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SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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DOWNSIDE MILL EXCAVATIONS

It is some time now since the County of Surrey had its own training excavation. And yet, as a practical discipline, archaeology without a practical emphasis ceases to be true “archaeology” at all. With this in mind, the Society recognised the need to fill this potential skills gap, and with financial and other help from the SCC Heritage Conservation Team, sponsored a dedicated training excavation at Downside Mills in Cobham over the nine days from the 2nd-10th August 2008. The organisation of the project overall was undertaken by Richard Savage on Behalf of the Society, whilst the on-site archaeological excavation and training was directed by Tony Howe of SCC. The background historical information and importantly, the instruction to trainees about how the work fitted into the study of the wider industrial context was provided by David Taylor.

The site is one which many SyAS members may be familiar with. It was acquired in 1770 by the Ironmaster Alexander Raby, who was the subject of a conference in Cobham in 1998. The Proceedings were published by the Surrey Industrial History Group in 2000, and the mill itself appears on the cover, depicted on a 1798 map of the site. Raby had bought a paper mill, but his alterations quickly established an iron and copper working facility, although in archaeological terms this was relatively short-lived, as Raby was forced into selling the site by 1809, and the mill was probably demolished in 1814.

Two trenches were examined over the course of the excavation. A large area was opened over the site of the former Mill, in order to investigate the structure, ascertain the state of survival, and examine the accuracy of the 1798 map. Previous geophysics over the site had indicated that preservation was likely to be good, although the reliability of the technique in Surrey is often poor so this was no guarantee. A second, much smaller trench was set out in an area to the rear of the existing lodge, in an attempt to identify the location of Alexander Raby’s former house – demolished around 1815.

Trainees subscribed to one of two separate four-day training modules, each for eight trainees at a time. They were greeted to site with an initial presentation about the history of the area by David, together with some information from Richard about the way the work was set up, what they might be expected to encounter, and some health and safety principles. Following the introductions, the on-site instruction began. The main aim was to give the Trainees some experience of the basics of practical archaeological work. This included initial heavy site clearance work (mattocking, shovelling and barrowing), site cleaning (trowelling and brushing) and excavation of features, as well as many of the recording techniques employed on a typical archaeological site. Although a lot to get through in just four days, most attendees managed to get a flavour of section and plan drawing, filling in context sheets, finds appraisal and study, stratigraphic relationships and feature formation processes. Geoff Stonehouse also kindly attended the site to provide a morning’s instruction on archaeological surveying for each group.

In addition, a day was given over to young people, to give them a brief taste of an archaeological site, which proved to be popular, whilst the site An Open Day on the final Sunday attracted around 75 visitors, mainly from the Cobham area, curious to see what was going on. The Cobham News and Mail also published an excellent account of the excavation and of the Society’s aims, written by a journalist who attended for a half day as a ‘trainee’, with all that entailed.

In all, the exercise must be counted a success, fanning the flames of archaeological interest in those who attended, both young and old, which bodes well for the future of the Society and the discipline in Surrey. Archaeologically, the plan of the former mill was recovered, together with part of the artificial island on which the structure sat

and copious amounts of debris from its demolition in 1814. Subsequent reuse of the site was also evident in the form of a dammed millrace, which created an ornamental water feature out of the former industrial stream channel. The training side of the excavation was also over-subscribed, which suggests that there is an audience for activities of this type, and that practical training should be part and parcel of what the Society offers to its members.

The author would like to offer his sincere thanks to Richard and Pamela Savage, David Taylor, David Graham and Dominic Combe (the landowner), without whom the excavation would not have been possible. Thanks are also due to Abby Guinness of SCAU for her involvement in organising and running the young persons' day, to James Hawkins Building Services for back-filling the site, to Andrew Norris for surveying and photography, to all the Society's other volunteers who acted as mentors and helped in many other ways, and to the neighbouring tenants and businesses for their interest and friendliness.

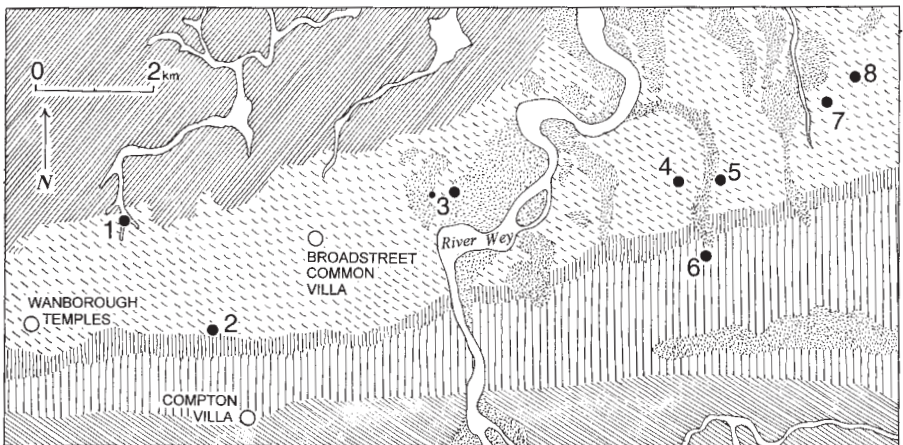
EIGHT NEW ROMAN SITES ON THE FLANK OF THE NORTH DOWNS

Phil Jones

It's a bit of a misnomer to describe six of the sites listed below as 'new', since they were found during field-walking over a decade ago, and the reason why they have not previously been brought to wider notice was because of my fear that they would be stripped of metal finds by detectorists who were then very active in the area, as a result of the discoveries at Wanborough. This fear still persists, of course, but I am hopeful that with an increasing acceptance of the vital role of the Finds Liaison Officer, David Williams, any finds made as a result of detecting will be reported to him.

The other two sites are mentioned in passing to provide a fuller picture of recent Roman discoveries in the same geographical area, and were found as a result of professional evaluations and subsequent work undertaken by staff of the Surrey County Archaeological Unit during the last two years.

When I first moved to Surrey, I undertook a programme of field-walking throughout the north-western quadrant of the county: once the badlands of blasted heath. This endeavour during my spare time culminated in an HBMC-sponsored project that sought to identify and clarify the status of newly-discovered archaeological sites, the final report of which was not widely circulated, although a copy is in the Castle Arch



library (Jones 1994). Partly on account of my interest in pottery, I then began to explore the thin outcrop of Reading Beds clays that bisects the county from west to east, where I hoped to discover production sites or ancient clay pits. Another opportunity will be made to note the medieval and post-medieval sites I found, but as I have recently been asked about the Roman sites by members of the Roman Studies Group, it seemed opportune to publish the list that follows:

1: Willey Green, Normandy (SU 93605130). The site lies over London Clay on fairly level ground where several north-flowing streams coalesce. The environs are permanent pasture, but a short length of one of the watercourses had recently been widened and deepened, exposing a dark grey occupation soil in its sections. 114 Roman sherds (0.9kg) of late 1st to early 2nd century date were retrieved from the upcast, of which 107 are of Alice Holt/Farnham (AH/F) greyware, four of Verulamium-type buff ware, two from beakers in fine orangeware, one of fine greyware and part of the foot-ring of a south Gaulish Samian bowl. Some animal bone fragments and a lump of daub were the only other finds.

2: Misley Copse, West Compton (SU 95104948). The site lies on London Clay just north of the band of Reading Beds clays and, perhaps significantly, immediately next to where the parishes of Wanborough, West Compton and Worplesdon meet. A sherd scatter of 80 sherds in the corner of a ploughed field includes 75 (0.4kg) that are certainly Roman and of later 2nd to later 3rd century types, including part of a flanged bowl of Oxford or New Forest red colour-coat type amongst the AH/F greyware. Five other sherds of 'native'-type fabrics may be pre-Roman or represent the revival of such traditions in the later Roman period. No other finds were recovered.

3: Christs College School (SU c993518). Recent excavations by SCAU have revealed many Roman pit and ditch features of 3rd century date, and a note is promised for the *Bulletin* in the near future. The discoveries follow earlier finds by SCAU of an earlier Roman pit and a ditch at Northmead School c300m further to the west, hinting at the possibility of a much larger area of occupation.

4: Clandon Park, West Clandon (TQ 03105210). A small scatter on fairly level ploughed ground over London Clay. The collection is of 35 Roman sherds (0.21kg), mostly of 2nd century greyware types, but including one of Overwey/Tilford type and a rim from a fine orangeware flanged bowl that are probably later. Two additional sherds are of calcined flint-gritted prehistoric fabrics and there is also a flint end scraper from the same scatter.

5: Clandon Park, West Clandon (TQ 03725202). A collection of later Roman sherds from the plough soil over London Clay on the north-facing end of a promontory spur. All 97 (0.7kg) are of late 3rd to 4th century AH/F types except for the base of an Oxfordshire whiteware *mortarium*. Twelve fragments (0.73kg) of Roman roofing tile were also collected, including two flanges from *tegulae*.

6: Merrow Golf Course (TQ c036507). Recent evaluation work by SCAU have revealed pits and ditches with pottery of Roman late 1st century date that includes some 'native'-type shell and grog-tempered types, some of which may belong to an antecedent Late Iron Age occupation.

7: Gasons Wood, East Clandon (TQ 06305299). Over 20 Roman sherds of 2nd century-types were recovered (courtesy of burrowing animals) from around the roots of trees within the dense undercover of this plantation. The site is on a promontory ridge over London Clay.

8: August Hill, Ripley (TQ 059537). A scatter found after a maize crop had been lifted, in a fairly level field over London Clay. 125 sherds (0.92kg) of later Roman types, including 119 of AH/F greyware fabrics, the rim of a hook-rimmed jar in

Overwey/Tilford ware and five from Oxfordshire red colour-coated vessels, of which two are from *mortaria*. No other finds.

I believe all of the above represent domestic occupation sites, and it is of considerable interest that most lie upon London Clay – not the most preferred lithology as a general rule – although they lie close to either the Reading Beds or gravel terraces. The most significant site, apart from the possible Christs College/Northmead complex, may be the easternmost of the two within Clandon Park. Not only does it lie on a prominent spur above two streams that once flowed north from the Reading Beds spring-line, but it includes roof tiles, suggesting, perhaps, the presence of at least one structure of substantial build.

It is for others to muse further over the significance of these sites, but the field-walking discoveries run counter to the idea that there is little more to fieldwork for the amateur archaeologist other than excavation or survey. Sites remain to be discovered; just go and find them.

SURREY: BIRTHPLACE OF BASEBALL

Julian Pooley

William Bray, (1736-1832) played baseball in Surrey in 1755. The entry that he recorded in his diary is believed to be the earliest manuscript reference to the game. The diary came to light last year and features in a documentary history of the game called 'Baseball Discovered' which will shortly be released by Major League Baseball. Here is a copy of the press release I prepared with the SCC media team:

Surrey County Council has provided documentary proof that one of America's biggest professional sports was being played in the county as early as 1755.

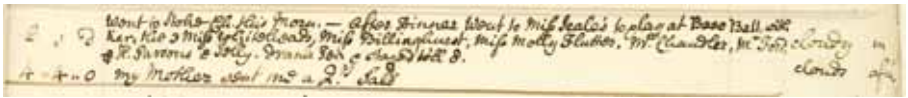
Surrey History Centre has told Major League Baseball (MLB) – the body that runs the sport in the US – that a diary entry made by Surrey lawyer, William Bray, about playing the game with friends near Guildford on Easter Monday, 31st

March 1755 is authentic. MLB has accepted that the handwritten diary, found in a shed near Guildford by local historian Tricia St John Barry, contains the earliest known manuscript reference to baseball in the world.

There are earlier references to the game but these are in fictional books. A book written by John Newbery in 1744 called *A Little Pretty Pocket-Book* contains a short rhymed description of a game called base-ball and this was the first appearance of the term in print. Jane Austen's *Northanger Abbey*, which was written in 1798 but not published until late 1817, also made reference to baseball.

Julian Pooley, the manager of Surrey History Centre, was able to verify that the document was genuine because he is an expert on Bray and is responsible for a vast array of diaries written by the solicitor and local historian between 1756 and 1832. He has worked closely with MLB on the production of a film tracing the origins of the game. Called *Base Ball Discovered*, MLB's documentary will be shown at the third annual Baseball Film Festival at the National Baseball Hall of Fame on 20th





September and the Surrey History Centre has been in regular contact with the makers to supply background information and images of Bray as well as copies of manuscripts.

Helyn Clack, Executive Member for Safer and Stronger Communities said: "Baseball is an integral part of American life and this news about a national obsession in the US, where homegrown sports have traditionally dominated, will reverberate far and wide. It is a game steeped in history and now Surrey County Council's History Centre and an inquisitive local historian have provided the earliest manuscript proof that the game the Americans gave to the world came from England.

"It is truly amazing that Surrey now has the earliest known reference to baseball and two of the earliest known references to cricket."

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

Ashted Peace Memorial Hall, Woodfield Road, Ashted
Saturday 28th February 2009, 10am-5pm

We are very pleased to have secured presentations by David McOmish of English Heritage on the prehistoric North and South Downs – (why) are they different?, and by Dr Matthew Pope of UCL on the recent Neanderthal discoveries just over our border with Sussex. In addition there will be, as usual, reports on work around the county, including the Roman sites at Ashted and Hatch Furlong, the training excavation at Downside Mill, a talk from the Village Studies Group, as well as updates from SCAU and the Finds Liaison Officer.

As usual, an important part of the day will be the displays of work by groups and individuals and the Margary awards will be made to the best of the amateur displays. Anyone who would like to put on a display and has not already received an invitation should contact Pauline Hulse: paulinehulse@g1mra.freeseve.co.uk, or Tel: 01483 282917.

Tickets: £8 in advance to members of SyAS, £10 to non-members and on the door. Full details and a booking form will be included with the December Bulletin.

MEDIEVAL STUDIES FORUM

SURREY'S MEDIEVAL TOWNS

The Dixon Hall, Letherhead Institute, Leatherhead
Saturday 15th November 2008

- 10.15am Tea and coffee available
10.45 Welcome and Introduction
10.50 **Archaeology and the Early Development of Surrey's Towns** Rob Poulton
11.30 **What Domesday can tell us about the Early Towns** Patrick Molineux
12.00 **The Urban Excavations in Reigate** David Williams
12.30pm AGM

- 12.45 Lunch: bring your own sandwiches or lunch in the town; tea and coffee available
- 1.45 **Civic Image and Urban Topography in the Late Medieval Town**
Helen Carrel
- 2.15 **Medieval Guildford: the County Town of Surrey** Mary Alexander
- 2.45 Break
- 3.15 **Medieval Southwark: a Grand Place to Live** Graham Dawson
- 3.45 **Aspects of 15th/16th century Southwark** Chris Constable
- 4.15pm Close

The charge for this meeting of the Forum is £6 payable on the day: no tickets will be issued. If you have not already indicated you will be attending this meeting could you please let Richard Savage know.

RIVER WEY ARCHIVES: CAN YOU HELP?

Richard Savage

A large and an important collection of papers relating to the River Wey Improvement Scheme between 1930 and 1935 has come to light in the Surrey History Centre (following discussions inspired by the Forum meeting held on Surrey's medieval waterways in October 2007). These papers include copies of a very great number of the Scheme's papers, plans and engineering drawings, being the copies deposited at SHC in November 1988 by Thames Water (the whereabouts of the original SCC papers are not known). These papers contain much detail of changes made to the historic course of the river in the 1930s, from Farnham down to Weybridge, which are likely to be of interest to all those researching aspects of the River Wey in the medieval and post-medieval periods. The papers, held under reference 3597, are still as they were received in 1988, with no coherent index of them on either the SHC computer system or the paper indices. However, there is a single file (obtainable only through the archivist and not the help desk) that contains a two-part index to the papers. The list at the back of the file specifies in very broad terms what each document is about (e.g. detailed plans for the Eel Trap replacement at Newark) and gives a reference number; one then takes this reference number to a look-up table at the front of the file which indicates the box or shelf where the detailed papers are filed. The archivist can then arrange for the desired papers to be found in the store and brought out.

Mike Page at the Surrey History Centre has confirmed there are no plans to produce in the foreseeable future a detailed catalogue of the important 'before and after' maps of the Wey and the other documents from this collection of papers, as the SHC archivists are fully employed on cataloguing the continuing accession of more traditional 'historical' documents. He has suggested that this important work could be carried out by one or two volunteers with an interest in the development of the River Wey in the medieval and later periods. Anyone interested in helping with this is asked to contact Mike Page at Surrey History Centre or Richard Savage.

VILLAGES STUDIES GROUP

Richard Savage

MANORIAL RECORDS

The Group held a very successful meeting on 20th September with the morning devoted to presentations on Manorial Records by Isabel Sullivan and Matthew Piggott, both of Surrey History Centre. During the afternoon we heard fascinating updates on the studies at Cranleigh and Hambledon, with a most interesting first presentation on the studies now in progress at Esher. We are grateful to the staff at Surrey History Centre for not only hosting this meeting but also for setting up a display of many original manorial documents with appropriate transcriptions.

SURREY MAPS AND ESTATE PLANS

Saturday 31st January 2009

We are currently planning a second meeting at Surrey History Centre, with a provisional date as above. Carole Garrad has kindly agreed to give the opening presentation on the development of Surrey maps and estate plans over the past four centuries and we will follow this up with a presentation and discussion about ways to digitally 'rectify and overlay' maps and plans of different periods. During the afternoon sessions we hope to consider other documentary sources relevant to village studies. Further information will be sent direct to all members of the Villages Study Group or can be obtained direct from Richard and Pamela Savage.

SURREY LOCAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

Surrey History Needs You

Glensy Crocker

The Society's smaller annual journal, *Surrey History*, was first published in 1973 by the Surrey Local History Council (SLHC), which had been established in 1965 as an umbrella organisation for local history societies in the county. Kenneth Gravett, then the Council's Chairman, wrote the following introduction:

'Each autumn in recent years the Annual Local History Symposium at Dorking has attracted a considerable audience and an increasing number of exhibits of good quality from Local History Societies in the county. Another index of growth of interest in historical studies is the steady rise in the number of local societies, the majority of which are members of the Surrey Local History Council. In addition to providing a worth-while hobby for their members, these societies are also extending our knowledge of the environment in many important ways. With these developments in mind, the Surrey Local History Council decided to make a positive contribution by the publication of a new magazine, 'Surrey History'. Several local Societies already publish Proceedings or Special Papers and 'Surrey History' will not interfere with these, nor will it compete with the *Surrey Archaeological Collections*, which is both more learned and wider in scope, covering also the field of excavation. It will provide a useful forum for studies over the whole range of local history, including aspects of geography, personal memories and by-gone life in the ancient county, and will allow some discussion at an earlier stage than publication in a learned journal. Initially it will appear annually and it gives me great pleasure to commend the first copy to you.'

The magazine was published for the SLHC by Phillimore, in A5 format with five issues to a volume and came out on the occasion of the annual Local History Symposium in the autumn. Over the years, the design has evolved, the number of pages has increased from 48 to (normally) 64, the Symposium has moved from Dorking (first to Guildford and then to Chertsey), and the SLHC has undergone changes, especially since Ken Gravett died in 1999. Ken could not be replaced by ordinary mortals and in 2001 the Council was wound up and replaced by a Committee of the Surrey Archaeological Society, most of the organisers having been members of both organisations. The new SLHC has published *Surrey History* from volume 6 number 4 (2002) onwards. The 2008 issue, volume 7 number 5, completes another volume.

It is therefore time to review the procedures for publishing the journal and consider possible changes to the format and presentation. However, we urgently need a new editor, who will of course be involved in the Publications Committee's planning of future issues. But if we do not find a new editor there will be no future issues.

I have been a co-editor and acting editor of recent issues but I am not willing to continue. I would be very sad to see publication cease because, as Ken envisaged

in 1973, *Surrey History* provides a useful forum in between the Society's *Bulletin* and *Collections*. It covers a wide range of subjects in an authoritative way and maintains a link with the Surrey History Centre, whose regular feature on recent acquisitions always makes fascinating reading. And people are continuing to submit articles. So please will someone come to the rescue. If you think you may be interested please contact me for further details on 01483 565821.

The SLHC would also welcome feedback from members on how they would like to see *Surrey History* develop. Please send comments to glen@glfd.freemove.co.uk or to the SLHC Secretary c/o Castle Arch.

DOMESTIC BUILDINGS RESEARCH GROUP

TIMBER FRAMED 'KITCHENS' IN EAST SUSSEX

DBRG Annual Lecture

***Saturday 8th November 2008, 2pm for 2.30pm
Shalford Village Halls, Kings Road, Shalford***

Speaker: **David Martin**

Refreshments (tea, coffee and biscuits) will be provided.

Admission charge: £2 members; £5 non-members, payable at the door.

ROMAN STUDIES GROUP

VISIT TO LULLINGSTONE VILLA

16th November 2008

Originally constructed in cAD75 of winged corridor type, the villa was rebuilt over the ensuing centuries with baths, heated rooms, mosaics and plastered walls, with evidence that the owner was a prosperous Christian land owner, and that occupation continued until cAD 420.

The villa has been closed for conservation and the improvement of visitor facilities for a number of months and reopened in July. The site is under cover, so a November visit is feasible and Brian Philp, who was involved with the early excavations, has agreed not only to give us an introductory talk but to show us around the site. The talk will start at 11am, so a 10.30 arrival time is suggested.

Refreshment facilities are available.

Entrance fee: £5.50 for adults; £4.40 for concessions with children and EH members free, with a 15% discount if the group is more than 11 people.

For most in Surrey, it is easily accessible by car, so, rather than add to the cost by hiring a coach, we should make our own way there. It is half a mile southwest of Eynsford in Kent, off the A225 and junction 3 of the M25; follow the signs to Brands Hatch (TQ 529651).

Please let me know whether you plan to come; hope to see you there. Tel: 01322 863467.

Charles van der Lande

SURREY HISTORY CENTRE

90th ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT WAR

A series of talks and events marking the anniversary of the end of World War I

Saturday 8th November

- 10am-12.30pm **MILITARY FAMILY HISTORY SESSION**
Expert help for family historians, with Duncan Sutton, Laurence Spring and Justine Pearson. 10am-12.30pm; free.
- 2pm-2.45pm **THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENTAL MUSEUM: Surrey and the Somme, Two Surrey Infantry Regiments and the 1st July 1916**
Talk by Ian Chatfield, curator of the Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Museum. Tickets: £3 or £5 for both talks.
- 3pm-3.45pm **SURREY'S WAR HOSPITALS**
Talk by Laurence Spring of Surrey Heritage. Tickets: £3 or £5 for both talks.

THE ARCHAEOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE GREAT WAR IN SURREY

Thursday 13th November; 7.30pm. A talk by Paul Bowen. Tickets: £3.

SOURCES FOR THE FORCES IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Saturday 15th November; 2-3pm. A talk by William Spenser, Principal Specialist of Military Records at the National Archives, on archival sources for ancestors in the First World War, plus book signing. Tickets: £3.

DIGGING THE TRENCHES, THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE WESTERN FRONT

Thursday 20th November, 7.30pm. A talk by Andy Robertshaw of the Royal Logistics Corps Museum and TV's *Digging the Trenches*. Tickets: £3.

R C SHERRIFF'S JOURNEY- FROM SOLDIER TO PLAYWRIGHT

Saturday 22nd November, 11am-12.15pm. A talk by David Filsell. Tickets: £3.

TIM RICHARDSON AND CRAIG APPLETON- 'SOLDIERS TWO'

Saturday 22nd November. 2-3pm. A rare opportunity to see uniforms and artefacts of a Tommy and officer from the Queens and East Surrey Regiments, c1918. Tickets: £2.

WELCOME HOME: THE RECEPTION FOR THE RETURNED QUEEN'S PRISONERS OF WAR

Thursday 27th November, 7.30pm. Duncan Sutton of Surrey Heritage. Tickets: £3.

Saturday 29th November

11.30am-12.30pm COMMEMORATING THE FALLEN: VILLAGE WAR MEMORIALS IN SURREY

Talk by Keith Grieves of Kingston University. Tickets: £4 or £10 for the day.

2-3pm BOY SOLDIERS OF THE GREAT WAR

A talk by Richard van Emden. Tickets: £4 or £10 for the day.

3.30-4.30pm TOMMY: THE BRITISH BOY SOLDIER ON THE WESTERN FRONT

A talk by Richard Holmes. Tickets £4 or £10 for the day.

For further details of the above events, and to book tickets contact the Surrey History Centre at 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking; Tel: 01483 518737.

MISCELLANY

HAMBLEDON LIMEKILN

Richard Williams

The limekiln beside the lane at Hambledon church, dating from the late 18th or early 19th century, is fronted by a long sandstone wall, an unusual feature of a small flare



kiln built to make lime for agricultural use. This was probably built as a retaining wall as the sloping ground had been cut into to provide a wide level area for carts between the churchyard boundary and the kiln site. Over long years of disuse this wall has deteriorated, mortar being lost and the wall partly damaged by tree roots and undergrowth, resulting in stones becom-

ing dislodged from its upper part, particularly in the eastern half, the extreme eastern end of which has completely collapsed.

The National Trust, who owns the kiln and adjacent land, has repaired the wall to the extent that it survives, repointing using lime mortar with a silica sand from Buckland to provide a near match to the original mortar. The draw-hole of the kiln is intact, but the firing chamber or 'pot' was filled in some years ago to prevent bottle hunters from causing further damage to the kiln interior. The National Trust's aim is to protect the kiln site from further damage by vehicles which might drive over the top of the kiln, since the ground rises from the lane to the level of the kiln top and cars are parked there by walkers. To this end the Trust will erect a fence around the kiln area and lay turf on the protected area, and will provide a limekiln information board.

Very few of such kilns in W Surrey are substantially intact so I took the opportunity to measure or estimate its dimensions. At my request, the Trust's surveyor Martin Archer got the contractor to dig a pit in front of the draw-hole down to the original floor level of the kiln. This revealed a brick floor, surprisingly about 0.75m below the present ground level, indicating that the ground between the kiln and the churchyard wall (which is opposite the kiln wall) has become raised since the kiln became disused, probably due to continual build-up of the lane surface



serving the field beyond the kiln. The length of the draw-hole is 1.2m, indicating the thickness of the kiln wall, its width 0.8m and its height from the floor to the apex of the arch is 1.4m. The contractor was also requested to dig a trench at the top of the kiln to reveal the kiln wall and the brick lining of the firing chamber. It became clear that the upper part of the outer sandstone wall was severely damaged and the top few courses of the lining of header bricks had apparently been robbed or knocked off since the kiln became disused, so the original depth of the kiln pot could only be guessed at. At the front of the kiln pot above the draw-hole position was a short length of brickwork three courses higher; if this indicates the original top of the kiln, my estimate of the depth of the kiln pot was 2.32m. However, the front wall at its

highest point above the draw-hole floor is 2.8m. If this was built to be level with the top of the kiln, the depth of the kiln would be similar to the intact limekiln at South Munstead Farm in Busbridge (although I have seen many smaller derelict kilns). The interior diameter of the kiln at the level of the surviving part of the brick lining is 2.7m, similar to the South Munstead one, which is 2.8m diameter at the base, widening in the centre and then narrowing to 2.5m at the top. (Williams 1987)

The western side of the front wall measures 6.32m from the centre of the draw-hole to its apparently undamaged limit. Eric Parker, in his book 'Surrey' in 'The County Books' series, undated, but publication date apparently 1946/7, described this kiln and said the wall was 'sloping down eight yards each side of the kiln'. The present length of 6.32m equates to 20ft 9in making his estimate a little high.

PRESERVATION OF ORGANS

Barrie Clark

I am a long standing member of SyAS but for some time have been concentrating on the preservation of historic pipe organs.

In *Bulletin 410* Phil Stevens' review of the Surrey Mediaeval Churches meeting at St. Mary's Guildford on June 14th mentioned experts who may be consulted, including those concerned with bells among other things, but not organs. The British Institute of Organ Studies (BIOS) is attempting in the forthcoming Heritage Protection Bill to bring England into line with all other western European countries which have a heritage of historic organs to ensure that they are protected. Our country remains the exception.

DCMS has stated that it will not enlarge the current range of criteria for listing, so organs can only be given protection if classed as fittings. The Draft Bill has been criticised by the Select Committee for lack of definition of 'fixture' and 'fitting'. Many organs are only fixed by their own weight (Blenheim Palace Library is one of the largest examples, weighing several tons) and there have been legal cases to decide if they are fixed or merely a fitting. This problem affects other items such as sculpture and tapestries for example.

This problem for organs is common throughout the historic buildings establishment and unfortunately this peculiarly British habit of trying to pretend that organs only exist in the minds of organists rubbed off on Sir Nikolaus Pevsner when he came to write his monumental series, *The Buildings of England*. He caught the English disease and generally ignored organs in his building descriptions, although they are clearly visible and frequently major items of architecture. Strangely he included church plate, which is almost never on display except more recently in cathedral treasuries.

While an undoubted and acknowledged expert on English architecture, Pevsner clearly had no idea about organ cases. When he did occasionally refer to them he sometimes got it all wrong or made very strange comments about them. He said this about Thaxted Parish Church in 1954, 'Organ. Said to have been made by John Harris for St.John's Chapel, Bedford Row, London in 1703.' He was at least right about its origin, but it was not his usual policy to rely on hearsay. The actual date is 1821, and it was made by Henry Cephass of Lincoln. The description of the C E Kempe case at Petworth is the single word 'vapid', a strange word to use. He later realised that the exclusion of organs was a mistake, but to be consistent they were still not referred to in any number. However the revised volumes have now as a matter of policy been including organ cases, but our cause would have been a lot easier if this policy had been established with the first volume in 1951.

In 'Heritage protection for the 21st century' published by DCMS in 2007, Annex 1 was a 'Suggested format for new Register entry (England)'. This was prepared by English Heritage and BIOS was therefore amazed and disappointed to find in the sample

register entry, using St Mary Taunton as a model, that although the fixtures and fittings were extensively listed the important late 19th century Willis organ was not mentioned; the only significant item, which appears to have been overlooked.

SyAS has done so much to champion the reform of legislation which affects our archaeological and architectural heritage, occasionally with considerable success. I would not like to think that regarding organs we have also been affected by the black hole to which successive English governments have confined our heritage of historic organs.

FREORICBURNA: AN ADDENDUM

Rob Briggs

The following note is designed as an addendum to my last article, the reasons for writing it being two-fold. The first is to highlight a potentially misleading place-name, ‘*frithesbrok*’, mentioned in the possibly post-Conquest charter-bounds for Egham, the middle of the three sets appended to the text of Frithuwold’s much earlier endowment charter (Corner 1858, 89; Gover *et al* 1934, 119). Its likely translation – “Frith’s stream” – seems apt to be connected to *Freoricburna*, yet it is highly improbable that Old English *burna* would be substituted for the synonymous term *broc* whilst an archaic personal-name prefix was retained. It is thus hard to find reason why all notion of a connection between the two should not be dismissed.

The second function of this note is to highlight that the royal *vill* first named as *Freoricburna* occurs in different forms and contexts in two further charters. Since my realization of this came too late to influence my previous submission, what follows are quotations of the relevant references from all three charters, and brief observations upon their significance and upon aspects of the documents themselves.

1. ‘*in regione Suthregeona . villa regali . nomine Freoricburna*’. Arguably the most accurate form of the place-name, it occurs in a charter of Offa, King of Mercia (Sawyer 144, Birch 275, Kemble 168; also Swanton 2000, 53). This is held to be an authentic document (Stenton 1970, 189), yet contains no dating clause, and hence cannot be ascribed to any particular year within Offa’s lengthy reign (Gelling 1979, 153, goes further than most in suggesting between c775 and 796).
2. ‘*in bica regali . que dicitur Frericburna*’. From a West Saxon charter purportedly of 838 (S 280, B 418, K 239; also Campbell 1973, 22-23). An accent below the -e- in the place-name indicates an abbreviation of an -æ- vowel. Some of the content of the charter has been identified as the work of a later Anglo-Saxon forger using a ninth-century source (Campbell 1973, xix), which perhaps explains the word ‘*bica*’, a misspelling of *vica*. However, the citation of “*Fræricburna*” as its promulgation place is held to be a feature retained from the lost source charter (Edwards 1988, 288).
3. ‘*in loco preclaro qui nominatur Fregetburna an hsuthrium*’. Contained in a charter of King Æthelberht dated 861 (S 330, B 855; also Kelly 1995, 87-91). Susan Kelly has adjudged this charter to be authentic, and usefully notes that the final two words of the quoted portion are probably a corruption of ‘*in Suthregum*’, echoing the location given in the earliest charter (Kelly 1995, 89, 91). The apparently corrupt form of the name might be explained through linguistic analogy with *frigidene*, the 963 form of the Derbyshire place-name Friden, which is believed to contain *Frige*, the genitive form of the name of the pagan goddess *Freo* (Gelling 1988, 257). Finally, in light of the explanation I advanced for the disappearance of the place-name in the last *Bulletin*, it is worth noting that the charter in question also contains the earliest genuine reference to the young prince (then a boy of no more than eleven years), who would later become known as King Alfred the Great (Smyth 1995, 378).

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FREDERICK, PRINCE OF WALES IN EPSOM

Charles Abdy

To most people, Frederick, Prince of Wales and son of George II, is known only through the unkind doggerel published on his death:

*'Here lies poor Fred, who was alive and is dead,
Had it been his father I had much rather,
Had it been his sister nobody would have missed her,
Had it been his brother, still better than another,
Had it been the whole generation, so much the better for the nation,
But since it is Fred who was alive and is dead
There is no more to be said.'*

To Sir Robert Walpole, Frederick was 'a poor weal irresolute false lying dishonest contemptible wretch that nobody loves, that nobody believes, that nobody will trust.'

This bad press did much to create a general perception of Frederick as worthless and of no account, and may explain the lack of interest in the fact that he lived in Epsom for some years in the 1730s and 1740s.

It is now realised that the attitude to the Prince was driven largely by political considerations. By the tradition of animosity between Hanoverian kings and their potential successors, Frederick supported the opposition, the Tory party, and Walpole, George II's First Minister was the leading Whig politician. In recent years the life of Frederick has been re-appraised in books such as *'The King Who Never Was'* by Michael De-la-Noy (1996) and *'A life of Frederick, Prince of Wales, 1707-1751: A Connoisseur of the Arts'* by Frances Vivian and Roger White (2007).

Quite a different picture of Frederick from that drawn by his detractors emerges: he was lively and outgoing with wide-ranging interests and was popular with the common people. His sudden death in 1751 at the age of 44 leaving a young family was a sad event. It was his eldest son who became George III on the death of George II in 1760. Not all his contemporaries agreed with the 'Poor Fred' epitaph. The writer Tobias Smollett said: 'Frederick's death afflicted all who wished well of their country. He was possessed of every amiable quality which could engage the affection of the people – a tender and obliging husband, a fond partner, a kind master, liberal, generous, candid and humane; a magnificent patron of the arts, an unwearied friend to merit; well disposed to assert the rights of mankind in general and warmly attached to the interests of Great Britain.'



Durdans: Lord Berkeley's house of the 1680s.

These days the sudden untimely death of a prince who was hated by the establishment but sufficiently popular to be known as the people's prince would give rise to endless conspiracy theories.

Frederick's connection with Epsom can be attributed to two factors: his love of horse-racing and his friendship with Lord Baltimore, who owned Woodcote Park. Although the Derby was not established until 1780, there had been racing on the Downs at an early date. It was one of the entertainments that helped to make Epsom a successful spa town. Lord Baltimore is credited with setting up in 1720 a hare warren on Walton Downs, some of the walls of which still stands to a height of eight feet or so. No doubt Frederick would have enjoyed the hare coursing when the hares bred in the enclosure were driven out through small trapdoors in the wall to be chased by dogs.

In 1739 Frederick took the lease of a large house in Epsom, Durdans, from one of the gentlemen of the bedchamber, Francis, seventh Baron North (known as Lord North). Shortly after the lease was signed a great deal of furniture and furnishings



Durdans: The later house painted by John Hassell 1817/18.

was moved there from various of Frederick's other houses and there was some redecorating. It would appear that before taking the lease of Durdans, the prince had the use of a small house at the hare warren that was lent to him by Lord Baltimore.

There is still a Durdans mansion, but the house had been rebuilt several times since it was lived in by Prince Frederick. The house at that time was the one built by Lord Berkeley in the 1680s

and which contained materials that came from the demolition of Nonsuch Palace. The great traveller Celia Fiennes has left a description of the building as it was in 1711 which includes reference to a noble lofty hall, a great parlour and a pretty chapel. The use of Durdans by the prince appears to have continued until 1747 when the building was acquired by Alderman Belchier.

A list of rents owed by Frederick on his death in 1751 refers to The Warren at Epsom, suggesting that the prince retained an interest in it even after he had left Durdans in 1747.

The story of Frederick in Epsom, and his position in the Hanoverian succession, is told in Occasional Paper no 47 published by Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society, *'Frederick, Prince of Wales in Epsom'*, by Charles Abdy.

PUBLICATION

“Woodcote Green House and other Woodcote Houses in Epsom”

by **John Parsloe**. 305 x 220mm 185pp plus illustrations ISBN: 978 9 623280.

Available from the author at 1 Woodcote Green House, Woodcote Green Road, Epsom. Surrey KT18 7SF; Tel: 01372 740715, price £25 plus £2.50 p p.

This large glossy book is a labour of love of the owner of Woodcote Green House, who has researched its history over a period of thirty years. The house dates from the last quarter of the 17th century, although there are indications of an earlier building, and later changes, particularly in the second half of the 18th century.

Woodcote Green House is listed Grade II* and is of two storeys plus attic. The alterations and additions over the years have resulted in a comfortable medium size house with an irregular picturesque layout, particularly at the back.

The author has comprehensively documented the architectural history of the building, with numerous drawings and photographs of some of the notable interior details. There is a very good Chinese Chippendale staircase and some interesting late eighteenth century mouldings. Much work has gone into identifying the owners and occupiers of Woodcote Green House: there is uncertainty before 1780, but after that things become clearer. In 1836 it was purchased by the Northey family and remained in their possession until 1954, although they did not live there. Their principal residence was Woodcote House.

The Northey family had some distinguished members, including Sir Edward Northey, 1652-1723, who was Attorney General in the reign of three monarchs: William III, Anne and George I. Major-General Sir Edward Northey 1868-1953 was a much decorated war hero.

The second part of John Parsloe's book deals with some of the other houses in the Woodcote/Woodcote Green area. This part of Epsom which lies some distance south of the High Street can be regarded as the Mayfair of the town; it was where the grand houses were built, including The Durdans, Woodcote Park and Woodcote House. As well as owning and living in Woodcote House, the Northey family owned many of the nearby properties. Houses covered in detail in this part of the book include Woodcote Place (later Westgate House), Woodcote House, Maidstone House and The Durdans. There is also information on houses which no longer stand.

An impressive range of documents has been consulted such as the surveys of Epsom of 1680 and 1755, the 1843 Tithe Map, census returns, numerous deeds, and the pedigrees of some of the families involved. The illustrations include photographs of old maps, old drawings and paintings and pictures of some of the notable personalities associated with the houses.

A human touch is given by the account of the fire which damaged Woodcote Green House in 1986 and the response of the inhabitants.

This is an unusual book; not many comparatively modest houses have been recorded in such exhaustive detail and in such a lavish format. It provides a mine of information and will be consulted for years to come.

Charles Abdy

“HIDDEN DEPTHS”

by Roger Hunt with David Graham, Giles Pattison and Rob Poulton; published jointly by Surrey Archaeological Society and Surrey County Council in 2002.

This is the best modern introduction to archaeology and history in the historic county of Surrey, and is now available to Society members **at only £5 per copy, post free.**

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Other enquiries to: archaeology@FLL.bbk.ac.uk or FLL Archaeology, 26 Russell Square, London, WC1B 5DQ 020 7631 6627.

LECTURE MEETINGS

1st November

“Gardens – from earthly paradises to Arcadian landscapes” by Judie English to the Carshalton & District History and Archaeology Society in the Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, off Nightingale Road, Carshalton at 3 pm. Visitors welcome £1.

4th November

“Fanny Burney in Surrey” by Linda Heath to the Wimbledon Society at Christchurch Hall, top of Cottenham Park Road, Wimbledon at 8 for 8.15 pm. All welcome, admission free.

4th November

“John Evelyn” by someone from the Surrey Gardens Trust to the Dorking Local History Group at the Friends Meeting House, Butter Hill, Dorking at 7.30pm. Non-members £1.

4th November

“More Stories of Old Ottershaw” by Hannah Lane to Addlestone Historical Society at Addlestone Community Centre, Garfield Road at 8 pm. Visitors welcome £2.

5th November

“Epsom through the Camera” by Jeremy Harte to Epsom & Ewell History and Archaeology Society at St Mary’s Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 7.45 for 8 pm.

8th November

AGM followed by “Cannon Hill Common” by Carolyn Heathcote to the Merton Historical Society in St James’s Church Hall, Martin Way, Merton at 2.30 pm.

10th November

“19th century Albury and the Provision of its Water Supply. Is the installation unique?” by Alan Crocker to the Guildford Archaeology and Local History Group in the Jubilee Room, United Reformed Church, Guildford at 7.30 pm. Non-members welcome £2.

11th November

“Montague Close Excavations 40 years on” by Graham Dawson to the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society at The Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut, almost opposite the Old Vic Theatre at 7 for 7.30 pm. Visitors welcome £1.

11th November

“A Remembrance Day Special” by Andrew Tatham to the Westcott Local History Group in the Reading Room, Institute Road, Westcott at 8 pm.

11th November

“Cornwall’s Mining Heritage” by Peter Stanier to the Surrey Industrial History Group (33rd Series of Industrial History Lectures) in Lecture Theatre F, University of Surrey, Guildford, 7.30-9.30 pm. Fee for single lecture £5 payable on the night.

13th November

“Leather in Archaeology” by Margaret Broomfield to the Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society in the Mayo Hall, United Reformed Church at corner of Union Street and Eden Street at 7.30 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1.50.

13th November

“Food through the Ages” by Ellsie Russell to the Farnham & District Museum Society in the hall of the United Reformed Church, South Street at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

14th November

“A Bite of the Past” by Melanie Parker and Jelena Bekvalac to the Richmond Archaeological Society at the Vestry Rooms, Paradise Road, Richmond at 8 pm. Visitors welcome by donation.

15th November

"The Life of Donald Bailey and his Bridge" by Pablo Haworth to Walton & Weybridge Local History Society at Weybridge Library Lecture Hall at 3 pm.

18th November

"The History of Wayneflete's Tower" by Penny Rainbow to the Sunbury and Shepperton Local History Society in the Theatre at Halliford School, Russell Road, Shepperton at 8pm. Non-members £1.

18th November

"London from West to East" A Thames walk for Shooting Star by David Gibbons to the Friends of Kingston Museum and Heritage Service in Kingston Museum Art Gallery, Wheatfield Way, Kingston at 7 for 7.30 pm. A voluntary donation of £1.50 to cover expenses is suggested.

19th November

"The Guildford Guy Riots" by Gavin Morgan to Send & Ripley History Society at Ripley Village Hall Annexe at 8 pm.

20th November

"The Watts Gallery" by P. Hunt to the Farnham & District Museum Society in the hall of the United Reformed Church, South Street, Farnham at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

21st November

"Brooklands and the Hurricane Aircraft" by Brian Hennegan to Leatherhead & District Local History Society at the Letherhead Institute, High Street, Leatherhead at 7.30 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £2.

25th November

"Early Wireless" by Ken Tythacott to Surrey Industrial History Group (33rd Series of Industrial History Lectures) in Lecture Theatre F, University of Surrey, Guildford, 7.30-9.30 pm. Fee for single lecture £5 payable on the night.

27th November

"Agriculture around Chertsey through the Ages" by Carl Boyd to Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society at the Literary Institute, Egham at 8 pm. Visitors welcome £2.

28th November

Members' Evening. 15 minute talks by members of the Wandsworth Historical Society at the Friends' Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street, opposite Wandsworth Town Hall at 8 pm.

1st December

AGM and Members Evening of Woking History Society at Mayford Village Hall, Saunders Lane at 7.45 pm. Visitors welcome £2.

2nd December

Social Evening of Addlestone Historical Society at Addlestone Community Centre at 8 pm.

2nd December

"The Exploring Surrey's Past Project" by Giles Carey to the Dorking Local History Group at the Friends Meeting House, Butter Hill, Dorking at 7.30pm. Non-members £1.

3rd December

Christmas Party of the Epsom & Ewell History and Archaeology Society at St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 7.45 for 8pm. Members and friends only.

4th December

Supper Quiz of Farnham & District Museum Society in the hall of the United Reformed Church, South street, Farnham at 7.30 for 7.45pm.

6th December

"The early history of Honeywood and Carshalton ponds" by John Phillips to the Carshalton & District History and Archaeology Society in the Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, off Nightingale Road, Carshalton at 3 pm. Visitors welcome £1.

6th December

"Menageries" by Cheryl Sands to the Walton & Weybridge Local History Society at Weybridge Library Lecture Hall at 3pm. Visitors welcome £1.

6th December

"The History of Scotland Yard" by Maggie Bird to Merton Historical Society in Raynes Park Library Hall, Aston Road at 2.30pm.

7th December

Social Evening of Addlestone Historical Society at Addlestone Community Centre, Garfield Road at 8pm.

9th December

AGM and Presidential Lecture "Local Museums and The Heritage" by Dennis Turner to Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society at The Housing Co-op Hall, The Cut, almost opposite the Old Vic Theatre at 7 for 7.30pm. Visitors welcome £1.

8th December

Group Meeting, including a short account of recent finds processing by Audrey Monk to the Guildford Archaeology and Local History Group in the Classroom at Guildford Museum, Castle Arch at 7.30 pm. New members of the Group are always welcome – annual subscription £5.

9th December

"Members' Talks" to Surrey Industrial History Group (33rd Series of Industrial History Lectures) in Lecture Theatre F, University of Surrey, Guildford, 7.30-9.30 pm. Fee for single lecture £5 payable on the night.

11th December

AGM followed by Christmas Celebration and Presidential Address: "Changes to the Portable Antiquities Scheme" by Angela Evans to Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society in the Mayo Hall, United Reformed Church at the corner of Union Street and Eden Street. Visitors welcome £1.50.

12th December

"Bermondsey Abbey: 10 years of Excavation" by Alistair Douglas to the Richmond Archaeological Society at the Vestry Rooms, Paradise Road, Richmond at 8 pm. Visitors welcome by donation.

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Next Issue: Copy required by 14th November for the December issue.

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