Carshalton & District History & Archaeology Society

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Autumn 2026 Newsletter

Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter which has details of forthcoming talks that our Programmes Committee have put together. Please see if you can encourage a friend or to two join you at our meetings.

The summer finds project



This looked at the slag which had been used to decorate the 18th century grotto in Carshalton Park. Previous tests have shown that it had come from iron working which was confirmed when we found that a lot of it is magnetic. In the 18th century iron was made in two stages. The ore was smelted in a blast furnace to produce cast iron which was then processed in a finery to make wrought iron. 18th century blast furnace slag is glassy – quite unlike the dense grey material from the grotto. The latter would be consistent with the finery process. However, finery slag probably wouldn't be magnetic which is typical of a later process for making wrought iron called puddling. This was allegedly invented in the 1780s long after the grotto had been built. Was the grotto redecorated around 1800 or is the puddling process much older than usually realised? The investigation continues. Thanks to everyone who took part.





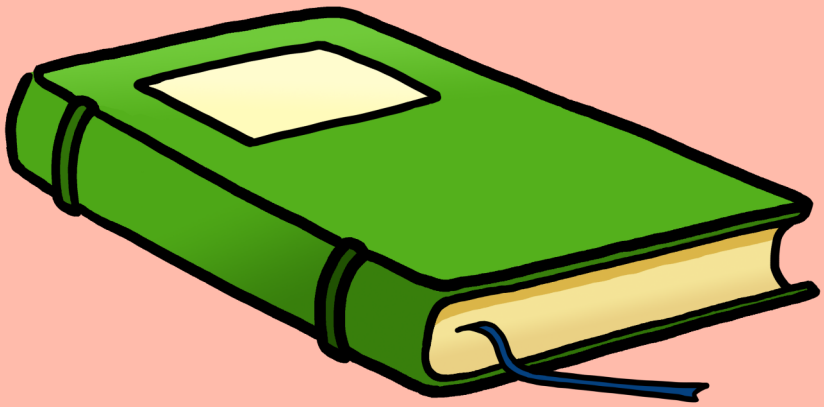
Further picture from the Finds Project

All talks Start at 2:30pm.

Our series of winter talks starts on Saturday 7th November 2026

Talk on Paper Conservation by

Joyce Brown



Joyce has been cleaning, repairing and generally restoring different sorts of documents that would otherwise be illegible and useless to both legible and useful states for researchers and anyone interested in various archives including Sutton.

Material from the Weiner Library ,the Polish Underground Study Trust and Sutton will be mentioned and shown.

Saturday 5th December 2026

The History of RAF Kenley WAAFS and War Brides

A talk by Linda Duffield

A whistle stop tour through the history of RAF Kenley sharing some of the stories of people who served there.



Saturday 9th January 2027 (this is the 2nd Saturday in January)

The excavation of the Red Lion Playhouse and what it tells us about 16th Century theatre

A talk by Stephen White

In this talk Stephen will discuss the archaeology of the site in Whitechapel where they found the Red Lion Playhouse, how it fits within a 2,500year old landscape, and what discussions it has enabled about our understanding of Elizabethan Theatre. The initial part of the talk will focus on the archaeology, discussing specific elements of the excavations, before broadening out to look at wider themes of the early post medieval leisure industry

Saturday 6th February 2027

A talk by John Phillips.



The Carews of Beddington, a failing Dynasty a tale of over ambition, ill luck, idleness and debauchery.

Saturday 6th March 2027

Annual General Meeting together with a review of the Societies activities and a summary of fieldwork.

Saturday 3rd April 2027

A History of Cadiz. A talk by Brenda Allen.

Cadiz is the oldest continuously occupied city in the Iberian peninsular and has a history of over 3000 years making it the oldest of all cities in South Western Europe. It was founded by the Phoenicians in 1100BCE as Cadir, then became a Roman City It was destroyed by the Visigoths and occupied by the Moors for some 500 years. It was finally captured and rebuilt by Alfonso X of Castile in 1292 to become part of Spain. It flourished as a port in the 16th century from which Colombus set out on his voyages of discovery to the Americas. As the home port of the Spanish treasure fleet Cadiz became a target for raids by Barbary corsairs, the English under Drake and latterly by an Anglo Dutch fleet

Brenda will elaborate on this rich history about what is today a lovely town of narrow streets ,shady plazas and picturesque buildings.