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SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

CASTLE ARCH, GUILDFORD GU1 3SX

Tel/ Fax: 01483 532454

E-mail: info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk

Website: www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk

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UNCOVERING THE MYSTERIES OF THE SHAFTS OF EWELL
(p.10)

THURSLEY COMMON: A SURVEY OF THE EASTERN MOUND

Audrey and David Graham

As readers may be aware two roughly circular mounds lie immediately to the south of the raised bog on Thursley Common in the west of the county. The mounds are about 180m apart and were included by Grinsell in his list of Surrey barrows published in the *Collections* (Grinsell 1934). Subsequently excavations by Corcoran in 1959 concluded, on stratigraphic grounds, that both mounds were natural sand dunes and they were subsequently removed from the list of Scheduled Ancient Monuments. Since Corcoran's conclusions (Corcoran 1961) did not appear to fit with

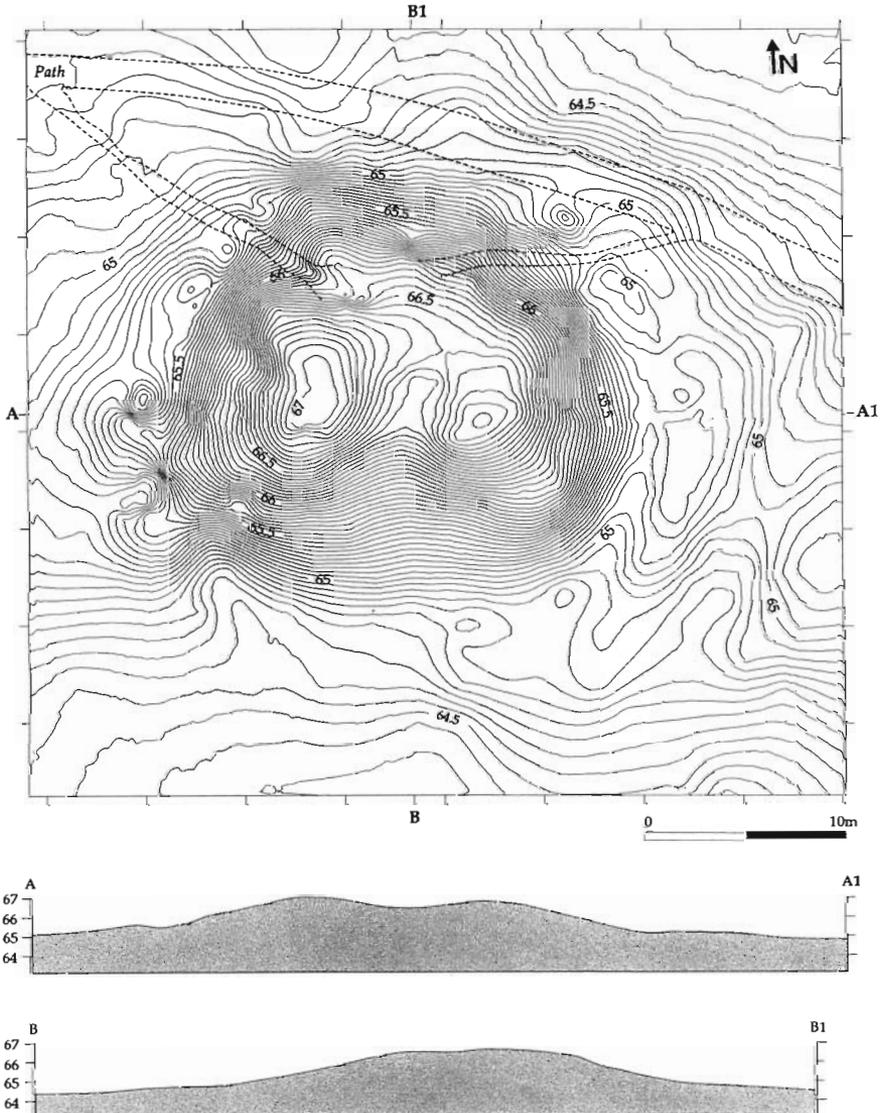


Fig 1. Thursley Eastern Mound: contour survey and profiles.

the visible evidence for surrounding ditches, also noted by Grinsell, a further test excavation was carried out in 1995 on the western mound, which proved conclusively that this was of turf stack construction and, on palynological grounds, was of Bronze Age date (Graham *et al* 2004).

Though it seemed likely, by analogy, that the eastern mound (SU 9107 4093) was also artificial, this was not certain as Corcoran had excavated a trench through the centre and the published photograph of part of the section showed no signs of turves.

However, a recent survey (fig 1) of the eastern mound at the request of English Nature and English Heritage suggests a solution to the problem. As can be seen from the digital terrain map (fig 2), the mound shows evidence of a large depression running from the southern edge through the centre of the mound. This is almost certainly the remains of an antiquarian excavation and the spoil from this appears to have been dumped on top of the mound, but also on its north, south-east and south-west sides as well as being used to partially backfill the trench. In Corcoran's report he describes bisecting the centre of the mound with two narrow north–south trenches apparently siting these within the line of the earlier and much wider excavation. It therefore seems a distinct possibility that Corcoran's trenches entirely cut through the earlier backfill and that consequently his photograph shows nothing more than a section through compacted spoil. This would explain the lack of any signs of a turf stack construction and consequently Corcoran's conclusion that the mound was a sand dune.

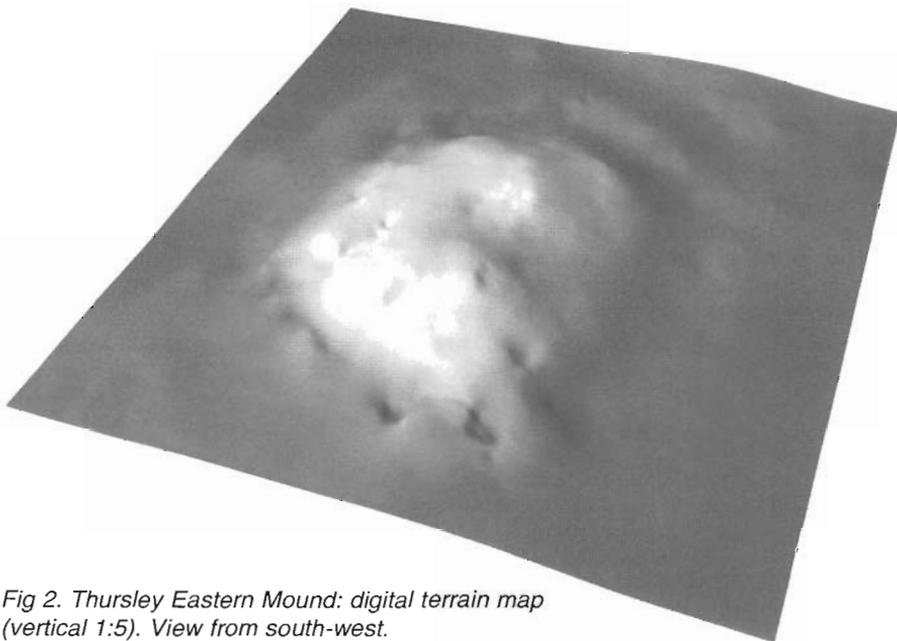


Fig 2. Thursley Eastern Mound: digital terrain map (vertical 1:5). View from south-west.

If this is correct, then any surviving evidence for the original construction of the mound will lie in its eastern or western parts, but has been destroyed through the centre. The mound has also been damaged by military foxholes, burrowing animals and by erosion along the footpaths used by birdwatchers who use it as a platform to look over the bog. Grinsell recorded the mound as being 8 to 9ft high (c.2.6m), while today it is about 2m high. Both figures depend on what one takes to be the base of the mound, but nonetheless it does appear to have lost over 0.5m in height between

1932 and 2005. As a final point and despite all the damage it is still possible to trace sections of a surrounding ditch, particularly on the north-west side where it has a well-defined external bank. It therefore seems probable that this mound is also a Bronze Age barrow and accordingly both mounds are now listed as Scheduled Monuments once again.

References

Corcoran, J X W P, 1961 Excavation of two mounds on Thursley Common, *Surrey Archaeol Collect*, **58**, 87–91

Graham, D, Graham, A & Wiltshire, P, 2004 Investigation of a Bronze Age mound on Thursley Common, *Surrey Archaeol Collect*, **91**, 151–66

Grinsell, L V, 1934 An analysis and list of Surrey barrows, *Surrey Archaeol Collect*, **42**, 36–60

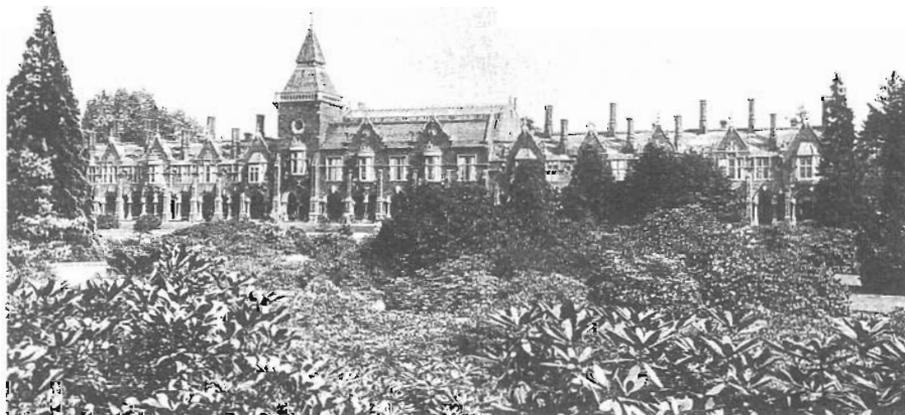
THE ROYAL DRAMATIC COLLEGE, WOKING

Rosemary and Richard Christophers

The Royal Dramatic College in Maybury had its origins in a meeting at the Princes Theatre, London on 21st July 1858. Charles Dickens and William Makepeace Thackeray were at the meeting to discuss proposals to build an institution that would provide a home for retired actors and actresses and which could include a school for members of the profession. As a result of the meeting, a trust was formed to raise money and to carry out building work. The funding came from voluntary subscriptions and donations, and a range of fund raising activities – fetes, fairs and an annual dramatic performance. A Royal Charter was granted on the 8th of June 1859 and the trustees began looking for a suitable site within easy reach of London but where land could be bought cheaply. Woking had both – a good rail service and large areas of heathland for sale. In 1860 five acres of Maybury Common were given to the project by the Necropolis Company, who were effusively thanked at several meetings, although they has also sold a further ten acres for £750.

The foundation stone of the Royal Dramatic College was laid on 1st June 1860 by Prince Albert and the College was officially opened on the 5th of June 1865, although the first residents were admitted in September 1862. *The Times* for 6th June 1865 described the objective of the college as “to cheer the evening of [the] life ... of those who are entitled to seek shelter in this asylum”.

Thomas P. Cooke, a wealthy actor and supporter, died in 1864, leaving a considerable amount of money to the college, for holding an annual dinner and



The Oriental University Institute, formerly the Royal Dramatic College.

paying prize money for a play on a national or nautical subject, royalties from which would be assigned to the College.

The Royal Dramatic College was designed by William Webbe, but he was found to be unsatisfactory and T.R. Smith was engaged to design the Central Hall. The whole building was built of red brick in a 'Tudor' style and ornamented by terracotta reliefs. It had a large central hall with a tower at the western end and a pillared arcade along the front to provide an area where the residents could sit. The College had two wings, one on either side of the main hall, and each had five pairs of self-contained houses that accommodated two people. There were to be ten male and ten female residents, with spouses, but numbers never reached that level. The 1871 census records 16 residents – nine actresses and seven actors ranging in age from 60 to 85.

In March 1870 the college was said to be in need of funds and, in the next few years, the financial position became precarious. Building costs had been higher than estimated and running costs were high. Interest in the project was waning: subscriptions were no longer coming in, the bequest of T.P. Cooke had (until changed in Chancery) to be spent on an annual dinner, and the royalties from the plays became non-existent. 'Fancy fairs' were held at the Crystal Palace, which cost much to put on and brought relatively little income, as well as the scorn of 'The Era', the journal of the acting profession, which felt that actors were lowering themselves in taking part in sketches and running stalls selling expensive novelties. At the 1861 fete, a specially composed 'Dramatic College Quadrille' was performed. Occasional gifts, such as one from the Khedive of Egypt, occasioned rash outbursts of expenditure without any income to support capital projects. Thus, early in 1877, emergency meetings were held to discuss the future of the College and it closed on 12th November 1877.

The Charity Commissioners instructed that the building, land and moveable assets be sold to cover expenses and to repay debts but this was not completed until the end of June 1880. Messrs Farebrother, Lye and Palmer put the property up for auction but it did not reach the reserve price of £5,000. The works of art and library so enthusiastically assembled by the founders were sold at auction in 1881, and the building was eventually sold by private contract to Alfred Chabot, a land and property speculator who sold it in 1884 to Dr. Gottlieb Wilhelm Leitner, who developed it as the Oriental Institute. A result of Leitner's initiative was the building of the first purpose-built mosque in Britain in the grounds, but the Institute did not survive Leitner's death and the mosque closed for a number of years, reopening in 1912.

Further research in 'The Era' continues on the last days of the College.

References

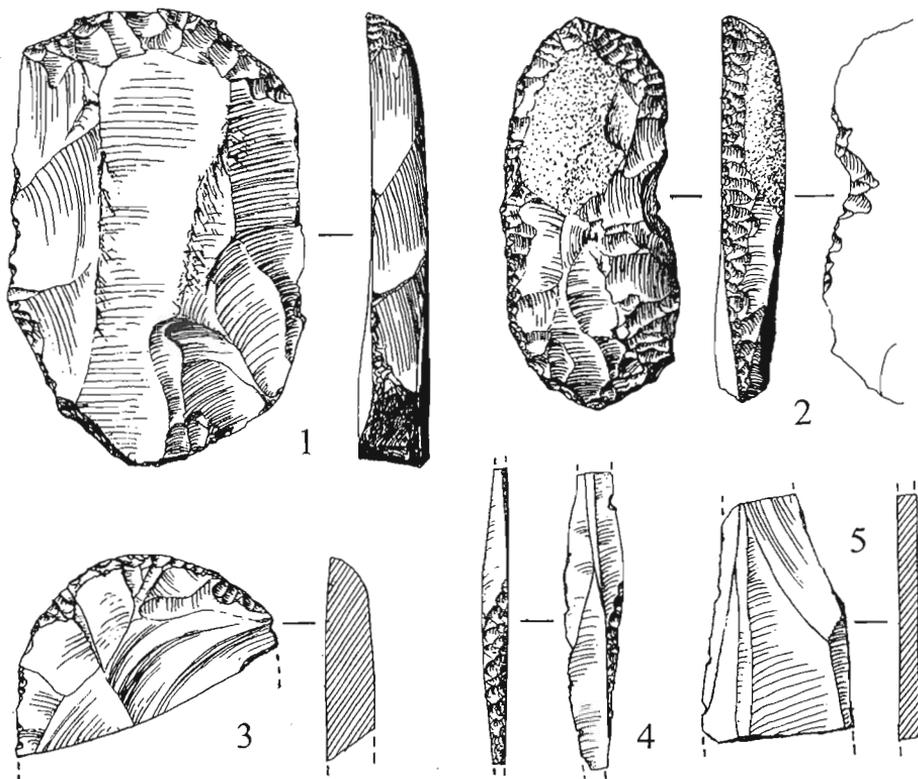
- Whiteman, R and S. *Victorian Woking* (1970)
'The Era' papers at the Actors' Benevolent Fund
Foulkes, R. 'The Royal Dramatic College' in *Nineteenth Century Theatre Research*, vol. 13, no. 2 (Winter 1985);
Davis, J. 'The Royal Dramatic College fetes' in *Theatre Notebook*, 1986

SOME FLINTS FROM THE BLETCHINGLEY AREA

Phil Jones

During an open day at the recent North Park Farm excavations (**Bulletins 386, 387, 388, 390**) a resident of Bletchingley village, David Martin, brought along some struck flints that he had collected over the past few years. They have since been returned to him, after being drawn for the purpose of this note. The five flints were recovered from three sites.

The complete scraper (no 1) is of 'cherty', pale grey and mottled flint with a carefully prepared, broad butt. It has steep retouch on its convex end as well as further



Flints from three sites in Bletchingley. Scale 1:1.

modification down its lower left side, and was found south-east of the village in a tractor rut at the north end of Crooked Field Shaw (cTQ 331 499). It is probably of Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date.

The waisted scraper (no 2) is of mid to dark grey flint and retains some cortex on its upper surface. Steep scraper retouch on its convex distal end continues down both sides of the implement to include a concave 'spokeshave' working along its right edge. On the underside of this concave retouch is another short length of working that is less proficient. This edge may have been used for cutting as well as scraping. The tool was discovered on the surface of a mole-hill in the finders garden at 94 High Street, Bletchingley (c TQ 323 508). It, too, is likely to be of Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date.

Three more struck flints were found under an uprooted tree by a small pond at Lake Farm, Bletchingley during the construction of the M23 (cTQ 314 516). One is the distal end of a concave scraper in a pale grey, mottled flint (no 3). The patina of its broken edge suggests this happened in antiquity and there is subsequent retouch along the break along its right side. Although its lost basal part may have been similar to fig 1, the odd breaking point may indicate that it had been a blade scraper, albeit a thick one. Another of the three is a blade in a brown-tinged, mottled pale grey flint (no 5) that was broken at each end in antiquity. The last flint from Lake Farm seems the most characteristic of the period to which all three may belong. It is a relatively large microlith of mid grey flint (no 4), with both ends lost in antiquity. As can be seen

it has steep retouch along more than half of its right edge towards, what presumably had been, an originally pointed end. Most struck flints are usually drawn dorsal side uppermost and with the bulb of percussion of the reverse side at the base. Many microliths, however, are retouched towards that usually thicker end to provide strength, as in this instance. In a sense, therefore, it is illustrated 'upside-down'. It can be classified as an obliquely blunted point; a microlith that was probably used as a projectile, but it is its size that may identify it as an early form. Even with its snapped ends it is 4cm long, and obliquely blunted points of this size and above are usually only found on early Mesolithic sites (Butler 2005, 90). Since it was found in loose association with the two other flints, the site is of considerable local importance.

My thanks to David Martin for bringing the flints to our attention.

Reference

Butler, C, 2005, *Prehistoric Flintwork*, Tempus

JOSEPH PETERS, LIME-WORKER OF DORKING

Paul W Sowan

The John Soanes' Museum in London has in its library a 'prospectus' dated 1798 for Joseph Peters '*The original Dorking lime-burner*'. It lists the prices he charged at Dorking and at Chapel Farm, which lay on the west side of the Mole valley at West Humble in Micklesham parish.

In Dorking, 'stone lime', 'small lime' and 'small lime for land' were on offer, as well as 'sea coals', presumably from Durham or Northumberland. At Chapel Farm, in addition to the same descriptions of lime, bricks were on offer. Lime from a 'drawing kiln' (that is, one operated continuously) is mentioned, although the location of this structure is not clear. Most of the kilns at Dorking for which details survive appear to have been 'flare' kilns, operated intermittently.

The Dorking limeworks (TQ 160 502), which went out of business in 1939, were to the north-east of Dorking West station (formerly known as Dorking Town) although never rail-linked with the Reading, Guildford and Reigate Railway opened in 1849. The pits have been land-filled and built over, although local road names (Chalkpit Lane, Chalkpit Terrace and Limeway Terrace) recall the once famous Dorking limeworks.

The prospectus is of considerable interest in constituting some evidence for the history of the chalk pit and associated mine or quarry tunnels at Chapel Farm (TQ 154 521), for which I have hitherto found no documentation. It has generally been assumed that the networks of tunnels behind the face of this chalk pit were for hard chalk quarried underground (as at Guildford) for use as a building stone, although Peters advertises no such product in his prospectus. The pit is now a closed nature reserve, and the tunnels gated and in use as a bat hibernation site. No trace of a kiln has been noticed at this site. Presumably, Peters was using it as a depot for the storage of bricks made elsewhere, as there seems to be no substantial deposit of suitable clay or brickearth for manufacturing bricks in the immediate vicinity.

This Joseph Peters may well have been an ancestor of Joseph Stillwell Peters who operated the Merstham limeworks during the latter part of the 19th century and early part of the 20th century. James Malcolm in his *Compendium of modern husbandry* (1805) notes a Mr. Peters as the principal lime-burner at Dorking, then working six kilns. A number of members of what may well have been one and the same family of lime-burners are known to have operated in east Surrey and on the banks of the Medway in Kent. Charles Rose in *Recollections of old Dorking* (1878) notices G. Peters, Henry Peters and Thomas Peters. Joseph Peters' prospectus describes him as a lime-burner, brick-maker and coal merchant. Where he dug his brickearth and burned his bricks remains to be determined.

Peters' claim to have been '*the original Darking lime-burner*' cannot be supported, as the limeworks here are known to date back at least to the 17th century; the parish registers recording that one Myles Croney was 'killed by a stone at the lime works at Dorking on 30th July 1623'.

COUNCIL NEWS

COUNCIL MEETING OF 20th JANUARY 2006

The meeting heard a presentation by Mr C Bunting, Head of Cultural Services at Guildford Borough Council, on the future of Guildford Museum. The Executive of the Borough Council had agreed that an extension should be constructed on the site of 48 Quarry Street, part of the existing Museum complex. It would be integrated with Castle Arch but include a new main entrance from Guildford Castle grounds. This would provide an additional 2,200 square metres of floor space. An application would be made to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant, which the Borough Council would match. Whilst there was no guarantee that a bid to the HLF would be successful, it was encouraging that the Fund had approved a grant for the employment of consultants who were assessing the Museum's future 'audience'.

Tenders were being sought for the appointment of a conservation architect to design a building that would demonstrate the feasibility of the project, provisionally named *Guildford Museum Inspiration*. Assuming it went ahead, the new building would not be ready until November/December 2009 at the earliest, and might be as late as 2011-2012. The 'worst case' scenario was that the project would not go ahead at all for lack of funding.

A separate issue was the Museum's restricted storage space especially given the extent to which Guildford Museum was a repository for material from the rest of the County. The Museum was currently reviewing its Acquisition and Disposal policy as part of its bid for 'Accreditation'.

In response to questions Mr Bunting said that it was not yet possible to identify what space would be available for the Society in a new building but the discussions with the Society's representatives, led by the President, would continue. Members stressed, in the light of the termination in 2008 of the Agreement for its occupancy of Castle Arch, the need for greater certainty both of the space available in future and the potential financial cost to the Society. There was concern about the impact on the Society's operations of the construction of a new building and, as a separate issue, that of earlier structural strengthening work at Castle Arch. Mr Bunting re-affirmed his wish that the Museum's relationship with the Society should continue, but said that he was unable to offer any guarantees at the current stage. He then left the meeting. Subsequently there was further discussion about the measures the Society should take to ensure that its future accommodation needs were met.

Mr R Bryson and Mr D Williams were co-opted onto Council.

Council approved the Society's budget for 2006-2007, which provided funding for the three key priority areas identified in the Five-year strategy approved by Council, namely membership and publicity, research and accommodation. Reports were received from Committees, Groups and its representatives on external bodies Council.

The Society will be consulted shortly about proposed changes in the structure of Surrey County Council as a consequence of the very large financial savings that SCC has to make. There was considerable discussion about the implications of the loss of key posts in the Heritage field. All members of the Society are urged to make

representations to County Councillors emphasising the impact of the proposals on the services provided by the Surrey History Centre and the Heritage team.

The next meeting of Council will be held on 28th April 2006 at the Letherhead Institute.

SOCIETY LECTURE SERIES IN MAY

Enclosed with this edition of the *Bulletin* are details of the Society's Lecture Series which will be held during May in Leatherhead. The theme of the series will be *Invasions and the Threat of Invasion* and topics will include both well-known and lesser known events. A booking form is printed on the flyer. If you can't come to the whole series then please come to as many as you can. An informative and enjoyable series is in prospect. The evenings start at 7.30 with coffee/tea and the talks start at 8pm.

SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

David Bird

The first of the seven SARF seminars was held on Tuesday 24th January, with encouraging results. The meeting was chaired by Jon Cotton and we were privileged to have Professor Richard Bradley to help us start the process off at this first seminar. His presentation generated lively discussion not just about the earlier prehistoric but also about the whole research framework process itself. Peter Harp also reported to this meeting about the good progress being made with thinking about the work needed for the Lower and Middle Palaeolithic. Similar thinking is still very much needed for most of the other periods and any thoughts would be welcome. This need not be at the seminars: please continue to send in your thoughts about what we need to know, in any form and at any time.

A strong theme emerging from the first meeting was the importance of the local. It is clear that we must realise the potential of properly understanding what is happening at a local level rather than trying to impose a straightjacket derived from a quite different area (as for example, prehistoric Wessex). This will in turn make possible a much better understanding of the national picture. Richard Bradley made it clear that Surrey has important things to say and we must make sure that it can do so, while recognising that logical local study areas may well stray outside county boundaries (whichever 'Surrey' we choose). And we must recognise that the studies are likely to be topographically based and therefore stray outside conventional periods as well.

Arrangements for the other seminars are in place and they have been advertised. A reminder about the last five seminars (Tuesday evenings, 19.30–21.30 (for 22.00), at the Christian Centre in Dorking):

- 14th February: **Mid to Late Saxon and medieval**
- 21st February: **Surrey after about 1500: buildings, parks and gardens, agriculture**
- 14th March: **Surrey after about 1500: industry**
- 21st March: **Surrey after about 1500: transport; defences and military aspects**
- 28th March **Geology/overarching themes and ideas**

It is not too late to book a place and we particularly need more people to attend the three 'after 1500' seminars and give us the benefit of their ideas. But please do book in advance as the room will only comfortably take about 30 people.

When the seminars are finished draft papers will be prepared and circulated in May/June to those who have shown an interest (and placed on the Surrey County

Council website). The comments and additional suggestions received will be worked into a revised document that will be circulated in August. A final document will then be created which we currently expect to present at a Saturday meeting in early October with a final opportunity for revision before publication in a form or forms yet to be decided. Arrangements will then be made for an ongoing programme to ensure that SARF remains up to date.

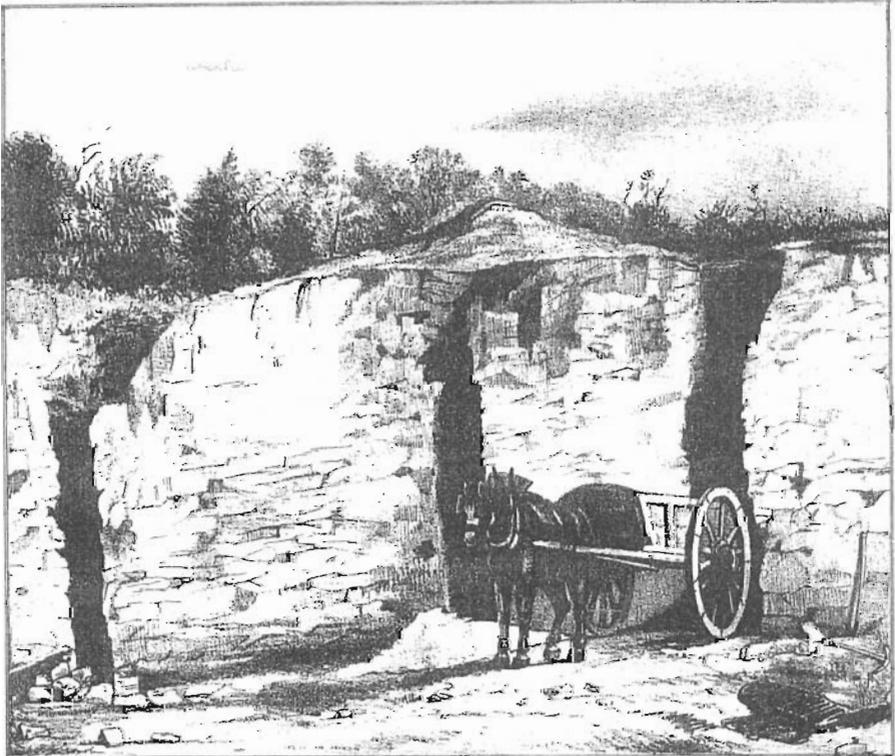
We hope to finish up with a document that lists all the key questions to which we need answers and ways in which those answers can be obtained. Ideally one outcome will be a list of key projects that can be pursued by the Society and other bodies. In order to achieve a comprehensive result we need everyone's input so please don't be shy: suggestions for key questions or programmes of work will be gratefully received at any time.

You can contact me by email: davidbird@surreycc.gov.uk (note that there is no dot between David and Bird); 'phone: 020-8541 8991; or by writing to me at Sustainable Development, Surrey County Council, County Hall, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT1 2DT, or contact any other member of the Steering Group: Jon Cotton; Peter Harp; Audrey Monk; Richard Savage; Peter Youngs.

TRAINING EXCAVATION

HATCH FURLONG, EWELL: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION IN 2006

Jon Cotton



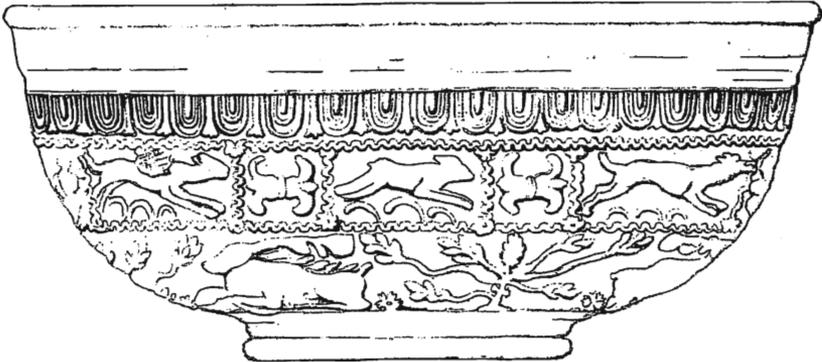
Ewell: Contemporary illustration of several of the Roman shafts uncovered in 1847.

Students and volunteers are required to help in the evaluation of a site on the south-eastern outskirts of Ewell. Earlier work on and close to the site has revealed a scatter of Roman features and finds. The evaluation work now proposed follows on from topographical and geophysical surveys conducted in late 2004 by Birkbeck College, University of London. It will involve a two-week training excavation and volunteer work, but as numbers are likely to be limited, early expressions of interest are advised.

TRAINING EXCAVATION

Birkbeck College and the Surrey County Archaeology Unit
24th-28th April and 1st-5th May

Fee: £160 per week.



Ewell: Contemporary illustration of one of the Samian bowls recovered from one of the shafts uncovered in 1847. It has a distinctive hunting theme.

Enquiries regarding student places on the training excavation should be addressed to Harvey Sheldon, Anna Colloms and Robin Densem at the Faculty of Continuing Education, Birkbeck, 26 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DQ. For further information contact Natalie Ping, Archaeology Desk (tel: 020 7631 6627).

VOLUNTEER WORK

Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society

Three weekends, 22nd-23rd and 29th-30th April and 6th-7th May.

Further details relating to the volunteer weekend work are available from Jon Cotton, c/o Museum of London, 150 London Wall, EC2Y 5HN (tel: 020 7814 5736; email: jcotton@museumoflondon.org.uk) and Frank Pemberton, 347a Ivydale Road, Nunhead, SE15 3ED (tel: 020 7732 2236; email: frank.pemberton@btopenworld.com).

LIBRARY NEWS

RECENT ACCESSIONS TO THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY (*continued*)

Excavations and evaluations carried out by units working within the County, which are reported periodically elsewhere in the *Bulletin*, are omitted here. Each entry includes the author, title, publisher and date of publication, followed by the four-digit accession number, and classification number indicating the shelf location of the book.

SURREY – LOCAL

- Graham, David *Trial trenching on the Roman site at Whitebeech, Chiddingfold, Surrey*. SyAS 9706 F31 CHI
- Guildford Borough Council *Guildford House*, GBC nd 9636 P31 GFD
- Heath, L & Tarplee, P *Then and Now: Leatherhead and District*. Tempus Publishing 2005 9712 P31 LEA
- Merton Historical Society *Trafalgar Bicentenary 1805-2005: Nelson at Merton*. Merton Historical Society 2005 9680 P31 MRT
- Milward, Richard *The Wimbledon Society 1903-2003*. Wimbledon Society Museum 2003 9660 P31 WIM
- Montague, EN *Lower Green West, Mitcham*. Merton Historical Society 2004 9641 P31 MIT
- Poulton, Rob *A medieval royal complex at Guildford: excavations at the Castle and Palace* SyAS 2005 9713, 9714 & 9715 P31 GFD
- Poulton, Rob *Guildford Castle and Royal Palace: excavations in 1990*. SCC 1990 9683 F31 GFD
- Puttenden Manor*. English Life Publications 1970 9640 P31 LNG
- Sweetman, John *A History of Poor Law and Charity Relief in Banstead*. The Banstead History Research Group nd 9694 P31 BAN
- Tandridge Parish Council *The Parish of Tandridge*. Tandridge PC 1994 9639 P31 TAN
- Turner, Greta *Shottermill, its farms, families and mills. Part 1 – Early times to the 1700s. Part 2 – 1730 to the early 20th century*. John Owen Smith 2005 9658 & 9659 P31 HSL
- Williams, David *Two Middle Bronze Age palstave axes from the western Weald*. Sussex AS 2002 F31 CHI
- Woking Galleries *The Muslim Burial Ground, Horsell Common, Woking*. Woking Galleries 2005 P31 WOK

GUILDFORD MUSEUM

NEW MANAGER

The new post of Museum Manager has been created at Guildford Museum, to oversee a Heritage Lottery Fund bid to build an extension to the Museum and to run the Museum. The new Manager is Jill Draper, who was previously running Gunnersbury Park Museum in west London. Jill joined us on January 16th and has already met some of the officers of the Society. **Mary Alexander**

RECENT TREASURE ITEMS ACQUIRED BY THE MUSEUM

Guildford Museum has acquired three groups of Treasure items in the last few months. It is rather a long process, involving a lot of paperwork with the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, but is very worthwhile. The Museum has to pay for the items, which are valued by the Treasure Valuation Committee, and this can be a problem as our acquisitions budget is small and we never knows when items are going to be found or offered to us. We have received a grant for some objects from the Headley Trust and the Victoria and Albert Museum Purchase Fund, for which we are very grateful. David Graham summarised the current Treasure Act in SAC 91, 2004. The 1996 act was expanded recently to include finds of prehistoric metal work.

The first object to reach the Museum was part of a silver Roman finger ring from

Godstone. It lacked the bottom of the hoop, but the main part of the ring remains, with moulded decoration on either side of an oval setting for a stone, which is unfortunately missing. It is of 1st to 2nd century date. (Museum catalogue number AG 23986; Treasure reference 2004 T368.)

More Roman silver was provided in the form of the Leigh coin hoard of 62 *denarii*. They are in a poor condition but are useful evidence for Roman activity in that part of Surrey, as is the Godstone ring for east Surrey. The hoard contains four coins issued by Mark Antony just before the battle of Actium in 31 BC, which are the earliest coins in our collection from a known find spot. There is then a gap of a hundred years before coins of Vespasian (AD 69-79) and succeeding emperors up to a coin of Marcus Aurelius of around 180. The hoard is typical of Roman *denarius* hoards. The gap is because the earlier imperial coins were of good quality silver which was taken out of circulation when the coinage was debased (to make the amount of silver used go further).

It will be difficult to display the coins because of their poor condition, though enlarged photographs might help. I would like to use the earliest coins to make the point that the dramatic events of the years BC had some sort of resonance in Surrey two hundred years later.

Two sherds of Roman pottery were found at the same time, but are not thought to be associated with the coins. A copper alloy strip might be Roman but is not necessarily related to the coins either. (Museum catalogue number AG 23990; Treasure reference 2004 T300.)

The third group of Treasure items is the Mickleham Bronze Age hoard, a group of national importance because it contains three objects of different styles buried together at one time in what seems to be a votive deposit. The objects are two palstaves of Late Bronze Age date of similar style but different decoration. They are of a type dated to c1150-800 BC but the third item in the group narrows the date to c1150-1100. The third item is a sword chape, which protected the point of the scabbard. It is the first chape in the Museum's collection so we are delighted to have it. (Museum catalogue number AG 23983-5; Treasure reference 2003 T410.)

Groups of bronze objects have quite often been found together in the past, and were interpreted as 'founder's hoards' – objects which a smith was going to melt down and rework, buried for safe-keeping and never recovered. Today they are more likely to be interpreted as votive offerings and the Mickleham hoard strengthens the case for this. The objects were buried together beneath a cairn of flints and were clearly not meant to be recovered. The cairn is the only one known in southern England, and was associated with lynchets that are probably also of Bronze Age date. The bronzes may have been buried to ensure the success of the crops.

The hoard is already on display in a case publicising the Portable Antiquities Scheme and will join the permanent display later. It has huge display potential, bringing Bronze Age people alive and giving us more definite information about where they lived and farmed, and about their beliefs. So many of the bronzes in the collection are stray finds, but these capture a moment in time, when a ceremonial action took place. It may have marked the colonisation of new land, or new ownership of the land, or a re-dedication after some disaster and shows us people taking deliberate and thoughtful action. It poses many questions too: how did they choose the objects, where had they come from, were they new or used (they are in very good condition) who chose the objects, how did they acquire them, who owned the land, who used the land, what were they growing, who made the cairn, where did they live? On top of all this, the chape in particular is a pleasure to look at!

Mary Alexander

SURREY HISTORY CENTRE

FAMILY HISTORY DAY

Saturday 4th March 2006

Who do you think you are? Begin the route to your roots and find out how to trace your ancestors.

10am-12

VIRTUAL FAMILY HISTORY. Using the Internet for family history with *Janet Nixon*. Booking essential, £2 per person.

1.30pm-2.30

SOURCES FOR FAMILY HISTORY AT THE CENTRE. An illustrated talk by archivist *Sarah Brown*. Find out what records we hold and how they can help you trace your ancestors. Booking essential, £2 per person.

Information on a range of useful sources and a small display on family history will be available on the day. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions and do research after each of the sessions.

For further information and booking contact the Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking GU21 6ND; Tel: 01483 518737.

MISCELLANY

MORE PREHISTORIC FINDS FROM THE SURREY FORESHORES OF THE THAMES

Jonathan Cotton

The recent *Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society* (volume 55 for 2004, published in December 2005) contains a paper incorporating a number of prehistoric finds recovered from the Surrey foreshores of the Thames between Richmond and Bermondsey.

These include flint and antler tools of Mesolithic type from Mortlake, Vauxhall and Southwark and Neolithic pottery and flintwork from Southwark and Bermondsey. Bronze Age material includes a barbed and tanged flint arrowhead from Mortlake and a Late Bronze Age copper alloy bugle-shaped object from Richmond, while the Iron Age is represented by an iron dagger in a wooden sheath from Bermondsey, together with various coins from Kew, Barn Elms/Putney, Wandsworth and Bermondsey.

Notable finds comprise the Iron Age dagger just mentioned and a possibly Early Bronze Age serrated bone point from the same stretch of foreshore at Bermondsey, together with part of a human skull from Putney, the latter recently radiocarbon dated to the Iron Age (Yvonne Edwards pers comm).

Reference

J Cotton & A Green, 2004, 'Further prehistoric finds from Greater London', *TLAMAS* 55, 119-51

TEBBUT RESEARCH FUND

The Wealden Iron Research Group is inviting applications for grants from this fund towards research, including associated expenses, into any aspect of the Wealden iron industry. Grants will be around £100.

Letters of application should be sent before 31st March 2006, to the secretary of the group, Ann Callow, Glaziers Forge Cottage, Dallington TN21 9JJ; Tel: 01435882553; email ann@gfc.demon.co.uk

EWHURST HISTORY SOCIETY

Ewhurst History Society has been an important part of village life for around 30 years. The society was founded in the mid 1970s by Mike Fanya and originally met in the

Cricket Club pavilion, but moved to the Glebe Centre in the 1980s. During this period it was run by Brian Johnson, Bob Brown and Adrian Palmer, all of whom have since moved away from the village, with Brian depositing his research notes with Surrey Archaeological Society's library at Castle Arch. Brian also started the Society's Scrap Books with cuttings from the Surrey Advertiser and West Sussex County Times. These are still maintained by the Society and will form a valuable resource for researchers in the future. Jo Carter, (now an Honorary Vice President of Surrey Archaeological Society) became the next Chairman and she was succeeded by Mary Smith, with Rosamund Hanworth as President.

The current Chairman is John Greenwood and the Secretary, Janet Balchin. At present the Society has a membership of about 50 and meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month in the Glebe Centre, Ewhurst. Lecture meetings are held from September to May on a wide variety of subjects relating to local and social history. Our Christmas meeting has been styled as a 'Members Evening' with one of our own members as speaker. So far eight members have allowed themselves to have their arms twisted to give talks on subjects ranging from '*Tracing Your Family Tree*' and '*Collecting Old Postcards*' to '*The Railway That Never Was*' and '*A Crimean VC*'. The social side is not forgotten with a popular Quiz Night in February and a Summer Garden Lunch in July. Venues for the lunch have included Rapsley, with its Roman villa and Garlands an interesting old house in the village. In June we have a local outing and have visited Dapdune Wharf, The Rural Life Centre at Tilford and Shipley Windmill in West Sussex, over the last few years.

The Society has published two books. *Ewhurst and Ellens Green* was published in 1995 and looks at all aspects of village life. *A Short History of Ewhurst School* was published in 1996 to commemorate the founding of the village school. The Society's newest publication *Ewhurst Houses and People* is now in the final stages of production and is due for publication in March. (A full review will appear in later edition of The Bulletin)

In July 2005 Ewhurst hosted the Summer Meeting of the Surrey Local History Council and members also attended the Annual Symposium at Chertsey. The Society is also involved with the Village Studies Project and it is hoped that once *Ewhurst Houses and People* is published we will be able to get down to work on the Ewhurst volume of the *Surrey Village in Maps* series.

The Society has its own web site www.ewhursthhistory.com, which includes a brief history of the parish. The Society now has a considerable archive of information on the parish, including old photographs, maps and transcripts of censuses, the tithe apportionment, manorial records etc. Through our web site we have been able to help enquirers from all over the world, particularly people researching their family trees.

For more information contact the Secretary, Janet Balchin Tel 01483 277342 or e-mail info@ewhursthhistory.com

WHEN IS AN ARCHAEOLOGIST...

A Reply from Charles Aaby:

With reference to the letter from Geoffrey Gower-Kerslake (*Bulletin* 390), I am relieved that my remarks in *Bulletin* 388 did not make him seethe as they apparently did editor Phil Jones. I wish I could say that Geoffrey's remarks did not make me seethe, but they did, because they display a complete misunderstanding of the point I was making, which related to modern terminology, rather than the actual range of interests of historians and archaeologists. In as much as my letter led to a change in the heading of the listing under New Members in the Bulletin from 'Principal archaeological interests' to 'Principal interests' I rest my case.

NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL EDUCATION OFFICER

My name is Abby Guinness and I would like to introduce myself as the new Archaeological Education Officer for the Surrey County Archaeological Unit. Following the successful work of my predecessor, Trudie Cole, I hope to continue working with schools and the public throughout Surrey to encourage wider access to archaeological resources. Financial support for the post comes mainly from the Heritage Lottery Fund but also includes grants from a number of other sources, including the Surrey Archaeological Society.



To take up this post I have finally put down my trowel after five years digging up Kent with Canterbury Archaeological Trust. However, some members may recognise me from the five summer seasons I spent excavating various parts of Bagshot with Geoff Cole at The Archaeology Centre, as well as helping to run several Central Southern England Young Archaeologists' Club Activity Weeks. Thoroughly inspired by my time in Surrey, I not only continued to dig but also to broaden my archaeological education experience. I now

help to run the Canterbury Young Archaeologists' Club in my spare time, and hope to keep my digging skills up to scratch down on my allotment!

I look forward to meeting many of you in the next few months, but in the meantime please feel free to contact me either by phone on 01483 518772 or on email at abby.guinness@surreycc.gov.uk

PUBLICATIONS

“THE BRONZE AGE BARROW at Teddington”

by Ken Howe

Price: £3 plus 50p packing and postage. Available from Ken Howe, 1 Cedar Road, Teddington, Middlesex TW11 9AN, or the Borough of Twickenham Local History Society or any local bookshop.

The last traces of one of Teddington's oldest and best kept secrets were removed last year in the course of some garden landscaping. Almost unique in a London borough, this was the Bronze Age barrow that stood in Sandy Lane and has been something of an enigma throughout its long history.

How did it get there? Was it a plague pit? Was it the burial site of an ancient king? What happened to it.

Ken Howe has traced the history of the barrow and put together all known facts of it to try and answer these questions and give a vivid account of the story of it and those involved in the excavation of it, from the 1800s to the present day.

It was embarrassing to learn from this well-presented and illustrated booklet that after the first Annual General Meeting of the Surrey Archaeological Society at Kingston on the 30th June 1854, the members adjourned for lunch at 'The Griffin' before crossing the bridge into Middlesex and opening-up this barrow which stood relatively close to the banks of the Thames. No plans or even sketches seem to have been made of this work, which seems an appalling beginning for the society's archaeological work. Neither then nor now has the Society any direct responsibility for this apparently very large barrow and it lay in Middlesex, which is as well, since it is alarming that its last vestiges were 'landscaped' out of existence only last year. Wake up English Heritage.

CONFERENCES

LONDON & MIDDLESEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY 43rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF LONDON ARCHAEOLOGISTS

Saturday 25th March 2006

Museum of London Lecture Theatre

Morning session: Recent Work

- 11am Chairman's opening remarks and presentation of the Ralph Merrifield Award
Harvey Sheldon, Chair, LAMAS Archaeology Committee
- 11.10 **Landscape Archaeology in the Heathrow Area**
Paul McCulloch, Wessex Archaeology
- 11.40 **A Later Bronze Age Site at Oliver Close, Leyton**
Chris Pickard, PCA
- 12.00 **Early Saxon Settlement and Jacobean Glassworking at Hammersmith Embankment**
David Jamieson, MoLAS
- 12.20 **A Possible Tudor Garden Structure at Carew Manor, Beddington**
John Phillips, Beddington, Carshalton & Wallington Archaeological Society
- 12.35 **Recent Work on Cheapside**
Sadie Watson, MOLAS
- 1.05 Lunch

Afternoon session: Recent work on Roman towns

- 2.15pm **Springhead, Kent – a Roman Healing Centre Revealed. Recent Work Along the Route of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link**
Phil Andrews, Wessex Archaeology
- 2.50 **Mapping Roman London**
Pete Rowsome, MoLAS
- 3.25 Tea
- 4.10 **The Roman Circus at Colchester**
Philip Crummy, Colchester Archaeological Trust
- 4.45 **The Silchester Town Life Project: the First Decade of Research**
Mike Fulford, University of Reading
- 5.20 Close

There will be displays of work and publications in Access & Learning Rooms B & C
Cost (inclusive of afternoon tea): £4 (LAMAS Members), £5 (Non-Members).

Ticket applications, display and general enquiries should be addressed to Jon Cotton, Early Department, Museum of London, 150 London Wall, EC2Y 5HN
(jcotton@museumoflondon.org.uk)

SERIAC 2006

SOUTH-EAST REGION INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY CONFERENCE

*The Mickerson Hall, Medical Education Centre, St Richards Hospital,
Spitalfield Lane, Chichester*

Saturday 22nd April

- 10am Registration. Coffee and biscuits
- 10.20 Welcome by SIAS president Freddie Sowrey
- 10.30 **Amberley Museum – The First 25 Years** *Brian Johnson*
- 11.10 **Setting Up The Connected Earth Exhibition** *Fred Stanton*
- 11.50 **PLUTO and Where It Led** *Roger Morgan*
- 12.30 Lunch

- 2 **Among Those Dark Satanic Mills: The Rise of Industry in the Georgian Period** *Alan Green*
 2.40 **Middleton Press and Other Midhurst Mysteries** *Vic Mitchell*
 3.20 Tea
 3.50 **Pumping Heritage** *Martin Wilson*
 4.30 Closing remarks and questions
 4.45 Close

The conference will be followed by an opportunity to see The Connected Earth exhibition at Amberley Museum. The museum restaurant will be open for pre-booked meals.

For more information and a booking form contact Bob Allen, 7 Heathfield Road, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 1TH; Tel: 01323 896724; email footprints@tesco.net

BURIAL SITES IN SOUTH EAST ENGLAND: RECENT DISCOVERIES AND RESEARCH

COUNCIL FOR KENTISH ARCHAEOLOGY

Saturday 8th April 2006, 2pm – 5.30pm

Queen Elizabeth's School, Abbey Place, Faversham

Iron Age Warrior Burials at Ashford

Caspar Johnson, Kent County Council Heritage Group

The Discovery of the Burial Chamber of a Saxon King at Prittlewell

David Lakin, MOLAS

Anglo-Saxon Sites at Rookery Hill, Bishopstone, Sussex

Gabor Thomas, University of Kent

Anglo-Saxon Cemeteries in Kent

Andrew Richardson, Kent County Council Liaison Finds Officer

Tickets: £4 from CKA, 5 Sandy Ridge, Borough Green, Kent TN15 8HP. Cheques payable to CKA, sae please.

Further information about the conference can be found on the CKA website, www.the-cka.fsnet.co.uk or from Ruth Plummer, Conference Organiser on 020 8777 7872, email davru58-conorgcka@yahoo.co.uk

BRIGHTON & HOVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Centenary Conference 2006

Saturday 11th March 2006

- 9.15am Registration. Tea and coffee will be available for purchase, and various book-stalls will also be open at this time.
 10 Welcome and Introduction by the Chairman
Peter Drewett University of Sussex
 10.15 **Ice Age Brighton: Black Rock and the Earliest Beach**
Matthew Pope University College London
 10.45 **Whitehawk: a neolithic causewayed enclosure in context**
David McOmish English Heritage
 11.15 Coffee
 11.45 **Rethinking the Hove Barrow**
Paul Garwood University of Birmingham
 12.15 **The Archaeology of the Brighton By-pass**
David Rudling University of Sussex
 12.45pm Questions
 1.00 Lunch
 2.15 **Bishopstone and Related Downland sites Revisited**
Martin Bell University of Reading

- 2.45 **The Brighton & Hove Archaeological Society Field Unit: Projects Past and Future**
John Funnell Brighton & Hove Archaeological Society
- 3.15 Tea
- 3.45 **Brighton: from Medieval Obscurity to Georgian and Regency Spendour**
Sue Berry University of Sussex
- 4.15 **The Archaeology of the Seaside Holiday – Material from Brighton Beach**
Fred Gray University of Sussex)
- 4.45 Questions
- 5.0 Disperse

For further details and a booking form please contact David Morris, CCE Conference Co-ordinator; Tel: 01273 873744; email D.Morris@sussex.ac.uk.

LECTURE MEETINGS

9th February

“The Wealden Iron Industry from the Iron Age to the Middle Ages” by Jeremy Hodgkinson Banste to Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society in the Mayo Hall, United Reformed Church, corner of Union Street and Eden Street at 7.30 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1.50.

13th February

“The Terrace Gardens” by David Allister to the Richmond Local History Society at the Old Town Hall, Whittaker Avenue, Richmond at 7.30 for 8 pm. Non-members welcome £1.

14th February

“Mapping Roman London” by Pete Rowsome to the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society at the Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut, almost opposite the Old Vic Theatre, Waterloo at 7 for 7.30 pm. Visitors welcome £1.

16th February

“The Rose Theatre, Southwark’s Jewel in the Crown” by Harvey Sheldon to a joint meeting of the Peckham and Camberwell Societies at the Camberwell Society of Arts, Wilson Road Annexe, Wilson Road, London SE5 at 7.30 pm.

16th February

“Experimental Archaeology at Butser” by Steve Dyer to the Surrey Heath Archaeological and Heritage Trust at The Archaeological Centre, Bagshot at 7.30 pm. Non-members £2.

17th February

“The Management of Norbury Park Estate” by Graham Manning to the Leatherhead & District Local History Society at the Letherhead Institute, 67 High Street at 7.30 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £2.

18th February

“Fanny Burney in Surrey” by Linda Heath to the Walton & Weybridge Local History Society in St Peter’s Church Hall, Hersham at 3 pm.

21st February

“Paper, Paper Making and Engineering” by Phil Crockett, a Surrey Industrial History Group Lecture in Lecture Theatre F, University of Surrey at 7.30 pm.

21st February

“Changing Places: the West Surrey Landscape 1806-1906” by Dr Alan Crosby to the West Surrey Branch of the Historical Association in the Friends Meeting House, North Street, Guildford at 7.30 pm. Visitors welcome £2.

21st February

"Brooklands Motor Racing" by Tony Hutchings to the Sunbury and Shepperton Local History Society in the Theatre of Halliford School, Russell Road, Shepperton at 8pm. Visitors £1.

23rd February

"Helen Allingham" by Annabel Watts to the Domestic Buildings Research Group at St Mark's Hall, Alma Road, Reigate at 7.30pm. Visitors welcome. No charge.

2nd March

"All Along the Queen's Walk" by Peter Fernee to the Farnham & District Museum Society in the United Reformed Church hall, South Street, Farnham at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

2nd March

"The Port of London Authority, Past, Present and Future" by John Carr at London Canal Museum at 7.30 pm. £3 (£2 discounts) Tel. 020 7713 0836. www.canalmuseum.org.uk

6th March

St Nicholas Church, Pyrford" by Malcolm Cuckow to the Woking History Society at Mayford Village Hall, Saunders Lane, Mayford at 7.45 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £2.

6th March

"Recent Local History Discoveries" by various speakers to the Streatham Society Local History Group at Woodlawns Centre, 16 Leigham Court Road, Streatham at 8pm.

7th March

"St Pancras Station 1865-2007: A Journey through History" by Roderick Shelton, a SIHG Lecture in Lecture Theatre F, University of Surrey at 7.30 pm.

9th March

"Introduction to Aldershot Military Cemetery" by Ian Tebbitt to the Farnham & District Museum Society in the United Reformed Church hall, South Street, Farnham at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

9th March

"Introduction to Vernacular Architecture" by Linda Hall to the Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society in the Mayo Hall, United Reformed Church at the corner of Union Street and Eden Street at 7.30 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome £1.50.

13th March

"Some Tales of the Thameside concerning the Riverbank and Riverfolk" by Dick Cashmore to the Richmond Local History Society at the Old Town Hall, Whittaker Avenue, Richmond at 7.30 pm for 8. Non-members welcome £1.

13th March

"The Lovelace Bridges" an illustrated talk by Peter Hattersley on the preservation of the unique nineteenth century brick and flint arched bridges in the forests about East Horsley to the Guildford Archaeology and History Group at St Nicolas Church Hall, Guildford at 7.30 pm. Non-members welcome £2.

14th March

"Recent Local Archaeological and Historical Work" by various speakers to the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society at The Housing Co-op Hall, The Cut almost opposite the Old Vic Theatre, Waterloo at 7 for 7.30 pm. Visitors welcome £1.

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The Council of the Surrey Archaeological Society desires it to be known that it is not responsible for the statements or opinions expressed in the *Bulletin*.

Next Issue: Copy required by 24th February for the March/April issue.

Editor: Phil Jones, 5 Hampton Road, Newbury, Berks RG14 6DB; Tel: 01635 581182; email: crockpot@ukonline.co.uk