



Surrey Archaeological Society

No 15 March 2022

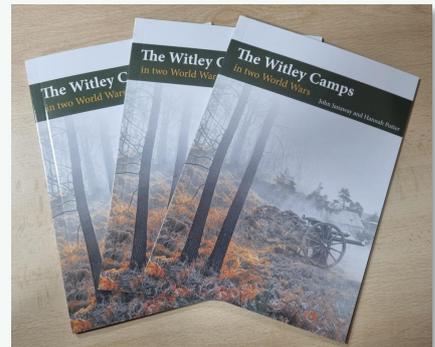
E-newsletter

Welcome to the Society's March e-newsletter, which highlights a few of the various events – conferences, lectures, training sessions, news items, etc – which we hope to be of interest to our members. Although general queries should continue to be directed to Hannah (info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk), those interested in volunteer opportunities or general outreach can contact me at outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk. Please also keep up-to-date via the website and social media ([@surreyarch](https://www.instagram.com/surreyarch)) for group and event updates.

Anne Sassin (*SyAS Outreach Projects Manager*)

Witley Camps in the First World War Exhibition at Godalming Museum

During the First and Second World Wars the beautiful heathland of Milford, Witley and Rodborough commons was covered by massive army camps. Housing up to 20,000 men at any one time, many of them Canadian, the camps shaped the local experience of both World Wars. First exhibited in 2014, 'Witley Camps in the First World War' is a temporary exhibition being shown again at Godalming Museum until **Saturday 26 March** to mark the opening of a new permanent display at the Museum. The Witley Camp booklet is now also available to purchase from the Surrey History Centre foyer, Godalming Museum or online from the [Surrey Heritage Shop](#) (cost £5).



Bridging the divide: Rural settlements in northern and southern Roman Britain – a research seminar

On **Thursday 24 March** (16.30-18.30), Oxford Archaeology will host an online webinar which will explore settlements and landscapes of Roman Britain, highlighting work on Roman rural settlements and investigating themes of organisation, economy, regionality, change and continuity, and interconnectedness. Chaired by Lacey Wallace (University of Lincoln), the event will comprise a series of talks, followed by a discussion led by an expert panel. Speakers include Martyn Allen on 'Settlement and landscape in Roman Britain: a regional review of the Roman Rural Settlement Project', John Zant on "'Mere collections of miserable wigwams"? Romano-British rural settlement in North-West England', and Edward Biddulph on 'Roman rural settlement in southern England: some case studies'. [Registration](#) is required, though the webinar will be recorded and made available later.



The National Trust fights against climate change

Climate Change is affecting our heritage. The National Trust manages properties and places all over the country and is taking action to fight against climate change and protect our heritage into the future (see their short video on [tackling climate change together](#)). James Brown, National Trust Archaeologist for London & South-East Region, and newly elected to the Society's Council, has also shared a link to the [Historic Environment Forum](#) where climate change and other issues are discussed.

And, thanks to James, we have news of a big [National Trust tree planting initiative](#), which includes three new Surrey schemes:

- Ambition to create lasting legacy for Her Majesty as part of The Queen's Green Canopy – an initiative which invites people to “Plant a Tree for the Jubilee”
- 70 projects across the country announced to include recreation of historic tree avenues lost to diseases, old age or storms, orchards and significant single tree plantings
- Jubilee Trees to be planted during the official planting season in 2022
- Projects in Surrey include:
 1. Reinstating an avenue of around 24 sweet chestnut trees on the south-east edge of Abinger Roughs, next to the East Lawn, a magnificent 18th-century avenue of trees which had fallen into decline, with very few remaining after the great storm of 1987
 2. Planting a traditional orchard at Westhumble, close to Box Hill, with a mixed variety of approximately 250 trees including apples, pears, quince, plums, cherry, figs, cobnuts, filbert nuts, and medlars; beehives with honey bee colonies will also be installed in the orchard, to act as pollinators and gradually improve the biodiversity of the area
 3. Planting 15 new trees (cherry, hawthorn, walnut and scots pine) on the edge of the lawn bordering the parkland and behind the house at Hatchlands Park to replace ones which have fallen

For more information, visit [Trees and Plants | National Trust](#).

Just as the National Trust is responding to climate change so is your Society by identifying and reducing our main carbon emissions, improving our recycling and reducing single use plastics and planning what we, as a member of the heritage community, can do to help.



Surrey Local Group lectures

The Society maintains an abridged online list of [Surrey Local Group lectures](#), monthly lecture meetings undertaken by the various archaeology and local history societies around the county. This information is often dependent on online details being available; if you would like meetings to be included, please contact outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk.



The Society seeks a new Treasurer

The Society's Articles of Association limit the time anyone can hold the office of Treasurer of the Society to eight years. As a result, the current Treasurer, Mike Edwards, will resign on or before the 2024 Annual General Meeting and the Society is looking for a replacement.

In addition to being a trustee of the Society the principal roles of the Treasurer are to manage the Society's finances; prepare an annual budget and prepare and submit the annual set of final accounts to the Society's Independent Examiner for inspection and then report the results to members of the Society at the AGM. The Treasurer also chairs the Society's Investment Committee.

Anyone interested in this position should have a reasonable degree of accounting knowledge and experience in putting together a set of accounts. However, if that sounds a little daunting, bear in mind that the Treasurer has excellent support from two very capable people. First, there is our Administrator, who manages the day to day accounting and makes the entries from the bank statements into the Sage electronic accounting system. Secondly, there is an external accountant who manages the payroll and the Sage accounting system, provides any financial reports from Sage that may be required and produces the draft annual accounts for review by the Treasurer that provide the basis for the submission of a final set of accounts to the independent examiner. The independent examiner is also available for technical advice when needed.

Anyone interested in taking on this role would shadow the current Treasurer to get a much clearer understanding of what is involved. This is a worthwhile voluntary position at the heart of the Society and, if you are interested, please let Mike know or email the office (info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk).

Prehistoric Group E-news



The Prehistoric Group e-letter contains weblinks to various archaeological news items from Britain and around the world. During the pandemic, it extended its remit and format to advertising lectures and events with some illustrations and is not wholly dedicated to prehistoric news items. The new format has now reached its 200th edition. Recent highlights include a discussion of Mesolithic mummification, surveys of the Rutland Villa and of Trimontium and the study of pigments used at Catalhoyuk.

It is open to members and non-members of the Society, and if interested please contact rosemary.hooker@blueyonder.co.uk.

Excavations of two Bronze Age barrows in Surrey

Between October and December 2021 Foundations Archaeology undertook an excavation on the site intended for the construction of a new Leisure Centre on behalf of Spelthorne Borough Council. The excavation followed an earlier phase of investigation which suggested the presence of limited Medieval activity within the area of the proposed new leisure centre. The following is a summary news post shared by the team on [social media](#).

Excavation of the area revealed the earliest archaeology on the site to date from the Neolithic (4000–2500BC). Three Neolithic pits containing large amounts charcoal and worked flint were located. One of the Neolithic pits contained a broken polished stone axe whilst the other two pits contained the fire-shattered remains of polished stone knives.

Adjacent to the Neolithic pits were two well preserved Bronze Age round barrow ring-ditches; one with a largely intact central cremated burial contained within an inverted pot, located along the edge of a former waterway. These barrows were funerary monuments used between approximately 2500 and 700BC which may also have had an important function in relation to legitimising land-holding and the construction of social hierarchies. In addition to the Prehistoric features, a series of Roman rubbish pits and a single Medieval cess pit were found across the investigated area.



Aerial view of the two excavated Bronze Age roundbarrows (© Foundations Archaeology)

A large number of metal finds including 60 Roman bronze coins, a gold Tasciovanus Warrior Stater coin of the Iron Age (20BC to AD10), a silver 8th-century Saxon Scat coin, a Henry III silver short-cross penny and a 16th-century silver finger ring were recovered during the excavation. A detailed report on the findings of the project is currently in progress.



Excavated Bronze Age cremation urn within centre of roundbarrow 2 (© Foundations Archaeology)



Left to right: Gold Tasciovanus Warrior Stater (20BC-10AD), Silver Henry III Short Cross Penny (1216-72), 8th century Silver Saxon Scat (© Foundations Archaeology)

Fieldwork at Neale's Field, Chipstead

Neale's Field is a large 24-acre arable field, currently under the ownership of the Chipstead Village Preservation Society, which has produced an impressive array of metal-detecting finds from the prehistoric period onwards, most notably a collection of 15th century groats, halfgroats and quarter noble of Henry V and VI. Historical research suggested that the field might be the potential site of a seasonal or occasional medieval fair which was recorded at Chipstead from the 13th century. As a result, a fieldwalking and geophysical survey took place in February 2022 to see if any associated evidence could be found. This involved a small number of Society volunteers as well as local members of the community, with displays of the finds made available to the public at the group's base, the Chipstead Rugby Club.

Although little of medieval or Roman date was recovered from fieldwalking (other than a handful of pottery sherds), the field, which is situated on Clay-with-Flints, did produce a decent amount of worked flints and tools to suggest late Neolithic to Bronze Age activity, which may indicate the first agricultural use of the land.

An area of 2.4 ha was covered by magnetometry survey, though few significant features were revealed, other than a possible large, rectilinear enclosure whose dating is uncertain.

A more detailed report and article will appear in due course on the fieldwork. Many thanks to the whole team involved, in particular to Chris Taylor for his flint analysis and Greg Wales, whose meticulous recording of detecting finds on the PAS led to the outreach project.



One of the displays at the clubhouse



Fieldwalking and magnetometry (Photos Greg Wales)



Henry V quarter noble (© Greg Wales)



Elizabeth I sixpence (© Greg Wales)



Finds team (Photo by Greg Wales)



CBA-SE 2022 lecture series

CBA South-East will be running a Winter-Spring online lecture series, which will take place monthly on Thursday evenings from 19:30, and held online via Zoom. Although free, registration must be made in advance. To register for these meetings, and for info, including updates to the lecture programme, please visit the [CBA-SE events website](#).

Dates for the next talks of the lecture series include:

Thursday 24 March (19:30) Dr Andy Margetts, Post-Excavation Project Manager, Archaeology South-East, 'Medieval pastoralism in South-East England: Lessons for our landscape'

Thursday 28 April (19:30) Dr Martyn Allen, Senior Post-Excavation Project Manager, Oxford Archaeology, 'Animals and Roman Britain' (title tbc)



Dendrochronology today: some new techniques and new findings

On **Saturday 23 April** (14:00) at East Horsley Village Hall (KT24 6QT) the Domestic Buildings Research Group will be giving a special lecture preceding their AGM, 'Dendrochronology today: some new techniques and new findings' by Dr Andy Moir. This talk will be covering some of the new techniques available in dating buildings such as C14 wiggle matching and isotopic analysis, as well as some of the newer Surrey tree-ring dated examples and improvements in the Building Archaeology Research Database.

Members and non-members welcome (£3 per head). The AGM will be for DBRG members only.



MSF lecture 'Medieval Sites of Power and Assembly in the Thames Valley'



The Medieval Studies Forum have arranged a special lecture on **Thursday 31 March** at 18:00 by Prof Alexandra Sanmark (University of the Highlands and Islands) on 'Medieval Sites of Power and Assembly in the Thames Valley', which includes a look in detail at the sites of both Kingston and Runnymede. After the lecture, the National Trust archaeology team will provide a short presentation and update on the Runnymede Explored project.

This talk will be held online, via Zoom. Although welcome to all, this lecture must be booked [online](#). Participants will be emailed the meeting link closer to the time. The event is free for SyAS and MSF members, with a fee of £2 from non-members.



Research Committee Annual Symposium

On **Saturday 9 April**, the Research Committee will be returning to the Peace Memorial Hall in Ashted (Woodfield Lane, Ashted KT21 2BE) for its Annual Symposium, a popular annual event which highlights recent research and fieldwork in the county.

Programme

9:30 Registration

10:00 Chair

10:10 Simon Maslin (Surrey FLO) 'The PAS in Surrey'

10:40 Matthew Alexander (SyAS) 'Folklore of Surrey'

11:10 Coffee/Tea

11:30 Michael Curnow (MoLA) 'Barn Elms: Going to town on an Iron Age oppidum'

12:10 Matt Nichol (Cotswold Archaeology) 'Worcester Park Gunpowder mill and the John Smeaton Waterwheel'

12:45 Lunch

14:00 Chair

14:10 Chris Constable (Southwark) 'Recent archaeological work in Southwark and a statue mystery'

14:40 Rebecca Haslam (AOC Archaeology Group) 'The Roman road infrastructure of Southwark' ***please note the revised talk title and slight programme change***

15:10 Coffee/Tea

15:40 Tim Wilcock (SyAS) 'Badshot Lea moated site – a case for scheduling?'

16:10 David Calow (SyAS) 'Searching for Roman rural settlements in Surrey'

16:40 Closing Remarks

It is now possible to book online via the [website](#) with card payment using PayPal, or via cheque and post. Tickets £12. Contact info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk for any questions or to book through cheque.

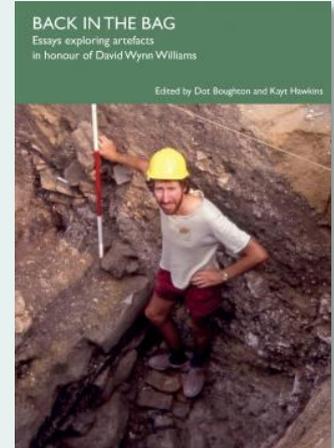
The Research Committee invites you to provide a display relating to your organisation's work. This can take the form of display boards, artefacts or other types of exhibit which can be shown within a limited space. All amateur displays are eligible for consideration for the Margary Award, the value of which is £200 for the winner and £100 for the runner up. Displays are welcome on all aspects of involvement in archaeological and historical research, including survey, excavation, finds processing, documentary and cartographic studies, research on standing buildings, museum work and any other study. Please email rosemary.hooker@blueyonder.co.uk for questions or if interested in bringing a display.



Back in the Bag: Essays exploring artefacts in honour of David Wynn Williams

This volume brings together papers in memory of David Wynn Williams, who made a substantial contribution to the archaeology of Surrey over many years, including as the county's Portable Antiquities Scheme's Finds Liaison Officer. In February 2019 a conference was held at the Surrey History Centre, where colleagues and friends presented a series of papers relating to working with and alongside David, which have since been published in a volume which also includes an introduction to his substantial art portfolio.

The volume is available for £20 from Surrey History Centre or the online [Surrey Heritage Shop](#).



Surrey LiDAR Portal

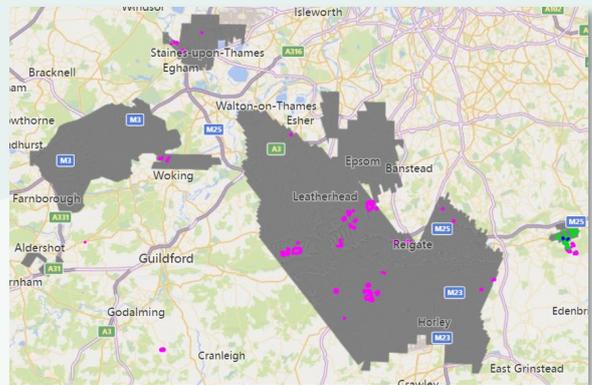
The Surrey LiDAR Portal (surreylidar.org.uk), an interactive citizen science tool which makes available imagery from the county's LiDAR, now includes the high resolution 0.5m Surrey Heath dataset. The Portal currently contains all 0.25m and 0.5m data for the county, with the full 1m county coverage to be added in April.

LiDAR has enormous potential to uncover previously unknown archaeological features, and by helping map and interpret these potential sites online, volunteers can work to build a more complete story of the local landscape.

Anyone is welcome to register for a free account, which will allow access to the interactive map. Volunteers who would like to be more involved in the citizen science digitising process should read the available tutorials and are encouraged to attend online training sessions.

For those who missed the initial online tutorial 'Using the Surrey LiDAR Portal' but are interested in an introductory session, a free online workshop will be run by the Society on behalf of the National Trust Runnymede and Ankerwycke team on **Tuesday 22 March** at 19:00 ([registration](#) is required in advance).

Anyone who would like to be involved in the training sessions or other work related to the LiDAR project, including fieldwork such as 'groundtruthing' and landscape survey, please e-mail outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk.





Surrey Heritage online talks

2022 Surrey Heritage monthly online Zoom talks will continue this spring at 17:30 on Wednesdays. Tickets £5. Please see the [SHC events page](#) to book a place online.



30 March – ‘Land of my Father's Fathers: Tracing your Welsh ancestors’

6 April – ‘A “great” amongst Victorian architects? Royal Holloway’s W H Crossland’

27 April – ‘Gertrude Jekyll, Gardener and Craftswoman’ (a talk for National Gardening Week)

11 May – ‘Out of Sight, Out of Mind? Sources for the History of Surrey’s Mental Hospitals, 1770 to c.1990’ (a talk for Mental Health Awareness Week)

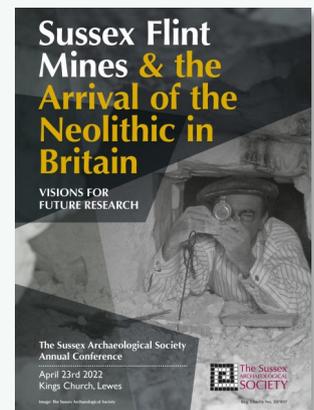
15 June – Let the Road Rise to Meet You: Tracing Your Irish Ancestors

An Introduction to the Runnymede Archives

On **Wednesday 6 April** (10:30-15:00) a free course will be run at Surrey History Centre learning how to use an archive for your own research, followed by an afternoon delving into the records held for Runnymede. Using original documents and maps, this introduction to archives session is being run as part of the National Trust Runnymede Explored Project. The day will also include a behind the scenes tour of the Surrey History Centre. To book your free place, please email education.scau@surreycc.gov.uk.

Sussex Archaeological Society conference

The annual conference, ‘Sussex Flint Mines and the Arrival of the Neolithic in Britain: Visions for Future Research’, will be held on **Saturday 23 April** at Kings Church Lewes and will comprise a packed day of lectures. Both in-person delegate tickets (£45), which include lunch and access to all talks and demonstrations, and virtual tickets (£15) are available. Visit the [webpage](#) to book.



For more information on opportunities in your local region, be sure to follow SCAU (education.scau@surreycc.gov.uk and [@diggingsurreyspast](#)), as well as the Council for British Archaeology South-East (www.cbasmouth-east.org and [@CBASouthEast](#)).