



Surrey Archaeological Society

No 9 September 2021

E-newsletter

Welcome to the Society's September 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 Outreach Projects Manager*)

Godalming Saxon Cemetery lecture

On **Wednesday 29 September** (19:30) join Dr Lia Betti of Roehampton University and Rob Poulton from Surrey County Archaeology Unit for a fascinating insight into the excavation of the Saxon period cemetery near to Godalming Parish Church. The lecture will be held on Zoom. Tickets for £5 can be purchased via the Museum's [online shop](#) or call in to the museum to book.



Beyond the isolated farmstead research seminar

On **Thursday 30 September** (16:30-18:30), Oxford Archaeology will be holding a research seminar entitled 'Beyond the isolated farmstead – relationships between households and settlements in the Iron Age'. The notion that many Iron Age settlements were self-sufficient farmsteads remains pervasive in Britain. Using three recent OA excavations in East Anglia, Essex and the Upper Thames Valley, this seminar will explore some of the ways in which Iron Age households and settlements were related to each other, and how social relationships beyond the household were constructed in the Iron Age.

There will be the opportunity to submit your own questions to the panel during the seminar. To register and for more info, see the [events page](#).





SHERF 2021

This year's annual Surrey Historic Environment Research Framework conference – 'Archaeology of the Church: perspectives from recent work in the South-East' – will be run jointly with CBA-SE and held as an online event on **Saturday 27 November**.

Tickets are priced at £5 each household for CBA-SE and SyAS members (£7 others) and are bookable online via the SyAS website (www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk/events) with card payment using PayPal. Please note only online bookings are possible for this event.

Once paid, attendees will receive an email containing a link to the Zoom registration page. Any queries, please contact info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk.

Programme

9:30 Meeting link will open

10:00 Chair: Anne Sassin

10:05 Gabor Thomas (University of Reading): In the Shadow of Saints: a reconsideration of the church archaeology of Lyminge as a formative centre of English Christianity

10:40 Alistair Douglas (Pre-Construct Archaeology): The Story of Bermondsey Abbey from Saxon Minster to the Dissolution



11:15 Coffee/Tea

11:30 Natalie Cohen (National Trust): Archaeology at Canterbury Cathedral

12:05 Michael Shapland (Archaeology South-East): Chichester Cathedral: A Deep-Time Perspective

12:40 Lunch

13:40 Chair: Natalie Cohen

13:40 Andrew Richardson (Isle Heritage CIC), Ellie Williams and Lesley Hardy (Canterbury Christ Church University): Eanswythe Found

14:15 Jo Seaman (Heritage Eastbourne): Carved Revelations: how a graffiti survey changed the story at Eastbourne

14:50 Coffee/Tea

15:05 Rob Briggs (Surrey County Council): The tomb monument of Sir Thomas Cawarden in St Mary the Virgin's church, Bletchingley



15:45 Closing comments and Q&A

16:00 Close



Old Park Farnham summer 2021

A second Society summer excavation took place for three weeks from mid-August at the site of an enclosed Roman farmstead at Old Park Farnham. As with Abinger, some restrictions of volunteer numbers still took place, with an average of 10 people a day on site to excavate in what were often challenging conditions.

The 2021 dig focused its trenches on anomalies and potential features which were identified in geophysics, as well as various slots placed across the main enclosure ditch. Finds from the ditch were numerous and included a large amount of Roman pottery, as well as some building material and pottery of likely Iron Age date. A tile-lined drain was also uncovered whose function is (as of yet) uncertain, though likely industrial. Both this year's and last year's digs suggest early (possibly pre-) Roman origins for the site, with continued use into the late Roman period.

Many thanks are due to the whole team involved, in particular the hard-working diggers and the finds team who are busy behind the scenes. Post-excavation work and analysis is currently underway, and an update report and *Bulletin* note will be available as soon as possible.

Anne Sassin





Footprints – stories of Surrey Hills’ past

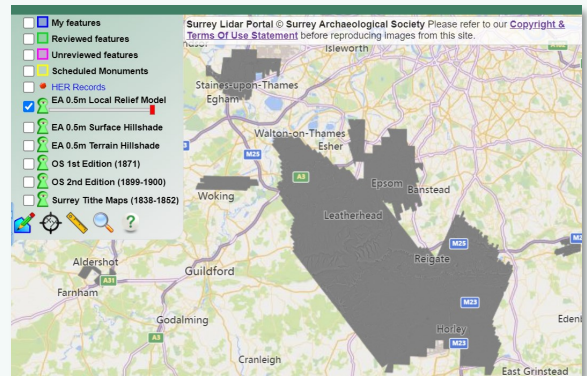


As part of a Festival of Archaeology event at the National Trust site of the Devil’s Punch Bowl, Hindhead in July, three podcasts were created to immerse listeners in the incredible landscapes of the local region. Commissioned by Surrey Hills Arts, storyteller Jon Mason (<https://jonthestoryteller.com/>) draws on the area’s myth and folklore to reflect on how human activity has shaped and continues to shape the landscape. These podcasts delve into

geology, archaeology, mythology and more, and are available as downloadable links (either accessed from the website or QR codes on site). A self-guided walk is also available. To find out more, visit the webpages for the [Stories of Hindhead’s Past](#) and [Landscape Stories at Hascombe Hill](#) (Frensham walk to follow soon).

Surrey LiDAR Portal

The Surrey LiDAR Portal (surreylidar.org.uk), the new interactive citizen science tool for the county, has recently been launched and makes available imagery from various LiDAR datasets in Surrey. LiDAR has enormous potential to uncover previously unknown archaeological features, and by helping map and interpret these potential sites online, volunteers can work to build a more complete story of the local landscape.



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. The online mapping tool also uses different basemaps to aid in interpretation, including the Tithe maps and First and Second Edition Ordnance Survey maps.

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.

For those who missed the initial online tutorial ‘Using the Surrey LiDAR Portal’ but are interested in an introductory session, please contact the project team directly. Anyone who would like to be involved in the training sessions or other work related to the LiDAR project, please e-mail outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk.



Mesolithic study day

The Prehistoric Group has arranged a Mesolithic Study Day to be held at the Museum of Farnham on **Saturday 6 November**. It will be led by Tom Lawrence of Oxford Archaeology, who will give a brief general overview of the Mesolithic period, before focusing on microlith types and debitage to date assemblages. Items from the Rankine Collection stored at the Museum will be available for training purposes.

There is a £10 charge to cover costs. Spaces are limited so please contact rosemary.hooker@blueyonder.co.uk to book as soon as possible.

Surrey History Centre online talks

2021 Surrey History Centre online talks via Zoom will continue in the autumn, with topics including:



1 October 'The Changing Face of Nursing: Black Nurses in Surrey Hospitals' (a talk for Black History Month by Dr Catherine Babikian)

6 October 'The Gentleman's Magazine: A Panorama of Georgian Surrey for Family and Local Historians' (a talk for National Libraries Week)

13 October 'Netherne c. 1955: A Surrey Psychiatric Hospital in Focus' (a talk for World Mental Health Day)

17 November 'The Most Wretched Man in the World: The Life and Loves of the 5th Viscount Midleton'

Tickets £5. Please see the [SHC events page](#) to book a place online.

Sussex Archaeology Symposium

The Sussex School of Archaeology has been developing new online offerings and expanded its remit to cover aspects of history, partially led by the widespread appreciation on online technology and regional gaps for the provision of local courses.

On **Saturday 9 October** (9:00-17:00), the annual Sussex Archaeology Symposium will also take place at King's Church, Lewes, with a number of confirmed speakers including Richard Toms, Dr David Rudling and Mark Roberts. Cost: £35 which includes refreshments and a pre-ordered lunch. Booking and more information on this and the online courses is available from www.sussexarchaeology.org.

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