

Carshalton & District History & Archaeology Society

CADHAS President: John Thornton

Secretary: Richard Fitch (secretary@cadhas.org.uk) 020 8647 5304

Autumn Newsletter/Programme 2016/17

**Meetings are held in Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent,
off Nightingale Road, Carshalton and start at 3 p.m.**

Sat. 5th November 2016 The first meeting of the winter season

(Traditionally called Hilda Clarke Memorial Lecture)

Judie English will talk to us about Prehistoric Land Organisation

Judie has given popular talks to CADHAS on previous occasions, on Saxon grave goods, Surrey hill forts and the Glory of Islam. She worked in medical research for many years, but has always been interested in archaeology".

Throughout the Neolithic period people farmed and organised their entitlement to land without creating any boundaries that we can see but, during the Bronze Age and later huge field systems, holding boundaries and possible territories were demarcated. What changed? Why did people need to put the considerable effort into visibly dividing the landscape and what does it tell us about society at the time?



Sat. 3rd December 2016

**"The History of Magic as Entertainment"
by Michael Symes.**

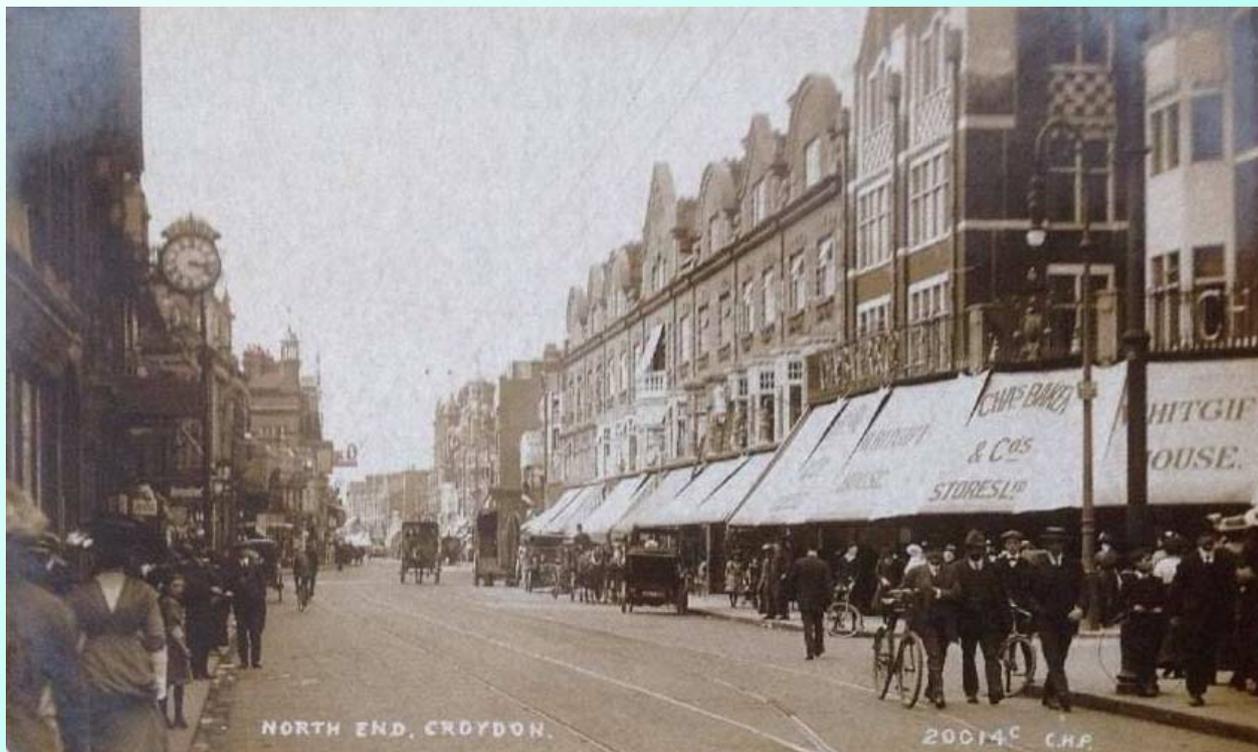
Michael is an author, lecturer and garden historian who spoke to CADHAS recently on the garden at Painshill near Cobham.

Wearing another hat, Michael is a magician who will tell us about the history of the Magic Circle and perform some tricks for us.

Sat. 7th January 2017

"An Introduction to the John Gent Collection" by John Hickman and Carole Roberts, members of the Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society.

John Gent, who died a few years ago, was an expert in Croydon's history and amassed a large collection of postcards, some of which John and Carole will be showing us. John Gent boasted the largest collection of historical postcards of Croydon after spending more than 50 years collecting them, and wrote or collaborated in 10 books exploring the borough's history.



John Hickman is currently the President of Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society and Curator of the John Gent Postcard Collection. His particular areas of interest includes South Norwood, Beckenham Cemetery and Queen's Road Cemetery.

Carole Roberts is the Director of Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society with particular interests including the history of Croydon High Street and Croydon theatres - including promoting interest in the performing arts.

During the summer CADHAS has published several reports by John Phillips about excavations in recent years at Carew Manor & Honeywood.

Details of these are on our website www.cadhas.org.uk and copies will be available to view & purchase at winter meetings from November onwards. Please visit our website at for the latest information about meetings and visits.

Covering All Areas of the London Borough of Sutton



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Sat. 4th February -

"Egypt, Land of the Pharaohs" by Phil Groves



The Sphinx

Phil is, of course, CADHAS's Treasurer and a hard-working member of the Programmes Committee. He is also a great traveller with a special interest in Egypt.



Kom Obo Temple

Sat. 4th March

AGM (please note earlier start time of 2.45 p.m.)

followed by a report on this year's excavation at Beddington Park by John Phillips and a presentation by John Thornton of members' photos of the May weekend in Norwich and other summer outings from 2016.

Sat. 1st April

"The Crystal Palace" by Michael Gilbert

Michael describes himself as a "Social Historian - Bringing Old London to Life". He has a particular passion for the Crystal Palace and has co-authored a book about the prehistoric models in Crystal Palace Park. He talked to us two years ago on this subject, but covered only part of the available information and would like to tell us more!



Staff restructuring threatens Honeywood, Whitehall and Sutton Archives

A few days ago the Friends of Honeywood and Whitehall and the libraries were invited to a briefing about a staff restructuring which is being planned for the service.

The posts of curator in Honeywood and Whitehall are to be abolished and that they are to be replaced with two development officers based in the Central Library. This means that there will be no specialist staff working in Honeywood or Whitehall.

Removing the specialist house staff must have a major impact on the public service. Inexperienced non specialist who will not have the knowledge, experience and contacts to:

- Care to the collections in the building
- Run a school's programme
- Organise significant events and exhibitions
- Maintain an effective relationship with the friends to maximise the use and value of volunteers.

We don't understand how the proposals will save any money as, if the building is to be kept open, extra staff will have to be employed to make up the curators and the assistant's time. There is talk of using volunteers but this will only save money if they open the house without any members of staff and it is not clear that they will be willing to do this. We suspect that the proposals will result in a large reduction in opening hours.

I have been told that the archivist's post is to be abolished so it is not clear how the Archives and Local Studies will continue to operate. Any remaining expert staff will be in back-office roles.

These proposals are likely to cause the closure of Honeywood or a major reduction in opening hours.

The restructuring will also affect libraries. The changes to the library service were preceded by consultation and authorised by the Strategy Committee but this did not cover the Museum Service. It seems doubtful if the changes to the Museum Service have been properly authorised in accordance with the Council's Constitution given the likely impact on the public service.

Honeywood reopened in 2011 after a major refurbishment largely supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Since then the house has been very successful with many events and activities and a large growth in visitor numbers. Whitehall is currently closed for an HLF funded refurbishment.

The proposed changes will have a major negative impact on the Honeywood and the Archives and may adversely affect Whitehall.

If you object to these changes email or write to the Cllr Ruth Leader of the Council:

The Leader of the Council, Cllr Ruth Dombey, ruth.dombey@sutton.gov.uk

The Deputy Leader, Cllr Simon Wales, simon.wales@sutton.gov.uk

Cllr Jill Whitehead, jill.whitehead@sutton.gov.uk

Cllr Steve Penneck, steve.penneck@sutton.gov.uk

Cllr Hamish Pollock, Hamish.pollock@sutton.gov.uk

Cllr Chris Williams, chris.williams@sutton.gov.uk

Letters to the Councillors can be sent to Civic Offices, St Nicholas Way, Sutton SM1 1EA.

Please forward this to anyone else who may be interested.