



DORKING

LOCAL

HISTORY

GROUP

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2018 No. 40

The very hot weather has given way to a pleasant autumn ambience. I do hope you all enjoyed the holiday season and kept well.

I am currently looking forward to enjoying some of the Heritage events about to take place this year, and will probably meet some of you on them.

The last programme of talks experienced more than one unfortunate rearrangement due to ill health, so we are hoping our next 6 months will be more consistently 'as planned'. Nevertheless, it has been an enjoyable set of talks, and as always it's been a delight to meet and chat to you on these evenings.

Our next 6 months programme is included as usual and promises some interesting and varied topics. Meanwhile, I continue to look forward to seeing you at these forthcoming events. May the autumn and winter prove kind to us all.

Gwen Wood – Chairman

Abinger Archaeological Dig

Simon Ritchie of Leatherhead invited members to visit this dig just before it closed for 2018 season. A total of ten of us accepted this invitation in July and had a very pleasant and interesting time, hosted by Emma Corke who owns and runs the dig.

It was a very warm day and the 'diggers' were amazed about the fact that the site had no rain for the whole extent of the 2018 season. The workers were made up of interested volunteers and archaeological students on work experience. The site is fascinating and the visit left many of us in awe about its discoveries and the mysteries still to be explored.

Present excavations are concentrating on pre-Roman activity as much Bronze Age pottery and flint from Neolithic and Mesolithic eras has been found. Burnt carrstone pits are being discovered. Previous excavations have established that the site chosen as the position for a substantial, roman villa, clearly lived in by a family of some importance and wealth around the 4th century.



2018 dig at Cock's Farm

It included some beautiful mosaics, heated rooms, bath house, courtyards and many rooms.



Early 4th century mosaic recorded in 1995

A kiln, with ironstone lining has been found; radiocarbon dating of the charcoal in the base of the kiln, gives its date as between AD 55 and 216 at 95% confidence interval. The kiln is therefore likely to be associated with an early phase of villa construction at the site.

Probable Late Iron Age cremation burials were uncovered in 2014. These were left for further more thorough exploration at a later time.



Bovine burials, probably ceremonial, at the closure of the villa.

Metal detecting has been extensive, but has only resulted in a potin coin, a Roman balance arm, 2nd century plate brooch, 2 medieval coins and part of a 13/14th century steelyard weight casing.



*Bronze Age deposit
on site – later block lifted out for further research.*

We were able to view the process of finding and carefully excavating post holes, with quality explanations of the work being carried out. Small pieces of interest were being carefully cleaned, recorded with map references, and bagged up for further research at the Abinger archeological centre. Those of us who didn't rush away after the visit continued our discussions over a relaxing Abinger pub lunch in the sun.

Gwen Wood

Spring Outing to Haslemere Museum



Haslemere is an independent museum for the people of Haslemere. It has wide ranging collections, including those of natural history, geology and human history, with artefacts from around the world.

It was fascinating to see fresh wildflowers on display. Apparently, the man responsible for the Observers Book of Mosses and Lichen had encouraged living specimens from nature to be displayed and this practice is continued to this today.

The grounds were very pretty.

Some of us followed trails around Haslemere. It has old streets with timbered and tile hung buildings. Others shopped, but most of us stopped for lunch as there was no shortage of places to eat and watch the world go by.

All in all a most delightful day.

Katie Mackay

Autumn Programme

The programme for the next six months is enclosed with this mailing.

John Patterson is our Meetings Organiser

If you know of any speakers that you feel would make an interesting evening please let John know by contacting him on

01306888401 or jhp3660@yahoo.co.uk

Subscriptions

Subscriptions are due on the first of January each year and remain at £8 for singles and £10 for two or more at the same address. Paying by standing order cuts down on our work considerably. It also eliminates the member having to remember to make out a cheque on the first of January.

Cheques can be sent to the Membership Secretary at the address below.

Membership

We welcome the following new members:

Stephen Roch
Mr & Mrs D Shepherd
Pip Wood
Jacqui Marsden
Marion Houghton

Obituaries

Leigh and Daphne Hart - 2 of our longstanding supporters who were both in their 80s when knocked over and killed by a van last October, crossing the road near the Watermill pub on Reigate Road.

They met and married in New Zealand, where Leigh was born, and, after living and working in Scotland, they moved south when Leigh got a job at the Royal Marsden Hospital

They were regular attendees at our talks and on our outings. They had researched the history of their 17th century cottage in Punchbowl Lane where they had lived since 1990. Beryl Higgins and Vivien Ettliger wrote an article about its history in Dorking History 2005.

Roy Batchelor – a regular attendee of our talks who also helped with our evening refreshments

Mrs P Hunter

Mr J Quantrell

Miss R E Stewart

We will miss their presence and send their families our sympathies.

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