



Surrey Archaeological Society

No 18 June 2022

E-newsletter

Welcome to the Society's June 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.surreyarchaeology.org.uk)) for group and event updates.

Anne Sassin (*SyAS Outreach Projects Manager*)

Get to know the Surrey County Council Historic Environment Planning team



Earlier in June, the Society arranged an online Zoom session with SCC's Historic Environment Planning team to get to know the people and their roles and learn how we can better work together. Subjects discussed included the planning process as it affects archaeology and historic buildings and SCC's roles in this regard; the network of County Sites of Archaeological Importance and Areas of High Archaeological Potential; accessing the rich resources of the Historic Environment Record; the current Local Heritage Lists project covering six Surrey boroughs and districts; using grey literature reports; the value of Scheduled Monument condition reports and notifying the HER of other discoveries.

The pdfs and recordings of the presentations have kindly been made available by the HEP team and are available to view on the Society's [YouTube channel](#) (with the pdfs on the Society's [website](#)). Many thanks again to those involved for the time they put into the day and for sharing their excellent resources.

Jubilee illustrated talk on Cobham Parish Church

Earlier this month, Dr David Taylor gave an illustrated talk on 'Our Crowning Glory, Cobham's Ancient Parish Church, its history and new discoveries' at St Andrew's Church, Church Street, coinciding with the release of a newly revised History and Guide Book. This talk was recorded and has also been made available on [YouTube](#).



Rowhurst May 2022 excavations



A further season of SyAS-led work took place at Rowhurst in Leatherhead and five areas on the site were examined in total. A trench was placed in the southern field over a cropmark seen on an early aerial photograph. The clay-rich soil merged into a sticky yellow clay at 30cm with few finds, and the trench was closed. A further trench was placed behind the part of the house that has been dated to

1798 map. The road had disappeared by 1820. Placement of this trench was difficult, and no finds or road were found.

Another trench was placed next to the later 1632 part of the house. A compacted surface was found and under this a line of mortared flints. The 2019 Trench 11 on the sloping lawn was extended to the west and the south. Half the trench comprised a grey/brown gritty clay with finds of Roman and prehistoric pottery. This trench was taken down to 1m, but we ran out of time to go deeper.



A further trench was placed on the south side of the square pond to try to discover if the pond had once been a building. On early maps the pond is marked as a building and it has the same dimensions as the cellar of the main house. We came across a packed chalk surface made up of pieces of chalk between 5 to 25cm in size, some of which were shaped. Overlying

the chalk nearest to the pond was a thick layer of packed flints in clay. A sondage through these flints revealed a 3cm layer of clay at a depth of 30cm and under this was two layers of packed chalk pieces. This chalk was beneath the water level of the pond and very near the edge of the pond. Fortunately, we avoided a flood. Finds included a sickle, three whetstones and some pottery.



Our generous hosts, Lucy and Adam, provided tea, coffee and biscuits every day and a strawberry cream tea on the last day.

Lyn Spencer



Surrey Medieval Studies visit to Midhurst

Saturday 11 June saw members of the Medieval Studies Forum gather to pay a long-anticipated visit to Midhurst for a guided walking tour around the town to explore its medieval development, which led eventually to the construction of a fine early Tudor courtyard house – known today as Cowdray Castle. Led by former group chair Peter Balmer, the group were taken through the Norman origins atop St Anne's Hill, then the medieval development of the town, laid out outside the castle, and the relocation of the manorial centre down to the meadows beside the River Rother. After lunch, the party made their way to Cowdray for a tour by an Estate guide to see how the Tudor house was developed from a medieval manor house and consider how the river's course may have been deliberately altered to enhance the setting. The day ended with a stroll to the nearby church of St Mary's Easebourne, once part of the Priory occupied by Augustinian nuns.



Medieval Studies Forum pottery study day

On **Saturday 1 October** at East Horsley Village Hall, the MSF will be hosting a study day on medieval pottery, covering topics from the clay used, the techniques of pot making, pottery identification and the impact on the people of medieval society. Confirmed speakers include Duncan Brown (English Heritage), Jacqui Pearce (MOLA), Lorraine Mephram (Wessex Archaeology), Mark Eller and Lyn Spencer. The Society's President will also pay a tribute to the late Steve Nelson.

Further details, including the application form, will be circulated to MSF members and then posted on the Events page of the Society's website when the programme is finalised.



Put yourself on the climate map

What map? An interactive, searchable map of the whole of Surrey showing all climate groups, ventures and actions. We want to develop an easy-to-access facility for everyone to use. It will appear on the Surrey Climate Commission website for all to use and share.

Who is the Surrey Climate Commission? They exist 'to provide an independent and authoritative voice for all organisations in Surrey...helping them contribute to the County reaching its...climate target' (see [About Surrey Climate Commission | Surrey Climate Commission](#)).

They need information about non-party-political groups, repair cafes, no-waste eco-shops, eco-hubs, community buses, parish councils which are doing remarkable things for the environment, individual campaigns and initiatives...and so on, no matter how small the group. If you're active and climate-conscious, they'd like to put you on the map and see it become the 'go to' resource for all of Surrey. It's a superb (and free) way to get noticed, no matter how large or small your group / initiative might be (they will not share your information privately).

The advantages:

- Find similar groups for mutual support, ideas, sharing resources and avoiding reinventing the wheel
- Publicise your initiatives and events to like-minded people
- Avoid 'burn-out' and feelings of helplessness by seeing you are not alone in what you're doing

To give you the idea, here's the map created by Somerset Climate Action Network: [The Network – Somerset CAN](#). Our map will include a search facility as well, along with icons to click on which take you to a brief description and contact details (eg [Ilminster Tree Project](#), planting 7000 trees, one for every man, woman and child living in the area) .

Surrey Climate Commission

Click on the link [Surrey Climate Commission - climate groups map](#) to fill in the form. You can include as many categories as you wish for the search facility. GDPR will apply: the information will be stored by two named people but will obviously be available on the map, apart from your email address.

And feel free to send us details of any other relevant local groups you can think of. We'll contact them directly. Please email us with any queries: contactus@surreyclimate.org.uk.

We look forward to putting you on the map!

Emma Coburn (SyAS Member and Member of the Outreach Group, Surrey Climate Commission)



Surrey Historic Environment Record blog

Check out the latest Historic Environment Record [blog](#) from Tony Howe, Historic Environment Planning Team Manager, who discusses HER searches and their relevance to the planning system, including sites which require archaeological work prior to development, such as the Anglo-Saxon period cemetery at Fetcham in 2010 (*right* © Tony Howe/SCC Historic Environment Planning).



Surrey Heritage online talks

On **Wednesday 6 July** at 17:30, Surrey Heritage will hold its final online talk of the summer, 'Bananas: how a Surrey garden played a pivotal role in the history of the world's favourite fruit', an illustrated talk by Kate Reddick on the story of how a Surrey plant collector played a crucial role in the cultivation and popularity of the banana. Tickets for £5 are available to purchase [online](#).



Merton Priory study afternoon

A study afternoon on 'Merton Priory – the First 100 Years' will take place on **Saturday 23 July** (14:00-17:00) at Merton Priory Chapter House, Chapter Way, London SW19 2RX. This colloquium focuses on Merton Priory in the 12th century, with speakers including Prof Janet Burton, Dr Hugh Doherty and Dr Ian Stone. Admission is free; e-mail Katie Hawks (katierhawks@gmail.com) to register your interest or have more information.

Heritage Open Days

A HOD event at the Society's offices in Abinger will take place on **Thursday 15 September**. This will coincide with an AARG working day, with other groups invited to set up displays. The library will also be open to browse, with free admission for members and non-members alike. Contact info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk if you wish to participate.

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