



Registered Charity No: 272098

ISSN 0585-9980

**SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

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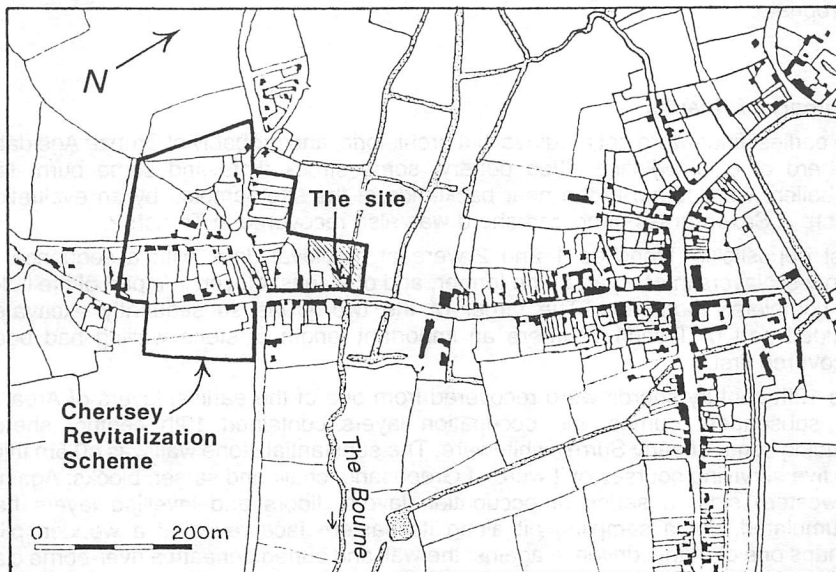
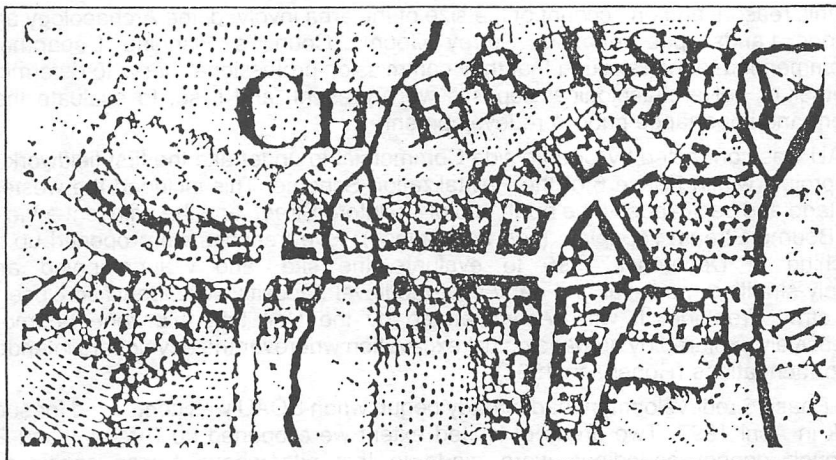
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# Bulletin

Number 318

March 1998

## Styvinton Discovered



**Chertsey's southern suburb:** Top from Rocques map of the 18th century; bottom based on an early 19th century map.

### **Introduction**

The Chertsey Revitalization Scheme, a partnership between Runnymede Borough Council and the private sector, aims to redevelop a large area south of the town centre, including the west side of Guildford Street between the Bourne stream and the railway station, and its east side between Eastworth Road and Station Road.

By chance, this part of Chertsey has recently been identified as being of archaeological interest in a survey of the heathlands of north-west Surrey, commissioned by RCHME, and undertaken by the Surrey County Archaeological Unit (Jones 1994). This suggested that the medieval suburb of *Styvinton* might have lain south of Steven's Bridge over the Bourne, and that from its configuration on early maps, this could have been a deliberately planned settlement.

For this reason, and on account of the size of the area involved, the Archaeology and Historic Landscapes team of Surrey County Council's Planning Department recommended to the Borough that they commission professional works to determine whether or not archaeological deposits were present, and if so, to evaluate their extent and importance prior to redevelopment.

SCAU was contracted by Countryside Commercial to undertake the first fieldwork of the project within Phase 6 of the Revitalization Scheme. This included the western frontage and backlands at the north end of Guildford Street, and the adjacent edge of the Bourne Stream floodplain (see frontispiece). Five trenches were opened up by machine in December 1996 to evaluate the site, and well-preserved and deeply-stratified medieval and early post-medieval deposits were identified close to the street frontage. It was recommended by the Unit that this zone be more extensively explored by archaeological excavation wherever the developers intended deep foundations (Robertson 1997).

The Phase 6 redevelopment had already begun when SCAU was contracted for such work in April 1997. Two areas of limited extent were opened up (Areas 1 and 2), although deeper soundings were made in test pits where it was considered appropriate.

### **Summary of Results**

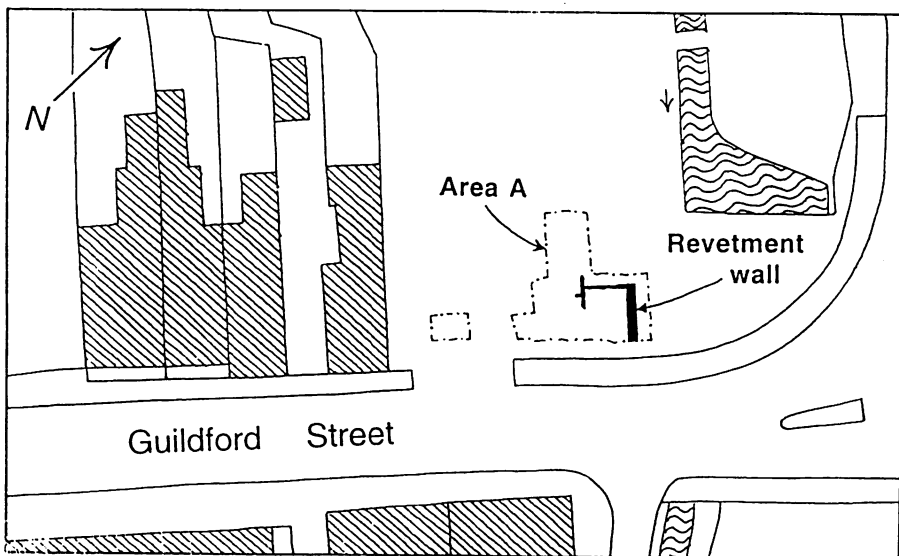
The earliest finds were not medieval but prehistoric, and probably of Bronze Age date. A sherd of calcined flint-gritted pottery, some struck flints and some burnt flint pot-boilers were found in the near backlands of the site sampled by an evaluation trench. A Saxon grass-tempered sherd was also recovered in Trench 2.

Most deposits in Trenches 1 and 2 were of medieval date, with a sequence of twenty-six layers in one part of the former, and of at least eleven in a part of the latter not completely bottomed. The larger of the two Areas subsequently excavated included part of Trench 1, where an important length of stone walling had been discovered first.

Late 12th century sherds were recovered from one of the earliest layers of Area A, and subsequent dumps and occupation layers contained 13th century sherds including some of early Surrey whiteware. The substantial stone wall was c0.5m thick and five surviving courses of it were of Greensand, chalk and sarsen blocks. Against its western side, a series of occupation layers, floors and levelling layers had accumulated, but a sampling pit along its eastern face revealed a wooden pile, perhaps one of many, driven in against the wall and buried beneath a river-borne clay nearly a metre thick. The clay contained some late medieval or Tudor sherds.

One function of the wall, therefore, had been as a revetment for a watercourse, although the occupation sequence suggests that it had also served as the foundations for the north wall of a contemporary building. It lay parallel and c4m distant from a present-day watercourse; the more southern of two ancient streams of the Bourne separated by 120m of floodplain. No other walls of the building were identified.

Another wall led off at right angles from the end of the revetment, and other remnants were found lying parallel, and c3m distant from it. These, however, were of a later building with much less substantial stone block walls, which included several fragments of broken ashlar blocks with carved moulding. The layers associated with these dwarf wall foundations included later 15th and early 16th century pottery sherds and a small, circular tile-on-edge hearth. This second building that utilized the earlier revetment wall, was probably demolished in the 18th century, since pottery sherds of that date were in the fill of its robber trench.



Plan of excavated areas of Phase 6 of the Chertsey Revitalization Scheme.

### Discussion

Stevens Bridge carries Guildford Street over the Bourne, and is the only present-day reminder of the former existence of *Styvinton*. “Ton” was used as a suffix for settlement naming in the 9th and 10th centuries; a period to which the Saxon sherd may belong. The place-name is first mentioned in early 13th century documents and *Stevinton Bridge* is recorded in 1624 (Gover *et al* 1934).

The site lies close to the bridge, and the late 12th century dumps had probably been an early attempt at stabilizing the floodplain edge. This was better achieved by the revetment wall in the 13th century, which enabled permanent occupation immediately adjacent to the watercourse, but with a lessened risk of flooding. The western end of the revetment lay 5m from the street frontage, but its eastern end must have enjoined with a bridge structure carrying Guildford Street across The Bourne floodplain by causeway and bridge(s). The investment of effort apparent in the construction of such a minor component of the bridge as this revetment wall, suggests that the whole might have been an impressive structure. This is plausible since it had separated town from suburb on the important road to Guildford, and although there is no evidence that Chertsey had ever been enclosed, Stevens Bridge must always

have seemed like a gateway, in the sense of being a threshold or place of entry, into the town.

It can only have been the Abbot who commissioned such bridgeworks and settlement so close to the town. The ribbon strip regularity shown on 18th century maps suggests that it could have been a deliberately planned extension of settlement; the town itself, of course, having been a deliberate foundation on the edge of the Abbey precincts in the early 12th century (O'Connell 1977, 11).

Early occupation was probably restricted because of the risk of flooding, but the better management of ground water by dumping and revetments may have enabled more permanent settlement, and this could have been a series of regular plots laid out from the bridge to the crossroads with the Egham to Weybridge road, and, possibly, even further to where the railway station now stands. It would be ironic if there had been such deliberate planning, since it is the successor to the Abbot in terms of such powers: the Borough Council Planning Committee, which is repeating history with a comprehensive redevelopment of the area.

The make-up of the later wall foundations of the site repeat a pattern found elsewhere in excavations in the town; the inclusion of broken moulded stones. At Windsor Street these were accompanied by Chertsey tiles presumed to have been salvaged from the Abbey during its destruction (*Bulletin* 308). This might also be the origin of the *Styvinton* stones.

Little is yet known about the development of Chertsey or the date of its medieval suburbs, but recent archaeological work by SCAU at Windsor Street and now at Styvinton has considerably increased our knowledge. I hope that this interim report will be the first of many about the archaeology of the Chertsey Revitalization Scheme, and the County Archaeological Unit looks forward to further work in cooperation with Runnymede Borough Council.

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## **Barge Traffic on the Godalming Navigation, October 1774 to March 1775**

**Graham Bierton**

In my researches into the Wey Navigation and the Godalming Navigation I have recently begun to study a journal containing the records of daily movements of barge traffic into and out of Godalming Wharf between October 1774 and December 1783. The minutiae of this will clearly keep me cluttering up the Muniment Room for many a long day but these immediate impressions from the first six months of the period may be of more general interest.

Barge traffic arrived at and departed from Godalming in a steady trickle throughout each of these months on any day of the week, though only once on a Sunday. Longer than usual absences of movement occurred in both November and February — floods, perhaps, or frozen stretches somewhere along the route? Considering the mode of transport it would probably be surprising not to find such delays during these months.

William East was employed almost exclusively in bringing chalk from Guildford to Godalming, arriving several times a month, sometimes on two or three days in succession. Usually he returned to Guildford empty but just occasionally he took hay.

Timber-carrying barges arrived empty and loaded up at either Godalming or Stonebridge or both. I presume that “oak timber” and “round elm” were transported as unconverted trunks and branches; “planks” had obviously been sawn previously. Some, perhaps much, of this conversion into planks took place at Godalming Wharf.

A variety of industries are indicated by some of the vast range of goods and empty containers transported by general carriers in both directions, and for a large number of consignors and consignees. Those who sent out sacks of flour obviously needed bundles of sacks; equally those who sent out bags of bark (336 lb per bag) needed the return of bundles of bark bags. I have no idea of the volume of bark in a weight of 3 cwt but it must have been substantial. From once being only vaguely aware that bark was used in tanning, I now find myself not only wondering why and how but also pondering about the possibilities of a specialist bark bag-making industry.

The paper-making industry is represented by some who imported linen rags, some who exported reams or bundles of paper and yet others who did both. What, however, did the man who regularly imported woollen rags — tons and tons of woollen rags — do with them?

Though most exporters of flour only received empty sacks, the two who sent out the largest quantities also imported wheat; perhaps these two were millers while the others were farmers disposing of their surplus.

Some of this wheat was brought by William East so presumably only came from Guildford. I wonder what other goods, though detailed in the contents of barges “received from London”, also made only that shorter journey. Barges “loaded for London” might also have unloaded some of their goods at Guildford. If equally detailed records for the Wey Navigation survived for the same period, a study of the extent of waterborne trade between Guildford and Godalming is a must.

Consumer goods arriving at Godalming included sugar, butter, salt, cheese, plums, raisins, currants, herrings and anchovies. Containers for these and other commodities included hogsheads and their halves, firkins and their halves, punceons, barrels, casks, chests and hampers.

These containers I could visualise even though I might not know their capacities, but what was a prickle of empty bottles, a frail of plums, a runlet of currants, a pipe of wine or a chaldron of coals? I needed to look at a good dictionary to discover that the first three were a wicker basket, a rush basket and a cask respectively. A pipe is also a cask, but what a cask: equalling two hogsheads or half a tun, when full it weighed almost literally half a ton. A chaldron is simply a dry measure, being 36 bushels of coals. Coals were part only of mixed cargoes and whether they were transported loose or in containers I have yet to discover. I hope the latter and that the containers were well sealed, for one barge that brought in almost nothing but chaldrons of coals on one occasion took out almost nothing but sacks of flour the following day.

The dictionary also told me that although hogsheads, firkins, etc were of definitive capacity this capacity could vary for different commodities. This raises the intriguing question that if, for example, a hogshead of sugar was different from a hogshead of butter, was the same sized container used filled only with the appropriate quantity, or were there different sized vessels each called hogsheads? Was there a half hogshead vessel, or did they only half fill a hogshead?

Whatever the answers there was clearly a necessity for a vast number of containers of at least several sizes all made of wooden staves held together by iron hoops. Staves are not mentioned but hoops were sent out from Godalming in quite large numbers — three band hoops, four band hoops, smart hoops and search hoops. (Some of this unfamiliar nomenclature may actually refer to tyres, I suppose, for “coach spoakes” are another occasional export). These hoops, whatever their purpose, were presumably products of the Wealden iron industry which, according to

a brief review I have come across written by Eric Parker some forty five years ago and perhaps made obsolete by more recent research, seemed to have been dying out between 1778 and 1789. I may, therefore, find some indication of the contraction of this industry from the levels of hoop traffic recorded in this journal.

The records for the six months under review suggest a virtual absence of tea drinking in Godalming for tea arrives only twice, one chestful at a time. Other sources suggest the story might be different and I wonder how much more than two chestfuls may actually have arrived in Godalming during the period under review. What fun it would be to find evidence that the grocer who purchased these two only required them because of some temporary shortfall in his usual supply of contraband. Even more fun it would be to discover that one of his clients for such contraband was the vicar of Godalming, the Rev Owen Manning.

*Abridged from a longer note first published in Newsletter 20 of the Guildford Group in 1992. My thanks to Mr Bierton.*

### **74-6 High Street, Reigate**

**David Williams**

This site lies on the north side of the High Street and towards its west end. The property backs on to the slopes below the castle, the surface of the garden being roughly at a level with the roof of the building. As part of its conversion to a restaurant the building was extended rearwards in November 1997 and this involved the mechanical removal of the narrow lower terrace. Once this terrace had been removed, the stone and brick 19th century sloping revetment for the upper garden had no support and within hours gave way. This inevitably involved cutting back into the upper garden and the removal of more soil. Together with further collapses these activities resulted in a substantial semi-circular crater, some 4 metres deep, which extended across the property. This work also involved the destruction of a wall of mortared reused Reigate stone ashlar which formed the revetment of the lower terrace, and the rear wall of the property and which may have been of 16th or 17th century date. Also completely destroyed, and without record, was a brick baking oven, encased in stone, which had been set into the slope. This was probably of early to mid 19th century date.

Once the crater had reached its final extent it briefly proved possible, using ladders, to examine the archaeological layers so exposed. Below the topsoil (which contained no finds earlier than the mid 18th-century) was a substantial dumped deposit of loose yellow sand and broken sandstone. This was less than one metre deep on the western half of the site but dropped to more than four metres deep on the east. The disparity in depth was due to a vertical cut into the natural silver sand. At the base of this deeper level of sand on the east half of the site was a dense layer of broken sandstone which overlay a layer of grey clay mixed with chalk fragments, pieces of Reigate stone, roof tile and sherds of 13th century pottery. This layer was level with the ground floor of the building, and also with the street pavement. Between the dumped sand and the natural silver sand on the west half of the site was a layer of grey sandy soil, c30cm deep, which contained early mesolithic flint blades as well as a little bone and 13th century pottery.

The sequence of events is clear. The grey soil represents the former turf layer which had formed on the natural mound on which the castle stood. This layer was traced downhill to a point almost level with the ground floor of the building. At some point, probably in the 13th century the slope was cut into at this point, possibly for sand extraction, and the excavation subsequently used as a dump (the nature of the medieval layer at the base of the sand infill could not be examined further due to its disturbance following the collapse onto it of the neighbours' fence together with more soil). Shortly after, the turf line as well as the "sandpit" were obscured by the dumping

downslope of a considerable upcast of sand which almost certainly derived from the construction of earthworks at the castle adjacent. There is then no evidence of activity until the construction of the buildings on the High Street in the early post-medieval period.

This is the third site backing onto the castle on which this sequence of events has been interpreted; the others being 20-22 High Street and 12-14 London Road. Once again, such a huge deposit downslope of upcast sand makes it increasingly unlikely that there were medieval tenements along much or any of the north side of the High Street. This suggests that the tenement plan here may be of early post-medieval date, by which time the castle had gone out of use.

Regrettably the local council had neglected to supply an archaeological condition to this redevelopment, for at least the second time this year, and the piecemeal and salvage nature of the archaeological work made it impossible to record in anything but the most basic way.

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## **COUNCIL MATTERS**

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### **Local Secretaries**

Double apologies to Rose Hooker, our local secretary for Capel, Holmbury, Newdigate and Ockley; and to all other members. I gave her address as 50 instead of 59 Thornton Place, Horley, but that is more forgivable than changing her sex. There may have been a wrestler called Shirley but no Rose was ever a mister. Please forgive me.

### **Young Archaeologists Club News** *Christine Hardman, Club Organiser*

In December, the YACs went up to Burlington House in Piccadilly to attend the Annual Young People's lecture, which was given this time by Simon James. He spoke on "Asterix: what were the Gauls and Romans really like?" The consensus seems to be that the cartoon books give a fair description of life in Gaulish times, with a few additions and omissions. For example, the rather bloodthirsty habit of collecting severed heads is not mentioned, and the houses as portrayed in the cartoons are rather more stylish than was the case in fact. The lecture was well illustrated, and enjoyed by everyone. As was the tea which followed.

For 1998, we have a programme which includes craft sessions for the seniors; the YAC mosaic will be finished this year; handling sessions for the seniors; a trip to Butser Hill Iron Age centre, a lecture on Roman archaeology; Victorian costumes; Lewis Carroll and a Mad Hatters tea party, and of course we shall have some part in the Victorian Fair.

We begin in January with a drama session, led by Tina Cockett who has worked with the Horniman and Farnham museums, and is at present with Woking Galleries. She has a special interest in museum education, and we are looking forward to "Wyrd Tales".

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## **VISITS COMMITTEE**

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### **Visit to the Historic Flagship Trust**

Leatherhead and District Local History Society invite members of the Surrey Archaeological Society to join them for a coach visit to Portsmouth on Saturday 5

September, departing from the Leatherhead area at 8.30 am and leaving Portsmouth at 5.00 pm. The visit will include guided tours of *HMS Warrior*, the *Mary Rose* exhibition and ship hall, and a visit to *HMS Victory*.

Cost: £18.50 for adults, £17.50 for OAPs. Bookings must be made by the 30th June and should be sent to Alan Gillies, Sunnymead, Epsom Road, Ashted KT21 1LD (Tel: 01327 274616). Cheques should be payable to LDLHS. Please enclose SAE, as timings will be confirmed and the full programme will be circulated shortly before the visit. Please indicate whether you will be joining the coach at Ashted, Leatherhead, Fetcham, Bookham or Guildford.

In preparation for the visit, Mr Richard Muir, President of the SAS, will speak to the LDLHS, on the *History of HMS Warrior*, with which he has been closely connected. The lecture will be at Leatherhead Institute on Friday 15th May, at 7.30 for 8.00 pm. The charge for the lecture will be 50p for LDLHS members and £1 for others.

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## **LIBRARY COMMITTEE**

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### **Recent Accessions to the Society's Library**

Archaeological evaluations and reports by MOLAS, SCAU and TVAS have been omitted, but a current list of recent additions is available on request.

#### **SURREY — GENERAL**

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## **SURREY INDUSTRIAL HISTORY GROUP**

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“A Guide to the Industrial History of the Borough of Elmbridge” by Peter Tarplee. This new book, the latest in our series of District Guides, will shortly be available in local bookshops, libraries and museums, price £6.95, and post-free from: SIHG, 35 Trotsworth Avenue, Virginia Water, GU25 4AN.

Alternatively, why not come to our BOOK LAUNCH at 7.30 pm on Friday 3rd April 1998 in the Library Hall, Church Street, Weybridge (above the Public Library and next to Elmbridge Museum). Admission will be FREE, as will a glass of wine, and you will be able to hear about the book by the author and visit Elmbridge Museum out of hours. Copies of the book and other SIHG publications will be on sale. Everyone will be welcome, bring your friends and anyone else.

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## LITHIC TOOL RESEARCH GROUP

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A group meeting will be held on Saturday 21st March 1998, at 2.00 pm in the Christian Centre, Dorking (adjoining the Parish Church). Enquiries to 0181 949 2085.

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## MISCELLANY

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### **“Conventicles” in Restoration Ewell**

**Charles Abdy**

After the restoration of Charles II, Gilbert Sheldon was appointed the Archbishop who, in 1669 ordered a report on all meetings (conventicles) of nonconformists. Agents were instructed to learn the places where congregations met, and to what religious body they belonged, their numbers, their quality i.e. social status, and the names of their “*Heads and Teachers*”.

Their returns show a variety of nonconformists in Surrey, including “*Monarchy men*”, Quakers and Anabaptists. St Olave’s parish in Southwark had as many as 1000 of the latter. Ewell had only 50 Presbyterians who met “*sometimes at the hoise of Mr Cutler, a brewer, some (sic) of one Mrs Holmes a widow*”. Their “*Heads and Teachers*” were “*Mr Symes from Wimbledon, Mr Batho for London and Mr King formerly att Ashtead*”.

Hearth Tax returns of 1664 show a Timothy Cutler with 13 hearths (the largest house in Ewell). No Mrs Holmes is listed, but there is a Mrs Hulme with 7 hearths, who, given the erratic spelling of the day, could have been the same person.

### **Wanborough Coins**

*There have been two responses to David Symons’ letter that appeared in the last Bulletin (317), and both are published below. No one has yet answered David Symons’ question as to whether SAC made similar protestations to the National Museum of Wales when it became known that they had acquired 19 gold and silver “possible Wanborough coins”. Did we?*

#### **From David Graham:**

I read with interest your original note and the subsequent correspondence, about the coins, supposedly from Wanborough, now held by the West Midlands Museum. I should just like to express my support for the stand that you have taken, which was entirely justified on the basis of the original note from the Museum.

While I do not doubt the West Midlands Museum’s good intentions, it is nonetheless the case that they should have known that there is no such thing as a “stray” from Wanborough. All legally excavated coins are accounted for and therefore any other coins thought to have come from the site are stolen property. The situation is entirely black and white — all precious metal coins from Wanborough belong to the Crown, since the hoard was declared to be Treasure Trove, and all other coins belong to either Surrey County Council or Lady Taylor — the respective landowners. Since title

in stolen goods does not pass, even to a *bona fide* recipient, it follows that the West Midlands Museum has no good claim to the coins.

I am quite certain that it is against Museums Association guidelines for a museum to accept material that it has reason to believe may have been stolen. Indeed I suspect that museums should not accept any material that is dubious or unprovenanced. In my opinion the West Midlands Museum, though in a difficult situation, should consult the likely legal owners and accept their instructions — which, for all I know, may well be to leave the coins with the Museum.

### **From Stewart Lyon:**

Not having seen the letters the President wrote to David Symons which prompted the reply you have published in the February 1998 *Bulletin*, I nevertheless have to say that the Society appears to have handled this affair with singular insensitivity. In particular, it is hard to disagree with the four numbered criticisms in David Symons' letter.

As a former member of the Treasure Trove Reviewing Committee, and also of the Society's own working party on the reform of Treasure Trove law, I am well aware of the loss to the national heritage and to scholarship when the site of a major hoard of treasure is wantonly plundered, as happened at Wanborough. With coins the inevitable result is that they will slowly leach on to the market, at first through small and less than scrupulous dealers and later, when the provenance may be suspected but not admitted, through major dealers at home and abroad. What should a serious collector — or, for that matter, a museum — do when given the opportunity of acquiring such coins? Should they be eschewed because of their likely provenance, or purchased so they can be properly recorded and become available for study?

This dilemma is very real at the present time because of two suppressed hoards from the eleventh century. One, probably from Denmark with its Anglo-Saxon component ending with Edward the Confessor, has been broken into parcels and sold at auction in London and on the continent. The other, which is said to have contained several thousand coins mainly of Cnut (and, if so, the largest hoard from his reign to have been found in Britain), seems likely to have been unearthed to the south of the Wash and its contents have been reaching the market in quantity. "Silver Pennies of King Cnut — 1016-1035.... EF £245, VF \$195" advertised one London dealer last year in a banner headline, not bothering to specify the mint or mints available.

It is possible to regard Mr Finney as having performed a useful service in acquiring coins which he thought might have come from Wanborough and ensuring they would go to the Birmingham Museum. At least they are now accessible, and perhaps one day their provenance will be established beyond doubt. To call them "strays" may appear disingenuous to you, but this is how numismatists describe coins known or suspected to be from a published hoard though not listed in the official hoard report. They can appear on the market many decades after the discovery of the hoard.

### **Surrey History Service: Closures Later this Year**

All departments of Surrey History Service are to be united under one roof in a new purpose-built building in Woking during the second half of October 1998. The exact dates for the closures of existing offices have yet to be finalised and only approximate dates have so far been confirmed:

Guildford Surrey Local Studies Library — closure early July

Guildford Muniment Room — closure end of June

Kingston Surrey Record Office — closure end of July for documents, although limited access to microfilm and microfiche material; complete closure at end of August

## Bugs and Swans: Aspects of 16th century life by the Thames

### Buggs in Mortlake

*Valerie Knight*

In *Clean and Decent*, a book by Lawrence Wright on the history of sanitation and sanitary fittings published in 1960, the following extract appears: "But Dr Thomas Muffet in his *Theatrum Insectorum* tells us that Dr Penny, a previous compiler of that work, has a tale of being sent for in great haste to visit two noble ladies of Mortlake who imagined themselves seized of symptoms of the plague; the cause proved to be "buggs", and this was in 1583". This seemed intriguing and worth a visit to the British Museum Library to see if the original might yield more details. Although the Museum catalogue lists several editions of the work in Latin, at least one is in English, dated 1658 and entitled *The Theater of Insects*, together with the *History of Four-Footed Beasts*. In chapter XXV page 1096 under "Of Wall-Lice", appears the following:

*"In the year 1583 when Pennius writ this he was called in great haste to a little village called MORECLACK near the Thames to visit two noble men who were much frightened by perceiving the prints of wall-lice (Cimex) and were in doubt of I know not what contagion. But when the matter was known and the wall-lice were caught he laught themout of all fear. Against those enemies of our rest in the night our Merciful God hath furnished us with remedies that we may fetch out of old and new writers which being used will either drive them away or kill them."*

He goes on to list copious remedies to be used against the lice, including "Smoke of oxe-dung, horse-hair, swallows, brimstone" and "Democritus says that Harts-horn or Hares feet hanging about bed-pots will do as much." Encouragingly, wall-lice also had a useful purpose in medicine. Quintus Serenus says "the lice are good for the Tertian Ague":

Shame not to drink three Wall-Lice mixt with wine,  
And garlick bruised together at noon-day,  
More over a bruis'd Wall Louse with an Egge, refine  
Nor for to take, 'tis loathsome, Yet full good I say.

### And to cure a Lethargy

Some men Prescribe Seven wall-lice for to drink  
Minglred with water and one cup they think  
Is better then with drowsy death to sink.

Dr Thomas Muffet appears in the Museum catalogue as Mufet, a Latinisation of his name, but he was "a noted English Physician." The original volume of *The History of Four-Footed Beasts*, of which the *Theatrum Insectorum* is a part, was begun by Conrad Gesner (1516-65), the famous Swiss naturalist, and continued by Edward Wotton. The particular edition consulted bears a later owner's signature "J. Banks" –? Sir Joseph Banks. Two copies of the Latin edition *Insectorum sive minimorum animalium theatrum* (1634) were checked for variants, and these showed the English edition had mistranslated "Duas Nobiles" (feminine ending) as "Duos Nobiles" (masculine ending), so Dr Penny did see "Noble Ladies". It would be exciting to discover who they were. The "buggs" were, of course, bed-bugs which live in dirty walls. They can walk upside down on a ceiling and drop on to beds. Their bite leaves a red mark which could be mistaken for plague spots. Penny had quite a sense of humour. He calls the insects "beasts" or, more literally, "little-b's"!

### The Swans of Barré Elms

*Maisie Brown and Raymond Gill*

Thomas Smythe of Barn Elms (1522-91) was a City merchant and financier and one of several officially registered swan-owners entitled to keep their birds on the waters

of the Thames within the old county of Surrey. These owners included titled persons and distinguished commoners, both men and women, as well as the City Companies of Dyers and Vintners. Rights were granted in return for payment by the swan-owner of certain fees and perquisites to the Deputy Swan-master for the county. The swans were required to have the recognised mark of their owner inscribed on the upper surface of their bill (see fig).

Each county bordering on the river had its own Deputy Swan-master working under the jurisdiction of the Swan-Master for the Thames. The Swan-Master's post was a lucrative one, usually awarded to some high ranking official of state, who in turn appointed and drew rent from his deputies. Throughout the 16th century the deputy rental appears to have been £10 per annum. The deputy was required to enter the name, rank, place of residence and swan-mark of registered owners in his county on an official roll. The swan-mark of Thomas Smythe is recorded on a roll of some thirty owners, believed to have been handed on to Sir William More of Loseley on his appointment as Deputy Swan-master for Surrey in 1593. If so, the new Deputy would have needed to do some updaying as Smythe, together with others listed on the roll, was already dead by the time Sir William took office. The swans owned by Smythe and his fellow swan-keepers were almost certainly of the type most commonly known to us today — the mute swan, *Cygnus olor*. These beautiful birds are believed to have existed in their present semi-domesticated state throughout most of England, including Surrey, from at least 1250.



*Coat of Arms and Swan Mark of Thomas Smythe of Barn Elms.*

*I hope the Barnes & Mortlake History Society can forgive me for providing a larger audience for the first note from their December Newsletter, and for the inclusion of part of a larger note on Thomas Smythe, from their September edition.*

### **The White Lane section of the North Downs Trackway: a rejoinder**

**David Williams**

Helen Davies' surprising assertion that a ridgeway along the North Downs formed part of a long distance route in prehistory and was "certainly the most important in southern England" cannot go unchallenged. My feelings were amplified on seeing the annotation 'Pilgrims Way' on the accompanying map.

It has been generally accepted, except in popular guides to rambling routes, that there is no evidence for a long distance routeway along the North Downs in prehistory (see Dennis Turner in SyAC). Neither do the North Downs form a ridgeway, except on the Hogs Back and only here can an ancient route be postulated. In fact the discovery of waterfronts at Runnymede in particular on the Thames in the Bronze Age suggests the Thames itself was a main route westwards. If one is looking for a prehistoric track across Surrey then the route which follows the approximate line of the present A25 has much more to commend it. This traverses the sand which would have been much easier going than the clinging mud of the Downs. The route is known to have been in

existence since at least the Saxon period, when an earthwork to control it was constructed straddling the road on the Surrey/Kent boundary. Going further back, the road passes within metres of the likely southern extent of the Roman villa at Abinger while the recently discovered site at Betchworth is also only a few metres away and there are no doubt others. The latter site yielded considerable quantities of pottery from Alice Holt and it needs little imagination to see this being delivered along the Greensand route. Staying with the Romans the settlement at Dorking lies at the junction of this route with Stane Street, and this can hardly be a coincidence. Linear barrow cemeteries are often placed adjacent to ancient routes and thus we find the Reigate Heath group adjacent to this route. If further evidence of the route's antiquity needs to be sought then the several lengths of deeply sunken hollow way can be cited. Those stretches between Dorking and Wotton and by the Red Lion at Buckland come to mind.

*The editor confesses to having prepared the map for Helen's article (Bulletin 316), based on the rough sketch that accompanied its first publication in Surrey Landscapes no: 12. "Pilgrims Way" in the Bulletin was retained for, I suspect, the same reason as Helen first included it: not to endorse the unsupported theory that it had ever been used as such, but as an acceptance that this has become the "legitimate" place-name of this weekend recreational walking route. Few pilgrims trod that way, but did a Grim ever dig a dyke?*

## **Margary Up-dates**

North-East Hants Archaeological Society are investigating the Roman road going east out of Winchester and through the settlement of Neatham, and want to know what has been accomplished about neighbouring road systems since Margary's "*Roman Roads in Britain*" (1967).

They are asking local societies in Hampshire and neighbouring counties to send brief abstracts of their post-Margary Roman Road findings, together with publication references. They will then prepare a post-Margary update and copies will be sent to all contributors. Workers interested in Roman Roads will benefit both from having up to date information, and increased publicity for their work.

Please send your information to: Dr R H G Whaley, Chairman North East Hants Archaeology Society, 2 Rotherwick Court, Alexandra Road, Farnborough GU14 6DD. Tel. 01252 548115 Fax 01252 515770.

## **New Centre for Local and Family History at Redhill**

The new Centre launched last November at Redhill Library, is a partnership between Surrey County Council's Library and History Services, Reigate and District Family History Group and other interested organisations. The combined resources of the local history collection and the Family History Group's own material have been boosted by copies of censuses, parish records, local directories and maps provided by Surrey History Service. Volunteers involved in the project will staff sessions twice a month to answer questions and guide people in their research.

The Chairman of Surrey County Council's Community Services Committee, Mrs Angela Fraser, said: "I know the new centre at Redhill will be a great success. The achievement of the Horley centre in winning an important national award (*Bulletin* 317) shows just how much there is to gain from local partnerships. By harnessing the resources of the Surrey Library Service and the History Service, and local researchers' wide knowledge and love of the history of their community, so much more can be done to keep Surrey's heritage alive".

For further information: Tel. 01737 226136.

*Edited from a press release issued by Surrey County Council.*

## **Old London Bridge**

**Raymond Gill**

To the list of relics from old London Bridge surviving in Surrey (*Bulletin* 315) should be added one of the fourteen alcoves to which he refers and which were added to the bridge between 1757 and 1762. It is situated at Courtlands, flats on the south side of Sheen Road, Richmond between the entrance to East Sheen Cemetery and Queens Road. Historically the greater part of the ten acre site was in Mortlake parish, but in 1892 the whole area was taken into the newly created borough of Richmond. The estate was purchased in 1830 by Heneage Legge, a younger son of the third Earl of Dartmouth. He later demolished the old house which stood near the road, and erected a new one on higher ground to the south, which he named Stawell House. Between the east side of the house and the paddock a terrace walk about 280 feet in length was constructed, and this was flanked by balustrading from the bridge, of which I have a photograph. At each end of the terrace two alcoves were erected facing each other. When the house was demolished and the flats built in 1937 the balustrading and the north alcove disappeared, but the south alcove was left undisturbed, and stands today among the trees along the southern boundary of the estate.

## **Old Palace, Croydon: Tours in 1998**

You are invited by the Friends of the Old Palace to be guided through the Banqueting Hall, Guard Room, Chapel, Dining Room, Long Gallery and Best Bedroom (where Elizabeth I really did sleep on her several visits) of the 15th and 16th century Palace range.

Dates of opening this year will be from the 14th-18th April, 25th-29th May, 13th-18th July and 20th-25th July; and doors open at 2.00 pm, although note that the last tour begins at 2.30 pm.

Fees (including guided tour, tea and scones): £4, senior citizens and children £3, family tickets £10. Parties welcome but prior notice is requested. Tel: 0181 688 2027. Unsuitable for wheelchairs.

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## **PUBLICATIONS**

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“**The Wandle Guide**” edited by Doug Cluett and John Phillips, and with contributions from Derek Bradford, Doug Cluett, Derek Coleman, Margaret Cunningham, Gwyneth Fookes, Mark Hodgins, Eric Montague, Sally Peake, Tony Shaw, Colin Saunders, Andrew Skelton, Dennis Turner and Professor Michael Wilks.

This is a completely new revision of *The River Wandle: A Guide and Handbook* which was first published by The Wandle Group in 1974. The book contains a step by step historical guide to the “Wandle Trail” — a twelve mile walk that follows the river from its sources in Croydon and Carshalton to its outflow into the Thames at Wandsworth. Refreshment and toilet stops are included, as well as diversions and alternative routes, and all public transport links, enabling the whole walk or just short segments to be followed. Additional chapters cover in more detail the geology, archaeology, history and natural history of the river and its surroundings.

The Guide was written by members of the Wandle Group, edited and published by the London Borough of Sutton Leisure Services, and sponsored by Thames Water. £4.95. Paperback. 78pp; 36 illustrations and a map. ISBN: 0 907335 33 0. Available at Sutton Libraries and Heritage Service venues, bookshops or by post (extra £1) from

Sutton Leisurestop, Central Library, St Nicholas Way, Sutton SM1 1EA. Cheques payable to "London Borough of Sutton".

**"Cobham Characters"** by David C Taylor. This is a new book from David Taylor and follows his earlier publications on Cobham and its history. *Cobham Characters* is published in paperback and contains over thirty illustrations. There are thirteen chapters covering three centuries and include the Cobham Miller who tried to lay claim to Charlecote House in Warwickshire; Cobham's connections with Wordsworth and Coleridge; the scandalous affair of Lady Ligonier and the Italian poet Alfieri; the gruesome murder of a gamekeeper at Cobham Park; and the visits to Cobham by Queen Marie of Romania.

The book costs £6.95 and may be obtained from David Taylor, Appleton, 4 Cedar Avenue, Cobham, Surrey KT11 2AB. Please make cheques payable to David Taylor and add 50p for post and packing.

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## **PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE**

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### ***Surrey Archaeological Collections***

All members should by now have received Volume 84 of *Surrey Archaeological Collections*. If you have not done so, please telephone or write to Maureen Roberts at Castle Arch.

Since the publication of Volume 84, it has come to our attention that some members, in particular those residing outside the hand-delivery area, did not receive Volume 83. If you are in this position, and would like to receive your copy, please contact as above.

### ***Bulletin Despatch***

Sue Janaway, who has despatched the *Bulletin* for the past five years, is no longer able to continue this important service. I'd like to thank her personally, and on your behalf, for all her diligent work.

Would any member with approximately five hours to spare each month, and transport, be willing to take over this task? There is a small remuneration.

Further details from the Editor at the address on the back page, or via Castle Arch.

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## **CONFERENCES**

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### **Medieval Settlement Research Group**

#### **Spring Conference**

***Royal Holloway College, University of London, Egham***

***Saturday April 25th. 10.00 am – 5.30 pm***

"Can we recognise early medieval settlement in the Weald of Surrey"

*Judie English*

"The colonisation of the Weald of south east England"

*Mark Gardiner*

"Thunderfield — central place or shieling"

*Dennis Turner*

"Excavations in the medieval borough of Reigate"

*David Williams*

"Medieval potters and trade in the town and country of west Surrey"

*Phil Jones*



“From tree to timber — the use of Wealden oak in vernacular domestic buildings”

Jane Kirk

“Excavations at the lost manor of Hextalls, Bletchingley — structures, finds and social status”

Rob Poulton

During the morning of the following day, Sunday April 26th, there will be a visit to settlement and other medieval sites in the Surrey Heath area by coach led by Rob Poulton and Phil Jones of the Surrey County Archaeology Unit. The tour will include the villages of Chobham and Pirbright besides nearby features, including moats, and examples of emparkment.

Fee: £7.50 MSRSG members, £10 non members.

If required meals and overnight accommodation have been arranged at Royal Holloway College.

For further details and a booking form please contact Stephen Coleman, Hon Secretary MSRSG, c/o Heritage and Environment Group, DEED (Environment Services Division), Bedfordshire County Council, County Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford, MK42 9AP or Tel: 01234 228072 Fax: 01234 228232 e-mail: colemans@bedfordshire.gov.uk

## **The Archaeology of Sussex to AD 2000**

### ***Final Reminder:***

It is over twenty years since the last such conference of which the resulting publication: *Archaeology in Sussex to AD1500* is now out of print. This conference on the 4th and 5th April this year will provide a combination of overviews by period, and some more detailed examinations of particular topics and sites.

See *Bulletin* (317) for details of speakers, subjects and costs.

For more details phone 01273 678926 (ref: course no 17097) or write to The Centre for Continuing Education, Education Development Building, University of Sussex, Brighton, BN1 9RG.

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## **COURSES**

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### **Butser Ancient Farm 1998**

Half Course

Metals in Prehistory                      26th – 28th June, 7th – 9th August

Full Course

Experimental Earthworks              2nd – 8th August

Further details from: Dr Peter Reynolds, Butser Ancient Farm, Nexus House, Gravel Hill, Waterlooville, Hants PO8 0QE. Tel: 01705 598838.

### **Building Stone in the Weald and Downland**

***1st and 2nd April***

***Weald and Downland Museum, Singleton, Chichester, Sussex  
PO18 0EU***

Tutors: Tim Tatton-Brown, Bernard Worssam, and Anne and David Bone.

For further details write to the above or Tel: 01243 811363.

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## DAY SCHOOLS

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### Butser Ancient Farm

#### Practical Workshops

Building a Roman Villa	5th April, 16th May, 20th June, 12th July
Pottery and Kilns	10th April, 17th May
Prehistoric Pitch Production	11th April, 12th April
Flint Knapping	12th April, 25th May, 20th September
Prehistoric Archery	13th April, 11th August
Prehistoric Bow Making	19th September, 20th September
Bronze Casting	24th May, 5th July, 23rd August
Celtic Medicinal Herbs	7th June
Roman Medicinal Herbs	12th September
Spinning and Weaving	20th June, 4th July
Dyeing	21st June, 5th July
Food & Farming in Prehistory	27th June, 15th August
Prehistoric Plant Communities	12th August

Further details from: Dr Peter Reynolds, Butser Ancient Farm, Nexus House, Gravel Hill, Waterlooville, Hants PO8 0QE. Tel: 01705 598838.

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## LECTURE MEETINGS

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### 16th March

"William Buckland and the Flood", by Chris Duffin to the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society, at the United Reformed Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon, at 7.45 pm.

### 17th March

"Millais and the Hogsmill River" by Barbara Webb, to the Friends of Kingston Museum and Heritage Service, at the Market House, Market Place, Kingston, at 8.00 pm. A donation of £1.50 is suggested.

### 21st March

"The War of the Worlds" by Ian Wakeford to mark the centenary of H G Wells's novel, to the Walton and Weybridge Local History Society, at the Library Lecture Hall, Church Street, Weybridge, at 3.00 pm.

### 24th March

"Recent Archaeological and Historical Work", various speakers to the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society, at Hawkstone Hall, the Lambeth North end of Kennington Road, at 7.00 for 7.30 pm.

### 25th March

"The Conservation of Furniture" by John Kitchin to the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society, at the United Reformed Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon, at 7.45 pm.

### 26th March

"Victorian Magic Lantern Show" by Charlie Fellows to the Farnham & District Museum Society, in the United Reformed Church Hall, South Street, Farnham, at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

### 1st April

"Archaeology and history of Cheam" by Andrew Skelton to the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society, at St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell, at 7.45 for 8.00 pm.

## **2nd April**

“Runnymede” by Richard Williams to the Spelthorne Archaeological Field Group and the Friends of Spelthorne Museum, at the Methodist Church Hall, Thames Street, Staines, at 8.00 pm. 75p non-members.

## **4th April**

“The Old Palace, Croydon”, by Yvonne Walker, to the Beddington, Carshalton and Wallington Archaeological Society, at Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, Carshalton, at 3.00 pm.

## **4th April**

“The Renaissance of Dover as a Fortress”, by Jonathan Coad to the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society, at the United Reformed Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon, at 7.45 pm.

## **7th April**

“Archaeological sites in Western Turkey” by Richard Watson to the Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society at the Friends Meeting House, Eden Street, Kingston, at 8.00 pm.

## **7th April**

“The Basingstoke Canal” by Ian Wakeford to the Addlestone Historical Society, at the Community Centre, Station Road, Addlestone, at 8.00 pm. Visitors £1.

## **15th April**

“Historic Stones” by Richard Butler to the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society, at the United Reformed Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon, at 7.45 pm.

## **16th April**

“Mortlake High Street” by Gillian Collins and Leslie Freeman to the Barnes and Mortlake History Society, at the Main Hall of the Sheen Lane Centre, at 8.00 pm.

## **17th April**

“Parry Thomas, ‘Babs’, and the Land Speed Record” by Gordon Knowles to the Leatherhead & District Local History Society following their AGM, at the Leatherhead Institute at 7.30 for 8.00 pm. Visitors £1.

## **18th April**

“The Account Books of Mr and Mrs John Fredericks, 1748-1763” by John Ruddle to the Weybridge and Walton Local History Society, at the Elmgrove Hall, Hershaw Road, Walton-on-Thames, at 3.00 pm. Visitors £1.

## **27th April**

“The Villages on the southern border of Croydon: 3. Sanderstead from Rural Village to Commuter Suburb” by Joy Gadsby to the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society, at the United Reformed Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon, at 7.45 pm.

## **27th April**

“Woking Palace” by Steve Dyer to the Mayford and Woking District History Society at Mayford Village Hall, Saunders Lane, at 7.45 pm. Visitors £2.

## **28th April**

“Who owned Bermondsey and Rotherhithe” by Stephen Humphrey, to the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society, at Hawkstone Hall, the Lambeth North end of Kennington Road, at 7.00 for 7.30 pm.

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**Next Issue:** Copy required by 27th March for the April issue.

**Editor:** Phil Jones, 15 Grove Crescent, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT1 2DD. Tel: 0181 549 5244.