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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: [www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk](http://www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk)

## **Bulletin 374**

April 2004

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# **AN INVITATION TO OUR 150th VICTORIAN BIRTHDAY GARDEN PARTY**

On Friday 4th June the Society is celebrating its 150th Anniversary with an event for all the family. Sarah Goad, the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey and a Vice President of the Society has kindly invited us to use the beautiful gardens of South Park, Bletchingley for the evening, and plans are well advanced for a fun occasion. The Party starts in the early evening and there will be lots to do and enjoy, ranging from a variety of Victorian games to re-enactments in costume, displays, a barrel organ, a "Victorian photographer" and a group of singers to entertain party goers with a selection of Victorian songs.

Visits from important members of Victorian High Society are expected, the Town Crier will be in attendance and a cake will be cut. There will be a hog roast and a bar and we hope that many guests will also bring picnics. To round off the evening there will be a mass release of balloons to spread the message of our 150 years. Guests will be invited to sponsor a balloon.

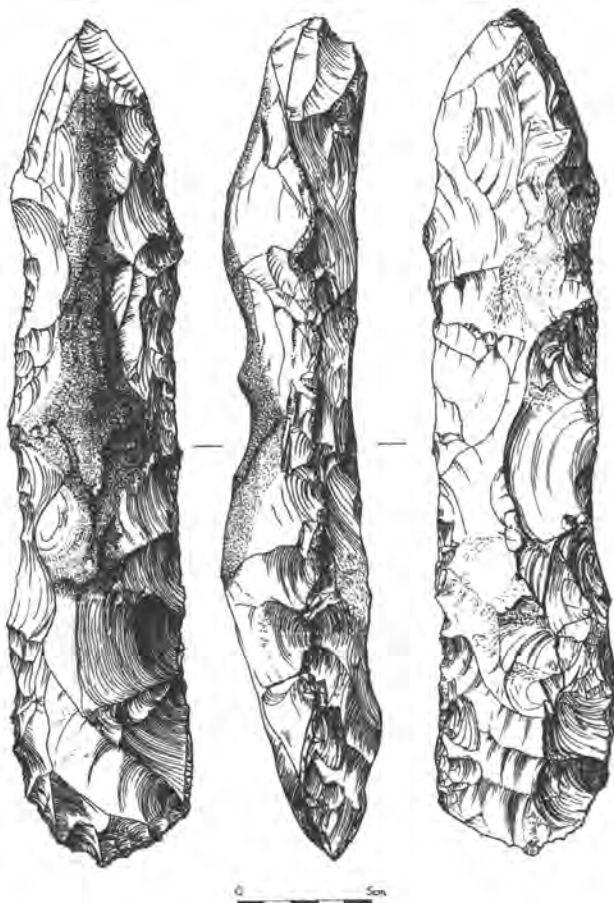
The Garden Party is for all members of the Society, their families and friends. Victorian costume is optional but will be most welcome and will add colour to the occasion. A flyer with more information and with a ticket application form is included with this copy of the *Bulletin*.

Please accept this invitation. Bring families and friends and enjoy a party to be remembered!

## GIANT FLINT AXE FROM OXTED

*Chris Hasler*

A large flint axe of Mesolithic or possibly Neolithic age was found in the cemetery of Oxted St. Mary's church (TQ 390 531) by David Cook in October 2003. He was raking under a hedge during maintenance of the cemetery when he found the axe c24m along the hedge from its junction with the railway embankment fence. This part of the cemetery was first used in 1929-1932, but there have been some reburials, the latest of which seems to have been in 1970. Immediately on the other side of the hedge, however, is a small stream with deep banks that have been re-cut within the last five years. On the opposite bank of the stream is Tandridge District cemetery,



which is still in use with a few graves less than ten years old. The gravedigger has been shown the axe, but he does not remember excavating it during the course of his work. The axe may have been grubbed out and thrown under the hedge when the stream was cleaned out. A much shorter axe of roughly the same type was found about half a mile away in Oxted in a joining stream.

The cemetery axe, manufactured from a nodule of grey, cherty North Downs flint, is in mint condition, and does not appear to have been put to practical use. Roger Ellaby has suggested that this feature and its extremely large size – two or three

times longer than most axes of this type – might infer a ceremonial use, perhaps as a votive offering in a watery environment. At 314mm in length, the only similar axe from the region known to supersede this is one from Brentford of 330mm now in the Museum of London (information from Jon Cotton). Does anyone know of a longer axe from Surrey?

## **MERE BANK: ANCIENT EARTHWORK OR ROMAN ROAD?**

**Graham Gower**

During the construction of Croydon Aerodrome after the First World War it was necessary to level much of the surrounding land. This entailed the loss of an ancient landscape that had seen little change, except from the encroachments of farming and allied activity. Although the aerodrome area was relatively flat there was one feature that stood out and had to be removed. This was a relic of the ancient landscape, the *Mere Bank*, a linear earthwork of unknown origin and date that marked a course across the airport area. Following its removal the existence of this intriguing earthwork has faded from memory; hence little study has been given to the landmark since observations were first made during its destruction. Unfortunately little is known about the *Mere Bank* except its course, which ran for a distance of some 3km, and that it measured approximately 9m in width and 1.2m in height. However, the antiquity of the earthwork is indicated by its historic use to mark local parish and manor boundaries as well as the present boundary between the boroughs of Croydon and Sutton.

Beginning at the bottom of Russell Hill at Foxley Lane, Purley the earthwork traced a course to the summit, crossing Highfield Road before going across the open ground of Croydon Airport to Stafford Road. Here at Merebank Lane the earthwork continued its course before meeting with Mill Lane, Waddon and the River Wandle. From this point the alignment and route veers slightly to the west passing through Valley Park to finish at the edge of Mitcham Common by Wingate Crescent. Although modern events have caused the destruction of the earthwork a small section, albeit degraded, appears to have survived as a low bank stretching for a short length at the bottom of Russell Hill. Whether the earthwork continued southward from here towards the Purley Gap and beyond to the high ground of the Riddlesdown area appears to be unlikely.

To determine its nature and construction a number of limited excavations took place prior to removing the earthwork. In 1917 during the building of the National Aircraft Works on the corner of Purley Way and Stafford Road the opportunity was taken to examine the feature. Other than deposits indicating repairs little was found, save that the earthwork was of slight construction and without foundations and an accompanying ditch. Later in 1925 further studies were made of the earthwork during ground levelling work. These revealed a top level of earth and gravel sitting upon a layer of rammed chalk, below which there was a bed of flints, measuring some 4m in width. These particular discoveries gave support to the idea that the *Mere Bank* was the agger of a Roman road.

The Purley Gap was the focus of a number of old cross-country routes making a way south through the North Downs. This has further encouraged the view that *Mere Bank* was a Roman road feeding local settlement activity and linking with the nearby London and Portslade road, a major Roman thoroughfare. This particular road passed through Croydon making a route towards the Purely Gap and thence to Godstone and the Sussex weald. The postulated route for this road on leaving Broad Green at North Croydon was on a line of Handcroft Road to Croydon Old Town and on to Violet Lane. This lane, which a length still survives as a suburban street, edged Duppas Hill, Croydon and crossed Purley Way playing fields to join with another

ancient route known as Coldharbour Lane. This occurred close to the present Edgehill Road. From this position the Roman Road adjusted its alignment to make a crossing of the valley at Purley Cross and for a route through the gap.

A further road that aimed for the gap at Purely was Coldharbour Lane, a route which some have also given a Roman origin. Before meeting with Violet Lane this roadway cut a route across the countryside via the village of Waddon. With some adjustments the lane was absorbed into Purley Way when established in the late 1920s for improved access to Croydon Airport. A third route was Plough Lane/Beddington Lane. This was a cross-country road and like the *Mere Bank* and Coldharbour Lane ran across Waddon Down, otherwise the area of Croydon Airport. During the building of the airport Plough Lane was closed and re-routed as Mollison Drive but nevertheless still retains its original route on approaching Smitham Bottom (Purley Valley) at Foxley Lane.

Each of these roads reflects past settlement activity. The route of Violet Lane may well fossilise the old Roman Road as it made its way through Croydon to Purely and beyond. Similar can be said of Coldharbour Lane. This lane linked Waddon with the London Road at Thornton Heath and with routes leading south. Plough Lane offered a route linking the villages of Beddington and Mitcham with the wider road network. However, this lane probably originated as a way to the Roman villa complex at Beddington and giving access to the nearby London roads. These routes evidently served the local area in historic times but whether the line of the *Mere Bank* was part of this pattern, a lost road to unknown settlement activity appears to be doubtful, as the archaeology seems to show. This was illustrated during 1978 when an excavation took place at Overhill Road, near to Russell Hill. This saw the cutting of three trenches across the line of the earthwork, revealing the existence of a raised feature with accompanying side ditches but no evidence for a metalled road surface was found and also no dating material, except modern, was forthcoming.

From its southerly point at Russell Hill the *Mere Bank* makes a direct route for the River Wandle and meets with it close to Waddon Ponds, the headwaters of the river. On approaching the river the earthwork utilised a ridge of ground. This gave the feature added height and upon reaching the Wandle terminated as a cliff-like feature above the riverbank. Continuation of the earthwork beyond the river, which was not banked on the north side, is surmised by the extension of the parish boundary. This takes a new alignment using an indirect course and passing Waddon Marsh to reach Mitcham common. From field observations it appears that the *Mere Bank* was aligned from the ridge at the Wandle to the summit of Russell Hill and significantly placed between these two geographical points. Furthermore, it is interesting to note that at both ends of the earthwork early settlement activity has been found. Where the *Mere Bank* reaches the Wandle in the vicinity of Aldwick Road evidence of late Bronze/Iron Age habitation has been discovered. At Russell Hill recent excavations have unearthed what appears to be either a Bronze Age barrow or a Saxon burial structure. Whether these finds have any association with the earthwork is conjectural but nevertheless along with other similar discoveries made in the vicinity, indicate the interest early people had in this particular area. Moreover, the earthwork was placed in a landscape that offers a widespread view of the surrounding countryside and constructed to be an observable feature in an otherwise flat landscape.

With the absence of historical evidence much is left to reasoned speculation as to origin and age of the *Mere Bank*. This can also be applied to its name, which may have derived from the watery nature of the Waddon area, with the Old English word 'mere' meaning a lake/pool. However, a similar OE word *gemære/mære* refers to a boundary, an origin that seems more likely, yet without an early spelling the true meaning is uncertain. Then again there is the problem of how long the name '*Mere Bank*' has been used. There are some indicators that it may be a relatively modern

name, a fanciful Victorian invention, appearing in written and map descriptions from about the 1850s. Unfortunately there is a dearth of early references to the earthwork and those so far found (1503, 1526 and 1812) use the name *Waddon Marke* (Waddon Boundary), thereby suggesting an early association with Waddon.

Historically the earthwork has been used to delineate a long section of parish boundary in flat open countryside. But whether this was its original purpose and who were the builders remains unclear. Such works are often attributed to prehistoric or Saxon people, both periods being well represented in the archaeological record of the boroughs of Croydon and Sutton. If attributed to the Saxon period an estate boundary would seem fitting. One possibility is that the earthwork was the eastern limit of a large estate comprising of a string of Saxon settlements, including those of Sutton, Carshalton, Wallington and Beddington, which during the early 8th Century were granted to Chertsey Abbey. Similarly, the feature may have been raised to mark the eastern boundary of native settlement. This is suggested by the place-name Wallington, which contains the OE word *walh* meaning 'foreigner'. Maybe there was a need to mark out an area of the upper Wandle as territory of the native Romano-Celts from that of early Saxon settlement, such as found at Croydon, Beddington and Mitcham. Indeed, the importance of Wallington during the Saxon period is reflected in the naming of the Wallington Hundred.

However, the *Mere Bank* may have a greater antiquity and reach into prehistory. Archaeology has shown the extent of Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Age settlement activity along the dip slope of the North Downs and the River Wandle. This watercourse was a major feature of the historic landscape, flowing across the flat countryside associated with this part of south London and where springs, ponds and marshes were part of the natural environment. This may well have attracted Celtic people whose religious predilections for watery places are well known. Possibly the earthwork was part of a ritual landscape which may have been present in such a setting. Nevertheless, it suffices to say that it was a prominent earthwork, purposely tracking a course across open countryside and built for a need since lost to history.

Perhaps after all it was a road, pointing towards lost settlement activity sited in the neighbourhood of Mitcham common or as far as the lower slopes of Streatham or Norbury. Yet its purpose of delineating local boundaries probably signals its origin but the mystery of the *Mere Bank* still remains. Prehistoric or Roman, Saxon or medieval, road or boundary; only with further study aided by the discipline of archaeology can a clearer picture be made of this tantalising relic of the ancient Surrey landscape.

#### REFERENCES

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*The River Wandle.* London Borough of Sutton. 1974

## SURREY DENDROCHRONOLOGY PROJECT

*D J Turner*

For some years before his untimely death, Peter Gray had been working towards the setting up of a dendro-dating project in the county. With the aid of funding from the Domestic Buildings Research Group (DBRG), Peter arranged for nine houses in Charlwood (four houses), Hambledon and Surrey Heath to be dated by Dan Miles of the Oxford Dendrochronological Laboratory. In addition, privately funded data was available from four more houses.

By 2001, the Society and the DBRG formed a joint committee, under the

chairmanship of Alan Bott, to draw up a project design, seek appropriate funding and progress a county-wide dendro scheme. In April 2002, the Society's Council approved expenditure of £4000 and the (unexpectedly lengthy) process of seeking a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) was begun. Following a great deal of work by Peter Youngs, the grant of £14000 was finally approved in June 2003, both monies being required for a pilot scheme. The long-term aim is to date the phases in at least 200 of Surrey's timber-framed houses and barns, plus a selection of the medieval church roofs and timber-framed belfries. It is planned to do this in some fifteen clusters of at least fifteen buildings each. The pilot project is for two such clusters and, following a tendering process, the dendro work for the pilot is being undertaken by Andy Moir of Tree-Ring Services.

While negotiations with the HLF were still under way, a separate programme of work was started in summer 2003 in Charlwood as part of the information-gathering exercise by the opposition to the proposed expansion of Gatwick Airport and largely as a result of an initiative by Jean Shelley. This work was also undertaken by Andy Moir, and twelve houses were dated using funds provided by the John Bristow and Thomas Mason Trust, bringing the total of dendro-dated houses in Charlwood to sixteen. A report on this work has been lodged in the Society's library and copies may be purchased from Rod Wild for £3.

The first cluster in the pilot scheme was in the 'South Mole Valley', and will build upon the previous work at Charlwood. After a preliminary inspection of potential subjects, buildings were chosen in five parishes: Capel (6), Charlwood (2 more), Leigh (1), Newdigate (9) and Ockley (2). A couple of barns were included as were the roofs of Capel, Charlwood and Newdigate churches (nave roof and belfry in the case of Newdigate). Fieldwork took place in September and October 2003 assisted by Mary Day, Martin Higgins, George Howard, Pam Keeble, Jean Shelley and Rod Wild. Despite preliminary assessments, in an exercise of this type the cores taken from some buildings inevitably prove impossible to date, but preliminary indications are that valid dates will be obtained from a remarkably high proportion, possibly eighteen out of the twenty buildings in this cluster.

The second pilot cluster is to comprise buildings in West Horsley (11), the Clandons (8), Albury (7), Shere (6) and Gomshall (2). The numbers quoted are, at the time of writing, still something of a 'wish list' but a strong local team is helping with preliminary assessments to identify those with a good chance of successful sampling. Some buildings may not pass assessment (some have already failed) and some owners may decide that they do not wish to take part. Nevertheless, it is hoped that a cluster of up to thirty buildings will be available for fieldwork in February and March. By the time the results for the second cluster are to hand, some seventy or so Surrey buildings will have been dendro-dated (plus a few private datings not counted in this note). Most of these will be from close groupings that should allow the 'conventional wisdom' for timber-framed dating in the county to be tested. The first Charlwood 'cluster' has also caused some tentative rethinking.

Following completion of the second pilot study, it will be necessary to review the overall strategy before seeking funding for the main project.

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## **150th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS**

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We are now approaching a very busy period in the programme of events celebrating the Society's 150th Anniversary. On Saturday 24th April we have our joint meeting with the Bourne Society at Gatton Hall, and on Saturday 15th May the major meeting at Southwark Cathedral Conference Centre celebrating the inaugural meeting of the

Society in Southwark in 1854. Please contact Castle Arch soon if you would like further information or tickets for these meetings.

Looking forward to the summer, plans are advancing rapidly for our 150th Victorian Birthday Garden Party at South Park, Bletchingley (see front page) and a ticket application is provided on the enclosed flyer. Then at the end of June we have the happy opportunity to celebrate two events with Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society – the first Annual General Meeting of our Society, which was held in Kingston in 1854, and the 35th Anniversary of the Kingston Society's inaugural meeting in June 1969. KUTAS are organising a fascinating and wide ranging evening of talks in the Market House. Space is limited for this meeting so please book soon. For further information see the enclosed flyer.

Also, the summer programme of guided walks in historic Surrey gets underway soon, and the full programme is listed below.

Recent events in our 150th Anniversary year have included the highly successful ARC Symposium at Ashted, which is reported on separately, and an extremely well attended talk by Professor Michael Fulford to the Roman Studies Group in Dorking.

Professor Fulford gave an enlightening and very up to the minute account of the progress of excavations at Insula IX at Silchester – excavations that are now reaching a very exciting phase. He concentrated on the most recent discoveries, and in particular the evidence of mid 1st century AD activity at Insula IX, with the remains of one or perhaps two rectangular, timber-framed buildings clearly emerging under the remains of a late 1st century masonry house on the same NE–SW alignment. There is a continuity in the layout and alignment of buildings within the newly found insula which suggests native ownership and tradition from later Iron Age *Calleva* down to the mid 3rd century when it was radically reorganised, the old buildings largely swept away, and a new layout imposed.

Finally, don't forget the photographic competition. Forthcoming events and particularly the Victorian Birthday Garden Party will provide lots of opportunities for anyone with a camera.

## **GUIDED WALKS IN HISTORIC SURREY**

Throughout the spring and summer months a series of guided walks have been arranged to mark the Society's 150th Anniversary year. The programme is listed below, but fuller details of the later walks will be printed in future editions of the *Bulletin*.

### **FARLEY HEATH**

**Sunday 2nd May, 2pm**

A walk over open heathland to look at the site of the Roman temple and deserted medieval farm. Will look at ebb and flow of settlement in a marginal area where farming was only profitable when increase in population drove the need for food.

Leader: **Judie English**. Distance: 4-5 miles. Approximate duration: 4 hours. Not suitable for those with impaired mobility. Walk involves rough ground and steep climbs. Children over 12 welcome but must be accompanied by an adult. Dogs must be on a lead.

Meet: Car Park near site of Romano-British Temple on road from Farley Green to Shamley Green. Grid Reference: TQ 052448.

### **COBHAM**

**Saturday 22nd May, 10am**

A guided walk around Cobham's four conservation areas. A fairly easy walk on roads and partly on well maintained bridleways. Opportunity for pub lunch.

Leader: **David Taylor**. Distance: 3.5 miles. Approximate duration: 2 hours. Some rough ground. Children welcome but must be accompanied by an adult. Dogs must be on a lead.

Meet: St Andrews Church Car Park, Bridge Road, Cobham. Nearest car park: Hollyhedge Car Park in Downside Bridge Road, Cobham (opposite Waitrose), 2 to 3 minutes from the church.

### **FARNHAM**

**Sunday 13th June, 1.30pm**

A guided tour of town centre and castle – entrance fee to castle.

Leader: **David Graham**. Distance: 2-3 miles. Approximate duration: 2 hours. Not suitable for disabled people because of unavoidable steps and steep hill. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. No dogs.

Meet: Central Car Park, Victoria Road, Farnham.

**NORBURY PARK Sunday 27th June, 2pm**

**THORPE VILLAGE Saturday 3rd July, 2pm**

**ELSTEAD Saturday 3rd July, 2.30pm**

**COBHAM'S FOUR CONSERVATION AREAS Saturday 10th July, 10am**

**FARNHAM Sunday 8th August, 1.30pm**

**ELSTEAD Sunday 15th August, 2.30pm**

**HISTORIC BOOKHAM Saturday 4th September, 2.30pm, Sunday 5th September, 2.30pm and 7.30pm**

**MICKLEHAM DOWNS Saturday 18th September, 2pm**

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## **COUNCIL MATTERS**

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### **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

**Susan Janaway**

It is subscription renewal time again! For those of you who do not pay your subscription by standing order, the following rates became due on 1st April:

Ordinary Member	£25
Associate Member	£2
Junior Member aged 16-20 (with <i>Collections</i> )	£6
Junior Member living at same address as an Ordinary Member (no publications)	free
Student Member aged 21-25 (with <i>Collections</i> )	£12.50
Institutional Member (Inland)	£30
Institutional Member (Overseas)	£40

Please send your subscriptions to me, Susan Janaway, at Castle Arch. I am here on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10am-2.45pm (Tel/fax: 01483 532454). There is a flyer enclosed with this *Bulletin* that includes a return form for you to use. If you decide not to renew your subscription, would you please let me know? Thank you.

### **ADDITIONS TO THE SOCIETY'S TOOLS**

**Geoff Stonehouse**

- 2 100m tapes
- 4 two-section 2m ranging rods
- 1 double prism optical squares
- 24 4ft canes with numbered flags.

I am trying to locate the Society's Silva hand compasses. Please contact me (Tel: 01483 283885) or Pauline Hulse (01483 282917) if you have or know the whereabouts of any of them.



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# SURREY LOCAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

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As the Society, through its newly formed Surrey Local History Committee, has taken over the role played previously by the independent Surrey Local History Council, there is now an opportunity for promoting closer collaboration between the Society and local history societies. The Committee has therefore arranged to publish articles on local history societies in The *Bulletin*. The third of these articles appears below.

## **SHERE, GOMSHALL & PEASLAKE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

*Ann Noyes*

“At a meeting called by the Surrey Local History Council Executive Committee on 9th February 1971, representatives from Shere, Gomshall, Peaslake and Albury voted enthusiastically in favour of starting a Local History Group. The speakers were Mrs Basset and Mrs Dugmore (from Puttenham), members of the SLHC executive. Mrs Basset explained that the object of the Council was ‘TO FURTHER KNOWLEDGE, DO RESEARCH AND TO RECORD FINDINGS’. As a practical example it was advised that members might ‘Look at the rafters of your house, the stones of your church, the shrubs in your hedges and the names of your fields and of the lanes around them’”

On these very sound principles the Shere and Gomshall LHS was inaugurated in April 1971; Peaslake was included in 1977. Albury set up its own society following the initial meeting in 1971. The founder chairman was Sir Jack Sutherland-Harris with Miss Rachel Warren as honorary secretary. The activities of the Society can be summarised as follows:

### **Membership**

In 2004, membership stands at about one hundred. There is a committee responsible for arranging eight evening meetings a year, a full day outing and a social event or walk. The membership fee is £3 single and £5 for a family. The speakers may be well known in the county or found among our local residents.

### **Research and Publication**

Sir Jack Sutherland-Harris researched properties in the four manors of Shere parish, and his articles appeared in *Surrey History* Vol. 1 No 1 in 1973 and Vol 1 no 2 in 1974. Building on this research and with the help of the late Ken Gravett’s knowledge of house structures and R L Swan’s illustrations, *Old Houses in the Parish of Shere* was published by the Society in 1976. This was followed by *Shere, Gomshall & Peaslake: a Short History* in 1981 and in 1986, *The Tillingbourne Story* written by Peter Brandon. *A Tannery in Gomshall* was written by Ann Noyes in 1997. These titles have been revised and printed many times and provide a steady income for the Society. A research group produced *Shere: a Surrey Village in Maps* as part of the Surrey Archaeological Society’s Villages Project, published by that Society in 2001.

### **Conservation**

Old photographs, letters and minute books etc. have been offered to the Society and are cared for and their provenance recorded. We are lucky to have storage facilities at Shere Museum. People are welcome to come to the museum by arrangement to consult the archives.

## Annual SLHC Symposium/Displays

The first generation of enthusiasts attended the symposia at Dorking Halls and the University of Surrey. Current members have supported the autumn days at Chertsey and brought a display designed to reflect the theme of the year from local archival material. Displays are taken to the subsequent members meetings.

## Interaction

In 1997 the 'Cornish Rebels' re-enacted the protest march from Cornwall to London of 1497. As James Touchet, the then lord of the manor of Shere took part and the rebels marched through Shere, the Society arranged to entertain a group of the 1997 marchers. They were introduced to Handa Bray, present lord of the manor, whose ancestor, Sir Reginald, was granted the manor after James Touchet's disgrace and execution.

**Website:** [www.gomshall.freeserve.co.uk](http://www.gomshall.freeserve.co.uk)

This was established in 2001 and is linked to the Surrey Archaeological Society site and other local history societies. It attracts interest from this country and abroad, for local history enquiries, sometimes to order our books, sometimes to provide information as well as to seek it.

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## ROMAN STUDIES GROUP

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### ROYAL CITY TO CIVITAS CAPITAL: A Lecture by Michael Fulford

Gary Readings

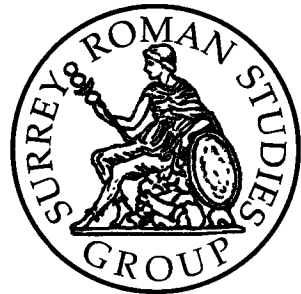
On Wednesday 4th February, nearly 70 members of the Society attended a lecture by Professor Michael Fulford on the excavations at Insula IX 1997-2003, Silchester (*Calleva Atrebatum*). It was a great privilege for all present to have the opportunity to listen to one of the foremost names in current British archaeology.

Professor Fulford has been working at Silchester since the mid 1970's covering all areas of the huge site, from the defences, the amphitheatre, forum-basilica and, most recently, Insula IX as part of the University's 'Town Life' project. His main theme for the evening was centred on the Late Iron Age/ early Roman period. It is from this period, covered by some of his recent excavations, where he is discovering interesting information that is pushing the 'golden age' of Silchester back to that era, hence making it almost unique within British sites. There were even suggestions of a Roman style town or colony before the invasion.

For more information a report on the first five years of the 'Town Life' Project can be found in *Britannia* 2002, where there is also a report on the *Collegium Peregrinorum* found in the 1907 excavations.

The work at Silchester is planned to continue until at least 2006, and anyone interested in volunteering to help in the future excavations is most welcome to apply. Further information on volunteering and other helpful information on the site can be found on Reading University Web site. [www.silchester.reading.ac.uk](http://www.silchester.reading.ac.uk)

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank Professor Fulford for a thoroughly interesting evening and look forward to hearing more from his future work in the coming years. Also a special thank you to Rosemary Hunter for organising the hall and giving up so much of her time getting keys and opening up etc.



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# ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

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## ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM 2004

The 31st annual symposium was held on 21st February at the Ashted Peace Memorial Hall, with **Dennis Turner** chairing an excellent mixture of talks.

**The Portable Antiquities Scheme in Surrey** grew out of the 1997 Treasure Act and its aim is to intercept items of archaeological interest before their dispersal so that the place where they were found can be recorded and, if appropriate, further investigation be undertaken. The scheme is operated in Surrey by the Finds Liaison Officer, **David Williams**, to whom all finds of possible archaeological interest should be reported. This includes not only metal objects, though much of David's work involves contact with metal detectorists, but also any item of archaeological interest. David will identify such objects and include them on the Portable Antiquities Scheme database, which now contains some 60,000 items, about 600 entered by David.

**The Prehistoric Site at Ashford Remand Centre.** **Tim Carew** of Pre-Construct Archaeology talked on work in a part of the county that is becoming a notable prehistoric site. The earliest activity on the site, apart from a flint blade about 10,000 years old, was a Neolithic ring ditch, interpreted as a hengiform monument, and two early Neolithic pits containing serrated edged flints, thought possibly to be from a sickle. Beside this ring ditch were a number of Mid/Late Iron Age round houses and four-poster structures. There was also evidence of a Bronze Age field system which may be part of the same system found just to the north (see below).

**The Development of a Prehistoric and Roman Landscape at Hengrove Farm Staines.** **Rob Poulton** discussed Surrey County Archaeological Units recent work on a site a few hundred yards to the north of Ashford Remand Centre and south from the Roman road to Staines. There was evidence of late Upper Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic activity, but the concentration of evidence was from the Middle Bronze Age onwards. Bronze Age ditches formed part of a coaxial field system, roughly parallel to those at Ashford and probably forming part of the same system. There are also Iron Age ditches and gullies, though none of the usual round houses. There is a system of early Roman fields and trackways, which could be regarded as a development of the existing Iron Age system. There are several wells and waterholes but the only Roman period building is a post-built building, possibly a barn.

**The Surrey Dendrochronology Project: Establishing the Development Pattern of Old Buildings using Tree-ring dating.** **Rod Wild** explained that the aim of the Domestic Buildings Research Group is to date some 200 domestic buildings around the county so as to date the progression of building styles. Fifteen areas of the county have been identified and work has been carried out in the first: eighteen houses in the southern Mole Valley. This has enabled the dating of the transition from open hall houses to those with smoke bays to around 1540, and the earliest appearance of a chimney to 1554, though a house without a chimney was built as late as 1608. The earliest timber-framed house they have found so far was built in 1345 and the latest in 1705. Work is currently being carried out in the Shere/Clandon/West Horsley area.

**Recent Archaeological Discoveries in Southwark.** **Sarah Gibson**, Southwark's Senior Archaeology Officer, talked about three important sites in the borough, two Roman and one post-Medieval. Tabard Square, close to Watling Street, has revealed the only known Roman temple complex in London. There are two temples and a villa that may have provided accommodation for pilgrims. A very exciting discovery was of an inscription containing only the second known mention of Londinium. The America Street cemetery, the largest so far found in Southwark, contained 164

Roman burials of the mid-2nd to 4th centuries. An unusual burial was of a man with a horse's head beneath his legs. The site at Bear Wharf, Bankside revealed some remains of the Hope Theatre, which was probably polygonal like the Globe and the Rose, and also contained a bear pit. The remains have been preserved beneath the new building on the site.

**The Industries of Ashted.** *Peter Tarplee* of the Surrey Industrial History Group talked on some of the industries for which Ashted was famous. The earliest recorded was tile-making on Ashted Common in the Romano-British period; tiles were being made by Henry Tyler in the fourteenth century and brick making continued until 1912. In the late nineteenth century Ashted became a centre of the photographic industry. One of its locations, Victoria Buildings, later became the UK home of Stanley Steam Cars and later still of Ashted Potters, set up in 1922 to employ disabled ex-service men and closed in 1935. A site in Ermyon Way was used from 1926 by the Rayon Manufacturing Company and later, from 1938-1984, was the home of Goblin, makers of vacuum cleaners and the Teasmade.

**Bronze Age Political Economies Along the River Thames.** *David Yeates* of Archaeology South East explained that, while unlike Wessex, the Bronze Age Thames Valley has little in the way of monuments to be seen, but recent excavations are revealing the landscapes of several important centres of power along the river from its source to the estuary. Many field systems are being identified (see above) and there is much evidence for the ritual deposit of valuable objects in water. Similar areas are being identified in other parts of Southern England, eg the Fenlands and South Downs. Who was controlling these enclaves and what were they controlling? Was cattle the source of their wealth?

**A Brief History of Archaeological Work in Surrey.** *David Bird*, County Archaeologist, presented an entertaining history from the earliest mention of archaeological remains in Surrey by the Venerable Bede – sharpened stakes placed in the Thames as defence against Caesar which could still be seen in Bede's time – to the present. While Surrey's antiquities may be less spectacular than some, we nevertheless have important archaeology and it is especially important now to examine our landscapes and environment.

Between the talks there was opportunity to examine some very interesting displays from: the Artefacts and Archives Research Group, Kingston YACs, Leatherhead and District Local History Society, Nonsuch Antiquarian Society, the Roman Studies Group, Spelthorne Archaeological Field Group, Surrey Heath Archaeological and Heritage Trust, Surrey Industrial History Group, Unisearch and West Kent Detector Club. **The Margary Award** was given to Surrey Heath with Nonsuch runners-up and a special mention was made of West Kent Detector Club's excellent display.

Around 150 people attended the symposium, the highest number for some years, and thanks are due to Rose Hooker and all who helped in organising a very successful meeting in the Society's sesquicentennial year.

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## PROFILES

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### JOHN HARVEY

John Hooper Harvey (1911-1997) was born in St. John's Wood, London and educated at St. John's School, Leatherhead before architectural apprenticeships with Sir Herbert Baker and with his own father, who had an international practice. John was widely read and travelled: one of his earliest papers was on *The Railway System*



of Transylvania. He was familiar with nearly all European and Asian languages. The author of 27 books, his greatest passion was for the architects of the Middle Ages and their works. John was a skilled draughtsman, as the illustrations to his books (and particularly their dustjackets) testify. He was an early disciple of dendrochronology, the timbers of his cottage having (then) been dated to 1499, and a pioneer writer on the history of gardens and of nurserymen.

Before the Second World War, John had begun to examine the original sources for the history of the parishes around his home in Little Bookham. He chafed at the increasing cost and other difficulties of detailed publication of parish histories, and set out his solution in an article 'An Experiment in Local History' (*Surrey Archaeological Collections* 51, 102-109) namely, a series of period maps and index

cards for many topics, using his Bookham material as exemplars. Over half a century ago, he was a one-man Village Studies Group. John joined the Surrey Archaeological Society in 1944, coming onto its Council in 1949. He was a founder member of the Leatherhead & District Local History Society in 1946, and published 'A Short History of Bookham' (in nine parts) in its *Proceedings*, which was a revised and illustrated version of his 24-part articles in *The Bookhams Bulletin*, a quarterly magazine distributed to every house in the two parishes.

During the war, John Harvey worked for the Ministry of Works, helping to preserve historic bomb-damaged buildings. In 1965 he moved to York to take up a post with the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments (England) and then to Frome on his retirement.

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## MISCELLANY

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### **MEDIEVAL HOUSE DISCOVERED AT STREET COBHAM** *David Taylor*

Recent recording work by the Domestic Buildings Research Group has brought to light the existence of a late medieval timber framed house opposite the former White Lion Inn on the Portsmouth Road at Street Cobham.

The author was first asked to look at 65 Portsmouth Road, now a shop called "Things Italian", and found that behind a late 19th/early 20th century single-storey shop extension was a smaller, and earlier, timber-framed building. Examination by the DBRG led to the discovery that the timber framing extends through into the adjoining property, no. 67, now a separate house with a mid-19th century brick and stucco façade. Although further recording work is necessary, it now appears that the core of nos. 65 and 67 is a late 16th century "smoke bay" house.

The old house was already divided into two in 1793 when it was owned by Edward Remnant. Some time in the first quarter of the 19th century a new house was built adjoining the south end of the property. This is now no. 69 Portsmouth Road.

Although nos. 65 and 67 now overlook a busy road junction, old maps show this as

a triangular space west of the former White Lion, with roads entering at each corner. This has the appearance of a medieval market place and may be the site of a market granted to the abbot of Chertsey by King Stephen (1135-54). (David Taylor and Dennis Turner "The Origins of Cobham Village" **Bulletin 366**). The newly discovered house at nos. 65 and 67 Portsmouth Road, or its predecessor, would have occupied an important position overlooking any market held here.

In addition to the former White Lion inn (18th century façade hiding an earlier building) at least three other timber-framed buildings are known to have existed in close proximity to nos. 65 and 67. Old photographs show a substantial property a few yards west of nos. 65 and 67, that was demolished in the early 20th century and is now the site of Alsford's, timber merchants. Although the photographs show the building then divided into three or four tenements, its size and roof shape clearly show it to have formerly been one property, possibly even "Wealden" type.

Across the road from nos. 65 and 67 stood another, albeit smaller, timber-framed house that during the late 18th and throughout the 19th century had been Lynn's butcher's shop. It was demolished in the 1960s and the site used to widen the forecourt of the former Thompson & Taylor's Garage (recently replaced by a new residential development called "The Chancery"). This development backs onto a curious backwater called World's End where can be found World's End Cottage, a timber-framed house that has been dated by the DBRG to the 17th century.

## **WHAT ROMAN ROAD?**

*Richard Whaley*

**Bulletin 371** contained a note on Roman road research of the North East Hampshire Archaeological Society from our programme, but you asked what Roman Road and what excavation? A note on the excavations on the Hog's Back was published in **Bulletin 359**, and in 2002 a tank ditch was found and you published an account of that work. Last year a flat area to the south, and below the tank ditch on the south side of the Hog's Back, was explored, with a number of trenches being dug to determine its course and that of the tank ditch. A cut into the chalk of a terrace has been found on the projected line of the Winchester Roman road, sealed in subsoil – which dates it earlier than medieval. These Roman road excavations will occur on each of the four Bank Holiday weekends, the first at Easter will be at Isington in Hampshire. We will return to the Hog's Back for the first May Bank Holiday to go into the next field. In 2002 when many SyAS members excavated with us, someone left a metal planning frame – we cannot find its owner. Details from Richard Whaley, Project Director, NEHHAS (Corporate Member SyAS), Tel: 01252 548115 or email: [btl.pcil@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:btl.pcil@ukonline.co.uk)

## **THE WHEATSHEAF HOGS**

The report on Roman and medieval deposits at 29-55 High Street, Dorking published in the latest Collections, reported that two pigs skeletons were discovered (Pine 2003). One of the properties, 37-39, The Wheatsheaf Inn (which has not traded as such since 1976 and is now Bookends bookshop) has a historical connection with pigs, which is probably coincidental to the report, but may be of interest.

During the late 18th century, the proprietor of the Wheatsheaf, Tom Philips, became famous for rearing large hogs. In 1750 and 1767 he raised exceptionally large hogs that he exhibited to the public. The 1767 hog was stuffed and mounted, becoming a showpiece of the house and later bequeathed by Mrs Philips to her son, John (SyAC LI, 156, Overall 1991, 63). Although there is no actual evidence

suggesting pigs were reared on the premises or that the excavated pigs date to that period, it is possible that animals were fattened-up on slops and leftovers from the inn, and that land and outbuildings to the rear of the property could have been used for this purpose.

Thanks to Vivienne Ettlinger for advice and the family of Peter Gray for allowing me access to his library of SyAS Collections.

## REFERENCES

Overall, B, 1991 *The long 18th century Dorking, a Surrey Market Town through twenty centuries*, ed. Jackson, A, Dorking Local History Group 63.

Pine, J, 2003 Excavation of Roman and Medieval deposits at the rear of 29-55 High Street, Dorking, *SyAC* 90, 261-271.

Sellick, E, 1950 A Dorking Bequest- The Wheatsheaf Hog in *SyAC* LI, 156

## DOWNSIDE FARM, COBHAM: Report on a Test Excavation

*David and Audrey Graham*

Downside Farm lies approximately 2km south-east of Cobham and slightly to the west of the River Mole. The site is currently occupied by a farmhouse and a series of outbuildings, many of which are 18th century in date and originate from the period when the nearby mill was an ironworks.

Documentary work by David Taylor, however, indicates that there was an earlier, and substantial medieval settlement at Downside, and one arm of an apparent moat still remains open in front of the farmhouse itself. This appears to be the site of Down(e) Hall or Place, home of William de la Dune, Keeper of the Hanaper to Edward I who seems to have stayed there on several occasions. Late in 2003 a resistivity survey was carried out on the lawn between the house and the moat and this indicated the presence of subsoil disturbance which, in one area, looked like the corner of a possible building. As a result a small team from the Society spent a day at the beginning of February opening up a trial trench to investigate the results of the geophysical survey.

In the event the subsoil features within the trench turned out to be the remains of a gravel path and a pit containing brick rubble. The bricks were, however, of interest being yellow, extremely hard and showing no signs of having been mortared. They most closely resembled early Georgian rubbed brick and perhaps came from a floor. The only other find of any significance was that of a late 16th/ early 17th century 'Nuremberg' jetton. It was apparent from the trench that the entire soil level had been disturbed to a depth of 65cm, but that there was no evidence for any structures, nor for any occupation in this part of the site earlier than the 17th century.

Beneath the disturbed soil, however, lay a band of gravel, one edge of which was exposed in the trench. This lay on the natural clay and, while it might be a natural spread of gravel, might also be an access road, as it lined up with the centre of the extant arm of the possible moat where there are indications of bridge footings. The moat, if that is what it is, appears to continue around to the south of the farmhouse and shows as a slight hollow in the field.

The farmhouse itself lies on slightly higher ground overlooking the lawn and moat and a very small sondage dug to its rear produced one rim sherd of 13th/14th century coarseware from a depth of about 50cm. While one sherd does not make a medieval site it does hint that, if there is such a site at Downside, it lies on the higher drier ground close to the site of the existing house but still within the potential moat 'island'. Only further work will establish whether this is the case, and it is planned to carry out a larger excavation in this area at some stage during the summer and to cut a section across the potential moat as well.

## **SHERE MUSEUM OPEN DAY**

Saturday 24th April 2004, 11am - 5pm

Shere Museum celebrates twenty years of life and growth this summer. It started as a one-day exhibition, part of a village fund raising event, then queries were made about the next opening.

It now opens five days a week in the summer season, or by special arrangement. It is very popular with school parties, and is the end point of conducted walks round the village of Shere.

We are planning to establish a group of 'Friends of Shere Museum' to guarantee its long-term future. Enquiries to Elizabeth Rich, Tel: 01483 203245.

## **NETWORKING FOR ARCHAEOLOGY**

Are you between 18 and 35 years old?

Would you like to get more involved in society activities and are looking for a way in?

We would like to start a brand new group for young people run by young people. We want to run a series of lectures introducing the work of other groups in the society and wider archaeological issues. We would like the lectures to have an informal feel, provide an opportunity to socialise and give us a platform to have a say.

If you are interested in finding out more come along to the Kings Head in Guildford, at 8pm Tuesday 18th May 2004. If you can't make it but would like to know more anyway please get in touch with **Becky Lambert** at [rebecca.lambert@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:rebecca.lambert@surreycc.gov.uk) or **Trudie Cole** at [trudie.cole@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:trudie.cole@surreycc.gov.uk)

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## **LECTURES, SYMPOSIA AND VISITS COMMITTEE**

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Archaeological Visit to Arundel Castle and Town Walking Tour

**Sunday 23rd May 2004**

### **Arundel Castle**

High on a hill in West Sussex this magnificent castle commands stunning views over the River Arun and out to sea. Dating back to the 11th century it has been the family home of the Dukes of Norfolk and their ancestors for nearly 1000 years. Explore the Keep, fortifications and discover rich history and heritage or wander in the tranquil grounds and chapel and stroll through the newly restored Victorian kitchen and flower gardens. Guided tour of the Castle £8 per person

Lunch: There are a variety of pubs and restaurants in the Town, or bring sandwiches.

2.30p.m: There will be an optional walking tour: '**Town and Cathedral**' run by an official guide and lasting approximately 1½ hours. It costs £3 per person; please let me know if you wish to join this, as it must be pre-booked. This part of the visit is designed to be flexible, join in with the programme shown below, or disappear to explore the Town on your own ... please just make sure you get back to the coach on time!

Coach leaves Farncombe railway station, near Godalming, at 9.30am; parking available nearby.

We leave Arundel at 5pm.

Please send a cheque made out to 'Mrs E Whitbourn', for £26 to include all tours and admission charges. For coach alone and no tours: £15.



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## REVIEW

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### **“The Birth of a Museum” by Alexa Barrow**

The Rural Life Centre at Tilford near Farnham is the creation of a remarkable couple, Madge and Henry Jackson. Beginning with the first exhibit acquired in 1967, they built up the collection from discarded or redundant farming and other equipment from rural trades and activities and first opened it to the public in 1973. Since then the collection has continued to expand, from 1990 with the help of volunteers, the ‘Rustics’, to its present status as one of the principal museums in Surrey.

This short book has been compiled from Madge Jackson’s diaries and chronicles their struggles to create a home at the ‘Old Kiln’ cottage (named after the adjacent hop kiln) from 1948 and to create the museum from the late 1960s in the face of accident, illness and tragedy. They started an arboretum in 1953, and from 1975 ran a market garden to support themselves while developing the museum. The work was financed from their own income, to avoid the risk of failure from an inability to repay bank loans if the income from visitors should prove to be inadequate.

Madge and Henry Jackson’s work was publicly honoured in 2000 by the award to both of them of the MBE.

Published by the Old Kiln Museum Trust and Rustics, 2004, 26pp 20 illus. (no ISBN), and obtainable from the Rural Life Centre, Reeds Road, Tilford, Farnham, Surrey GU10 2DL, price £3.50 plus £1 postage and packing.

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## CONFERENCES

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### **SOUTH-EAST REGION INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY CONFERENCE 2004**

***Churcher’s College, Petersfield, Hampshire***

***Saturday April 17th 2004***

9.30-10.10am Registration and coffee

Welcome – *Roger Hedge*, Chairman HIAS Administration for the day – *Gerald Davies*.

**Milestones: Hampshire’s Living History Museum.** *Gary Wragg*, curator.

**Shoreham Cement Works.** *Ron Martin*, Sussex IA Society.

**Things That Float, Fly or Fire (Aspects of IA on the Isle of Wight).** *Robert Martin*, Isle of Wight IA Society.

Questions

12.30- 2pm Lunch

**Ships, A Neglected Aspect of Industrial Archaeology: the Portsmouth Case.**  
*Ray Riley*, Hampshire IA Society

2.40pm **The Wey Navigation: Its Place in the Development of River Navigation.** *Stuart Chrystall*, Surrey Industrial History Group

Tea

**A Dream of Steam.** *Brian Gooding*, Hollycombe Steam Collection.

Questions.

The conference will be followed by a visit to Hollycombe Steam Collection near Liphook, which comprises a variety of historic fairground rides and industrial narrow gauge railways; some will be in steam.

For general information contact Gerald Davies, Cedar Cottage, 17 Grenehurst Way, Petersfield, Hampshire GU31 4AZ or Tel: 01730 263240 or visit [www.hants.gov.uk/hlas](http://www.hants.gov.uk/hlas)

**MINES, QUARRIES AND TUNNELS – SOUTH-EAST AND BEYOND**  
***National Association of Mining History Organisations Annual Conference***  
***Juniper Hall Field Centre, nr Dorking***  
***8th–10th July 2005***

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

There will be a programme of lectures, and surface and underground trips focusing primarily on medieval and post-medieval underground building stone quarries, chalk mines and underground quarries, mineral pigment (hearthstone) mines, silver sand (glasshouse sand) mines and the Wealden ironstone mines and associated remains. The Weald and its surroundings has also had Neolithic flint mines, Fullers Earth mines, Kentish ragstone underground quarries and coal mines (in East Kent). One gypsum mine remains operational in the Weald.

We particularly wish to extend our invitation to colleagues from mainland Europe, especially from Belgium, France and the Netherlands, where mining and underground quarrying have been carried on in a similar geological context.

Offers of papers should be sent to Paul Sowan, Lectures Organiser, 254 Pampisford Road, South Croydon, Surrey, CR2 6DD, or else Tel: +44 (0)20 8681 6293 7am till noon.

Preliminary conference details will be available from March 2004. Accommodation will be limited, so early application is advised; camping is available nearby.

For current details see the website <http://namho2005.wcms.org.uk/> and for further enquiries email [namho2005enquiries@wcms.org.uk](mailto:namho2005enquiries@wcms.org.uk) or Tel: 01737 243912 or write to Robin Albert, 13 Beaufort Road, Reigate, RH2 9DQ.

**BUTSER ANCIENT FARM**

**Weekend events**

April 24th / 25th	The Romans are coming	Visit by Legio II Augusta
May 29th / 30th	Getting the point	Celtic weaponry
June 26th / 27th	Food fit for Caesar	Roman cookery
July 24th / 25th	What did Boudicca eat?	Celtic cookery
August 28th / 29th	Torcs to togas	British fashion 300BC–300AD
September 25th / 26th	Harvest Festival	

**Practical experiences**

Excavation and recording techniques	15th/16th May; 11th/12th September
Bronze rapier	29th May
Weaving naturally	5th June
Feltmaking	12th June
Round house construction	20th June; 17th October
Fresco	3rd July
Herbs in Roman Britain	11th July

Introduction to geophysical prospection	11th July; 31st July
Iron Age cooking	18th July
An introduction to archaeological excavation and recording techniques for 13-16yr olds	31st July; 1st August
Herbs in the Iron Age	15th August
Coracle building	21st August
Textiles	22nd August
Celtic silver design	28th August
Gold sun disc earrings	29th August
Shoemaking	19th September

More details from: [www.butser.org.uk](http://www.butser.org.uk) or Tel: 023 9259 8838

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## LECTURE MEETINGS

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### 14th April

"William Cobbett: a Controversial Local and National Figure" to Surrey Heath Local History Club at the Adult Education Centre, Francehill Drive, Camberley at 7.30pm. Visitors welcome. Enquiries: 01276 506182.

### 15th April

"A Summary of the Report of the 19-31 High Street Excavation at Bagshot" after the Surrey Heath Archaeological and Heritage Trust AGM at the Archaeology Centre, 4-10 London Road, Bagshot at 7:30pm. Visitors welcome. Enquiries: 01276 506182

### 16th April

"The Leatherhead Census Project" by Peter Tilley and John Wettern to the Leatherhead & District Local History Society after the AGM, in the Dixon Hall, Letherhead Institute, High Street, Leatherhead at 7.30 for 8pm.

### 19th April

"The Royal Society of Arts: Some Local Associations, 1754 to 2004" by David Allan, Honorary Historical Adviser to the RSA, at Duke Street Baptist Church, Richmond at 7.30 for 8 pm. Non members £1. Further information from Elizabeth Velluet, Tel; 020 8891 3825.

### 23rd April

"Charter Quay Excavations at Kingston" by Phil Andrews and Lucy Grimshaw to the Richmond Archaeological Society in the Vestry Hall, Paradise Road, Richmond at 8 pm. Admission to non-members by donation.

### 24th April

"Ultra – the Enigma Story", an illustrated lecture by a speaker from Bletchley Park Trust, to the Walton & Weybridge Local History Society at Weybridge Library Lecture Hall at 3pm.

### 24th April

Joint Afternoon Meeting with SyAS and the Bourne Society at Gatton Hall, Merstham. For details see 150th Anniversary Celebrations elsewhere in this *Bulletin*.

### 26th April

"Surrey Vernacular Buildings" by Ian West to the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society in the United Reformed Church Halls, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon at 7.45pm.

**27th April**

"Recent Excavations at Winchester Palace, Southwark" by Bruce Watson to the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society at Hawkstone Hall, Kennington Road opposite Lambeth North station at 7 for 7.30pm. Visitors £1.

**27th April**

"Elmbridge's Hollywood: Cinema in Walton" by Melanie Parker to the Sunbury & Shepperton Local History Society in the Theatre at Halliford School, Russell Road, Shepperton at 8pm. Visitors £1.

**29th April**

"History of the Q Theatre at Kew Bridge" by Andrea Cameron to the Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society in the Main Hall of the Literary Institute, Egham High Street at 8pm.

**5th May**

"Rockets, Rains and Roman Candles" by Gerry Moss to the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society at St Mary's Hall, London Road, Ewell at 7.45 for 8pm.

**11th May**

"Cobham and its Development" by David Taylor to the Sunbury & Shepperton Local History Society in the Theatre at Halliford School, Russell Road, Shepperton at 8pm. Visitors £1.

**15th May**

"Focus on Oatlands" by Jean Smith following the AGM of the Walton & Weybridge Local History Society at Weybridge Library Lecture Hall at 2.30pm.

**21st May**

"Lambeth: Its Palace and its People" by Joan Cottle to the Leatherhead & District Local History Society in the Dixon Hall, Letherhead Institute, High Street, Leatherhead at 7.30 for 8pm.

**25th May**

"The History of the London Fire Brigade 1666-2004" by Esther Mann to the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society at Hawkstone Hall, Kennington Road opposite Lambeth North station at 7 for 7.30pm. Visitors £1.

**27th May**

"Southwark: Its City and Surrey Connections" by Muriel Jones to the Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society in the Main Hall of the Literary Institute, Egham High Street at 8pm.

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The Council of the Surrey Archaeological Society desires it to be known that it is not responsible for the statements or opinions expressed in the *Bulletin*.

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**Next Issue:** Copy required by 30th April for the May 2004 issue.

**Editor:** Phil Jones, 5, Hampton Road, Newbury, Berks RG14 6DB. Tel/Fax: 01635 581182 and email: pottypot@ukonline.co.uk