



# Surrey Archaeological Society

No 47 November 2024

## E-newsletter

Welcome to the Society's November 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 [info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk), those interested in volunteer opportunities or general outreach can contact me at [outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto: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*)

### History of Guildford course

This course, which will start in the new year, is organised by the Guildford Town Guides, in collaboration with Guildford Museum Heritage Services, as a great way to delve into the town's history in more detail than is possible on the guided walks.

The course will run on selected Thursdays (10:00-12:20) from **16 January** to **8 May 2025**. The cost will be £95 for 14 classes, which will cover the town's origins and medieval history all the way up to the 20th century and Guildford in wartime. Classes are based on the course created by Matthew Alexander, former curator of Guildford Museum, with World War sessions presented by local historian David Rose. Classroom lectures will normally be followed by a visit to a historic location in the town centre.

The full programme and booking details are available on the [website](#).



## History of Guildford

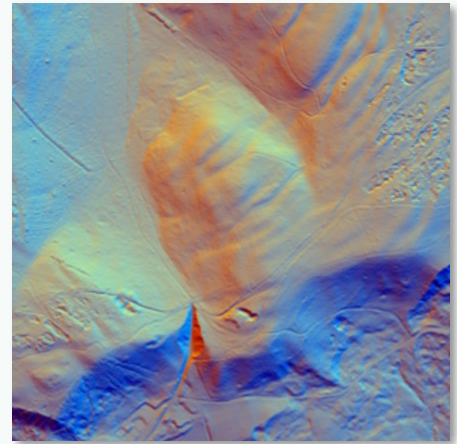
Delve deeper into the town's history in this 14 week course



## LiDAR Portal

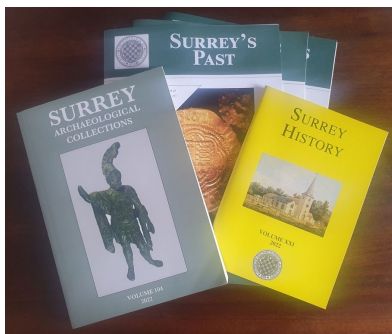
The [Surrey LiDAR Portal](#) is an online interactive citizen science map which includes various LiDAR datasets for all of Surrey, including the historic county, as well as historic maps and HER data to help in analysing the imagery.

LiDAR has enormous potential to uncover previously unknown archaeological features, and by helping map and interpret these sites online, volunteers can work to build a more complete story of the local landscape. Anyone is welcome to register for a free account, which will allow access to the interactive map. Volunteers who would like to be involved and help in digitising features should read the available tutorials and are encouraged to attend online training sessions (please contact us at [outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk) if you are interested, as we can discuss arranging a bespoke session).



Although no groundtruthing sessions are currently scheduled for the autumn/winter season, we will hopefully be able to provide some dates and venues soon. Please also contact us if you are interested in groundtruthing work.

## Thinking about joining and getting involved?



If you aren't yet a member of SyAS, now is the perfect time to join! In addition to three issues of *Surrey's Past* a year, the annual journal(s) *Surrey Archaeological Collections* and *Surrey History*, members have access to a wide range of fieldwork opportunities, research projects and special interest groups, many with their own programmes. To join (and see the full range of what is offered), please visit our [website](#). Some of the groups you might wish to join include:

Artefacts and Archives Research Group (AARG) – On-site processing of artefacts, with further work carried out at weekly meetings, including lithics and pottery; for more details on sessions and work available, visit the [AARG webpages](#).

Medieval Studies Forum – In-person and online talks with workshops and visits focused on the period from c.400-1600; for more details, visit the [MSF](#) webpage.

Prehistoric Group – In-person meetings, regular newsletter and study of collections in museums; for more details, visit the [PG](#) webpage.

Roman Studies Group – A varied programme which includes fieldwork, monthly lecture meetings, full-day seminars and day trips; for more details, visit the [RSG](#) webpage.



## Research Committee Grants

The Research Committee would like to remind all members that grants are available for Surrey projects and are available to Society groups with no budget and to external groups with limited resources. Society excavations such as Abinger in 2024 and post-excavation for Ashted, Abinger and Flexford have been funded. Surveys, documentary research, training and scientific analyses are all suitable for consideration and have been supported by Society grants in recent years, such as work on the historic excavation at Lightwater and to enable a report on the more recent Hatch Furlong dig to commence. Scientific analyses are also specifically covered by funds from the Bierton and Slade bequests which have recently funded C14 dating for the Abinger excavation.

Applications are considered throughout the year and the Committee's decision is final. Details and an application form are available on the website or from the office.

## Margary Award 2025

The Research Committee initiated a new approach to the Margary Award in 2024 with the following guidelines, and now invite submissions for 2025.

- i) The award is a recognition of a new contribution to the knowledge of the past of the historic county of Surrey.
- ii) The research or its demonstration should have taken place within the previous year, and not previously made public.
- iii) Any individual or group may enter provided there is no professional input.
- iv) Submissions for the award could take a variety of forms such as illustrations, Power-Point displays, videos, short reports and traditional displays, with physical evidence available to view at the Annual Symposium required. This need be no more than a digital photograph which could be used as part of a rolling PowerPoint during the day.
- v) Nominations should be received by the committee by **31 December 2024**, with completed entries submitted at least one month before the date of the Symposium.
- vi) The judging panel will be the choice of the Research Committee, and may still be formed by the Chair of the Research Committee, the President of the Society and an invited third party.
- vii) There will be one award of £300. There will be a runner-up if the number of entries justifies it.

This is an opportunity for community activities, youth groups and individuals to be creative in how they approach publicising their work. Nominations can be made at any time by contacting the Research Committee via [info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk).





## All Change at the Surrey Industrial History Group!

Since Covid, SIHG has been largely a virtual group, holding 15-20 Zooms with only an occasional physical meeting. The late Bob Bryson did an enormous amount of work, acting as treasurer, programme secretary and more, to keep the group going. Now that Bob is no longer with us, we need to change to survive.

Several long-term committee members are standing down, but fortunately we have some new faces on the committee, and some fresh ideas on the direction of the group. One major change is that we've started doing live talks again, at Leatherhead Oddfellows Hall on Thursday afternoons, and moved our Zoom talks to Thursday evenings in order to cater for people still at work.

We have also tried to broaden the scope of our programme, by including talks which focus on industrialisation's social history and some talks on brilliant individuals who contributed hugely to the industrial revolution. We also have a theatre trip planned and had a one-day conference on GPS. Please have a look at our [programme](#). You may also notice that on the October to April programme four of the speakers are female; why does industrial history have to be thought of as a male preserve? Any comments on the programme, or if you'd like to suggest a talk or event, please email us on [meetings@sihg.org.uk](mailto:meetings@sihg.org.uk).

Next spring/summer, we will organise some days out; candidates include combining a visit to the Rural Life Museum in Tilford with a tour of Farnham's industrial history; a barge trip on the Basingstoke canal; and an 'Engineers and Railways Tour' of Kensal Green cemetery, which is the final resting place of Brunel and many other key figures of the industrial revolution. And we already have some good possibilities for the Sept-Dec 2025 programme, including "It's all a bit Heath Robinson" (wild ideas for WW1 weapons), "Crossrail – the Story of the Elizabeth Line", and we're looking for some industrial archaeology talks (any suggestions?).

Membership is free to SYAS members – if you'd like to join us, please email us on [membership@sihg.org.uk](mailto:membership@sihg.org.uk) and you'll get free admission to Zoom and Leatherhead talks, regular updates, and a newsletter every few months. We hope a number of you will join us and come along to our live and virtual events.

Lastly, although the group intends to change, we all still want it to be a place where you can come along and chat with friends. The Zooms will stay open for a post-talk chat, and now we are running Leatherhead live talks again we can go for a drink before / after. Please come along!





## SCAU publications on ADS

A selection of Surrey County Archaeological Unit publications are now available for free online on the Archaeology Data Service. Monographs are available [here](#) and Occasional Papers [here](#). Hard copies of publications are still available to purchase from the Surrey History Centre and the Surrey Heritage Online Shop.

## Roman Studies Group 2024-2025 lectures

RSG talks are generally held on the first Tuesday of the month on Zoom, beginning at 19:30. Although free, talks are limited to RSG members. If you are a SyAS member you can join RSG for free through the [membership page](#), follow instructions to join RSG. Any queries should be directed to the secretary at [romanstudiesgroup@btinternet.com](mailto:romanstudiesgroup@btinternet.com).

Talks can be found [online](#), including Chris Gibson on 'The latest Roman road fieldwork around Ewhurst' on **Tuesday 10 December** (rescheduled date) and Dr David Bird on 'An update on Ashted Roman Villa' on **Tuesday 7 January**. See the website for the full programme. Many of the previous talks have been recorded and are available on our [YouTube channel](#), including the recent lecture on Bridge Farm.

Also, save the date for the latest in the series of bi-annual RSG conferences, 'Shining a Light on Roman Rural Settlement in South-East England', on **Saturday 7 June 2025**. This will be a hybrid meeting at King's Hall, Kewes (and held online), run in conjunction with the Sussex School of Archaeology. A full programme and further details will be available in due course, as speakers confirm attendance and talk titles.



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