



Surrey Archaeological Society

No 31

July 2023

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.surreyarchaeology.org.uk)) for group and event updates.

Anne Sassin (*SyAS Outreach Projects Manager*)



Neolithic axehead from Harewoods

A rare Neolithic flint axehead has been recently found by a 10-year old girl while walking her dog at the National Trust site of Harewoods, near Redhill. This has since been reported to the Surrey FLO, Simon Maslin, who recorded it on the Portable Antiquities Scheme database. Members of the public are reminded that if they find such objects, they take pictures and send a grid reference. Read more about the exciting discovery [here](#).

West Horsley Place group visit

An exciting bespoke guided tour of the house and grounds of West Horsley Place – of BBC Ghosts fame – is being arranged for Society and Medieval Studies Forum members on **Sunday 24 September** from 1000-1200. This will be a 'Nooks and Crannies' tour, but with the addition of our own Martin Higgins who will be bringing an extra element,



sharing more recent research on the house's development and medieval origins, including the results of the Society's most recent geophysical surveys.

A special group discount is being offered, at £16 per person. A payment system will be in place shortly, but please register your interest now, as spaces are limited (email med-forum@hotmail.co.uk with 'West Horsley tour' as the subject).



Surrey's Archaeological Planning Designations, Five Year Refresh

The timetabled review of Surrey's Archaeological Planning areas has now been completed. These County Sites of Archaeological Importance (CSAIs) and Areas of High Archaeological Potential (AHAPs) form an integral role in the application of planning policy which requires consultation on development proposals within any such area. An introductory note and call for proposals was previously published in Issue 024 (Dec 2022). The Historic Planning Team would like to thank those who subsequently sent in submissions and those who kindly shared their ongoing research with the team.

As a result of the review, 61 new Archaeological Areas have been added to the dataset including 5 new County Sites of Archaeological Importance. A further 31 existing sites were subject to boundary amendments where additional information enabled more accurate mapping. Two of the former Areas of High Archaeological Potential were removed following extensive archaeological investigation and their subsequent redevelopment.

A detailed explanation and discussion of the Archaeological Area criteria and review methodology is in preparation and due to be published in the forthcoming *Surrey Archaeological Collections* (volume 105). An interactive map of the revised dataset can be reviewed online [here](#).

Finally, as the conclusion of this project marks my departure from Surrey County Council, I would like to take this opportunity to thank those SyAS members who I have encountered professionally over the last 12 years, who have been continuously generous with their time and knowledge to assist in varied matters.

Alex Egginton

Building Stones Database for England map explorer

Historic England's recently launched Building Stones Database for England brings together information on local building stones, their uses and sources as an online interactive GIS (Geographical Information System) resource.

The [Building Stones Database for England Map Explorer](#), a joint initiative between the British Geological Society and Historic England, lets you explore building stones and their sources, as well as the bedrock and superficial geology. You can browse the geological map, as well as search for a building stone, stone source or structure, or search by post-code, address or place name.



Remains of a Norman ringwork and bailey were discovered during routine archaeological work ahead of development. The newly created County Site of Archaeological Importance (WA223) and Area of High Archaeological Potential (WA224) will ensure that the archaeological implications are taken into account and any future development impact is appropriately managed.



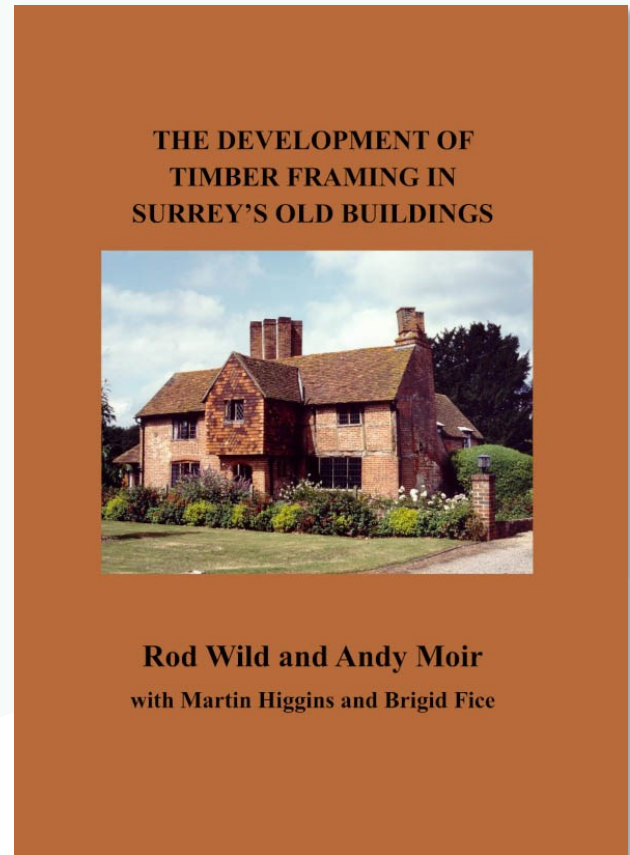
The Development of Timber Framing in Surrey's Old Buildings

This publication is the result of a joint project between SyAS and the Domestic Buildings Research Group (Surrey), supported by Surrey County Council and a generous grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The objective was to map the development of timber-framed buildings, century by century, area by area, across the county, using tree-ring dating.

The Project has confirmed the sequence and development of many architectural features, often attributing earlier dates than had been previously understood.

The report of the findings has now been published in a 200 page, fully illustrated book, providing a clear, accurate picture of how the vernacular architecture of Surrey has evolved.

Visitors to the Society's headquarters at Abinger can purchase a copy at £20 or copies can be obtained by post. See the [website](#) for more details.



SyAS Library's withdrawn journals, available to members

The Library has undertaken a second rationalisation of our journal stock. Regional journals that are now freely available online have been withdrawn from stock. These journals are now in need of a new home. If anyone is interested in taking a run of journals for their own use, please contact Hannah Jeffery on librarian@surreyarchaeology.org.uk. All our journals, both regional and national, are now available on open access in the meeting room at Abinger.



Click [here](#) to see the list of journals that have been withdrawn.

Recent items acquired by the Library

In June, the following [new items](#) were acquired by the Library. To view other of our [recent acquisitions](#) or browse the online Library [catalogue](#), please visit the website.



UCL Institute of Archaeology/ Archaeology South-East seminar series



UCL Institute of Archaeology and Archaeology South-East have recently been running an online spring seminar series on UK archaeology, with talks including Kayt Hawkins' ['Building a bottle for baby: some aspects of infant care in Roman Britain'](#). For more talks, click [here](#).

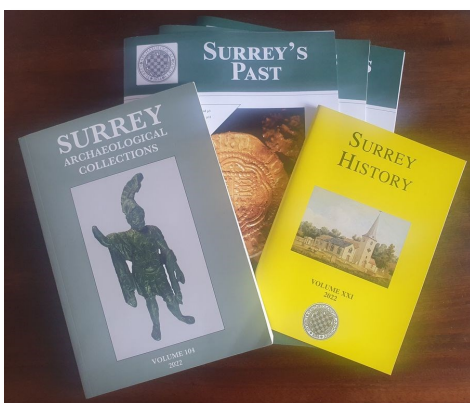
Surrey Historic Environment Record staffing update

The current Historic Environment Record (HER) Officer, Rob Briggs, is on sabbatical from Surrey County Council until 28 September 2023. During this time, Shân Mughal will be covering the HER Officer role. With a background in archaeology and conservation, Shân joined the Surrey HER team in 2021. Alongside Emily Brants and Jazmin Sexton (HER Assistants), the HER will be operating business-as-usual during this period, and is contactable at her@surreycc.gov.uk.

Heritage Open Days

The Research Centre will be open on **Thursday 17 September** (10:00-15:00) as part of Mole Valley Heritage Open Days. If interested in visiting the Society's library and research space on this occasion, contact the Society for details or click [here](#) for more information.

Thinking about joining?



If you aren't yet a member of SyAS, now is the perfect time to join! Rates start at £6 per year for junior members (aged 16-20), with £12.50 for students and £30 for ordinary members (£5 associates). In addition to three issues of *Surrey's Past* a year, annual journal *Surrey Archaeological Collections* and *Surrey History*, members have access to a wide range of fieldwork opportunities, research projects and special interest groups, many of which have their own lecture programmes and study days. To join, please visit our [website](#).

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