

Carshalton & District History & Archaeology Society

Our Centenary Year 1920 to 2020

Autumn 2020 Newsletter

A message from the Society's President

As you are all aware, this is the Centenary year of the founding of your Society, and what a momentous 100 years it has been. It was founded at a time of profound change, but it has remained a constant for countless numbers over the ensuing 100 years, and with your continued support it will continue to flourish.

For many, those years began with tragedy when, after the losses of the First World War, the so-called 'Spanish Flu' claimed an estimated 20 to 50 million lives worldwide. And now, 100 years after the losses of one pandemic, we are battling through another - Covid-19. For those who have lost friends and loved ones it is a deeply personal and particularly distressing time; for others perhaps a time of re-evaluation of what is important in life: loving families, friendships and the gathering together of like minds. Your Society has not only survived but flourished through those years, and with your help and support it will continue to do so.

For us to continue with the success of the past 100 years we need you to keep supporting your Society, alongside others who dedicate a few hours of their time to give you something to look forward to each month of the year. Now, more than ever, it is important for the Society to be able to communicate with its members as quickly and as cheaply as possible. Therefore, if you have recently acquired an email address or changed your old one, please let Shirley Caines (membership@cadhas.org.uk) know so that we can add it to our circulation list.

We need your continued commitment. As a Society we cannot fully thrive without the input of a Secretary (which does not include taking Minutes). You will see from the report of the Programmes Committee that they have an immediate vacancy for someone willing to dedicate only a few hours monthly, for the interest and enjoyment of all. If you are able to do so, please telephone me on (020) 8669 6721 or contact me at beverleyshew1@onetel.com. It would be a pleasure to hear from you. In the meantime, as they say, "stay safe".

Bev Shew (President)

A Message from the Programmes Committee

At the start of lockdown the Programmes Committee had optimistically hoped that we would be able to continue with the Winter 2020/2021 programme as usual at the beginning of November. Reluctantly we have, with the agreement of the Executive Committee, decided to cancel the November and December meetings. Our decision was based on knowing that although the Milton Hall would be open for bookings and covid secure, it could only accommodate 30 visitors including the speaker and organizers of the meeting. We would not have been able to serve tea as usual. Our feeling was that even if members felt comfortable about their own risks, the limited numbers and lack of our usual ability to move about the hall and have tea would have resulted in a poor experience for us all. We have recently heard that the limit has been reduced to six, which makes any meeting completely impossible for us.

However, we hope to start the Winter meetings in January 2021 unless the restrictions are still in place. We will let you know what has been arranged in a special extra newsletter in November or December.

Despite the continuing restrictions this year and all the cancellation of plans, the Programmes Committee have continued to communicate using email and phone and to plan ahead. We do need some help and would welcome input from other members. In particular we need someone to fill the vacancy caused by John Nutley's retirement. We always welcome ideas for the Summer and Winter programmes from individual members, and if they were willing to help organize their idea with our support of course that would be warmly welcomed.

The Society's survival into the future depends heavily on the enthusiasm of the members not only to attend the meetings and outings but also to lend a hand with some aspects of organization.

We look forward in the hope of welcoming you all back to the Milton Hall in January 2021 and to recruit some willing helpers. We need to get started on the next 100 years.



Although we cannot attend talks in person, those of us who have access to the internet can enjoy many virtual talks and tours. With the kind permission of the *London Archaeologist* magazine, here is a selection relating to the London area for you to choose from. Some of the speakers may be familiar to you.

FIND OUT MORE

My London (find objects from the Museum of London's collections from your borough)

<https://tinyurl.com/y5wxmcnz>

English Heritage Blue Plaques (find your local plaques or those honouring London's Blacks and Gays)

<https://tinyurl.com/y42gjjf5>

Our City Together (awesome events and activities to enjoy) <https://www.ourcitytogether.london/do>

A London Inheritance (comparing photographs taken in the late 1940s and 1950s with the sites today and looks at their history)

<https://alondoninheritance.com>

CITIZAN (Coastal and Intertidal Zone Archaeological Network) interactive map (explore London's intertidal heritage from prehistory to the present) <https://tinyurl.com/y6orc8jg>

LOOK FOR YOURSELF

Go to <https://www.youtube.com/> and then type the code in **bold** into the Search box.

Or type the whole URL into your browser.

A Tour of London Wall by Jane Sidell **QpVKwZsTTvE**

Billingsgate Roman House and Baths by Howard Bengel, Kim Biddulph and Andrew Lane

9nOUISN8CWg

Shakespeare's Globe <https://tinyurl.com/y3pkgacq>

Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich (Painted Hall) <https://virtualtour.ornc.org>

The original Crystal Palace (in Hyde Park) <https://tinyurl.com/y5c7z9zb>

Buckingham Palace <https://tinyurl.com/y7zffsp>

Churchill's War Rooms <https://tinyurl.com/y28uvazd>

ONLINE TALKS via YouTube

'Prehistoric Finds from the Thames' by Jon Cotton **h7EM2rcgAal**

'The Early River Thames: the Iron Age and Before' by Jon Cotton **ApnRImzjzFw**

'Pompeii of the North: The return of the Temple of Mithras in London' by Sadie Watson **MA10vbZ5-1s**

'Roman London's First Voices: the writing tablets from the Bloomberg Excavations' by Sadie Watson **TfJekGfSz4**

'Discovering the Port of Roman London' by Gustav Milne **OR4ZgsHZvia**

'London in the Not-So-Dark Ages' by Lyn Blackmore **qwo88DS-pls**

'The Growth of London as a Port from Roman to Medieval Times' by Dr Gustav Milne **bXSM05m30Zc**

'London Merchants and their Residences' by Professor Simon Thurley **1ZrzTOR_yz8**

'The Five Catastrophes that made London' by Professor Simon Thurley **U2ItHzJtrLQ**

'From Sail to Steam: London's Role in a Shipbuilding Revolution' by Eliot Wragg **G4fcXaScY_c**

'The Billingsgate Fishwives' by Laura Miller **ZP15SH0_CoM**

'Designing a Museum for London's Future' by Sharon Ament and Asif Khan **FwJoflltDXs**

OTHER LECTURES

'Excavations at Bloomberg London: new discoveries along the Walbrook' by Sadie Watson <https://tinyurl.com/yxvw3wmo>

'From the Romans to the Saxons: results from the archaeological fieldwork at the site of St Martin-in-the-Fields Church, Trafalgar Square' by Alison Telfer <https://tinyurl.com/y2pkp6bn>

'Portals to the Past: controlling risk and maximising benefit on the Crossrail archaeology programme' by Jay Carver

<https://tinyurl.com/y28bzx72>

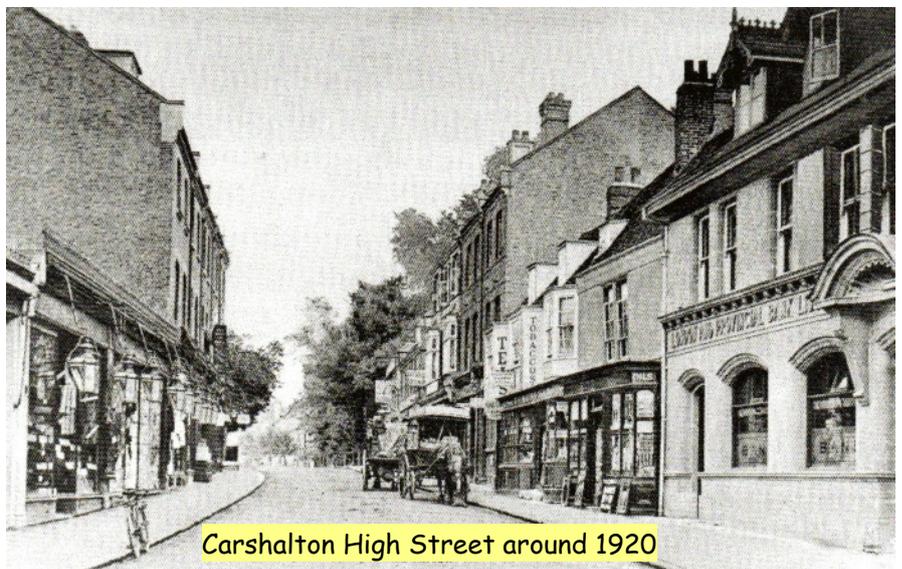
The Anniversary and the Website

Last year the Committee planned to upgrade the website as part of our 100th anniversary celebrations and the outbreak of COVID virus has meant that it's the only thing that will not have to be postponed. We are hoping to launch it on 27 November, which is the anniversary of the inaugural meeting of the society in the aftermath of the First World War.

I cannot imagine what the people present at that meeting would have thought of the web: I guess a lot of them would have dismissed it as a ludicrous fantasy. Anyhow the future does not, on the whole, conform to expectations, and the web is now so dominant that the Society cannot afford to have a low profile there. Our current website provides an overview of the Society and our activities but does not provide much information about the history of the local area or the research carried out by society members: there is a list of publications but no detail. We are now aiming to change this so that it will be possible to download a good deal of information from the site. This will include the full text of as many of the occasional papers as possible - copyright considerations are likely to prevent us including all of them. We will also have new series of shorter and less formal notes on various aspects of local history.

We will probably start with about ten. The first notes will include histories of archery in Beddington Park, Sutton before the railway, the ship Carshalton Park and several Wandle-side Houses. I am hoping the numbers will grow over time, so the site becomes a significant source for local history. The papers will be in pdf format, so it will be possible

to download them into users' computers for reading on the screen or printing out. We also aim to make paper copies available to order. I hope this project will also raise the profile of the society and help it continue into the future.



Carshalton High Street around 1920

John Phillips