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Excavation in Ewell, Summer 2000.

Photo: ATD Cooper

Archaeology in St Mary's No. 5 Churchyard, Ewell

Clive Orton

For three weeks in June and July of last year, students from University College, London and Birkbeck College assisted by members of Nonsuch Antiquarian Society, conducted an exploratory archaeological excavation in St Mary's No. 5 Churchyard. The aims were to provide information about the extent and nature of Roman remains in the field and to attempt to define the edge of the Roman settlement at Ewell and so help to clarify the nature of the settlement. (Was it a 'small town' or just ribbon development alongside Stane Street, the Roman road from London to Chichester?) We therefore dug a trench, 70m long by 1m wide, at right angles to the supposed position of Stane Street almost up to the Vicarage garden.

So what did we find? First, there was evidence of two Roman buildings, one with hot-air central heating and one of a more simple timber-frame construction with wattle-and-daub walling. (It is possible that they are two parts of the same building.) Neither was present in the trench itself, but there was enough debris to suggest that they had stood nearby, probably to the north. There were many finds of a domestic nature: pottery, including a fine glazed bowl of 1st/2nd century date; a large fragment of a quern and a whetstone; and bones of cattle, horse, sheep and pig as well as about thirty coins, mostly of 3rd or 4th century date. Most intriguing was a burial, located towards the Vicarage garden side of the field, which was certainly early and probably of Roman date. If so, it will help to delimit the settlement, as Roman law permitted burial only outside a settlement.

There were remarkably few finds of other periods – a scatter of worked flint, including a fine Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead, a Saxon stamped sherd, a few 16th-17th century and later sherds and a few fragments of clay tobacco pipe. A Charles I farthing was also found.

The excavation can be regarded as a success in other ways too. It provided valuable training opportunities for the students and allowed local people to participate in the



Ewell Excavation Open Day – lining up for a view.

Photo: ATD Cooper

study of the past of their town. Help was also provided by members of a local metal-detector club, demonstrating the value of collaboration between archaeologists and detectorists. The Open Day on the 8th July was visited by about one hundred local people, who enjoyed the opportunity to meet the archaeologists and see some of the finds for themselves.

The students and the organisers (University College London) are very grateful for this opportunity to carry out valuable fieldwork in a pleasant setting close to home.

From the September Newsletter of 4/00 of the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society, with many thanks. See also p. 14.

The Impact of Scandinavian Raids, and the Evidence for Settlement in South-East England, with particular reference to Surrey *Eric Montague*

By the early ninth century many ports and sea-coast towns in south-eastern England were flourishing, linked to Europe by a network of trade routes extending across the North Sea and the Channel. The coasts had long been vulnerable to sea raiders, but the 840s witnessed an increase in the frequency of piratical Viking raids on estuary and riverside settlements, where shelving beaches offered easy landing. *Lundenwic*, the Saxon trading town on the strand to the west of the old walled city of London, was a particularly enticing target. In 850/1 a fleet of 350 ships entered the Thames, and, for the first time, a Scandinavian army over-wintered in England, encamped on the Isle of Sheppey. Canterbury was stormed and the Mercian king and his army were put to flight. On entering Surrey, however, the Danes encountered stronger resistance from the men of Wessex, and were eventually repelled.

Thereafter incursions were by armies rather than by summer raiding parties, and in 865 the Danes seized Thetford, whence attention was directed to the subjugation of Yorkshire and Northumberland. By 870 they had moved to a new base near Reading, and in 871 – “the year of battles” – Aethelred and his brother Arthur’s West Saxons were defeated at Basing and Meretun. The invaders over-wintered in London in 871-2, using it as a base from which to live off the surrounding countryside. Having overcome Mercia and East Anglia, the Danes again turned their attention to Wessex, and in 877 forced Alfred (who had succeeded to the throne) into hiding. His victory the following year and the treaty of Wedmore were followed by a brief respite, but further fighting ensued before Alfred could take control of London, the old city of which was in ruins, and its trading satellite, the Aldwych or ‘old port’, largely deserted.

As evidence of the battle of Meretun having taken place at Merton, the discovery in the late 18th century of “several pieces of spears, swords, human bones, and other exuvia of battle” to the west of the Wandle crossing (where there was a royal Saxon estate)¹ is discounted by most authorities, who prefer to place the battle much further west. Similarly the claims of Ockley to have been the site of a skirmish (like Merton it is situated on the old Roman road leading from London into the Surrey hinterland) are rejected in preference to a location deeper into the heartland of Wessex.

The repeated sacking of Chertsey Abbey is not in dispute, however, and in Blair’s view a garbled account in a 13th-century cartulary, read in conjunction with the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, indicates that the monastery first attracted the attention of Viking raiders in the late ninth century.² Poulton places this event around 871, when Abbot Beocca, his priest Eثور, and 90 monks were killed, the buildings burnt, and the abbey’s lands laid waste. It was re-colonised in 884, probably as a secular minster, and in Poulton’s opinion “had recovered sufficiently by the early tenth century to tempt the Danes to further ravages”.³

Numerous Viking broadaxes, swords and spears dating from the mid to late ninth century have been dredged from the Thames. It is possible to the second Scandinavian incursion that we can ascribe the fine example of a Viking sword recovered in 1981 from a silted-up watercourse at Mixnam's pit at Chertsey.⁴ Of Petersen type S and inscribed *Ulfberit*, the weapon is paralleled by well over 100 examples from all over northern Europe. Tentatively it has been ascribed to a Rhenish swordsmith working in the late ninth to early tenth century, and its ribbon interlace ornament is seen as an example of a type having a predominantly Norwegian distribution. In England similar examples have come from the Thames at Battersea, from Shifford, Essex, and a ditch outside the town walls at Bath. On the Shepperton ranges in 1987 three more iron swords were found, one lacking its hilt, another having a bone handle, whilst the third is held to be of Petersen type L and is dated 840-90.⁵

The 20-hide estate belonging to the bishop of Winchester at Beddington, Carshalton and Bandon, on the slopes of the North Downs near Croydon, was described c900 as "recently stripped bare by heathen men".⁶ From Croydon itself, a wealthy estate held by Canterbury and a centre of religious importance, has come a typical Viking cache of looted silver, the only example known from south of the Thames, and all dated numismatically to c875. In quantity, the Croydon hoard (which was discovered in 1909 at the Old Palace), was relatively modest and consisted of eight pieces of silver bullion – fragments of armlets and rings known as 'hack silver' – and, importantly, a little over 185 coins. These were of mixed Mercian, East Anglian and Wessex currency, plus several Carolingian and Arabic pieces. The ascription of the hoard to Vikings is justified by the coinage not being a representative English collection, and in its design and decoration the silver bullion is similar to hoards recovered in Denmark.

It requires little imagination to visualise the impact these recurring raids, followed by the prolonged presence of the Danish army in London, had on life in the settlements in north-east Surrey.

Eventually England north of Watling Street – 'the Danelaw' – was ceded to the Danes under Guthrum, and in 886 Alfred set about refortifying the old city of Lundenburg. In the process Southwark – *Suthringa geweorcke* (the defensive 'work of the men of Surrey') became the bastion of the north-east corner of the county.⁸ Other fortified strongpoints, recorded in the Burghal Hidage, were created to form a network of hide towns, 25-30 miles apart, throughout Wessex. In Surrey Escingum, or Eschingum, situated on a bend in the river Wey, and identifiable with modern Eashing, was one such burgh, and was listed in 920 as one of the fortified towns of Wessex.⁹ Some of these strongpoints were already towns, whilst others developed into urban centres. But only the grassy ramparts remain today at Eashing, as at Burpham in Sussex.

In 911 Edward had taken control of London "and the land that belonged to it". Athelstan, his son, succeeded in bringing the whole of England, including the Scandinavian kingdoms in the north-east, under his control. London's importance as an administrative centre began to emerge, and its role as a focus of international trade returned. It is thought possible that Guildford succeeded the burgh of Escingum in the tenth century, when Athelstan seems to have carried out a reorganisation of the towns in Wessex, replacing purely defensive burghs such as Eashing with defended commercial centres.¹⁰ The town has the appearance of being deliberately planned, and the evidence of a Saxon mint – silver pennies were minted here from the time of Edward the Martyr (975-79) – gives support to the idea that Guildford was an important mercantile centre, possibly enjoying borough status, as early as the tenth century.¹¹

Chertsey recovered towards the close of the ninth century and continued until 964

when, under Edgar's influence, the abbey was reformed, traditionally with monks from Abingdon, and became a Benedictine house. Order was steadily re-established elsewhere in the county, and charters exist from the mid-tenth century recording the grant of the royal estate at Merton to favoured courtiers.¹² Kingston became a town of significance, and is reputedly the place of coronation of as many as seven Saxon kings, from Alfred's son Edward 'the Elder' in 900 or 901 to Ethelred in 978 or 979.¹³

The underlying government structure of shire and hundred evidently survived the Danish raids, for instance the hundred of Wallington, an administrative district based on, and taking its name from, an early Saxon royal estate, and including Mitcham and Morden, persisted into the 19th century. Wimbedonnyngemerke and Michamingemerke, mentioned in the Mertone charters of 949 and 967, are identifiable with the later parochial boundaries of Merton with Wimbledon and Mitcham, and are further evidence of long-established territorial divisions.¹² There is, moreover, record of quite rapid economic recovery, the Beddington estate, for instance, being reported "fully stocked" by 900, with some 300 fully-grown livestock (of which roughly half were pigs and the rest sheep), seven bondsmen and 90 acres under crops.⁶

Towards the end of the tenth century, seeking to regain the Danelaw and taking advantage of discord in England following the accession of Ethelred in 979, the Scandinavians returned. Sporadic raids were followed by increasingly heavy attacks, with London coming under assault in 994. Although vigorously defended (it resisted the Danes for some 20 years) London finally succumbed. English resistance elsewhere was gradually overcome, and by 1016 Cnut was accepted as king of England.

It remains finally for us to consider the evidence for Scandinavian settlement in north-east Surrey during the late Saxon period. Even in the Danelaw, where the Norse element in place-name abounds, there are difficulties in establishing the actual degree to which existing communities were disrupted and the density of the ensuing Danish settlement. In the south-east evidence is even more difficult to find. London, with its widespread trading contacts, must always have attracted merchants from all over northern Europe. The Danish tombstone from St Paul's is proof of the adoption of Christian beliefs, and there are also fragmentary examples of Scandinavian-style carving in several Surrey churches. There were certainly Danes living in substantial numbers in provincial centres such as Oxford in the tenth century, and we can be sure that by the 11th century the population of the home counties was of very mixed ethnicity. One suspects that the Guildford street-names of Tungate and Swangate must have Scandinavian origins, and as a commercial centre the town can be expected to have attracted merchants and their families. Slightly more tenuous as an indicator of Scandinavian influence is the bone ice-skate – made from a red-deer metatarsal – found in excavations on the site of the Old Vicarage at Reigate in the late 1970s, which had yielded a large quantity of 11th – 12th century pottery. The find site is admittedly well outside the normal area of distribution of bone skates in the Saxo-Norman period, but the use of bone at this time is seen by the excavator as indicative of Viking influence, even if not at first hand.¹⁴

Closer to London, in the Merton area, several personal and place names occur which seem to demonstrate a Scandinavian presence. Firstly, in the Domesday Book we find that at the time of King Edward the Confessor Tooting and Wandsworth were held by a man called Swein. Swein, or Sven, is very definitely a Scandinavian name. In its various forms it was not uncommon in England, and the precise identity of this particular Swein is not known. One authority however has suggested that he might have been Swein of Essex, a kinsman of the king.¹⁵

Next, in Mitcham, close to the Tooting border, we have Swains Farm and Swains

Lane. As a smallholding the farm existed until the end of the 19th century, and the farmhouse remained until about 50 years ago. Nothing is known of its early history, but it is an interesting thought that it may have originated as a homestead of an Anglo-Danish settler.

The name also crops up in Morden, where we have William, the son of Sweyn, and a Robert le Sweyn, whose names appear in the monuments of Westminster Abbey in 1225 and 1296 respectively.¹⁶

The theory that there might have been Scandinavian settlement in Mitcham is further supported by the place-name Biggin, first occurring in documents of the early 14th century as a farmstead to the east of Figges Marsh. The name is fairly common in the Midlands, where it is derived from the Middle English bigging, meaning a building or house. Mawer and Stenton, commenting that Mitcham is unusually far south to find an example of this place-name element, considered Biggin to be of Scandinavian origin.¹⁷ They concluded that since it is of relatively late appearance in the parish the name might be attributable to migrants from the Midlands, where it occurs as far south as Hertfordshire, which, until the country was united under Athelstan, was on the borders of Danelaw.

Tamworth, as the family name de Tamworth, also first finds mention in a record of land holding in north Mitcham in the early 14th century.¹⁸ It similarly implies a link with the Midlands and the area under Danish domination after the ninth-century treaty of Wedmore. We have already noted that by 1017, following the death of Edmund, London with the rest of England actually came under Danish rule. With Merton a place of importance at this time, and connected to London by a major highway, it would perhaps not be surprising to find evidence of Danish settlement in the vicinity.

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Sayers Croft, Ewhurst: An Archaeological Metal Detecting Survey

Elizabeth Whitbourn

Saturday 4th November 2000

One of the pupils of an 'A Level' Archaeology course I teach is David Quorroll, director of Sayers Croft Residential Field Centre in Ewhurst. He kindly offered us the use of the site for an archaeological survey. Several members of the classes are detectorists, including members of Farnham, Newlanders (Guildford), and Weald and Downland Clubs, and expressed an interest in carrying out a metal detecting survey under 'field walking conditions', endeavouring to record the position of every find. It was hoped that this would also assist in building up the links that are presently being successfully established between detectorists and archaeologists.

In conjunction with the above, all my students from colleges in Farnham, Godalming, Guildford and Horsham conducted an archaeological field study of the area, which required some extensive background research using 'Sites and Monuments Records', aerial photos, documentary sources and the very welcome input of local knowledge from archaeologist Judie English. We were also supported and encouraged by David Bird, Surrey's Principal Archaeologist; David Williams offered to look at the finds and on the day itself we had the tireless help of archaeologists David and Audrey Graham. Aside from all this the main purpose of the day was to simply enjoy ourselves – whilst carrying out an archaeological survey with a difference.

The Survey

Each find was recorded using David and Audrey Graham's state-of-the-art Total Station, which is accurate to 3mm plus 5 parts per million or 1cm in 1 kilometre. However, as most archaeologists and detectorists would not have access to such equipment and often work in small groups or alone, it was decided, after discussion, to employ another, easy to use, 'low tech' method. Additionally, the results from each type of survey could then be compared.

The day dawned, one of the few brilliant days this autumn, and proved a resounding success – particularly in terms of the sheer quantity of finds. We gridded the survey area using a few tapes, ranging poles and, of course, the vital ingredient: people. In fact around 30 willing bodies came along, most with no surveying experience, and as one put it: "so now I know how to use a 3,4,5 triangle!". The detectorists set to work in different parts of the grid and were rewarded with approximately 500 finds in 4 hours.

Within a day David and Audrey had provided us with a distribution of all the finds, although the 'low-tech' hand-recorded sheets have taken longer to process. We subsequently met at Sayers Croft on one memorable power-cut afflicted evening to process the finds.

The Finds

Mostly modern debris, which is what you would expect from the topsoil of this type of field; a high numbers of coins, ring pulls, bottle tops, tent pegs and ubiquitous silver foil. The oldest dateable find was a 1905 penny and some of the more unusual items include a gold plated signet ring, zip pulls, part of a watch and a King's Royal Rifle Corps cap badge. Perhaps the one thing which surprised us all was the amount of coins, and in particular sixteen £1 coins. This may reflect on us, as everyone recalled searching long and hard for our own mislaid coins. However we have decided that this has to be interpreted with use of the 'child factor'. Children are very fond of throwing money away and at Sayers Croft we see the results all too literally (here speaks a prejudiced mother). However, joking aside, our survey could perhaps be

useful. How often do coin losses on archaeological sites result not from adults but children dropping their 'pocket money'? It's certainly something to seriously consider in other contexts, possibly children's actions are too often ignored in archaeological interpretations.

In Conclusion

The survey is being fully written up as an 'A Level' project by Joanne Ryan, a member of the Newlanders Metal Detecting and Historical Club. The finds are all the property of Sayers Croft and will remain at the centre for inspection by visitors. As an introduction to fieldwork and surveying the exercise was very useful and everyone felt that they had learnt how to tackle an archaeological field survey on sites other than this. The detectorists also have explored ways of recording their finds and the subsequent patterns of results, which can then be analysed. Already, several other detecting clubs have asked to take part in similar surveys, which are being planned for the future.

As a day out in good company it also rated very highly, my thanks to all who have taken part and in particular to David, Heather, Kate and Matthew Quorroll and the Sayers Croft Centre, David and Audrey Graham, Judie English, David Bird and David Williams.

A Survey of Hillbury Camp, Puttenham Common (SU9115 4680)

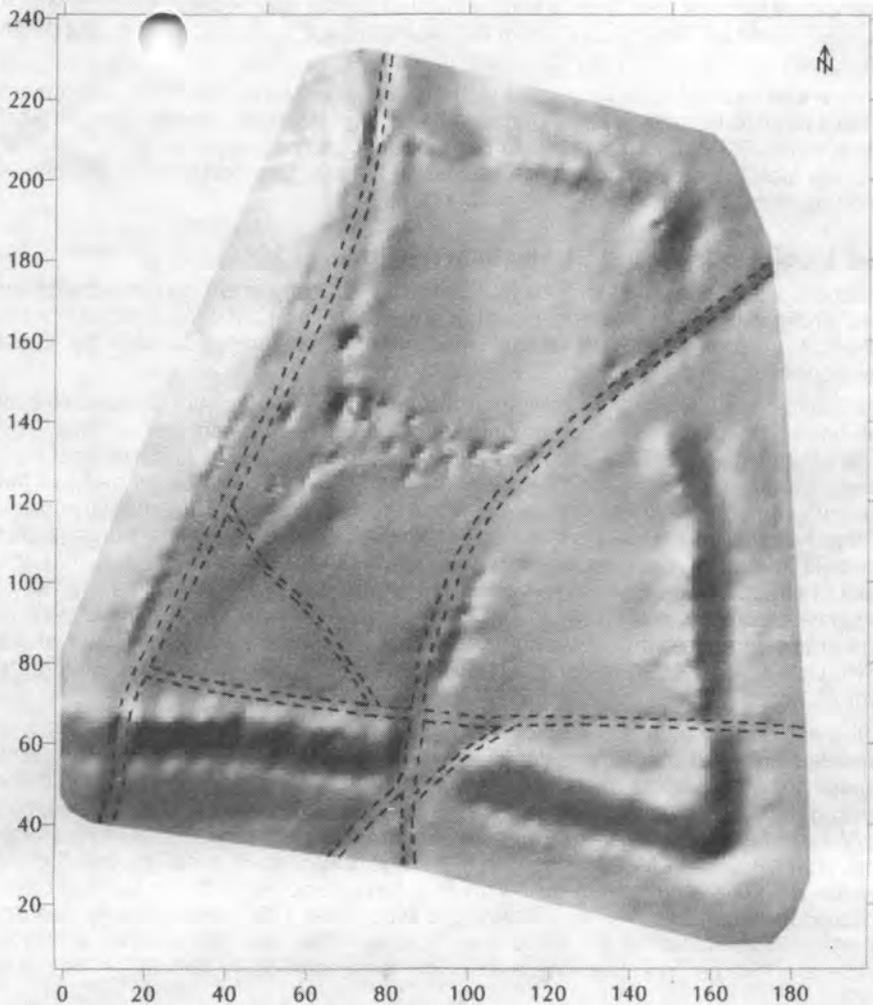
David & Audrey Graham

The Puttenham Common area has recently been the subject of an historic landscape survey – part of the County Council's and the Society's joint project to identify 'Areas of Special Historic Landscape Value' in Surrey. Chris Currie, assisted by a group of volunteers, led the work and a detailed report will be produced shortly, a copy of which will be deposited in the library at Castle Arch.

Hillbury Camp is a univallate hillfort, listed as Iron Age in the County SMR, and is positioned at the end of a broad east-west ridge, which drops sharply away on the western side of the fort. As part of the historic landscape study the authors undertook a topographic survey of the earthworks. The results are slightly disappointing in that parts of the monument have become heavily overgrown with oak trees in recent years, and these made it difficult, in some areas, to obtain sufficient readings within the time available.

The ramparts enclose an irregular quadrilateral area of approximately 1.47ha and are positioned to take advantage of the lie of the land. This falls away steeply to the north and south and particularly so to the west, to such an extent that no rampart appears to have been constructed on this side. The eastern side of the fort is more vulnerable as the ground continues roughly level along the spine of the promontory.

The survey has shown a number of different features, the most obvious of which are the series of small depressions across the centre of the fort. These are thought to be the remains of artillery positions from World War II. There are also a large number of foxholes present on the (scheduled) monument, which probably relate to more recent military training activities. A low, but moderately sized, bank apparently with a ditch on either side, forms a shallow 'V' set slightly in from the west side of the fort. This must pre-date the 1940s, as the feature is cut by some of the artillery emplacements, but is presumably later than the fort itself, as it does not appear to be defensive in nature. Its purpose must, for the moment, remain uncertain, but it may represent a re-use of the fort as a stock enclosure – the 'V' forming a shallow funnel leading animals into the pound. This, of course, assumes that some form of stock-proof barrier was in place roughly along the line of the modern boundary. This boundary is currently



Hillbury Camp, Puttenham Common: shaded relief map with modern paths shown as dashed lines. Scale is in metres.

marked by the low straight bank running along the western side of the fort, and is now topped by a post-and-wire fence.

A number of paths cross the site, several of which are cutting deep grooves through the earthworks and into the hillslope.

The ramparts on three sides of the fort are in a variable state of preservation but are still clearly visible, while the fourth, western side, was presumably only ever defended by a wooden palisade. The gap at the centre of the southern rampart probably represents an original entrance as does the gap two thirds of the way up the eastern rampart. Interestingly, at this latter point, part of the northern end of the eastern rampart appears to have been flattened but, from the survey, looks as though it originally continued to leave an entrance at right angles to the general line of the

defences. If this is correct, then any right-handed person approaching the gate, would have his shield on the side away from the defenders and so be exposed to attack. All other gaps in the ramparts are of recent origin.

While the fort was partially excavated in the 19th century, no dating evidence appears to have been found and its exact period must remain uncertain, despite the 'Iron Age' listing in the SMR. It is, however, to be hoped that steps will be taken in the near future to stabilise erosion on the site caused, in the main, by horse riders and efforts made to control the growth of trees on the ramparts.

Half Moon House, High St, Haslemere (SU 9046 3280)

Historic building recording was carried out by C K Currie and Edward Roberts for CKC Archaeology to assess the impact of proposed alterations to Half Moon House, Haslemere, Surrey, as part of an application for planning consent by Casa Developments.

The earliest surviving fabric shows that the buildings evolved from a late medieval hall house, possibly with a contemporary west wing and eastern service bay. The joists of the jettied west wing, plus the surviving portions of the halls crown post roof, suggest a building constructed before 1500. Although this could be as early as the late 14th century, the most likely date is within the 15th century. The unusual position of this building, set back from the main borough plan, on a prime burgage plot opposite the town hall, suggests a very early origin. It is suggested that the present structure was built on the site of a building that pre-dated the laying out of Haslemere borough in the 12th or early 13th century. It would seem to have been of high status to enable it to have survived within the otherwise regular layout of the town. Until at least 1820 the original building was the homestead of a local farm of over 80 acres.

In the early 17th century, a new building was erected on the street front. This was extended south to meet the existing eastern service bay of the hall house. It is thought that the owners of farmhouse built this as an inn, incorporating it into the existing house as an elongated east wing. The name of the inn, the Half Moon, has since become attached to the farmhouse, which became known as Half Moon Farm, and, after 1889, Half Moon House. In the early 18th century, it seems that the old service wing of the hall was rebuilt. This may have coincided with the building being subdivided, with the former inn becoming a shop. After 1735 a three storey western extension was added to the shop front building. This was demolished, probably in the late 19th century, following a thorough renovation of the Half Moon House in 1889.

This renovation replaced all the windows of the earlier structure, and was probably responsible for the rearrangement of the internal divisions, including the insertion of the present stairwell. This seems to have been carried out for Dr Winstanley, the local vaccinator, turning the former farmhouse into a modernised gentleman's residence. In the later 20th century further alterations, of a relatively minor nature, were undertaken to convert the house to office use.

The shop part of the building became a separate property, but has occasionally been reunited in ownership with the house behind, as it has at present. There are a number of early internal features surviving in the floors above the shop, including window latches, hinges and plank doors. Within Half Moon House, many of the late 19th century internal features have survived conversion to office use, including most of the windows, some panelled doors and the staircase. There are occasional earlier features in this part of the building that pre-date the 1889 renovation. These include the door to the cellar, and the butterfly hinges on small cupboards on the side of the stack inserted into the hall.

Village Study Group – A Change of Date

Unfortunately the date of the Workshop planned for 31st March at Bramley Village Hall has had to be changed. It will now be held on **Saturday 5th May**.

Programme:

- 10.45 am Hall open to prepare displays
Coffee available
- 11.00 Introduction – Dennis Turner
- 11.10 Bramley – Patricia Pratt
- 11.40 Discussion/Walk round Bramley
- 1.30 pm Lunch
There are several pubs in the village – or bring packed lunch
- 2.00 Tour of Village Hall
- 2.30 Horley and Nutfield – Peter Finch
A proposition – Footpaths and tenement boundaries
- 3.00 Discussion and looking at maps
- 3.15 Tea
- 3.45 Members' contributions
- 4.15 Summing-up

Everyone is welcome. If you would like further details contact Audrey Monk – 01428 682258 or Castle Arch.

RECENT WORK BY ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNITS

The fieldwork projects listed below were, for the most part, undertaken early last year by archaeological contractors operating in the London boroughs of old Surrey. A key to the acronyms is provided below, and the letters and numbers at the end of each entry is the site code. COMPASS is a new one on me.

MoLAS	Museum of London Archaeological Service
PCA	Pre-Construct Archaeology
SuAS	Sutton Archaeological Services
WA	Wessex Archaeology
NSFF	No significant features or finds

Kingston

Chessington, 132-135 Moor Lane and Nursery site, May Close (TQ 1885 6395).
Evaluation by COMPASS in early 2000. NSFF. MLI 00.

Merton

Wimbledon, 49 Parkside (TQ 2355 7204). Evaluation by COMPASS in early 2000.
NSFF. JLH 00.

Richmond-upon-Thames

Richmond, 12 Eton Street and 7-13 Sheen Road (TQ 1803 7491). Evaluation by
MoLAS in early 2000. NSFF.

Sutton

Sutton, Queen Mary's Hospital (TQ 2816 6267). Evaluation by COMPASS. NSF.

Sutton, Queen Mary's Hospital (TQ 2794 6231). Post-excavation assessment by
WA. Late Bronze Age pit with pot sherds and struck and burnt flint. QPL 99.

Beddington, Sewage Farm (TQ 290 660). Watching Brief by WA. Three ditches
located; large feature possibly a bomb crater; flint scraper.

Wandsworth

Wandsworth, Strathville Road (TQ 257 732). Palaeoenvironmental evaluation by MoLAS. Site adjacent to Wandle tributary of Thames. Boreal organic muds contain pollen dominated by pine. Overlying post-glacial tufa and subsequent deposits were not polleniferous but mollusc assemblage enabled reconstruction of local environment. SVR 94.

Wandsworth Plain, 5 Church Road (TQ 2556 7475). Evaluation by PCA in early 2000. Revetment dump layer by the River Wandle cut by 17th or 18th century brick wall foundations. CWP 00.

Wandsworth, 74-80 Upper Tooting Road (TQ 2780 7215). Evaluation by PCA in early 2000. A series of intercutting cess pits of 13th-16th century date; two 17th or 18th century ditches set north/south and at right angles from the present Upper Tooting Road. UTT 00.

Battersea, Flour Mills (TQ 26837 76909). Evaluation by WA. 16th or early 17th century H-plan manor house, including a brick cellar in the south wing. New wing built in late 17th century included nearside wall of ashlar stone blocks derived from a high status medieval or early post-medieval building. Much of the complex was demolished in the late 18th century and the site occupied by a mill and malthouse. BCD 96.

Wandsworth, 334 Queenstown Road (TQ 2870 7720). Watching Brief by SuAS. NSFF. QTR 98

LETTERS

Response to the review by Mr Phil Jones of *Three Excavations along the Thames in Surrey Archaeological Collections 87* (2000, 223-7)

The review of *Three Excavations along the Thames* by Mr Jones questions current archaeological practice and the abilities of those who perform the work – he raises ‘concerns about accepted procedures’ and ‘the limits of competence’ of those involved. Such debates are not new and archaeology would be the worse if we did not constantly review our practices with the desire of seeking improvement. However, it is unfortunate that Mr Jones has chosen his review to air his concerns because his comments are largely inappropriate and misplaced.

The current system of professional archaeological practice evolved more than a decade ago. Three principal roles are recognised – ‘client’, ‘curator’ and ‘contractor’ – to which might be added the occasional role of ‘consultant’ or independent advisor. It is also important to understand that each role is constrained by certain parameters so that there we limits to what can be achieved ultimately.

In Surrey, the ‘curator’ is normally the County Archaeological Officer (CAO). In line with Government guidance and professional best practice, and as was the case at Hurst Park, it is the CAOs responsibility to agree a scope of archaeological works which will meet the requirements of his Local Planning Authority, and to monitor the work to ensure that it is discharged satisfactorily. However, he is aware that he must be able to sustain a case for requiring such work and that it must be reasonable given the archaeological evidence from the site. Where initial sampling (field evaluation) has failed to show important archaeological remains, despite locally held beliefs and intuition to the contrary, it would be unreasonable to expect the developer (the client) to incur considerable cost in investigating the area further. The results of field evaluation at Hurst Park, which apparently showed that certain areas of the site were devoid of important remains, were confirmed during subsequent observation. This proved that there were not ‘unacceptably large gaps in the sampling strategy’ and that it did not result in an ‘unacceptable strategy’. Far from the view that the course

of action 'reflects badly' on the curatorial archaeologists, it confirms their good professional judgment.

That said, no one would pretend that sample sizes commonly used in field evaluation provide a statistically sound result, nor that potentially alluviated sites are understood simply. The challenge for the future is to refine our methods of prospection to give those concerned with the potential impacts of development greater confidence in defining the limits for appropriate archaeological work.

One of the greatest benefits to archaeology of the current system has been the dramatic increase in the number and scale of sites extensively investigated. However, we have had to accept that when developers (clients) are asked to arrange for required archaeological work they select whom they will pay to do the work – the 'contractor'. The selection will be based on such criteria as the abilities of the archaeologists, the quality of proposals, value for money, availability, proven track record etc. Proximity to, or familiarity with the site will not necessarily be significant factors. Each 'contractor' will approach their task slightly differently: I have no doubt that 'the practice of SCAU is different' but that does not mean that it is necessarily more appropriate. Similarly, it is not uncommon ('odd' to quote Mr Jones) for specifications to be drafted by independent 'consultants' for the approval of the CAO, thus releasing the hard-pressed CAO to deal with more weighty strategic matters.

Archaeology is an inquiring discipline and archaeologists are trained to question evidence and interpretation. However, there is a danger that such academic rigour can be translated into unfounded criticisms of professional practice. The quality of excavation has never escaped scrutiny and with the benefit of experience, both at home and abroad, and with not a little foresight, the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) was established in 1982 to ensure that its members conduct their work within defined ethical frameworks and standards. The IFA validates the competence of its members and more recently a scheme for the registration of organisations which abide by the IFA's Codes has been introduced. All of the principal authors of the Hurst Park report are validated members of the IFA and Wessex Archaeology is a registered organisation. The authors are all extremely experienced archaeologists and there is no question about their abilities to investigate and analyse a site such as Hurst Park.

The archaeological profession is valiantly attempting to drag itself from adolescence to maturity. This process will be better served if more individuals and organisations agree to abide by the IFA's Codes and submit themselves to independent validation. The profession will appear all the more mature if concerns are either taken up with the appropriate authority, or by invoking the IFA's disciplinary procedures, than by publicly calling fellow professionals into disrepute.

The primary aim of the excavation of a threatened site is to create a record of the archaeological remains which is capable of reinterpretation in the future. A published report is both desirable and a professional obligation but can only be the author's interpretation of the archaeological record based on the analyses of various elements of the record. The purpose of the publication is to disseminate the author's interpretation and to attract the attention of those who might be interested to the range of features and finds from the site. Once again, there are limitations to the expense which can be reasonably incurred in analysing the results of field investigation and standard guidance exists to help in defining the scope for this work. In his review Mr Jones has drawn attention to isolated Mesolithic flints from unstratified contexts, differences between facies of 'greensand' from undated features, the identity of a particular Saxon sherd, and so on from Hurst Park. These finds do not substantially alter the overall interpretation of the site but they are precisely the substance of specialised interests which can be, and hopefully will be pursued by consulting the ordered archive which is carefully curated by the

Elmbridge Museum, Weybridge. Because the site has been published promptly others will now be aware of the potential for their own research. However, it should be clear to most readers that the discussion in the report is not intended to be a thorough synthesis of the archaeology of the region but merely setting the context for the work at Prospect Park and Hurst Park. It does not mention sites where there is an absence of material comparable to Hurst Park.

There can be little doubt that the current system for archaeology within the planning system has revolutionised the subject. Although developers now pay for much archaeology in England, they do so for the benefit of the public. This end is only served if the public have access to the results of excavations in a timely and appropriate way. Perhaps, an audit of those who have excavated sites in Surrey might be a useful way to begin to define priorities for publication in the county. The current system does not, however, provide for syntheses. The scale of the admirable Archaeology of Surrey to 1540 (Bird and Bird 1987) shows the scale of such an undertaking and the means by which it might be achieved could usefully be explored with national funding agencies. It will not be achieved within the parameters of a single site investigation.

Some may lament the abandonment of 'traditional' publication which describes every item recovered from a site. But the truth of the matter is that few people buy such reports and researchers demand easier access to the things which interest them. A new system of publication which offers a concise narrative of the site backed by electronically accessible reports and records must surely come. When such a policy is realised, we will have to learn to trust the skill and judgment of the excavators and accept that any archaeological record may contain gems amongst the minutiae to delight researchers in pursuit of their own agendas.

Andrew J Lawson

Unit Director

Wessex Archaeology

MISCELLANY

Roman Day at Ewell

Isobel Cross

On 25 November last year Clive Orton came to Bourne Hall with some of the finds from the Ewell churchyard excavation. It was designed as a hands-on day for the public, who came in quantity, and could not believe they were being allowed to touch these things. There were Roman bricks, tiles and pottery of course, and stratified metal, like nails, rings and a knife, and there was also the metal detectorist's haul. The metalwork had been X-rayed and all sorts of things had been seen, some of which were available to look at. There were some non-Roman finds too, a most interesting piece being a small bit of Anglo-Saxon pottery. It didn't look much, but was highly significant, as it had a potter's stamp.

Bourne Hall Museum also had a display and organised the children to do coin rubbings. The Roman soldier couldn't come unfortunately, but Sally Grainger, a food historian, did. Her contribution was very appealing. The children were allowed to grind wheat in a mortar. She had made a sauce with roasted pine nuts and black cumin which was delicious. I had a go at smelling silphium/asafetida – not bad at all. She was a mine of information about everything Roman and I heard her giving a lecture on Roman clothes. Socks were not known in the Empire until the Romans had to contend with the British climate. There is a letter from a soldier on the Wall, saying 'Thanks, Mum, for the socks.'

From the February Newsletter of the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society, with many thanks.

Weston Wood, Albury

Andrew Cornwall and Judie English

Joan Harding's collection of archaeological records has recently come into the care of the Society, and is being catalogued at Salters. The collection consists mostly of items relating to the Society's excavations and experimental archaeology at Weston Wood, Albury from 1961 to 1967. Cataloguing and conservation is expected to take around 12 months to complete, with the aim of facilitating the publication of a final site report. The catalogue will be deposited in the Society's library and it is hoped the artefacts will be accessioned to Guildford Museum.

Later this year we plan to hold a meeting to go through the photographic material. This will be a working event to identify unlabelled slides and gather as much information as we can from those who took part. We hope to be in a position to mount a display at the Archaeological Research Committee's Symposium in 2002.

Photographs and other information from those who took part would greatly assist us in getting an overview of the excavations and experimental archaeology. We would be grateful if members who took part in the activities at Albury made contact with either of us.

Volunteers for finds processing at Salters on Tuesday evenings are always welcome. We are nearing completion of Hopeless Moor, Seale after which there will be a number of other sites to do including Weston Wood. The Salters group is led by Judie English, from whom details can be obtained.

Andrew Cornwall, 10 Earlsbrook Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 6DP. Tel. 01737 768021
Judie English, 2 Rowland Road, Cranleigh, Surrey. Tel. 01483 276724.

Boundary and Village Origins in East Surrey

Peter Gray

In view of the discussions at the recent Society Conference on village origins and of the early history of boundaries, I would like to draw members' attention to a discussion of the subjects in recent parish Local Histories. They have not been unreviewed at County level.

Tatsfield, the first 200 years. Ed Eileen Pearce, 1999, pp 6-19.

Shape of the parish, relationship to pre-Domesday estates and the county boundary and early trackways.

Limpsfield, Ancient and Modern. Ed Peter Gray, 1997, pp 19-22.

Medieval origin of the village.

Bourne Society Village Histories, 2 Caterham. Ed Gwyneth Fookes, 1887, pp 11-28.

Origins of parish and trackways. Medieval origin and development of Caterham (on the Hill) village.

Bourne Society Village History, Chaldon. Ed Gwyneth Fookes. To be published 2001.

Saxon manor and parish boundaries in Chaldon.

The Reading Room of the British Museum

J S L Pulford

"The New Reading-Room of the British Museum" *West Middlesex Herald, June 7th 1856*

This noble apartment, constructed in the quadrangle of the building, and surrounded by magnificent corridors, is surmounted by a dome the internal diameter of which is only two feet less than that of the Pantheon. The interior of the dome of St Paul's is about 100 feet; that of St Peter's under 140; that of the Pantheon 144; and that of the new reading room 142. The reader henceforth, instead of being packed with two or three hundred other people in a close, dusty apartment, without elbow-room, with a scanty supply of light only on one side, and with readers and attendants moving to and fro just before his eyes, will be seated at a desk of his own, four feet six inches wide, with a screen before his eyes, and a table at hand for the display of the largest maps or books of reference. The room will be surrounded by shelves rising to a considerable height, and capable of holding 35,000 volumes, likely to be most in demand. The whole substructure under the floor of the dome is one vast reservoir

of warm air, and if the room by fires overnight is properly warmed, in the morning there will be a sufficient supply of warm air till the evening, without either a decrease of temperature or a feeling of closeness."

For the next 140 years the Reading Room was a haven of peace, a very secret place, for those people who, by the possession of a reader's ticket, were privileged to pass through the crowds of tourists and schoolchildren milling in the entrance hall of the British Museum and then into the silence of the Room. Once there, a mere glance up into the magnificent dome was an inspiration in itself. This "noble apartment" was closed in 1997 to the distress of many of its users and the vast collection of scholarly works on its shelves was dispatched to the new British Library in Euston Road.

The following year construction work began on the Great Court, then occupied by four book stacks and the supporting services required for supplying books to the readers. Condemned as "clutter" it was at the same time a fascinating area, sections of which could be seen by readers making their way to the North Library or the photocopying department. When the Great Court was opened to the public on the 7th December last all the "clutter" had been taken away and a new South Portico built to replace that demolished in the 1870s. A vast open area was easy access to all parts of the museum. Overhead a revolutionary latticed steel and glass roof protects visitors from the elements. There are two coffee-shops and a shop selling books and other items.

In the centre of the Great Court site is the Reading Room, its exterior recently covered with white Spanish stone, but the splendidly redecorated interior on that first day of public access saw a mere handful of visitors wandering around. A few sat at the original desks left in situ and others stood at the half-filled shelves exploring the first delivery of the 12,000 reference books generously provided by the publisher, Paul Hamlyn. Most of these books relate to the subject matter of the museum's collections and a separate section contains the works of notable holders of readers' tickets. Despite this creation of what amounts to a new and freely accessible public library, however, there was obviously no great rush to view it on the opening day. If the number of visitors does not increase, perhaps the addition of a few hundred standard works of the quality to be found in the London Borough and provincial reference libraries would make the library attractive to a wider readership and more worthy of this historic Reading Room.

From 'Dialstone' Newsheet no. 171 of the Walton & Weybridge Local History Society. Many thanks.

The Diggers' Commemorative Stone

On Sunday 10th December 2000 a stone erected in commemoration of the Diggers and Gerrard Winstanley was unveiled at a spot opposite the car park on the south side of the bridge at Weybridge railway station. The site was chosen by the Elmbridge Diggers Heritage Group as a substitute for the favoured site on St George's Hill, which had proved to be impractical. The sculptor, Andrew Whittle, had travelled from the West Country the day before, and on the Sunday morning had dug a hole and, with the help of others, erected the stone in a concrete base.

Though the afternoon was damp and cloudy, it was fortunate that the heavy showers of the morning were not repeated. Shortly after three o'clock the Mayor of Elmbridge, Cllr Alan Hopkins, attended by the Mayoress, unveiled the stone and made a short speech. Andrew Bradstock, who was responsible for the formation of the Group also spoke, and then Jim Paton read some extracts from Winstanley's writings. Also present were Canon Timothy Sedgley, Vicar of Walton and chairman of the Group, a number of Elmbridge councillors and members of "The Land is Ours" group.

The words **WORKE TOGETHER** are carved at the top of the stone. Below, carved in low relief and set within a square, are one row of five pea-pods, one of

four carrots and one of three parsnips. The wording continues: **EAT BREAD/TOGIER/GERRARD/WINSTANLEY/A TRUE/LEVELLER/1649**. A spade is carved in relief on the back of the stone.

An interpretation panel will be placed near the stone in due course.

From 'Dialstone' Newsheet no. 171 of the Walton & Weybridge Local History Society. Many thanks.

Kathleen Kenyon

Miriam C Davis is researching a biography of Dame Kathleen Kenyon and would like to hear from anyone with personal knowledge. If you would like to share your memories by letter, or arrange an interview when Dr Davis is in the UK this summer, please write to her at the Department of History, Delta State University, 1003 West Sunflower Road, Cleveland, Mississippi 38733, or e-mail at mdavis@dsu.deltast.edu

PUBLICATIONS

“Medieval London: Recent Archaeological Work”

A fully illustrated volume of thirteen papers discussing many aspects of recent archaeological work and related research in the Greater London area, papers include – ceramic studies, demography, London Bridge, *Lundenwic*, London's economic hinterland, monastic houses, and material culture. The volume includes papers presented at the CBA Mid-Anglia Group Medieval Conference 1998.

The volume is available at £7, including post and packing from Bruce Watson, MoLAS, Walker House, 87 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4 4AB. Cheques payable to CBA Mid-Anglia.

PUBLIC MEETING

The Romano-British Temple at Wanborough

to be held at Holy Trinity Church, Guildford, Surrey

(by kind permission of the Rector of Holy Trinity & St Mary's, Guildford)

Friday 4th May 2001 at 7.30 pm

Speakers:

David Williams, Independent Archaeologist

“The Latest Excavations”

David Bird, Principal Archaeologist, Surrey County Council

“The Temples: their place in Roman Britain”

For further information contact: Surrey Archaeological Society, Castle Arch, Guildford GU1 3SX, Tel/fax: 01483 532453; e-mail surreyarch@compuserve.com; Web site: <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/surreyarch>

VISIT

Oxford: Ashmolean Museum and City Tour

Saturday 7th April 2001

This visit is designed to be flexible, so join in with the programme shown below, or come and disappear to explore the city on your own – just make sure you get back to the coach on time!

The Ashmolean is Britain's oldest public museum, founded in 1683, and its displays

include a rich and diverse collection of British, European, Egyptian and Near Eastern antiquities. A highlight of any tour must be the unique Alfred Jewel

'Oxford Past and Present': This optional walking tour, run by Official guides, includes many colleges and the Bodleian Library and is the main introductory tour of Oxford. It lasts approximately 2 hours, from 3 – 5pm, and costs £4 per person.

Coach leaves Farncombe Railway Station, near Godalming, at 9 am and will leave Oxford at 5.15 pm.

Lunch: There is a variety of pubs and restaurants in the City, or bring sandwiches.

Cost: £10 and an additional £4 for the guided walking tour- please let me know whether or not you wish to join this, as it has to be pre booked.

All welcome, including spouses, children, guests, partners, and 'significant others'.

For more information ring Elizabeth Whitbourn Tel: 01483-420575, e-mail jaw@telinco.co.uk, mobile no.07790-451110

COURSES

KENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL

Kent Field Study Centre, near Faversham

Saturday and Weekend Courses through April and May

13-16th April Excavation, landscape studies and geophysical survey of a Medieval Palace at Teynham.

21-22nd April Archaeological and Geophysical Survey: Theory and practice using laser technology, optical site levels and theodolites.

12/13th May Human Bones and Burials led by Trevor Anderson. On-site recording and analysis.

19/20th May The Saxon Shore (*Litus Saxonicum*). The Roman forts will be discussed and visits will be made to Reculver, Richborough, Dover and Lympne.

26-28th May Discovering Ancient Sites.

Fees £30 per day to include tea/coffee.

Local accommodation on request.

For further information contact the Kent Archaeological Field School, School Farm Oast, Graveney Road, Faversham, Kent ME13 8UP; Tel: 0208 987 8827 or 0585 700 112.

WEALD & DOWNLAND OPEN AIR MUSEUM

Historic Building Conservation

Day Schools

29th March Design and Specification of Leadwork. Nigel Johnston. £80

Linked Day Schools

Recording Vernacular Buildings for Conservation. Richard Harris.

15th March Imposing a Grid. £70

26th April Studio Techniques. £70

Dealing with Change in Historic Buildings. Jim Strike.

28th March Building Works. £80

Hands-on Timber Repair Workshop. Richard Harris and Roger Champion.

30th April – 2nd May £200

History of English Domestic Architecture. Jim Strike.

11th April 1400 -1625. £80

25th April 1625 – 1830. £80

For further information Tel: 01243 811363.

LECTURE SERIES

MEET THE ARCHAEOLOGISTS

Kingston Museum

- 1st May "Recent Roman Finds in Greater London" by Hedley Swain of the Early London History and Collections at the Museum of London
- 8th May "Getting Around in Medieval London" by John Clark of the Early London History and Collections at the Museum of London
- 22nd May "The Archaeology of the Thames" by Mike Webber

All three lectures begin at 7 pm and it is advisable to book early, Tel: 020 8546 5386. Cost £6 per lecture or £15 for all three.

LECTURE MEETINGS

15th March

"The Grammar School's effect on Farnham business" by Cyril Trust to the Farnham & District Museum Society in the hall of the United Reformed Church, South Street, Farnham at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

16th March

"Leatherhead in 1851 – a Study of the Surrey Census" by Ron Cox to the Leatherhead and District Local History Society in the Dixon Hall, Letherhead Institute, 67 High Street at 7.30 for 8 pm. Non-member £2 including coffee.

17th March

"Weybridge: the Station the Railway Company did not want to build" by John Smith to the Walton and Weybridge Local History Society at Weybridge Library Lecture Hall at 3 pm.

20th March

"Literary Kingston" by June Sampson to the Friends of Kingston Museum at the Market House, Market Place, Kingston at 8 pm. For further information Tel: 01362 453794.

21st March

"Strawberry Hill" by Anna Chalcraft to the Sunbury and Shepperton Local History Society at the Assembly Hall, Halliford School, Russell Road, Shepperton at 8 pm. Non-members £1. For further information Tel: 01932 564585.

24th March

"Cobham Houses and their Occupants" by David Taylor to Esher District Local History Society at Cobham Methodist Church Hall at 2.30 pm. Visitors £2.

27th March

"Recent Local Archaeological and Historical Work" by various speakers to the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society at Hawkstone Hall, Kennington Road, Lambeth North at 7 pm. Visitors £1.

29th March

"Roman Towns in Britain and Italy: some comparisons and contrasts" by Professor Martin Millett, to be held in The Church House, Union Road, Farnham at 7.45 pm (doors open 7.15 pm). Members of the Farnham & District Museum Society £1, non-members £2.

2nd April

"The Burning Question – the History of Fire Fighting" by Ron Shettle to the Mayford History Society at Mayford Village Hall, Saunders Lane, Mayford at 8 pm. Visitors £2. For further information Tel: 01483 763600.

4th April

"A Yorkshire Saga" by Richard Butler to the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society at St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 7.45 for 8 pm.

5th April

"Recent Work by the Surrey County Archaeological Unit" by Jim Stevenson to the Spelthorne Archaeological Field Group at the Methodist Church, Thames Street, Staines at 8 pm

7th April

"The Wey and Arun Canal" by Jim Phillips to the Sunbury and Shepperton Local History Society at the Assembly Hall, Halliford School, Russell Road, Shepperton at 8 pm. Non-members £1. For further information Tel: 01932 564585.

10th April

"The Story of William Stanley: a Self-made Man" by Eloise Akpanto to the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society at the United Reformed Church Small Hall, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon at 7.45 pm.

20th April

AGM followed by "More Old Postcards of Fetcham" by Geoff Powell to the Leatherhead and District Local History Society in the Dixon Hall, Letherhead Institute, 67 High Street at 7.30 for 8 pm. Non-member £2 including coffee.

21st April

"Recent Work on the site of Merton Priory" by Dave Saxby of MoLAS to the Merton Historical Society at the Snuff Mill Environmental Centre, Morden Hall Park at 2.30 pm.

21st April

"Recent Prehistoric Discoveries in Surrey" by Rob Poulton to the Walton and Weybridge Local History Society in the Walton Day Centre at 3 pm.

24th April

"High Street Londinium – Reconstructing Roman London" by Jenny Hall of the Museum of London to the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society at Hawkstone Hall, Kennington Road, Lambeth North at 7 pm. Visitors £1.

25th April

"The River and Rowing Museum" by Emily Leach to the Sunbury and Shepperton Local History Society at the Assembly Hall, Halliford School, Russell Road, Shepperton at 8 pm. Non-members £1. For further information Tel: 01932 564585.

26th April

"Paper Mills of Surrey" by Alan Crocker to Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society in the Main Hall, Literary Institute, High Street, Egham at 8 pm.

26th April

"Wayneffete Tower" by Nora Courtney to the Esher District Local History Society at Claremont Mansion at 7.30 pm. Visitors £2.

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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 23rd March for the April issue.

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