

# Surrey Archaeological Society

No 21 September 2022

## E-newsletter

Welcome to the Society's September 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](mailto:info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk)), those interested in volunteer opportunities or general outreach can contact me at [outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto: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*)

### Medieval Studies Forum pottery study day

On **Saturday 1 October** (10:00-15:20) at East Horsley Village Hall, the MSF will be hosting a study day on medieval pottery, covering topics from the clay used, the techniques of pot making, pottery identification and the impact on the people of medieval society.

The timetable, including speaker titles, is as follows:

10.00 Chair (registration from 9.30)

10.10 Pottery and People in Medieval Society: Duncan Brown (Historic England)

11.10 Coffee/Tea

11.30 Surrey White Wares and how to tell them apart: Jacqui Pearce (MOLA)

12.15 Research on Surrey whitewares: a short outline of the work being undertaken: Lyn Spencer (SyAS), for her Master's Dissertation (UCL)

12.30 Two kilns at North Park Quarry, Bletchingley: greyware production in the Limpsfield tradition: Lorraine Mephram (Wessex Archaeology)

13.00 Lunch (During the lunch there will be an opportunity for pottery identification)

13.40 Clays in Surrey: what, why, where?: Dr Mark Eller (Geologist MVGS)

14.30 Understanding the Early Medieval Pottery Assemblage from Lyminge: Dr Lisa Backhouse, Medieval Pottery Specialist

15.10 The work of Steve Nelson (in honour of): Nikki Cowlard (SyAS)

15.20 Closing Remarks

Tickets are £12. A full programme and online booking via PayPal can be found on the [events listing](#) on the Society's website.





## Annual General Meetings

On **Sunday 6 November 2022** the AGMs of Surrey Archaeological Society and Surrey Industrial History Group will be held in St Catherine's Village Hall (Chestnut Avenue, Guildford, GU2 4HF) as follows: **(14.30)** Surrey Archaeological Society and **(15.30)** Surrey Industrial History Group.

Members of SyAS and SIHG are welcome to attend either or both meetings but voting is restricted to the members of each. There is parking for 20 cars at the Hall and street parking in Chestnut Avenue.

## Medieval Graffiti recording day, St Andrew's, Cobham

Although the Medieval Studies Forum's planned September workshop on medieval graffiti at St Andrew's Cobham had to be postponed, it is currently being rescheduled for November. The day will include a talk and tour of the church from Dr David Taylor, overview of graffiti and its recording, and group sessions to record some of the graffiti within the church. Please contact [medforum@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:medforum@hotmail.co.uk) to express interest.



*(Photo by Abi Coskun)*

## Local History Symposium

On **Saturday 8 October** (9:55-15:30) at Surrey History Centre, the Surrey Local History Committee will hold its annual local history symposium, this year themed on Poverty ("You have the poor with you always").

Talks include Catherine Ferguson on "Those that "pinch and suffer want" – the treatment of the poor in post-Restoration Surrey: a tapestry of local variation', Judy Hill on 'Rethinking the Old Poor Law once seen as profligate, extravagant and grievously flawed in 1834 – fact or fiction?', Viv Bennet on 'Spike Lives – stories of inmates at Guildford Workhouse in 1881' and Martin Stilwell 'Quality housing for deserving workers. Building high quality council housing for the ex-servicemen and workers of Surrey after WW1'.

Tickets are priced at £15. For full programme and booking form, please visit the [website](#).

## Call for volunteers for postcard project

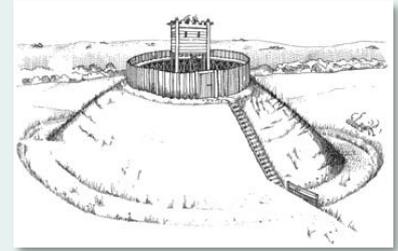
We would like some help transcribing the messages on our [postcard collection](#). The cards are hosted online and mostly confirm safe arrival, imminent departure, fine weather and nice scenery. Around 500 cards, perhaps half of the collection, have brief messages; most also have the recipient's name and address, and some have legible postmarks.

This work can be done online at home, but the cards can also be viewed in the Society's library at Abinger. If you're interested, please contact [outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:outreach@surreyarchaeology.org.uk).



## Surrey Historic Environment Research Framework 2022

On **Saturday 26 November**, the Society will host its annual SHERF conference on the theme of ‘Defensive structures: symbols of power?’ This will be an online Zoom conference, with a range of speakers, including Barney Harris on linear earthworks, Krysia Truscoe on oppida, Stuart Brooks on Anglo-Saxon burhs, William Wyeth on timber towers, Peter Mills on Civil War defences and Paul Ferris on WW2 defences.



*Abinger motte (by David Williams)*

The full programme and booking are now available [online](#) (tickets £5).

## Surrey environmental update

On 24 August, the International Council of Museums (ICOM) approved a new museum definition after a wide-reaching consultation process. The definition reads:

“A museum is a not-for-profit, permanent institution in the service of society that researches, collects, conserves, interprets and exhibits tangible and intangible heritage. Open to the public, accessible and inclusive, museums foster diversity and **sustainability**. They operate and communicate ethically, professionally and with the participation of communities, offering varied experiences for education, enjoyment, reflection and knowledge sharing.”

I have highlighted a key word: sustainability. As an international definition, we can now see the importance that is being placed on environmental sustainability in museums.

Closer to home, Zero Carbon, Guildford is hosting the [Great Big Green Week](#) from 24 September to 2 October. The Great Big Green Week is a Climate Coalition initiative billed as ‘the largest event for climate & nature ever seen in the UK’. “Take the opportunity to engage with your local community to tackle climate change in a week of events, talks and workshops.”



Another exciting event in early October is [We Make Tomorrow 2022](#). This one-day (in-person and online) summit will look at political, demographic, economic and social changes driven by our changing climate, and explore how working with shared purpose can generate social, economic and creative value that helps us all to imagine and craft a better tomorrow.

*Emma Coburn (SyAS Council)*

## Cocks Farm Abinger 2022 excavation update

Heat and lack of rain made excavation at Cocks Farm Abinger (CFA) difficult, but a large and determined team, including a number of volunteers new to us, persevered through baked soil and temperatures that meant that 30 minutes was the most that anyone could stay in the trench. Despite these problems, good results were achieved. The L-shaped trench found the northern part of building M, previously seen in T29, in the northwest area of the trench, while a new building, or part of one, was found in the southeast area. Continuations of many post-built fence-lines and some new ones were seen, for the most part on previously seen alignments. A two-phase roundhouse was discovered: phase I was about 6m in diameter, with an eaves-drip gully 40cms outside the ring of posts, which suggests a shingle roof. The second phase had an inner ring of posts placed in the eaves-drip gully of the first; these posts had pads at their bases to raise them above the base of the gully. One of these pads was a piece of Roman tile, thus dating at least this second phase. A Roman rim-herd on the base of the gully suggests that Phase I may also have been Roman. The outer ring of second phase posts gave a diameter of 9.2m, while there was a ring of stakeholes at the centre of about 1.2m diameter.

To the east of the roundhouse an area of small scoop-like pits had apparently been ploughed over in Roman times. Finds within one may indicate that this was a prehistoric pit. A definitely prehistoric pit lay just outside the general area of pits. It was about 1m in diameter and contained Grooved Ware and some flints including a scraper.

In the trench generally finds were sparse, mostly being flints. Surprisingly, more flint-tempered pottery than greyware was found. Among the prehistoric pottery was a sherd of a base that may possibly have come from a Beaker. Thanks are due to Jon Cotton for his identifications of some of the more diagnostic prehistoric pottery.

Post-ex on the CFA finds will continue every Thursday at the Research Centre. Please contact Emma Corke or Nikki Cowlard if you would like to take part.



*Early days, excavating and recording postholes and pits. Already it is hot, but umbrellas help.*



*The yellow lines show Phase I; red Phase II; blue the central ring. Note that the photograph is at an angle and all the rings are concentric.*

## September outreach sessions

September has been a busy month, with a number of heritage outreach sessions run by the Society, covering a wide range of audiences.

This includes a special artefact handling session which was arranged for Seekers at Woodlarks, a local charity working with visually impaired adults at Woodlarks campsite in Tilford. Using various items from the Society's handling collections, the participants were able to experience local history from the development of the earliest flint tools to medieval pottery fabrics, including the intricacies of Roman tile designs and Saxon grave goods in between. Feedback was very positive, particularly in light of the connection to the group's previous day's clay-making session held at Watts Gallery.



This was followed by an environmental processing session for the Chertsey Young Archaeologists' Club, who came and helped with the wet sieving and sample processing from this summer's Abinger excavation. Great work was carried out by all, and we look forward to the upcoming YAC sessions we're leading on **Saturday 15 October** on LiDAR and **19 November** groundtruthing at Chobham Common (booking info [here](#)).

The month was wrapped up with a Raising Aspirations talk to students at Oxted School, who have recently been inspired by the Digging for Britain series and were very keen to hear about what opportunities and careers are available to them in the archaeological field.

## Finds from the FLO

Although coins of Queen Elizabeth II are too young for recording with the PAS, there are many of her namesake Elizabeth I, including this rather special gold half pound ([SUR-EBF4D4](#)) struck in 1560-1561 and found near Godstone. Elizabethan gold coins are extremely rare (with only *c.*20 recorded on the database), and this is the only complete example of this denomination.





## A Landscape in Time study day



On **Tuesday 11 October**, Surrey Gardens Trust will be running A Landscape in Time Study Day focusing on Research & Recording at Surrey History Centre from 9.30-14.30. The day will explore SHC's rich repository of historic materials and the process of researching a historic garden or landscape. In addition to tours of the centre, attendees will participate in two illustrated lectures with Julian Pooley, a professional archivist of 35 years, and Sandra

Pullen, long-standing member of SGT's recorders group. The study day is aimed at both the experienced researcher and those new to research. Tickets are £20 for SGT members and £23 for non-members. Booking is through the [website](#) (deadline 4 October).

## Surrey Heritage online talks

Surrey Heritage will resume their online heritage talks this autumn, which run on Wednesdays from 17:30 and are available to purchase for £5 [online](#).



**Wednesday 5 October** – The book that changed my life (Julian Pooley)

**Wednesday 26 October** – John Evelyn in Surrey

**Wednesday 9 November** – In the Shadow of the Great War: Surrey 1914 to 1922

Please note on **Wednesday 2 November** Surrey History Trust will be presenting a special lecture “‘The second editions are the ones to have’; revising the Pevsner Architectural Guide to Surrey” by Charles O’Brien at 19.00 at Surrey History Centre (also to be streamed online). Tickets are also available for £5 from the link above.

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