingston including its old bridge and waterfront.

Phil Andrews, of Wessex Archaeology, then gave details of the excavations at Hurst Park, with plentiful evidence of long occupation at the confluence of the two rivers.

The Symposium was a great success and showed us some of the archaeological research which is being undertaken locally; a fascinating glimpse into the long history of the County.

Our thanks are due to Tony Clark for his chairmanship, to the organisers, the contributors, and to Ann Watson and her willing assistants for the catering.

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## **SURREY COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT (SCAU)**

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The Unit has now completed its move to Dorking. Rob Poulton and other members of the Unit may be contacted on 01306-886466. David Bird and his team including the SMR remain at County Hall, Kingston.

## NOTES

### An Archaeological Excavation at Matthew Arnold School near Staines, in 1994

#### Introduction

Between 3rd October and 21st November, 1994, an archaeological excavation was carried out at Matthew Arnold School, near Staines (fig 1) by staff of the Surrey County Archaeological Unit. The work was undertaken on behalf of the Property Services Division, Surrey County Council in response to proposals for a housing development on land which, at present, is part of the school's playing field. The excavation followed a trial trench evaluation of the site, completed by Surrey County Archaeological Unit in April 1994, which resulted in the discovery of features of early medieval date within the threatened area.

The site lies immediately to the west of the 'Caesar's Camp' earthwork, and somewhat further to the west of a possible enclosure thought to be of prehistoric date. Caesar's Camp, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Surrey No. 146), was the subject of archaeological evaluations in 1989 and 1990 (Jones 1990). The results of that work enabled Jones to tentatively conclude that the ditches of the earthwork may have been infilling during the late 12th or early 13th century and that they had probably infilled completely by the 14th or 15th century.

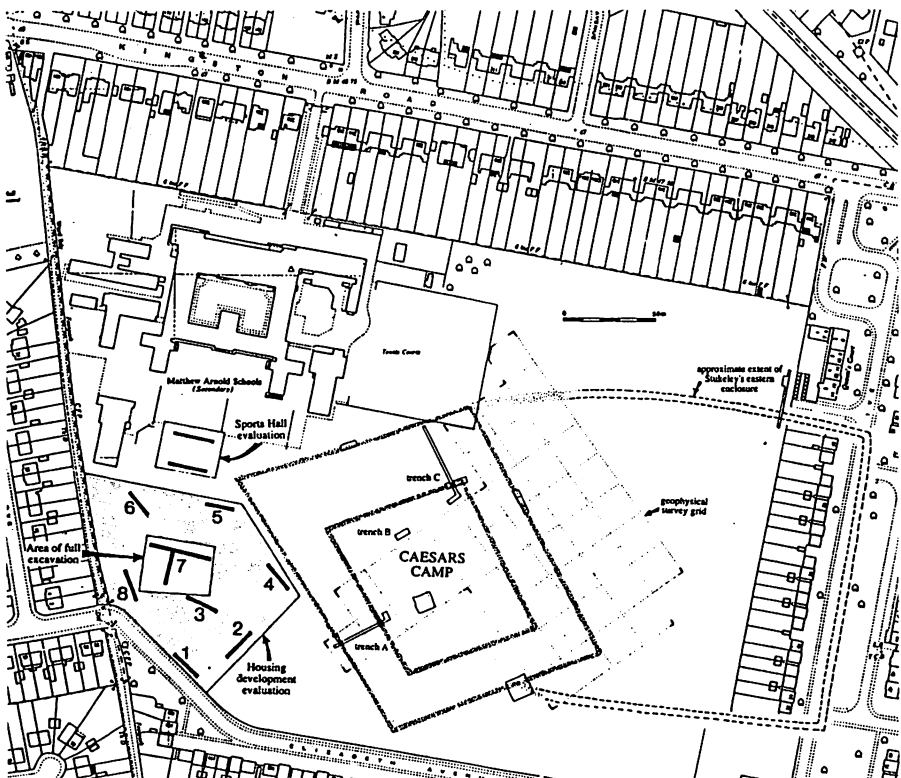


Fig 1 Matthew Arnold School, Laleham : Location of the excavation in 1994

## Results of the Excavation

The excavation revealed a quite dense concentration of features occupying a relatively small area (figs 2&3). The features were sealed by a layer of topsoil, most of which was removed by mechanical excavator. In the central part of the site area the lower portion of this overburden produced frequent sherds of early medieval pottery, some clearly originating in the tops of features, so final clearance of this area was undertaken carefully by hand to reveal what lay below.

The principal feature was a small ditch or gully which formed a roughly 'D'-shaped or square enclosure with an opening facing towards the south-west (fig 3). Within the enclosure a number of post holes, post pits and stake holes were discovered along with a hearth and another gully of variable depth which contained further post pits. Outside the enclosure several post holes and shallow pits were found. The majority of features were observed to cut a shallow subsoil layer, 163, which overlay natural clay.

Most of the features produced sherds of early medieval pottery and were clearly of more or less contemporary origin. One or two of the small pits on the outside of the enclosure may be of earlier date as indicated by the recovery of pieces of struck flint of prehistoric date or, in the case of pit 200, sherds of pottery which may be of Roman date (confirmation pending), from their fills. Feature 150 and a similar feature to the east of it were of 20th century origin and were most probably post holes. The early medieval pottery recovered showed little diversity in form and fabric and consisted either of shell tempered or coarse sandy material probably of late 12th or early 13th century date. Few finds other than pottery sherds were recovered, though a small quantity of the fragments (Roman and medieval), daub fragments, several iron objects and part of a whetstone were recovered from early medieval contexts.

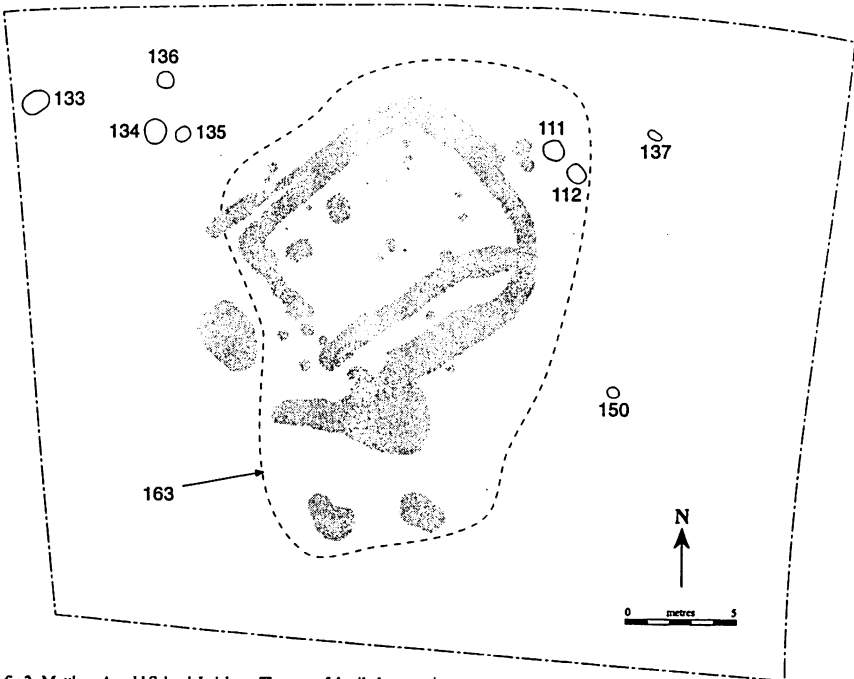


fig 2 Matthew Arnold School, Laleham: The area of detailed excavation in 1994. The full detail of the stippled area is shown in fig 3

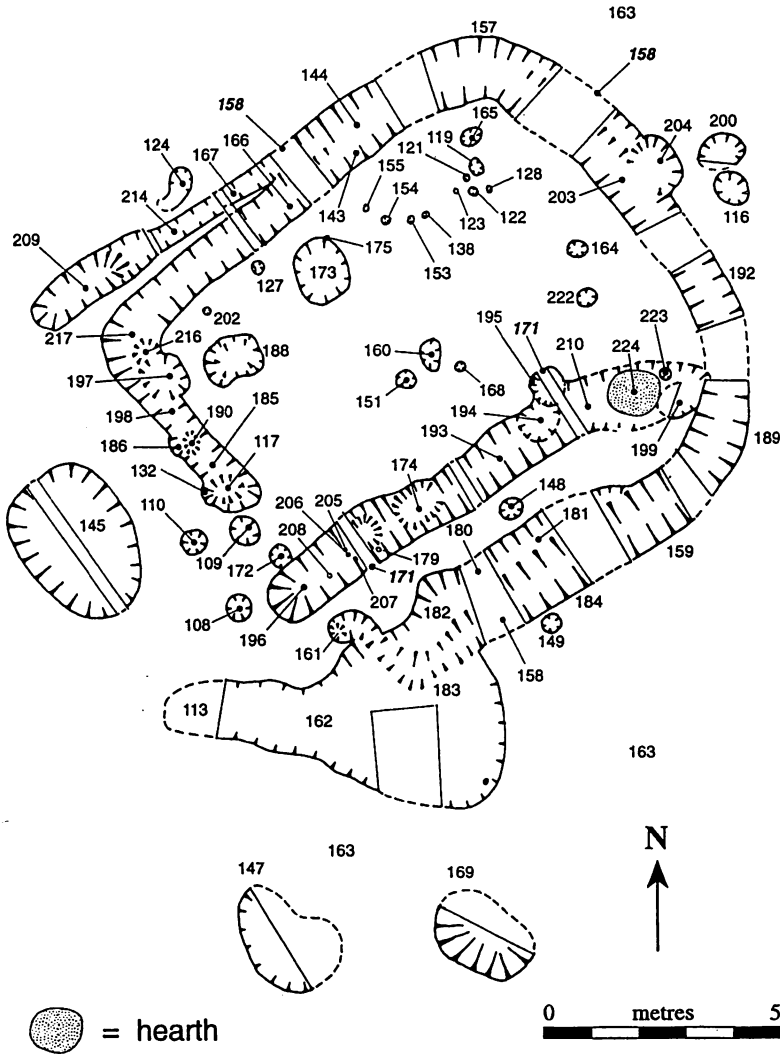


fig 3 Matthew Arnold School, Laleham: Detail plan of the principal features

## Conclusion

The interpretation of the site is not straightforward but at present it seems most likely that the excavation revealed the remains of a small building and associated features of late 12th-early 13th century date. This suggestion is supported by the presence of post holes, stake holes and a gully which may have contained timber beams and acted as foundation trenches. It must be said, however, that the post and stake holes form no obvious pattern and the profile of the gully was more variable than is usually the case with beam slot trenches. There was, though, evidence to suggest that the gully may have had a limited life as an 'open' feature which may support the

suggestion that it was used for construction purposes. There is also evidence from the observation that certain features were intercutting, to suggest that more than one phase of (?building) activity took place, so the ground plan of the original and subsequent structures is probably confused by the presence of features which may not be strictly contemporary. It is possible that the research of excavations which have produced buildings of similar date may provide useful comparisons, and that further analysis of the present work may clarify the evidence. Alternative interpretations for the features discovered are not forthcoming if some form of building was not present.

Assuming the interpretation of the site to be broadly correct there is no evidence to indicate its purpose. Certainly the structure was not surrounded by the type or number of features usually associated with buildings used for industrial purposes or as dwellings. It is possible that the building was in some way associated with Caesar's Camp which may be of contemporary date, though there is no link between the two sites and an opinion exists (Rob Poulton pers comm) that Caesar's Camp may in fact be of earlier date than the material recovered from its limited excavation suggests. There is at present, however, no evidence for domestic habitation within Caesar's Camp so it is possible that the earthwork was used as a stock enclosure — if so, it may be appropriate to suggest (most tentatively) that the building discovered during this excavation was used (perhaps seasonally) by stockmen.

## **A Preliminary Survey of the Surrey County Council Countryside Estate**

**Steve Dyer**

### **Introduction**

The SCC Countryside Estate comprises 26 properties administered by the Countryside Management Division of the Planning Department, Surrey County Council. Six of these are managed on behalf of other owners as Access Agreement Areas, and as little input to the management decisions on these properties can be made, these are excluded from this preliminary survey. All but one of the remaining properties are directly managed by the County Council through its Ranger Service, the one exception, Crooksbury Hill, is managed on a day-to-day basis by Waverley Borough Council for SCC. The preliminary survey of the estate formed part of the historic landscape work co-ordinated by Steve Dyer on behalf of Surrey Archaeological Society and Surrey County Council, the aim being to rapidly assess the survival of any evidence of the historic landscape within the individual properties in order that priority areas could be selected for more detailed research, the information from which would be used in the future management programmes.

### **Background Research**

As the first stage of this study, information was gathered from the Sites and Monuments Record for Surrey and included onto the relevant maps; this giving a list of the known sites and finds of archaeological interest for the areas. Early cartographic sources were also consulted in order to include information on past land use for the properties where this could be ascertained.

This was followed by a walk-over survey of each property, rapidly recording any features of archaeological or historic interest. Brief results of this are listed below for each property.

### **Chobham Common**

This area is known to contain a number of monuments, including two earthworks both known as The Bee Garden, a tumulus and several other features. A number of stray finds of flint artefacts have been recorded from the area.

Numerous other earthworks were observed during the initial assessment of this area, these include military practice works from the 18th and 20th centuries; hollow-ways; woodland

management compartments; landscape garden features; probable field systems and further earthwork enclosures of, at the moment, unknown date or purpose (but possibly settlement sites).

Detailed survey and associated research has begun on this property.

### **Bisley Commons**

Nothing is recorded for these areas. The preliminary survey has shown boundary banks, and other land management features, together with some evidence of agricultural activities.

### **Whitmoor Common**

Two tumuli, and a bank and ditch are recorded for this property. It has been suggested, from previous field work and aerial photographic survey, that elements of a Bronze Age field system survive in parts of the area.

The preliminary survey showed that many elements of the historic landscape survive within the property. These represent land division shown by a number of boundary banks; agriculture; woodland management; assarting and military activities. Parts of the suggested Bronze Age field system appear to survive as earthworks.

### **Broadstreet Common**

A Roman villa, found in the 19th century, lies on this property, but very little is known about this.

The preliminary survey showed only a small number of earthworks on this property. Given that the area lies on London Clay, this would not be conducive for intense agricultural practices or settlement. Some common edge boundaries survive, together with a few banks of unknown purpose. Minor earthworks in the region of the villa may be related to this occupation.

### **Hogs Back**

Tumuli and a mine shaft are recorded for this area, but as this now largely forms roadside verges, nothing was evident as being of direct historic landscape interest.

### **Crooksbury Hill**

A hilltop enclosure, Soldiers Ring, lies in the north of this property. Mesolithic and Bronze Age artefacts are recorded as being found here.

A number of earthwork banks, presumably for woodland management, survive together with hollow ways and quarrying activities.

### **Moushill Down and Rodborough Common**

Nothing of archaeological or historic interest has been recorded for this area; however, excavations in advance of road works revealed a ditch of post-medieval date.



A number of banks, some relating to a field system, were observed during the preliminary survey, together with quarrying activities and a number of broad ridges similar to those on Ockham Common.

### **Chinthurst Hill**

A few property boundary banks survive on this property, but little else was observed during the preliminary survey.

### **Combe Bottom**

Lynchets and a lime kiln are recorded for this area. The preliminary survey showed much evidence for past agriculture on this property both in the form of strip lynchets and field boundaries. Property boundaries and some evidence of past woodland management were also observed.

### **Sheeples**

Field systems, at least one of which represents one of the former open fields, were recognised during the preliminary survey. Property and other banks, together with quarrying evidence was noted.

This property is currently being surveyed in detail.

### **Ockham and Wisley Commons**

A number of earthworks and archaeological finds are recorded from this area.

The preliminary survey showed this area to contain a large number of features relating to land division, woodland management, agricultural and, presumably, quarrying activities. This represents an important historic landscape.

### **Norbury Park**

This property has been surveyed in detail as a pilot project organised by Surrey Archaeological Society between 1988 and 1992. The results of this survey are currently being compiled and prepared for a report. Information is also being compiled for the management agreement.

### **Little Kingswood and Hackhurst Downs**

Banks and other features of agricultural, land division and other purposes were recorded in the preliminary survey. These probably relate to the intense past use of this part of the North Downs, further elements of which can be seen in other areas.

### **White Downs**

Further evidence of the types seen at Little Kingswood and Hackhurst Downs, together with quarrying activities, were noted during the preliminary survey.

### **Burford Bridge Picnic Site**

Due to the recent landscaping and use as a car park and picnic site no elements of the historic landscape can be seen in this area.

### **Brockham Lime Pits**

Although largely affected by large scale quarrying, some boundary banks and features relating to agricultural activities were observed during the initial survey of this property.

### **Shabden Park Estate**

This property appears to represent an intact medieval estate holding. Features relating to agricultural and woodland management practices survive, as do in many places to boundary banks.

### **Park Ham**

A limited number of historic landscape features, probably relating to past agricultural activities, were noted during the preliminary survey.

### **Tilburstow Hill**

One major boundary bank and a few smaller, subsidiary features were noted on this property.

### **Hill Park**

A number of features relating to past agricultural practices were noted on this property including strip lynchets, field boundary banks and at least one hedge of some antiquity. A number of quarries were also noted.

### **Staffhurst Wood**

This area had been the subject of a rapid survey by Dr Nicola Bannister as part of the Surrey Historic Woodlands study; a large number of features were noted from this. The preliminary survey for this exercise identified a number of features relating to agricultural, woodland management and military use of the land. Assarting was also clearly visible through a number of large banks.

More detailed survey of this property is planned for the near future.

### **Footnote**

This report was prepared for Surrey County Council in August 1994: since then the survey at Sheepleas has been completed, and a study of Combe Bottom is nearing completion. (*Reprinted from Surrey Historic Landscape Studies Newsletter 7, Spring 1995*)

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## **PUBLICATIONS**

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**The Way we Were: A Bourne Society Book of Days**, by John D Matthews. The Bourne Society's latest well-illustrated publication covers a large area of East Surrey. It has entries for every day of the year, not a particular year but a composite one, spanning the last 800 years or so of written records. Beginning in 1170 with a fine for murder in Tandridge, it comes right up to the present day. Both interesting and informative, perhaps a volume to dip into than to read at a sitting, it reveals that in most respects human nature rarely changes and that the same concerns occupied the minds of people, then as now.

This work is the result of meticulous research by John Matthews and other society members and contains something for everyone, whatever their interests. It gives us a vivid picture of everyday life in the past and mentions events in the lives of ordinary local people — the ones who would not usually feature in history books.

This new publication is available from local shops, East Surrey Museum, 1 Stafford Road, Caterham, or by post from The Bourne Society, 60 Onslow Gardens, Sanderstead, South Croydon, CR2 9AT. Price: £4.50 + 50p p&p. (Mary Saaler)

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## ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD COURSES

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**15th July-6th August 1995 SAS Archaeological Research Committee Training Excavation.** Application forms circulated with April Bulletin. Further details from Castle Arch — Telephone 01483-32454.

**9th-29th July and 6th-26th August 42 London Road, Bagshot.** See Bulletin 292. Further details from GH Cole, The Archaeology Centre, 4-10 London Road, Bagshot, GU19 5HN.

**10th July-20th August 1995 Courses in Excavation Techniques, surveying, geophysical prospecting and drawing,** organised by the Field Archaeological Unit, University of London, based at Bignor Roman Villa. These courses provide University academic credit. Such credit will require assessment and an additional fee. Further details from Natalie Barber, Field Archaeology Unit, Turner Dumbrell Workshops, North End, Ditchling, Hassocks, Sussex. Telephone 01273-845497.

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## DAYSCHOOLS AND COURSES

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The following are organised by the Centre for Continuing Education, University of Sussex in association with the Sussex Archaeological Society. Further details may be obtained from CCE, University of Sussex, Brighton. Telephone 01273-678527. There are reduced fees for OAPs and unemployed.

**3rd/4th June Graveyard Survey.** Tutors: Tristram Barham and Christabel Shelley. Graveyards are full of social, historical and archaeological information. A churchyard in Lewes will be mapped, recorded and the information interpreted to create a database. Fee £30 (exc £1 entry charge to Anne of Cleves House).

**10th June The Piltdown Hoax.** Part of the day will be spent at Piltdown. Tutor: Chris Goring — a Cambridge based archaeologist whose research interests include the behaviour of “Homo Academicus”, to be held at the University of Sussex.

**1st July Timber-framed Buildings in the Landscape.** An introduction to the range and development of timber framed houses with special reference to West Sussex. Tutor: Annabelle Hughes. To be held at Fishbourne Roman Palace.

**15th July Stress and Stability in Romano-British Society.** Tutor: Ernest Black. The development of the Romanisation of native British attitudes is traced. To be held at Sussex University. Fee £15.

**16th July The Nature of Prehistoric Agriculture.** Subsistence farming or successful agriculture? What was the state of prehistoric agriculture before the Romans? What kind of agricultural evidence survives? Tutor: Peter Reynolds, director of the Butser Ancient Farm Project. To be held at Butser Ancient Farm, Horndean. Fee £15.

**24th July — 28th July Ancient Crafts and Technologies.** To be held at Michelham Priory. The course, based at the Iron Age Activity Centre will cover: Pottery — pot making, kiln building and pot firing Metal working — smelting and bronze casting Textiles — weaving, spinning and dyeing Woodworking — early lathes, wood splitting and cleaving Building technologies — wattle and daubing and thatching Boat building — making coracles

Fee £96.00 (B & B details are available on request).

**The CCE of the University of Sussex is offering a Diploma Course in Landscape Studies** at Crawley and a **Certificate in Practical Archaeology** at Brighton, Chichester and Hastings as part of its 1995/6 Programme. details available on request from CCE, University of Sussex.

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## **MEETINGS**

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### **7th June**

“60 years at the Ewell forge”. A lecture by Gordon Ralph to the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society at St Mary’s Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 8.00 pm.

### **11th June**

Walking tour of Cobham, led by Mr David Taylor, for the Walton & Weybridge LHS. Meet in the Hollyhedge Road car park at 3.00 pm.

### **30th June**

The AGM of the Wandsworth Historical Society followed by a lecture by Christopher Oliver “Sandford Manor”, in the Friends’ Meeting House, High Street, Wandsworth at 8.00 pm.

### **6th July**

A guided visit to Sir John Soane’s Museum, Lincoln’s Inn. organised by the British Association for Local History. Applications to The Administrator, 24 Lower Street, Harnham, Salisbury SP2 8EY.

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## **FUTURE EVENTS**

### **21st October**

Surrey Local History Council Symposium “The Houses we Live in” at Chertsey Hall, Chertsey.

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*Editor: Audrey Monk, Bryony Bank, Beech Hill, Hambledon, Surrey GU8 4HL*

*Next Issue: Copy required by 9th June for July/August Bulletin.*