

Talk on Border Ware

A good-sized audience of members and friends attended a talk on 19 September 2012 about Border ware by Peter Tipton of the Yateley Society. Peter is a volunteer archival researcher for Museum of London Archaeology, which had provided many of his colour slides. For those previously unaware of the 600 year history of the Blackwater Valley potteries the first section of the presentation underlined the significance of the excavations at Farnborough Hill by Holling and Ashdown in the late 1960s. Coarse Border Ware, produced for about 250 years before 1500, enjoyed over half the London market for domestic pottery. For the next 350 years our local potters continued to enjoy a significant share of the Capitals market within their chosen speciality. This part of the talk was illustrated by slides of pottery types.

The main part of Peters talk examined Border wares significance, a term defined by national planning policy. He built up his argument by looking at local, national and international archaeological sites. The Farnborough-based North East Hampshire Heritage & Archaeology Society had recently tendered for the examination of a development site in Cove. They discovered good evidence that there had been medieval pottery production on or near their excavation site. Peter had provided a documentary study for the report to Rushmoor, discovering the likely 17th century potters working the site. Moving on to London, the story of a 16th century potter who started in Cove, bought a pottery in Farnborough and then another in Lambeth in order to supply the Inns of Court and the Royal Mint, gave another opportunity to see colour images of sites and pottery types.

Three examples of international archaeological sites where Border ware exports in the 17th century have been found were explored: Jamestown, Virginia, USA; Ferrylands, Newfoundland, Canada; and Port Royal Jamaica. These three sites moved us from 1607, and the first permanent colony of Englishmen in North America; through the 1640s examining a large on-going excavation of a settlement to sustain fishing on the Grand Banks; to the earthquake of 1692 which demolished Englands largest settlement in North America mainly it seems of ex-pirates.

The audience then kept Peter busy with a large number of questions.

Members and others want to keep up to date with what is happening with research into Border ware they can 'follow' me on Twitter @BorderWareCeram if they are in Twitter themselves.

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