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## SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

CASTLE ARCH, GUILDFORD GU1 3SX

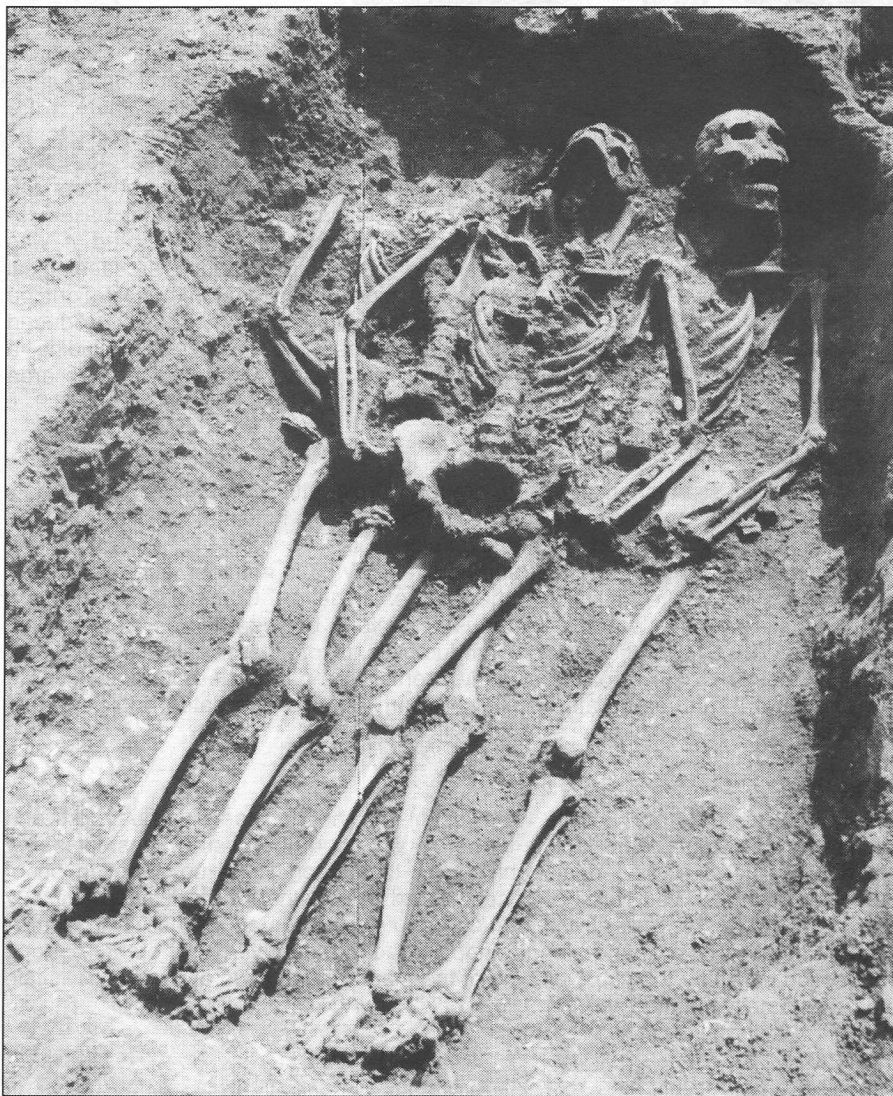
Tel/ Fax: 01483 532454

E-mail: [surreyarch@compuserve.com](mailto:surreyarch@compuserve.com)

Website: [ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/surreyarch](http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/surreyarch)

# Bulletin 331

July 1999



*Execution burials at Staines*

*Photo: Jan Quartermaine*



*Execution burials at Staines.*

### **Introduction**

A proposal to build a new office block on this site led to a need to consider the possibility of archaeological discoveries, in an area which in recent years has produced a number of interesting finds. The new structure is to be built by Taylor Woodrow Developments Ltd, and they have been most helpful in providing time and money for the archaeological work.

Some initial trial trenches produced material of prehistoric and Roman date, but did not suggest that there were major or substantial discoveries to be made. The principal threat to below ground remains would come from the excavation of a substantial basement area to the office block, and it was

agreed that the soils in this area should be stripped under archaeological supervision and time provided for the excavation of any features that might be discovered. It was a considerable surprise when this process produced archaeological evidence densely distributed across the area, and including a substantial number of human burials. In the event, excavation work on this area extended across a period of seven weeks, between 10th March and 23 April 1999.

### **Prehistoric**

The features consist entirely of pits, or groups of intercutting pits. These were widely spread across the site, and fairly shallow in many cases. Finds from them consisted almost entirely of pottery sherds and struck flints. It must be stressed that, in common with finds of other dates from the site, they have not been subject to basic initial processing as yet, let alone specialist examination. Comments on the date and character of artefactual material must, therefore, be regarded as tentative and preliminary. That said, the pits did produce plenty of good quality worked flint, probably mostly of late Neolithic or early Bronze Age date. The pottery includes a few sherds that may be of late Neolithic or early Bronze Age date and others that are of later Bronze Age types.

### **Later Roman**

A variety of features of this date were identified. They include pits, postholes and ditches. At this stage, there is little further to say about the pits and postholes, but the ditches that are aligned at right angles to London Road do seem to be of particular interest. The course of London Road follows that of the Roman highway from London to Silchester, and a number of Late Roman ditches with similar alignments have been found along London Road in recent years. There is a strong suggestion here that this area, outside of the main Roman town of Staines, was laid out as a formally planned suburb.

### **Medieval**

Finds of pottery of this date from the site belong principally to the period between the 11th and 13th centuries. They are, however, considerably less in number than

the quantity of Roman material, and this suggests that activity was less intense at the later date. It is uncertain until some detailed work is undertaken how many and which features might be of medieval date. This is because even within those features suspected of being of medieval date, there is a very high percentage of Roman pottery, which is believed to be residual, but cannot be clearly demonstrated to be so without careful examination.

### ***The Human Burials***

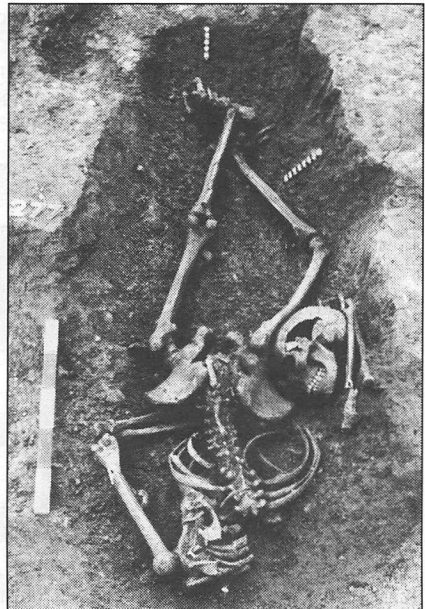
Evidence for the inhumation burial of 30 or more individuals was found. Twenty-two of these were complete or near-complete, five were partial discoveries, three were very fragmentary, and there was one grave shape, in which no human bone was found. The burials are extremely difficult to date directly, since none of them were accompanied by grave goods, or by evidence for clothing in the form of attachments such as buckles or brooches. The grave fills of a number included sherds of Roman pottery, but this indicates no more than that they are of Roman or later date. It may very well be that there were two distinct periods of burial on the site. A late Roman ditch cut through one human burial, but further along its course a grave had been cut through its infill. Recent inhumations discovered at 18-32 London Road and at 1 London Road are suspected to be of Roman date, and this is certain in at least one case where evidence for hob-nail boots was found. A small number of the burials at 42-54 London Road may also have been regular inhumations of Roman date.

The greater majority, however, are burials of a very different character. In three of them the head seems to have been detached before interments, in others the body was placed face down, several were of multiple inhumations, with suggestions that they were tied, a number of graves were dug too small for their intended occupants and the orientation of the graves is extremely varied, and effectively random. All of these features suggest execution victims, whose burial was careless and casual. Their being stripped of all clothing before burial could explain the complete lack of artefacts in the graves.

These burials cannot, at present, be dated confidently with accuracy. One, at least, was cut through the backfill of a Late Roman ditch, and there are several other indications of post-Roman date. The best parallels are found in the late Saxon and early medieval period, and several execution sites have been identified of very similar character. Examples in Surrey include the former Goblin works (now the Esso headquarters) at Ashtead, near Leatherhead, and Guildown just outside Guildford, on the North Downs (Poulton 1990).

### ***Conclusion***

The site lies alongside the main road to London, just outside the nucleus of the Roman and Medieval town of Staines. It is very similar to a number of other sites recently identified in the locality, in having occupation at a number of distinct periods. At each, there is very little evidence of significant activity in the Iron Age, early



*Decapitated burial at Staines.*

Roman Saxon, late medieval and early post-medieval periods. It may be suggested that this reflects a situation in which this area within the floodplain had been marginal land, only periodically suitable for permanent occupation. The present site differs from the others recently identified in two important respects. Firstly, it has produced a much greater intensity of evidence for Neolithic and Bronze Age occupation. Secondly, the evidence for an execution site presents a hitherto entirely unsuspected aspect of the area.

**Reference**

Poulton, R, 1990 *Saxon secrets in Surrey*.

**Overwey Revisited**

**Alan Hall**

From May 1947 to May 1948 the late Anthony J. Clark and other members of the Surrey Archaeological Society excavated three 4th century double-flued updraught kilns, associated pits and the ephemeral remains of an insubstantial building in a field sloping down to the River Wey at Overwey House, Tilford, Surrey. A full report on the work was soon published (Clark 1950) and the majority of the finds were lodged in Guildford Museum.

Clark concluded that pottery manufacture at Overwey took place during the 4th century and ended AD c368. He based his assessment purely on the pottery forms found although he had recovered a coin of Gratian (AD 367-383) which he regarded as intrusive from a later period of agricultural use of the site. Subsequent work confirmed this dating but indicated a slightly later terminal date (Millett 1979).

The Guildford Museum collection contains only one example of each of the forms recovered and it was clear that much of the finds was not lodged as there are four examples only in different sizes of the well known hook-rimmed jar with rilled surface, Alice Holt classification 3C12 and 3C13 (Lyne & Jefferies 1979) whereas the report indicates that these formed 60% of the finds.

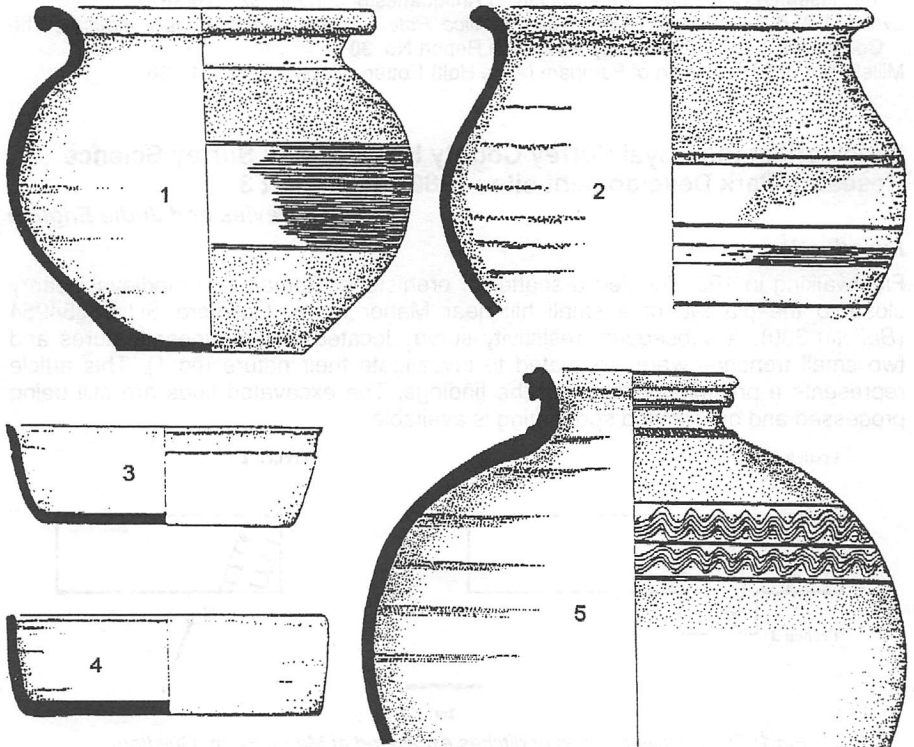
Following the death of A. J. Clark, a collection of artefacts was recovered from his home included several parcels of Roman pottery sherds labelled as coming from Overwey. Examination of the forms and fabric of these pots confirmed that they were, indeed, part of the original finds and have been analysed as follows:

Class	Form	Count	%
1A	Cordoned and necked Jars	12	9.5
1C	Storage Jars	1	0.8
3B	Everted Rimmed Jars	9	7.1
3B	Miscellaneous Jars	22	17.3
3C	Hook-rimmed Jars	30	23.6
4.45	Bead-rimmed Jars	6	4.7
5B8	Beaded and flanged Bowl	1	0.8
5C	Strainers	2	1.6
6A	Convex-sided Dishes	32	25.2
6C1	Beaded and flanged Bowls	1	0.8
8	Flagons and Jugs	1	0.8
	Unidentified	10	7.8
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>100</b>

A number of points arose from examination:

1. A predominance of jars in a fine fabric with slip applied which have no exact

- parallel within the Alice Holt Corpus. Two examples, previously published by Clark, are illustrated below (Figs 1 and 2). The jars have variable profiles varying between slightly hooked rims to everted rims although, as Clark pointed out, the everted rims do not project as far as normal in pottery of this period. That there were sherds and rims from 22 vessels may indicate that these forms were an important part of the Overwey production; alternatively, they may have been retained by Dr. Clark as items of particular interest.
- The Overwey fabric is well known, often referred to as "Portchester D" from its first isolation by Fulford (Fulford 1975), and is generally known for its distinctive oxidised buff colour. However, within this collection, 70% of the vessels are in a reduced grey fabric.



*Pottery from Overwey House, Tilford: Hook-rimmed jar slipped with burnished band (1), everted-rimmed jar with slip and burnishing (2), late unclassified dishes (3 and 4), narrow-necked jar with distinctive decoration (5). Scale 1:4.*

- The majority of dishes are of the common class 6A convex sided, grooved rim variety but there are two dishes which are hitherto unpublished as illustrated (figs 3 and 4). These are thought to be of a late date, possibly as late as the early 5th century (pers. comm. M.J. Lyne). This dating is not unequivocal – as we do not have detailed site records and cannot be sure that they are not intrusive from a later period – but could place the closure of the kilns at two or three generations later than previously thought.
- There are twelve examples of class 1A18 narrow-necked jars with a double band of combed waves inscribed on the shoulder (fig.5). This form is published in the Alice Holt corpus (Lyne & Jefferies 1979), but only as an Overwey product and may be diagnostic of the output of these kilns



Clearly the dating of the kilns awaits secure stratigraphic dating evidence from some other site. Alternatively, as it is believed that they were backfilled intact following the 1947/48 excavation (pers. comm. M.J. Lyne), archaeomagnetic investigation could possibly clarify the point.

The collection has now been deposited in Guildford Museum (Accession Number RB4091).

### References

- Clark, A J (1950) The Fourth Century Romano-British Pottery Kilns at Overwey, Tilford, Surrey *Archaeological Collections*, 51, 29-56.
- Fulford, M G 1975, in Cunliffe, B *Excavations at Portchester Castle, Vol. 1: Roman*, Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London, 32, 270-367.
- Lyne, M A B & Jefferies, R S 1979 *The Alice Holt/Farnham Roman Pottery Industry*, The Council for British Archaeology, Research Report No. 30.
- Millett, M 1979 The Dating of Farnham (Alice Holt) Pottery, *Britannia* 10 121-136.

## Fieldwork at the Royal Surrey County Hospital and Surrey Science Research Park Development sites 1980 - 1998, part 3

*Helen Davies and Judie English*

### Introduction

Fieldwalking in 1997 located a scatter of prehistoric, Roman and medieval pottery close to the plateau of a small hill near Manor Farm, Guildford SU 96654954 (*Bulletin* 330). A subsequent resistivity survey located several linear features and two small trenches were excavated to investigate their nature (fig 1). This article represents a preliminary report of the findings. The excavated finds are still being processed and only limited spot dating is available.

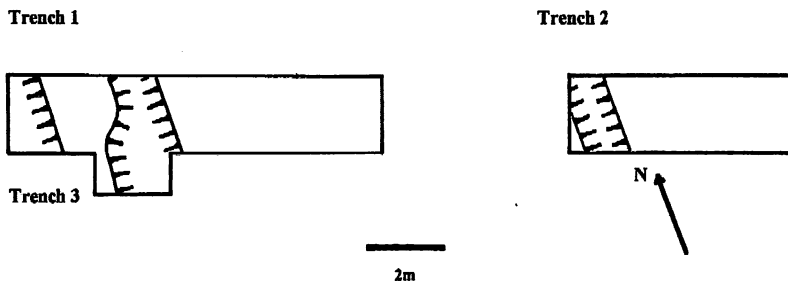


Fig 1: The relative position of ditches excavated at Manor Farm, Guildford.

### The Trial Trenches

The site is on London Clay and through most of the area investigated a yellow clay was found at c20-25cm. The linear features proved to be three ditches, seemingly parallel. A small extension to Trench 1, intended to clarify a possible re-cut of one of them, located a short length of a probable wall footing of large flint nodules keyed together but not mortared and cut into the ditch siltings (fig 2). Probing suggested that approximately 2m of this footing survived.

### Prehistoric Pottery

Small quantities of sherds were recovered from all contexts. The majority, tempered with calcined flint alone or with quartz sand or grog, are probably of Bronze Age date and include one possibly from a collared urn. One feature produced several

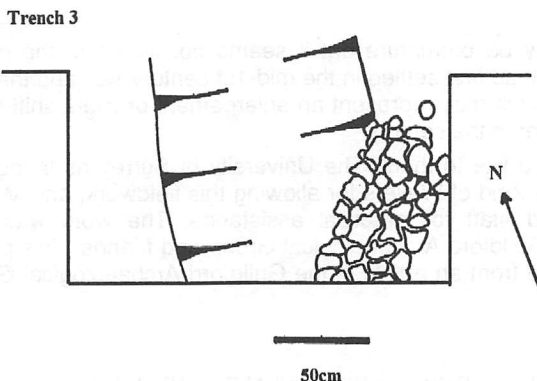


Fig 2: The possible wall footing located in Trench 3.

sherds including one burnished inside and out and possibly from an Early Iron Age shouldered bowl (Phil Jones, pers comm).

### **Roman Pottery**

Most pottery sherds recovered are Roman and their considerable quantity and unabraded nature indicates settlement at, or close to the trial trenches. Pottery from the western ditch has not yet been spot-dated. The primary silt of the central ditch produced a large portion of a cordon-necked jar (fig 3a) which Malcolm Lyne has suggested could be of late Iron Age manufacture but is more likely to date to AD c43-60 (pers comm). Also within the primary silt were the bones and teeth from two cattle and, at least, two sheep or goats. Several bones show signs of butchery (Pat Nicolaysen, pers comm). With them was a rim sherd from a late 1st or early 2nd century flagon. The deposit appeared to come from a level below the flint footing but may have been within any trench dug to take the footing, no cut for such a trench having been recognised during excavation. Pottery from above the footings is Roman but has not been more closely dated as yet.

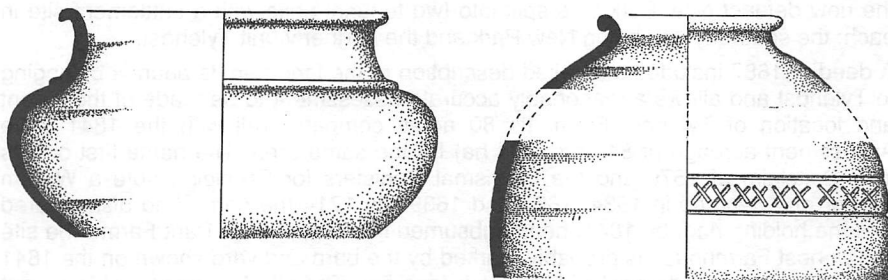


Fig 3: Early Roman pottery found in ditch silts at Manor Farm, Guildford (drawn by Alan Hall).

The eastern ditch also produced pottery from the primary silt, in this case sherds from a Class 1:12 cordoned jar of AD 70-100 and a Class 1A narrow-mouthed jar of AD c70-150 (fig 3b), both from kilns in the Alice Holt/Farnham area (Malcolm Lyne, pers comm). Alan Hall has pointed out that the latter can be paralleled at Wanborough (Bird 1994. Fig 43 no 5). Most unusually, there appears to have been an attempt to mend one of these jars in antiquity and we are hoping to get the material used analysed.

## Conclusions

Interpretation may be premature but it seems possible that the central ditch had enclosed a farmstead first settled in the mid-1st century AD, and that the flint footing and the eastern ditch may represent an enlargement or slight shift in the position of the settlement later in the century.

The authors would like to thank The University of Surrey as landowners and their agent, Mr Jeremy Zeid of Wellers for allowing this fieldwork, and Mr Ian Main of the University ground staff for practical assistance. The work was carried out by members of the Guildford Archaeological Group and friends. This preliminary report has been adapted from an article in the Guildford Archaeological Group Newsletter for 1998.

## References

- Bird, J (1994) The Roman Pottery, in O'Connell, M G and Bird, J 1994.  
Davies, H & English, J (1999). Fieldwork in advance of development at Royal Surrey County Hospital and Surrey Science Research Park sites 1980-1998 (part 2). *SyAS Bull* 330.  
O'Connell, M G and Bird, J (1994) The Roman temple at Wanborough, excavation 1985-1986, *SyAC*, 82.

## Tylehost Farm, Cranleigh

*Christopher Budgen*

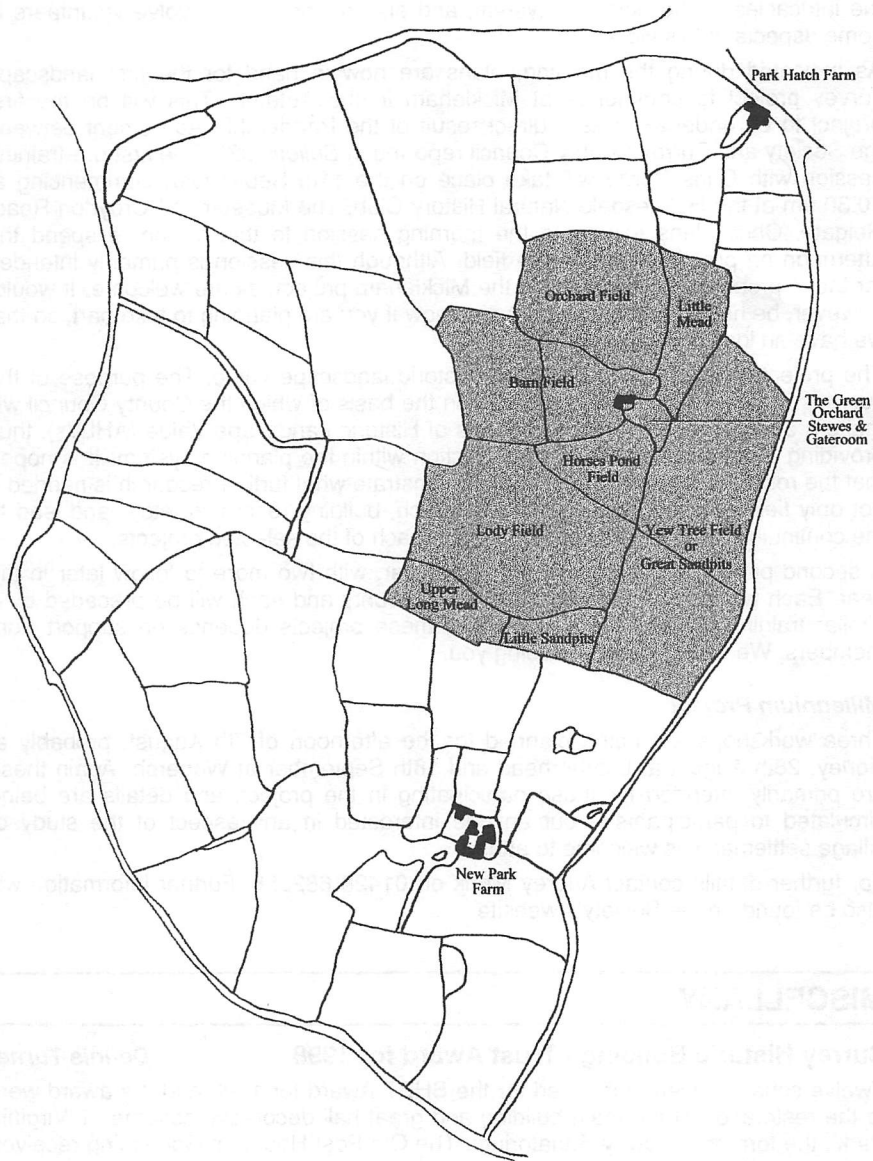
Recent research into the post-medieval history of New Park, Cranleigh has brought to light a previously unrecorded settlement site – Tylehost Farm. New Park formerly covered an area of c384 acres (155 hectares) in the parish of Cranleigh, bounded on the north by Ewhurst Road, on the south west and south by Horsham Road and on the east by Wanborough Lane. It formed, with the Old Park, part of the extensive parkland totalling approximately 1240-1421 acres (502-575 ha) surrounding the manorial centre of Vachery. The manor of Shere, Vachery and Cranley had come into the hands of the Bray family at the end of the 15th century. By the mid 16th century the house at Vachery was falling out of use and the Brays were actively selling off the Old Park in small plots, but the New Park was first rented out, and then sold off *en-bloc*.

Documentary and cartographic sources suggest that at an early date (prior to 1576) the now defunct New Park was split into two tenurial units with a settlement site in each; the southerly unit being New Park and the northerly unit Tylehost.

A deed of 1687 includes a detailed description of the land and its bounds belonging to Tylehost and allows a reasonably accurate assessment to be made of the extent and location of Tylehost Farm. Its 80 acres compare well with the 1841 Tithe Assessment acreage of 84 acres (34 ha) for the same area. The name first occurs in a Quitclaim of 1576 and the Baptismal Registers for Cranleigh note a William Mower of *Tylehothe* in 1634, 1637 and 1639. By 1714 the name had disappeared and the holding had, by 1841, been subsumed into that of New Park Farm. The site of Tylehost Farmhouse is probably marked by the barn and yard shown on the 1841 Tithe map in the north east of New Park (see fig). The site has been lost in recent years by the building of the development called Homewood but it is believed to lie in the area to the rear of nos. 1 and 2. The owner of no. 2 reports the finding of wall foundations in his back garden some years ago on a roughly east-west alignment.

Given the name Tylehost, it is logical to deduce its origins as a tile or, more probably, a brick manufacturing site. Certainly bricks were being manufactured somewhere at Vachery, for in 1571 John Mower was renting a brickfield from the manor. No clay workings in the immediate vicinity of the putative site can be found, but in the 1687 description of the lands of Tylehost mention is made of the Stewes (fish ponds) adjacent to the house. Were these the remains of the clay workings?





*New Park, Cranleigh: Tylehost Farm c1687.*

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## COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY

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### *Landscape Survey Projects*

The May Seminar at the Woodhatch Centre, Reigate was well attended and Chris Currie, the consultant appointed to lead the project, enthusiastically outlined his philosophy and methods. Chris was followed by David Bird, who briefly explained

the intricacies of the planning system, and also his hopes to involve volunteers in some aspects of this work.

As indicated during the meeting, plans are now in hand for the first landscape survey project to commence at Mickleham in the Autumn. This will be the first project to be undertaken as a direct result of the Partnership Agreement between the Society and Surrey County Council reported in *Bulletin* 329. The first pre-training session with Chris Currie will take place on the 11th September, commencing at 10.30 am at the Holmesdale Natural History Club, The Museum, 14 Croydon Road, Reigate. Chris plans to devote the morning session to theory and to spend the afternoon on practical work in the field. Although this session is primarily intended for those proposing to take part in the Mickleham project, all are welcome. It would, however, be helpful if you would let me know if you are planning to take part, so that we have an idea of numbers.

The project areas are all of potential historic landscape value. The purpose of the surveys is to prepare detailed reports, on the basis of which the County Council will make a decision on their merit as Areas of Historic Landscape Value (AHLVs), thus providing them some measure of protection within the planning system. It is hoped that the results from each project will demonstrate what further research is needed – not only fieldwork, but documentary research, building recording, etc – and lead to the continuing involvement of volunteers in each of the selected projects.

A second project is planned for the New Year, with two more to follow later in the year. Each will be in a different part of the county and each will be preceded by a similar training session. The success of these projects depends on support from members. We look forward to seeing you.

### ***Millennium Project***

Three workshops are being planned for the afternoon of 7th August, probably at Horley, 28th August at Leatherhead and 18th September at Wonersh. Again these are primarily intended for those participating in the project, and details are being circulated to participants – but anyone interested in any aspect of the study of village settlements is welcome to attend.

For further details contact Audrey Monk on 01428 682258. Further information will also be found on the Society's website.

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## **MISCELLANY**

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### **Surrey Historic Buildings Trust Award for 1998**

***Dennis Turner***

Twelve schemes were submitted for the SHBT Award for 1998 and the award went to the restoration of the main building and great hall decorative scheme at 'Virginia Park', the former Holloway Sanatorium. The Old Post House at Godalming received a commendation.

Holloway Sanatorium was neglected and vandalised for nearly a decade and a half and its sad state was often raised at SyAS Conservation Committee meetings in the eighties. The renovation of Crossland's Grade I *tour de force* daunted successive prospective developers and a scheme for residential conversion was approved in 1994, a scheme by the Howell Smith Partnership for Octagon Developments Ltd which preserved the principal volumes.

The main building and the interior decoration were submitted as separate projects but the two were so closely integrated that they were considered together for the award. Externally, replacement windows and stonework are indistinguishable from

original and the whole has been cleaned and repointed with specially matched lime mortar, 'achieving excellence rarely paralleled', to quote the award citation. By 1994, water had saturated the interior causing serious damage to the structure and decoration, and in some places there had to be rebuilding rather than renovation. Throughout the work, however, 'there has been meticulous attention to original detail and the recreation and renovation of building fabric and the elaborate internal decoration by craftsmen and specialists has been quite outstanding.'

The restoration and refurbishment of the Grade II Old Post House at Godalming was considered to be a 'notable and thoughtful restoration for office use of an important town house which had for many years served as Godalming's post office'. The owners are Mr and Mrs G Davis and the architect Mr R Flowitt.

Among the other candidates, Milton Barn, Westcott; Wisley church; and the restoration of an altarpiece at Watts Gallery, Compton, received special mention. Milton Barn was described as a 'modest timber-framed farm building saved, repaired and restored in an appropriate manner to create a new dwelling without destroying the agricultural character of the original building'. The renovation of the church steeple at Wisley followed lightning damage, and the repair of the Mary Watts altarpiece from the Cambridge Chapel at Aldershot was in the nature of a 'rescue mission'.

### **Lead Production at East Molesey Mills: Documents** *Keith Fairclough*

When searching for information about whether there was gunpowder production at the lower mills at East Molesey during the 17th century, the author came across a set of documents which might be of interest to others wishing to pursue the history of the mills (PRO, C106/12).

There were two separate mill sites along the river Mole at East Molesey, known as the upper and lower mills, the former being further away from the village. The upper site was used for gunpowder from the 1650s until about 1780, but it has seemed probable that the lower site was only converted to gunpowder production, if at all, for a short period during the career of John Samyne, between the 1650s and his death in 1676 (Fairclough, forthcoming).

The new evidence confirms that the lower mills were used for other industries by the end of the century. It comes from Chancery documents dealing with a partnership which intended to use 'Street-mills' (more commonly known as Sturts Mills) to mill lead, in addition to using mills at Dartford which they already controlled. The partners were rivals of the Milled-Lead Company whose monopoly patent rights had expired in 1695 (Scott 1910-12, 105-8). A major customer for this milled lead was the Navy who used it to protect the hulls of ships. The documents provide detail of the initial agreements made between these partners with regard to their shares and their use of East Molesey mills, but give no indication of how the partnership fared in subsequent years.

Of particular interest are the unusual conditions controlling the partners' use of the mills at East Molesey. In 1694 Jacob Martyn of East Molesey, miller, had obtained a 31 year lease to 'Street-mills' from James Clarke, the lord of the manor of East Molesey. The rent agreed was £64 a year. Then in November 1698 Martyn made an agreement with John Fincher of London, plumber, who was acting on behalf of the partners interested in using the mills to work lead. The corn mills were to continue to exist, but Martyn let to Fincher a new 'Cutt or Trough' from Martyn's own mill head along which Fincher could set up a workhouse and mill. The lease gave Fincher the right to a full head of water for 6 hours every day, or 12 hours every second day, in order to work his lead mills, except for a period of 10 weeks every year between the

time of the corn harvest and Christmas. During these ten weeks Martyn was to have priority in using the water to work his corn mills and the lead mills were only to have use of the water for 6 hours on one day of the week only. For these rights Martyn was to receive a rent of £24 a year.

### **References**

Fairclough, forthcoming, Gunpowder Mills: documents of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, *Surrey Record Society*, 36.

Scott, W R, *The constitution and finance of English, Scottish and Irish joint-stock companies to 1720* (3 vols, Cambridge, 1910-12), 3.

*From the May Newsletter (no 109) of the Surrey Industrial History Group, with thanks.*

### **Two New Draft PPGs Published**

**Dennis Turner**

The consultation draft Planning Policy Guidance Note 11: Regional Planning, was quietly released in February with a 'respond by' date of 30th April. PPG 11 will provide guidance on the content and purpose of Regional Planning Guidance to the new regional planning bodies.

The draft PPG covers the main policy areas, eg housing, transport and waste. There is a section on biodiversity but no mention at all of 'heritage' issues and the CBA was not sent a copy of the consultation draft. The document contains strong sections on economic development, including so-called sustainable development', reflecting the increased profile of these issues with the establishment of the extremely powerful, although electorally unaccountable, Regional Development Agencies (RDAs).

The full draft revision PPG 12: Development Plans, was also published with the same 'respond by' date. The draft PPG gives guidance under five broad topic heads and, unlike draft PPG 11, PPG 12 does include guidance on 'heritage' matters. However the consultation draft was also not copied to CBA.

### **A letter from E A Crossland**

#### **The Legacy of Henry Smith and the Gwilt Family**

I was interested to see that the plan of Southwark on the front page of SyAS's *Bulletin* 330 is attributed to C E Gwilt jointly with a Mr Gage. From the end of the 18th century the Gwilt family of academic architects were closely associated with Southwark and had long been resident there. They were descended from the sister of Henry Smith (1550-1628), Salter and citizen of London and Alderman of the ward of Farringdon Without, who left the whole of his very large fortune to charity. It now amounts to hundreds of millions of pounds and enables today's trustees to help poor people in over 150 parishes across the country, but mainly in Surrey, and to give donations ranging from a hundred or so pounds to thousands of pounds to a wide variety of projects like hospitals, hospices, homes for the elderly, medical research and all sorts of welfare schemes.

I am compiling an account of the Charity which I propose submitting to the SyAS for publication. I hope this will help to suppress the wholly erroneous story that Henry Smith posed as a pauper and was known as "Dog Smith" because he was followed by a dog. William Bray in a treatise of his own (in the SyAS Library) and in Manning & Bray (Vol II, pp 344 et seq) showed it to be wrong, but it is still repeated. I wrote a short piece for the Newsletter of the Esher District Local History Society (No 111).

I am interested in the Gwilt family not only on account of their connection with the Charity, but also because George Gwilt the Elder not only rebuilt the bridge at

Leatherhead in 1782/3, but also at the same time made a survey of the town which this society has published and sells in its Museum at Hampton Cottage, 64 Church Street.

In his lifetime Henry Smith gave £1000 to each of the market towns of Surrey, telling them to invest the money in property to bring in £60 a year which they were to give to their poor. Guildford bought the Manor of Poyle which included the town mill and property at Stoke and Ash. There is an account of this charity in the SyAS Library.

I expect that the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society are well aware of the Gwilt family's reputation. There are notices of George Gwilt the elder and his two sons, George and Joseph, in H M Colvin's Biographical Dictionary of British Architects (1600-1840) 1995.

## **Prince Charles at Surrey History Centre**

*I've included below two other accounts of the official opening of the Centre back in March (Bulletin 329) because they informed me of other aspects I had not known of or seen. They provide two more perspectives on the historic occasion, and the second, from Dorothy Davis, continues with a useful users summary guide to the facilities at the Centre.*

Chair of Surrey County Council, Heather Hawker, a champion of the History Centre when plans to build it were first mooted, said: "The Prince of Wales showed genuine interest in the work of the centre and we are very glad that he was able to accept our invitation. It was a marvellous occasion for all those who have been involved in the project." The royal visitor, accompanied by the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, Sarah Goad, arrived to a rousing welcome from pupils of Goldsworth Primary School. A keen gardener, the Prince was interested when County Council archivist, David Robinson, showed him the centre's exhibition on the life of one of Britain's most famous garden designers, Gertrude Jekyll, who lived and worked in Surrey during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Council's History Service scored a major coup when it acquired a large number of Jekyll drawings, which had lain in the attic of a country house in Sussex for many years.

One of the staff who put together the exhibition, Jennifer Waugh, said: "Prince Charles seemed to know quite a lot about Gertrude Jekyll, and he particularly liked her trusty old gardening boots, which we have on loan from Guildford Museum. I told him she hated having new boots, and he said that he knew how she felt."

*Edited from Surrey County Council's Summer 1999 edition of 'Countrywide Surrey'.  
With thanks.*

Researchers have been able to use the facilities at the new Surrey History Centre at Woking since last November, but on 26th March this year, the building was officially opened by HRH The Prince of Wales. Ron and I were honoured to have been invited to attend. By 11.30 am, most of the guests were gathered in the Surrey Room, the main research area, eagerly awaiting the Prince's arrival. The site had previously been a school and some of the children who had once attended it were gathered outside as a welcome party.

While we waited for the royal party (running late, the previous visit, we gathered, being to McLaren racing cars!), we admired the excellent display of archival material set up by the heritage staff and wondered how much of it HRH would have time to see. (He was able to look at one section!)

The building, designed by Hugh Edgar and built by W S Atkins of Epsom, in co-operation with Surrey County Council and the former Record Office, is impressively functional. Entrance Hall and Research Rooms face north, the storage areas are in

the centre while staff rooms and offices face south. There is also space for displays and lectures and accommodation for the County Archaeology Unit. The impression overall is one of light, space and airiness.

On arrival, the Prince of Wales, having met all the assembled dignitaries, was escorted by Surrey's County Archivist, Dr David Robinson, on a tour of "behind the scenes". There he discovered what happens to documents on arrival, how they are preserved, conserved and if necessary, repaired, before being stored in the spacious repositories, with their mobile shelving and tight air conditioning and humidity control.

Finally, HRH arrived in the Surrey Room to an unnerving silence, which he soon broke with some light banter and was introduced to the Community Services Committee, members of the History Centre Projects Team and other local historians.

After a welcome by Mrs Heather Hawker, Chairman of Surrey County Council, the Prince of Wales unveiled a plaque commemorating his visit. In his speech, he reminded those present that he had studied archaeology at Cambridge. He was obviously impressed by the building and especially by the fact that it had been completed on time – unlike others in his experience!

We, as Surrey historians, are fortunate to have at our disposal so excellent a facility as the new History Centre. The original sum set aside by Surrey County Council was considerably enhanced by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The result is a building and facilities that are second to none.

In addition, in the spacious reception foyer are two notable works of art, their creation made possible by a grant from the Arts Lottery Fund. On either side of the entrance are two large engraved glass panels, designed by Martin Donlin and depicting aspects of Surrey. Facing you as you enter is a tapestry, the subject of which is also Surrey and history, the colours becoming brighter (or more garish?) as we approach our own time.

The staff at Woking are friendly and welcoming and many are old friends from their days at the Kingston and Guildford research centres. Why not visit them there, at 130 Goldsworth Road (car park access via Kingsway at the rear)? Even if you do not yet want to do any research, you might like to see the glass engravings and the tapestry.

When a party of eleven from our own society visited in February, we were most impressed by the easily accessible storage space, the conservation technology, (especially the oven for the destruction of bugs!) and the arranging of related documents in separate envelopes.

There is space for about 60 readers or researchers. Users of micro fiche or film readers can access their material directly and there is an excellent local history library. If you wish to study original documents, you will need some time to study the indexes and locate your document number before ordering it on computer. Staff are only too happy to help those who are new to the procedure or feel intimidated by it. There is a place index on an ACCESS database on Surrey History Society's Web site, so the more computer literate amongst us can do their searching in advance. All you need to gain entry is a Surrey Library Reader's ticket.

Surrey County Council, and especially the Heritage Centre staff, are to be congratulated on planning and carrying out such an ambitious task with such conspicuous success.

*The above was a note by Dorothy Davis that first appeared in the May Newsletter (no 349) of the Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society. My many thanks.*



## A Treehenge Travesty

*I've just heard the daftest thing on the radio, but felt a chill of millennial foreboding at the same time. Over the past few months you can't have missed reading of an astonishing 'henge' uncovered by storms at low tide off the Norfolk coast. The monument appears to have been a circle, not of stones but of split tree trunks of oak, and with the bole of another set in the centre, upside down. English Heritage may have its detractors, but is surely right in its attempts to act quickly to record and preserve this unique prehistoric structure, since its exposure would otherwise have been but a prelude to its destruction in the first of next winter's storms. As I understand it, they want to remove the remains to nearby Flag Fen, where they have the facilities to conserve the wood, and I believe they intend to distinguish the original site in some way that the radio programme didn't specify.*

*All well and good, but the archaeologists are only able to work during very low tides and they've been stopped each time by a lone protestor called 'Crow' (bet his mum didn't name him after a large scavenging bird), who insists they leave the sacred site to the fate he regards as being divinely intended for it.*

*Why should anyone tolerate such sanctimonious piffle from this self-styled 'Druid', let alone the supposed guardians of our English Heritage? How dare one self-obsessed individual foist his personal beliefs about pre-determinism upon the rest of us? And whilst I'm fuming, why shouldn't we, who, like the modern-day Druids, also know nothing of the rituals once performed at Stonehenge, be allowed inside the circle at the solstices?*

*And my foreboding? That it's the thin end of the wedge and who knows where next? Will other archaeological sites of obvious, or not so obvious, ritual character soon be deemed inviolable by fundamentalist New Agers?*

## Bronze scabbard mouth fragment

*Judie English*

The location of this find was given incorrectly in the last *Bulletin* (330), and should have read "in the vicinity of Cole Kitchen Lane, Shere." Sincere apologies to all concerned.

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## PUBLICATIONS

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### Surrey's Industrial Past: Book Launch in October

A few years ago the Surrey Industrial History Group were planning a book about the industrial history of the county to be entitled *Gunpowder to Grand Prix*, but our publishers closed down. We are now about to produce a similar book, **Surrey's Industrial Past**, which will include much of the previously prepared information.

A Book Launch is to be held at Dorking Christian Centre on Friday 29th October 1999 to which all are invited to come and hear a brief presentation at 8.00 pm. The hall will be open from 7.30 pm when members of the group, including the authors, will serve you with complimentary wine or soft drinks. There will be no admission charge.

If you are unable to attend the launch of **Surrey's Industrial Past** (160 pages, including 50 illustrations), copies may be ordered from John Mills, 35 Trotsworth Avenue, Virginia Water, GU25 4AN, enclosing a cheque for £12.95.

## Museum of London Archaeology Service

### *Archaeological Studies Series*

MoLAS is proposing to publish reports of smaller and medium sized excavations which they have undertaken, in a series to be known as the *Archaeological Studies Series*, which will be similar to and complement their Monograph series (see *Bulletin* 330, 18). The volumes will contain one or more loosely linked sites, themed, for example, by geographical location or chronological period.

MoLAS has generously offered to donate to SyAS members selected volumes in the *Archaeological Studies Series* which relate to sites within the historic County and, enclosed with this issue of the *Bulletin*, is the first in the Series, which deals with the 14th century pottery production site excavated at 70-76 Eden Street, Kingston upon Thames.

Future MoLAS publications in the *Archaeological Studies Series* will be distributed either with the *Collections* or with the *Bulletin*.

The Society would like to take this opportunity to express its grateful appreciation to MoLAS for this gesture, and the Publications Committee of SyAS would be pleased to receive any comments from members on the publication.

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## COURSES and DAY SCHOOLS

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### University of Surrey

#### *Centre for Continuing Education*

Archaeology modules offered by the University of Surrey this year have been separated into two clear learning routes. There are those that form part of the new part-time degree – BSc (Hons) in Combined Studies (Archaeology, Environmental and Landscape Studies) – and those that are freestanding and offered under the ‘Open Studies’ programme. Both are open access at level 1, and payment for each module is made when it is booked.

**The Degree Course** comprises a core study programme of skills and interdisciplinary work and some options in single subjects. There are two themes that underpin it: the study of the landscape and its impact on ways of life in antiquity and the effect on man’s social, techno-economic and industrial activities on the natural environment. Modules that specifically relate to archaeology include:

***Archaeology of the Stone Ages.*** 20 meetings beginning 10th January, 7.30 to 9.30 pm, at Reigate 6th Form College, Castlefield Road, Reigate.

***Experimental Archaeology.*** Two Thursday meetings beginning 28th October, 7.30 to 9.30 pm and two weekend field meetings, at Butser Ancient Farm, Waterlooville, Hampshire.

***Artefact Illustration.*** 20 meetings beginning 12th January, 2.30 to 9.30 pm, at Reigate 6th Form College, Castlefield Road, Reigate.

***Landscapes of Aggression and Defence.*** 20 meetings from 24th January, 7.30 to 9.30 pm, at the Continuing Education Centre, University of Surrey, Guildford.

***Archaeological Methods.*** 20 meetings from 20th January, 7.30 to 9.30 pm, at The Oast House, 36 Kingston Road, Staines.

**The Open Studies Programme** has been designed for those studying for interest rather than for a qualification. It makes limited assessment demands and carries half

the credit rating of modules on the degree programme. Modules that specifically relate to archaeology include:

***Archaeology and the Landscape.*** 20 meetings from 30th September, 10.30 to 12.30 pm.

The Christian Centre, Church Street, Dorking.

Tutor: Steve Dyer

Fee: £70

***The Archaeology of Surrey.*** 10 meetings from 1st October, 10.00 to 12 noon.

The Archaeology Centre, Bagshot.

Tutor: Geoffrey Cole

Fee: £35

***Minoan Archaeology.*** 10 meetings from 29th September, 7.30 to 9.30 pm, at The Dorking Centre, Dene Street, Dorking; or 10 meetings from 27th September, 10.30 to 12.30 pm, at St John the Evangelist Church Room, Churt.

Tutor for both: Rita Jones

Fee: £35

For full details of all the above courses Tel: 01483 159750.

## **University of Sussex**

### ***Centre for Continuing Education***

For further information about the following three courses contact Yvonne Barnes.  
Tel: 01273 678926.

#### ***Fishbourne Excavations***

Archaeologists excavate finds and deposits, then interpret them. We examine how such deposits and their associated finds were formed and survive, and look at material from recent excavations at Fishbourne Roman Palace. A visit to the on-going excavations is included.

Tutor: John Manley

Venue: Fishbourne Roman Palace, Chichester

Saturday 7th August 1999

#### ***The Archaeology of Weeds, Seeds and Crops***

The study of carbonised seed remains is one of the principal sources of environmental evidence for agriculture. This day school is devoted to the reality of prehistoric fields and the study of the prehistoric and Roman cereals and arable weeds in situ.

Tutor: Peter Reynolds

Venue: Butser Ancient Farm, Waterlooville

Wednesday 11th August 1999

#### ***Archaeological Science***

A six-day course forming part of the Certificate in Practical Archaeology, and serving as an introduction to the main uses of scientific techniques in archaeology and the basic scientific concepts underlying them. Topics include: Absolute dating techniques, biological data and chemical analyses. The course can also be taken as a self-contained module.

Tutor: Liz Somerville

Venue: University of Sussex, Brighton

Saturday 17th July and Monday to Friday 19th-23rd July 1999, 10 am to 5 pm

Fee: £120. Reduced £100, minimum £40.

### ***Ancient Crafts and Technology***

A week long course providing an opportunity to explore ancient crafts and technologies in practice and hands-on. Pottery, metal and wood-working, textiles, building technologies and boat-building are all included.

Tutors: Tristan Bareham and Christabel Shelley

Venue: Iron Age Activity Centre, Michelham Priory, Sussex

Monday 26th to Friday 30th July 1999, 10 am to 5 pm.

Fee: £125, reduced £100. Reductions for SyAS members (probably).

For further details call Lisa Templeton. Tel: 01273 678527.

### **Bignor Roman Villa Training Courses**

#### ***University College London Field Archaeology Unit July and August 1997***

There are still a few places available for the 5-day course on Surveying for Archaeologists (9th to 13th August), and for the weekend courses on Timber-framed Buildings (17th/18th July), Archaeological Conservation (24th July), Surveying for Archaeologists ((24th/25th July) and Planning and Section Drawing (14th/15th August).

For further details please send SAE (A4 width) to Mrs S Maltby, Field Archaeology Unit, University College London, 1 West Street, Ditchling, Hassocks, West Sussex, BN6 8TS. Tel: 01273 845497.

### **Practical Workshops at Butser Ancient Farm 1999**

24th July	Bronze-Casting
1st August	Felt-Making and Natural Dyes.
8th August	Prehistoric Archery
29th August	Prehistoric Hunting
30th August	Flint-Knapping

For further information write to Butser Ancient Farm, Nexus House, Gravel Hill, Waterlooville, Hants PO8 0QE

### **WEA Guildford Branch**

#### **from their Adult Education Winter Programme 1990**

#### ***Archaeology of Roman and Viking Britain***

This course looks at the arrival of both Romans and Vikings in Britain and the effects they had on the local population. We will examine their different life-styles, including art, literature, towns, buildings and religion and learn how integration was finally achieved.

Tutor: Sarah McRamm

Mondays 2.00 - 4.00 pm, 20 weekly meetings from 4th October 1999

Venue: United Reformed Church, Portsmouth Road, Guildford.

Fee: Full £80, concessionary £64.

Course ref: GU99110 - 40

#### ***History of Guildford***

The study of local history increases our perception of our surroundings. Guildford is a particularly rewarding town in this respect: it bears the imprint of more than a thousand years of continuous occupation. The course will include a number of visits to historical buildings in the town centre.

Tutor: Matthew Alexander

Tuesdays 10 am - 12 noon, 20 weekly meetings from 28th September 1999

Venue: Guildford Museum, Quarry Street, Guildford.

Fees: Full £80, concessionary £64.

Course ref: GU99103 - 40

### ***Exploring Documents: A Group Research Project***

An excellent opportunity for beginners in local history research to learn about methods, sources and how to use archive documents at the new Surrey History Centre. The course will be structured round a study of health in the 17th to 20th centuries using original sources. Students will work on different aspects in small groups with guidance. At the end of the course, students will together produce an article, pamphlet, talk or exhibition about their findings, which will be a real contribution to the history of Surrey.

Tutor: Janet Nixon and others

Thursdays 10.00 - 12 noon, 20 weekly meetings from 30th September 1999

Venue: Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking.

Fees: Full £80, concessionary £64.

Course ref: GU99107 - 40

### ***Discovering London***

From the creation of Roman *Londinium*, through Saxon *Lundenic* and the Middle Ages to present day London: we travel through the ages and hear about kings and queens, strange and curious stories, parks, pubs, palaces, art and architecture, statues and monuments, and all those buildings you've seen or walked past for years.

Tutor: Lee Francis Waite

Fridays 2.00 - 4.00 pm, 10 weekly meetings from 1st October 1999

Venue: United Reformed Church, Portsmouth Road, Guildford.

Fees: Full £40, concessionary £32.

Course ref: GU99108 - 20

Concessionary fees are available to over 60s not in full-time employment, and registered unemployed are welcome to attend our classes free of charge, but everybody should book early to avoid disappointment. Our classes have a maximum of 30 places and priority is given strictly on date of receipt of application form.

For further information contact Colin Smith (01483 829423) or Ron Musk (01483 417929).

## **Kent Archaeology Field School**

### ***Day Schools on Excavation and Recording Techniques***

Eight consecutive days of morning instruction and work in the afternoons at a Roman archaeological site close to the centre, from 1st to 8th August, 1999.

1st	Survey Methods
2nd	Stratigraphy and the Single Context Planning System
3rd	Excavation Techniques
4th	Planning of Contexts
5th	Section Excavation and Recording
6th	Recording Deposits
7th	Recording Cuts
8th	The Site Archive

Fees: £25 per day

For further information write to Kent Field Study Centre, School Farm Oast, Graveney Road, Faversham, Kent, ME13 7JQ or Tel: 0181 987 8827.

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## LECTURE MEETINGS

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### **22nd July**

"St Edward and the community of monks at Brookwood" by Tina Cockett to the Byfleet Heritage Society at Byfleet Village Hall, Room A, at 8.15 pm. Guests £1.

### **29th July**

"Mills of the Heathland" by E T Menday to the Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society at the Literary Institute, Egham High Street, at 8.00 pm.

### **30th July**

"Saxon Putney and Wandsworth Revisited - debate" by Dorian Gerhold and Pamela Greenwood to the Wandsworth Historical Society at the Friends' Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street at 8.00 pm.

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## ADVANCE NOTICE

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### **4th November**

Steve Dyer will be giving a talk on the Cock's Farm excavations at Abinger on Thursday 4th November at the at the Dorking Christian Centre at 8.00 pm.

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**Next Issue:** Copy required by 30th July for the August issue.

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