

Surrey Archaeological Society

January 2021

E-newsletter

Whether you are a SyAS member or a non-member interested in the archaeology and history of Surrey, welcome to this first general e-newsletter from the Society. It has been a strange New Year – whilst most of us were glad to see the back of 2020, 2021 has not been much better so far (although vaccinations promise a rosier future).

As a society we have had to severely curtail our activities and the opportunities we are able to offer. However there are positives in the way we have been forced to react to Covid and its restrictions. From relying on just physical meetings, we have embraced Zoom, and this has enabled us to keep functioning. Our trustees, council and committees meet online,



Palaeography sessions continuing online

new desktop projects have been set up and some training has continued. Groups have held online talks, and our first Research conference took place successfully in November. Two more conferences are planned in the months ahead: our annual conference will take place over two Saturday mornings in February/March and a Roman Studies Group regional conference on the Late Iron Age – Early Roman transition is planned for May (see details later in the newsletter). If you are new to the SyAS website there are many links to history and archaeology sites, relating to Surrey and further afield. If you have a little spare time in lockdown do have a delve – you might be surprised at what you might find.

Nikki Cowlard (*SyAS President*)

Note from Editor

A happy new year to all! I'm sure many of you, like me, are looking forward to getting back out in the field again. The Society's new e-newsletter is intended for more regular communication with our members, and the following pages will highlight some of the conferences, lectures, training sessions and occasional news items which may be of interest – hopefully these will begin to fill up again in the coming months. 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)), which is always the first port of call for group and event updates.

Best wishes,

Anne Sassin (*SyAS Projects and Outreach Officer*)



Annual Symposium

This year's Annual Symposium will be run over two days and held online via Zoom. The event is [bookable online](#) via PayPal at a cost of £5 per household for the two half-day events (one ticket will gain entry to both days).



Part 1 – Saturday 27 February (10:00-13:00)

10:00 Chair: Tim Wilcock

10:05 Lidar as a citizen science tool – a Kent case study: Dr Anne Sassin (Kent Downs AONB)

10:40 The distribution of the Mesolithic axe over Surrey's geology: Chris Taylor (SyAS)

11:15 COFFEE/TEA

11:30 St Catherine's Hill cave, Guildford: Dr Michael Shapland (ASE)

12:10 Medieval Spirituality: Dr Catherine Ferguson (SyAS)

12:40 Q&A

Part 2 – Saturday 13 March (10:00-13:00)

10:05 Cocks Farm Abinger, excavation update: Emma Corke (SyAS)

10:40 Ewell pits and quarries: Rebecca Haslam (PCA)

11:15 COFFEE/TEA

11:30 Prehistoric and early historic routeways of the Weald and Downland in South East England: Prof. Martin Bell (University of Reading)

12:10 Recent Finds in Surrey: Dr Simon Maslin (PAS/SCC)

12:45 Q&A



Shining a light on the transition from Late Iron Age to Early Roman SE England

The Roman Studies Group will be hosting this conference originally planned for May 2020, and now re-scheduled to **Saturday 8 May** and run as an on-line event, using Zoom. A small fee will be charged, and details on how to book will be appearing on the [website](#) soon.



The event will be chaired by Paul Booth (Research Associate, University of Oxford), and speakers and titles are expected to be as follows (titles are subject to revision):

Thomas Matthews Boehmer (Doctoral Student, University of Cambridge): Tracking identity change and societal shift in the Late Iron Age and early Roman period

Dr Tom Brindle (Cotswold Archaeology): Coins and material culture

Louise Rayner (with input from Anna Doherty) (Archaeology South-East, UCL): Location, location, location: exploring variability in LIA-Roman pottery assemblages through case studies from SE England

Prof Tony King (Professor of Roman Archaeology University of Winchester): Celtic to Romano-Celtic? The archaeology of religious sites in SE Britain, 1st century BC to 2nd century AD.

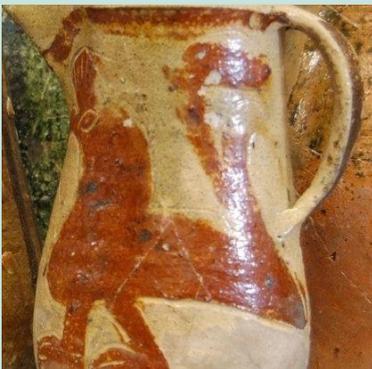
Dr Martyn Allen (Oxford Archaeology): The countryside in the South-East, from Iron Age to early Roman

Dr David Rudling (Honorary Research Fellow University of Roehampton): 'Becoming Roman?' The Late Iron Age to Early Roman transition in Sussex

Prof Mike Fulford (Professor of Archaeology University of Reading): Silchester: from Iron Age oppidum to Roman City

The Material Culture of Medieval Rural Households

For those who missed Dr Ben Jervis (Cardiff University) speak at the Medieval Studies Forum lecture and AGM in December, he will be giving this talk again as a free University of Sussex Archaeological Society lecture on **Wednesday 24 February** at 19:30. This overview of the findings of the recently completed project 'Living Standards and Material Culture in English Rural Households, 1300-1600' combines historical and archaeological data to investigate the possessions of non-elite households, discussing the diversity of objects acquired by rural households, including cooking equipment, tableware, bedding and furniture, and exploring some of the factors which influenced consumption habits.



Although a free event, you must [register in advance](#) for this online Zoom meeting.



Audio guided walks from Surrey County Archaeological Unit

Using the latest research and results from excavations, SCAU have launched two new audio guided walks around archaeological sites. The aim of these walks is to help local people explore their heritage, particularly during Lockdown when routinely walking the same paths can become monotonous. The walks each offer an introduction to the sites using a variety of sounds and images to engage all ages.

Launched in October, the first of these circular walks is around the site of Witley Camp and was created with help from Godalming Museum and the National Trust to celebrate The Festival of Archaeology. The second guide takes visitors to site of Woking Palace, beginning at Manor Way car park in Old Woking.

Godalming Museum, National Trust, SCAU, HERITAGE FUND logos. izi.TRAVEL the storytelling platform.

Free Audio Guide

Witley Camp
in the
First World War

1 Download the izi.TRAVEL app

2 Search for the tour **Witley Camp in the First World War**

Thousands of museum guides and city tours in one single app

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Surrey County Archaeological Unit, Friends of Woking Palace logos. izi.TRAVEL the storytelling platform.

Free Audio Guide

Woking Palace
Walking Tour

1 Download the izi.TRAVEL app

2 Search for the tour **Woking Palace**

Thousands of museum guides and city tours in one single app

Google play, App Store, Windows Store

To get the Witley Camp and Woking Palace audio guide for free, you will need to download the izi.TRAVEL app on to your phone. After this has downloaded you can search for ‘Surrey County Archaeological Unit’ and select the walk you would like to do. You are of course responsible for your own safety throughout the walk, and please remember to follow the latest Government COVID advice for your area.

Please send any feedback or comments for these walks to Hannah Potter (SCAU Community Archaeologist) via email: education.scau@surreycc.gov.uk.

Local heritage sites

As we begin the year still in the midst of the pandemic, we have been reflecting on some of the incredible heritage and landscapes within our county, much of which we can still experience while undertaking local socially-distanced walks in our areas or read about from the safety of our homes. A few of our staff, trustees and committee members have begun sharing their favourite sites, which have featured on our social media pages.

Frensham Common

Anne, our Projects Officer, shares one of her favourite local sites to visit, the impressive National Trust heathland of Frensham Common at the western edge of the Surrey Hills, home to two large medieval fishponds and a possible total of ten Bronze Age tumuli. Although the best known monuments are the four restored scheduled barrows on the King's Ridge, the other six potential barrows cluster around the Great Pond, one of which (at Warren Hill) was excavated in 1996 by David and Audrey Graham and revealed to be of Bronze Age construction. You can read about this work from the *Collections* article (Volume 89, 2002) on the ADS (<https://doi.org/10.5284/1069299>).



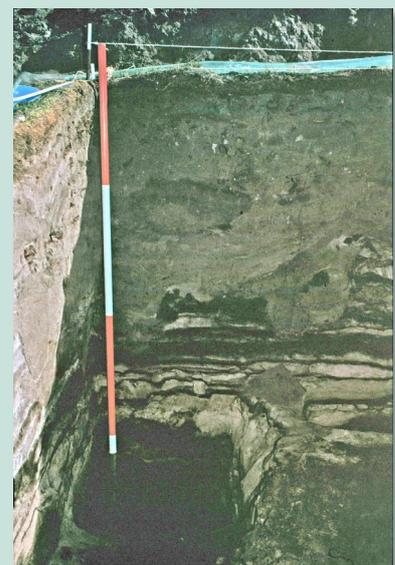
Three bowl barrows on King's Ridge



Restoration of south barrow on King's Ridge, overlooking Great Pond



Warren Hill barrow dig 1996 (Photo David Grabam)



Warren Hill trench end section

Church of St Peter and St Paul in Chaldon

Moving to the opposite end of the county, one of Rose's favourite sites to visit is the notable Grade I listed church of St Peter and St Paul in Chaldon, situated high in the North Downs to the west of Caterham. Although the site is first mentioned as land held by Chertsey Abbey in AD 675 in the Charter of Frithwald, it is best known for its exceptional late 12th century wall mural of the purgatorial ladder separating the Weighing of Souls from the Jaws of Hell. White-washed over, likely in the 17th century, the painting was rediscovered and restored in 1869, and later conserved again in 1989, refreshing the dark red and yellow ochre colouring still apparent today. You can read more about this painting, including detailed discussion on the interpretation, from the *Collections* article (Volume 72, 1980) <https://doi.org/10.5284/1069041>. The Historic England [list entry](#) also contains extensive information on the church fabric.



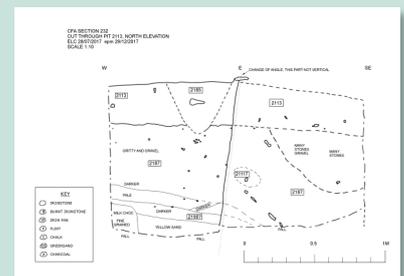
Chaldon church (Photo Christine Pittman)



Mural painting, c. AD 1170-1200, on the west wall (Christine Pittman)

Digital drawing (GIMP software) refresher sessions

Following the digital line drawing GIMP introduction courses led by Elvin Mullinger (SyAS) at Abinger Resource Centre, refresher sessions run online via Zoom are being offered to those who attended the original course and would like to build on their GIMP digital drawing skills. Participants will ideally have use of a graphic tablet, but you can also refresh your knowledge simply using a laptop touchpad or PC mouse.



If you are interested, please contact elvin.mullinger@gmail.com, who is currently setting aside some time each week for 45 minute one-to-one Zoom sessions.

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