



Registered Charity No: 272098

ISSN 0585-9980

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# Bulletin 443

February 2014

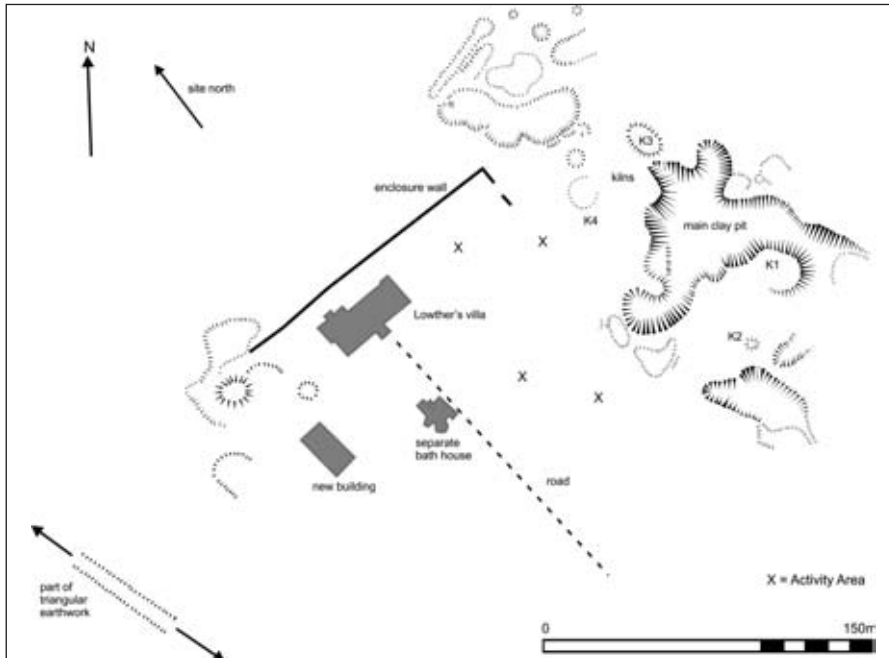


**ASHTEAD TILERY:**  
**Sampling John Hampton's 'K1' site**  
*The difficulties of fieldwork on the Common!*

## ASHTEAD VILLA AND TILEWORKS

*David Bird*

The final, main season of excavation on Ashtead Common was undertaken by the Society's Roman Studies Group in August and September last year. The ground was very dry at first at the end of the long dry spell, making excavation difficult, but it did allow work in places that would usually have been under water (and indeed were at the end of the dig). The excavation was aimed principally at completing work on the area of the newly discovered building, the Lowther Roman villa and the tile kiln(s). A number of other trenches were placed to follow up the results of earlier test pitting and to gather tile samples across a wider area for future scientific testing. It proved to be a very successful season, producing a great deal of new information and tidying up many loose ends.



*Overall sketch plan (illustration: Alan Hall, based on Hampton 1977, fig 2, 30 and surveying by David and Audrey Graham).*

In the unavoidable absence of Gillian Lachelin, trenches 16 and 18 were supervised by Emma Corke, with assistance from Alan Hall. Parts of last year's trenches were reopened as had been intended, and widened into a large area excavation over much of the 'new' building. Two small southern extensions found evidence for an outer wall to match that previously located along the northern side of the building, and careful excavation eventually revealed the line of a return of this outer wall along the east side of the building among a wide spread of rubble. It survived mostly as a pronounced line of rubble set into a cut feature but a small section with the facing flints of the wall survived in one place. We can therefore see a development through time starting with a simple rectangular structure with some possibly later internal divisions. This was extended by the addition of slighter walls wrapping round the building on three sides with perhaps an entrance in the east centre. In turn, this side may have had an added portico marked by postholes. Finds included more early

pottery including sherds of a shattered Cologne roughcast folded beaker and part of a terra rubra imitation platter likely to be Neronian. Some of this early material was shown to be within the fill of a shallow but wide pit or depression, which may have been associated with a nearby ditch. Part of the pit or depression underlay the main building wall, which may therefore be somewhat later than was first thought. It is still likely to date towards the end of the 1st century AD but confirmation must await more detailed study of the finds. As before a considerable amount of tile rubble was found, including many fragments of box tile, some combed and some with relief patterning.

Trenches 24, 26, 27 and 29 were supervised by Roger Brookman. The first two were in the area north of the 'new' building, the others on the Lowther villa and further east. The small trench 24 located a trace of the enclosure wall near a small clay pit to the north of the 'new' building. Although it could not be proven, it is likely that the enclosure wall is later than the pit and its upcast, as it is unlikely to be coincidence that the wall neatly excludes the pit and equally unlikely that the upcast was thrown over the wall into the enclosure.

Trench 26 explored a circular depression thought possibly to be a well. Lowther's report (1927, 147) mentions (but does not locate) a well within 100 yards of the villa, which cannot be the known spring north of the site as this is too far away. There is evidence to suggest that Arthur Cotton intended to test it – which might therefore have resulted in an existing depression, although, as it is said to have been in use and not filled in until the later 19th century, subsequent slumping of the fill could also be the explanation. The trench produced some Roman tile and pottery and indications of disturbance into the natural subsoil but there was no convincing evidence for a well.

Three trenches on the Lowther villa were placed at each end (28 and 17, supervised by David Calow), and in the middle outside the back wall (27). Trench 28 was



*Trench 28, view looking east. Room 13 to right.*

intended to test the western end of the building where it had supposedly been mostly destroyed. It included part of the dividing wall between rooms 12 and 13 and part of the latter's floor, which was found to have a chalk rubble base with crushed brick over it. It was only just below the current ground surface and surely must have been found and excavated by Lowther (or perhaps Cotton), but receives no mention in the excavation reports where the implication is that the floors in this area were either lost or were rough tessellated surfaces over yellow clay (Lowther 1929, 3). A hint of such a floor was indeed found in room 12. There was no sign of any rooms or flooring west of rooms 12 and 13, but if there had been a late extension into this area it could have been shallow and lost in later disturbance. That this may have been the case is suggested by the results of a small extension of the trench to the west where it cut the known gutter but also produced just sufficient evidence to indicate an adjoining outer villa wall with a shallow foundation very like that previously found in trench 17 at the east end of the villa.

The north-south wall bounding the western side of rooms 12 and 13 had a deep solid foundation with a turn to the east into their dividing wall, but the walling above it seemed to be rather roughly laid on it as though it might be another example of the late phase in which the villa level was raised. There was, however, no clear sign of the lower floor level, which ought to have existed in that case, although there was some evidence suggestive of an earlier tiled surface.

A small extension to the 2010 trench 17 proved that the previously noted robber trench running parallel with the villa's eastern outer wall did run right through to join the front wall (leaving a few flints in situ where the walls joined). The idea that this wall was a match for the narrow corridor turn found by Lowther at the western end was thus confirmed. In view of the new evidence for a late period wall alongside the gutter in trench 28 similar to that found in the previous trench 17 it is possible to argue that both ends of the villa were extended in the final 'raising' phase and given extra rooms.



*Trench 17, view looking south. Robber trench in centre, cutting chalk floor (visible to the left but mostly obscured by later deposits to the right), and joining remnants of front wall at a right angle, with the tile base of the gutter bounded by two small flint walls beyond. Note that the front wall appears to be a different build beyond the join.*

Trench 27 was placed to examine the northern side of the junction between rooms 6 and 4. It was quickly established that the outer walls of the two rooms were of different builds and that room 4 had been added to 6, which supports conclusions drawn from evidence found last year in trench 21. This raises interesting questions about how this area developed which cannot be fully answered due to a lack of evidence, but it is now possible to identify a number of phases here. Further analysis is needed but it is now clear that the overall sequence on the villa site had three main periods: a chalk floored structure on a somewhat different footprint from the later building; a new stone-founded structure with at least three main phases; and a final raising period with extensions along both sides out to a gutter, probably also including construction of the attached bath house.

Trenches 9, 23 and 30 were supervised by Nikki Cowlard. The first of these extended the tile kiln trench across the full width of the back (western side) of the kilns and explored the area outside to the west. At the higher level a line of roughly-stacked tile was probably part of the building-up of the later kiln's back wall and below that the well-built back and side walls of the earlier kiln were found, except where there had been robbing in the north-west corner. In the opposite corner (near the junction of side and back walls) what seems to have been a deliberately laid vent was made by placing imbrices curved side up through and continuing outside the wall. It was clearly associated with the first period kiln and was probably just above the floor of



*Trench 9 looking south. The back wall of the kilns runs at an angle across the centre of the photograph; in the centre to the right is the tiled approach with its southern bounding wall showing the upward angle; to the left the darker tiles are the remnants of the central arch of the westernmost side flue wall of the later kiln; part of another side flue wall shows at the edge of the trench on the left. The two large puddles sit on the clay fill above which the base of the second kiln was set, while tiles showing below the fill are part of the construction of the first kiln's side flue walls, made visible by the robbing out of the north-west corner of the kiln's outer walls*

its firing chamber. The intention was presumably to draw the heat right through to the furthest corner of the kiln. No doubt there was once a matching vent at the north-west corner but this had been damaged to below the relevant height. It may be a unique survival, as it has not yet been possible to find any parallels in general works on tile kilns (eg McWhirr 1979; Le Ny 1988; Brandl & Federhofer 2010), nor was it a feature known to either David Rudling or Grahame Soffe, who visited the site (both have dug and published tile kilns).

Widening the trench made it possible to see the whole of the tiled approach to the rear of the kiln, exactly along the line of the central flue. It had tile-built side walls and the better surviving southern one showed a clear change to an upward incline as it went away from the kiln, no doubt sloping up to the contemporary ground level as was to be expected. It must have been built for the first kiln and been intended to facilitate loading and unloading of the kiln. There seem to be few parallels but those at Eccles and Heiligenberg kiln 1 might be noted (McWhirr 1979, 157-8; Le Ny 1988, 77; fig 38, 98); Ashtead's seems to be the best survival. Another tiled surface was found at a higher level to the north-west of the kiln and there were traces of another outside the south-west corner of the kiln; no doubt tiles were laid flat wherever a working surface was required.

The modern path from the kiln site to Lowther's villa passes through a pronounced roughly circular dip, recorded by John Hampton's survey just north of his possible K4 kiln site. It was thought possible that this might have been a puddling pit in origin and so the opportunity was taken to cut a machine section across half of the feature



*The upper part of the face pot (height of piece shown approx 95mm)*

(trench 23). This and subsequent hand-digging and augering established that it was a sloping-sided pit over 2.5m deep. It had been backfilled in a sequence of layers, some clearly of kiln-related debris with many wasters, but others with strange thick mottled fills which Jane Corcoran, English Heritage Scientific Adviser, thought might be trample material. Samples were taken as advised by Jane and Becky Lambert and arrangements are in hand to have them carefully analysed. This may help in understanding the purpose of the pit, which seems to have been too deep for puddling clay.

Finds in the pit were almost entirely of tile (including both relief-patterned and combed flue tile) apart from a large proportion of a face pot. This was found in many fragments in very difficult conditions on the side of the pit towards the base, within the lowest level of fill, a sticky grey clay with much charcoal and large pieces of tile. It is likely to have been placed originally complete, as that is how they are often found, but had obviously been shattered in antiquity as sherds were found layered in the fill. The pot is one of the late Gillian Braithwaite's type 13D, made in Verulamium or London and probably to be dated to the Hadrianic or Antonine periods (Braithwaite 2007, 261-4; fig J7, 272). Enough survived to make it possible to reconstruct the whole profile and most of the face, and show that it had three handles. A ritual use is likely for such a pot and it should probably be seen as part of an offering, perhaps a thank you for the quality of the clay removed from the pit and/or a request for successful firing of the next kiln load. Braithwaite comments (2007, 255) that both face pots and tazze seem to have been 'closely associated with the army and the military community in the western provinces.' Ashtead can now be shown to have both (for a tazza see eg Lowther 1929, plVb, opp 8), adding yet more weight to the case for postulating a military link of some sort for the site (Bird 2004, 116-8).

Trenches 29 and 30 were placed to examine more carefully two areas tested in the spring. The first located a spread of small flints apparently forming a rough surface, with associated pottery and tile. The second found a dense scatter of tile with associated pottery. In both cases the locations seem to be too far away to be explained as rubbish disposal from the known buildings. This evidence can be added to that from the previous trench 13, from John Hampton's site B4 (close to trench 30) and his Area A, as indicative of the presence nearby of workshops or similar structures; they are indicated on the overall plan as 'activity areas'. Finally, two of Hampton's 'K' sites (K1 and K2) were sampled to produce tiles for the ongoing programme of analysis (see Frontispiece). Some relief-patterned tile was found at each site, whose location round the other side of the main clay pit from the kilns in trench 9 is another indication of the scale of the tile-making operation.

The discoveries made during the life of the project have transformed our knowledge of this fascinating and important site, although there undoubtedly remains a great deal more to learn. It is also now possible to achieve a much better understanding of the earlier reports, and the on-going studies of the finds (including reassessment of those from the earlier excavations) will undoubtedly add further significant information.

At the end of the excavation significant parts of the archaeology were covered in terram and where necessary backfilled by hand. Many thanks are due to everyone who took part including those who helped to prepare the site, keep it clean and safe and clear up afterwards, sometimes in very trying conditions. The interpretation offered here owes a great deal to discussion with the supervisors and diggers, and with visiting archaeologists. Recording and photography were kept under control by Rose Hooker and Stella Fagg respectively, David and Audrey Graham provided site surveying expertise, Mairi Sargent carried out metal detecting, Joanna Bird identified key finds, Irene Goring coordinated volunteers, and finds work on site was undertaken by AARG, led by Isabel Ellis. They coped remarkably well with literally

barrow loads of tile, but fortunately had the occasional nice pot to cheer them up. The Estate staff provided enthusiastic assistance and support as always; special thanks are due to Luke Ellis, Sean O'Kelly, Andy Thwaites and Shaun Waddell. Rose Hooker and Jen Newell managed a school visit and led well-attended tours for the Heritage Open Days, when displays on and near the site were arranged by AARG, who explained a handling collection of finds throughout the day. Visits from the Association for Roman Archaeology and CBASE were also hosted, and it was a great pleasure to receive a visit from John Hampton, whose fieldwork in the 1960s has been the foundation for much of the current project.

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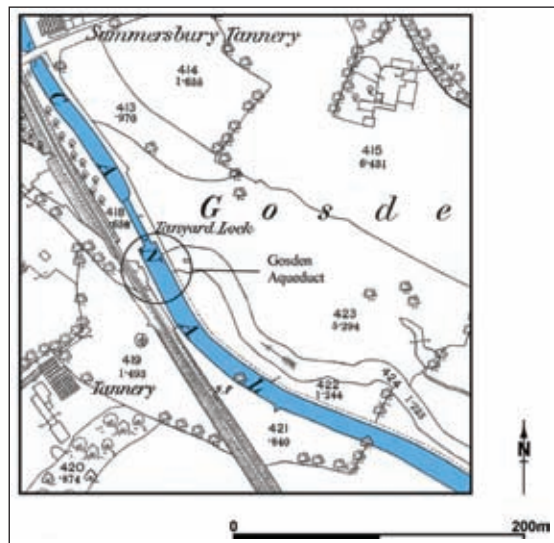
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## AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION ON THE AQUEDUCT OF THE WEY & ARUN JUNCTION CANAL, SHALFORD

*Martin Cook and Alan Johnson*

### Introduction

An excavation on the aqueduct in Gosden Meadow, Shalford (TQ 0065 4559) was undertaken at the request of Alan Johnson of the Wey & Arun Canal Trust.

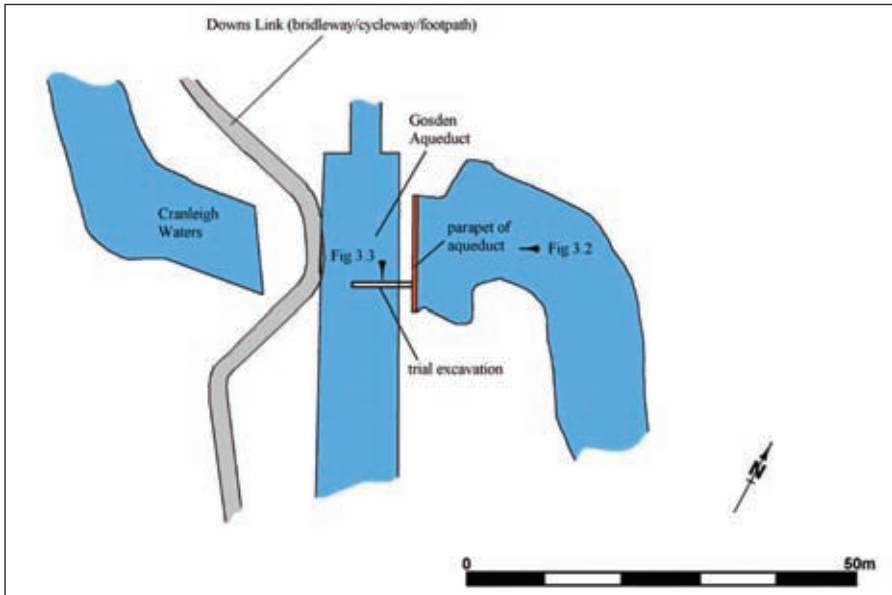


Plan of aqueduct in 1872

The Wey & Arun Canal Society was formed in 1970 and became a charitable trust in 1973. Since then considerable progress has been made in returning the overgrown canal channel to public view, reinstating towpaths, repairing surviving structures and returning almost four of the 18 miles of the canal to navigation.

An important element of the restored waterway will be reconnection of the northernmost reach of the canal with the national inland waterways network at Gun's Mouth, Shalford. This task poses a





*Location of excavation*

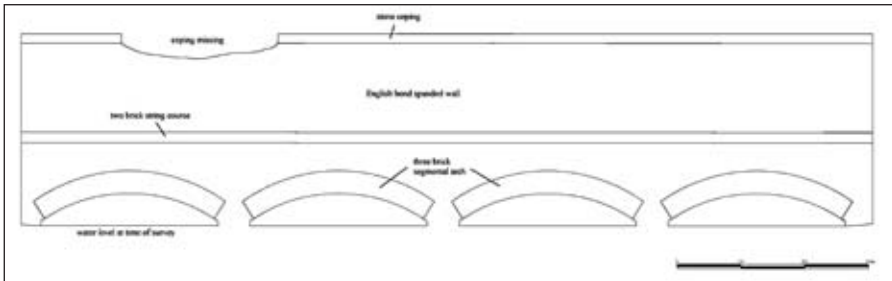
particular challenge between Stonebridge, Shalford and Birtley, south of Bramley, because much of the former course has been absorbed into private gardens. The Trust believes that reconnection can be achieved partly through excavation of a canal channel, and partly through the use of some reaches of the Cranleigh Waters.

At Gosden Meadow, between Shalford and Bramley, Gosden aqueduct, an important structure of the former canal, largely survives. Though it is unlikely that this former aqueduct would be used to reinstate the navigation southwards from Gun's Mouth, the structure deserved investigation as it is highly unusual in being very wide between parapet walls – more than wide enough to accommodate full-width canal channel – an arrangement which contrasts with the general principle of providing single boat-width channels on aqueducts to minimise structure, and thereby construction, costs. One hundred and forty years of disuse has obscured the form of the channel on top of the aqueduct, and archaeological investigation offered the opportunity to establish if the full-width canal channel shown on the 1872 1st edition, 25 inches to the mile Ordnance Survey map was carried in a brick-lined trough (brickwork being the general aqueduct construction) or formed in earthen fill. Additionally, such work would reveal more of the aqueduct's construction to inform proposals for its repair.

### ***Historical background***

The development of inland waterways in Surrey and Sussex was not a story of grand schemes, such as those conceived to link the principal rivers of the Midlands, but a series of piecemeal improvements, primarily to river navigations. By 1763 the Godalming Navigation had extended the navigable River Wey southwards to Godalming and 24 years later the Arun Navigation reached as far as Newbridge, west of Billingshurst. By the early years of the 19th century the war with France caused increasing concern over the loss of British merchant ships to French privateers and revived the idea (first proposed in the 17th century) of connecting London to the south coast by inland waterway. A gap of around 16 miles remained between Newbridge

and the Godalming Navigation at Shalford. George O'Brien Wyndham (1751-1837) the 3rd Earl of Egremont, was the principal sponsor of an artificial cut – the Wey & Arun Junction Canal – which was designed to close this gap, and the canal was constructed between 1813 and 1816. Gosden aqueduct is located on the stretch of canal which linked Gun's Mouth, Shalford (junction with the Godalming Navigation) with Bramley. The authoritative history of the connected waterways of Surrey and West Sussex: *London's Lost Route to the Sea* (Vine 1988), states that by August 1815 the northernmost section of the canal was open for transport of goods to and from Bramley wharf. The structure was designed by the canal company's consulting engineer, Josias Jessop (1781-1826), the second son of William Jessop (1745-1814), who was a notable engineer of river navigations, canals and pioneer railways. The aqueduct is of conservative design: a simple mass brickwork structure of four segmental arch vaults that carries the canal across the Cranleigh Waters.



*Eastern elevation of aqueduct*



Navigation on the Junction Canal was ended by Act of Parliament in 1871, but the former aqueduct survives to carry the Downs Link footpath (established 1984) over the river.

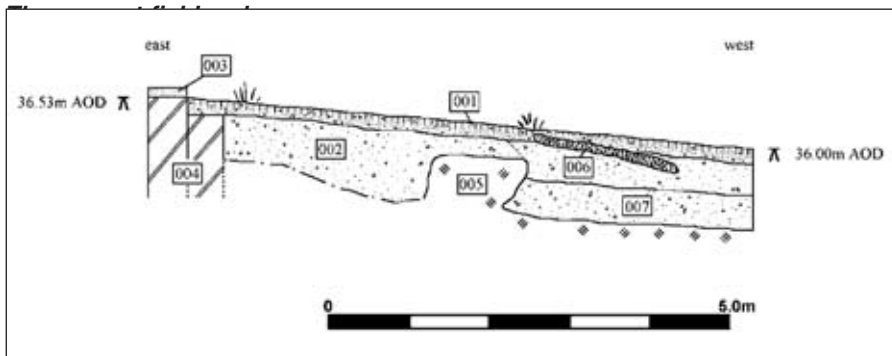
Gosden Aqueduct, is registered on the Surrey Historic Environment Record (SMR 3371), where described as a simple, low, four-arch brick structure over 50 feet wide between the parapets. It forms part of the Wey and Arun Canal which, in the vicinity of Gosden Meadow, is registered as SMR 3370: Gosden Canal and Railway Bridge. The bridge is the remains of one over the Wey and Arun Canal that are incorporated into a much larger railway bridge carrying Gosden Common Road over the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway Guildford to Horsham line (opened 1865 closed 1965).

### ***Site formation processes***

This relates to the 'soft' deposits only and considers their development after the canal was abandoned (post-depositional processes). The brick aqueduct is not considered here. No removal of deposits associated with the canal construction appears to have taken place but some degree of truncation may be inferred (see below). The clay puddle lining (context 005) forming the base of the navigable channel and the edges of the canal, rising up the side of the construction forming the towpath (in part context 002), appears to be intact (although it may be incomplete). It was, however, strangely deformed to its west (see below) and this is considered to be a post-abandonment feature. It is thought that the passing and re-passing of heavy vehicles has exerted pressure upon what would always have been a plastic layer and has forced it into its present shape. It is almost certain that deposits relating to the canal's use have been removed. There was no evidence for a deposit of silt on top of the clay puddle. It seems likely that this was removed as being too compressible when the line of the canal and the aqueduct became a thoroughfare.

### ***Previous archaeological work***

A desk-based assessment (Cook and Johnson 2010) sought to bring together findings of desktop and field research into civil engineering features on other canals of the English inland waterways system broadly contemporary with those of the Wey & Arun Junction Canal. The object was to determine the likely nature of any deposits encountered during the course of archaeological investigation or restoration. A topographic and level survey at a scale of 1:500 was undertaken (Johnson 2011), principally to assist in the location of services with respect to the buried canal features, but it has been used in a modified form in this report for the location of the trench on the aqueduct.



*Section of trench*

Fieldwork in September 2013 comprised the excavation of a c7m long and 0.6m wide trench above the first pier of the aqueduct from the southern bank of the Cranleigh Waters. All excavation was carried out by hand to avoid disturbance of the aqueduct, and context descriptions have been kept to a minimum to assist readability (see full descriptions in the Appendix). Removal of the topsoil (001) revealed the sub-surface brickwork of the eastern elevation of the aqueduct (004) and a gravel layer (006). The brickwork is in English bond, and within the limits of the trench a counterfort design was identified. (A counterfort retaining wall is a cantilever wall with buttresses, attached to the inside face of the wall to resist lateral thrust) (<http://www.britannica.com>). The gravel layer appeared to have been the remains of a footpath, and it falls noticeably from east to west, probably reflecting the surviving profile of the canal channel when the path was laid. Beneath it was a layer of yellowy-buff sand with pebbles that appeared undifferentiated from east to west (002). This was originally thought to have been imported to fill and stabilize the canal channel where it crossed the aqueduct. At the eastern end of the trench, however, it was clear that it continued below the level of the surviving puddle clay (005). Thus, it is likely that this material formed the original towpath construction. Along the rest of the trench, where it occupies the original channel of the canal, it must be a post-abandonment deposit, re-deposited from the towpath. The implication of this is that the level of the towpath, and therefore the parapet of the aqueduct which contained it, was once significantly higher. The height of the puddle clay would also have been higher than currently survives, which would explain a curious anomaly. The puddle clay levels off at the western end of the trench beneath context 007, and this must represent the bottom of the navigable channel. The depth so provided, however, is less than a metre, which must be inadequate. The additional depth provided by the raising of the aqueduct parapet and the adjacent towpath would be significant here.

### **Discussion**

Parallels for the Gosden Meadow aqueduct were sought. In *The cyclopaedia or universal dictionary of arts, sciences and literature* (Rees 1819-20), a section on aqueducts is devoted almost entirely to cast iron channels.

The following appears under the sub-heading of 'embankments': *In every considerable embankment there will be required one or more arches to convey a brook or river under the canal...such arches should always have an inverted arch turned below them, deep enough for the bottom of the brook...and the arch itself should be one of equilibration. Great care should be taken to slope off and finish the ends of arches under an embankment, agreeable to the slopes or sides of the banks thereof; by which the banks are prevented from mouldering down into the brook or road-way, and awkward projections in the slopes of the banks are avoided. At the entrance or upper side of a water arch, or of road arches that will occasionally become such, return or wing walls of brickwork or stone should be made, for some distance along the bottom of the slope of the embankment, and the sharp corners of the entrance of the arch should be a little rounded off to prevent the rapidity of sudden floods from wearing or injuring the bank.*

In a section on 'culverts': *They should be carefully apportioned in size to the stream that is to pass through them in flood, and should be constructed of sound brick or stone work, and inclosed, or at least well covered on their upper side with puddle. Culverts are of so much importance that too much care can hardly be taken to make them solid and secure, and to cover them effectually with puddle; another hint we would give here respecting the choice of places for culverts; they should never, if possible to avoid it, be made exactly in an old brook course, ditch or slough, but in the nearest sound ground; and where often they can be got down to the proper depth, without any trouble from water, or at least the same can be easily pumped out; and*

*the stream need not be admitted to the work, until the old brook or slough is required to be filled up. In this way the brook may be completely excluded from them until the mortar be completely set before the new channel ... needs be cut.*

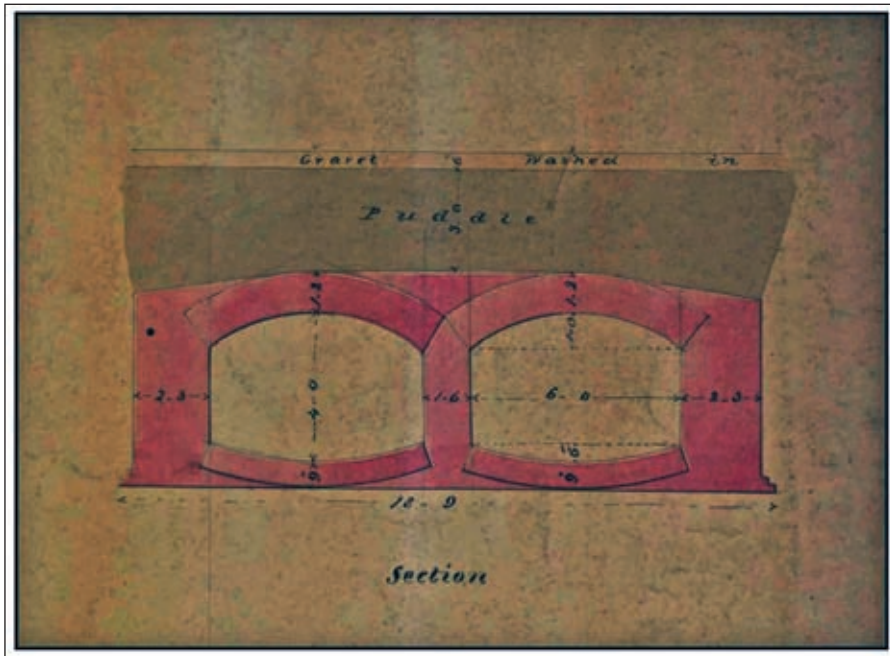
The conclusion to be drawn is that the structure at Gosden Meadow is more appropriately a culvert rather than an aqueduct. However, in the Surrey History Centre is a collection of documents including correspondence from Josias Jessop regarding this structure:

*London January 11 1816*

*Dear Sir*

*At the request of the Committee I \_\_\_ to you my account against \_\_\_ in July \_\_\_ in which there was a balance due to me of 90-15 - since that time in drawing a bridge for Hope Farm and \_\_\_ \_\_\_ one journey to see the Gosden Aqueduct I have to add 5 days and £3.10 travelling expenses which makes the account 120/5 \_\_\_ a letter \_\_\_ which I don't know how to charge and therefore \_\_\_.*

In this document the designer of the structure refers to it as an aqueduct. Perhaps the only reliable conclusion that can be drawn is that at this period there was no clear distinction between these types of structure. With regard to the construction of the aqueduct, another such structure was designed for the crossing of the Loxwood River at Drungewick on behalf of the 'Arun and Wey Junction Canal'. Also the work of Jessop, this is of the same mass brick construction, has the same segmental arches and, crucially, employs a granular material and puddle clay to form the canal.



*Aqueduct at Drungewick on the Wey & Arun Canal*

### **Summary**

The internal structure of the spandrel wall of the aqueduct was determined by excavation, as was the extent of the surviving clay puddle. It appeared that the parapet had been lowered in height and the soft deposits, comprising the towpath and the clay puddle, reduced in level. This was inferred from the apparent inadequate depth available to boats if the extent of the surviving clay puddle was all it had ever been.

### **Acknowledgements**

The authors would particularly like to thank Brian Hurst, landowner; members of the Forestry Team of the Waterways Recovery Group, members of the Kent & East Sussex Canal Restoration Group and members of the Newbury Working Party Group.

### **Appendix: Context list**

- 001 Dark grey brown sandy loam with occasional small, angular pebbles. Topsoil
- 002 Light yellow-buff lightly cemented sand with occasional small, angular pebbles (possibly imported material to fill former canal channel) and occasional brick fragments of re-deposited towpath material
- 003 Row of rectangular stones Coping for parapet of aqueduct; possibly relaid at a lower level
- 004 English bond brickwork Spandrel wall of aqueduct including counterfort(s)
- 005 Mid-green-grey tenacious clay: puddle for canal
- 006 Abundant small to medium rounded gravel in a matrix of context 001 Remains of a footpath; its slope from east to west may reflect the surviving profile of the canal channel when the path was laid
- 007 Light brown lightly cemented sand with occasional small, angular pebbles ?imported material to fill former canal channel.

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<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/499892/retainingwall?anchor=ref226920>

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## **RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

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### **ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM**

***Saturday 15th February 2014***  
***Peace Memorial Hall, Ashtead***

The Research Committee's Annual Symposium will, as usual, report on recent work in the county.

Aspects of National Designation will be discussed by Joe Flatman (English Heritage), and Community Archaeology will be covered jointly by Rebecca Lambert (EH) and Abby Guinness(SCC). A report on the **Flexford** excavations will be made by David Calow and an interesting historic presentation about **Ashtead Roman Villa** will be given by David Bird. There will also be a talk by Sue Jones on the Bargemen of the River Wey and Hugh Anscombe (SIHG) will discuss What happened to the woollen cloth industry. Rob Poulton will present an update about **Woking Palace** and David Williams will talk about Recent finds in Surrey

Tickets will be available in advance from Castle Arch.  
Exhibitions for the Margary Award are welcome and will be on display.

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## VILLAGE STUDY GROUP

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### SPRING MEETING

*8th March 2014*

*Surrey History Centre, Woking*

Our next meeting will focus on the pioneering work of **Dennis Turner** who founded the group as part of the Society's Millennium Project. It is hoped that many of those who have been encouraged and helped by Dennis Turner will attend, to acknowledge his input and share their appreciation.

We are delighted that **Professor Christopher Dyer** has agreed to speak at the meeting, and **Richard Savage** will be giving a pre-publication presentation on the Old Woking volume. **Jo Richards** and **David Taylor** will be amongst those giving brief reports on aspects of their work and problems encountered, and anyone else contemplating a village study is welcome.

A full programme will be published in due course but in view of the likely demand for places, you are advised to register your interest with Jo Richards: email [jomrichards@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jomrichards@yahoo.co.uk) or Tel: 01372 374034

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## SURREY LOCAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

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### EDUCATION IN SURREY

#### SLHC ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

*Saturday 5th April 2014*

*Ashtead Peace Memorial Hall, Ashtead*

We have a very full and varied programme for this years symposium, with some excellent speakers which we are sure will be of great interest to local historians across the county.

9.15am	Registration
9.55	Chairman's Opening Remarks <i>Dr. Gerry Moss</i> , Chairman, Surrey Archaeological Society Local History Committee
10.00	<b>Education in the early modern period in Surrey</b> <i>Dr Catherine Fergusson</i> , Surrey Archaeological Society?
10.40	<b>Reigate Grammar School</b> <i>Peter Burgess</i> , Archivist, RGS
11.10	Coffee
11.40	<b>'Knowledge no more a fountain sealed' - girls' education 1838-1944</b> <i>Dr Stephanie Spencer</i> , Head of Education Studies, University of Winchester
12.20	<b>Women, Art and Technical Education in Surrey</b> <i>Dr Stephen Knott</i> , University of Creative Arts (formerly Farnham, Guildford and Epsom Art Colleges)

1pm	Lunch
2	Presentation of the Gravett Award and Introduction to the Afternoon Session by <i>David Callow</i> , Hon. Secretary, Surrey Archaeological Society
2.05	<b>Distinctive and Inclusive: The National Society and Church of England Schools 1811 – 2011</b> <i>Lois Loudon</i> , author of book of same title, published 2012 to mark the bi-centenary of the National Society.
2.45	<b>The British Schools and the Legacy of Joseph Lancaster</b> <i>Terry Ransome</i> , British Schools Museum, Hitchin
3.25	Tea
3.55	<b>From a school for "the sons of farmers" 1865, to the Cranleigh School of 1939</b> <i>Mike Paine</i> , Retired Master, Cranleigh School
4. 25	<b>Education for people with learning disabilities - the work of the Royal Earlswood Hospital</b> <i>Anne Lea</i> , author "Royal Earlswood – A History"
4.55	Chairman's closing remarks
5pm	Close

Cost: £10 if registered in advance. Please register with Janet Balchin at [janet.balchin@btinetnet.com](mailto:janet.balchin@btinetnet.com); Hullbrook Cottage, Cranleigh Road, Ewhurst GU6 7RN; 01483 277342. Applications will be acknowledged by email, postal applications will also be accepted, not be acknowledged (unless SAE included)

Tickets will not be sent out – please pay on the day. They will also be available on the day for non-registered attendees at £12.

The hall has a Pay and Display car park – please use the far side of the car park for long term car parking. Ashtead is also served by bus and rail.

Tea and coffee are included. Ashtead has a good selection of cafes and pubs, or bring a packed lunch.

Local History Societies are invited to put on displays and the Gravett Award will be awarded to the society judged to have produced the best display. Display space is free but we tactfully remind you that those manning stands must purchase tickets for the Symposium. If you would like to bring a display please contact Glenys Crocker at 6 Burwood Close, Guildford GU1 2SB; 01483 565821; [glen@glfd.freemove.co.uk](mailto:glen@glfd.freemove.co.uk)

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## SURREY HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

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### 2013 Conference: Environmental Archaeology and Scientific Techniques

Last years annual conference explored themes relating to Environmental Archaeology and Scientific Techniques, and the morning session was chaired by David Calow who introduced a day devoted to an important topic which has a real impact on the interpretation of excavation results.

The opening talk discussed the contribution of **General Pitt Rivers** to the early development of archaeological science. Drawing upon the extensive archive held by the Pitt Rivers Museum, Carlotta Gardner used the work of the General in Surrey to



focus on the development of his methods. Rebecca Lambert, who had organised the conference, looked at the use of **Environmental archaeology in developer-led work in southeast England** and whether the data retrieved had the potential to enhance understanding. This was followed by Jane Corcoran who explained **The role of the English Heritage Science Advisor** and encouraged the audience to use the advice available in order to make best use of limited funds.

After lunch Richard Savage took the chair and introduced Nick Branch who spoke about three collaborative projects being organised by the University of Reading, to study **Environmental archaeology and quaternary science in Surrey and south-east England**. These projects aim to study wetlands, both natural and manmade, and heathlands.

Before introducing the next two speakers Richard Savage announced some 'breaking news' about the archaeomagnetic dating of hearths in the detached kitchen of Woking Palace, towards the cost of which the Society had substantially contributed. The results had yet to be considered in the light of stratigraphy and the pottery recovered around the areas of sampling, but the results implied that the kitchen had come into use and been abandoned earlier than had been assumed to date.

Sarah Paynter then discussed the nature of **Surrey Ironworking**, firstly during the Iron Age when it seems to have been a major industry before the coming of the Romans who concentrated their industry in the Weald. The next period when Surrey became an important area for innovative ironworking was during the post-industrial phase. In the final session, Paola Ponce used a case study from Chichester to illustrate the methods used in **Modern skeletal analysis**.

The conference successfully introduced new scientific methods, and provided fresh perspectives on existing techniques. It is envisaged that some of these methods of research will feed into practical projects undertaken by society members, in particular, aspects of environmental archaeology, for which training and equipment is already being provided by the society.

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## MEDIEVAL STUDIES FORUM

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### SPRING MEETING

*15th March 2014*

*Cobham Village Hall, Lushington Drive, Cobham*

The Spring meeting of the Forum will include talks by Dr John Baker of Nottingham University will give a presentation on **Place Names and Local History** and Rphaelle Schwartzburg currently studying for a PhD at LSE will talk on **Mobility in Surrey in the 16th century: evidence from wills**.

Our member Paul Sowan, an acknowledged expert on all forms of historic mining, will talk about the extensive **Mining tunnels at Merstham**, and the day will also include a discussion on the post-conquest period as part of the Forum's preparation for the review of the Surrey Research Framework.

Cost: £12. Full details of the meeting will be sent to all members of the Forum and will be posted on the Society's website.

### WOKING PALACE EXCAVATIONS 2014

The 6th season of excavations, including setting-up and closing down, is planned to take place from 8th September to 6th October with a public open day on Sunday 5th October.

Digging and finds processing will generally take place from Wednesday to Sunday each week with setting-up on Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th September and closing up of the site on Monday 6th October. This may well be the penultimate season of excavations on this scheduled site and many interesting questions remain to be resolved.

As in previous years members of the Society, whether experienced or beginners, interested in participating in either digging or finds processing are invited to register their interest as soon as possible with Richard Savage, either by e-mail to richard.savage@btinternet.com or by post to 22 Fairlawn Park, Woking, Surrey, GU21 4HT.

## **2013 AGM and MEMBERS DAY**

***Brian Creese***

This very well attended meeting in November provided an opportunity for members to give an update on their recent research, or on other projects with which they had been involved. It proved to be a busy, interesting and thought-provoking day.

Richard Savage started us off with an intriguing account of five little studied 13th century charters concerning Woking Manor, published in 1995 by the Pipe Roll Society. Richard successfully showed how much such documents can contribute not only to the historic narrative of Old Woking, but also to helping build an understanding of the geographic development of the settlement.

Graham Dawson provided an account of the difficulties of tracing and understanding medieval inheritance, particularly when it goes through the female line. His account of the 13th century de Bassing family, then resident in Southwark, was intriguingly complex. He also complemented his contribution to the Study Day in Southwark with an account of the manufacturing industries of the borough.

Peter Balmer gave a well-illustrated presentation on the Chantries of Surrey. These chapels were created in all sorts of different guises, and while some are well documented others are more ambiguous in form. Peter provided plenty of evidence, even though in many cases the exact nature of these chapels is not yet clear. So plenty to work on here!

After lunch Richard Neville provided a first class update on the Surrey Churches Medieval Graffiti project. Of 94 medieval churches in Surrey, full surveys have been conducted in 21 with no graffiti found in just eleven cases. The richest findings so far have come from St John's in Shere. Richard showed photographic evidence of the range of types of graffiti found in Surrey churches – including crosses, figures, circles, and animals – and was able to draw some tentative early ideas as to who might have created these scratched illustrations and why. For those who want to know more, the website for the project is [www.medievalgraffitiSurrey.org](http://www.medievalgraffitiSurrey.org).

Mary Alexander updated the meeting on the progress of her study into artefacts found in the vicinity of Newark Priory some years ago, illustrated by photographs of the various types of object discovered. Most of these have a religious association and some clearly derive from the time of the demolition of the priory buildings in the mid 16th century. Mary discussed the research questions posed by the range of material recovered.

The final presentation was from Lyn Smith, who gave the group a colourful account of Cleeve Abbey in Somerset.

The meeting finished with a discussion on the Anglo-Saxon element of the Surrey Heritage Environment Research Framework, which is currently being updated. A positive and lively discussion on where the priorities for the Forum and others working on projects involving the medieval period should lie was informative for everyone and will contribute to the next draft of the framework.

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## OBITUARY

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### STEPHEN PETER DYER 1957-2013

The sudden and premature death of Steve Dyer has left his many friends within the Society and elsewhere shocked and saddened.



As a teenager Steve was involved in a number of excavations in and around Staines, and during the 1980s and later was a member of the Excavations (now Research) Committee. He joined the staff of the Surrey County Archaeological Unit with the remit of beginning the computerising and updating of the Sites and Monuments Register (now Heritage and Environment Record) but also took part in a number of excavations and other interventions. At the same time he continued his work in the volunteer section and this led to teaching evening classes for adults initially through the WEA.

This in turn led to the development, with Julie Wileman, of a part-time undergraduate course at the University of Surrey; Steve became Course Leader and encouraged his students to become involved as volunteers in local projects. Many of those now active in the Society developed their interest in archaeology through those classes.

Steve led a number of successful training excavations including the Roman villa at Cocks Farm, Abinger, the medieval and Roman site at Hopeless Moor, Seale and the medieval manor site at Tolworth Court Farm. He will be remembered for his competent and kindly management, and the experience of pleasure and excitement in archaeology that he gave to so many participants of all ages. His involvement of members of the Young Archaeologist's Club, aged 8 and upwards, resulted in at least four becoming professional archaeologists.

He specialised in geophysical survey and undertook a number of local surveys as well as more distant work including at Stafford Castle. When Dave Field left the county in 1990, Steve took over the nascent Surrey Historic Landscapes Project which involved a large survey of land in the Mole Gap centred on Norbury Park. The

success of this work led to more surveys of the Surrey County Council countryside estates, and also an assessment of the National Trust land in the Devil's Punchbowl and on Hindhead Commons when that area was threatened by major overgrounddevelopment of the A3. All this eventually led to assessment by others of Areas of Special Historic Landscape Value within the county.

After the closure of part-time courses at Surrey, Steve went on to become one of the management team at Butser Ancient Farm, educating children and the general public. He also became involved with lecturing in experimental archaeology, giving many talks to local societies and schools, and presenting papers at conferences in Austria and Spain.

In the last few years, ill health brought on by stress curtailed some of his activities, but never his love and enthusiasm for archaeology. At the time of his death he was still working on academic papers relating to experimental themes; it is hoped that these can be published in the near future as a small memorial to his work.

Steve never failed to offer support to students and volunteers alike; his smile and his kindness (not to mention his hat) will always be remembered by those who knew him. He will be greatly missed.

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## **EXCAVATIONS**

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### **CALLS FOR VOLUNTEERS**

#### **COCKS FARM ROMAN VILLA: JUNE 2014**

***2nd to 6th & 9th to 13th June***

A 6th season of excavation will take place at Cocks Farm, Abinger over two weeks in June. Work will concentrate in the field adjacent to the scheduled area looking for evidence of Roman activity around the villa.

Volunteers from the Society will be given priority, and non-SyAS members will be charged £25 a week (or part thereof) to cover costs. If you would like to register your interest please contact the volunteer co-ordinator, Nikki Cowlard, [nikki.cowlard@btinternet.com](mailto:nikki.cowlard@btinternet.com) / 01372 745432.

#### **CHURCH MEADOW, EWELL: JULY 2014**

***2nd to 20th July, Wednesday to Sunday, 9.30am to 4.30pm.***

Volunteers are being sought for the third season of excavations. This independent project is financially supported by Surrey Archaeological Society, Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society, Council for British Archaeology and the Local Committee of Surrey County Council.

The site is within the known Roman settlement and is on the line of Stane Street. Excavation over the last two seasons has uncovered Roman ditches, gullies, pits, wells and evidence for prehistoric activity (see <http://epsomewellhistory.moonfruit.com/#/cme-2013/4577853304> for this year's web diary).

Interested in volunteering? Please register an initial interest with Lesley Hays [louhays@ntlworld.com](mailto:louhays@ntlworld.com) or Tel: 01372 724172

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## LECTURE MEETINGS

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### **10th February**

"The Woking Invalid Convict Prison" by David Harmer to Guildford Group at Guildford United Reformed Church (side entrance), 85 Portsmouth Road at 7.30pm. Visitors welcome: £3.

### **10th February**

"Ham and Petersham: a visual history" by David Williams to Richmond Local History Society at the Duke Street Church, Richmond at 7.30 for 8pm. Visitors welcome: £2.

### **11th February**

"Alexander Raby and Downside Mill - Their place in the Industrial Revolution" Richard Savage, to the Surrey Industrial History Group in The Education Centre, Guildford Cathedral, Stag Hill, Guildford GU2 7UP, 7:30-9:30pm. Part of the 38th Series of Industrial Archaeology Lectures. Single lectures: £5, payable on the night. Enquiries to Bob Bryson, Tel: 01483 577809, meetings@sihg.org.uk.

### **11th February**

"Excavations at the churchyard of St Mary Newington" by Alexis Haslam to Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society at The Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut, almost opposite the Old Vic Theatre at 7 for 7.30pm. Visitors welcome: £1.

### **13th February**

"Osterley Park in WW1 and WW2, particularly the Home Guard Training School" by Andy Brockman to Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society at Surbiton Library Hall, Ewell Road near Berrylands Road, at 7.30 for 8pm. Visitors welcome: £3.

### **14th February**

"The origin of our species" by Chris Stringer to Richmond Archaeological Society at the Vestry Hall, Paradise Road, Richmond at 8pm.

### **15th February**

"Princely mansion to luxury hotel: transition at Oatlands Park" by John Smith to Walton & Weybridge Local History Society in Elm Grove Meeting Hall, Walton-on-Thames at 3pm.

### **15th February**

"Thirty years caring for the vestments at Westminster Abbey" by Rosemary Turner to Merton Historical Society at Christchurch Hall, Colliers Wood at 2.30pm. Visitors welcome: £2.

### **18th February**

AGM followed by talks by members of Send & Ripley History Society in the larger hall of Ripley Village Hall at 8pm.

### **21st February**

"Leith Hill Place" by Gabrielle Gale to Leatherhead & District Local History Society at Leatherhead Institute at 7.30 for 8pm. Admission £2. Visitors welcome.

### **25th February**

"Dennis Brothers Motor vehicles" John Dennis, Grandson of founder & Roger Heard, former Director, to the Surrey Industrial History Group in The Education Centre, Guildford Cathedral, Stag Hill, Guildford GU2 7UP, 7:30-9:30pm. Part of the 38th Series of Industrial Archaeology Lectures. Single lectures £5, payable on the night.

Enquiries to Bob Bryson, Tel: 01483 577809, meetings@sihg.org.uk. to Guildford Group at Guildford United Reformed Church (side entrance), 85 Portsmouth Road at 7.30 pm. Visitors welcome: £3.

### **25th February**

AGM plus “Old photos of Sunbury and Shepperton” to Sunbury and Shepperton Local History Society in the theatre at Halliford School, Russell Road, Shepperton at 8 pm. Visitors welcome: £2.

### **27th February**

“Entertainment in Egham” by Roy Self to Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society in the Main Hall, Literary Institute, Egham High Street at 8pm.

### **28th February**

“The excavation of medieval London waterfront properties from Swan Lane to Billingsgate” by John Schofield to Wandsworth Historical Society at the Friends’ Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street at 8pm.

### **1st March**

AGM followed by slides, updates and talks to Carshalton & District History & Archaeology Society in Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, off Nightingale Road, Carshalton at 3pm.

### **3rd March**

“Industries of South West Surrey” by Trevor Kinnea to Woking History Society at the Holiday Inn, Victoria Way, Woking at 8pm. Visitors welcome £3.

### **4th March**

“Downs solicitors” by Sarah Thomas to Dorking Local History Group at the Follet Hall, United Reformed Church, 53 West Street, Dorking at 7.30pm. Visitors welcome: £2.

### **5th March**

“A different view of life” by Peter Harknett to Addlestone Historical Society at Addlestone Community Centre, Garfield Road at 8pm. Visitors welcome: £2.

### **5th March**

AGM followed by a talk by Jon Cotton to Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society at St Mary’s Church Hall. London Road, Ewell at 7.45 for 8pm. Visitors welcome: £4.

### **10th March**

“The role of Effingham brothers Admiral Frederick Maxse and Lt Col Henry Maxse in the Crimean War” by Sue Morris to Guildford Group at Guildford United Reformed Church (side entrance), 85 Portsmouth Road at 7.30pm. Visitors welcome: £3.

### **10th March**

“St Margaret’s and the impact of the building of Twickenham Bridge and the Great Chertsey Road” by Paul Velluet to Richmond Local History Society at the Duke Street Church, Richmond at 7.30 for 8pm. Visitors welcome: £2.

### **11th March**

“British engineers in Europe” Sue Hayton, GLIAS Member, to the Surrey Industrial History Group in The Education Centre, Guildford Cathedral, Stag Hill, Guildford GU2 7UP, 7:30-9:30 pm. Part of the 38th Series of Industrial Archaeology Lectures. Single lectures £5, payable on the night. Enquiries to Bob Bryson, Tel: 01483 577809, meetings@sihg.org.uk.

**11th March**

“Recent local archaeological and historical work: a symposium with various speakers to Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society at The Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut, almost opposite the Old Vic Theatre at 7 for 7.30pm. Visitors welcome: £1.

**11th March**

“Timber-framed houses – their materials and construction” by Martin Higgins to Westcott Local History Group in the Wescott Reading Room, Institute Road at 7.45 for 8pm. Visitors welcome: £1.

**13th March**

“Kingsmead Quarry” by Gareth Chaffrey to Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society at Surbiton Library Hall, Ewell Road near Berrylands Road, at 7.30 for 8pm. Visitors welcome: £3.

**14th March**

“The Tudor Mint at the Tower” by Justine Bayley to Richmond Archaeological Society at the Vestry Hall, Paradise Road, Richmond at 8pm.

**15th March**

“Artists, antiquaries and collectors: illustrations of Surrey collected by Robert Barclay of Dorking c1800” by Julian Pooley to Walton & Weybridge Local History Society in Weybridge Library Lecture Hall at 3pm.

**15th March**

“Worcester Park, Old Malden and North Cheam: history at our feet” by David Rymill to Merton Historical Society at Christchurch Hall, Colliers Wood at 2.30pm. Visitors welcome: £2.

**18th March**

“Littleton History” by Peter Maynard to Sunbury and Shepperton Local History Society in the theatre at Halliford School, Russell Road, Shepperton at 8pm. Visitors welcome: £2.

**21st March**

AGM followed by lecture to Leatherhead & District Local History Society at Letherhead Institute at 7.30 for 8pm. Admission £2. Visitors welcome.

**27th March**

AGM of Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society in the Main Hall, Literary Institute, Egham High Street at 8pm.

## **DATES FOR *BULLETIN* CONTRIBUTIONS 2014**

There will be five further issues of the Bulletin in 2014. To assist contributors relevant dates are as follows:

	<b>Copy date:</b>	<b>Approx. delivery:</b>
<b>444</b>	<b>28th February</b>	<b>31st March</b>
<b>445</b>	<b>2nd May</b>	<b>2nd June</b>
<b>446</b>	<b>4th July</b>	<b>4th August</b>
<b>447</b>	<b>19th September</b>	<b>20th October</b>
<b>448</b>	<b>14th November</b>	<b>15th December</b>

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

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**Next issue:** Copy required by 28th February for the April issue.

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