



Surrey Archaeological Society

No 3 March 2021

E-newsletter

Welcome to the Society's March e-newsletter, which highlights a few of the various conferences, lectures, training sessions and news items which we hope to be of interest to our members. Although general queries should continue to be directed to Hannah (info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk), those interested in volunteer opportunities or general outreach can contact me at outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk. Please also keep up-to-date via the website and social media ([@surreyarch](https://www.facebook.com/surreyarch)) for group and event updates.

Anne Sassin (*SyAS Projects and Outreach Officer*)

Surrey Industrial History Group Meetings

SIHG does not plan to hold any physical meetings this year. However, they are arranging to present online Zoom talks which will be free to attend and open to all. Information will be posted on their website, www.sihg.org.uk, as it becomes available. Details will be sent to members of the mailing list. At present the list only contains SIHG members who have registered their email address. If you wish to be sent an individual copy of these details, please send an email to Bob Bryson, SIHG Chairman and Programme Co-ordinator, at meetings@sihg.org.uk, stating your SyAS membership status, and you will be added to the list.

Please note that two extra Zoom lectures have been arranged for April, namely:

Thursday 1 April 10:00-12:00 - 'The History of Heathrow' by Nick Pollard

Thursday 15 April 10:00-12:00 - 'The Historic Value of Money' by Bob Bryson



Enter the Dragon: medieval cave shrine at St Catherine's Hill

This online talk by Dr Michael Shapland on recent discoveries undertaken at the hilltop cave of St Catherine's, Guildford by Archaeology South-East, which featured at the February Annual Symposium, has been recorded by the University of Newcastle and is now available on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...).





Shining a light on the transition from Late Iron Age to Early Roman SE England

Online Zoom conference, **Saturday 8 May**

A full day of discussion on how the Late Iron Age way of life in SE England changed under Roman influence from the 1st century BC to the 2nd century AD. To register (tickets £5) and see the full programme, visit the [website](#).

Programme: (please note, does not include scheduled discussion and refreshment breaks)

10:00 Welcome (David Bird, Roman Studies Group, Surrey Archaeological Society)

10:05 Chair, Paul Booth, Research Associate, University of Oxford, Introductory remarks

10:15 Thomas Matthews Boehmer, Doctoral Student, University of Cambridge, 'Between method and theory: the challenges of studying identity in Late Iron Age and early Roman Britain'

11:15 Tom Brindle, Cotswold Archaeology, 'First (Century) Impressions: appearance, coin-use and communication in south-east Britain beyond the Roman Conquest'

12:00 Anna Doherty, Archaeology South-East, UCL, 'Location, location, location: exploring variability in LIA-Roman pottery assemblages through case studies from SE England'

13:30 Tony King, Professor of Roman Archaeology, University of Winchester, 'Celtic to Romano-Celtic? The archaeology of religious sites in SE Britain, 1st century BC to 2nd century AD'

14:15 Martyn Allen, Oxford Archaeology, "'Two shakes of a lamb's tail': a zooarchaeological perspective of the Iron Age/Romano-British transition in south-east England'

15:15 David Rudling, Honorary Research Fellow, University of Roehampton, "'Becoming Roman?' The Late Iron Age to Early Roman transition in Sussex'

16:00 Mike Fulford, Professor of Archaeology, University of Reading, 'Silchester: from Iron Age oppidum to Roman City'

17:00 Close



**Surrey Archaeological Society
Online Conference 2021**

**Shining a light on the transition
from Late Iron Age to Early
Roman SE England**

Saturday 8 May (10:00-17:00)
www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk



Archaeology and Climate Change Conference

A one-day Zoom conference on urgent climate heritage issues, co-organised by the CBA-SE and Sussex Archaeological Society, will take place on **Saturday 17 April** (9:30-16:15).

A past perspective is important in understanding the climate changes we now face, how they may impact on society and the strategies that may be developed to cope. Studies of the end of the last ice age have shown that once critical thresholds are crossed, affecting, for instance, patterns of oceanic circulation, climate change can be exceedingly rapid. Global warming and related increases in the incidence of extreme weather events increases coastal erosion, creating a need for sea defence upgrading and managed realignment, all of which have implications for coastal heritage. Global warming will also affect habitats of nature conservation importance and the archaeological sites they contain. Increased storm incidence may lead to greater soil erosion and flooding in some areas impacting heritage. The way historic properties are conserved and managed are also likely to be affected.

Programme: (please note, does not include scheduled discussion and refreshment breaks)

9:30 Introduction and welcome by Chairman Dr Matt Pope (UCL)

9:45 Quaternary climate change – Professor Martin Bell (University of Reading)

10:25 Climate change archaeology: building resilience from research into coastal wetlands – Professor Robert van De Noort (University of Reading)

11:20 (Fish) Weir and wonderful: CITiZAN, citizen science and climate change in South East England – Lara Band (Citizan/MOLA)

12:00 Climate change, soil erosion and sustainability – Professor John Boardman (University of Oxford)

13:30 The impact of climate change on Heritage Management – Dr Hannah Fluck (Head of Environmental Strategy, Historic England)

14:10 Heritage and Environment Matters – taking effective action in uncertain times – Tor Lawrence (CEO Sussex Wildlife Trust)

14:50 Learning from the past: historic buildings and climate change – Dr Robyn Pender (Historic England)

15:30 Climate change and Heritage: preservation by record not abandonment – Professor Marcy Rockman (ICOMOS and University of Maryland USA)

16:15 Close

For a full programme and to book for this event, visit the [EventBrite page](#) or event page on Sussex Past's [website](#). Tickets are £10 for CBA-SE and SAS members and students; £20 for others (student bursaries also available).





Exploring the Easter E.g. – Shifting Baselines and Changing Perceptions of Cultural and Biological ‘Aliens’

This free online lecture by Dr Naomi Sykes, hosted by the Society of Antiquaries, will take place on **Tuesday 13 April** at 13:00. To register, and for more info, visit the [SAL website](#).

Easter is the most important event in the Christian calendar. Despite its global reach and cultural significance, Easter has attracted minimal academic attention since the 1970s. Astonishingly little is known about the festival’s genesis, when it first appeared in Britain, the origins of its component customs – e.g. the gifting of eggs purportedly delivered by the Easter ‘bunny’ – or how they coalesced to form current practices. Equally obscure are the timing and circumstance by which animals that have come to be associated with the festival – notably the brown hare and the rabbit but also the chicken – arrived in Britain. As a result, Easter is a high-profile natural and cultural history puzzle.

This talk, timed to coincide with the festival, will bring together the results of an AHRC-funded project on the subject. Evidence from (zoo)archaeology, linguistics, (art) history and evolutionary biology, will be integrated to inform on patterns of human diasporas (both physical and ideological) and processes of religious syncretism in ancient, early modern and present-day societies. In addition, it will refine the natural history of the brown hare, rabbit and chicken, charting their impact on ancient biodiversity. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the talk will use Easter as a lens for examining and highlighting shifting baseline syndrome.

Kent Archaeological Society talks

KAS have launched a new monthly lecture series in 2021 which are free and open to all. The talks are hosted on Teams, and are shortly thereafter made available on YouTube. See the [KAS website](#) for full details.



Two previous talks, now available to view online, include [‘Caesar in Kent: do we know where he landed?’](#) and [‘Ways of seeing: scenes from Christ’s life on Faversham’s painted pillar’](#), with the recently given ‘Excavations at Snodland Roman Villa’ to be available soon.

Tuesday 13 April - ‘Underground Kent: Kent’s hidden heritage’ by Rod LeGear

Saturday 24 April - ‘The Wandering Herd: the medieval cattle economy of south-east England’ by Andy Margetts

Tuesday 11 May - ‘Our Neighbours in Empire: a tour of Belgium and the Netherlands in the Roman era’ by Dr Steve Willis

Tuesday June 8th - ‘The KAS collections: some of the highlights from our curator’ by Dr Elizabeth Blanning

Tuesday July 13th - ‘Sorting the wheat from the chaff in Kent cropmarks’ by Chris Blair-Myers



Local heritage sites

As we continue the year under travel restrictions, we have been reflecting on some of the incredible heritage and landscapes within our county, much of which we can still experience while undertaking local socially-distanced walks or read about from the safety of our homes. A few of our staff, trustees and committee members have continued to share their favourite sites, which have featured on our social media pages.

Nonsuch Palace and Park

One of our President Nikki's favourite sites is Nonsuch Park, which was first located in 1933 when a sewer trench was cut along the site, and was excavated in 1959 by Martin Biddle, largely with a volunteer force whose attendance averaged 75 a day. The site chosen by Henry VIII for his Palace and Parks was already occupied by the church, houses and fields of the medieval village of Cuddington, which were subsequently demolished in 1538 and built over, with the Inner Court of the Palace laid out around the foundations of the church and on top of the graveyard. During the demolition of the great barn at Cuddington, a mattock had been lost below a falling wall, and (complete with traces of its wooden handle) was recovered in 1960. Later work and survey in the Park was carried out in 1993-5 by the Royal Commission, followed by excavation under the Friends of Nonsuch in the stable block, which led to the discovery of stone foundations thought to contain re-used stone from the demolished Palace. The Society led a geophysical survey in 2017 to attempt to locate the Old Stable Block, which was followed by test-pitting two years later working alongside Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society. You can read more about this work in the [1959-60 interim report](#) from the *Collections* (Volume 58, 1961) and HE [list entry](#), as well as watch original [1959 dig footage](#).



Burial underneath Cuddington Church
(Photo Steve Nelson)



Excavation of wine cellar (Steve Nelson)



Excavation of well, with Martin Biddle
pictured in the centre (Photo courtesy of
Bourne Hall archives NPE=14035)

Waverley Abbey

One of the favourite sites to visit of Simon, our county FLO (Finds Liaison Officer), is Waverley Abbey, the first Cistercian house in Britain. Located near Farnham on the flood-plain of the River Wey, Waverley was founded in 1128 by monks from L'Aumône in Normandy with the assistance of William Giffard, Bishop of Winchester. Initially, the abbey flourished and became 'mother house' to a number of other Cistercian foundations, with the monks responsible, amongst other things, for the construction of bridges across the Wey. By the 13th century however, many of the buildings were flood-damaged and it was rebuilt, with most of the surviving buildings dating to this later period. It eventually declined into a state of poverty, and was home to only thirteen monks by the time of the dissolution. The site was excavated by the Society from 1890-1903, with many of the finds now housed either in Guildford or Farnham museums. An excursion to the site was held on the afternoon of Saturday, 22 September, 1900, at which a large number of Society Members and their friends assembled at Farnham Station, where carriages drove them to the site, and they received a special tour by Harold Brakspear, FSA. You can read more about Waverley and its lands in the *Collections* [article](#) (Volume 95, 2010), HE [list entry](#) and Exploring Surrey's Past [page](#).



Excavation of monks infirmary (SyAS)



1m LiDAR (Local Relief Model of abbey (in centre), showing some of the buried earthworks outside the main abbey complex)



Society members visiting the site in 1900 (SyAS)

Decorated floor tile, in Guildford Museum (SyAS)



Waverley seal c.1310, showing Our Lady (SyAS)





Chertsey Abbey walking tour

Three new guided walks have been created by Chertsey Museum – Chertsey Abbey, a Chertsey Abbey family tour, and St Ann’s Hill, Chertsey – for the free izi.Travel app, downloadable from www.izi.travel/en/search/chertsey.



CHERTSEY ABBEY
walking tour



"Of that noble and splendid pile, which took up four acres of ground and looked like a small town, nothing remains, scarcely a little of the outer wall of the precincts. I left the ruins of this place with a sigh for the loss of so much national magnificence and national history." Dr. Stukeley, 1752

Discover the history of this once great site. Download the free **izi.TRAVEL** app

the storytelling platform

www.izi.travel/en/search/chertsey

Surrey Heritage online talks

Wednesday 14 April - Fashion and Folly

Wednesday 28 April - Planting Ideas: Sources for the History of Gardening in Surrey

Wednesday 12 May - Out of Sight, Out of Mind? Sources for the History of Surrey’s Mental Hospitals, 1700 - c.1990

Wednesday 26 May - Portrait of a Surrey town between the wars: the photographic archive of Sidney Francis

Wednesday 9 June - From Punishment to Pride: LGBTQ+ archives at Surrey History Centre

Wednesday 23 June - James Henry Pullen (1835-1916) and the ‘Royal Earlswood Asylum for Idiots’, Redhill

All talks begin at 17:30, are £5 each and must be booked [online](#). After payment has been received you will be emailed a unique link and password to attend the talk on Zoom.



For more information on opportunities in your local region, be sure to follow SCAU (education.scau@surreycc.gov.uk and [@diggingsurreypast](https://www.instagram.com/diggingsurreypast)), as well as the Council for British Archaeology South-East (www.cbasmouth-east.org and [@CBASouthEast](https://www.instagram.com/CBASouthEast)).