**SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

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Bulletin 367

May/June 2003

SURREY Iron Railway.

The COMMITTEE of the SURREY IRON RAILWAY COMPANY,

HEREBY, GIVE NOTICE; That the BASON at *Wandsworth*, and the Railway therefrom up to *Croydon* and *Carshalton*, is now open for the Use of the Public, on Payment of the following Tolls, viz.

| | | |
|---|---------------|-----|
| For all Coals entering into or going out of their Bason at Wandsworth, | per Chaldron, | 3d. |
| For all other Goods entering into or going out of their Bason at Wandsworth | per Ton, | 3d. |

For all **GOODS** carried on the said **RAILWAY**, as follows; viz.

| | | |
|--|----------------------|-----|
| For Dung, | per Ton, per Mile, | 1d. |
| For Lime, and all Manures, (except Dung,) Lime-stone, Chalk, Clay, Brezze, Ashes, Sand, Bricks, Stone, Flints, and Fuller's Earth, | per Ton, per Mile, | 2d. |
| For Coals, | per Chald. per Mile, | 3d. |
| And, For all other Goods, | per Ton, per Mile, | 3d. |

By ORDER of the COMMITTEE,

W. B. LUTTLY,
Clerk of the Company.

Wandsworth, June 1, 1864.

BROOKS, PRINTER, No. 25, PATERNOSTER-BOW, LONDON.

200th ANNIVERSARY OF THE SURREY IRON RAILWAY *Paul Sowan*

The Surrey Iron Railway's claim to be the world's first public railway depends rather on the interpretation of the word 'public' if not railway. There had been numerous earlier railways, the waggon wheels guided variously by grooves cut or built into stone pavements, and wooden and iron rails. Many of these were built by and for privately operated mines or canals, exclusively for their proprietors' use and on their own land, thus not requiring Acts of Parliament. It has been argued that the 'Surrey Iron' deserves its 'first public railway' because it was authorised by Parliament, and was available to the public at large. The only requirements were the ownership of waggons with the wheels the right distance apart to fit the track, and payment of tolls.

The railway, built from Wandsworth, arrived at its southern terminus at Pitlake, in Croydon, on 26th July 1803. This year, therefore, we celebrate the 200th anniversary of its opening. Arguably, this event led to the start of the modernisation of Croydon, a process that seems to continue apace!

Croydon in 1803

The railway terminus was within yards of the old town centre, already referred to as *le Eldetoun* by the 13th century. Croydon's commercial centre has migrated steadily eastwards via the Surrey Street market (there was a market charter in 1276), the High Street, and now the Park Lane/Wellesley Road/East Croydon Station area. In the Old Town, encircled by streams and ponds, still stand parts of the manor house and later archiepiscopal palace of Croydon and the parish church. Croydon was a small but important market town in the east Surrey countryside, with some ten miles of open country separating it from London. The palace had been sold and converted into a bleaching works and calico printing factory after the last Archbishop had left in the 1770s. It was filled out with at least two waterwheels.

A demand for coal in Croydon

In due course, the Palace acquired three substantial chimneys, all since demolished, as coal-fired boilers for one or more steam engines supplanted water-wheels for power and perhaps for heating water. Whether the Palace's conversion to fossil fuel commenced *before* the draining and filling in of the mill ponds about 1849 merits some research. But there can be little doubt that a substantial inward flow of coal to the town was under way by the 1820s when the town's first gas works was set up at Overton's Yard on the west side of Surrey Street. This site was but yards from Church Road, a new road laid out on the former track bed of the Surrey Iron Railway's Merstham extension of 1805. There were also several breweries.

The Haling Downs Chalk Pit and Lime Works

There were several small-scale chalk pits and limeworks scattered around the Coombe Road/Coombe Lane area to the south east of the town by 1803, but all had relied on horse-and-cart haulage. Croydon's first rail-linked limeworks was at Haling Down, beside the A23 Brighton Road. Although there was probably a pit here before the Merstham extension arrived in 1805, it was probably enlarged considerably to provide material for the massive railway embankment (the southern end survives) at Chipstead Valley Road when the Croydon Merstham & Godstone Iron Railway (CM&GIR) was built between 1803 and 1805. Later in the 19th century this was operated as a conventional limeworks by the Pettifer family and Alfred Bullock. Biddulph Road was laid out on the pit floor early in the 20th century.

Jolliffe & Banks' Stone Quarries and Limeworks at Merstham

Although the Jolliffe family had bought land and settled at Merstham in or about 1788, they seem not to have exploited the mineral resources until William Jolliffe's partnership with Edward Banks dating from about 1807. The Jolliffes had backed the CM&GIR, and Jolliffe and Banks re-opened the underground building-stone quarries



Water-colour by G B Wollaston dated 1823, generally accepted as representing the CM&GI Railway crossing the Chipstead Valley Road.

and developed the chalk pits and limeworks on an industrial scale. Coal southbound from Wandsworth was doubtless required for the kilns, and for the stationary steam winding engine known to have been erected here. Although Jolliffe and Banks, important early civil engineering contractors, were responsible for construction of works as far afield as Heligoland, now a German island, and Howth Harbour, it should not be thought that Merstham stone or lime ever travelled far, if at all, beyond London. They had the use of limeworks at Haling in the Medway Valley from the 1820s, and employed stone from many sources including Aberdeen and Portland.

Croydon's Second Town Hall

Jolliffe and Banks built a second Town Hall for Croydon in 1807/08, using Merstham stone (and probably lime) supplied via the CM&GI. Their contract for this work has been published, although the building was demolished within 90 years as part of Croydon's first big redevelopment scheme of the 1890s, when the High Street was widened to allow more traffic through, including modern electric trams replacing the antiquated horse-drawn ones.

Fourth Generation Trams!

The northern continuation of the High Street (North End) is now pedestrianised, and second-generation electric trams now cross the town centre on an east-west alignment through George Street and Church Street instead of a north-south one. The modern Tramlink might be termed 'fourth generation'; the SIR and CM&GI 'tramways' being the first (freight only), and horse-drawn passenger-carrying street tramways (from 1879) being the second, and the 1901-51 electric trams being the third. There were also some experimental battery-operated electric trams in the 1890s. Curiously, the modern triangular tramway junction at the west end of Church Street is very close to the earlier Pitlake three-way junction between the SIR, CM&GI and Croydon Canal Company's private tramway. The route of the latter is now Tamworth Road, taken by eastbound modern trams.

The Modern Railways Arrive

The passenger-carrying, locomotive-hauled London & Croydon Railway was opened to its Croydon terminus, now West Croydon Station, in 1839, and was in part laid along the drained Croydon Canal which had operated about 1809-36. In the 1830s the London & Brighton Railway bought up the CM&GIR, needing some of its land for its own line, especially for the deep cutting at Hooley. It seems likely the CM&GIR saw its last use as a means for contractors to dispose of surplus spoil from the cutting. The SIR remained open into the 1840s, but within a dozen years of its own closure its route had been taken by the 1855 West Croydon to Wimbledon line. That line was itself closed, and part of its route is now followed by modern trams to and from Wimbledon.

It can be said, therefore, that in 1803 the Surrey Iron Railway was the first of a series of innovations that have led to Croydon remaining, in 2003 as 300 years earlier, a bigger town and gateway to the south than nearby Sutton or Bromley.

First published in the March 2003 Newsletter (no 132) of the Surrey Industrial History Group, with many thanks.

AN IRON AGE ENCLOSURE AT WESTCOTT:

First Interim Report

Gabby Rapson

Introduction

Aerial photography revealed a rectilinear enclosure with playing card corners and a single, wide, east-facing entrance located on a river gravel terrace at the junction between the Gault Clay and the Folkestone Beds at the foot of the North Downs in Westcott (TQ 143492).

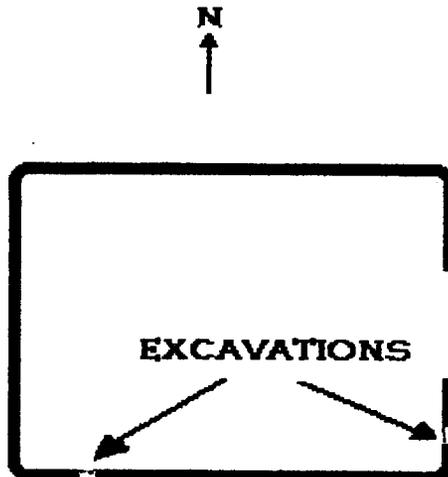
David Bird (*Bulletin 355*) and David Graham (*Bulletin 356*) suggested an Early Roman or Late Iron Age date for the enclosure, but as regular fieldwalking produced little evidence for activity in these periods, a resistivity survey and two ditch sections were undertaken to discover its nature and to provide dating evidence.

The resistivity survey revealed clear indications of the feature and two sections c1m long were excavated by hand through the eastern side, and the southern side towards the rear of the enclosure. Both revealed V-shaped ditches cut into soft sand, 2.4m deep and 5m wide along the east, and 7m wide along the south.

All soil from the eastern section was sieved and other soil samples were taken. Some wet sieving and pollen analysis was undertaken, but no environmental material was found. Charcoal samples are undergoing analysis for species identification.

The Southern Ditch Sequence

Loose rubble lay 1m deep at the bottom of the ditch, and there was a much slumped stones and sand on the internal wall, possibly from the destruction of an internal bank, perhaps with a stone facing. This was followed by a 10-15cm uneven layer of fine sand, that may have washed into the ditch following the bank collapse. As no further sandy layers



Sketch of the Westcott enclosure

were found, it might be assumed that the remainder of the bank was distributed internally and only the ditch remained a feature of the site.

No finds were recovered from the lowest levels of the ditch, so it could not be dated, although its damp silty nature closely corresponded with that of the eastern ditch/entrance excavation.

The Eastern Ditch Sequence close to the Entrance

The basal fills, 50-100cms below ground level, began with 10cms of a brown silt layer of small natural stones, but most others consisted of large mixed deposits of unabraded sherds of Late Iron Age pottery, animal bone and sandstone fragments, some burnt; all within dark, charcoal-rich silty matrices. Calcined bone fragments and 'sling-shot' type pebbles were present in most deposits, and a few parts from poorly-fired triangular loom-weights were also recovered.

The upper fills, 35-50cms below the present land surface, included similar material, but with more abraded pottery sherds, and animal bones that are more fragmented and less frequent than in the lower fills.

The Animal Bone Assemblage

Sheep, cattle, red deer, dog, pig and horse are represented, and an early estimation of minimum numbers based on mandible counts showed sheep (8) outnumbering cattle (6), followed by pigs (4) then deer (3). As well as the remains of two dog skulls; one very large and one very small; a loose tooth may have belonged to a third animal. Part of a pelvis from the lower deposits is from a small adult horse. No articulated bones were discovered, but the presence of a wide range of bone types, many showing evidence of butchery, suggests that at least some complete carcasses, rather than prepared joints of meat, might have been consumed on site. Adult and juvenile specimens were recovered of all species except horse and dog.

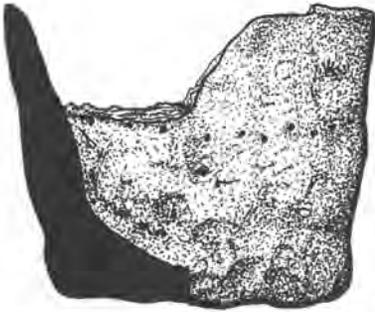
A complete skull of an adult red deer was found in the basal deposits. Its antlers had been sawn off, but chop marks below one of them suggest that an axe had first been used to try to remove it. A small amount of sand and silts covered the lower part of the skull and a large mixed deposit covered the upper part. The presence of the deer skull may be significant, as both deer and skulls have been interpreted as unusual or significant finds in the Iron Age (Hill 1995, Wait 1985). In this case, the remains of two juvenile red deer seem to have been treated in a similar manner to domestic animal bones. Skull fragments and mandibles from domestic animals are also present in the ditch, which may indicate that the presence of the stag's head need not necessarily be interpreted as unusual for this site, although the assemblage as a whole may prove significant if compared to assemblages from other Late Iron Age sites.

Further analysis is ongoing and the initial interpretation offered here is tentative.

The Pottery

The assemblage from the lower fills of the eastern ditch includes large sherds of both hand-made and wheel-thrown shouldered jars and bowls, with plain or simple, everted rims, but no cordons. Hand-made pottery included a small pinch-pot with pinprick decoration (see fig). At least 50 different vessels are represented, and the fabrics are mainly grog-tempered, with shell, quartz, calcined flint or fine sand additions. Many vessels were of good quality, including an unburnished, wheel-thrown pedestal jar and at least three black burnished bowls. Most vessels were burnished to some degree and one bowl has rouletted decoration.

Although there was no indication of any gap in the occupation, at around 50cms depth, East Sussex grog-tempered 'eyebrow'-decorated vessels and bead-rimmed jars, both burnished and un-burnished, start to appear in the assemblage, as do typically c1st AD hard sandy fabrics. Regularity of form and fabric is more apparent at this depth.

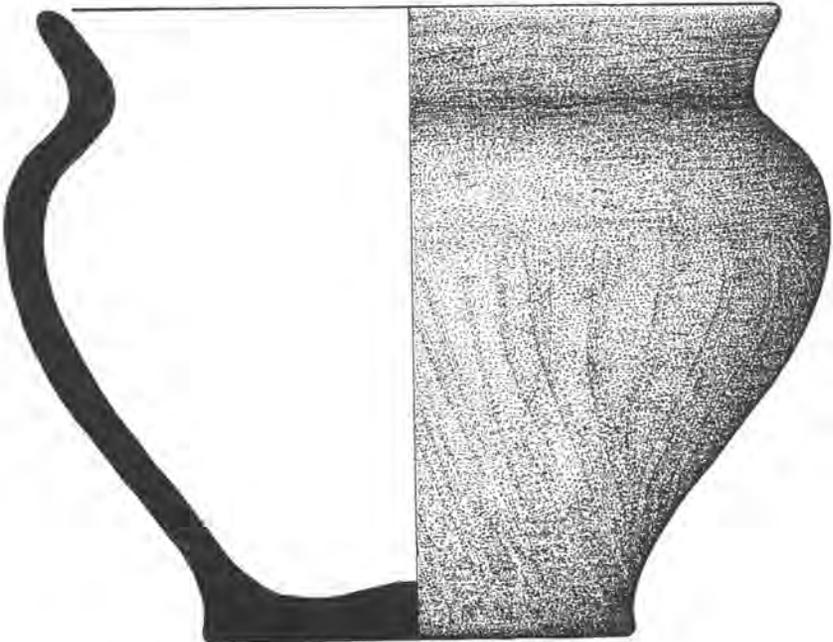


Iron Age pinch-pot from Westcott.

this layer in both excavations was found a layer of stones, above which lay ploughsoil.

Analysis

Initial analysis shows that the Westcott pottery shares some affinities with local Late Iron Age material, especially from Anstiebury hillfort of both the pre- and post-conquest periods. (Thompson 1979), and East Sussex grog-tempered ware from The Looe (Cotton 2001). Many forms can be identified in Isobel Thompson's corpus of south-eastern grog-tempered wares (1982), and where dating evidence is available a late c1st BC or early AD c1st century date is offered. This might place the occupation or use of the enclosure after the destruction of the bank to the end of



Later Iron Age jar from Westcott

c1st BC, continuing into the AD 1st century. No 'bucket/saucepan' forms have been identified as yet, which might provide an earlier date.

This would therefore place the likely construction of the bank and ditch to earlier in the 1st century BC, a period that has provided evidence of ditched enclosures in other parts of the country, often thought to have been constructed by elite groups in the face of 'social tensions'. Its construction might also correspond to the destruction of Anstiebury hillfort around 50 BC.

The soft sand would have allowed rapid construction of the enclosure, perhaps in an emergency, and the size of the original bank and ditch suggest it served some defensive purpose, but possibly only in the short term.

In the period after the bank was destroyed, the function of the site may have changed. The high quality material found in the ditch may represent high status use continuing into the AD 1st century. One initial interpretation might be that the lower deposits contain the remains of episodes of feasting or religious activity, the charcoal and burnt stone having been scraped off the land surface with pot and bones after repeated bonfires.

The low number of pits within the enclosure visible on aerial photographs has been suggested as representative of a lack of a full farming economy and may represent a non-domestic function for the site, or simply short-term or periodic Iron Age usage. Investigation of these features may provide a clearer picture of later prehistoric activity at this site.

Further work

The difficulty in identifying and separating individual deposits in the ditch fill during future work can now be anticipated and evidence from the trial excavations can be used to design future excavation strategies.

Resistivity survey of internal features shown by aerial photographs has so far proved inconclusive. The north side of the enclosure ditch has also not been accurately located by this method, so further survey is planned.

Open excavation of internal features and the entrance may be necessary to further understand the nature of the site and this will inevitably lead to a large amount of material needing storage and analysis.

Other potential problems exposed by these trial excavations include:

- * Safety issues involving the excavation of features over 2m in depth.
- * Unreliability of Late Iron Age pottery assemblages in accurately dating features.
- * Identification and interpretation of the potentially complex prehistoric and later feature and uses of the site.

Fieldwork has provided evidence for extensive use of this site in the prehistoric period. These include Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age and potential Early Iron Age activity, suggested by flint scatters, further crop mark evidence, a sherd of Early Iron Age pottery found in the upper ditch fill, some very abraded prehistoric pot just below the ploughsoil and c3rd or 4th century Romano-British material found close by.

A small internal area close to the ditch may be excavated later this year to establish whether any of the original prehistoric land surface has been preserved below the remains of the bank, and whether any evidence of features identified by aerial photographs can be located.

The full report will be published in the *Collections*. Thanks go to all those who helped in the excavations and initial analyses of material, and to Bert Broom, the landowner.

REFERENCES

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D Graham, 2002, *SyAS Bulletin* 356, 4

JD Hill, 1995, *Ritual and rubbish in the Iron Age of Wessex*, BAR 242

FH Thompson, 1979, Three Surrey hillforts: excavation at Anstiebury, Holmbury and Hascombe, 1972-1977, *Antiquaries Journal* Vol LIX part II

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G Wait, 1985, *Ritual and religion in Iron Age Britain*, BAR 149 (I)

COUNCIL NEWS

Castle Arch

News that the Society had received formal Notice from Guildford Borough Council of termination of the Agreement dated 9th May 1953, with effect from the 14th April 2008, was reported to Council on the 25th April.

This Agreement defines the relationship between Guildford Museum and the Society and the terms under which the Society occupies space at Castle Arch. The letter states that it has been served to protect the interests of GBC in securing rent agreements in future years and is not intended to be adversarial.

Essentially, this means that we and Guildford Borough Council have five years in which to resolve the problems of inadequate accommodation which affect both us and the Museum and which were touched upon in *Bulletin 365*.

We hope very much that Guildford Borough Council's future policy towards the Museum will enable us to reach an acceptable agreement and thus allow the present relationship, which has endured for over a hundred years, to continue to our mutual advantage.

May I take this opportunity of thanking those members who have responded to my note in *Bulletin 365*.

The Peter Gray Memorial Lectures at Bletchingley Saturday 22nd March 2003

Some hundred members of the Society, the Domestic Buildings Research Group and the Wealden Buildings Study Group joined together to pay tribute to Peter's research and influence in the study of vernacular buildings. It was a glorious day and we were delighted that Peter's widow, Sheila and her daughters Fenella and Jennifer, were able to be with us and to share our memories.

Dennis Turner opened the meeting, and paid tribute to Peter's many skills and achievements, which now have their lasting memorial in the projects which he launched and his many publications of local villages and parishes, which Peter described as 'an exploration of the visible history'.

The lectures that followed, related to projects with which Peter had been associated; all owed much to his enthusiasm and inspiration and which his untimely death had precluded him from continuing. Each speaker in turn acknowledged movingly their affection and respect for Peter, and their sense of indebtedness to him.

The first speaker was Martin Higgins, whose subject appropriately was "The timber-framed tradition", with reference to *Surrey - Medieval Buildings - An analysis and Inventory* by Peter published by DBRG shortly after Peter's death and edited by Martin. This lists some 856 domestic buildings in the county that survive with significant medieval fabric, and which he hoped would form the basis of other studies.

In his talk Martin explored how Peter had contributed to our understanding of roof forms. He outlined the history of timber-framing in Surrey, starting with earth-fast posts of the Saxon period, and then moving on to the more durable forms of construction which first appeared in the 12th and 13th centuries and which still survive

Based on Peter Gray's Inventory, Martin had prepared a map of Surrey showing densities of medieval houses by administrative district. This reveals a wide range of densities, from no medieval buildings in several parishes, to a median and average of just over 50 houses per 10km², to a staggering 310 houses per km². Does this density reflect the original settlement patterns? Or have later losses (through decay or prosperity) distorted the information?. It would be useful to undertake the same exercise for the post medieval timber-framed buildings and compare the maps.

The next speaker, Diana Chatwin, described in detail her investigations into the history and origins of a wonderfully complex building, New Place, Pulborough. This all began, Diana said, after Peter had introduced her to the property, asking her to undertake this task, when he felt unable to continue it. As seen today, it is a stone built house, sited close to Stane Street, the Roman Road between London and Chichester. With the help of beautifully detailed illustrations Diana explained that the oldest surviving part of the house and its gateway were built in 1569 by John Apsley. However, the service range was built later (c1609), although apparently on an earlier building site. As Diana said, her investigations answered some questions, but raised others, proving how right Peter had been in predicting that to research this building would prove a challenge.

The afternoon opened with Stephanie Hewitt, Conservation Officer with Surrey Heath Borough Council, who had kindly deputised for Dr David Gaimster who, at the last minute was unable to attend. Her subject was the wall paintings at 44 High Street, Bagshot, a property identified by Peter as a 15th century timber-framed building, possibly on the site of a 14th century aisled hall. Pevsner in his Guide had been very scathing of Bagshot, saying it had "nothing worth a look". However, this building and its wall paintings have proved him wrong. Thanks to Peter's work, the building is now Listed Grade 2*. Currently used as an architect's office, the building was formerly part of a large medieval inn, The Red Lion, previously known as The Saracen's Head. The paintings had come to light during internal alterations. The owner, Richard Heath RIBA, happened to walk in during work, and saw the partition with the wall paintings being unceremoniously demolished. Luckily he realised their significance and Peter became involved. (*Bulletins* 317 and 366). The paintings need conservation, including the re-attachment of fragments displaced by the building work that originally revealed them and an appeal for funds is to be launched.

The final speaker, Rod Wild, spoke on the important topic of the Surrey Dendrochronology Project and briefly explained the theory of dendrochronology— put simply - tree ring dating by the taking of core samples of the timbers of an historic building for analysis of tree ring growth. This gives a likely construction date as medieval builders normally used green timber. Peter had suggested that DBRG should use a dendrochronological project as a means of testing the previously believed transition dates for Surrey's three main historic house types – open hall (pre 1550); smoke bay(1550-1600); and chimney (1600 onwards). In order to get samples from a well defined area, where a range of structures in different ownership and builds could be examined, Peter had first selected Surrey Heath, followed by a samples from Charlwood. At Charlwood the results were almost too good to be true, with a last open hall of 1545, and first smoke bay of the same date. On the other hand, not all dates provided by dendro-dating fitted previous beliefs, and so the Surrey Dendrochronology Project was conceived. Managed jointly by SyAS and DBRG it aims to identify 200 buildings for dating to be included in some 15 'clusters', the first two clusters being South Mole Valley and Guildford. An application for funding has been made to the Lottery Fund, and the outcome is eagerly awaited.

Guided walks in Bletchingley during lunch were led by Richard Fowler, Peter Fernee, and David Martin, following Peter Gray's footsteps as described in his 1991 Guide to the Village; tea and cakes organised by DBRG added to the enjoyment of a day,

which had been full of interest to lovers of vernacular architecture, and illumined with the scholarship of his colleagues - altogether a worthy tribute to Peter Gray.

New members

Susan Janaway

A special welcome to the following new members. I have again 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.

| Name | Address | Principal Archaeological Interests |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Brace, Mr M D | 3 Hurley Gardens Guildford GU4 7YH | studying archaeology, landscape and environment BSc at University of Surrey |
| Christley, Mrs K | 21 Condor Court Guildford GU2 4BP | Surrey churches, ecclesiastical history of Surrey |
| Douce, Miss M | 87 Denman Drive Ashford Middx TW15 2AP | |
| Goodenough, Mr P | 11 Guildford Road Lightwater GU18 5RZ | Late Iron Age/early Roman Britain, medieval vernacular architecture |
| Gwynne, Mr P C | 19 Heritage Lawn Horley RH6 9XH | Local History of SE Surrey |
| Hannaford, Miss D | 2 Perseverance Cottages High Street Ripley GU23 6AG | Local history |
| Howard, Mr A N | 5 Wolverton Avenue Kingston upon Thames KT2 7QF | Kingston |
| Humphreys, Mr S | 52 Chart Lane Reigate RH2 7DZ | Local history Rural history/archaeology |
| Johnson, Miss G | 12 Elm Close Stanwell, Staines Middx TW19 7UL | |
| Lock, Mr N | 23 St Martin's Avenue Epsom KT18 5HZ | Roman, medieval, industrial especially |
| McSorley, Mr R W | The White House 91 Stoughton Road Guildford GU1 1LH | |
| Oury, Mrs S | 3 Bradley Court Epsom Road Guildford GU1 3PF | |
| Roberts, Miss D | East Lodge Loseley Park Old Portsmouth Road Guildford GU3 1LP | |
| Street, Mrs E | 4 Mareschal Road Guildford GU2 4JF | |
| Tassano Miss S | 20 Manor Way Onslow Village Guildford GU2 7RN | Ancient history |
| The RH7 History Group | 1 Rose Cottages Plaistow Street Lingfield RH7 6AU | Local history |
| Turner, Ms B | Flat 1, 8 Manville Road Tooting, London SW17 8JN | |
| Twinn, Miss C | 7 Oatlands Drive Weybridge KT13 9NA | |
| Vladimirova, the Misses E and E | 34 Vernon Walk Tadworth KT20 5QP | Roman and Medieval periods |
| Yeomans, Miss L | 2 Keats Close, Colliers Wood London SW19 1TU | |

MISCELLANY

WESTON WOOD, ALBURY: PREPARING THE ARCHIVE *Andrew Cornwall*

Background

Excavations at Weston Wood were carried out between 1961 and 1967 in advance of sand quarrying, and after several notes in SyAS Bulletins. There was also some further fieldwork in 1968. A number of people were involved in organising the work. Most notably Kathleen Kenyon and Joan Harding. Joan produced an interim report in (SyAS Collections Vol 61, 1964), Eve Machin produced a flint report (SyAS Collections Vol 3, 1976) and Mike Russell produced another on the pottery (SyAS Collections Vol 79, 1989). Ted Sammes, Assistant Director in 1966, went to great lengths to get the final report produced and all finds accessioned to Guildford Museum. Unfortunately, Ted's ambition remained unfulfilled at his death. His papers now lodged with SyAS make for salutary reading and a stern warning about unpublished sites.

Site Location and Finds

The site (TQ 053485) lay on a flattened area of a wooded slope overlooking the Tillingbourne River. The underlying geology comprises Folkestone and Hythe Beds of the Lower Greensand, with more or less broken lenses of carstone or pebbles of the same. To the north is a fairly narrow belt of Gault Clay, and just beyond rises the chalk escarpment of the North Downs.

The earliest ceramic evidence is a small assemblage of Neolithic Peterborough Ware in the Mortlake style, and other flints and copper artefacts date from the Late Bronze Age. A series of pits, heaths and at least two hut structures were discovered. There is also a fine assemblage of microliths, and there was also evidence of occupation through to medieval times.

In 1965 and 1966 some early experimental archaeology was undertaken on site. Various methods of preserving grain were tested, bone needles were carved and used to sew primitive clothing and flint-knapping was practised. They even cast a replica Bronze Age axe.

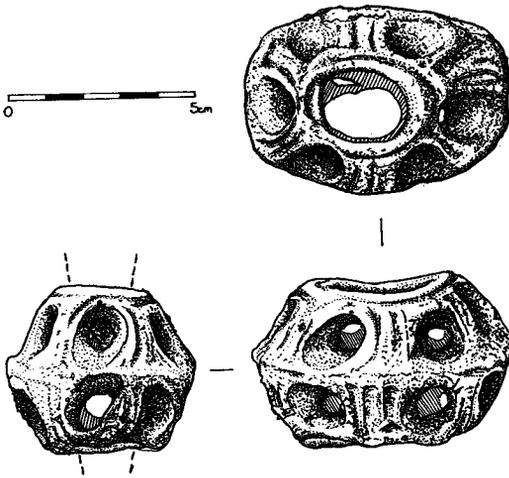
Work in Progress

Joan Harding's remaining archive has now come into the care of the Salters Finds Processing Group of SyAS. It is our intention to process this archive so as to enable a final report to be produced. The archive is enormous, and includes more pottery and flint. It appears that these finds were not included in either Eve Machin's or Mike Russell's reports. There is also a huge paper archive. The Salters Group has now assessed the task in hand, and stabilised the archive. Much of the documentary research for the final report has been done. The pottery and flint processing is almost complete, prior to going out for expert reports. It is intended to accession all remaining finds to Guildford Museum. The final report will eventually be published in the SyAS Collections.

A MEDIEVAL POMANDER?

Gabby Rapson

The drawn object was found in the Tillingbourne stream, Gomshall Marsh (Wonham Way) by Jeff Colombe. It is a partially hollowed ovoid, 7 x 5 x 5cm, constructed in two halves from a hard, white ceramic fabric. Each half has six fingertip perforations- two on each long side and one at each end- that have been pushed through from the inside with a 'stick' before the halves were joined. One hole has not been fully perforated. The two halves were pinched together, and a final finger hole was made through the object from top to bottom, creating two more holes. The hole sizes match the authors 'modern female' little and index fingers, and each hole was 'drawn' round to add a decorated aspect to the piece. It was quite crudely made, and the two halves



are not identical, so the pattern of holes does not exactly match. There is some iron staining, although no trace of metal inherent to the piece has so far been discovered.

The object was examined by Museum of London finds staff, but they were unable to identify it. After asking for assistance on the internet, John Wood of Sussex and Peter Robinson of the Doncaster Museum and Art Gallery suggested that it may be a medieval pomander. These were made in lead or ceramic, filled with pomades (perfumed pulps) and worn round the neck

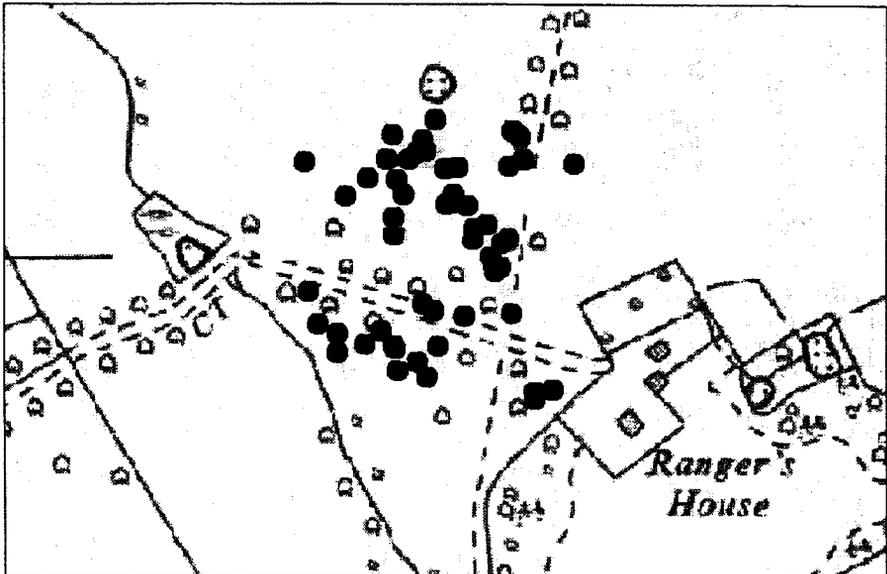
by pilgrims and others to counter bad odours in periods of plague. In later periods they were hung in wardrobes and elsewhere.

I am sure someone will be able to add to, or contradict, the proposed identification of the object, and I would like to know if others have been found in Surrey, or anywhere else. Many thanks to Jeff and Phillip Harris-Jones for bringing the object to my attention.

FARNHAM PARK – A MINOR BATTLEFIELD?

David Graham

Anyone who has read *Farnham in the Civil War and the Commonwealth*, recently published by the Farnham & District Museum Society, will know that the castle was a Parliamentary army base for most of the Civil War. The reader will also have learnt



Farnham Park: lines of shot

that, in November 1643, the countryside north of the castle was the site of a minor battle between 8000 Royalist troops under Sir Ralph Hopton, and a Parliamentary force under Sir William Waller.

Archaeological work over the last few years, particularly in the southern part of the park around the castle, has recovered a surprising amount of evidence of Civil War activity. There appears to be a spread of pistol, carbine and musket balls and canister shot, over the slopes in this part of the park. In order to try and discover whether there was a pattern to the spread of this shot, rather than it being a random accumulation over the centuries, a section of about 1ha was selected in the middle of the park for a detailed survey. This was carried out with the help of a number of detectorists who recovered a quantity of lead shot of various types, the distribution of which confirms that there is indeed a definite pattern preserved under the turf of the park. The are examined showed two lines of shot, roughly 55m apart, with nearly all the canister shot being found on the side furthest from the castle, where, presumably, the Parliamentary cannons were based. Whether this indicates two skirmishing lines firing at each other is not certain, but it does seem the most likely interpretation and is one that has been accepted by experts on the period. In any case, the significance of the result is the discovery that there is a pattern to the finds, and that therefore Farnham Park does indeed contain evidence for the fighting in 1643. As result, it has been suggested that the park is a candidate for entry on the National Battlefields Register administered by English Heritage.

First published in the December 2002 Journal (Vol 13 No 4) of the Farnham & District Museum Society, with many thanks.

CASTLES AT WESTCOTT – SOME CORRECTIONS *Gabby Rapson*

The author apologises for matching the wrong name to the Westcott 'castle', which is not Blackhawes as suggested by J S Bright, but Castle Banks as reported by Manning and Bray (see *Bulletin* 357). Aubrey describes two castles, Benham and Blackhawes, and his slightly muddled account reads as if they were located in Dorking. Dennis Turner has kindly brought to my attention an article edited by Gomme (1900), in which one 'J.P.', writing in the Gentleman's Magazine Library (1844), provides documentary and placename evidence for the location of both of Aubrey's 'castles' in Capel, Dorking. The castle identified at Westcott is reported by Manning and Bray (1804) as Castle Bank, but they suggest that it might have been one of the two named by Aubrey. J S Bright (1884) seems to have combined the two accounts, and perhaps other sources, and states that the Westcott castle is Blackhawes.

My thanks to Dennis Turner, Mary Day and Vivienne Ettliger for pointing out this error.

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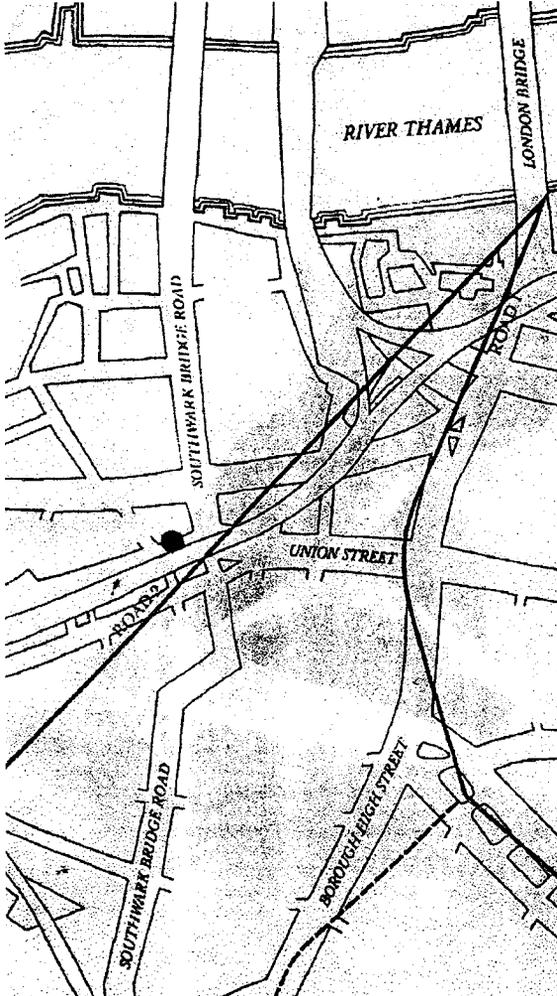
NEW ROMAN CEMETERY IN SOUTHWARK *Graham Dawson*

Recent archaeological work has uncovered the largest number of burials from any Roman cemetery found in Southwark (*Archaeology Matters* 18, July 2002; *SyAS Bulletin* 361 and *British Archaeology* 67, October 2002), 163 in all. Besides its intrinsic interest, however, it also has implications for the mapping of the Roman road pattern.

Burials were generally not allowed in Roman urban areas, and cemeteries were usually sited close to approach roads. If the newly-discovered cemetery was alongside a road it must be a continuation of that found in Montague Close; the cemetery was found at America Street which lies just south of the junction of Southwark Bridge Road and Southwark Street and is thus much too far west to relate to the Borough High Street road.

The Montague Close road probably ran to a crossing of the Thames at Lambeth (see *Roads, Bridges and the Origin of Roman London* SyAC Vol 71 (1977) p 43-55); however, no trace of it has so far been found south of Montague Close, which has led some to argue that it was a local road serving the western part of the Roman settlement at Southwark. There are many objections to that idea (see my review of *London Bridge, 2000 years of a river crossing*, in SyAC 89 (2002) p 290) but this find which shows the road some way beyond the built up area, strengthens the argument

that it does run to Lambeth.



Apparently the cemetery did not begin till the late 2nd century although the road is a primary feature in Montague Close, but it may be that the part of the cemetery excavated was an extension of an earlier one, perhaps to its north-east. The late 2nd century is also a period when, it has been suggested, the Southwark settlement was in decline whereas a new or extended cemetery would suggest the opposite.

It also continues into the 4th century (according to the report in *British Archaeology*, though in *Archaeology Matters* it is said to end in the late 3rd century). Elsewhere, 4th century graves have been found in what had been the built-up area (such as at 15-23 Southwark Street) suggesting a contraction of settlement, which might explain an end date of the late 3rd century for this cemetery, if such it had.

This cemetery also implies that the road continued in use until the late 2nd century and probably to the late 3rd or later, depending on what the end date is, (according to *London Fieldwork and Publication Roundup 2001* (Supplement to *London Archaeologist* Vol 10 2002)

Roman roads in Southwark and the newly-discovered cemetery

p 22 there is a late Roman phase after the abandonment of the cemetery). This would also suggest that the Lambeth crossing continued in use for much of the Roman period and was not solely in use during the invasion period (the construction of London Bridge might have made it superfluous). There is evidence for some sought of settlement in the Roman period both at Lambeth and Westminster, which may, therefore, have been more important than has seemed likely from the finds made there.

First published in the March 2003 Newsletter (no 93) of the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society

ENGLISH HERITAGE LONDON REGION NEWS

Robert Whytehead

This is an important year for archaeology and the historic environment in general. Much of the fieldwork undertaken in this country results from the planning process, and a new Planning Bill is to be put to Parliament this year. In addition, the ten-year old PPG 16 (Planning Policy Guidelines) is to be combined with PPG 15, as PPS 15, and the consultation draft of this is expected shortly. Meanwhile, the first parliamentary group to consider archaeology, APPAG, has published its first report: *The Current State of Archaeology in the United Kingdom* in January.

It is important that all interested groups ensure that the historic environment is fully appreciated in the new government planning legislation. Proposals for more local or community plans may empower local societies and community groups to raise the profile of the historic sites or areas that they value. APPAG have asserted how important it is to lobby ministers, MPs and local councillors.

English Heritage has embarked upon a 'modernisation' programme to raise the profile of the historic environment with government and others, and to demonstrate its value to communities, particularly in regeneration projects. A London region quarterly newsletter is to be launched soon, called *Changing London*, and it will aim to convey important stories and successes to a broad constituency of politicians and partner organisations.

TIME TEAM COMES TO MERTON

The Excavations

Lionel Green

Tony Robinson came to Merton for three days in late September 2002, to re-discover the layout of buildings of the silk printing works of Edmund Littler and Arthur Liberty. The edited version of events was shown on Channel 4 on 9th February.

A 19th century brick building was soon revealed north of the wheelhouse, containing a north-south culvert. First explanations suggested that it had held a washing-drum, but this was later amended to a drive-shaft channel for the calendering machine, which smoothed the lengths of material. Local historians know this early 19th century building as Joseph Ancell's print works. Trenches on the west side of the River Wandle yielded parts of the iron grates of a furnace, and timber piles which must have supported extensive buildings now vanished.

Perhaps the most instructive scenes were those involving the printing of silks with hand-held wooden blocks. The hatted archaeologist, Phil, was guided by one of your vice-presidents, William Rudd, who once worked at Liberty's, and displayed his skill and knowledge.

There was little mention of the medieval building discovered on the east bank, and the full excavation report is eagerly awaited. This may be the chapel depicted in Malcolm's engraving of 1801.

A Job to dye for!

Bill Rudd

It had been blowing on the wind for some time that Time Team were interested in Merton Borough, and Eric Montague was wondering what he could suggest in

Mitcham. As it turned out what they were really after was the former Liberty's site.

Nicholas Hart phoned to ask if I minded sending them a copy of my Liberty booklet. I discovered the Team would be on site from Wednesday 25th to Friday 27th September, and made a mental note. On Thursday evening a call from Sheila Harris asked why I wasn't on site, as I was expected to attend. So I said I'd be there the following morning.

I arrived at 11am and straightway went to have a look at the two holes they had opened up on the west bank; one was so deep you couldn't see who was in it. Then a look at the hole next to the Colour House, and where there was a large block of stone which looked as though it might have covered a grave, but with no inscription. Finally, a good look at the foundations that had been exposed next to the wheelhouse, and a discussion with Dave Saxby. Then I had a stroll across the yard. Suddenly, Mary Hart took my arm and said to come and have a look at what was going on in the Long Shop, and I found they were setting up a block-printing demonstration. At this point Mary told the camera crew "This is the man you want. He worked here and knows the job". Someone slapped a form down and asked me to sign it. I discovered afterwards it was a release form.

I was to act as tierer to a young lady who had been brought in specially. I first thought it was ridiculous, a 77-year-old doing the same job he'd done 62 years ago as a 14-year-old school-leaver.

A table had been set up on which a length of silk (yes, it was!) was taped down round the edges. A swivel chair had been converted to hold the colour trays, and dishes of dyes had been prepared. Some old printing-blocks had been obtained from somewhere. The printer and I were able to begin. I set to work putting dye on the pads in the trays that had been made up. The 'apprentice' was Phil Harding of Time Team, who was to take over the printing once he got the idea.

As you can imagine, the final result was not the perfection I was used to all those years ago. Nevertheless it was a gallant attempt, and the surprise came when a picture on a flat-screen computer showed a girl dressed in the pattern that had just been printed. So it was well worth the effort.

First published in the March 2003 Bulletin (no 145) of the Merton Historical Society, with many thanks.

PUBLICATIONS

"Iron for the Eagles: The Iron Industry of Roman Britain"

by David Sim & Isabel Ridge

Tempus, Stroud, 2002. 159pp., illus., bibliog., gloss., index.

For the student of Wealden iron, the title of this book is promising; suggesting that here will be an overview of the industry in the province from which one can learn about the activities of Romano-British iron makers in the Weald in a context with other regional concentrations of iron making. Regrettably that promise is not fulfilled. Instead, what the authors present is, for the most part, a survey of Roman smithing, and the majority of the text has little to do specifically with iron making in Roman Britain at all.

That the contents of this book should be read with caution is presaged in the opening chapter – an overview of the Roman iron industry – in which an estimate of the iron industry in Britain is based on the requirements of the population of the province rather than on any calculation of actual production. This estimate is drawn from an unpublished MA dissertation, as is a thoroughly unsatisfactory distribution map of

iron ore working in Britain, in a chapter on mining and prospecting, in which excavated examples of ore roasting pits are given equal status with, so called, mines and ore sources. The failure to recognise the inadequacy of this and other references does not inspire confidence in the authors.

Returning to mining and prospecting, it is very clear that the authors, in making few, if any, specific references to examples from Britain, have relied on general surveys, and uncritically assumed that practices recorded in the Roman world in general, applied to the industry in Britain. It is significant that the only chapter in which specific references are consistently made to evidence from Britain is in that on the subject of charcoal; the significance being that the chapter was contributed by Jaime Kaminski, although it has to be said that the evidence is largely from Wealden examples.

In the chapter on smelting, examples are drawn from Britain but there is little to suggest that the authors have cast their net widely to include many recently discovered sites, the exception being those at Laxton in Northamptonshire. Many of the sources quoted date from the 1970s. The rest of the book is devoted to smithing and artefact production, with very few references to examples of specific practices noted in Britain and, as some of the illustrations suggest, is a reflection of one of the authors' interests as a practising blacksmith.

This is a thoroughly disappointing book, given its title. Nowhere do the authors survey the evidence for iron production in Roman Britain; there is no map showing the distribution of the industry, and very little in the text to indicate what is known from archaeological fieldwork throughout the country. Even the bibliography is woefully short of references to British examples. Finally, there are the illustrations, of which there are many and which are, on the whole, relevant to the text. The inadequacy of the maps I have already mentioned; the colour plates of artefacts are useful, but there seem to be too many pictures of re-enactmentists dressed as Roman soldiers. **JSH**

LECTURES, SYMPOSIA and VISITS COMMITTEE

COLCHESTER: Castle Museum and Archaeological Town Tour

Sunday 18th May 2003

Roman Colchester was the first 'capital' of Britain, known as *Colonia Victricensis* or 'City of Victory'. Boudicca famously burnt the new city and the renowned Temple of Claudius, which subsequently provided the Normans with the foundations for their Castle.

This visit is designed to be flexible, join in with the whole or even part of the programme shown below, or disappear to explore the Town on your own ... please just make sure you get back to the coach on time!

11.30am Colchester Castle Museum: A booked visit. Admission charge for Castle and Museum: Adults £4, children and seniors £2.50.

12.00 Colchester Castle Vaults: An exclusive guided tour to view the remains of the Roman Temple of Claudius. Cost: Adults and seniors £1.50, children 80p.

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

2.30 – 4.15pm Optional Town Walking Tour: conducted by the official guides for Colchester. It is the main introductory tour around Colchester and costs £2.50 per person. Please let me know if you wish to join this, as it must be pre-booked. The Tour departs from the War Memorial, High Street outside the Castle.

Our coach leaves Farncombe Railway Station, near Godalming, at 9am, parking available nearby. **We leave Colchester at 5pm.**

Please send a cheque made out to 'Mrs E Whitbourn' to 65 Binscombe Crescent, Binscombe, Surrey, GU7 3RA.

Costs: Adults: £24 to include all tours and admission charges, Seniors: £22 to include

all tours and admission charges, Children: £20 to include all tours and admission charges. For coach alone and no tours: Adults and Children £16. All Welcome, including spouses, children, guests, partners

For more information contact Elizabeth Whitbourn, Tel: 01483-420575 or e-mail liz.whitbourn@btinternet.com

HERSTMONCEUX CASTLE

Our fourth extended weekend visit to Herstmonceux Castle, East Sussex.

Herstmonceux Castle is a 15th Century brick built moated castle, set in beautiful parkland and superb Elizabethan gardens, and is a popular conference and wedding venue.

It is not generally open to the public and is used in term time as an International Study Centre by its Canadian owners, Queen's University. It has a purpose built Hall of Residence in the grounds of the estate, which provides excellent and high standard accommodation. Breakfast and Dinner are taken in the Great Hall and in the evenings we have a private room in the Castle for talks, slides and videos, together with the use of 'The Headless Drummer', the Castle's own personal pub.

Also within the grounds lies the former home of the world-famous Greenwich Observatory. This is now open to the public and has been converted into a Science Centre and Discovery Park.

Thursday 7th – Sunday 10th August 2003

For three nights, or any combination of these dates, visits to include:

The Royal Pavilion at Brighton

Finchcocks, Living Museum of Music

Bayham Abbey + Brightling Follies

Science Centre and Observatory telescopes

Winchelsea

Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway + Dungeness Lighthouse

Alfriston + The Clergy House

St Andrew's Church: The Cathedral of the Downs

Litlington: Church of St Michael

The Golden Galleon Pub / Brewery

Prices: from £45, per person per night.

| PRICES | En Suite | | Standard | |
|--------------------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| | 3 nights | per night | 3 nights | per night |
| Single Room | £205 | £69 | £140 | £47 |
| Twin Room | £180 | £60 | £135 | £45 |
| Double Room | £165 | £55 | | |

These prices are per person, inclusive of Dinner, Bed, and Breakfast. Meals are taken in the Great Hall of the castle. The castle is a No Smoking establishment.

En Suite Rooms have a telephone, T.V, tea/coffee, and either bath or shower facilities in the room. **Standard Rooms** have no telephone or T.V in the room, and have shared kitchen, lounge, shower and wash facilities.

Prices include talks/ lectures on sites we are to visit. Also included is a guided tour of Herstmonceux Castle, and admission to any English Heritage sites. You are responsible for any extras incurred, such as drinks, teas, newspapers, phone calls.

Transport will be in private cars; lift shares can be arranged. No insurance has been taken out, as this is a voluntary field trip.

A deposit of £20 per person is required ASAP to secure your booking. The balance to be paid to me, before 10th July. If you are interested or want to know more please do let me know.

Liz 01483 – 420575 or liz.whitbourn@btinternet.com

BARCOMBE ROMAN VILLA and LEWES ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOUR

Sunday 20th July 2003

In conjunction with the Roman Studies Group

Barcombe Roman Villa: A guided tour of the ongoing excavations in the morning, by kind invitation from David Rudling, director of UCL Field Archaeology Unit, before moving on to Lewes.

Lewes, the county town of Sussex holds many delights, amongst which are Lewes Castle, Barbican House Museum and Anne of Cleves House.

Lunch: Sandwiches at the excavation, or there are plenty of places to eat in Lewes. Our coach leaves Farncombe Railway Station, near Godalming at 9.30am (Parking available nearby). We leave Lewes at around 5pm.

All are welcome, however there is a limited number of spaces as we are restricted to a small coach due to the narrow country lanes around Barcombe, so please book early to avoid disappointment!

Cost: £10 per person. Please send cheque made out to 'Mrs E Whitbourn' to 65 Binscombe Crescent, Binscombe, Surrey, GU7 3RA.

For more information, or to book a space please contact Elizabeth Whitbourn, Tel: 01483 420575 or e-mail liz.whitbourn@btinternet.com

TRAINING EXCAVATION

BARCOMBE ROMAN VILLA, EAST SUSSEX

University College London Field Archaeology Unit

Practical archaeology training courses as part of a research excavation on the site of a Roman villa at Barcombe, near Lewes. If you 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

CONFERENCE

TREASURE: RESOURCE OR RICHES?

Institute of Archaeology, University of London

Saturday 7th June 2003

A day conference sponsored by the Council for British Archaeology Mid-Anglia Region and supported by CBA London Region and English Heritage

Recent changes to the Treasure Act are now applicable, and the recording scheme finalised. Have the changes to the Act gone too far or not far enough? Has the detecting debate moved on since 1996, and if so what are the new challenges?

- 10am Registration/refreshments. Chair: Peter Clayton (CBA Mid-Anglia)
David Barwell (National Council of Metal-Detectors)
James Ede (International Antiques Dealer)
A representative from a treasure hunting magazine
A Case Study by Andrew Phillips (North Hertfordshire Charity Metal Detectorists)
- 12.30 Lunch
- 2pm David Gaimster (DCMS)
Sally Worrell (Prehistoric and Roman Finds Advisor)
Colin Pendleton (SMR Officer Suffolk County Council)
Mark Curteis (Essex County Council)
Roger Bland (British Museum)
Discussion
- 4.30 Close
- Tickets: £6, available from D Hills, 34 Kingfisher Close, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire, AL4 8JJ. Please enclose SAE. Cheques payable to CBA Mid-Anglia Region.
- Further information from mark.stevenson@english-heritage.org.uk

LECTURE MEETINGS

29th May

"Cooper to Countess: The Fortunes of an Egham Family 1650-1750" by Pamela Maryfield to the Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society in the Main Hall, Literary Institute, Egham High Street at 8pm. Visitors £1.

2nd June

"The Shah Jehan Mosque in Woking" by Brigadier Salamat to the Woking History Society at Mayford Village Hall, Saunders Lane, Mayford at 8pm. Visitors £2.

2nd June

"Streatham Streets" by John Brown to the Streatham Society Local History Group at Woodlawns, 16 Leigham Court Road, Streatham at 8pm.

4th June

"The Excavations of Roman Ewell" by Frank Pemberton to the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society at St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 8pm. Visitors £1.

26th June

"The Ankerwyke Estate- Past, Present and Future" by Stuart Burgess to the Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society in the Main Hall, Literary Institute, Egham High Street at 8pm. Non-members £1.

2nd July

"Glimpses of Central Spain including Madrid and Toledo" by Charles Abdy to the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society at St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 8pm. Visitors £1.

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

Next Issue: Copy required by 13th June for the July issue.

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