



Surrey Archaeological Society

No 50 February 2025

E-newsletter

Welcome to the Society's February 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, 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*)

Medieval Houses study day

This spring's Medieval Studies Forum meeting will be themed around Medieval Houses and take place on **Saturday 22 March** at East Horsley Village Hall from 10:00-15:00. The full programme is online but includes the following talks:



'West Horsley Place' by Martin Higgins (Surrey Domestic Buildings Research Group)

'High Bank, West Horsley, dating from 1375' by Brigid Fice (Surrey Domestic Buildings Research Group)

'Buildings researched and documentary records' by Jeremy Clarke

'How to make a brick on Effingham Common' by Dr Mark Eller (Mole Valley Geological Society)

'Scadbury Medieval Moated Manor House, Chislehurst, Kent' by Dr Janet Clayton (Orpington and District Archaeological Society)

Payment is available online through the [event page](#) or cash on the day. Space is limited so please do book in advance. E-mail medforum@hotmail.co.uk with any queries.

CBA-SE grants

The CBA South East would like to remind partners of their active grant scheme. In addition to research grants, this includes their Young Archaeologists' Grant, which has been set-up to allow YAC groups, museum clubs and other organisations working with young people to apply for funding towards sessions. Applications should be submitted by **1 April** or **1 October** for consideration. Please see the [website](#) for more information.



Book now for the Annual Symposium!

The Annual Symposium of the Society, featuring a full day of exciting new research and fieldwork throughout the county, will be held on **Saturday 8 March 2025** (10:00-16:30) in East Horsley Village Hall. Online booking is now available (tickets £12) via the [website](#). It is also possible to pay on the day with cash only.

The full programme is available online and includes the following talks:

‘Community Archaeology in Surrey – 2024 round-up’, Anne Sassin (SyAS)

‘Portable Antiquities Scheme – 2024 update’, Simon Maslin (PAS)

‘Bronze Age Settlement at Painshill’, John Boothroyd (OA)

‘Late Iron Age & Roman settlement at Dunsfold Park Access Road’, Gerry Thacker (OA)

‘Outwood to Buckland Strategic Water Main’, Giles Dawkes (ASE)

‘Industrial History of the Wandle’, Mick Taylor (Wandle Industrial Museum)

‘Lithics at Farnham Museum’, Martin Rose (SyAS)



Surrey Archaeological Society Annual Symposium 2025

Saturday 8 March
10:00-16:30

East Horsley Village Hall
www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk

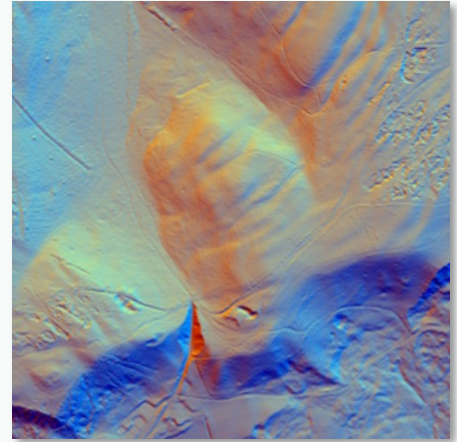




LiDAR Portal

The [Surrey LiDAR Portal](#) is an on-going 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 if you are interested, as we can discuss arranging a bespoke session).



Groundtruthing sessions are currently being planned for the spring, including at Netley Park on **Monday 3 March**, with further dates hopefully coming soon. Please contact us at the above address if you are interested in groundtruthing work and want to be informed of other dates.

Surrey Photographers

The Surrey Local History Committee is holding a day conference on ‘Surrey Photographers’ at Surrey History Centre on **Saturday 26 April** (10:00-16:00). Tickets are £18 if booked online (£20 if on the day). See the website and [event page](#) for booking info and the full programme.

Talks include:

Keith Harding, ‘Victorian Dorking in photographs by Walter Rose & John Chaplin’

Nigel Balchin, ‘Picture postcards and local history’

Jane Lewis and Jill Hyams (Surrey History Centre), ‘Portrait of a Surrey town between the wars: the photographic archive of Sidney Francis’

Julian Pooley (Surrey History Centre), ‘Patient Portraits from Surrey Hospitals, 1850-1980’

Chris Shephard, ‘Farnham’s war caught by the camera? Photographs that avoided the censor’

There will also be a visit to the Search Room in the afternoon to see a display of Surrey photographs from the archive.



One thousand years of solitude?

The Prehistoric Group has arranged a free Zoom talk by Paul Garwood of Birmingham University (Senior Lecturer in Prehistory) on **Tuesday 29 April** at 19:30 discussing the role of Neolithic pottery in south-east England, in the talk ‘One thousand years of solitude? Social lives and transformation in the Middle and Late Neolithic of south-east England, 3500-2500 BC’. [Online booking](#) has been arranged to enable the Zoom link to be sent closer to the event.



Mystery object

The Society’s Medieval Pottery Group recently examined an object that was donated in 1858, one of the first objects donated to the Society which was created in 1854. The heavy object is fired in a dark red clay and stands about 18cm high. It has a square, solid base and a round top with a circular, central hole. There is some damage by this hole with a section of the top missing. We asked online if anyone could identify this object or guess its use?

As usual, the online community did not disappoint and answers ranged from early medieval candlestick or wasp trap to grain mill. However, the most probable suggestion may be that it was ‘a type of vaulting tube from the 18th century. Good examples can be found in the Bank of England building’. Any other comments, please do send them our way, and many thanks for the networking and post-sharing which have led to the answers to date!

Surrey History Centre open day

Surrey History Centre will be hosting an open day on **Saturday 8 March** (10:30-15:00). Explore the fascinating collections, resources and behind-the-scenes work that make Surrey’s history come alive. From maps to photographs, letters and archaeological finds, there will be a whole array of Surrey gems on show in the search room, along with free family activities. You can also book a tour where you will discover the 6 miles of shelving in the strongrooms, housing documents dating back to the 12th century. Whether you’re a history buff or simply curious about their work, this day will offer something for everyone. See [online](#) for more info.

Free Surrey History Centre Open Day

Saturday 8 March, 10.30am - 3pm, Surrey History Centre

Discover Surrey's rich and diverse heritage at Surrey History Centre's free open day. From maps to photographs, letters and archaeological finds there will be a whole array of Surrey gems on show. Take a behind the scenes tour where you will discover the 6 miles of shelving in our strongrooms, housing documents dating back to the 12th Century. Surrey County Archaeological Unit will also be on hand to chat about Surrey excavations and finds.

Free talks 12pm - Aladdin's Cave: Some Major Family and Estate Archives in Surrey History Centre
12.45pm - Making Archives Matter
Tours take place at: 10.45am, 11.15am, 1.30pm, 2pm & 2.30pm.

Behind the scenes tours Tours last around 30 minutes and cost £5 per person, booking required.

Family activities Discover real artefacts in mini digs. There will also be arts and craft activities as well as historical costumes to play dress up.

Scan to book a tour and find out more!

Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking, GU21 6ND

Follow us @SurreyHeritage

www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents sh@surreycc.gov.uk

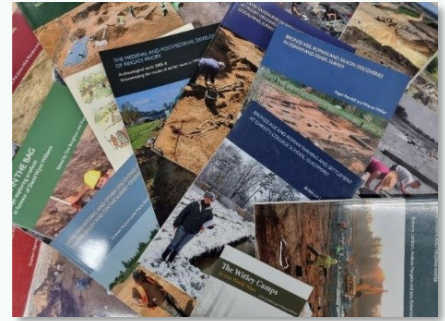


SCAU publications available for free download

SCAU are pleased to announce that a selection of Surrey County Archaeological Unit publications are now available to download for free on the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) as part of an initiative which will make the research more widely accessible. These publications include their Monographs and Occasional Papers, offering valuable insights into Surrey's rich archaeological heritage.

Monographs – access [here](#); Occasional Papers – access [here](#). Please follow the links to see the full list of publications available.

For those who prefer hard copies, all publications remain available for purchase from Surrey History Centre during normal opening hours, as well as online via the [Surrey Heritage Online Shop](#).



Anniversary Conference
Saturday 5th April 2025

Join us for a journey through time and be part of our 50th anniversary finale!

Celebrate 50 years of archaeological discovery and innovation at the Archaeology South-East 50th Anniversary Conference!

- Open to anyone interested in the archaeology of south-east England
- Our story from Sussex Archaeological Field Unit to ASE
- Keynote talks from ASE staff and external guest speakers showcasing our research and projects past and present
- Networking opportunities for professional and local community archaeologists
- Displays highlighting recent finds and innovative techniques
- Bookstall and much more....

To book tickets scan the QR code or visit:
<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology-south-east/ase-50>

Archaeology South-East 50th conference

Archaeology South-East is in its 50th anniversary year and are planning a conference day event on **Saturday 5 April** in Portslade, near Brighton, to celebrate. This event is open to anyone interested in the archaeology of the south-east and how ASE and its predecessors have played a key role in pushing forward understanding of our past in this region. The day will showcase their work, past and present, with insights into current research from both ASE staff and special guest external speakers. Programme and booking [online](#).

Speakers include: Louise Rayner, David Rudling, Matt Pope, Paul Garwood, Hayley Nicholls, Angus Forshaw / Rob Cullum, Melanie Giles, Michael Shapland, Elke Raemen / Sarah Wolferstan, Martin Bell.

CBA-SE annual lecture on Stiances project

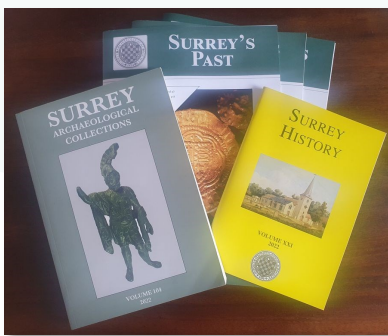
On **Tuesday 25 March** (19:00) CBA South-East will hold their annual AGM and lecture, this year by Simon Stevens (Archaeology South East) who will present on his ongoing Stiances Archaeological Project which, since 2009, has seen geophysical and topographic surveys and the targeting of hand-dug test-pits in a field called 'Little Stiances', revealing an assortment of post-medieval finds alongside a thin scatter of Mesolithic flintwork. Register in advance [online](#).



SyAS 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.

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 field-work 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.

Surrey Industrial History Group – In-person visits, regular meeting programme, bi-monthly newsletter and annual journal; for more details, visit the [SIHG webpage](#).

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