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Bulletin *389*

December 2005

EYE MEDICINE IN THE ROMAN WORLD (see p11)

SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts 1948-67 and limited by guarantee)

Minutes of the 31st Annual General Meeting of the Incorporated Surrey Archaeological Society held on Saturday 20th November 2004 at 2 pm at Shere Village Hall, Shere, Surrey. The President, Miss A.J. Monk, was in the chair and 39 members were present.

The President welcomed the members to the meeting. The President noted that it was very appropriate that members should be in Shere on the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Society, and welcomed Mrs H Bray, Lord of the Manor of Shere in this, the 200th anniversary of the publication of Manning & Bray's *History and Antiquities of the County of Surrey*.

The President recorded with regret the deaths in recent months of three past members who in very different ways had played a large part in the life of the Society: Joan Harries, Honorary Editor of the Society between 1973 and 1980 and an Honorary Vice-President; Joan Harding, also an Honorary Vice-President of the Society; and Trudie Drew, Gillian Drew's mother, who was for so many years a familiar figure assisting at the Society's meetings.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from: Mrs M Broomfield, Miss J Carter, Miss T Cole, Miss E Corke, Mr S E D Fortescue, Mr D Graham, Mrs A Graham, Mrs S Janaway, Mr J Janaway, Mr A Jackson, Mr P Harp, Mrs P Hulse, Mrs E Myatt-Price, Mrs G Rapson, Mr T Robins and Mr D Taylor.

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 22nd NOVEMBER 2003

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting had been circulated with *Bulletin 378* and copies were available at the meeting. On the proposal of Mr A. Norris, seconded by Mr M. Rubra, it was agreed *nem.con.* that the minutes of the meeting on 22nd November 2003 should be signed by the President as a correct record.

3. ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2003 - 2004

The Annual Report and Accounts had been circulated with *Bulletin 378* and copies were available at the meeting. Two corrections were noted: p.9, under Finance, 4th para. Line 5, should refer to 'the previous Surrey Local History Council' and p.17, under Plateau Group, line 1 should read '12th June 2003'. The President, seconded by Mrs S. Corke, proposed the adoption of the Annual Report for 2003-2004 subject to these corrections; the meeting agreed *nem con*.

Reviewing the past year, the President said that the Annual Report covering events during the period April 2003 to March 2004 had already been circulated and she wished only to highlight a few of these, and then move on to the way in which Council was looking to the future.

The Roman Studies Group, which had been re-formed last year had had a successful year of lectures, fieldwork and excavation – and was growing in strength.

A major new initiative had been the formation of the Artefacts and Archives Research Group (AARG) which met weekly and was systematically looking at the back-log of unwritten excavation reports and locating and analysing the excavated material. The Group was enthusiastically led by Margaret Broomfield and the President paid tribute to her and her dedicated and hardworking team. They were presently engaged on the material from the Mesolithic and Bronze Age site at Weston Wood, excavated in 1959.

The dendrochronological project, the Society's joint enterprise with the Domestic Buildings Research Group, which received HLF funding last year, had completed two of the three pilot studies. Some results were showing remarkably early dates and

others challenged earlier ideas on the dating of some features of timber-framed houses. The project was one of the ways the Society continued to work in partnership with others. Another was the Archaeological Research Group's metal detector survey at Bocketts Farm, which aimed to promote co-operation between archaeologists and metal detectorists. This had been successful and others were planned.

On a more sombre note, the concerns expressed last year about the difficulties the Society faced in continuing to support Young Archaeologist Clubs continued. It was hoped that the clubs at Guildford and Kingston would continue to be run as museum clubs and thus administered within the respective Council's child protection policies.

The President noted that, although there had been no new major projects, the range of activities and events planned and undertaken by the Society's committees and groups had included: three full-day conferences, two outings, two lectures series, workshops, fieldwork and surveys, as well as a survey on Witley and Thursley Commons undertaken in partnership with Surrey County Council. In addition, members served on the Countryside and Heritage Working Groups within Surrey County Council and represented the Society on external organisations where they sought to influence policies which may affect the archaeology and history of the County. None of this work could be undertaken without a very considerable amount of effort by members. The Society's membership was its most valuable asset and, following Professor Alan Crocker's initiative in naming one of the unsung heroes working quietly behind the scenes, the President mentioned Mr G Stonehouse, who took meticulous care of the Society's excavation tools and equipment.

Whilst 150 years was a cause for celebration, it was also a time for reflection and looking forward, and therefore the Annual Report contained the conclusions of the Working Party on the Future Direction of the Society. These conclusions remained crucial to the way in which the Society moved forward into somewhat uncharted waters. Some proposals put forward had already been implemented: The drive for subscriptions to be gift-aided was successful and over 75% of ordinary members now paid by this method. The Anniversary Appeal had been well supported and with gift-aid and a legacy the Society hoped to reach a figure of £10,000 by the end of the present year. The need to increase income from Society events, and wherever possible to seek external funding in support of activities and publication, had been acknowledged and would be ongoing; The need to raise the profile of the Society in the wider community was another area which we were beginning to tackle.

Charity Law was forcing the Society to look more formally at its method of operation; Council was engaged in devising a five-year rolling strategy and undertaking a formal risk assessment of the Society's overall structure to ensure compliance with all statutory and legal requirements. On behalf of the Society's Council a sub-committee of the Finance Committee was undertaking an examination of the Society's affairs and operations including its investment policies and future funding. The President expressed gratitude to the chairman of the Finance Committee, Mr D Turner and members of the sub-committee for their efforts.

The Society aimed to be well prepared to face its major challenge consequent upon the Notice of Termination by Guildford Borough Council, effective in 2008, of the Agreement under which the Society occupied space at Castle Arch. the Society was continuing to explore the options open to it.

The dialogue with Guildford Borough Council continued but at the present time the Council was still unable to provide any clarity on the long term policy for Guildford museum, the amount of additional space that might be made available to the Society, on what terms, or when. For this reason the Society continued to explore the options open to it and had commissioned a report from Crispin Paine Consultants to assess the feasibility of establishing an archaeological and environmental research centre

and to identify partners who would be interested in participating in such a project. The potential partners included the Surrey Wildlife Trust and the Heritage and Countryside Division of Surrey County Council. The study concluded that such a centre was both desirable and feasible, provided the partners were willing and able to meet the running costs and make the necessary commitment consistent with their own stated policies and objectives.

The President reported that discussions continued, but the outcome was unknown and that the next few months were crucial.

As described in the Annual Report, the first events celebrating the Society's 150th Anniversary had taken place and had been much enjoyed, as had been those arranged after the end of the year under review. The President expressed her sincere thanks to all those involved in planning and co-ordinating the events.

Finally, the President thanked the retiring members of Council: Mr A Hall, Mr J Price, Mr M Rubra and Mr R Williams. Thanks were particularly expressed to the Honorary Officers who worked tirelessly on the Society's behalf and to Mrs S Ashcroft, Mrs S Janaway and Mrs M Roberts who continued to keep Castle Arch running smoothly with great good humour, despite all the trials and tribulations caused by the shortage of space. The helpfulness and co-operation of the staff of Guildford Museum was also greatly appreciated. The President expressed her own, and the Society's, sincere thanks to Mrs R Hunter, who was to stand down as Honorary Secretary after three difficult years in the life of the Society and who had been, and would continue to be, a great advocate for the Society. The President also thanked Mrs R Hooker who had faithfully acted as Minute Secretary at meetings of Council.

Mr A.C. Sargent presented the Annual Accounts. He noted that there was now no tax relief on most of the Society's investment portfolio. The amount of dividend income had remained fairly constant but there was a drop in income of some £4,000 over the previous year partly due to the loss of tax relief and to the loss of dividends from certain companies. Virtually two thirds of the Society's income came from that source and therefore the Society must maintain that level of income. Some budgetary deficits were reported, but overall the Society's accounts did not represent any material change from the pattern of earlier years; there was in the event a small surplus overall due to less expenditure on excavations and publications.

On the proposal of Mr R. Ellaby, seconded by Mr G. Brown, the Adoption of Accounts was approved *nem.con.*

4. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT FOR 2004-2005

The President stood down from the Chair.

Mr P Youngs proposed that Miss A Monk be re-elected President for a further year of office and this was seconded by Mr P. Sowan and approved *nem.con.* In proposing Miss Monk, Mr Youngs spoke of the outstanding work carried out by the President since being in office.

5. ELECTION OF HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENTS FOR 2004-2005

The President proposed on behalf of Council the re-election of the serving Honorary Vice-Presidents: Mr R D Shepherd, Professor S S Frere, Mrs E S Eames, Mr F A Hastings, Mr R F Holling, Mr E A Crossland and Mrs S Goad.

In addition, Council wished to elect as Honorary Vice-Presidents Mr E E Harrison, Mr S E D Fortescue, Mr J L Gower, Dr D F Renn, Miss J M Carter and Mrs V Ettlinger, all of whom were currently Vice-Presidents of the Society. They had hitherto played an active part in the running of the Society; now, for various reasons, they were no longer in a position to do so. It was therefore in accordance with their wishes that Council proposed to add their names to the roll of Honorary Vice-Presidents.

The proposal was seconded by Mr G. Brown and approved *nem. con.*

6. ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENTS FOR 2004-2005

The President proposed on behalf of Council the re-election of the serving Vice-Presidents: The Viscountess Hanworth, Dr G P Moss, Mr K D Graham, Mr R F Muir, Mrs P Nicolaysen, Professor A G Crocker, Mr A C Sargent, Mr D J Turner, Mrs A C Graham, Mr P A Tarplee, Ms J English, Mrs G M Crocker, Miss G M Drew and Mr J N Hampton.

The proposal was seconded by Mr M. Sturley and approved *nem.con.*

7. ELECTION OF HONORARY OFFICERS FOR 2004-2005

With the exception of the Honorary Secretary, the present Honorary Officers had indicated their willingness to stand; Mr P Youngs had agreed to stand as Honorary Secretary. The President, on behalf of Council, therefore proposed the following Honorary Officers for election.

Secretary: Mr P E Youngs
Treasurer: Mr A C Sargent
Joint Editors: Mrs A Graham and Mrs S Hill
Editor of Bulletin: Mr P Jones
Librarian: Miss G M Drew
Legal Adviser: Mr A M Jackson

The proposal was seconded by Mr D J Turner and approved *nem.con.*

8. ELECTION OF ORDINARY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

On the proposal of the President, seconded by Mr R. Williams, the following members, who had expressed their willingness to serve, were elected *nem.con* as ordinary members of Council to retire in 2008: Mr N Bateman, Mr A Bott, Miss T Cole, Mrs R Hooker, Mrs R Hunter and Mrs P Reading.

9. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS AND EXAMINERS FOR 2004-2005

On the proposal of Mr A C Sargent, seconded by Mr R F Muir, M G Beattie & Co were re-elected as auditors and the Society's Council was authorised to determine their remuneration. Mr Sargent expressed the thanks and appreciation of the Society to Mr Beattie for their services.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The President thanked Mrs E Rich for opening Shere Museum in the morning for those who wished to look round, and Mrs A Noyes and the Shere & Gomshall Local History Society for their displays, set up by Mr J Price, and for organising the refreshments.

Mr D J Turner expressed the Society's gratitude to Mrs S Goad JP, Lord Lieutenant of the County, for her invitation to hold the Society's Anniversary Garden Party in her grounds in June 2004.

The meeting closed at 2.50pm.

THE SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

David Bird

"ASPECTS AND AFTER"

The Society held a very successful conference at Bourne Hall in Ewell on 1st October to launch an intensive year of work in order to prepare the Surrey Archaeological Research Framework (SARF). A series of excellent talks demonstrated the wide variety of archaeological work being undertaken in the county and we had the benefit of David Rudling from Sussex talking about work there and reminding us that the framework must be part of a bigger picture. What these talks all had in common was that they illustrated the research framework process in miniature: establish what you know; consider what questions should be asked; decide how to answer them. The process is a loop, in that when new information is gathered this raises further questions and so on.

THE WAY AHEAD

The SARF Steering Group (Jon Cotton, Peter Harp, Audrey Monk, Peter Youngs and David Bird) aims to make the research framework process work for the whole of Surrey's archaeology. The Framework will be jointly produced by the Society and the County Council but needs to be 'owned' by everyone in the archaeological community in its widest sense. We need the involvement of everyone with an interest in Surrey's archaeology at any time from about 550,000 BP right up to the present day. In this respect it was very encouraging that the conference was rounded off by a stimulating discussion ably led by the chairman, Jon Cotton, with many useful points being made from the floor.

As noted in previous bulletins, SARF will be based on the Olivier model, as has been done elsewhere in England (*Frameworks For Our Past. A review of research frameworks, strategies and perceptions* (Adrian Olivier, English Heritage 1996)):

- ***a resource assessment – a 'statement of the current state of knowledge and a description of the archaeological resource';***
- ***an agenda – 'a list of gaps in knowledge, of work which could be done, and of the potential for the resource to answer questions';***
- ***a strategy – 'a statement setting out priorities and method'.***

In Surrey we have effectively completed the resource assessment phase, for example with *The Archaeology of Surrey to 1540* and *Aspects of Archaeology and History in Surrey*, together with the SIHG publications and DBRG databases. We can therefore concentrate on the agenda and strategy sections. An initial circulation of people with specialist expertise in various areas has already been carried out and has received a welcome commitment to take part. This has included specialists from outside the county to give the benefits of a wider view. The aim now is to produce draft agendas by the end of the year and circulate them widely in advance of a series of seminars in January-March. The draft agendas are seen as the key to stimulating discussion at the seminars. Input is welcome from anyone: what questions should we be asking? What practical projects might help to answer the questions?

Following the seminars the aim is to complete the draft resource assessment, agenda and strategy sections in April/May and (if funding is available) hold a second Bourne Hall conference to report progress and seek further comment and involvement. Then in June these drafts would be widely circulated for comment. In June/July further seminars would be held if necessary (but only if necessary), especially for extra themes, and the final draft would then be circulated by the end of August, with the aim of completing the final report by the end of September.

There is the usual problem of how to tackle the subject: chronologically or by theme? Others have mostly settled for chronology with added themes and this seems best in view of the way specialisms generally work, at least for the earlier periods. With care we should be able to contrive to have our cake and eat it too, by tackling chronological topics using common themes. As a result of suggestions made at the conference it is intended to do this for the periods up to about AD1500 and then tackle the remainder thematically. More time should be devoted to this later period both because there is a lot of material and because we have devoted less time to it previously.

Common themes might be:

- **TRANSITION FROM PRECEDING PERIOD**
- **POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE GEOGRAPHY**
- **SECURITY**
- **SETTLEMENTS**
- **LAND USE AND ENVIRONMENT**
- **THE ECONOMY**

- **MATERIAL CULTURE (THE FINDS)**
- **BELIEF AND BURIAL**
- **TRANSITION TO THE SUCCEEDING PERIOD**

There could also be overarching themes. Ones that come to mind are:

- **RELATIONSHIP TO LONDON**
- **EAST/WEST SPLIT AND RELATIONSHIPS TO HAMPSHIRE, BERKSHIRE AND KENT**
- **AND SUSSEX (the Weald as barrier and resource)**
- **RELATIONSHIP TO THE THAMES VALLEY (river as frontier/barrier or highway/link)**
- **THE BRINGING TOGETHER OF THE COMMON THEMES FROM WITHIN EACH PERIOD SECTION.**

The Strategy section needs to include the development of achievable projects designed to answer some of the questions, and the methods to be used and the resources, training, etc required.

THE RESEARCH SEMINARS

The Christian Centre, Dorking
Tuesday evenings 7.30-9.30pm

These will be an important part of the process of fostering development of the agenda. It has not been easy to decide how to tackle this part of the process, especially how to group the seminars to make the process manageable, as time is limited. We intend to find a presenter for each seminar to give provocative opening remarks. The seminar programme is now established as follows:

24th January:	**Upper Palaeolithic/Mesolithic/Neolithic/Bronze Age** (there will also be a report back from an earlier meeting of Palaeolithic specialists).
31st January:	**Iron Age/Romano-British/early Saxon**
14th February:	**Mid to Late Saxon and medieval**
21st February:	**Surrey after about 1500: buildings, parks and gardens, agriculture**
14th March:	**Surrey after about 1500: industry**
21st March:	**Surrey after about 1500: transport; defences and military aspects**

The last three are likely to be wider ranging and will inevitably look back into earlier periods. All the above should include consideration of environmental aspects

28th March **Geology/overarching themes and ideas**

There may be a need for other meetings by invitation, either of relevant established groups or of specially invited people (or both), but in general seminars will be open to all. Please note the seminar dates now and set aside time in the earlier part of 2006 to think about and take part in the process in various ways. Following the seminars and indeed at any time during process there will be the opportunity to submit written comments whether arising from the discussions and circulated material or not. Input from anyone is welcome, whether about thoughts for the agenda and strategy or about the way the whole process is to be managed. But please keep in mind what is possible! We hope to find a way to hold electronic discussions as well.

The form of publication is yet to be decided but current thinking is that there would be little point in a publication as such – it would be out of date at once. The web is ideal as a means of keeping an up-to-date version readily available and it is assumed that this should be possible through both the Society and the County Council. We aim

to establish a mechanism whereby there would be annual updating in which important additions to the resource assessment and new questions arising from new discoveries or new theories would be noted.

You can contact me by email: davidbird@surreycc.gov.uk (note that there is no dot between David and Bird); 'phone: 020-8541 8991; or by writing to me at Sustainable Development, Surrey County Council, County Hall, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT1 2DT

ADDITIONAL NOTE

As indicated in the previous note, it is intended to circulate draft agenda and strategy sections in advance of the seminars to be held between January and March 2006. It will not be possible to send these out to everyone or include them in the Bulletin. We hope to be able to make use of the Society's website and possibly also that of the County Council, but it may still be difficult for some people who wish to see it to gain access to the material. Anyone in this position should contact David Bird; please remember to give a postal address if you need to leave a message (contact details are are given above).

DOMESTIC BUILDINGS RESEARCH GROUP

CHALDON COURT: AN EARLY MEDIEVAL HOUSE *Richard Woodhouse*

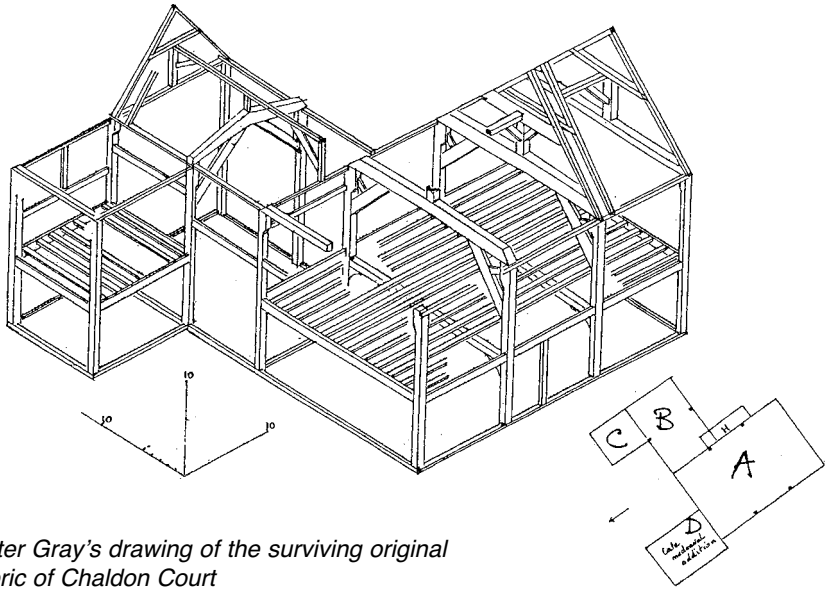
Chaldon Court. Block A on right

This is one of Surrey's oldest and most interesting houses, and DBRG's visit in October 2004 demonstrated why Peter Gray highlighted it in his Inventory as one of Surrey's most notable medieval buildings.

Of the early medieval house, three parts survive, comprising Block A, a three-bay parlour range; Block B, a face wing; and Block C a further single-bay face wing. The DBRG planalso shows later additions: Block D, timber-framed and of the 16th century, and Blocks E and F, 17th and 18th century extensions. Block D was probably originally a detached outbuilding that was later joined to Block A.

Blocks A, B and C are probably of one build, since their timbers appear contemporary, and ar all joined together structurally. Further support for this comes from the discovery of a durn doorway (see further below) at first floor level between Blocks A and B. It also seems that the original building was always floored throughout, as a surviving cross beam supporting the first floor in Block A is integral with the original structure.

As to evidence for an open hall house, the main rafters of Block A show no sign of



Peter Gray's drawing of the surviving original fabric of Chaldon Court

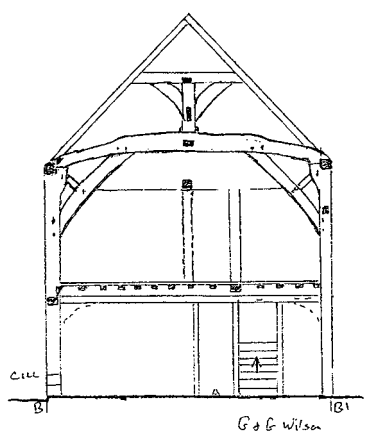
smoke blackening. This, together with the large size of the timbers and the moulding on the braces and tie beams on the first floor, suggests that this large upper room had an important function. In the case of Block B most of the rafters and the crown post are clean, although some rafters show very slight signs of sooting. This might be explained by smoke coming either from an attached kitchen or from a brazier used to heat this room, or even from an accidental fire. Block C has no signs of sooting.

Our tour began outside where most of the exterior is now bricked over. We noted fine 17th century brickwork to the west wall, with a Sun insurance fire mark hung upside down above the door (this mark relates to a policy issued on 18th September 1756). The south wall is of 17th/18th century flintwork. The ancient decorative barge board from the east gable (see fig) is very weathered.

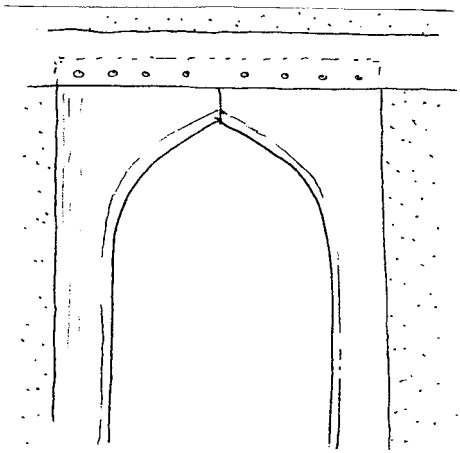
Internally, we saw spectacular timbers, all consistent with an early origin. These include: long passing braces, slightly curved, in the original external north wall of Blocks A and B; substantial arch braces to the roof tie beams of Block A, with spurs to jowled bay posts; impressive crown post roofs in both Blocks A and B, with square braces on the crown posts; and quadrant moulding in Block A across centre of cambered tie beam. The timbers had many carpenters, decorative and apotropaic marks.

We also saw traces of walpainting in the main first floor room – believed to be of Elizabethan date, and an interesting coincidence with the famous medieval wall painting (*c*1200) of the adjoining church of St Peter and St Paul.

Another dramatic feature is a massive durn doorway recently uncovered at first floor level.



Chaldon Court: Section of Block A. the 'spurs' are the timbers between the braces and the posts. They are found in pre-1400 buildings



The durn at Chaldon Court. A single piece of timber forms both the doorpost and arched head (set in pairs)

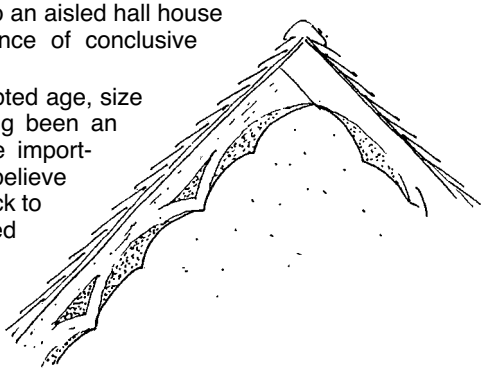
This door, now blocked, is undoubtedly an early medieval feature. Durn doors are rare in Surrey – two other examples being at Tigbourne Farm, Witley and Old House, Capel. Both these houses are also early – the former believed to be of 14th century origin, and the latter having recently been dendrochronologically dated to 1374.

Dennis Turner gave a scholarly overview of the history of the house. There is evidence that by the 14th century the property had come into the ownership of the de Covets, a Sussex-based family of knightly – although not first rank – status. In 1325 it was recorded as being held by Sir John de Covet as a knight' fee from Banstead Manor. This was the first holding of the de Covets in Surrey. However, they were not a great family, and it is difficult to tie early dates into their family history. The property remained in their ownership until 1476. It then passed through several ownerships – often as part of a larger estate, and occupied as a tenanted farm – until 1748, when it was acquired by the Joliffes, who owned it until 1954, when it was acquired by Richard Hutchins.

As to its age, there is no indication of any medieval village or 'agri-business' at Chaldon, but the position of the house, in close proximity both to the parish church and an ancient Saxon trackway, is consistent with an early origin. The experts differ slightly as to the precise date of first build, but from the structure and other surviving details all agree a 14th century origin, varying between 1320-1330 (eg Peter Gray) and 1360-70 (eg Kenneth Gravett). Unfortunately dendrochronology cannot take matters further as independent practitioners Martin Bridges and Andy Moir have examined the building and advised that there are too few rings for the timbers to date.

As to its use, one theory is that this was originally a church house. However, as Dennis pointed out, the building appears to face away from the church. Another theory is that this was a court or manor house – but again there is no clear evidence (eg manorial records) for this. The surviving structural differences provide some support for Peter Gray's view that the remaining parts of the original house were originally built as chambers annexed to an aisled hall house – but once again there is an absence of conclusive evidence.

Despite these uncertainties, its undoubted age, size and complexity all point to this having been an early medieval house of considerable importance. When one considers that we believe only a dozen houses in Surrey date back to the 14th century, this must be regarded as one of Surrey's oldest houses.



The barge board at Chaldon Court

First published in the June 2005 edition (no 100) of the Domestic Buildings Research Group News, with many thanks.

ROMAN STUDIES GROUP

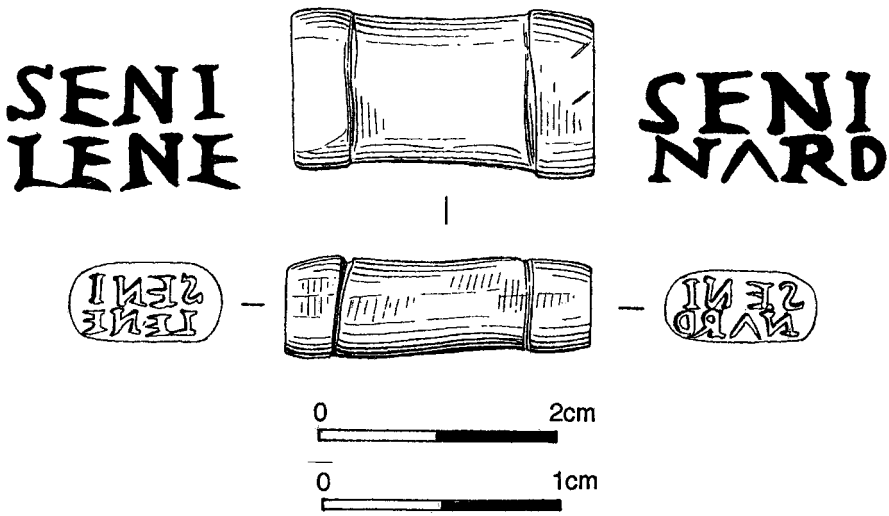
FORTHCOMING LECTURE

EYE MEDICINE IN THE ROMAN EMPIRE

Ralph Jackson

Dorking Baptist Church Meeting Rooms, Junction Road, Dorking (near the South Street end)

Tuesday 7th February at 7.45pm.



Roman Collyrium-stamp from Staines

This is a rare opportunity to hear a leading researcher in his field talk about how people coped with eye problems in the Roman world. Evidence can be found in ancient texts and archaeological finds, and can sometimes be illustrated by ancient reliefs, for example on tombstones.

Dr Ralph Jackson is Curator of Romano-British Collections at the British Museum and an internationally recognised expert on aspects of Roman medicine and related subjects. Some may have seen him recently in the BBC series on Buried Treasure, providing much needed scholarship about RB antiquities to counterbalance the generally awful presentation of the programme. He has also recently been involved in excavations at the site of an important new Roman religious site where finds have added a new goddess called *Senua* to our British pantheon. Religion and healing often went hand in hand in the ancient world.

Ralph has published many important papers on aspects of Roman medical practice, including 'A new collyrium-stamp from Staines and some thoughts on eye medicine in Roman London and Britannia' (see fig), in the memorial volume for Hugh Chapman in 1996. His book *Doctors and Diseases in the Roman Empire* was published in 1988. He is currently preparing for publication the finds from a doctor's house in Rimini.

Admission: group members free; non-members £5.

CONSERVATION NEWS

BATTERSEA POWER STATION: BUILDING AT RISK *Dennis Turner*

Battersea Power Station is an important monument from the 20th century and a much admired work of Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. Construction was spread over many years, starting in 1932, and it was listed in 1981 as one of the first batch of inter-war buildings to be protected following the demolition of the Art Deco Firestone Factory in Western Avenue. Visually, the column-like chimneys at the four corners of the power station are almost iconic. The chimneys arrived gradually: the first in 1933 but the last not until after WW2. Without the chimneys, the detailed brick walls of the turbine hall would form a mere ungainly block.

Battersea Power Station had closed shortly before it was listed and several subsequent rehabilitation schemes have failed to materialize, despite lengthy negotiations. Planning permission was given for a leisure and entertainment complex, with mixed uses on the surrounding site. Revised outline planning permission was given in January 2005, and Listed Building Consent in February 2005. It has, however, featured on the annual list of 'Buildings at Risk' produced by English Heritage (EH) for many years. In 2004 the World Monuments Fund (WMF) put it on its watch list of the world's hundred most endangered sites.

The basis of the current proposal is still the ambitious scheme put forward by John Broome to convert the building into a giant fun-palace. The scheme foundered with its proponent's bankruptcy but left a derelict shell with one length of upper wall demolished. In 1993 the site was acquired by Parkway International and since then various schemes to restore the building and develop the surrounding land have been floated and supported by Wandsworth Borough Council. Despite the well-known architects often associated with these schemes, and Parkway's continued protestation that building work is about to start, nothing has ever happened and the giant ruin has continued to decay.

It is reported that Parkway wishes to demolish the reinforced concrete chimneys and replace them with replicas as they cannot be repaired *in situ* and must have a life of at least 60 years. This claim has been accepted by EH but the view has been challenged in a specialist alternative report, commissioned by WMF and the Twentieth Century Society, which argues that there is no serious problem with the concrete and that the existing chimneys can be stabilised.

Demolition of the chimneys would require Listed Building Consent and replacement by replicas could be required by a consent condition. It is said, however, that Parkway are registered in the Virgin Islands and enforcement of consent conditions would be impossible. Fears have been voiced that the chimneys, once removed, would not be replaced; the building without its chimneys would not justify a listed status and could be demolished, and a cleared site would offer its owner great advantages.

Department of Culture, Media and Sport Consultation on Revisions to the Principles of Selection for Listing Buildings: PLANNING POLICY GUIDANCE NOTE 15 *Dennis Turner*

The DCMS and ODPM have undertaken a public consultation on revisions to the criteria used to assess a building's suitability for listing. The reason for proposals to revise these criteria are that the government considers that as they stand they are broad and unclear and that the practice used by English Heritage when assessing buildings for listing needs to be clarified.

The public consultation was part of the governments wider reform of the heritage protection systems, which started with the transfer of the administration of the listing system from the SCMS to English Heritage in April this year. Over the next year, the

Heritage Protection Review will also see the introduction of consultation with property owners and local authorities when an application for listing a building has been made. These proposals come at a time when heritage protection and planning are undergoing change intended to bring about greater openness, fairness, flexibility and accountability. The consultation paper on revised listing criteria is considered by government to be an important step forward, and they state that it is important to get them right. They sought views and opinions on the criteria from a wide range of organisations and individuals.

The revisions are not intended to change the criteria themselves but to set a benchmark for both English Heritage and DCMS for recommending or making listing decisions. They will also provide clearer guidance for conservation officers, interested parties and members of the public who submit applications for listing. It is not proposed that the revisions will change the types of building that are listed or increase or reduce their overall number or change the level of protection afforded to historic buildings.

Much of the existing criteria remain, though revised, but the DCMS is adding criteria for various classes of buildings to make it easier to understand what makes a building 'listable'. These added guidelines include an overview of 20 different building types, summarising what characteristics of a particular type of building (eg agricultural) are of special interest by comparison with others of the same type.

Each section sets out the criteria by which English Heritage, as the government's listing advisor, will work and two examples of more detailed studies, farm buildings and commemorative buildings. are included to show what is of importance when looking at these buildings and structures.

Other important changes include:

- *The introduction of separate categories for post 1945 buildings and buildings more than 30 years old*
- *The removal of the "10 Year rule" preventing buildings of less than 10 years age being listed to allow listing of such buildings in exceptional circumstances*
- *The introduction of a new criteria based on the "state of repair" of a building proposed for listing stating this would be considered if its condition "has detracted from the architectural or historic interest to such an extent that it can no longer be regarded as special"*
- *The removal of the reference to local lists in the "national and local interest" category*
- *Reference to use of "Blue Plaques"as an alternative to listing where otherwise unremarkable buildings are associated with important people removed*

There is little reference to architects or engineers of note being an important criterion for considering buildings for listing.

The Society's Buildings and Conservation Committee has commented, pointing out the large number of drafting infelicities, ambiguities and contradictions. None of these alone is, perhaps, particularly damaging, but the accumulation results in a deeply flawed document.

ECCLESIASTICAL EXEMPTION: THE WAY FORWARD *Dennis Turner*

Department of Culture, Media and Sport Publication

The consultation paper issued in April 2004 by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) on the future of the ecclesiastical exemption in England and Wales proposed the use of management agreements with each of the Church authorities covered by ecclesiastical exemption. The paper was widely commented on by interested and affected parties and the exempt denominations in England (Church of England, the Roman Catholic Church, the Methodist Church, the united Reformed

Church, and the Baptist Union) contributed to the development of the DCMS recommendations. Having considered the representations received, they issued their response to the consultation "Ecclesiastical Exemption: The Way Forward" in July 2005. The key decisions following the consultation were as follows:

- The denominations currently subject to the ecclesiastical exemption will continue to be so.
- The unified register of historic buildings and sites and the unified consents regime will also apply to ecclesiastical sites and buildings.
- The new voluntary management option, Heritage Partnership Agreements (HPAs) proposed under the new heritage protection regime will be available to all historic sites including ecclesiastical assets.
- In respect to ecclesiastical buildings HPAs will be negotiated between English Heritage, the exempt denominations and the local authority at a level considered appropriate by the relevant denomination. Consultation with other parties, including the national amenity societies, would be appropriate. It is suggested that for the Church of England the appropriate levels at which agreements could be negotiated could be at diocesan level, or at a level that encompasses a group of particular parish churches. For the Roman Catholic Church, the agreements might be at the level of the current Historic Churches Committees, while for the Methodist Church agreements at circuit or district level might be appropriate.
- English Heritage will be the body representing national heritage interests, but HPAs will require engagement of local authorities who would be partners to the agreements.
- Church of England cathedrals will be encouraged to enter into HPAs specific to their own precincts.
- In the event of a breakdown in an HPA, or withdrawal of a partner there would be a staged return to "normal controls", however the exemption would continue to apply to the building. There will be a right of appeal to the Secretary of State.
- The option to develop HPAs would be extended to other denominations and faith groups but there would be no extension of the ecclesiastical exemption to further denominations or groups.
- HPAs can be extended to cover "peculiars" and other special cases. HPAs will also need to take account of archaeology above and below ground.
- There are proposals to test HPAs through a number of pilots to be run 2005=7 in preparation for the new Heritage White Paper, due during 2006.
- The possibility of changing the name of the ecclesiastical exemption will be explored.
- The exemption will continue to be periodically reviewed.

The document sets out the proposals in more detail. It is downloadable from the DCMS website (http://www.culture,gov.uk/historic environment/ and go to "publications" under "in this section".)

The document also details the responses to the consultation in terms of levels of support or disagreement with the proposals and key themes among the responses received and government's response. The analysis is fairly broad brush with emphasis on the level of support in terms of percentages and numbers rather than a detailed assessment of issues raised.

As stated a number of pilots will be run before the proposals are finalised. discussions are ongoing with the Canterbury and Rochester Cathedrals and also the Dioceses of Bath and Wells and Lincoln and it is hoped that these will commence in 2005. The DCMS and English Heritage will continue to consult stakeholders on the proposals during 2005 – 2006 to refine the proposals.

GUILDFORD ARCHAEOLOGY AND LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

What is the connection between Greece in the Fifth Century BC and France in the Roman Period? One answer you might not have expected is – the yo-yo!

The Group discovered this during a talk by Julie Wileman on 8th November on 'The Archaeology of Childhood', an area of research that hitherto has been largely neglected in mainstream archaeology. Geographically the talk ranged from the Andes to Egypt; the time span was from chimpanzees (standing in for early hominids) to Victorian chimney sweeps; and all places and periods in between. The Group was told, for example, how toys could be mistakenly identified as 'ritual objects'; how clothing could be evidence of age as well as status; how a newborn baby might not be regarded as a human being, which has a bearing on the whole question of child sacrifice; what can be learnt from Egyptian hieroglyphs and Aztec pictographs of the way children were trained and educated; and a great deal more.

The talk marked the publication of a new book by Julie, *Hide and Seek – The Archaeology of Childhood*, which is where, amongst much else, you can find pictures of Greek and Gallo-Roman yo-yos.

There will be a Members' evening at Guildford Museum on Monday 12th December 2005. The next public meeting will be on Monday 9th January 2006 at St Nicolas' Church Hall, Guildford when Rod Wild will describe how tree rings can cast new light on the ages of Surrey's medieval buildings. New members will be welcome at both these meetings.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

SALE OF PUBLICATIONS

A limited number of Society publications which are surplus to requirements will be available to members at greatly reduced prices. They include:

Collections Volumes 75-85 50p

Research Volumes 1, 7 & 9 50p

Surrey Churches £3

NB General Indexes Vols 39-60 and 61-70 are also for sale at £2.

These will be available on a "first come, first served" basis for members to collect from the Library, or may be posted to anyone unable to get to Guildford. In either case, please telephone or e-mail beforehand to place your order and check availability. Any remaining copies will be taken to the Archeological Research Committee Symposium in February.

We are also inviting offers for the following items of equipment:

1. A wooden 9-drawer card index box, not lockable, 14″ x 20″x 16″ deep.
2. A grey metal 4 drawer card index box, lockable with keys
3. A grey metal table 3′ square with 3 shelves approx 3′ high
4. A grey metal self-assembly bookcase 1 m high x 1 m in length with three shelves

Anyone interested in the above should contact Castle Arch; in this instance buyer collects!

PREHISTORIC GROUP

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of the Prehistoric Group will be held in the Upper Meeting Room of the Dorking Christian Centre on Tuesday 24 January at 7pm. The meeting is open to anyone interested in the prehistory of Surrey. Please feel free to bring along any prehistoric finds for identification and discussion. The meeting will be followed by the first of the Society's seminars on prehistory, for which see the additional notice in this Bulletin.

MISCELLANY

GOLF IN THE LANDSCAPE

English Heritage Consultation on Draft Guidance on Golf in Historic Landscapes

Dennis Turner

English Heritage are inviting comment on their draft policy statement and guidance on golf in historic parks and landscapes.

English Heritage has developed the draft policy statement over the last year with planners, historic environment specialists and the publication is intended to raise awareness of the potential impact of such developments. English Heritage have also been working with the European Institute of Golf Course Architects to look at the history of golf course design and sites of special historic interest and a report is to be published shortly.

Views are invited on any aspect of the guidance and are being sought from Local Planning Authorities, professional organisations and interest groups in planning, conservation and golf, consultants and businesses involved In planning, conservation and golf and members of the public and golfers who have requested a copy. Copies can be downloaded from English Heritage's website (http:/www.english-heritage.org.uk/parksandgardens and go to "draft guidance on golf").

The context of the guidance is the potential impact of golf development on the historic environment, including scheduled monuments, archaeology and historic parks. While the pressure for golf development peaked in the 1990s there are still pressures for golf development in historic landscapes. The guidance sets out a series of criteria which should be met for golf course development to be granted.

The document provides a history of golf course development, a background to historic parks and landscapes and some statistics on the extent to which historic parks are affected by golg development. It is noted that 9% of historic sites with golf are associated with Capability Brown and 13% with Humphry Repton. The document also sets out a background to the planning system including national policy on the historic environment and the legislative framework for protection of historic assets and available land management tools such as Landscape Characterisation. The document goes on to explain the planning process and draws attention to existing English Heritage guidance on Enabling Development and explain how applications will be assessed by local planning authorities and by English Heritage where applications are referred to them. A checklist of information to accompany golf course applications is provided along with advice on Planning Conditions and possible S.106 obligations, including some examples of conditions in relation to preparation of management plans, archaeology and landscaping.

The document gives a detailed history of golf development and design and explains the different types of golf course. Guidelines are provided on all aspects of golf

course design from layout and density, buildings, paths and lighting, tree planting and car parking through to bunkers. Generally the advice is against the use of bunkers, because of potential impact on archaeology, tree roots, land form and also visual impact and suggests that it is possible to design courses without them and gives examples. Guidance is also provided on landscape management issues, particularly mowing regimes.

Main conflicts identified are where landforms need to be radically altered, pressure to speed up courses by closes mowing, potential impact on important views, impact on archaeology, settings of historic buildings and remnant of historic development such as ancient field boundaries and evidence of past settlement patterns.

The document is very comprehensive and appears to be mainly targeted at golf course developers. It promotes the conservation plan approach, whereby the development of a conservation plan should be undertaken at the outset to establish what uses would be appropriate, which may rule out golf. The document suggests that there are other more appropriate leisure tourism uses which could be considered as an alternative. The document refers to English Heritage guidelines on enabling development which should form the basis of assessing proposals that are intended to help fund restoration of an heritage asset.

The Panels views are invited on the following:

- ***What are the five main concerns regarding golf type developments***
- ***Is the English Heritage guidance considered useful***
- ***Which sections are considered most useful***
- ***Have they got the level of advice right***

The Panel's comments will be referred to English Heritage by their deadline for comments, which is 31st October 2005.

ENGLISH HERITAGE STRATEGY 2005-2010:

Making the Past Part of the Future and National Projects from May to December 2005

English Heritage has published a five year strategy in which it set out its aims and objectives and how these will be met. The focus of the strategy "Making the Past Part of the Future" is to create a cycle of understanding, valuing, caring and restoring. The strategy is linked to key government objectives of increasing access to education, social inclusion, development of sustainable communities, contributing to national economy and improving public services.

The intended means of achieving these objectives is through the targeting of the research and other activities and improving knowledge, through training and awareness and through greater use of publicity and contributing to campaigns and debates. It also proposes to support local authorities through developing skills, providing training and guidelines and becoming more proative in policy development and raising awareness and access to the historic environment. Their strategy also extends to their own properties and assets and they have stated a commitment to implementing the recommendations of the National Monuments Record review.

The document identifies a number of targets against which they will judge their success as follows:

- a year on year reduction in the number of buildings, monuments and landscapes at risk
- enactment and implementation of a new heritage protection system
- 100% of statutory consultations met within the agreed time limit
- 1 million members
- a 3% increase in people from priority groups visiting historic environment sites
- 650,000 free educational visits per annum

- Historic Environment Champions in 76% of local authorities
- a measurable improvement in stakeholders' perception of EH service and reputation

and within the organisation

- Investors in people
- an elimination of the £7 million operating deficit on running properties

Accompanying this document setting out the major projects that English Heritage will be undertaking in the second half of this year "National Projects May – December 2005". Projects are to be implemented under three programmes: Heritage Protection Reform, Conservation Principles and a Properties Development Programme.

Copies of the documents can be downloaded from English Heritage's web site (www.english-heritage.org.uk, go to "about us" then "who we are" then select "English Heritage Strategy 2005-2010" from the left hand column).

VISITS

ANDANTE TRAVEL

Andante Travel generously sponsored the lst October Aspects and After conference at Bourne Hall, and have offered to organise a holiday specifically for members of the Society and friends. The benefit to us is that they would be cheaper than those offered in their brochure since they have a "captive" audience, which reduces their advertising costs.

Andante specialise in archaeological tours and several members have spoken warmly of holidays organised by them, best summed up by one member who says "I have been travelling with Andante for over twenty years and found them absolutely ideal, with excellent leaders and guides. There are no extras – all tours and meals being included and I'd be happy to recommend them to anyone."

We would have to guarantee a minimum number of 20 sharing, maximum number in any party being 25. We have explored three possibilities with them assuming autumn 2006, namely:

North Tunisia	**8 days**	**£1,000 – single supplement £90**
Britanny	**7 days**	**£1,100 – single supplement £100**
Jordan	**10 days**	**£1,500 – single supplement £185**

The prices include coach transfer from Guildford-Airport, a local guide and lecturer, and all meals and mineral water. Wine is also included on the Brittany tour *(hope it's compulsory!).*

There could be reduction in these costs if, for instance members made their own way to the airport and we were able to provide our own guide lecturer, but for the moment assume the above costs.

We obviously don't want to pursue this if numbers aren't sufficient to make the project viable and if you would be interested in joining such a party, please either write to the Hon. Secretary at Castle Arch or leave a message.

PUBLICATION

"The North Downs" by Peter Brandon

Phillimoe & Co. Ltd. hardback, 304 pages, 30 colour and 140 b/w illustrations, ISBN 1 86077 353 2. £25.

The North Downs and Surrey Hills have for centuries been the most important of London's lungs. It would be difficult to find an area of comparable size with such

diversity, and the corresponding responses to this of plant, animal and human life, anywhere in the world. In Dr Brandon's inimitable style, this book recreates the Downs' past landscapes and examines the history of their famous products: Alton and Farnham hops, Dorking fowls and Banstead mutton.

The exciting arena of the Kent Downs and its environs made a special contribution, spiritually, economically and culturally, to the development of early England. The author considers the leisure function of the region, which has existed for centuries, tracing its beginnings and following change and continuity to the present day.

For more than 150 years the essence of the North Downs and Surrey Hills has been the way in which they counteract the urban features of noise, worry, congestion and polluted air by their very proximity to the metropolis. From the mid 19th century the region became a residence, playground, sanatorium, health resort, field laboratory and landscape artists' open-air studio. It was also the inspiration for many ideas developed to assault materialism in cities, which was perceived as harming human values and religious experience. This interaction between what was once the world's largest city and its green girdle south of the Thames is an important theme in later chapters.

This long-awaited book from a much-loved local historian shares the eloquent prose of his previous titles, and the magnificent photographs are beautifully produced. It will be warmly welcomed by all local, social and landscape historians, as well as the many people whose lives are enriched by knowing the North Downs.

LECTURE MEETINGS

10th December
"Frost Fairs and other Historic Winters" by Ian Currie to the Walton & Weybridge Local History Society in Weybridge Library Lecture Hall at 3 pm. Visitors welcome £1.

12th December
"The Happiest Days of Our Lives?" Recollections of schooldays and displays of memorabilia. Chairman: Norman Radley at the Richmond Local History Society at the Old Town Hall, Whittaker Avenue, Richmond at 7.30 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1. Further information from Elizabeth Velluet, 020 8891 3825.

12th December
Guildford Archaeology and History Group open meeting with refreshments for members to bring ideas for future projects, unknown objects they have found or visits made for discussion. In the Classroom at Guildford Museum at 7.30 pm.

13th December
"Lines and Circles: the Legendary Landscape of London" by John Clark following the AGM of the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society in The Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut, almost opposite The Old Vic Theatre, Waterloo at 7 for 7.30 pm. Visitors welcome £1.

15th December
"Roman Armour" by John Eagle to the Farnham & District Museum Society in the United Reformed Church Hall, South Street, Farnham at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

2006

2nd January
"The Industries of Wandsworth 1634-1800" by Dorian Gerhold to the Streatham Society Local History Group at Woodlawns Centre, 16 Leigham Court Road at 8pm.

4th January
"Thomas Telford, a Great British Engineer" by Charles Abdy to the Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society at St Mary's Hall, London Road, Ewell at 7.45 for 8pm.

5th January
"The Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough: Past, Present and Future" by Dr J Russell to the Farnham & District Museum Society in the United Reformed Church Hall, South Street, Farnham at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

5th January
The Historical Association visit to the Churchill Museum and Cabinet War Rooms at 1.30 pm. Contact Mrs Jane Saul, Hon. Sec. 01784 435630 for details.

5th January
"The Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation" by Doug Beard at the London Canal Museum, 12/13 New Wharf Road, N1 9RT at 7.30 pm. £3 (£2 discounts). Tel. 020 7713 0836. web: www.canalmuseum.org.uk

9th January
"The Surrey Dendrochronology Project" an illustrated lecture by Rod Wild to the Guildford Archaeology and History Group in St Nicolas Church Hall, Millmead, Guildford at 7.30 pm.

10th January
"The Concorde Story" by Capt. Orlebar to the Surrey Industrial History Group in Lecture Theatre F, University of Surrey at 7.30 pm.

10th January
"The Archaeology of West London's Royal and Monastic Landscape" by Bob Cowie to he Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society in The Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut, almost opposite The Old Vic Theatre, Waterloo at 7 for 7.30 pm. Visitors welcome £1.

11th January
"George Landmann – South London's unknown railway engineer" essentially the story of the original London to Greenwich line, by Mary Mills to the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society in the Small Hall, United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon at 7.45 pm.

16th January
"Prominent Jewish Residents of Richmond" by Richard Savinson to the Richmond Local History Society in the Old Town Hall, Whittaker Avenue, Richmond at 7.30 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1. Further information from Elizabeth Velluet, 020 8891 3825.

17th January
"Jerome K Jerome and the Germans; the sensible man's response to great power rivalry, 1890-1918" by Prof John Ramsden to The Historical Society in the Friends Meeting House, North Street, Guildford at 7.30 pm.

20th January
"The River Mole" by Charles Abdy to the Leatherhead & District Local History Society in the Dixon Hall, Letherhead Institute, High Street, Leatherhead at 7.30pm.

21st January
"The History of Heathrow from Iron Age to Jet Age" by Nick Pollard to the Walton & Weybridge Local History Society at Weybridge Library Lecture Hall at 3 pm. Visitors welcome £1.

Next Issue: Copy required by 16th December for the January issue

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