



Surrey Archaeological Society

No 7 July 2021

E-newsletter

Welcome to the Society's July e-newsletter, which highlights a few of the various events – conferences, lectures, training sessions, news items, etc – 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.instagram.com/surreyarch)) for group and event updates.

Anne Sassin (*SyAS Projects and Outreach Officer*)

Traditional Domestic Architecture in Surrey

This five-part course, which will be taught by Brigid Fice and Martin Higgins of the Domestic Buildings Research Group and run as an online Zoom series via the Guildford Institute, covers the history of traditional houses in Surrey and how they have changed over time. Themes considered include the construction and layout, location and materials used. The course will also cover how to date historic buildings, how to find out more about their purpose and the people who built them.



The course will run every Thursday (10:00-12:00) from **4 November** to **2 December**. For tickets, course fees and more info, see the [course booking](#) on the Guildford Institute's website.

The DBRG will also be running a special visit to the Weald and Downland Living Museum on **Thursday 14 October** from 10:00. This will be an opportunity to apply what has been learned from the Surrey Dendro Project, with topics discussed to be built upon in later talks run by DBRG.

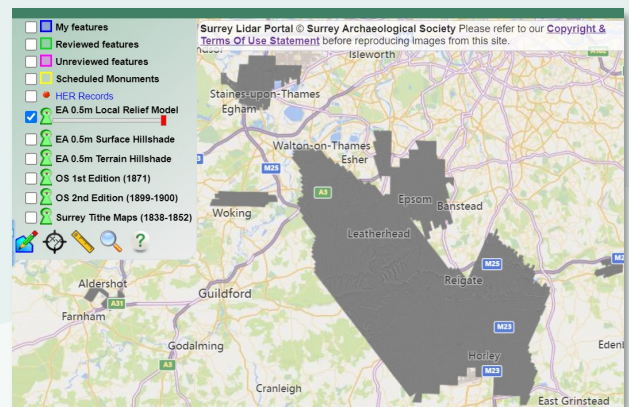
Further details will appear on the DBRG website (dbrg.org.uk) closer to the date but any questions or to register your interest, contact Brigid Fice (brigid.fice@btinternet.com).



Surrey LiDAR Portal

An exciting new interactive citizen science tool for the county, the Surrey LiDAR Portal (surreylidar.org.uk), has just been launched by the Society. This will act as a long-term outreach and engagement tool which makes available imagery from various LiDAR datasets in Surrey. With the right set of eyes and careful research, LiDAR has enormous potential to uncover previously unknown archaeological features, whether old field boundaries, hillforts, bomb craters or other hidden sites waiting to be revealed. By helping map and interpret these potential features online, volunteers can then go out into the field and investigate them on the ground, ultimately working to build a more complete story of the local landscape.

The Portal is an online mapping tool in which the public is able to assist in the detection, identification and record creation of LiDAR features of potential archaeological interest. It is modelled after similar portals which have been created for other current and past LiDAR projects, including the Secrets of the High Woods in the South Downs, Beacons of the Past in the Chilterns AONB and Kent Downs AONB's Kent LiDAR Portal. The Surrey Portal incorporates visualisations of the LiDAR which are the most commonly used (and favoured) for archaeological prospection: Multi-Hillshade and Local Relief Modelling. It also uses different basemaps to aid in interpretation, including the Tithe maps and First and Second Edition Ordnance Survey maps, alongside HER records. Currently, the Surrey Portal incorporates the 0.5m EA data for the county, approximately 635km² coverage, alongside a small area of 0.25m bespoke data in the east, flown under the Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme.



Anyone is welcome to register for a free account, which will allow access to the interactive map, once the terms of use are agreed to. Volunteers who would like to be more involved in the citizen science process itself and help in digitising potential features should read the available tutorials and are encouraged to attend online training sessions.

Two initial online tutorials (Using the Surrey LiDAR Portal) have been arranged for August: **Thursday 12 August** (15:30-17:00) and **Saturday 14 August** (10:00-11:30). These are introductory sessions and will serve as a basis for more in-depth follow-up sessions at a later date. The tutorials are free and will take place on Zoom. The sessions do need to be booked in advance to obtain the meeting link and info, so please do email to acquire a place.

To get involved, please e-mail outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk with any queries and to express your interest in the training sessions or other work related to the LiDAR project.



Old Park Farnham 2021 excavations

Another season of small-scale excavations will take place at the enclosed early Roman farmstead at Old Park, Farnham in August-September. Fieldwork is currently set for the following dates (subject to weather):

Tuesday 17 - Sunday 22 August

Tuesday 24 - Sunday 29 August

Tuesday 31 - Saturday 4 September

Monday 6 - Wednesday 8 September

Please email asassinallen@gmail.com if you are interested in taking part.



Sussex Archaeological Collections online

The first 157 volumes (1847-2019) of the Sussex Archaeological Collections is now completely digitised and available on the [Archaeology Data Service](#).

Antiquity Journal open access

As part of the Festival of Archaeology, from 17 July to 1 August free access will be available to articles in *Antiquity*, including a selection of the most-read recent articles. See *Antiquity's* [online collections](#) for more info.



Be sure to also look at other [activities and resources](#) which have been put together and made available as part of the Festival.

Lonesome Lodge Live walk

On **Sunday 5 September** at 14:00, Dorking Museum is offering a one-off opportunity to explore the rediscovered site of a wealthy gentleman architect's idyllic and lavish retreat in the Tillingbourne Valley and to hear its fascinating story. The tour, in aid of charity, is led by Robin Daly, one of the authors of an extensively researched book on the subject, and provides exclusive access to many features not otherwise open to the public.



A limited number of tickets are available. The tour includes a copy of *Lonesome Lodge*, with the price of the book going to the Museum and the remainder to the UK registered charity Yes to Life. Please book through the [Museum website](#).

Guildford Museum finds photography

Some of Guildford Museum's recent photography of objects currently on display, including some of the artefacts on loan from the Society, have been shared recently on their social media pages ([@VisitGuildford](#) and [@Gfdheritage](#)). This month we focus on posts for the Festival of Archaeology, themed around 'Local Places'.

These Palaeolithic (500,000-10,000 BC) flint hand axes are some of the earliest objects in the collection and were discovered in Farnham. These tools were used for many different tasks including butchering animals, digging for tubers, animals and water, chopping wood and removing tree bark, throwing at prey and as a source for flake tools.

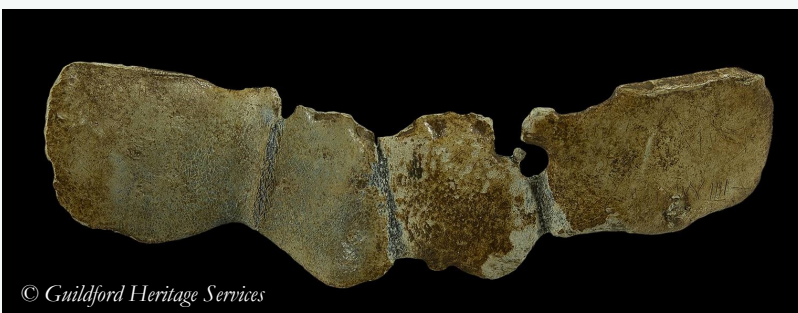


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This late Bronze Age (c. 1150-750 BC) gold plated penannular or 'lock' ring was found in Shackleford. The purpose of these rings is still not fully understood. Solid examples are often referred to as 'ring money' and thought to be an early form of currency. Another suggestion has been that they were worn in the hair as ornaments.



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This lead curse is from the Roman temple at Farley Heath. A curse was written on lead which was folded up and hidden in the temple. This one refers to 4,000 denarii, but the rest of the characters are unclear. Could the writer have been robbed and placing a curse on the thieves?

This great square-headed brooch was found with the skeleton of a woman in the pagan Saxon cemetery of Guilddown, Guildford. The woman must have been of very high status as brooches like this were expensive to own. The bronze brooch dates from c. 500 AD and would have originally been covered with gilding.



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#FindsFriday posts from the FLO

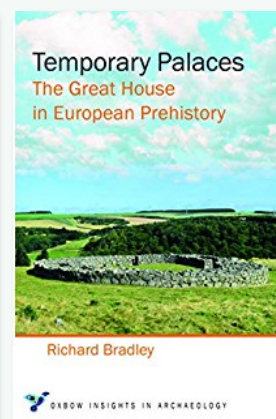
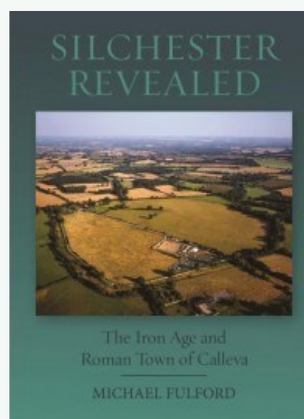
Simon Maslin, the Surrey Finds Liaison Officer, shares some interesting pieces recently uncovered by detectorists who recorded their finds with the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

June 24th is the anniversary of the coronation of Henry VIII in 1509. His reign was, amongst many other things, characterised by a pronounced debasement of the silver coinage - as a result coins from his reign are quite distinctively patinated. This silver half-penny ([SUR-307B46](#)) which dates between 1532 and 1542 was found near Guildford.



New Library items

The Society's library, based at the Research Centre in Abinger, has recently acquired new items, the full list of which can be found on its [website](#). This includes recently published books such as *Silchester Revealed: the Iron Age and Roman town of Calleva* by Michael Fulford (whose recent review in *Current Archaeology* can be read [here](#)) and *Temporary Palaces: the great house in European prehistory* by Richard Bradley.



Members are able to borrow up to six items at a time, while non-members are welcome to use the available resources by appointment. Please contact Hannah our librarian (librarian@surreyarchaeology.org.uk) for current hours and queries, as well as to be placed on the mailing listing for new library acquisitions.

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