



Registered Charity No: 272098

ISSN 0585-9980

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Bulletin 364

February 2003



A Dam at Little Pond?

photo: Andrew Norris

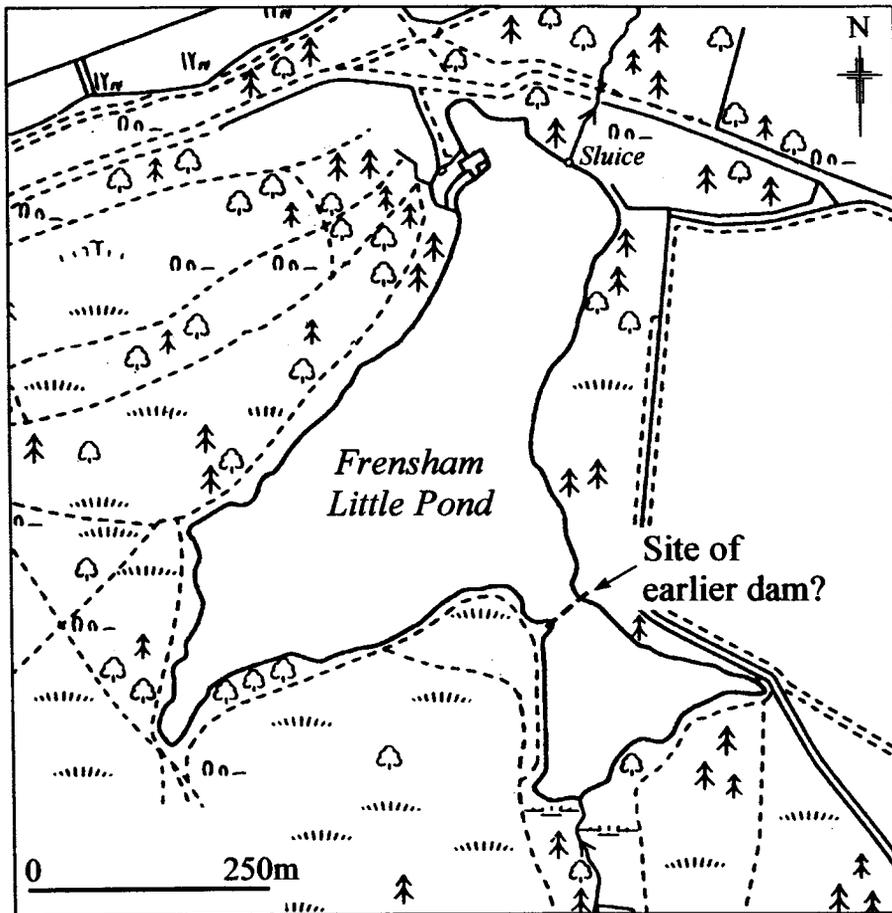
UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY AT FRENESHAM LITTLE POND

Christopher Currie

Saturday 26th October saw members of the Frensham Community Archaeology Project embark on a slightly unusual piece of fieldwork. After borrowing a motor boat from the helpful Pond Warden, Tony Grant, and equipped with chest waders and other watery paraphernalia, the team set out to the far reaches of Frensham Little Pond to explore a possible submerged feature.

The idea derived from an earlier piece of fieldwork by the author at Fishers Pond, near Winchester, Hampshire, where there is a large pond built, like Frensham Little Pond, for the bishops of Winchester in the medieval period. At Fisher's Pond, a slight narrowing of the pond about midway along its length had proved to be the dam of a second pond. Probing from a boat clearly proved the existence of an underwater bank, showing that Fisher's Pond had once been two medium-sized ponds, not the one large pond it has now become. This evidence was confirmed by a mid 18th century map which showed that the two ponds still existed at this date (Currie *et al* 1988).

At Frensham, it was thought that the unusual shape of the pond would be better



explained if the SE arm was seen as a separate pond that had subsequently been flooded by a raising of the water level in the main arm to form a single pond. This theory was supported by the decided 'pinching' of the narrow section linking the two parts of the pond on maps as far back as could be found. It was therefore hoped that an hour's 'probing' with an oar at the suspected site of the dam would produce similar results to the conclusive work at Fisher's Pond. Furthermore, it might explain why medieval records occasionally refer to the 'small pond'. Frensham Little Pond is hardly small, being almost three-quarters of a mile in length! But then the 'small' might be in comparison with the Great Pond, which is almost twice as big, and the largest sheet of stillwater in a county that was once famed for its large ponds.

Despite an enthusiastic team, the results were somewhat disappointing. This may have been partly explained by a recent dredging of this part of the pond. The bottom was relatively firm over the site of the conjectured dam, and it did get deeper and siltier as one pushed out into the larger arm. Unfortunately the 'firm' base continued well into the small arm, failing to allow us a convincing conclusion to the day. A quick foray ashore found a slightly raised bank, about 10m broad but only about 0.6m higher than the surrounding land, extending from the higher ground for some 25m across what is now the swampy remains of the once larger pond. This could have been the remains of a degenerate dam, much eroded by the rise and fall of water levels over the past 800 years, but this was not certain.

In conclusion, the jury must remain out on the question of whether Frensham Little Pond, like its sister bishopric pond at Fisher's Pond, was once two ponds. It is possible that the recent dredging has removed any conclusive evidence that may have once existed. Now we will never know.

On the bright side the team had a free boat ride, and all agreed, like Toad, there is nothing like messing about in boats. It was an unseasonable warm and sunny late autumn day, a pleasant change from the normal run of archaeological exploration. At least we can claim that we were probably the first archaeologists to undertake fieldwork from a boat on the Frensham Ponds since 1870 when the local antiquary, Reverend Kerry of Puttenham, took off his shoes and socks and waded ashore for a look at one of Frensham's 'missing mounds', much to the amusement of the ladies present (Graham 1996). Our ladies were much more professional about the exercise, not offering a single wry smile as Andrew Norris donned the day's must-have fashion accessory, the chest wader, and entered the water in an attempt to locate the unco-operative earthwork.

References:

- C K Currie, J N Hare & E Roberts 1988, 'Aspects of a medieval landscape. The bishop of Winchester's park of Marwell', *Hants. Field Club & Archaeol. Soc. newsletter new series* 9, 14-17
D & A Graham 1996, 'Frensham Common: The case of the missing mounds', *Surrey Arch. Soc. Bulletin*, 301, 8-9

THE OLD VICARAGE, REIGATE: A 'NEW' ILLUSTRATION

David Williams

The site of the Old Vicarage in Church Street was excavated during the period 1977-80, with a further short excavation when the site was built on in 1987. The building was shown to be a hall house originating around 1200 AD, which was extended in various directions over the following centuries, being finally demolished in 1847. Interpretation of the remains was aided by the survival of two early 19th century drawings. One is a watercolour by John Hassell, which shows the north front following 'gothicisation', with a crenellated parapet, ogee-headed windows and a



The Hassell watercolour

decorative bargeboard. Two wings are shown, but Hassell appears in error in suggesting that these projected prominently from the ground floor. The main block is the medieval hall with later cross wings on either side. Four chimneys are shown, of which the sites of the three westernmost were found during the excavation.

The second illustration is a photograph of a pencil drawing, which shows the western crosswing from the south, with its two chimneys prominently depicted. The door is in the same position relative to that on the front, and identifies the site of the cross passage, although the excavation suggested an earlier layout with a cross passage further east. The hall chimney also appears, as does another on a lower rear extension. An unsigned coloured lithograph of this drawing is in my possession. Apart from the addition of further vegetation and figures in top hats and flouncy dresses it is otherwise identical.

My attention was recently drawn to a map of Reigate engraved by Thomas Foot,



Anonymous drawing and lithograph



Engraving by Thomas Foot

which appeared in Audrey Ward's recent book on Reigate Priory. On this map, a view of the vicarage appears on the right hand side between views of the church and the Rectory mansion. The original of this map is a loose leaf contained in a copy of Manning and Bray held in Croydon Library and which contains other drawings and notes not original to the book. The engraving shows a view of the vicarage from the north-west, and generally supports the evidence from the other two drawings. Where it differs from the Hassell drawing is that this view predates the 'gothick' front and shows an earlier fenestration layout and a lower eaves line. Two window openings are also shown on the west elevation.

Spurred on by this discovery and fully aware that it is over twenty years since excavation finished, I have been making inroads into the site records. I have now transferred the details from the site notebooks onto individual context sheets, although we could have increased that considerably had we followed current procedure and allocated numbers to both cut and fill.

A number of specialist reports were completed some time ago. Outstanding study includes reused architectural fragments, probably from the castle, and the pottery. The latter is a considerable quantity of well-preserved and mainly well-stratified material which contains some important groups, and which remains a priority for funding.

ULTIMOGENITURE – AN UPDATE

Graham Dawson

I would like to thank all those people who wrote to me in response to my note in *Bulletin* 360. The response was very gratifying and I was very impressed with the speed of some of them.

One interesting case brought to my attention was that on a number of Chertsey manors the tenants persuaded the Abbey in 1340, or soon after, to change the succession from ultimogeniture to primogeniture on the grounds that it worked to the grave damage of the homage and tenants alike. This does raise the question of where the balance of advantage lay (other than between the eldest and the youngest sons). With ultimogeniture it must have been more common for the heir to be under age, so the lord would benefit from the profits of wardship more often, but, on the other hand, the length of time between succession and death must, on average, have been greater so that the lord over time would have fewer entry fines and heriets

(a payment by a tenant on death) so there seems no clear advantage one way or the other for either the lord or tenants. The homage on the Chertsey manors obviously felt differently and there are two possible explanations for this; they may have felt that it was right that the eldest son should inherit or they may have been attempting to raise their status, since ultimogeniture was definitely associated with unfree tenure. The lord in this case may just have been interested in the payment his tenants made for the change.

Faith, however ('Peasant Families and Inheritance Customs' *Agricultural Historical Review* 14 (1966) p 77-95), maintains that primogeniture was in the interests of the lord. The reason for this is not explicitly stated but seems to be based on the claim that the distribution of primogeniture, among customary tenants, corresponds with areas of 'heavy' manorization.

The custom of ultimogeniture seems to occur in all parts of Surrey and survives into the post-medieval period and even into the 19th century. It is strange, therefore, that people always seem surprised when they learn about it (as I was indeed myself). Faith (*ibid*) shows that although odd examples occur in various parts of England, ultimogeniture is heavily concentrated in Surrey and Sussex. Strangely, it is claimed that it is a relic of partible inheritance on the basis that, since the youngest son would often be under age at his father's death, the land must have been worked by somebody else, probably his elder brothers. I do not find this argument convincing but Jolliffe argued that it is concentrated in Surrey and Sussex because they are nearest to the centre of partible inheritance in Kent.

Jolliffe and others have argued that the Jutes introduced partible inheritance to England at the time of the Saxon invasion and that ultimogeniture in Surrey and Sussex is somehow a reflection of Jutish influence. It is now generally accepted however that partible inheritance was common throughout Anglo-Saxon England (though the evidence is not strong and there is little evidence of it at the highest level of society in the monarchy which contrasts with the division of the kingdom in Merovingian and Carolingian Francia) and that these differences grew up later, perhaps in the late Saxon period or immediately after the Norman Conquest.

Another point raised was whether where there were only daughters the same rule applied. According to Faith (*ibid*), succession for daughters was often the same, ie the youngest daughter succeeded. However, I have found a case in Kennington where the property was divided between two daughters (PRO Ci/694/28) and there is a similar case in Bermondsey (PRO Ci/9/139) though the inheritance custom in Bermondsey manor is not known. This is what happens with freehold land where property was divided equally between daughters (where there were no sons) and neither the eldest nor youngest had any greater share. I suppose, if one were so minded, this could be seen as a relic of partible inheritance.

There does not seem any point in collecting further examples of it, but I would be interested in knowing of any examples where copyhold descended by primogeniture. The Chertsey cases do raise a problem here because I would only be interested if it could be shown to go back to the early Middle Ages (say before 1340).

One point I would make is that wills are not evidence for rules of inheritance, rather they are meant to thwart them. For example, if freehold land was going to the eldest son, there was no reason to mention it in a will unless there were some proviso being made (usually to provide for the widow) and this is why eldest sons often do not occur in their father's wills (as an example, John Cockes' will of 1516 (PRO PROB 11 Holder f195d) makes no reference to his son John who inherited his property in Southwark). Copyhold land was not legally bequeathable though that did not stop people trying.

THE BATTLE OF ACLEA

Elizabeth Forster

During investigations into the history of the area around Witley, near Godalming, I was interested to find mention in an early Saxon charter of an *ocan lea* (oak clearing) on an ancient boundary laid down by Caedwalla in 688. This boundary enclosed the land, later known as Farnham Hundred, that he gave to the diocese of Winchester, and it lies in the valley of the river Wey between Eashing and Farnham, at the western part of Ockley Common near Oxenford. In places, a distinctive earthwork still marks the boundary.

In 851 the Anglo Saxon Chronicle and Asser, although not a wholly reliable source in his account of the Life of Alfred the Great, both describe a long and fierce struggle of King Aethelwulf and his son Aethelbald to protect Wessex from a massive Viking ~~king~~ ^{invading} force which took place at *Aclea* (oak field). Since 825 this area was part of the ~~kingdom~~ ^{kingdom} of Wessex, which stretched from Cornwall to Kent. In order to defend ~~the~~ ^{the} kingdom from the increasingly organised and savage attacks of the Vikings, Aethelwulf had appointed his second son Athelstan as sub-king of the eastern region, consisting of Surrey, Kent and Surrey and based in Canterbury; whilst Aethelwulf and his other son Aethelbald were based in Winchester.

The site of this major battle has never been decided, but it is generally believed not to be Ockley near Leith Hill. Another possibility is near Ockley Wood in Merstham. The possibility of the battle having been fought in the vicinity of Ockley Common near Oxenford is worthy of consideration for a combination of reasons. The site lies close to the River Wey and both the Anglo Saxon Chronicle and Asser describe a vast shipborne raiding party which stormed Canterbury then sailed up the Thames, sacked London and put to flight the King of Mercia, before moving on, south into Surrey.

Could this massive Viking army have been attempting to sack Winchester next, by approaching from the north-east along the Wey valley to Farnham, thereby avoiding the great Weald forest? After Canterbury and London, Winchester must have been an attractive target for the victorious invaders, indeed, only ten years later, in about 861, the Vikings succeeded in sacking Winchester, but from the south coast. This area lies on a known ancient Saxon boundary and is also somewhere near where the border between Wessex and the eastern region held by Aethelstan might have been. It may also be significant that by the end of the century, a defensive *burgh* had been built less than one mile away on the River Wey at Eashing. In the ninth century, Eashing was a royal ham owned by Alfred the Great and mentioned in his will and was most probably inherited from his father King Aethelwulf.

This was a significant battle in its day as chroniclers unusually detailed descriptions of the scene indicate the importance of checking the Viking advance... 'when battle had been waged fiercely and vigorously on both sides for a long time. A great part of the Viking horde was utterly destroyed and killed, so much so that we have never heard of a greater slaughter of them, in any region, on any one day, before or since.'

Accounts of the Oxenford area by Aubrey and Manning and Bray include descriptions of a hoard of old gold, silver and coins and a barrow. The Tithe map here shows an area of field names including 'bones' in the names covering more than 20 acres. It is easy to imagine that the area would have been easily accessible for the defending Saxon armies travelling along the Harrow Way and it could possibly be that the low ridge separating Pudmore from the Wey, and the bend in the river, might even have concealed the Saxon army from the approaching Vikings. The area today remains a piece of rough common with scattered oak trees.

There were many battles between the Saxons and the raiding Danes in the southeast, but this combination of facts and interpretation is perhaps worthy of attention. Are there any other features which members are aware of which might

support this as the site of the Battle of Aclea and would an archaeological investigation be worthwhile?

I would be interested to hear other members views and can be contacted through the Society at Castle Arch or on e.forster@keswitley.fsnet.co.uk.

COUNCIL NEWS

Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Surrey Archaeological Society was held on November 23rd at Rake Court by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Alan Bott. Mr Bott organised a tour of Godalming Parish Church in the morning and then he and his wife hosted the AGM in the afternoon. Members were able to tour the grounds both before and after the meeting.

Professor Crocker welcomed everyone and a one-minute silence was held in memory of Dr Arnold Taylor and Mr Charles Traylen who have recently died. The minutes of the previous AGM December 2nd 2001 and the Annual Report, Statement of Accounts and Auditor's Report to March 31st 2002 were agreed. Audrey Monk was unanimously elected the new President of the Society and paid tribute to the retiring President Professor Crocker. The Honorary Vice Presidents and Vice Presidents were re-elected with the addition of the Treasurer Alf Sargent. The Honorary Officers were re-elected and Ms S Hill was elected to Council as Deputy Editor of Publications.

Thanks were expressed to the following Ordinary Members of Council who were retiring in 2002: Mr R A Christophers, Mr J Davison, Mr L E Green, Ms T Nixon, Mr D W Williams; and the Society welcomed the following Ordinary Members of Council who will serve until 2006: Mr J M Boulton, Dr J Cotton, Mrs P Hulse, Miss E A Walder, Mr C Van de Lande, Mr P E Youngs.

Tea was served with delicious cakes provided by Mrs Bott, who was thanked and presented with flowers. Mr Bott gave a talk on the history of Rake Court, including information about the illustrator and writer of Rupert Bear, Alfred Bestall, an uncle of Mrs Bott. His illustrations of many subjects were on show in the hall.

The day was most enjoyable and the Society would like to express its gratitude to Mr and Mrs Bott for such a pleasant venue for the meeting and also to Mr David Graham for helping to park all the cars, enabling members to depart in good order.

Rosemary Hunter (Hon. Sec.)

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:

<i>Diana Chatwin</i>	New Place, Pulborough
<i>Martin Higgins</i>	The Timber-Framed Tradition
<i>Rod Wild</i>	The Surrey Dendrochronology Project
<i>David Gaimster</i>	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.

LOCAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

Symposium 2002: The 1950s

Until 2001 the Local History Symposium was organised by the Surrey Local History Council, but the Council's activities have since been taken over by the SyAS and a Local History Committee has been set up. This organised the Annual Local History Symposium for the first time on November 9th 2002. The event was held in the Chertsey Hall, and the key note talk was given by Denis Smith on the subject "The Festival of Britain 1951". Other talks were given by Society members on various activities in Surrey during the 1950s. In addition, two talks were given on "Educational Opportunities for Local Historians in Surrey" by Anne Milton-Worsell of the University of Surrey on courses at BA level and by Chris French of Kingston University on courses at MA level.

New Chairman

During its first year of existence the Local History Committee was chaired by Richard Muir, the last Chairman of the Surrey Local History Council. At its last meeting the Committee elected Professor Alan Crocker to be its new Chairman.

Future Events

The Committee will continue to organise two public meetings a year: an afternoon meeting in the spring and the Local History Symposium in the autumn.

Mapping Surrey

Spring Meeting, Saturday March 29th 2003
Holy Trinity Church Hall, Claygate. 2-5pm

A chance to learn about the use of maps in the local history of Surrey. Main speaker will be Dr. Richard Oliver of the Dept. of Cartography of the University of Exeter, an expert on the Ordnance Survey. Refreshments provided.
£4 members, £5 non-members.

Surrey Historians

This will be the theme for this years Autumn Symposium which will be held on Saturday November 8th 2003, probably in Chertsey Hall.

"Surrey History"

Our magazine was published by the Surrey Local History Council until its activities were taken over by the SyAS, and a copy of the 2001 issue was sent to every member of the Society. It is intended to continue with its publication and a copy of the 2002 issue will be distributed with number 89 of the Collections. The editor of "Surrey History" is always interested in receiving articles similar to those in the current issues to be considered for future publication, and can be contacted via Castle Arch.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

Saturday 22nd February 2003

Ashted Peace Memorial Hall, Woodfield Lane

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 the 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 Rose Hooker, 59 Thornton Place, Horley, Surrey RH6 8RZ.

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

VILLAGES STUDY GROUP

“THORPE: A Surrey Village in Maps”

This, the third in our series of publications, was successfully launched on the 14th December at Thorpe Village Hall to an audience of some eighty people, many from the village itself. In this study the parish, rather than just the village centre, has been covered, as it is small and the village shows every sign of having originated as a series of dispersed settlements.

Jill Williams gave a detailed account of how she mapped the area, and illustrated the phases of development with photographs of houses and other buildings and, most graphically, how the M25 and M3, plus gravel extraction, have literally scooped away half the parish, including some significant structures. The result is large areas of water now used for leisure, and roads and footpaths that go nowhere. Still, however, the core of the village remains- jealously guarded by the inhabitants.

Jill and the Egham by Runnymede Society are to be congratulated on their publication and for organising its successful launch.

All SyAS members will receive a copy of this publication, together with Vol. 89 of the Collections and Surrey History shortly after the New Year. Additional copies may be purchased from Castle Arch or the Egham by Runnymede Society, price £5 plus £1 p&p.

WORKSHOP

The Canons, Mitcham

1st March 10am-4pm

The Group's next workshop will be devoted to studying and analysing the work of Peter Hopkins on **Morden** and **Mitcham** in the morning, and will concentrate on the **Thorpe** study in the afternoon. We hope to examine and attempt to interpret the results of work to date, and explore future avenues for further research.

Further details will be circulated to members of the Group, but anyone interested in village studies is welcome and should contact Castle Arch for details or visit the Society's website.

OBITUARIES

Sir David Burnett, Bt, 1918-2002

Sir David died last May, aged 84. As a director and late chairman of Proprietors of Hay's Wharf, he saved thousands of pottery sherds from the bombed banks of the Thames between London and Tower Bridges, preserving an important part of Britain's ceramic history. He was an inspiration to a new breed of post-war amateur archaeologists, including early members of the Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society, whom he encouraged to dig at Potters' Fields.

He oversaw the rebuilding in the 1950s of the bombed Thames-side properties, sited on Pickleherring Quay in Southwark, the home of one of England's most important early 17th century industries, the manufacture of delftware pottery. Post-war staff shortages prevented it from receiving the professional attention it deserved, so Burnett, having already sponsored the publication of a history of Hay's Wharf and being an amateur antiquary himself, personally oversaw the recovery of the sherds from the building sites.

After the Victoria and Albert Museum declined to accept the huge collection as a whole, Burnett gave it to the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation in Virginia, which already possessed a renowned collection of English delftware. His gift was commemorated by the 1977 publication of *Early English Delftware from London and Virginia*.

The Hay's Wharf ceramic legacy extended far beyond the delftware to include almost every category of English and imported pottery and porcelain in use around London from the late 15th century. Apart from a few key pieces donated to British museums, the majority, duplicating finds from other excavations, has been donated to the American Chipstone Foundation as an aid to studies in material culture at the University of Wisconsin.

Burnett was trained at Harrow and St John's College, Cambridge. He trained as a chartered surveyor, and in 1947, after distinguished war service, he became a partner in his father's firm. His family had long been associated with the City of London. His grandfather, also Sir David Burnett, became Lord Mayor in 1912, and was created a baronet the following year, having bought the Crystal Palace for the nation.

Burnett's love of the Thames and its commerce was reflected in his numerous civic roles. As a member of the Port of London Authority, he proposed that all the wharfside cranes be lowered in salute in 1965 when Sir Winston Churchill's flotilla passed by.

He was a talented artist, enjoying drawing caricatures of his contemporaries and, with a keen interest in botany, making detailed watercolours of plants and fungi. Formidable in the boardroom, yet the papers on his desk were often accompanied by unwashed pot sherds collected from his searches through his building sites and the Thames foreshore.

First published in the December 2002 Newsletter of the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society, where adapted by its editor, Judy Harris, from The Register, The Times 29th August 2002. Many thanks.

John David Drummond FSA

17th Earl of Perth

May 13th 1907 to November 25th 2002

We owe it to the sustained hard work of David Perth that we now have, in this country, the Treasure Act. It has been described in the Annual Report of Portable

Antiquities as 'a major success in ensuring that more and more of our history is being preserved for the education and enjoyment of the public – now and in the future'.

Before 1997, when the Act became law, the acquisition and disposal of finds which might be deemed treasure was a national scandal. There had been several attempts, none successful, to redeem the situation and it was due to his generosity and cool thinking that Lord Perth agreed to support the efforts of the Surrey Archaeological Society to reform the current archaic law, as a result of the Wanborough disaster. In the current system people uncovering buried treasure could only too easily fail to report it and were at liberty to dispose of it for their personal advantage. Or even worse, unscrupulous profiteers often employed other, simple-minded persons, to do the dirty work for them, paying them a pittance and then selling the stuff at great profit overseas.

A small team of us, headed by David Perth, worked for more than five years to persuade the government and the civil service that it was time to put matters right. We met with dismal opposition from many quarters. "Too much work", "not necessary – everything is ok", "it's not your job to lobby for this, the government will see to it in its own good time" and so on. But more and more as time went on the persuasive skills of our leader convinced the general public, the media, many national bodies concerned with ecology, and even bureaucrats, that reform was overdue.

Eventually Lord Perth put forward his carefully constructed Bill in the House of Lords in March 1994. It met with a great deal of support in that place, only to be turned down by the government of the day on the grounds that they had set up somebody in English Heritage to draft their own bill after yet more consultation and yet more consideration.

In defeat Lord Perth was as gallant and generous as ever. He asked what he might do further to achieve the reform which we all held as an ideal. Within a matter of only a few weeks the government realised that they had made a grave mistake in underestimating both the positive mood of the general public towards reform and the comprehensiveness of the 'Perth Bill'. They found a willing collaborator in the House of Commons and the 'Grant Bill' was presented there, again as a Private Members' Bill, and was carried *nem con*. It came into force three years later.

Why and how did we persevere against so much ill will and so many delaying tactics? Because of the integrity, energy and determination of one leader. His modesty, his quiet humour and the sheer fun of working with him meant that we could never consider giving up. The Surrey Archaeological Society and the antiquities world in general owe him a great debt.

Rosamond Hanworth

MISCELLANY

THE POLL TAXES OF 1377, 1379 AND 1381

Charles Abdy

Recent research into medieval Ewell has drawn my attention to a remarkable work of scholarship with the above title. It consists of three fat volumes that have been published for the British Academy by the Oxford University Press, the first of them in 1998 and the final one in 2001. They have all been compiled by Dr. Carolyn Fenwick: what started as a PhD thesis to evaluate the usefulness of the records of the 14th century poll taxes became more than a decade's hard labour, involving transcription, computerising, checking and editing in order to reach the publication of the first volume. Dr. Fenwick even typeset the volumes for printing. The work began in London as a thesis at the London School of Economics: it was completed in Australia where Carolyn Fenwick was then living with her husband and two daughters.

The records of the English poll taxes of 1377, 1379 and 1381 in the reign of Richard II are of great interest in that they provide information not only about heads of households, but also wives, servants, dependants and occupations in a way that no other records of the period do. And of course these poll taxes are significant in that they triggered off the Peasants' Revolt!

The 1377 tax required every layman and woman, married or single of 14 years and over, to pay one groat (fourpence).

For the 1379 tax the lower age was raised to 16 and the payment was from one groat to ten marks (£6.132.4) depending on status and occupation (only the Dukes of Lancaster and Brittany paid the full ten marks).

For the 1381 tax the lower age limit was 15 and the tax was set for each tax paying vill at the equivalent of three groats per head, the rich paying more than the poor, but no-one less than one groat or more than 60 groats.

The taxes were collected on a county basis through the sheriffs and commissioners were appointed. Local men were required to collect the money from their neighbourhood and deliver it to the commissioners.

The poll taxes marked a departure in methods of taxation; previously it had depended on land or property (an individual's moveable goods), usually at the rate of a tenth of the value in boroughs and a fifteenth in rural areas. The declining yields of the moveable goods taxes were partly due to over taxation – the heavy burden of taxation had rendered many people unable and therefore, ineligible to pay.

The Commons' objective in getting more individuals to pay tax than contributed to the tenths and fifteenths of previous taxations was successful. However, legitimate exemptions, miscalculations and undeniably some evasion, resulted in considerably less return for the 1377 tax than the Crown had hoped for.

In 1381 taxpayers were required to pay yet another heavy tax, the third poll tax, which was designed to raise nearly three times the sum collected in 1377. The outbreak of the Peasants' Revolt shows that there was intense opposition to the tax of 1381. The low yield was due in part to the resistance of taxpayers to pay any more taxes.

Many different types of documents were needed to administer the poll taxes, including at a local level:

Receipts and Acquittances, also referred to as indentures (1377 only)

Particulars of Account (1377 only)

Detailed Rolls or Nominative Lists (all three taxes)

In Dr. Fenwick's work the records are arranged alphabetically in counties. Part 2 covers Lincolnshire – Westmoreland, and includes Surrey. Sadly, few documents have survived for Surrey. The administrative areas were based on the hundreds, and information is given for the Godalming Hundred and the Blackheath and Wotton Hundreds. There are no records for Cophorne Hundred and therefore, nothing on Epsom and Ewell, which is a disappointment to me.

A WALK AROUND DEFENCE SITES ON BOX HILL

Trevor Marchington and Gordon Knowles

On 10th August, despite a forecast of showers, the morning stayed dry. Nine members and a dog met our guide, Trevor Marchington, in the car park by Ryka's Café and walked a circuit that started on the long slope north from it. A fallen tree on the slope served to display the OS map while Trevor outlined the background to the Victorian fort and World War 2 'GHQ Anti-tank Line'.

Further up the hill binoculars allowed a glimpse of a rarely-noticed pillbox near the A24 north of Burford Bridge. Looking westwards across Denbies we saw the line of a 1940 anti-tank ditch, mistakenly believed in the 1960s to be the line of Stane Street.

Beyond Denbies the GHQ Line continued across the North Downs scarp face as far as Newlands Corner, fortified with pillboxes or ditches. However, the Benbies anti-tank ditch did not extend to the foot of Box Hill, leaving a puzzling gap.

Denbies became a leading Home Guard training school, visited by General Lord Alanbrooke in October 1941. He had replaced Ironside, the originator of the GHQ Line, in July 1940 and within a few weeks of his appointment had declared the line already obsolete, stating: *"This static rear-line did not fall in with my conception"*. Joining the rough, flint-covered track, we followed it to Box Hill Fort. Built in 1899 it was one of thirteen intended to protect London. Primarily a tool and weapon store and mobilisation centre, it was also constructed as an infantry redoubt with steel shutters on the windows. It was noted that the loopholes in the concrete walls lacked the more sophisticated 'stepping' of WW2 pillboxes.

The walk continued after a pause for coffee at the National Trust servery. At the foot of Box Hill the GHQ Line abandoned the North Downs and followed the River Mole upstream for several miles before turning eastwards towards the River Medway. From the hillside below the viewpoint we were able to look down to a dozen sites of former defence structures. The most obvious survivor is the group of twelve anti-tank concrete cylinders on the river bank. These guarded a ramp by which cattle could reach the river, the north bank of which had been steepened to prevent the passage of tanks.

Further on down the hill we looked upon Dorking, which had been an 'Anti-tank island', the detailed defences of which are shown on the 'secret' Home Guard map in Dorking Museum.

Shere and Betchworth were also 'islands' intended to delay an enemy breakthrough until a mobile defence force arrived. On the hillside behind Dorking, Deepdene House became the wartime headquarters for the Southern Railway, with its nerve centre located in underground chambers. These were forgotten until recently rediscovered by firemen in 1997 when called to a fire lit by children in one of the entrances.

A steep descent of the North Downs Way led us to the Stepping Stones where we turned upstream and after 200 yards of nettle bashing reached the massive rectangular anti-tank pillbox that faces westward. The four foot, six inches thick concrete walls contain a mount for a six-pounder gun that was never fitted. Just upstream, triple concrete pillars had barred passage of the river by tanks; our view of the few that survive was prevented by the dense summer vegetation.

Finally, we followed the river downstream back to Burford Bridge, completing a circuit that had given us a comprehensive overview of the former defences around Box Hill. Our thanks to Trevor for guiding us without mishap over some rugged ground and for so eloquently informing us on an aspect of our more recent history which he had obviously thoroughly researched.

First published in the November 2002 Newsletter of the Leatherhead & District Local History Society, with very many thanks.

PUBLICATIONS

"Diseases, Privies and Rubbish (With Highlights from Guildford's Past): The Archaeology of Public Health" *by Helen Chapman Davies*

How archaeological excavation, documentary research and scientific investigation have uncovered the antiquity of diseases, the evolution of water supplies, sanitation and medical provision. Researched using records from Guildford, throughout the United Kingdom and North America.

ISBN 0-9543753-0-0

Price: £3.50 including postage, from the author at St Omer Road, Guildford Surrey GU1 2DB.

“Sayes Court, Addlestone: A History”

by David and Jocelyn Barker

This was produced by the authors for the Jubilee celebrations, and traces the story of this vanished house from the 13th century, when it was called Brookhurst, to the sale of the estate and erection of the present house in 1931. The events of the years between contribute to a fascinating chronicle in which, among the many owners of the property, well-known characters such as James Paine, the builder of Chertsey Bridge and the second Walton Bridge, and John Raistrick, the railway pioneer, make their appearance. The authors hope eventually to produce a comprehensive history of the whole estate including the farm. This we shall certainly look forward to.

Twelve-page A4 booklet with two maps and two illustrations, obtainable from the authors at 47 Sayes Court, Addlestone

Price: £3 plus 40p postage and packing.

Copies are in short supply so Tel: 01932 855159 before ordering.

“Well Furnished with Inns”

Cobham’s Brewery, Inns and Public Houses

by David C Taylor

Appleton Publications, 2002. 68 pp. £6.95.

D C Taylor published his History of the Cobham Brewery in 1987 and now he has followed it with a history of Cobham’s inns and public houses. It is well that he has done so for there have been drastic changes in brewery and public house ownership since the notorious beer orders consequent on the Report of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission of 1984 which sought to limit the number of public houses controlled by the Big Six national brewers.

Situated on the main road from London to Portsmouth it was to be expected that there would always be a demand for the accommodation and refreshment of travellers and in the nineteenth century there were at least fifteen public houses and one common brewer serving the passing trade and a population of about 2000 in Cobham. Today, most of these houses, including the brewery, have disappeared, but David Taylor describes and illustrates twenty of them, some dating from the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

David Taylor has presented us with a valuable contribution to the social and economic history of the area.

Mark Sturley

CONFERENCES

SUSSEX ARCHAEOLOGY SYMPOSIUM 2003

Centre for Continuing Education in association with Sussex Archaeological Society

Saturday 15th March

Chichester Lecture Theatre, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton.

9.15am Registration

9.55 Welcome by the Chairperson *Elizabeth Somerville* (University of Sussex)

10.00 **Belle Tout: Enclosing Space in Prehistory.** *Miles Russell* (Bournemouth University)

10.30 **Bronze Age political economies: field systems along the south coast**
David Yates (University of Reading)

- 11.00 coffee
- 11.30 **Excavations at Roundstone Lane, Angmering: Bronze Age and Roman Discoveries** *Neil Griffin* (Archaeology South-East)
- 12.00 **Revealing Iron Age Norton** *Mike Seager-Thomas* (freelance archaeologist)
- 12.20 **The Excavation of a Roman Aisled Building on the Slindon Estate** *Keith Bolton* (Worthing Archaeological Society)
- 12.40 **In the Shadow of Rookery Hill: Excavations in Bishopstone Village** *Gabor Thomas* (Sussex Archaeological Society)
- 1.00 lunch
- 2.10 **Barcombe Villa: Excavations in 2002** *Chris Butler* (Mid-Sussex Field Archaeological Team)
- 2.40 **Ovingdean – the Location of a Medieval Manor House?** John Funnell (Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society)
- 3.00 **The Destruction of Lewes Priory and the Tomb of Edward Shirley, 1558, in Isfield.** Robert Hutchinson (consultant on monumental brasses to the Chichester Diocesan Advisory Committee)
- 3.30 tea
- 4.00 **Iron Making in the Medieval Weald** *Jeremy Hodgkinson* (Wealden Iron Research Group)
- 4.30 **Medieval Crawley: Further Discoveries** *Simon Stevens* (Archaeology South-East)
- 5pm disperse.

Fee: £22; £20 for Sussex Archaeological Society members (and for SyAS members as well?); concessions £13. Two-course meal must be pre-booked, cost: £7.50.

Booking forms available from the Centre for Continuing Education, Education Development Building, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton BN1 9RG, or Tel: 01273 678040.

AERIAL ARCHAEOLOGY DAYSCHOOL

English Heritage/NMRC, Swindon
15th March 2003

- 9.30am Welcome and coffee
- 10 **A Brief Historical Introduction**
Life in the Air (a video)
- 11 coffee
- 11.15 **Types of Photographs:** verticals, obliques; geometry and scales.
Use of Stereoscopes
Ways of Seeing the Evidence – an introduction to photo reading and photo interpretation, and the range of features visible on aerial photos (archaeological and geological features, landscape evidence, potential and limitations). This session is based on audience participation.
- 12.30pm **Tour of NMRC Library and Public Search Room**
- 1-2 lunch. Bring your own, or explore the delights of the “Outlet Village” or the Steam Museum Café, both within 5 minutes walk.
- 2-3 **Ways of Seeing the Evidence (continued)** – further practice in photo reading and photo interpretation.
- 3-3.15 tea
- 3.30-5 **A Selection of Case Studies** demonstrating the process of interpretation, transcription and analysis of air photo evidence.

Directions: Exit at Junction 15 on the M4, and follow sign to the “Outlet Village” and “Steam”.

Free parking is available in front of the NMRC. Those wishing to share lifts contact John Hampton.

For those travelling by train, the NMRC is seven minutes walk from the station.

WARRIOR QUEENS IN THE ROMAN WORLD

Saturday 8th March 10am-4pm

The Electric Theatre, Onslow Street, Guildford

A one-day conference presented by Guildford Museum to examine the lives of some remarkable women who dared to defy the mighty rule of Rome. Particular emphasis will be given to Roman Britain.

Tickets: £15 to include tea and coffee

A light lunch can be booked for £4

Contact Carol Brown, Guildford Museum, Castle Arch, Guildford, GU1 3SX

Tel: 01483 444751 or E-mail brownc@remote.guildford.gov.uk

COURSES

INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOLOGY

North Kingston Centre, Richmond Road, Kingston

15th January for 11 weeks

The methods used by archaeologists to locate, identify, date and interpret sites of all periods. Topics will include the use of maps, sites and monuments, records, place names, geophysical surveys, fieldwork excavation and dating techniques. The importance of understanding archaeological sites within the landscape will be examined through specific case studies.

Tutor: **Scott McCracken**

Cost: £56

For enrolment Tel: 0208547 6700

*Unfortunately, anyone interested will have missed at least two lectures. Information about the course was not received until after the last Bulletin was being printed. Please, all contributors, take note of the copy dates for 2003 (see **Bulletin** 363, 9).*

TRAINING EXCAVATION

BARCOMBE ROMAN VILLA, EAST SUSSEX

University College London Field Archaeology Unit

This summer we will be running a programme of practical archaeology training courses as part of a research excavation on the site of a Roman villa at Barcombe, near Lewes. If you enjoy watching either Time Team or Meet the Ancestors, but have never done any archaeological fieldwork before, this is a very good opportunity to get involved! There will be a range of 5-, 2- and 1-day courses, including Excavation Techniques, Surveying for Archaeologists, Geophysical Prospecting (yes, the 'zimmer frame' technique – soil resistivity – and others), Archaeological Conservation and Planning and Section Drawing.

Those that attend one of the UCLFAU summer schools at Barcombe, or have done so at Bignor, will be eligible to apply for volunteer work (Monday–Friday only) at Barcombe (such opportunities consist of blocks of 5-days).

For further details about all the UCL Field Archaeology Unit courses and also a linked University of Sussex accreditation facility, please contact Helen Dixey at 1 West Street, Ditchling, Nr Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 8TS; Tel: 01273 845497; Fax: 01273 844187; e-mail: fau@ucl.ac.uk or see website: www.archaeologyse.co.uk

LECTURE SERIES

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	Hospitals and Charitable Foundations
12th March	Churches and Chapels
19th March	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

GODALMING MUSEUM AND GODALMING TRUST

Autumn 2002 and Spring 2003 Lecture Series

- 29th January **The Paper-Maker and The Prophetess** by *Alan Crocker*
Joanna Southcott spent her early years in Devon, and when she came to London her greatest supporter was Elias Carpenter, who was associated with the first production of paper from wood and straw.
- 21st February **My Learned Friend: A Legal Anthology** by *Nigel Pascoe*
Nigel is a distinguished Queen's Counsel and former leader of the Western Circuit. His previous presentation was a huge success.
- 19th March **Industry and Landscapes in West Surrey** by *Trevor Kennea*
Trevor is an environmental scientist who taught at Kingston and Surrey Universities.
- 14th May **Churchill's Life Through his Paintings** by *David Coombs*
Churchill began painting at Hoe Farm, Hascombe in 1915. David catalogued all his paintings after his death in 1965, and a new edition of this important work is to be published this year.

All lectures are to be held at St Hilary's School, Godalming, and will begin at 7.30pm.
Cost: £4 per lecture, bookable from the Events Co-ordinator, Godalming Museum, 109a, High Street, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1AQ.

I am afraid members will have missed the autumn lectures – I only recently received a flyer for the series!

LECTURE MEETINGS

21st January

"Royal Guildford" and "The Building of Guildford Cathedral", two Circle 8 films, at the Send & Ripley History Society meeting, at Ripley Village Hall at 8 pm.

28th February

"Excavations at the Merton Priory Site" by Dave Saxby to the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society at Hawkstone Hall, Kennington Road near Lambeth North Underground station at 7pm. Visitors £1.

3rd February

"Life in a Butler's Day in 1909" by Hugh Edgar to the Woking History Society at Mayfield Village Hall, Saunders Lane, Mayford, at 8pm. Visitors £2.

3rd February

"Football at the Crystal Palace" by Ian Bevan to the Streatham Society Local History Group at 'Woodlawns', 16 Leigham Court Road at 8pm.

5th February

"Surrey Castles in the Landscape" by Derek Renn to the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society at St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 8pm. £1 includes tea/coffee.

6th February

"Recent Excavations at Shepperton" by Geoff Potter to the Spelthorne Archaeological Field Group and Friends of Spelthorne Museum at Staines Methodist Church, Thames Street, Staines at 8pm. Visitors £1.

6th February

"The Evolution of the English Manorial System" by Lt Col J W Molyneux Child to the Farnham & District Museum Society at the United Reformed Church Hall, South Street, Farnham at 7.30 for 8 pm.

7th February

"London Before Londinium" by Jon Cotton to Unisearch in Teaching Block 23, University of Surrey, at 8pm. Visitors £2.

10th February

"Portraits of Queen Elizabeth I" by Susan Morris to the Richmond Local History Society at Meadows Hall, Church Road, Richmond at 8 pm (coffee from 7.40). Non-members £1. Further information from Elizabeth Velluet Tel: 020 8891 3825.

11th February

"Elmbridge Museum" by Michael Rowe to the Sunbury and Shepperton Local History Society in the Theatre, Halliford School, Russell Road, Shepperton at 8pm. Visitors £1.

11th February

"Update on Tolworth Court Farm" by Steve Dyer to the Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society in the Lower Hall of the Friends' Meeting House, Eden Street, Kingston at 8pm.

12th February

"Waverley Abbey in its Historical Setting" by Christopher Hellier to the Surrey Heath Local History Club at the Adult Education Centre, France Hill Drive, Camberley at 7.30pm.

15th February

"The Paper Mills of Surrey" by Alan Crocker to the Walton & Weybridge Local History Society at Weybridge Library Lecture Hall at 3pm.

18th February

"Slavery in America: From Colonial Foundations to the Civil War" by Lawrence Goldman of St Peter's College, Oxford to the West Surrey Branch of the Historical

Association at the Friends' Meeting House, Ward Street, Guildford at 7.30 pm. Non-members £2.

25th February

"Recent Work of the Surrey County Archaeological Unit" by A speaker from the Unit to the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society at Hawkstone Hall, Kennington Road, Lambeth North at 7.30 pm (light refreshments from 7). Visitors welcome £1.

3rd March

"The History of Albury" by Jackie Malyon to the Woking History Society at Mayfield Village Hall, Saunders Lane, Mayford, at 8pm. Visitors £2.

3rd March

Roman and Medieval London Bridge" by Bruce Watson to the Streatham Society Local History Group at 'Woodlawns', 16 Leigham Court Road at 8pm.

6th March

"The Industrial Archaeology of Spelthorne" by Colin Squire to the Spelthorne Archaeological Field Group and Friends of Spelthorne Museum at Staines Methodist Church, Thames Street, Staines at 8pm. Visitors £1.

11th March

"Five Surrey Gardens" by a speaker from Painshill Park to the Sunbury and Shepperton Local History Society in the Theatre, Halliford School, Russell Road, Shepperton at 8pm. Visitors £1.

11th March

"27 Years An Archivist in Surrey" by David Robinson to the Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society in the Lower Hall of the Friends' Meeting House, Eden Street, Kingston at 8pm.

11th March

"Secrets of the Tillingbourne Valley" by Peter Brandon to the Westcott Local History Group in the Reading Room, Westcott at 8 pm. Non-members £1.

12th March

"Windlesham – A Village In View" by Mary Bennett to the Surrey Heath Local History Club at the Adult Education Centre, France Hill Drive, Camberley at 7.30pm.

15th March

"The Medieval Tiles of Chertsey Abbey" by Victor Spink to the Walton & Weybridge Local History Society at Weybridge Library Lecture Hall at 3pm.

18th March

"Comparing Dictatorships: Germany under Hitler and the USSR under Stalin" by Prof Richard Overy to the West Surrey Branch of the Historical Association at the Friends' Meeting House, Ward Street, Guildford at 7.30 pm. Non-members £2.

19th March

"The History of Guildford Castle" by Mary Alexander, to the Send & Ripley History Society at Ripley Village Hall at 8 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 14th February for the March/April issue.

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