

Make your Views Known

The FUTURE of...

Guildford Museum

Have your say...



"There should be more about the Norman Castle" Medieval Knight

"It should be better than Wonderland and have a place for a cup of tea" Mad Hatter



What do you think?

The future of the Museum is, of course, currently being discussed by the Museum Working Group. In their last report they said that they have an open mind and 'all options are open' It is therefore vitally important that we, the Public, make our views known to the Group for otherwise how will they know what kind of Museum the Town desires?

The most valuable way to make your views known is by writing to the Museum Working Party at the Borough Council and to your Borough Councillor. A quick way to send your

comments is through the Guildford Heritage Forum web site.

Visit <http://www.guildfordheritageforum.co.uk>

<http://www.surreycommunity.info/fogm>

The Editor welcomes items for the Newsletter or comments. Please send them to Eric Morgan 21 St Michael's Avenue, Guildford, GU3 3LY. Telephone Number (01483) 233344.

FRIENDS OF GUILDFORD MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

March 2016



Issue 35



From the Editor

The future of the Museum is, of course, our main concern, but there has been little more news since the October statement from the Museum Working Group, which was circulated to all members. The next report of the Group will be presented to the executive Committee on Tuesday 19th April. The latest bulletin from the Surrey Archaeological Society gives the following information- "The Borough Council now say that the Societies collections on display and in store at Guildford Museum itself can stay there free of charge and offered a three month extension for the purported Section 25 Notice to 29 April 2016 to allow time for more detailed discussions. They have specified the high charges they wish to make for storage of Society collections held at the Woking Road depot and a more reasonable charge for the office to remain at least for the time being and probably at 48 Quarry Street. It was made clear that it would not be possible for the Societies Library to stay in the Margary Room at Castle Arch on the grounds that the Borough Council intends to use the room to extend the Museum displays "

The Guildford Heritage Forum was formed specifically to provide a vehicle for people to express their views on the Museum and they tell us about themselves on page 8.

No dates have been given at the moment for future exhibitions at the Museum but I understand the Ockham Hoard, discovered at the Hautboy in 2013, will be placed on display. The hoard is 3000 years old and contains a bracelet of a type only previously found within 16 miles of Brighton. Another exhibition in the planning is on The Great Train Robbery,

Members may wish to go to the S.E Area event of the British Association of Friends of Museums. The Friends of Brooklands Museum have very kindly offered to host the event this year on **Wednesday 15th of June 2016.** "**Brooklands successfully moves into the 21st Century; funding, communications and events**" is their chosen theme. Booking forms can be obtained from Nick Bale 459997

Congratulations On the marriage of our Collections Officer, Catriona to Mr C Wilson



From Catriona

Chris and I were married on 30th May 2015 at St Botolph's church in Hadstock, Essex (very near Cambridge) and is where my Mum's family hail from. Some of the family still live in the village, and the church and manor have a long association with Mum's family. St Botolph's is one of two possible sites for a church founded by Cnut after his victory at the battle of Assandun in 1016. The church fabric includes some lovely Anglo Saxon carvings as well as some re-used Roman stones from a nearby villa, so is crammed full of lovely archaeology. Chris made me promise to be more excited about the wedding than the church, and I think I just about managed that!

We held the reception, including a lively ceilidh, at Childerley Hall on the other side of Cambridge very close to where I grew up. Charles I was taken to Childerley Hall on house arrest by Fairfax, and (another probably apocryphal tale) supposedly met Cromwell there during his stay.

We set off for a honeymoon in British Columbia, Canada, a few days after the wedding, armed with guide books courtesy of Nick Bale. While there, we managed lots of activities including hiking, cycling, kayaking and white water rafting, and saw whales, hummingbirds, golden eagles, porpoises, coyotes and all manner of other creatures. We even managed some wine tasting in the Okanagan and a day at an outdoor spa in Whistler with views of mountains all around. Both of us agreed that Canada was one of the most breath taking places we have been to, and are itching to go back as soon as possible.

Honorary Freeman Jennifer Powell



The Friends of the Museum would like to congratulate Jennifer Powell, our Chairman, on having the title of Honorary Freeman conferred upon her in recognition of her long service as a councillor, 1987 - 2015. She has been Mayor also deputy Mayor of the Borough and served on a large number of Committees

including executive, Planning, joint Scrutiny and many others. In addition she has served on many external bodies including Age Concern, and South east Arts General Advisory

Council.

Jen has been a member of the Friends from the start and in June 2001 a picture of her in her Mayoral robes appeared on our front cover. Her enthusiasm for the Museum and her vast knowledge of the Borough has made it a delight to work with her.

Jean Wickens - Our new Secretary

We are extremely pleased that Jean Wickens agreed to take on the role of Secretary at the AGM in 2015. Jean has been a member since 2013, she is an Undercroft volunteer and is a regular participant on Village Walks and other events.

Jean was born in Guildford and has lived in Guildford for most of her life. She studied history at A level, and studied for her first degree at The University of Surrey. Jean worked in a number of public authorities during her career, starting with the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (as was). After having three children and a 9 year break



from paid work, she joined Surrey County Council working in front line social work mainly with older people. She later went on to producing Surrey's Community Care Plan, working with health, local councils, the voluntary sector and social service users and carers. More recently she was involved in setting up local health and social care 'watchdog' bodies - LINKs and Healthwatch Surrey.

When Jean retired in 2010 she was able to return to her interest in local history, completing Matthew Alexander's 2 year Local History Course before joining the Acorns History group and Friends of Guildford Museum. Jean is also actively involved in Guildford Allotment Society, SCC Garden Club, Guildford Travel Club, The National Trust and U3A and when she has time researching her family history.

Whilst the Secretary's key role is to organize meetings and minutes, Jean's local knowledge and career background are valuable resources for the Friends committee.

Sandra Morgan M.B.E



The Friends' of the Museum were delighted to hear that Sandra Morgan, one of our original members, has just been awarded the M.B.E. in the Queen's New Year Honours List.

Sandra was a Magistrate for 25 years, set up the Fairlands W.I. 54 years ago, was a school governor for 35 years at five different schools (Chair of Governors for 20 years), coordinated and sold poppies for the British Legion for 50 years and was a member of her local Community Association for 50 years serving as Chairman for a period in the 1980's. She has served on Worplesdon Parish Council since May 1968 and was Chairman of the Council between 1985 and 1989.

In between all of this Sandra has somehow managed to find time to contribute to the Friends of the Guildford Museum newsletters and has proof read everyone!

We would all like to send our warmest congratulations to Sandra for such a well-deserved recognition for all her valuable work.

Views of the Guildford Heritage Forum on Guildford Museum

The Museum Working Group is working on Phase 1 of their review into the future of the museum and will be reporting to the executive on 22nd March. We don't exactly know what that will entail but are expecting more information on whether the museum will remain in Quarry Street or move to a new site.

A great opportunity or a missed one?

This should be an exciting time for the museum because at long last the Council is trying to do something. If we get it right then we could really enhance the way we celebrate our heritage. If we get it wrong it will be a missed opportunity that will not be rectified for a very long time. The Council is committed to a museum

Have your say

There will be a public consultation at some point but our views are very important. We don't have to wait for the consultation. We can make comments directly to the Council or through the various groups such as the Friends of the Museum.

The Guildford Heritage Forum

The Guildford Heritage Forum has been very active over the last few months in fighting the museum's cause. It has established a good relationship with the Museum Review Group which follows the comments put on the website. So any comments put there do have an effect. We need to be ready for the consultation and the Forum will be helping by publishing some useful information which will help us all make informed judgements.

'I am much pleased with Guildford'

Samuel Wesley's visit to the Russell family.

In the summer of 1776, the ten-year-old Samuel Wesley, youngest child of the Methodist preacher and hymn-writer, Charles Wesley, made an extended visit to the Russell family in Guildford. Samuel was a musical prodigy. His father wrote a detailed account of the upbringing of both his sons (Charles junior, eight years older than Samuel, was equally talented), and according to his father, at the age of four Samuel taught himself to read from a score of Handel's oratorio *Samson*. Formal organ lessons began when he was six, and violin lessons a little later. By the time he was seven he had composed a variety of pieces for organ and violin and an oratorio, *Ruth* (all the manuscripts are preserved in the British Library). Charles Wesley was active in promoting his son's talents. He took Samuel to play to several leading musicians, including William Boyce, Master of the King's Music, who called the young Samuel 'the English Mozart' – a reference to the Mozart children who had dazzled London during their visit to the capital in 1764-65. Charles Wesley later wrote to Boyce to ask for a copy of his *Cathedral Music* for Samuel to study – it is interesting to see that the great hymn writer was not above producing such doggerel:

The humble Petition
Of a rhiming Musician
(A Petition of Natural Right)
Undeniably shews
That, wherever he goes,
Church-Music is all his delight . . .
Three volumes of yours
Which his Prayer procures,
Will afford him Examples enough,
And save Poet Sam
(Your Petitioner's name)
From a deluge of musical stuff. . .

(S T Kimbrough and Oliver Beckerlegge, *The Unpublished Poetry of Charles Wesley*, Nashville, 1988, vol. 1, p. 279.)

Samuel's stay in Guildford is remarkably well documented. He was accompanied by his elder sister Sarah (and his dog Harley), and Sarah wrote regularly to her mother, giving a lively account of the visit.

to it. He has out to Papa and 'lets him play' it is
 Lady Gatehouse who was very lavish. She has been
 on Sam and said Mr. Russell had not yet half enough
 of the business. whoever hears him is astonished but it
 is a great favour they can get him to play the
 Company was here and would be I believe, if it was
 not to be rewarded by Gunpowder. He has contracted
 a great intimacy with the man who makes it and
 is continually desiring him to let some off for the
 strictly, however his promise of not doing it himself.
 I think his appetite (if anything) is better than it was

(Sarah's letters are preserved in the John Wesley Collection, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia. I am grateful to the university for making them available to me.) From Sarah we learn that the Russells 'unite in

endeavouring to render Guildford agreeable to us . . . Sammy does not seem to have a wish beyond his enjoyment.' He was always ready to leave his music to 'go and play at cricket with some other boys'; Sarah adds that 'he has quickly got acquainted with the whole town' – a freedom that must have been very welcome to Samuel, whose sheltered childhood had kept him apart from what his father considered the dangerous influence of his peers. In one of his own rare letters, Samuel told his mother that he was 'much pleased with Guildford', and added, intriguingly, 'I am very much diverted with many things that are in this house'. The Russells were clearly eager to show off their young guest. In return for their hospitality, Samuel was expected to play to a variety of 'important' visitors to the house, including the family of Sir Fletcher Norton, Speaker of the House of Commons (who were 'very much delighted'), and Lady Anne Gatehouse ('very lavish of her encomiums'). The visit coincided with the assizes, when the Russells's house was 'continually filled with counsellors and Right Honourables' and when 'crowds come to hear Sam.'

Occasionally a more critical note intrudes. 'His music,' Sarah complained, 'I think, he is not so attentive to as I could wish. If you could

hint this to him without acquainting him I mentioned it, he may perhaps pay some attention to it . . . Whoever hears him is astonish'd, but it is a great favour if they can get him to play . . . nor would he, I believe, if he was not to be rewarded by Gunpowder. He has contracted a great intimacy with the man who makes it, and is continually desiring him to let some off, for he strictly remembers his promise of not doing it himself.'



Gunpowder features frequently in the letters. In the course of the Guildford visit, Samuel got to know the Russells's friend James Price, 'the man who makes it', an experimental chemist, who provided amusement for the boy by allowing him to set off a canon every morning and firecrackers every evening. The Russells organised a public firework

New book about Alan Turing and Guildford

by Paul Backhouse

Alan Turing has been described as the father of modern computing and his code breaking work during the Second World War played a key role in victory for the Allied forces - shortening the war by two years and saving millions of lives. However, these achievements were not fully recognised or understood in his lifetime. During the 1950's, at the height of Cold War paranoia, Alan was prosecuted for having a gay relationship. He was forced to undergo 'chemical castration', which changed his appearance and behaviour. His security clearance was removed. Two years later, he committed his suicide at the age of 41.

As knowledge of the code breaking achievements at Bletchley Park became made more public, Alan's fame started to grow. His ideas of a "universal Turing machine" paved the way for the digital revolution. The PCs, tablets and smart phones that so many of us now take for granted are descended from Alan's concept of a universal machine

In the United Kingdom, changing attitudes and laws towards homosexuality led to growing outrage at the way in which he had been treated. A public apology, on behalf of the Government, by then Prime Minister Gordon Brown was followed by Alan receiving a posthumous Royal Pardon in 2013. In the following year, the Oscar-winning film "Imitation Game", starring Benedict Cumberbatch, introduced Alan's remarkable achievements and personal tragedy to a new generation. Alan Turing has become a household name and national hero.

Perhaps less known is that Guildford was Alan Turing's family home. He lived in the town as a boy with his family in Ennismore Avenue, close to Stoke Park. After he graduated from Cambridge in 1934, he left home but continued to visit family members in Guildford throughout his life. His mother lived in the Town until shortly before her death and Alan's older brother married and settled here with his family for over 25 years.

When I first read about Alan Turing's life, following a visit to Bletchley Park over a decade ago, I was very moved by his story. What made it even more poignant was that he had grown up within a five minute walk from my own home in Guildford. When I took early retirement in

display for his entertainment, for which John Russell the elder printed handbills, which Samuel 'scattered everywhere' and attracted a great crowd.

Samuel saved one of the bills and sent it proudly to his brother. When Samuel was about to leave Guildford for London, news of his new hobby preceded him: Charles Wesley wrote to his sister and brother-in-law, who were to look after the Wesley children, in humorous vein, begging them to insure their house, 'for there was a great fear that it would be blown up with Sam's fireworks.'

Price, who took his life in 1783 in despair at not being able to convince his scientific peers of his alchemy experiments, maintained a close friendship with Samuel long after the latter left Guildford. In his will he left him his house in the Upper High Street and an 'adjoining property', £1000 in shares, £50 in cash, and all his instruments and books on music. Samuel came into this inheritance in 1787. It did him little good, and may have been responsible for his failure to exploit his early brilliance; the legacy proved to be a distraction in his subsequent career, giving him independence at just the time in his life when he should have been striving to make the difficult transition from child prodigy to professional musician. Samuel's pressurised childhood had given him a distaste for the profession and, funded by Price's bequest, he spent the next few years studying classics before struggling back to music, to make his way as teacher, composer, editor and performer.

During Samuel's stay in Guildford, John Russell junior drew his portrait (now hanging in the Royal Academy of Music), which shows a corner of the Russells's drawing room; behind Samuel is chamber organ, and at his feet the score of his oratorio, *Ruth*.

Patricia Howard

From Pat's recollections - *one of my happiest memories of a school's walk was when I'd tried to tell the children a bit about young Sam Wesley, and I asked, 'Has anyone here got a bossy big sister?' One tiny boy replied, 'Please, I've only got a little sister, but she's terribly bossy. Will she do?' !!!*

2014, I attended the excellent Guildford History course, delivered by Matthew Alexander and held at the Museum. I subsequently became a

Town Guide and take great pride in showing visitors around our lovely Guildford High Street, Castle Grounds and the River Wey and telling them something of the Town's history and about famous "sons of Guildford" such as George Abbott and Lewis Carroll. However, there was no mention of Alan Turing's links. With the support of Hugh Anscombe, Leader of the Guildford Town Guides, and Diana Roberts



at Guildford Borough Council, I developed a new walking tour around Guildford. It was launched last year and includes locations associated with Alan Turing and hearing stories about him told by characters acting as family members and colleagues (played by fellow Town Guides,

with scripts devised by local dramatist Jeff Thomson). The walk proved very popular and will be repeated during the 2016 walking tour season. My new publication covers more material than we are able to include as part of the walk.

This short book tells about the stories and locations associated with Alan Turing and Guildford - the man behind the genius and why Guildford was such an important part of his relatively short life. It is not intended as a technical book or a complete biography of Alan Turing. There are already several good books that cover this ground very well.

What my book describes are episodes in Alan's life with a Guildford connection. I mention how he spent his school holidays, what he did during university vacations at Ennismore Avenue, regular visits to see his brother's family in Jenner Road, the time that Alan brought his fiancée and fellow code-breaker Joan Clark to Guildford during the War

and what his mother used to start by: telling him when he arrived to stay at her home in South Hill. The book also includes over 30 photographs, including several of Alan in Guildford. I hope readers will find these stories both interesting and amusing. I believe that they shed more light on the type of person that Alan Turing was - not an unsociable 'geek' but a shy, slightly vulnerable gay man who was kind and honest, had a wicked sense of humour, a huge sense of adventure and tremendous passion for problem solving. The book's contents are the result of my extensive research, including interviews with Turing family members, access to various archives, many hours spent at the Surrey History Centre and roving the streets of Guildford with old editions of the electoral roll and Kelly's register.

The book will be launched at Guildford Museum on Saturday 5th March (11am-1pm). It will subsequently be on sale (priced at £4.99) at both the Museum and Tourist Information Centre. Copies will also be available for purchase at the end of Turing walks and various talks, including one at the Friends of Guildford Museum Annual General Meeting on May 18th.

As he spent most of his life in lodgings, Guildford is a place where Alan Turing had his roots. We should be proud of our close links with such a great man. I hope that my book will be a help to raise the profile of Guildford as the family home of Alan Turing.

Turing Day

During the 2016 Guildford Summer Festival, there will be a Turing Day celebration on and around 23rd June (Alan Turing's birthday), where Alan's connections to Guildford will be celebrated with plans including walks, talks, showing the film "Imitation Game" and a play. The Summer Festival brochure will be launched in May and full details posted on www.guildfordsummerfestival.co.uk nearer the time

Please Join Us

Don't forget to encourage your friends and relations to join the Friends and support the Museum.

For Membership contact Hugh Anscombe @ fvqmbusiness@yahoo.co.uk

Coin Find – A clue to Roman Activity around Guildford



An emperor's head with a radiating crown is still clearly visible on this well worn Roman coin

When Karen Stevens was asked by detectorists if they could search in her garden near Blackwell Farm, on the northern slopes of the Hog's Back, she was happy to agree but before the detector had even been taken out of the car boot and assembled the detectorist had spotted something with his Mk 1 eyeball.

His eyes were good. He reached to the ground and picked up a tiny Roman coin which must have been lost over 1,700 years ago.

The Roman period is a rather mysterious black hole in our town's history, but recent archaeology has shown that there was considerable Roman activity to the west of town. Perhaps whatever Roman buildings there were in today's town area simply remain undiscovered, beneath an inaccessible site like the railway station?

Luckily, *The Guildford Dragon NEWS* was able to turn to someone knowledgeable, Dr Mary Alexander, former collections officer at Guildford Museum, who very kindly agreed to write the following report about the coin which now belongs to Karen Stevens' son. Dr Alexander writes...



Dr Mary Alexander.

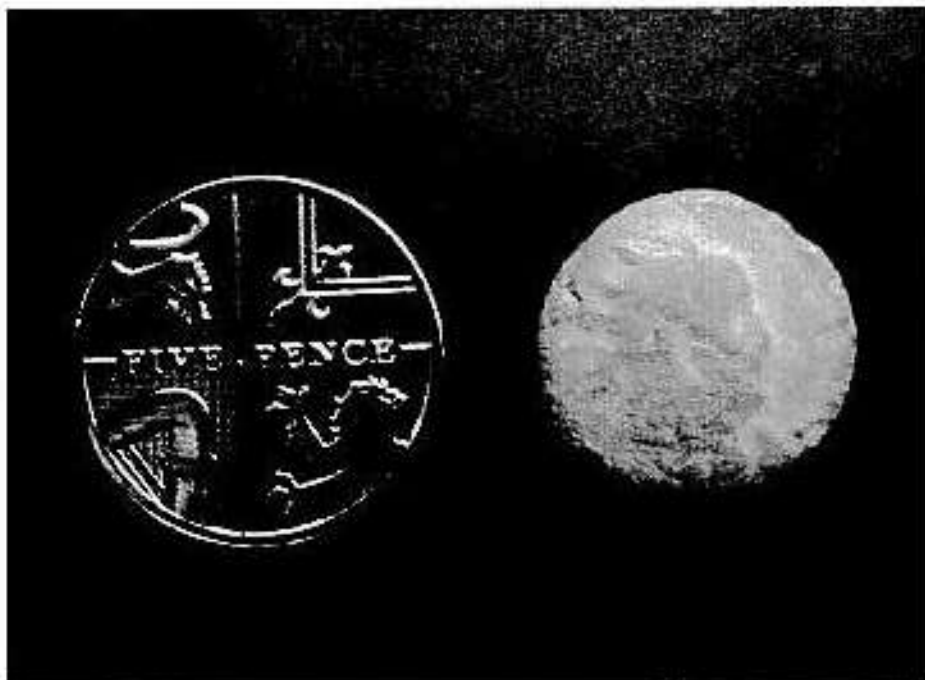
This is a type of coin called a 'barbarous radiate' or 'radiate copy'. These coins copy genuine Roman coins on which the emperor

is shown wearing a 'radiate' crown, which is actually the rays of the sun.

They are called 'barbarous' because they are so badly made. They are much cruder than the official coins, but they seem to have circulated along with official coins, as they are found together in hoards. This means that they must have been used in the same way as genuine coins.

They may have been made locally when there was a shortage of small change, when the official mints were not producing enough coins. So they are not really forgeries, and no-one would mistake them for real coinage.

Coins at that period should have been worth the metal they were made from; these were not, but it must have been convenient to treat them as if they were.



Small change certainly, very small change, as can be seen when the coin is placed next to a modern five pence piece

They were made during the 250s to 270s AD at a period when there were many short-lived emperors, some only recognised in one part of the western empire.

Most are copies of coins of Tetricus I, AD 270-273 or his son Tetricus II, who ruled as his caesar or deputy emperor; Claudius II, 268-270, or Victorinus 268-270. The Tetricks ruled in Gaul (roughly modern France and Belgium) Claudius in Italy and Victorinus in Gaul before Tetricus I.

Other emperors whose coins were sometimes copied were Gallienus, Probus and Postumus. They seem to have been made while the genuine ones were in circulation.

The portrait of the emperor is usually a reasonable copy, but the designs on the reverse are muddled versions of genuine coins. They should show a personification: a human figure representing something

such as Hope, Peace or Happiness but they are not used in the same way as on genuine coins.

This coin may be a copy of one of Tetricus I. The lettering around the edge which would give the emperor's name and titles is missing. The reverse is very worn. It seems to show a person with two legs visible and therefore a man, not a woman – which would be more usual.

It is impossible to guess what it was meant to be. The lettering which would tell us has also gone.

These coins are common finds in England. It was found west of Guildford, in an area where a lot of Roman settlement has been discovered over the last twenty or thirty years.

This was unexpected, because the land is clay and difficult to farm. However, the Roman temple at Wanborough, a villa at Broad Street, occasional cremations and finds suggesting settlement show that there was a lot going on here.

A single coin does not tell us much, except that in the late third century someone was walking near Guildford and lost some small change. It would be annoying, but probably not a disaster.

Were they going to make an offering at the temple? Were they visiting the villa at Compton? Were they herding pigs in the woodland that probably covered the clay? Who knows?

New Book on Surrey Tokens (Brass Farthings) is a Masterpiece

Seventeenth Century Trading Tokens of Surrey and Southwark, by Tim Everson.

Review by John Theobald

SEVENTEENTH CENTURY TRADING TOKENS OF SURREY AND SOUTHWARK



Tim Everson

across England and Wales during that brief period of 20 years, mainly men but also women, gradually took it upon themselves to order, issue and use emergency unofficial money, mainly copper or brass farthings, purely in a determined effort to allow everyday village and town life to continue as near to normal as was possible.

A brand-new, completely up-to-date catalogue of Surrey seventeenth century trading tokens has been published. Painstakingly compiled by Tim Everson, Surrey now has its own major catalogue and work of reference on the subject.

The interregnum at the end of the English Civil War and the execution of Charles I up to and including the early part of the reign of Charles II, were extremely turbulent times in rural Surrey, with virtually no low value regal money available in general circulation.

Effectively the country was bankrupt. In desperation, about 20,000 trades people

Strictly speaking, such tokens were illegal and the issuing of them in theory was strictly forbidden.

However, firstly the Parliamentarians and later the government of Charles II turned a blind eye to their existence, because the situation was so dire.

Part one of the book describes and illustrates each of the 287 different 17th-century trade tokens that were issued and used in the towns and villages of rural Surrey, between about 1650 and 1670.

They appear in alphabetical order of the villages and towns, from Abinger through to Woking. Where more than one token was issued in a place, the tokens are listed in the alphabetical order of the surnames of the issuers.

At the time these tokens were being used, Bermondsey, Newington, Rotherhithe and Southwark also were included within the then Surrey county boundary. The 754 tokens from these London suburbs are listed in part two.



Trade token from Guildford dated 1668.

The book will be of especial interest to a number of Guildfordians for a variety of reasons. Importantly, despite the uncertainty of its future, Guildford Museum, at the time of writing this review, currently houses arguably the finest collection in the world of rural Surrey 17th-century trade tokens.

This is comprised of its own museum collection, which has been assembled over the past 100 years. In addition, the collection of Dr Frederick Bailey Penfold (died 1941) is owned by the National Trust and is on permanent loan to the Surrey Archaeological Society.

The collection of the late John Lancaster Wetton (died 1988) was acquired subsequently by the Surrey Archaeological Society. Both of these superb collections are on loan to the museum.

Photographs of many of the tokens in Guildford Museum, especially those in the Penfold and Wetton collections, were taken by Brian Wood for Project Matrix at the Surrey History Centre, Woking and he has allowed them to be used in this new catalogue.

Guildford even issued its own town tokens in 1668, although it was well into Charles II's reign. They were round brass farthings and probably were intended to provide some urgently needed relief to the poor and needy of the town Parishes.

An old contemporary saying still can be remembered by several older folk: "So poor, he hadn't even got two brass farthings to rub together."

Since this was virtually the only time that brass farthings were in general circulation, that saying indicates that their very presence then has left a lasting impression nearly 350 years later.

One of the authors of an earlier catalogue was George C. Williamson who was living in Guildford during the years that his catalogue was being compiled in the 1890s. Despite his work having a number of mistakes and omissions, it continues to be a useful source of reference to token enthusiasts around the world.

The Guildford token issuers' surnames will be helpful to many local folk. Not a lot is known about most of them, but Mr Everson has included some fascinating details that shed fresh light on Guildford's residents and tradesmen at that turbulent time.



Guildford trade town featuring a castle and a woolpack. The majority of Guildford tokens use the symbols of the woolpack, which are taken from the Guildford coat of arms.

This could have been agreed by the traders among themselves, or more probably the town council encouraged their use to unify and promote the town, even before the town issue of its own 1668 brass farthing, which also used the same symbols.

Each token is carefully documented by Mr Everson in the catalogue in a consistent format and has the relevant reference numbers of three earlier major catalogues on the subject.

Produced to a very high standard, which is the hallmark of the book's publishers, Galata, the catalogue is profusely illustrated with excellent actual-size colour photographs of almost every one of the 1,041 pieces that are listed in the catalogue.

These photographs are essential for such modern catalogues, as they can show minute variations and record the correct readings.

It is important to remember that these tokens were struck, issued and used extensively at a time of great stress and emergency, so only a few of the pieces remain in a pristine condition.



Token issued by a Guildford shoemaker by the name of John May. Having said that, the resulting photographic quality of the tokens is excellent. They come in a range of values, shapes and sizes. The rural

Surrey tokens mainly were for the value of 1/4d (farthing = fourth thing or quarter of one penny), with some being a 1/2d (halfpenny).

Mainly they were round in shape, but some were square, octagonal and even heart-shaped. Mostly the metals used were brass or copper, but a few were struck in pewter/lead.

The book will appeal to local casual enquirers, family historians, specialist token enthusiasts and Surrey, as well as Guildford researchers, plus students of the local history of this war-torn period in the county.

This listing is a welcome addition to Surrey's recent social history, is being used already by London auction houses and will provide the definitive guide to these tokens for a long time to come.

The book costs £37 plus £3 for UK postage. It be ordered on the web at www.galata.co.uk

Coming Soon

THE DICKHAM HOARD

Excavated in 2016-see what Accessorize may have sold 3000 years ago

"NATIONAL GALLERY " 300ft UNDER MOUNTAIN

From the Daily Telegraph January 16 1945

Plans are complete for the return to London, when the war in Europe ends, of the National Gallery's priceless collection of pictures.

For three years the collection has been on view – but only to its custodians – in five brick bungalows built in caverns 300 feet in the heart of a mountain "Somewhere in Britain." When they again occupy their old home in Trafalgar Square the pictures will be found to be none the worse for their travels and adventures. The necessity for moving the collection from London in the event of war was realised long before hostilities started. Even before Munich the Gallery staff had begun to substitute handier frames for some of the big and elaborate ones.

THE LAST LOAD

Nine days before the outbreak of war the removal began. The last load of pictures was being carried from the Gallery while Mr Chamberlain was broadcasting to the nation that we were at war.

Altogether 2,000 pictures were taken to safety. They were transported in railway container vans except for some very large canvasses, for which special cases were made by the Ministry of Works and which were carried on long trucks. Sixty-four containers, the equivalent of two full goods trains, were needed to move the collection. The collection was dispersed in mansions, museums, and other places in different parts of the country.

But when the Luftwaffe began its widespread raids in the winter of 1940-41 it was realised that this arrangement was no longer satisfactory, and the Gallery Trustees asked the Treasury to provide a bombproof home for the collection.

A search was begun for an underground store. Finally a series of huge caverns near the top of a mountain, with 300 feet of rock overhead, and in a remote part of the country, was chosen. The Ministry of Works undertook to transform the caverns into a treasure house which should preserve the collection not only from bombing but from the insidious dangers of cold and damp. First the entrance tunnel was blasted and widened. Rails were laid so that the pictures could easily be transported from lorries.

HUNG ON WALLS

Then in each of the five largest caverns, a brick bungalow was built. In these the pictures were hung on walls and screens and kept under continual observation.

Instead of trying to heat and dry the caves, some of which are so vast that the roofs are out of sight, engineers installed an air-conditioning system for the "bungalows." This kept them at a temperature of 63 degrees and at the degree of humidity most suitable for storing the works of art.

Strong doors were built at the cliff entrance and at the entrance to each cavern. An ingenious alarm system was installed, and a guard house built for the men who, night and day, kept watch over the treasures.

Here, the National Collection has rested in safety, while overhead shepherds tend their flocks, and occasional ramblers make their way, little dreaming of the treasures under their feet.

It has been a costly undertaking, but well worth while. The Collections old home in Trafalgar Square was hit by high explosive bombs. One gallery, No 26, received a direct hit and was demolished. And that was where, before the war, the Michaelangelos were kept