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BULLETIN

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Edited by Rosamond Hanworth, Folly Hill, Ewhurst, Surrey

SAS VISITS
July 13th Visit to Bisley and Chobham
August 7th Visit to The Ancient Farm Project, Butser Hill, near Petersfield, and Uppark.
Details of these and other meetings are given elsewhere in this Bulletin. The dates for the last two meetings announced in Bulletin 103 have now been fixed for September 7th and October 5th.

EXCAVATION NOTICES

MOTORWAY RESCUE GROUP
PETTERS SPORTS FIELD, EGHAM (TQ 017718)

Directors: Bernard Johnson and David Barker

The site at Petters sports-field was started early in May. Several features here have already produced Iron Age pottery. The Egham-by-Runnymede HS are still working in this field on the edge of the eleventh-twelfth century road with a side ditch and a possible roadside settlement. Volunteers are urgently needed for this interesting and potentially important site. Work will take place seven days a week, help is especially needed Mondays to Saturdays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Contact Bernard Johnson at 01-928 5794 or 01-407 1989 or David Barker at Egham 3873.

There is always a possibility that the excavation team may have to move to other sites at short notice, so volunteers are invited to check by telephone before turning up on the site.

REIGATE TOWN CENTRE (TQ 2550)

Further excavation will take place this summer in Reigate Town Centre in advance of redevelopment. Work is planned to last for four weeks and to be full-time. The starting date will probably be either 27th July or 3rd August.

Volunteers are required for the whole or any part of the time. Funds are available to pay a subsistence and travelling allowance to a limited number of people and payment will be restricted to those working for ten days or more (not necessarily consecutively).

Enquiries should be addressed to Mr. Richard Woodhouse, Secretary, Reigate Archaeological Co-ordination Committee, 6 Wray Road, Reigate (Reigate 47395).
ST. MARY'S CHURCHYARD, EWELL

Directors: Frank Pemberton, Richard Temple, James Barfoot

With the consent of the Vicar, excavations on behalf of the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society and the Bourne Hall Museum will commence on 6th July continuing each Saturday and Sunday until the autumn. It is hoped to find and clear the western edge of Stane Street and look for traces of any roadside occupation. This work is a continuation of the 1970-1 season, when an Antonine building, cobbled pavement and pits were found on the eastern edge of Stane Street. Excavation will take place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and in event of bad weather processing of finds could be arranged nearby. Newcomers are welcome for excavation and/or processions, as instruction can be arranged.

Enquiries to: Richard Temple (01-393 7366), James Barfoot (01-670 9744).

NOTES

Incorporated status of the Society as a Company Limited by Guarantee
A number of members have not yet returned signed application forms, circulated with the March Bulletin, for membership of the new Limited Company. It is important that these should be signed and returned as soon as possible as, until a form is received, a member will not have voting or other rights under the new constitution.

Archaeological Rescue Excavations: New Regional Arrangements
The Secretary of State for the Environment has announced new regional arrangements for rescue excavations and archaeological surveys where sites of archaeological importance are affected by redevelopment plans or otherwise threatened with destruction.

It has been decided to appoint 13 Archaeological Advisory Committees to advise the Department of the Environment on policies and priorities for surveys and excavations, on applications for grants, and on back-up facilities in the area to ensure early completion and publication of reports. Members of the Committees (which will be appointed as soon as possible) will have special knowledge of the archaeology of their particular area.

At the national level, the Department will be advised by a Committee of the Ancient Monuments Board for England whose chairman is Sir Edward Muir, KCB, FSA.

The Committees will be appointed on the basis of areas of England, related to county boundaries, that have features of common archaeological interest. They will advise on priorities for work in 1975-76.

The Secretary of State for Wales will be advised by a Committee of the Ancient Monuments Board for Wales (Chairman: Dr J. D. K. Lloyd, OBE, DL, MA, LLD, FSA). This Committee will be assisted by local archaeological experts as required. It is not proposed to set up area advisory committees in Wales at this stage, but the Committee will be giving consideration to the need for some local groupings within Wales.

Both Departments will be continuing discussions on ways in which local authorities, who in many cases give substantial help, can collaborate more closely in the carrying out of excavations.

A total of £1,063,000 is being made available for grants for rescue excavations and post-excavation work in Great Britain during 1974-75. This includes
assistance towards the cost of publication and is an increase of £250,000 over the amount for 1973-74.

The Archaeological Advisory Committee to deal with rescue excavation in this county will be No. 11, Kent, Surrey, Sussex.

The Carnegie United Kingdom Trust: Grants for original work in Local History
The Carnegie United Kingdom Trust is administered by the Historical Association. Under it grants can be awarded to amateur organisations for original work in Local History and the terms have been widened recently to include the cost of work done on documents as a preliminary to out-door work.

A leaflet outlining the terms under which the grants are made is available from the Secretary of the Historical Association, 59a Kennington Park Road, London SE11, Telephone 01-735 3901, who will be delighted to send an application form to any group which feels it may be eligible for a grant.

Ashtead: Re-examination of a site at The Old Quarry, The Warren
Excavation at the Old Quarry, The Warren, Ashtead was carried out by Nonsuch AS from February to May. An exploratory section was made in the terrace south of the house revealing the residual remains of an oval pit cut into the bedrock, 2m across its narrowest axis, some 50cm deep and lying 2m from the quarry edge. A second pit, north of the first, was located when the section was extended. This appeared larger than the first and yielded the first pottery fragments to be found, together with fire cracked flints and a worked flint blade. These pits would have been at least 4.9m deep when measured from the probable original land surface and it is perhaps significant that a band of flint nodules may be seen some 5m below the present land surface on the opposite face of the quarry. It is planned to extend the present excavation on the terrace east and west of the first section, while sections on the site of the house garden are proposed to determine if any evidence of a settlement is present.

Investigation by the late A. W. G. Lowther in the 1930s partially revealed two shafts or pits containing red and dark tempered wares (so-called Deverel-Rimbury and All Cannings Cross wares) associated with fire cracked flints. A scatter of similar material in the topsoil suggested further pits or an occupation site.

(F. Pemberton, R. Temple, J. Barfoot)

Carshalton: Human remains in the grounds of St Philomena’s School, Carshalton House (TQ 27576470)
In February 1974, human bones were found in the roots of an elm which had blown over in the school grounds. They were examined by the police surgeon, Dr D. Haler, who referred the matter to the Society as the bones were clearly ancient. The site was cleared and examined by the writer with the approval of the school authorities and the considerable help of Sister Pauline Stevens and of our member, Mr K. A. Pryer.

The tree had caused disturbance both before and after fall, but it was possible to tackle the earth packed round the roots as an exercise in reverse stratigraphy. All the material effectively in situ was found in this way except for a part of the left humerus which was in the undisturbed earth beneath the tree and married perfectly with its other half which was clinging to the
roots. It was thus possible to work out approximately the position in which the body had been lying; this was SW-NE. The bones present were roughly the correct relationship one to another, but many were missing, so that it was not clear whether they had been properly buried, at most in a shallow scoop of a grave on the natural chalk, and had then been spread by the action of the tree’s roots, or if several articulating pieces had been thrown in.

Over the bones there was a mass of building rubble, chalk blocks, occasional bricks, pottery dating from the thirteenth to sixteenth centuries and a medieval key. The rubble had a straight edge which would have left some of the bones uncovered, so its use as a deliberate cover to the grave was unlikely. A detailed examination of the bones, carried out by Mrs Geraldine Done, established that they were all from an adult, except for the lower jawbone of a child of about 7 years of age; this was found in the close vicinity of the rubble, but as it was part of the find made before the writer’s investigation, its relation to the other bones is not clear.

It is recorded that bones were found here early in the eighteenth century. The present ones could have been reburied at that time, some of the articulations being preserved by the sticky clay which surrounds them. They may then have been covered by the building rubble from the demolition of an earlier house.

There are clearly several problems set by this discovery, and it may be possible to carry out a small excavation with a view to solving them. A resistivity survey carried out by a team under Dr A. Crocker has yet to be examined in detail.

(D. G. Bird)

Earlswood: Medieval kiln at Bushfield Shaw

Members of the SAS and Holmesdale Archaeological Group have been excavating a pottery kiln and waster dump at Bushfield Shaw, Three Arches Road, Earlswood. The site was found by Roger Ellerby while on an area search organised by the Holmesdale Archaeological Group in advance of housing development. The Reigate and Banstead District Council kindly gave permission for the excavation to take place under the writer’s direction.

The kiln has been partly destroyed by nineteenth(?) century ditching operations and disturbed by tree roots, animal burrows, etc., but it appears to have been an updraught kiln with a single stoke-hole leading to three under-floor ducts.

Pottery produced includes a wide range of oxidised coarse ware vessels, very few of which are glazed. Types found include cooking pots and bowls (predominating), dishes, cauldrons, skillets, pipkins and a curfew. These probably amount to some 80-90% of the waster material. Many of the larger cooking pots were strengthened and decorated with applied strips.

Of prime importance, however, is a substantial number of glazed and decorated jug fragments. These are also mainly of oxidised fabrics, frequently with white slip and usually with green glaze, although a proportion have clear lead glaze. These latter are almost all decorated by bands of white slip laid girthwise or in a diaper pattern. The principal decorative technique on the rest of the jugs is by scribing, often to produce sgraffito patterns on the slipped jugs. Wave, loop, concentric circle and combed patterns are disposed in a variety of combinations and there is some use of rouletting.
Several of the jugs made had bridge spouts and some had face-on-front decoration. One notable bridge spout found is in the form of a fully modelled head.  

(D. J. Turner)

Oxted: Church Plate

It has been reported in Country Life (18th April, 1974) that church plate from Oxted has been auctioned at Christie’s. The pieces in question are said to be as follows:

A chalice and paten of 1634 (Surrey Arch. Coll., XVI, 77) sold for £3,200 to the present Duke of Devonshire and illustrated in Country Life.

Two silver flagons of 1765 (op. cit., 78) sold for £1,400.

A dish made at Antwerp about 1700 (op. cit., 78, where it is described as a basin bearing the Nuremburg saw mark) sold, also to the Duke of Devonshire, for £3,000.

According to Brayley (History of Surrey, IV, 179-80) the donor of the silver to St Mary’s was Catherine, daughter of John Hoskyns of Oxted and wife of William 3rd Duke of Devonshire, from whom the purchaser of the chalice, paten and dish is descended. The Rev T. S. Cooper, however, (op. cit., 78) casts some doubt on this.

(D. J. Turner)

Purley: Skeleton, believed to be Saxon, on Russell Hill (TQ 306622)

On 3rd May some workmen were laying a drain in The Bridle Way, Purley, when they dug through a skeleton about 3ft beneath the road surface lying in loose soil but in a grave cut in the chalk 50yds from the top end of the road. Immediately the bones were recognised as human, work ceased and the police and Coroner’s Office were informed. Representatives from both organisations attended promptly and the lower jaw, the only part of the skull intact, was removed for examination. It was not possible to hold the excavation open as the narrow 18in trench extended into the middle of the road, and by the time a representative from the Bourne Society arrived on the following morning the trench had been filled in.

Mr Alan Lover of the Coroner’s office was able to give a good account of the find. Only the upper part of the skeleton had been dug out, the legs still being in the end of the trench. The grave was 3ft out from the gutter and the head was lying slightly downhill, i.e. towards the north. The workmen were asked whether grave goods or any other material were noticed but they had not seen anything. The doctor reported that the jaw appeared to be that of a young man whose teeth were in very good condition but ground down.

This is almost certainly one of the burials in a Saxon cemetery on Russell Hill where 107 skeletons have been reported in the last 100 years. Other references: SAC Vol. LVI (1959) p.144. Croydon Advertiser, 17 March, 1877. Proc. & Trans. of the Croydon Microscopical and Nat. Hist. Club Vol. 1884-5 24 and references noted in the Bourne Society Guide to Local Antiquities 1973, which gives a full account of previous finds.

(L. Ketteringham)

Southwark: The Livesey Museum

The London Borough of Southwark has established a new museum in the former premises of the Livesey Library, 682 Old Kent Road, SE15 1JF, near New Cross and New Cross Gate LT stations and served by buses 21, 53, 177 and 78.
The museum will act as a centre for the processing of finds from local excavations, in close liaison with the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society and the Cuming Museum.

Surrey County Council: Publicity Pamphlets

Two pamphlets have recently been published by the County Council—How you can help plan the future of Surrey, issued by the Planning Committee and Surrey ’74 at your Service, issued by the Public Relations Service.

The former deals with the County's structure plan and also advertises a more detailed description of the plan and of the issues involved, in booklet form, 10p on request from the County Planning Officer, County Hall, Penny Road, Kingston upon Thames.

The latter lists the new administrative districts and gives addresses and telephone numbers of the various offices, together with details of administrative responsibilities.

Wanborough Manor Barns (SU 934489 and 934492)

The large barn next to the church at Wanborough is a medieval aisled barn of seven bays with an added outshot at the west end and one cross entrance in the centre. It is boarded above a brick sill with a tiled roof. There is a simple roof construction, the tie in each truss is surmounted by a crown post with collars to the rafters and upward braces to the collar purlin only. From the tie a long brace passes the aisle post and the aisle tie, and is morticed into the wall post. On the aisle post it is prevented from pulling out by an upward brace to the wall tie. On the north side three of these long braces are intact. On the south side each of these passing braces has been truncated at the aisle post and the aisle has been widened by 2ft. The roof here is supported by a purlin and strut. The aisle posts are all 13in square.

Across a field away from the farm is a three bay boarded barn of much later construction, with tiled roof and a hipped entrance porch in the centre. The roof structure is unusual with two staggered butt purlins in each bay. There are butt rafters in the lower section and the rafters pass behind the upper purlin, the three in the centre being pegged. The bay next to the gable has wind braces. (Joan M. Harding)

Recent Publications

Anon (1973) Historic Views of Wandsworth and Battersea, 1752-1909 (Two folders, one for Wandsworth, the other for Battersea, each containing 6 prints). Wandsworth Libraries, £1.50 each.
Anon (1973) The Mercer Bequest (Notebooks, reference books, guides, maps, etc. and over 1,000 photographs bequeathed to Surrey County Library by the late T. S. Mercer). Esher District LHS Local History News 22, 153-4.
Anon (1973) M3 Extension—An Archaeological Survey. Published by South Hampshire Archaeological Rescue Group. 20p from MARC, 3 Beaconsfield House, Andover Road, Winchester.


Anon (1974) A look into the Past (compiled by the Charlwood Society, primarily for children. Includes copies of documents, etc.). 60p including postage from Mrs Shelley, 4 Norwood Hill Road, Charlwood.


Benson, D., Miles, D., Balkwill, C., and Clayton, N. The Upper Thames Valley, an Archaeological Survey of the River Gravels. 115pp, 64 maps and figs, 7 plates. £2.50 from Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit, 3 Luther Terrace, Oxford, OX1 1RJ.


MEETINGS

JULY

Saturday 13th

SAS VISIT TO BISLEY AND CHOBHAM
Arranged by Mrs. S. Lewin

11.00 a.m. Visit Clews Farm, Bisley, by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Cooper. Approach by the A322 Guildford to Bagshot road. In the centre of Bisley opposite signpost to NRA take Clews Lane and proceed to farm.

12.15 p.m. Lucas Green Manor by kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Bigland. Lunch: Picnic or in Woking.

2.30 p.m. Chobham Church.

3.15 p.m. Little Heath Farm by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Mason. Party limited to 50.

Tickets (members 15p, visitors 20p, students half price, accompanied children under 16 free) from Mrs J. Major, 3 Riverside Road, Thames Ditton KT7 0QL.

This notice supersedes all previous announcements

AUGUST

Wednesday 7th

SAS VISIT TO THE ANCIENT FARM PROJECT AT BUTSER HILL NEAR PETERSFIELD, AND UPPARK
Arranged by Mrs. R. Chiles

9.00 a.m. Coach leaves Reigate Priory Car Park (rear of Woolworths in High Street).

9.10 a.m. Dorking Halls.

9.45 a.m. Rear of Guildford BR station in Guildford Park Road where there is a free Car Park.

11.00 a.m. A guided tour of the Ancient Farm Project by the Director Mr P. J. Reynolds. Stout shoes recommended.

1.00 p.m. Picnic lunch on Picnic Site at Butser Hill. Lunch must be taken.

2.00 p.m. Coach leaves for Uppark where there will be a guided tour at 2.30 p.m. National Trust; Admission 20p.

Tea at Midhurst.

Tickets (members 15p, visitors 20p, students half price, children under 16 free) from Mrs J. Major, 3 Riverside Road, Thames Ditton KT7 0QL.

EXHIBITION

29th July-31st August.

LOCAL SCENES, PAINTINGS AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KINGSTON UPON THAMES, PAST AND PRESENT

Kingston Museum and Art Gallery, Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Closed Sundays and 26th August. Admission free.

The next issue of the Bulletin will be in August