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SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Bulletin 363

December 2002



Dark Waters, Sacred Ritual

LONDON'S FIRST DATED EXAMPLE OF TREPANNING SURGERY

A Bronze Age skull retrieved from the banks of the river Thames and dated by the Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit to c1750-1610 BC (at 95% confidence) could belong to the first person discovered in London to have undergone major head surgery.

The adult male skull, of which the upper half survives, was found last October during archaeological survey work at Chelsea. It has a hole in the top where a portion of the bone was removed from a living and most likely conscious patient. Bone regrowth round the edge of the hole, which measures about 45 by 30 millimetres, proves that the patient survived his drastic treatment.

Dr Simon Mays, English Heritage expert on human skeletal remains, said: "Trepanning is probably the oldest form of surgery we know. The trepanning on this skull would have been carried out with a scraping tool, probably a flint, using great care to avoid piercing the brain. There is no evidence of any post-operative infection, which would have been the main cause of death in these operations, and the trepanation probably didn't cause this patient any lasting problems. The skull shows that there were people in Britain at the time with significant anatomical and surgical skills, ones not bettered in Europe until Classical Greek and Roman times more than a thousand years later.

Although about forty trepanned skulls are known in Britain from Neolithic to post-medieval times, this is the first dated example from London. There seems to have been a remarkable level of survival, perhaps because the scraping technique, rather than less controllable methods such as sawing, gouging or drilling, was more common here than abroad. The pain must have been intense at times, although possibly relieved by alcohol or whatever herbal drugs may have been available. There must also have been the fear that an unskilled or careless hand could deal a fatal blow to the brain itself. Accounts based on observation of societies where the practice still occurred, such as the South Pacific islands in the 1920s, describe the surgeon peeling back flaps of skin, and covering the hole with a coconut shell and banana leaves. The man from Chelsea would probably have had to rely on leaves, dried grass or thin bark. The operation is thought to have taken between 30 minutes and an hour to perform.

It is difficult to determine exactly why trepanning was carried out in prehistoric times, although it is likely to have been for medical, or what were seen at the time as medical, reasons. Occasionally, though not in this case, it appears to have been done to alleviate cranial fractures. The specialist practitioners may have thought that trepanation could cure headaches and migraines by relieving pressure in the head. They may also have imagined that evil spirits caused epilepsy or mental illness and that carving a hole in the head would let these out. In historic times the ancient Greek physician Hippocrates recommended the procedure for wounds of the head and for haematoma (swellings filled with blood). The technique continues today – modern surgeons create flaps in the skull in order to alleviate bleeding caused by injuries.

During the Bronze Age the London area was populated by small, widely dispersed communities. Cultivation was on the increase as woodlands were cleared but people still appear to have been highly mobile, coming together for feasting and ritual activities such as funerals that often involved the river. It is in this context that the Chelsea skull may have been buried. The Thames did not run along the circumscribed channel it follows in London today. In places it stretched over a wide area. At this time the water levels were rising, leading to extensive flood plains and communities constructed trackways over them to maintain traditional routes laid down in hunter-gatherer times.

Several hundred human skulls dating from prehistoric times have been found in the River Thames, most of them in the London area, and no less than 299 examples are preserved in museum archives. Only a few of these have been radiocarbon-dated, but those that have mostly date from c1330-800 BC (the Middle to Late Bronze Ages), so our man from Chelsea is a very early example (the earliest of the skulls is Neolithic, but before 3300 BC). We don't know why the skulls ended up in the river, but we do know that hardly any were accompanied by other human bones, that most of them were male, and most were aged between 25 and 35. The evidence is inconclusive, but it seems to point to the skulls having been deliberately placed in the river, as offerings or perhaps as a form of ritual burial. A group of 48 skulls were found together in the City – they had been deposited in the Walbrook stream in Roman times, probably in the 2nd century: so this practice, however bizarre it may seem to us, may have lasted for millennia – maybe for as long as 4,000 years.

The skulls have been relatively little studied, as people's attention has more often been drawn to other prehistoric finds from the Thames, particularly weapons. Indeed, some spectacular discoveries have been made not far from the Chelsea find-spot, such as the famous Battersea Shield, now in the British Museum, found in 1857 with several human skulls. We have abundant evidence that swords, rapiers, daggers and spearheads were deliberately placed in rivers and lakes during the Bronze Age and Iron Age. There may be links between this ritual placing of weapons, and the presence of the skulls in the river.

The skull was discovered by Fiona Haughey of the Institute of Archaeology during one of the regular inspections of the river foreshore she has undertaken since the completion of the first Thames Archaeological Survey of 1996-9. This was a major exercise involving the Institute of Archaeology, English Heritage, the Environment Agency, and many local archaeological societies to assess the risk of erosion to archaeological deposits on the river banks.

Fiona said: "The finding and dating of the skull is another demonstration of the archaeological importance of the Thames foreshore – and its fragility. We know that the archaeology of the foreshore is eroding – that is why the skull was found – and there is far more work than one person can do here, so English Heritage and staff at the Institute are working towards a second phase of survey work. The Thames foreshore has been described as the largest single archaeological site in London, and we are really only just beginning to understand it."

The skull is on display in the Museum of London's new Prehistoric Gallery.

From the June to August 2002 Quarterly Review of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLAAS), with many thanks. Sorry it's not from the opposite Surrey bank, but it ought to have been!

SOUTHWARK CRUX AND BURHS

Stewart Lyon

Graham Dawson's article *Royal Southwark and Lambeth* (**Bulletin 362**) has prompted me to put to other SyAS members a numismatic puzzle relating to late 10th century Southwark. In the *Crux* issue of Æthelred II ("the Unready"), which was current for much of the 990s, Southwark is for the first time named on coins as a minting place. In fact it bursts on the scene, because the coins numismatists attribute to Southwark represent about 1 in 12 of roughly 5,000 pence of that issue known to us today – ranking third after London, with 1 in 5, and Winchester, with 1 in 10. In no subsequent issue does Southwark represent as much as 1 in 40 of the surviving material and it usually accounts for less than 1%.

Clearly there was an emergency in the 990s that made it necessary to mint a very large quantity of silver in Southwark. As many as nineteen moneys are named on the coins in question, fourteen of whom are probably to be identified with London

moneys bearing the same names. Three other minting towns close to London also produced an exceptional output of *Crux* pence, namely Hertford, Colchester and Maldon, together accounting for about 1 in 20 of the surviving coins, a level never approached again except in the second issue of Edward the Confessor.

What was the emergency? The evidence just outlined seems to point to the tribute that had to be paid to the Danish Vikings after the defeat at Maldon in 991, but other numismatic evidence may force us to settle for a later event, notably the national tribute of 994/5. Be that as it may, there is one remarkable fact that deserves to be considered by those researching Southwark's past through other disciplines. It is that, although many of the coins abbreviate the name of the minting place as SVÐG, SVÐGE or SVÐGEP (for Suðogeweorc), many others have SVÐB, SVÐBY, SVÐBYR or SVÐBYRI, clearly abbreviating Suðbyrig.

Now it might be thought that the latter should denote the town of Sudbury in Suffolk, but there is no other evidence that coins were minted there as early as this. When we can recognise it as a minting place, it seems never to have had more than one moneyer at a time, except for a short period in the reign of Cnut. Not only that, but of the nineteen moneys named on the coins we associate with Southwark as many as fourteen are known to have used the B- form, five of whom also use the G- form. A further two are known for the G- form but not B-, and the remaining three are only known with the ambiguous abbreviation SV?. What really clinches the argument that the B- and G- abbreviations represent the same or closely related locations is that each of the five moneys known for both forms is recorded on at least one occasion as having used reverse dies of the two forms in combination with the same obverse die.

The question therefore arises of whether in the 990s there were two adjacent but distinct *burhs* in what we now call Southwark – or, perhaps, two *burhs* on the south bank of the Thames, one of which endured as Southwark and the other became submerged in it or in a neighbouring modern borough. Is there any historical or archaeological evidence that might help to throw light on this? What, for example, is the origin of Southwark's 'Borough High Street'?

COUNCIL NEWS

PETER GRAY MEMORIAL LECTURE

The Adult Education Centre, Bletchingley

22nd March 2003

10am for 10.30

Peter Gray, a past Vice-President of the Society and Chairman of the Historic Buildings Conservation Committee, played a crucial role in increasing knowledge and understanding of medieval buildings in Surrey and the Weald. He also wrote several books about villages and their buildings, which he described as "an exploration of the visible history", particularly in the east of the county, notably Bletchingley, Lingfield and Godstone.

He was also an active member of the Domestic Buildings Research Group and the Wealden Buildings Research Group, and to celebrate his enthusiasm and important contribution in this field we have joined together to organise this meeting to demonstrate some aspects of the work he started and which is continuing.

Just before he died, Peter managed to complete his inventory and analysis of medieval timber-framed buildings. It is a major work and Martin Higgins will be saying more about this in his talk. Those taking part will be:

Diana Chatwin
Martin Higgins
Rod Wild
David Gaimster

**New Place, Pulborough
The Timber-Framed Tradition
The Surrey Dendrochronology Project
The Wall Paintings of 44 Bagshot High Street**

There will be guided walks around the village during lunch and ample opportunity to visit the church. Further details and a reservation form will be circulated in the next *Bulletin*.

A small charge will be made to defray expenses.

New members

Susan Janaway

A special welcome to the following new members. As in *Bulletin 361* I have included principal archaeological interests, where they have been given on the membership application form. I hope this will be useful for the Society's Local Secretaries and Committee Chairmen.

Mrs J Andrews	Hillside Cottage Chiddingfold Road Dunsfold, GU8 4PB	<i>Roman Britain, including the Roman Villa at Chiddingfold, Anglo-Saxon Britain</i>
Mrs D M Betts	136 Sandringham Way Frimley Camberley GU16 9YF	<i>Digs, places of interest, lectures, Neolithic/Roman/Anglo-Saxon</i>
Mr I Goode	22 Great Austins Farnham GU9 8JQ	<i>Local Archaeology/Mesolithic</i>
Mr M Hanson	2 Cliveden Road Wimbledon SW19 3RB	<i>Paleolithic to Medieval</i>
Miss T Haskins	16 Eaton House St Lukes Square Guildford GU1 3JP	<i>General</i>
Miss N Hewett	189 Grange Road Guildford GU2 9QU	<i>General</i>
Dr G Lachelin	Church Gate Cottage Ockham Road North Ockham GU23 6NL	<i>Currently doing BSc at University of Surrey</i>
Mr N J Pitt	38 Manor Way Guildford GU2 7RP	<i>Roman/Dark Ages</i>
Mrs G Potter	44 Cotmandene Dorking RH4 2BP	<i>Saxon to Medieval History and Archaeology</i>
Mr C Ratcliffe	12 Annes Way Fleet Hants GU52 6AG	<i>Roman sites in the area</i>

OBITUARY

Arnold Taylor (1911-2002)

Although Arnold lived much of his life in the Middlesex side of the Thames, and his only published local article was on Kingston Bridge, we may claim him for Surrey on at least four counts. His mother's ancestors came from Cobham, he was the son of the headmaster of Sir Walter St John's School, Battersea, much of his working life was based at Lambeth Bridge House and, last but not least, he spent his last thirty years at Chiddingfold. Here he was local secretary for a time, served on the Conservation Committee and was elected a vice-president of the Society.

If his local achievements were unobtrusive, his abilities as a scholar and an administrator were more widely known. He was on the staff of the Ancient Monuments branch of the Ministry of Works (and its successors) for nearly forty

years, the last eleven as Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments, and oversaw the creation of the Ancient Monuments Scientific Laboratory and the absorption of the Historic Buildings Division of the former Ministry of Housing.

One of Arnold's first official tasks was to research Minster Lovell Hall in Oxfordshire: he cycled to Evreux to consult the archives of Ivry Abbey, whose tiny priory once stood near the Hall. After wartime service as a RAF intelligence officer, he became Inspector of Wales for nearly a decade, during which time he followed the same principle, examining original records in Savoy as well as the PRO but travelling by train, for evidence relating to the castles built for Edward I in North Wales to contain the Welsh rebellions. Castles like Caernarfon and Conwy were well known already, but Arnold both extended and revised that knowledge. His books and articles dealt not only with the actual structures but also with many of the personalities, both high and low (from Otto de Granson to Mrs Maud Vras) and the logistics, economics and finances of the building and use of each.

He was successively Secretary, Director and President of the Society of Antiquaries of London (no sinecures these) and was subsequently awarded its Gold Medal for distinguished services to archaeology in 1988. Among his hobbies he listed 'resisting iconoclasts' his resistance could be formidable but he was no dogmatist, always willing to listen to argument. A simple question from him, courteously expressed and based upon a formidable memory could demolish many a fanciful edifice. After Patricia and their children, Arnold's greatest love was for Conwy, and he delivered a public lecture, vigorously reappraising its domestic buildings, with asides on his twentieth century defence against attacks on its fabric and setting, nearly eighty years after first visiting it.

A modest man and a firm friend, he was a tiger in support of many causes and scholars, both professional and amateur. His last illness cruelly deprived him of his greatest pleasures: the ability of reading, and to hear music, undistorted.

Derek Renn

COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY

An Introduction to the Surrey History Centre

Mike Rubra

As part of the Community Archaeology programme nineteen of us recently spent the day at the Surrey History Centre, Woking, with Maggie Vaughan-Lewis, Head of Public Services.

We first looked at the storage, conservation, recording and retrieval facilities 'behind the scenes' at the Centre, and were then shown how to access their catalogues using the internet or their own computers. The many and various ways of carrying out research and locating the written sources, the library, deeds and papers, maps, pictures, postcards and illustrations, were then described.

We were told how to locate records not at the SHC, like the National Record of Archives, Public Record Office and the Historic Manuscripts Commission, using as our examples manorial documents. This was followed by a closer look at these documents and some of the things to be aware of in your researches.

After lunch we used the Centre's computers to test out in practice what we had been taught. We then looked at Ordnance Survey, tithe, enclosure and estate map sources, sales particulars and deeds. We finished with the sources for aerial photography, the Sites and Monuments Record and listed buildings information.

Much of this information is now available on your own or at a local library's computer, although some is limited to the Centre's. More and more material is becoming available via the internet and it really is now possible to start your research in the comfort of your own home.

We are most grateful to Maggie for an extremely interesting day at the History Centre, and to the staff for their hospitality. Thank you for a most enjoyable day.

If there is the demand, another Introductory Day may be arranged in 2003.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

Saturday 22nd February 2003

Ashtead Peace Memorial Hall

Woodfield Lane, Ashtead

10am- 5pm

A full programme of talks is being arranged and will include reports on a number of recent projects in the county. Other papers will look at aspects of the archaeology and history of Surrey from a variety of viewpoints. An important part of the day will be a series of displays of other work by groups and individuals and the Margary Award will be made to the best of those eligible. Anyone who wishes to mount a display and has not received an application form should contact Rosemary Hooker, 59 Thornton Place, Horley, Surrey RH6 8RZ.

Tickets can be obtained from Castle Arch, priced at £4.50 in advance or £5 on the door.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

LISTED BUILDINGS

NEW LISTINGS

From time to time (indeed, almost continually) the DCMS, advised by English Heritage, add buildings to the statutory lists by the process of 'spot listing'. Recent additions include:

Chobham: The Old Cottage, Frogs Hole Cottage, Steep Hill. A rare unimproved example of an early 19th century squatter's cottage built on the roadside waste by penniless agricultural labourers. Now used for storage.

Coulston: The Grange, Canons Hill. 16th century with 18th century additions. Used as the control centre for RAF Kenley during World War II and thus played an important role during the Battle of Britain. Its most photographed space is the large room created by the removal of a first floor ceiling and the introduction of the perimeter gallery where the controller and his staff could see the map of SE England on the Ops Table below.

Lambeth: The Victory or Memorial Arch, Waterloo Station. Erected 1919-22 and carved by the otherwise little-known Charles Wiffin to serve as a War Memorial. The remainder of the station is unlisted.

Reigate: Reigate Hill footbridge. 1908-10. Said to be the earliest footbridge in the country of reinforced concrete, but almost exactly contemporary with that of Alum Chine.

RE-LISTINGS

Some listed buildings have had their descriptions elaborated or their grades increased because of recent discoveries, including:

Bagshot: 44 High Street. Now known to have originated as a 14th century aisled hall with one room possibly used as a court. Internal wall paintings include fabulous beast grotesques and the Prince of Wales feathers, apparently referring to Edward, later Edward VI.

Great Bookham: Polesden Lacey. Possibly the only National Trust house hitherto listed only Grade II, is now regraded II*, not least for the presence within the building of the Wren reredos of 1682 salvaged from St Matthew's in the City, demolished in 1883.



Polesden Lacey



Thorncroft Manor

Dorking: Milton Court. Built in 1611 and long known as the house of the Evelyn family. The discoveries of Robert Thorne, first published eight years ago, have led to the upgrading to Grade II* and the incorporation in the description of reference to the three rooms now known to have been designed by William Burges.

Leatherhead: Thorncroft Manor. Designed 1772 by Sir Robert Taylor. Remains Grade II* but with a listing description expanded to make it clear that it embraces the controversial extensions of 1977 by Michael Manser. Described at the time as 'a quiet clean visual statement that sits comfortably alongside Taylor's manor house and Brown's landscaped park', it is a new-build that has also been much lashed by critics.

National Ledger Stone Survey

The Church Monuments Society has launched a national survey of Ledger Stones. The ancestry of the ledger stone can be traced back to the Middle Ages, from the 11th century carved lids of stone coffins through to the elegantly incised stones of the 14th and 16th centuries. The ledger stone, reciting the name, age at death and, in some cases, the social quality of the deceased, was a popular form of commemoration for the middling sort between 1600 and 1850 when intramural burials ceased as a result of the 1852 Burial Act. The CMS now feel that a comprehensive survey should be established of ledgers within churches. The NADFAS Church Recorders are said to include ledger stones in their inventories, as do most of the cathedrals in England, but NADFAS has only completed a thousand surveys, leaving 14,000 to be addressed.

Enquiries should be made to the co-ordinator, Dr Julian Litten, at The Vicarage, St Barnabas Road, Walthamstow, London E17 8JZ.

The Lumley Chapel at Cheam

The Churches Conservation Trust continues to be the recipient of redundant Anglican churches too important to be demolished or converted. One of the more recent vestings was the Lumley Chapel in the churchyard of St Dunstan, Cheam. This free-standing structure was once the chancel of the medieval parish church: the present church of 1822-4 itself replaces an 18th century structure, so the survival of the chapel is remarkable. The many monuments to the Lumley family, started by John, Lord Lumley, 1534-1609, give the interior the appearance of a museum of sepulchral architecture.

The Churches Conservation Trust were already responsible for redundant churches at Albury and Esher.

BULLETIN MATTERS

COPY DATES FOR 2003

Important dates for your diaries. There's usually five weeks between Bulletin copy dates, but sometimes six, because nine go out each year. From copy date to delivery is always three and a half weeks – remember that, all talks and lecture organisers.

ISSUE no.	FINAL DATE FOR COPY	DELIVERY DATE
364	31st December 2002	30th January
365	14th February 2003	12th March
366	21st March	16th April
367	2nd May	28th May
368	13th June	9th July

369	1st August	27th August
370	5th September	1st October
371	10th October	5th November
372	21st November	17th December

May I also take this opportunity, on behalf of all involved in the preparation and delivery of the Bulletin, to offer bountiful season's greetings and hope for a joyful new year.

RECENT WORK BY ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNITS

The fieldwork projects listed below were undertaken by archaeological contractors operating in the London boroughs of old Surrey during the early part of 2002. A key to the acronyms is provided below, and the letters and numbers at the end of each entry is the site code.

AOC	AOC Archaeology
CA	Compass Archaeology
MoLAS	Museum of London Archaeological Services
NSFF	<i>no significant features or finds</i>
PCA	Pre-Construct Archaeology
SuAS	Sutton Archaeological Services
WA	Wessex Archaeology

Croydon

Croydon, Atwood Junior and Infant School, Limpsfield Road (TQ 3427 6051). Watching Brief by PCA, report dated March 2002. Two abraded Roman pottery sherds from the topsoil. (LMF 02).

Purley, Thomas More School, Russell Hill Road (TQ 3100 6225). Evaluation by MoLAS, report dated August 2001). Two curving gullies, including one with a terminal end, are strongly indicative of a penannular ringwork c10-11m across. Although a pit in the centre did not reveal any finds or skeletal material, the ring ditch may be the remains of an Early Bronze Age barrow. It lies, however, in the area of a large and fairly well known, but poorly published, Anglo-Saxon cemetery. Although large, the penannular ditch might, therefore, be the remains of a Saxon burial tumulus. (RHL 01).

Croydon, Archbishop Tenison's School, Selbourne Road (TQ 3301 6510). Watching Brief by PCA, report dated March 2002. Mesolithic flint core from the topsoil (SLR 02).

Croydon, 2-8 Park Lane and 29-31 Park Street (TQ 3250 6560). Evaluation by PCA, report dated March 1999). Struck flints, burnt flints and pottery sherds of Roman and medieval date from later plough soils. A feature earlier than the plough soil may be Roman. A chalk and brick-lined pit, possibly a cess pit, was also found but not excavated (PKE 99).

Merton

Mitcham, 87 Love Lane, 1 Taffy's How and rear of 75-83 Love Lane (TQ 2725 6880). Evaluation by AOC, report dated April 2002. NSFF (LLH 02).

Mitcham, Pickfords, South London Business Centre, 3-9 Willow Lane (TQ 2795 6755). Evaluation by WA, report dated April 2002. NSFF (WIW 02).

Sutton

Sutton, Strawberry Lodge (grid ref not made available). Excavation by SuAS. Chalk block and brick wall and a small drain revealed during machine trenching close to the south-east corner of the late 17th century house (site code not known).

Beddington, Beddington Sewage Farm Gravel Quarry (TQ 5291 1659). Watching Brief by WA, report dated March 2002. Of eight ditches, four were aligned east/west, of which two 8m apart, may have lined a track or drove-way. Three of the eight contained struck and burnt flints, and they probably formed part of a prehistoric field boundary system, possibly of Bronze Age date.

Of two pits found, one was rectangular and contained abundant burnt flints and flecks of charcoal, and may have been used for cooking. Its fill included a sherd of Middle/Late Bronze Age pottery. The other pit was circular, said to have contained no finds, except that 'unworked stone and flint within it appears to have been deliberately placed.'

A large palaeochannel that ran through the site provided an opportunity to establish a palaeoenvironmental sequence from which it may be possible to define the wider environment, land-use and landscape evidence contemporary with the Neolithic to Bronze Age activity. A Mesolithic/Neolithic flint blade was recovered from the upper fill of the palaeochannel (BDN 92).

Sutton, 202-202 High Street (TQ 25825 64554). Evaluation by CA, report dated April 2002. A cut feature contained a medieval or later tile fragment and a layer of compacted chalk; two postholes aligned north/south still contained 'timbers'; then dumps and made ground and a ceramic pipe drain before a 19th century wall (HTU 02).

Wandsworth

Wandsworth, Broadway Centre, 10 Gatton Road (TQ 27424 71776). Evaluation by CA, report dated April 2002. Alluvial deposits, probably associated with a stream course shown on a map of 1746 just north of the site; post-medieval plough soils; 19th century dumped deposits (GAP 02).

Balham, Trinity St Marys School, 6, Balham Park Road (TQ 2830 7315). Evaluation by SuAS, report dated April 2002. NSFF (BPM 02).

MISCELLANY

LUXURY IN THE DOGHOUSE

Graham Dawson

In the medieval and early post-medieval period the headquarters and storehouse of the Bridge House, the trust which maintained London Bridge, lay on the north side of Tooley Street between what are now the London Bridge Hospital and Hays Galleria. In the early 16th century the Bridge House maintained hounds there, for which the gatekeeper was allowed 10d per week for 'finding and keeping' them (CLRO BH Rental Vol. 5 passim). In 1524/5 they paid 2s 4d for a tub for their meat (ibid f312).

But rather more startling is that in the previous year 1523/4 they had had three pieces of copper plate put in the bottom of the furnace in the dogs' house (ibid f291). A furnace just means an oven or fire and did not then have the industrial connotations it has today but it means that the dogs had central heating! This is remarkable at a period when monasteries were supposed to have only one heated room, the warming room, and when there is little evidence for any sort of heating in churches. Unfortunately the accounts nowhere specify how many hounds were kept or for what purpose, though guard dogs seem the most likely function.

From the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society Newsletter No. 91, September 2002, with thanks.

THE BAGSHOT RHO-CROSS RING

Stewart Lyon

By way of postscript to the note on the discovery of this unique late Roman ring (*Bulletin* 362), it may be of interest that the Rho-Cross is featured again on the

reverse of some of the silver pence struck for Archbishop Ceolnoth, who held the see of Canterbury from AD 833 to 870. The coins with this monogram can be dated before c850. The Chi-Rho also occurs in this coinage, as well as on contemporary pence of the West Saxon king Æthelwulf, likewise minted in Canterbury.

MOTHER LUDLAM'S CAVE: THE OFFICIAL 'CLOSING' *David Graham*

Earlier in the year I reported on the results of the Society's test excavation in Mother Ludlam's Cave, near Farnham, in advance of the insertion of a new grill and gate (*Bulletin 360*). This has now been fitted and the borough and town councils kindly invited members of the excavation team to attend a small ceremony to mark the event. The photograph shows the Mayor of Waverley and the Mayor of Farnham officially 'closing' the cave – the opposite of what one normally expects from such events.



The 'Closing' of the Cave

Photo: Dave Attyde

The combination of the work to the cave and the establishment of the Moor Park Heritage Trail provided an excellent example of how to present the past to the wider public.

ANOTHER MEDIEVAL POTTERY KILN FOUND AT LIMPSFIELD

Mary Saaler

In early October Mr. N Withers of Ridlands Lane, Limpsfield rang the East Surrey Museum to report that he had noticed a dark stain in a field near his home, in an area where the Bourne Society Archaeological Group had excavated two medieval pottery kilns in 1975 and 1978.

Members of the Bourne Society and of the Surrey Archaeological Society visited the site (TQ 4232 5238) on October 12th, 2002 and found an area of dark earth c9m in

diameter, with pieces of pottery and lumps of burnt and blackened earth lying on the surface. Since the field had already been planted with a crop of barley, no further investigations are planned at the moment. This find is an addition to the numerous pottery kilns that were in production in Limpsfield and Titsey during the Middle Ages.

ERNEST CHRISTIE NBA

Beryl Saich

An exhibition of Ernest Christie's paintings is currently on display at the East Surrey Museum, and many people have wondered what the appended letters NBA stand for; even Gillian Drew of the Surrey Archaeological Society, which owns the paintings, who gave the very interesting introductory talk. A search of various dictionaries of abbreviations (Cassells, Penguin) and Who's Who at Croydon Central Library suggested the National Boxing Academy or the National Badminton Association amongst other things, but none seemed very appropriate. The most likely was the North British Academy, but what was that? Phone calls to the Wimbledon School of Art Library and the Royal Academy Library produced a lot of interest but no solution. The National Art Library at the Victoria and Albert produced a partial answer: it holds catalogues of exhibitions of the North British Academy of Art, held in the early 20th century at various places including Newcastle.

A visit to the National Art Library was fruitful. It has a set of catalogues of eight exhibitions held by the North British Academy of Art at Newcastle in 1909, York in 1910 and 1911, Pall Mall, London in 1910, Burnley, in 1912 and Crystal Palace in 1912 and 1914 (the seventh, 1913, catalogue is missing). One exhibition lasted for only three days, but the sixth, at Crystal Palace, lasted for two months. Nothing is known after 1914, so probably the academy did not survive the Great War. The first catalogue is only about 4 inches by 5 inches on very flimsy paper; the name of the curator and secretary was W J Morgan; it listed first, perhaps 100 'members' in roughly alphabetical order, and then exhibitors in categories such as oil paintings, water colours, sculptures, etc. The names were the same so one might infer that the letters NBA meant that the artist had exhibited at one of the shows.

The sixth catalogue contained a sort of mission statement: The Academy was founded in 1908 for the betterment of artists, designers and others; its purpose was to encourage and provide an opportunity to exhibit and sell works of art. There were to be two exhibitions a year. Funds were to be set aside to purchase, including items left unsold from the exhibitions, and to commission works for a permanent collection. It was intended to build exhibition buildings at London and Newcastle. The membership roll was closed as at November 1912. New members could enter only when vacancies occurred.

We had wondered how a born and bred Surrey artist like Ernest Christie had become involved in the North British Academy of Art, but now we know that exhibitions were held in London it does not seem so surprising. I found only one other name I recognised, that of Bernard Leach, whom we know as a potter of enormous renown later in the century. There were quite as many women as men in the lists. I found Ernest Christie's name in the sixth exhibition catalogue, and he had shown three oil paintings:

- no 19 *Evening light* (£5)
- no 20 *A Surry (sic) farm* (£6)
- no 104 *The old barn* (£6)

Christie's twelve sketchbooks may help to identify these three paintings. They were given to Caterham Central Library by his niece, Marion Christie, after his death in 1937, and are now in the Surrey History Centre at Woking.

Ernest Christie was born in Redhill in 1863, and demonstrated early talent by winning a prize, aged 10, for an oil painting of a farmhouse at Nutfield. Thirty years later, in

1893, he was living in Oxted, and as well as showing an interest in half-timbered buildings such as Court Lodge and Ratctcher's Cottage in Limpsfield, his wash drawings also show a keen study of by-gones, such as fire-backs, hearths and pumps.

After several moves, he settled at Pollingford in 1921, a handsome, half-timbered house at Ockley, which was to be the frequent subject of his oil paintings. In the same year he provided twenty illustrations for Uvedale Lambert's 'Bletchingley'. He exhibited at the Royal Academy in the 1920s, and continued to paint sun-lit pictures and pen drawings of Surrey houses at Ewhurst, Ockley, Coulsdon and Limpsfield, until he died in 1937.

EXCAVATIONS AT TOLWORTH COURT FARM

Julie Wileman

The second season of excavations at this moated site on the edge of the London boundary was designed to establish the degree of survival of archaeology, and to investigate further a number of ephemeral features noted during the 2000 season and during fieldwalking and surveying both previous to that and during 2001. The site is probably that of a Domesday manor, and was recorded in a 1327 Inquisition post mortem following the execution of the holder, Hugh Despencer.

Much of the current season's work was slowed by intensely hot weather followed by downpours of monsoon proportions, which, on a clay moated site created very difficult digging conditions. Two trenches, intended to elucidate features related to a possibly stone-lined pond and a number of buried leats, were flooded out and work halted. Two other trenches, one in an area of no earthworks, and the other related to another leat and rubble deposit, yielded negative evidence.

A trench on the moated island revealed that this area seems to have been completely levelled, perhaps in the 19th century, leaving no surviving medieval features, although some chalk rubble foundation material may be of this period. The trench did, however, provide evidence of a 19th century farm building, possibly a slaughterhouse, which seems to have been built with 17th and 18th century bricks and tiles. This feature is, of itself, rather an interesting example of an agricultural structure of this period.

The final 'trench' was a large open area designed to seek evidence for traces of medieval buildings, and to understand the spread of Romano-British material, ditches and postholes noted in 2002. Sherds of Iron Age and Romano-British pottery of the 1st century AD and of Saxon grass-tempered ware may be associated with some of the postholes found.

The excavation was undertaken by the Kingston-on-Thames Archaeological Society and the University of Surrey Extra-Mural Department. Forty to fifty people a day, including children, took part during the training excavation of the first three weeks, which was followed by a research excavation involving some fifteen people.

From the Summer 2002 Newsletter of the Standing Conference on London Archaeology, with many thanks to the editor and the author.

DATING THE BATTERSEA SHIELD

Pamela Greenwood

There have been many suggested dates for the Battersea Shield, spanning the Iron Age and the Roman Conquest period. After many years of discussion by art historians and archaeologists, science has at last provided a date.

Analysis of tiny samples from the red enamel in the roundels on the shield revealed their chemical composition. This suggests an earlier date than previously supposed for the enamel, and therefore, for the shield. There was a major change in Iron Age glass technology during the 2nd century BC. The glass in the shield predates this

technological change which means that it was made no later than the 2nd century BC, with a date of 100 BC or earlier. This research is still to be fully published. A short note appeared in *Current Archaeology* **175** (vol XV no 7) (2001) 301.

Reprinted, with thanks, from the Wandsworth Historical Society Newsletter No. 210, June 2002.

FLOOD DAMAGE IN PRAGUE

To all SyAS members,

As you may have heard, Central Europe was devastated by massive floods in August. Many of the main rivers of the region overflowed, and shortly afterwards secondary damage from heavy rainfall on an already sodden countryside affected many houses and villages above the flood levels. The destruction is almost unbelievable.

The old city of Prague was drowned with over 3m of chemically contaminated and effluently polluted water. The Archaeological Institute has been virtually destroyed; the laboratories, stores, photographic archives and the most extensive reference library in Central Europe are all gone. Student and higher research is at a virtual standstill. Excavation material is usually stored in paper bags here – you can imagine the chaos. In an attempt to rebuild the research tool that was the library, we appeal for books, journals, newsletters – just about anything archaeological – with the understanding that we can convert any duplication into cash for the purchase of new material.

Patrick Foster Czech Republic

The Finds Research Group (a national organisation) hopes to find a central place to collect books, etc. For further details contact Mary Alexander at Guildford Museum, Tel. 01483 444750 or email: alexanderma@remote.guildford.gov.uk

PUBLICATION

“Well Furnished with Inns”, Cobham’s Brewery, Inns and Public Houses. David C Taylor, Appleton Publications, Cobham, 2002, A4, stiff covers, viii plus 66 pages, 48 illustrations, £6.95 (plus £1 p&p), from the publisher, 4 Cedar Avenue, Cobham, Surrey, KT11 2AB.

David Taylor, who is an outstanding local historian, is well known to some members of the Surrey Industrial History Group as he played a major role in their conference on Alexander Raby, Ironmaster, which was published in 2000. This is the eighth book he has written about Cobham and it is packed with detailed local information.

Cobham had a brewer in the 18th century but it is not until 1803 that the site of the brewery in the Portsmouth Road can be located. The names of the owners are given up to 1922 when it was acquired and closed by Watney, Combe and Reid. The last of the buildings was demolished in 1970. The histories of twenty inns and pubs are also described each occupying a short chapter. In addition to containing basic historical information many quotations and anecdotes have been included which are usually quite entertaining. Most if not all of these buildings are illustrated, mainly with early exterior photographs showing vehicles, including cars, bicycles, carts and prams, and of course people. There are no interior illustrations. Also, unfortunately there is no map locating the buildings, which would have been helpful for those of us who do not live in Cobham.

The book is very attractively and carefully designed, with an illustrated cover, and each chapter conveniently starting on a new right-hand page. It will make a very appropriate Christmas present for those interested in pubs.

Alan Crocker

EXHIBITIONS

DEAD TO THE WORLD

Surrey History Centre

6th November 2002 to 1st February 2003

Surrey County Archaeological Unit's latest exhibition explores the variety of human burial practices identified at sites in Surrey. Human remains are not an everyday find on archaeological sites, but provide a wealth of information about the deceased and about the society in which they lived.



We are also able to reveal, for the first time in Surrey, the face of the county's oldest known inhabitant. The head above was reconstructed by forensic scientists from the skull of a woman buried at Shepperton henge.

The Surrey History Centre is at 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking, Surrey GU21 6ND.

Opening hours are: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays: 9.30 to 5 pm
Thursdays: 9.30 to 7.30 pm
Saturdays: 9.30 to 4 pm
Mondays: closed.

The centre is also closed on Sundays and Bank Holiday weekends (including Saturdays), and from 2nd December until 14th December 2002, and 23rd December to 26th December 2002.

It may be advisable to call: please telephone us on 01483 594594.

LONDON BEFORE LONDON

Museum of London

Travel back half a million years

Imagine a time when London didn't exist, when tundra covered southern Britain and the population of today's London area would have fitted inside a double-decker bus – with room left on top. Don't just imagine – why not take a journey through half a million years of the Thames Valley's history, explore a time when hippos and elephants roamed Trafalgar Square, when Heathrow airport was an Iron Age settlement, and people measured time in seasons and by the phases of the moon.

London before London tells the story of vast climatic changes, the movement of massive ice sheets and global shifts in sea level. It tells of the coming of the first small

bands of hunters, before the arrival of a new people who learned to herd and farm and make settlements. They traded together and fought, met for tribal and religious gatherings and buried their dead with complicated rituals.

Around a thousand original artefacts are on show, with over 500 recovered from the Thames alone. Including weapons and human skulls, these objects form a spectacular River Wall along one side of the gallery.

The new **London before London** gallery opened in October 2002.

FROM THREE INTO ONE: Guildford Steam in the 1920's

Salter's Gallery, Castle Street, Guildford
30th November to January 10th

This exhibition is being held to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the grouping in 1922 of the railway companies into the London, Midland Scottish, Great Western Railway, London North-Eastern Railway and Southern Railways.

At Guildford this involved the amalgamation of the London and South Western, the London, Brighton and South Coast and the South Eastern Railway companies. The exhibition will include a model layout of Guildford Station as it was in the early 1920's, together with other photographs, displays and memorabilia.

The exhibition is being put together by John Boas of the Guildford Museum, who would be glad to hear of any photographs or artefacts that anyone would be willing to lend for exhibition: he may be contacted at the Museum, Tel: 01983 444752.

The exhibition will be open from 11am to 4pm from Mondays to Saturdays.
Free admission, with good disabled access.

CONFERENCE

WEST LONDON 1750 to 1850

23rd West London Local History Conference
Montague Hall, Hounslow
Saturday 15th March 2003

Advance Notice

Tickets: £7.50 (in advance only)

Further information will become available from J. McNamara, 31B Brook Road South, Brentford TW8 ONN, and from the sponsoring societies

COURSES

BUILDING THE PAST:

Using the Archives for Tracing Building History
Surrey History Centre
12th February to 19th March
Wednesdays 10 to 11.30am

Find out about documentary sources held at the Surrey History Centre that you can use to trace the history of different buildings in your town or village. We are not offering to look up your house, school or church for you, but it's a great opportunity to find out how to do research using original archives.

12th February	Houses
19th February	Roads and Bridges
26th February	Pubs and Breweries

5th March
12th March
19th March

Hospitals and Charitable Foundations
Churches and Chapels
Schools

Cost: £8 per session, or £40 for all six.

For a booking form please contact Janet Nixon at the Surrey History Centre, Goldsworth Road, Woking; Tel: 01483 594600

VISITS

PORTSMOUTH HISTORIC DOCKYARD

Saturday 11th January 2003

This visit is designed to be flexible, so join in with the programme shown below, or disappear to explore on your own. Your passport ticket is valid for a year, giving you one entry to each of the attractions below, and any of those you miss on the day can be visited at any time in the next year.

Action Stations: a new interactive experience

Mary Rose: Ship Hall and Museum

Dockyard Apprentice

HMS Victory: our booked tours 2.10 pm or 3.15 pm

HMS Warrior

Royal Naval Museum

Warships by Water: Harbour Tours

For details visit www.historicdockyard.co.uk

Coach leaves Farncombe Railway Station, near Godalming, at 9.30am; parking available nearby. Lunch: There are a variety of cafes and restaurants, or bring sandwiches.

We leave Historic Dockyard at 5 p.m.

Please send a cheque made out to 'Mrs E Whitbourn', for £20 per person or £18 senior citizens or children to: 65 Binscombe Crescent, Binscombe, Surrey, GU7 3RA All Welcome. For more information ring Elizabeth Whitbourn Tel: 01483-420575 or e-mail liz.whitbourn@btinternet.com

LECTURE SERIES

THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT: Aspects of Traditional Building

Upper Hall, Shalford Village Halls, Shalford, Guildford

1st May to 29th May 2003

Surrey has a large number of buildings built using locally available materials by local craftsmen using methods and designs that are traditional to the area. The study of Vernacular Architecture plays an important part in understanding the past but also in planning the future. The speakers in this series of five lectures are experts on the history of buildings and building techniques in Surrey.

Thursday 1st May

Developments in Vernacular Architecture

Sarah Pearson, Vernacular Architecture Group

Thursday 8th May

The Materials with which Jack Built

Martin Higgins, Historic Buildings Officer, Surrey County Council

- Thursday 15th May **From Timber to Brick**
George Howard, Domestic Buildings Research Group
- Thursday 22nd May **Special Purpose Buildings** (church houses, manorial courts etc)
Peter Youngs, Domestic Buildings Research Group
- Thursday 29th May **The Future of Vernacular Architecture**
Nigel Barker, English Heritage

Tickets: £4 for each lecture, or £18 for the series of five, to be ordered in advance.

Each lecture begins at 7.30 for 8pm on Thursday evenings.

Tea and coffee will be available before each lecture.

Shalford Village Halls and car park are situated on the south side of Kings Road, A248, just 400m to the east of the junction with the A281 Guildford to Horsham road (TQ005469). The Upper Hall is a new building designed for lectures and similar meetings.

Further details to be published in the next Bulletin will include a booking form.

LECTURE MEETINGS

12th December

'Waverley Abbey Excavations' by Judith Roebuck to the Farnham & District Museum Society at the United Reformed Church hall, South Street, Farnham, at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

20th December

"Christmas Miscellany with a Jubilee Theme" to the Leatherhead & District Local History Society at the Leatherhead Institute, Leatherhead at 7.30 for 8pm.

2003

1st January

"Historic Stones at Home and Abroad" by Richard Butler to the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society at St Mary's Hall, London Road, Ewell at 8 pm. £1 admission.

6th January

Collectables and Antiques- bring your favourite. The Streatham Society Local History Group at "Woodlawns", 16 Leigham Court Road at 8 pm.

8th January

"Researching Old Farnborough" by Jo Gosney to the Surrey Heath Local History Club in the Carson Suite (Room 3) of the Adult Education Centre, France Hill Drive, Camberley at 7.30pm.

9th January

"Brookwood Cemetery – the Answer to a Burial Crisis" by Rosemary Hunter to the Farnham & District Museum Society at the United Reformed Church Hall, South Street, Farnham at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

9th January

"Hadrian's Wall and Cumbrian Archaeology" by John Chapman to the Spelthorne Archaeological Field Group and Friends of Spelthorne Museum at Staines Methodist Church, Thames Street at 8 pm. Visitors £1.

11th January

"The Golden Age of Thames Finds" by Jonathan Cotton to the Beddington, Carshalton and Wallington Archaeological Society in Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, off Nightingale Road, Carshalton, at 3 pm.

13th January

"Marble Hill House in the 18th Century" by Catherine Parry-Wingfield to the Richmond Local History Society at Meadows Hall, Church Road, Richmond at 8 pm (coffee from 7.30). Non-members £1. For further information contact Elizabeth Velluet, Tel: 020 8891 3825.

14th January

Quiz Night at the Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society in the Lower Hall of the Friends' Meeting House, Eden Street, Kingston upon Thames at 8 pm.

14th January

AGM and "History of Shepperton Pubs" by Nick Pollard to the Sunbury and Shepperton Local History Society in the Theatre, Halliford School, Russell Road, Shepperton at 8pm. Non-members £1.

14th January

"The Arts and Craft Houses in the Surrey Hills" by Nigel Barker to the Westcott Local History Group in the Reading Room, Westcott, at 8pm. Non-members £1.

17th January

"Archaeology Revealed Through Aerial Photography" by John Hampton to the Leatherhead & District Local History Society in the Dixon Hall, Letherhead Institute, 67 High Street, Leatherhead at 7.30 for 8pm. Non-members £2 including coffee.

18th January

"Our Cricketing Parson- Walter Baptist Money of Weybridge" by Richard Williams to the Walton and Weybridge Local History Society in Weybridge Library Lecture Hall at 3pm.

21st January

"Mistresses of Royalty: Intriguing Relationships of our Royals" by Norman Radley to the Friends of Kingston Museum in the Market House, Market Place at 8pm. Donations welcome.

21st January

"The History of Cricket from 1550 Onwards" by Stephen Green, curator of the museum at Lords, to the West Surrey branch of the Historical Association at the Friends' Meeting House, Ward Street, Guildford at 7.30 pm. Non-members £2.

28th January

"Excavations at the Merton Priory Site" by Dave Saxby to the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society at Hawkstone Hall, Kennington Road, Lambeth North at 7.30 pm. Light refreshments from 7 pm – visitors welcome £1.

30th January

"Reconstruction of Costume from the Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Mucking, Essex" by Glynis Edwards to the Farnham & District Museum Society at the United Reformed Church Hall, South Street, Farnham at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

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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 31st December for the January/February issue.

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