



Surrey Archaeological Society

No 32

August 2023

E-newsletter

Welcome to the Society's August 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*)

Albury Park community test pitting

Another successful week of test pitting took place at Albury Park at the beginning of the month, with a further five pits completed, two of which came down onto medieval deposits. In addition to several sherds of medieval (and earlier) pottery, finds included two 14th-century jetons in close proximity ([SUR-4A74F6](#) and [SUR-4A3570](#) on the PAS database).



We will be returning for one more week this season of test pitting, starting with an open day on **Saturday 16 September** (12:00-15:00), where all are welcome to come and either dig in one of the pits or view displays of what has been found. See the [event listing](#) on the website for more info.

Dates for the remaining test pitting will be **Monday 18** to **Thursday 21 September**. Volunteers are needed for both finds and digging; no prior experience is needed. If interested in taking part, please contact Anne at outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk.



Cocks Farm Abinger 2023 season

The Cocks Farm Abinger excavation ran for five weeks (longer than ever before), with over 80 people taking part. This was followed by the usual weeks of recording and small-scale work, which still continues. We were glad to see many new faces (including a number of students) as well as old friends, all of whom patiently trowelled large and often apparently unrewarding areas of sand. The Finds team did sterling work, managing to record in detail 10 large boxes of ceramic building material from the 1995-7 excavations as well as the preliminary work on all the finds from this year.

T33 was 10m wide and ran 47m south. At the north end a previously unseen six-roomed post-built building, probably earlyish Romano-British, was found. Its style of building suggests that it was a house rather than used for animals or as a workshop. South and downslope of the building was an apparent working area with hearths and pits. South and separated from the working area by a fence was a stony area where small pits may have been dug to obtain stone and/or a fine whitish clay in which the stones lay. This area was bounded to the south by a large ditch (and now vanished presumed bank) which in turn lay north of a ploughed field. Under the building a Late Bronze Age pit contained sherds from several vessels, some of which had been utilised in one of the building's postholes.



The archaeology of T34, placed to determine the relationship between two crossing ditches, proved very challenging, but a complicated succession was discovered by painstaking work in a sea of sand.

Emma Corke

Overhead of the building (distorted as not truly overhead). Note the hearth (which pre-dates the building) left of the ranging rods and LBA pit (right). Some fenceline posts can be seen to the right of the building.



The LBA pit partially excavated. Note the sherds in the posthole.





SHERF 2023

This year's Surrey Historic Environment Research Framework conference on **Saturday 25 November** will consider aspects of the history and archaeology of medical practice. This will be an online event held via Zoom. The Society AGM will take place during the lunch break and further information (including on how to book) will be available in due course, but for now, please save the date.

Programme:

10:00 Open – Chair: Lyn Spencer (SyAS)

10:05 Lorna Webb (UCL): *The 9 herb charm – an archaeological approach*

10:45 Dr Martin Huggon (Bishop Grossteste): *Communities of the living, communities of the dead: hospitals in medieval social life*

11:25 Short break

11:35 Dr Judie English (SyAS): *Cranleigh Village Hospital – a revolution in bringing advanced medical care to a rural community*

12:15 Questions

12:30 Lunch

13:00 AGM

13:40 Dr Mary Alexander (SyAS): *Guildford medics 1600 to 1800*

14:20 Dr Patty Baker (Dept of History, Virginia Tech): *The Multifunctionality and Meanings of Medical Tools in Ancient Rome*

15:00 Questions

15:10 Close

Recent items acquired by the Library

In July, 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.

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, where displays of other projects and current processing from recent field-work will be taking place, contact the Society for details or click [here](#) for more information.





CBA-SE annual conference – What is new from Commercial Archaeology in the South-East?

This year's annual conference will be run jointly with the Sussex School of Archaeology and History on **Saturday 18 November** in person at Kings Church, Lewes, East Sussex, with an online option also available.

Tickets are priced £25 for the in-person conference fee, £20 for CBA-SE members and Sussex School Friends and full-time students; online viewing will be £13. The link for tickets will shortly be available on Eventbrite.

Speakers and their talk titles include:

Andy Hood (Foundation Archaeology): *Excavation of a rather fine pair of funerary barrows at Spelthorne Leisure Centre in late 2021-early 2022*

Hayley Nicholls (Archaeology South-East): *A new lowland hillfort at Chichester*

Jon Baczkowski (Chris Butler Archaeological Services): *Investigation of multiperiod site near Pevensey with complicated superficial geology/geoarchaeology*

Paul Wilkinson (Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey): *Watling Street – the corridor (or conduit) for Roman Sacred and Secular power*

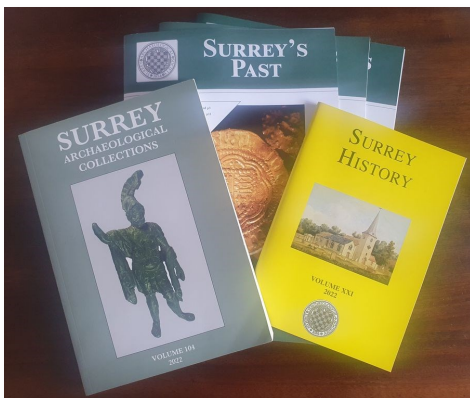
Odile Rouard (Thames Valley Archaeological Services): *A new take on a site at Water Lane, Angmering*

Diccon Hart (HB Archaeology and Conservation): *Buildings archaeology and survey*

Mike Allen (Allen Environmental Archaeology): *Environmental archaeology at Isle of Sheppey, Ouse Valley at Lewes*

Letty Ingrey (Archaeology South-East): *Post-excavation of some Palaeolithic sites, including the 'giant handaxe' from the Maritime Academy site*

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](http://www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk).

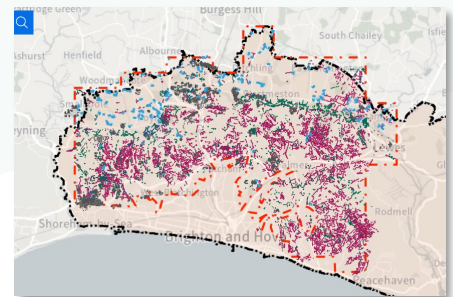


Finds from the FLO

These tiny medieval lead discs are known as 'spangles' and were sewn to clothing, serving as cheap stitched-on decoration which would have looked silvery when new. This one ([SUR-E100CE](#) from Southwark which dates to the early 13th century) depicts a ship. Rare finds due to their tiny size, if you find these whilst mudlarking, you're clearly doing it right!

South Downs interactive map

As part of the Changing Chalk project, the National Trust and Historic England have compiled a new interactive map of the South Downs based on aerial imagery and LiDAR, which allows the landscape from the Neolithic to the Second World War to be explored. To get involved, read the report on the project or simply explore the map, visit the Downs from Above [webpage](#).



Rudyard Kipling and Roman Britain

On **Wednesday 18 October** (19:30), Dr David Walsh (University of Newcastle) will be giving an online talk to the University of Sussex Archaeological Society. See www.usas.org.uk for more info.

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)).