

SURREY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

CASTLE ARCH, GUILDFORD

**BULLETIN**

Number 133

January 1977

Edited by Nancy Cox, "Karm" 108 Westfield Road,  
Mayford, Woking GU22 9QP

**SAS VISITS 1977**

April 20th Bank of England and College of Arms  
May 14th Lancing, Sompting and Bignor, Sussex  
June 18th Industrial Archaeology—Catteshall and Cosford Mills  
July 27th Leeds Castle and Boughton Monchelsea Place, Kent  
August 6th Esher district.  
September 10th London, East of the Tower  
October (date to be fixed) Warnham, Sussex

**NOTES AND QUERIES**

**Subscriptions for 1977**

Members are reminded that all subscriptions became due on January 1st, irrespective of the date of joining the Society. Please note that current subscription rates are as follows:

Ordinary Members	...	...	...	...	...	£4.00
Associate Members	...	...	...	...	...	50p
Junior Members	...	...	...	...	...	50p
Junior Members with Publications	...	...	...	...	...	£2.00
Institutional Members	...	...	...	...	...	£5.00

**SAS Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at the University of Surrey on Saturday 30th October, 1976 with the President, Mr R. W. McDowall in the Chair. Councillor Mrs Harding, Mayor of Guildford, was welcomed as a guest.

Dr Arnold Taylor, President of the Society of Antiquaries, best known for his work for the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments, and Mr David Shepherd, the artist and collector of steam engines, were elected new Honorary Vice-Presidents. Dr G. P. Moss was elected Honorary Secretary in succession to Mr D. J. Turner, who was elected a Vice-President of the Society. All other Honorary Officers were re-elected. It was reported that Mr A. A. Wylie had indicated he had agreed to be re-nominated but hoped that a new auditor could be found, preferably before the next audit is due. The new members of Council elected were Mr J. N. Hampton, Mr F. E. Haveron, Dr D. B. Robinson, Miss C. Smith, Mr F. H. Thompson, and Capt. M. A. Wilson.

It was reported that Council had appointed the Viscountess Hanworth Director of Excavations to supervise the Society's excavation work,

especially in the administrative County of Surrey. Mr E. N. Montague was appointed Deputy Director to help mainly in the GLC area.

After the AGM Mr J. N. Hampton lectured on "Air Reconnaissance and Archaeology 1975 and 1976". The significant amount of new information revealed in the last two unusual summers includes a large number of ring ditches and other features. As well as discoveries from all over the country, Mr Hampton showed a number of new Surrey features—near Polesden Lacey, Fetcham Downs, Walton-on-the-Hill and a revised route for Stane Street at Ashtead.

The Physics Department entertained the audience to refreshments after the lecture. Some of the Department's work in archaeometry was displayed, including dendroanalysis; magnetic dating of fired clay; the firing temperature of pottery; computer processing of geophysical data, and nuclear techniques of analysis.

(G. P. Moss, Honorary Secretary)

#### **New members from 1.10.76**

Mrs G. Broberg, 17 Bendigo Street, Reservoir, Victoria 3073, Australia.

Miss J. C. Holloway, 16 Sydney Road, Guildford, GU1 3LJ

R. Merrifield, 32 Poplar Walk, Herne Hill, SE24 0BU

Dr K. W. H. Foulds, Pine Close, Lime Grove, West Clandon, Guildford.

H. E. John Cloake, British Embassy, Sofia, c/o F.C.O., King Charles Street, SW1A 2AH

Dr J. R. Ashwood, White Cottage, Vicarage Lane, Capel, Dorking RH5 5LL

A. P. G. Ulph, 164 The Chantry, Farnham

#### **S.W. London Team**

Two new Field Officers have been appointed to the S.W. London Team. Miss Ann M. Robinson, who joined the team in October, read History and Archaeology at Exeter University and is currently completing an M.A. in Scientific Techniques in Archaeology for Bradford University. Her topic is the "Standardisation of the Classification of Medieval Pottery"; and it is being carried out in conjunction with the Medieval Pottery Research Group.

Miss Lesley Smith will start with the Team in January. Since graduating from Bristol University she has been working with the Milton Keynes Archaeological Unit.

(Honorary Secretary)

#### **Excavations Committee**

Mr R. J. Webber has been appointed Vice-Chairman of the Excavations Committee. In addition, he will continue to deal with insurance matters.

#### **Insurance**

Directors, local society officers, and other persons responsible for planning or carrying out excavations are reminded that, if they wish to make use of the Society's excavation insurance, they must inform the writer in advance of the excavation, giving full details of the site, number of members involved, and any special hazards. A fee of £1 is due to the Society for each and every excavation unless it is being carried out on behalf of the Society.

Equipment borrowed or hired for an excavation which is not the

property of the Society cannot be covered by insurance unless special arrangements are made in advance.

(R. J. Webber)

8 Kelvin Grove, Hook, Surrey. Tel. 01-397 4885

### **Liability**

Members are reminded that they may not give assurances or accept liability on behalf of the Society. Such undertakings may only be given by an officer of the Society.

(G. P. Moss)

### **Reigate: Brewery Yard Excavations (TQ 25365012)**

Between May and August 1976 an excavation on behalf of the Reigate and Banstead Archaeological Co-ordination Committee was carried out by Holmesdale Archaeological Group in the garden of the unoccupied No. 1 Brewery Cottages, to the west of Bell Street, with the intention of plotting the extent of medieval settlement.

On this very confined site a trench 7m NS by 1.5m EW was excavated, and the results proved to be of considerable interest. Beneath the rubble foundations of an insubstantial early nineteenth century building a layer of Reigate Stone rubble and roofing tiles sloped steeply to the South. This rested on a thick layer of sand which in turn rested on a further layer of rubble. Natural sand and gravel in the South of the trench was reached at 3.36m (13ft) as opposed to 1.65m (5ft 5ins) in the North, where the natural consisted of a thin layer of compact gravel overlying sand.

The presence of gravel in the bottom of the feature as well as in the baulk indicates that this may have been the former course of a stream. Although a stream (culverted in 1815) has long been known to flow across the southern end of Bell Street, the Brewery watercourse is at least 50 yards further North and is remarkable for its width, probably at least 8m (about 26ft), and for its depth, some 2.40m, or about 8ft in medieval times. It seems likely, therefore, that it formed a natural boundary between town and Priory, the latter lying some 100 metres to the South-West. There is documentary evidence of the existence in 1540 of a millpond, from which the stream presumably ran, to the East of Bell Street on land then belonging to the Priory.

The stream was obliterated in one huge filling operation in the late sixteenth century, joining pottery sherds coming from above and below the dumped sand. The presence, in the bottom rubble filling, of a gold Quarter Angel of Elizabeth I minted between 1584 and 1587, in excellent condition, accurately dates the filling which can hardly have been much later than about 1590.

The rubble filling contained some massive unworked blocks of Reigate Stone lying close to the stream bed as well as broken hipped and peg tiles. So much rubble suggests the demolition of a large building, with the likeliest candidate being the Priory itself. It would be tempting to associate the filling with the granting to Charles, Lord Howard of Effingham, of the Priory and its lands on the death of his mother in 1581, though it is unknown to what extent he may have converted or demolished them.

Unfortunately there was nothing within the rubble filling certainly to associate it with an ecclesiastical building, save for a fragment of red-painted glass.

From the waterlogged filling three short lengths of timber were

recovered. One found upright had been sharpened as a stake. These were preserved in a dark peaty deposit.

Within the undisturbed loam upon the stream bank occurred the only structure of probable medieval date; an L-shaped patch of broken tiles possibly forming the corner of a rough foundation. Also, within this loam was found a penny of Edward IV minted in York between 1476 and 1480.

(David Williams)

### **Proposed Richmond Group**

A meeting will be held at 8.00 p.m. on Friday 21st January, 1977 in Room 3 of the Richmond Adult College, Kew Road, Richmond to discuss the formation of a Richmond Group in collaboration with the Historical and Archaeological Section of the Richmond Society.

(Honorary Secretary)

### **Ripley—Newark: Eel Trap (TQ 039576)**

From early times eels taken from English rivers have provided an important source of food. The illuminated Luttrell Psalter of the early fourteenth century shows eel traps in a mill race feeding an overshot wheel. Dorothy Hartley, author of "Food in England", gives a fourteenth century recipe for Eel Pie in which a sauce called verjuice, a medieval extract from the crab-apple, is recommended, while Izaak Walton, in a preamble to a recipe, writes "It is agreed by most men that the Eel is a most dainty fish".

It is surprising to find that the method of catching eels in large numbers is not now generally known. The remains of a large eel trap exists at Newark, almost certainly on the site of the monastic one, and is indicated on a plan in the late Captain Pearce's paper on Newark Priory SAS Vol. XL p.17.

Formerly a large culvert existed under the North/South Pyrford to Ripley road which allowed a now derelict and sometimes empty pool adjacent to the road on the East side to be kept filled to a level controlled by the sluice gates in the main River Wey on the West side of the highway. At any time when eels were needed, and especially when the moon was full or after heavy rain, when eels would be moving in large numbers, the sluices in the main weir would be shut as far as practice allowed and a sizeable flow of the river diverted under the roadway and into the eel pool, carrying with it the eels in their urge to move down stream.

The water in the eel pool passed through a sluice gate with sophisticated gearing dated 1818 by Sharp into a small brick bay with parallel sides, floored with a strong iron grating supported on girders at an inclined plane, and sealed by a further iron grating at the far end. The water passed through on its way, the eels were stranded on the grating and in their struggles eventually wriggled through an opening in the brick wall into a more secure prison consisting of another grilled compartment with running wafer which, in turn, was connected to a deeper well or pit where they could be kept alive for a few days prior to consumption.

The lower courses of the brickwork of the Eel Trap appear to be contemporary with the iron sluice gate and gearing, or earlier. The upper courses may have been reset, and a rustic inscription dated 1909 in wet cement bearing four names, some of which are still names in the local building industry, confirms this.

The authors are privileged to know the custodian of the Eel Trap at

Fullerton Mill, Hants, which is of similar construction and still annually takes many hundreds of eels from the River Test. Eels are still caught at Fiddleford and Sturminster Mills on the Dorset Stour.

(Jim Oliver and Les Bowerman)

**Wallington: 32 Burleigh Avenue (TQ 285651)**

In March 1976, Mr J. T. Robinson found a fragment of skull in his front garden. This was identified by the British Museum (Natural History) as human — possibly prehistoric.

Further small finds of skull fragments and other bones suggested that a complete interment might have been disturbed.

Excavations by the Beddington, Carshalton & Wallington Archaeological Society, directed by Mr. Clive Orton, between July and October 1976, recovered the major portion of the skeleton; revealed an oven-like feature in the natural clay subsoil, provisionally considered to be Iron Age; and a second, virtually intact, skeleton.

All soil above the clay contained worked flint similar to findings in mesolithic contexts but without typical blades or microliths. Also found were Iron Age, Romano-British, possible Anglo-Saxon and medieval to eighteenth century pottery sherds; large quantities of medieval roof tile fragments and a vast assortment of iron nails, most of which were probably hand made.

The second skeleton and the oven remains had been protected by an intermediate layer of small, irregular chalk blocks. These were suggestive of a floor but no post holes or beam slots, indicative of any related building, were discovered.

Both skeletons appeared to have had an orderly burial. They were fully extended on their backs, on the same east to west alignment, heads to the west, and without grave goods, personal ornaments or any traces of coffins. The second had a large piece of animal bone resting on its breastbone but this could have been present in the grave fill, as kitchen debris seems to have been deposited on this site in all ages.

The similarities between the two burials indicate that they were contemporary. The British Museum (Natural History) has found the first to have Saxon dental characteristics. Findings on the second are awaited but it is definitely of later date than the oven feature which was cut by the burial.

In the drought the back gardens of Nos. 30 and 32 Burleigh Avenue, which lie some four feet lower than the houses, showed a clear crop mark of the site of the old Wallington chapel. Little is known of the chapel except that it was demolished c. 1797 after long use as a barn; that documentary evidence of a fourteenth century endowment has been reported, and that Mrs. Birch's apparently unpublished excavation of 1921 found fourteenth century type architectural fragments.

The east to west alignments of the skeletons and the absence of accompanying objects are typical of Christian burial and association with the chapel is not impossible. The origins of that institution may have dated back to a time when Saxon characteristics remained common in the population.

Eventually it is hoped to date the oven and the burials.

Meanwhile, the excavations have confirmed a much more intensive and

continuous occupation of this area of Wallington, from the Iron Age onwards, than has hitherto been suspected.

(K. A. Pryer)

#### Recent Publications

**Felbridge: Parish and People.** Felbridge Parish Council has published a guide to this modern parish. It includes a history of the parish, largely written by the late Ivan Margary, and a note on its historic buildings by Peter Gray. It is attractively illustrated by line drawings. Copies price 40p (post free) from A. C. King, 48 Copthorne Road, Felbridge, East Grinstead, Sussex RH19 2MS. Cheques payable to Felbridge Parish Council.

#### Tandridge District: Conservation Area Guides

'Blechingley Explored'—the last of the six guides to the Conservation Areas in Tandridge District. It contains a detailed description of the older buildings in the village and a short note on the historical background to the village. It is illustrated by line drawings and a large scale map. Copies of the earlier guides to Godstone, Oxted and Chaldon (*Bulletin 125*) are also available. All price 75p each (post free) from P. J. Gray, 38 Beacon Hill, Lingfield, Surrey RH7 6RH. Cheques payable to Joint PC Conservation Area Committee.

(P. J. Gray)

#### Merton Town Trails Association

The first three of a planned eight trails on the Borough of Merton have recently been published. Each is attractively illustrated and includes a map of the relevant area. So far they cover Wimbledon Common, Wimbledon Village and Merton Park. The first two were produced by the John Evelyn Society, but a new society to which local amenity and historical societies are affiliated, has been formed to produce the other trails. Copies are available, by personal application, from Public Libraries in the Borough; Wimbledon Community Centre, or from the John Evelyn Society.

(G. P. Moss)

## CONFERENCE

### POTTERY INDUSTRY ON THE HAMPSHIRE/BERKSHIRE/SURREY BORDERS

Saturday, 19th February

Town Hall, Farnborough

#### Programme

- 11.00 a.m. Introduction—K. J. Barton
- 11.30 a.m. Alice Holt and the Romano-British Industry—M. Lyne
- 12.15 p.m. Medieval Pottery of Surrey—John Hurst
- 1.00 p.m. Lunch
- 2.15 p.m. Post Medieval Pottery from the Surrey/Hampshire Border—  
Felix Holling
- 3.00 p.m. The end of the Industry—Maureen Rendell
- 3.30 p.m. Open Forum, which will include a discussion on whether to form  
a Hants/Berkshire/Surrey Borders Ceramic Research Group

Details about tickets will be given in the next *Bulletin*.

## COURSES

### FIELD STUDIES COUNCIL

Juniper Hall Field Centre, Mickleham, Dorking RH5 6DA  
(Tel. Dorking 3849)

29th July-5th August (Friday to Friday)

"How old is that House?"

Recording and dating old buildings. Tutors: Joan Harding and  
Victoria Houghton

20th-26th August (Saturday to Friday)

"Archaeology of the Mole Valley and Downland"

Field studies of the settlement pattern and related agriculture in pre-Saxon  
times. Tutor: Rosamond Hanworth.

Both courses will be residential at the Juniper Hall Field Centre, and will  
cost £45 each. Apply to the Warden (please enclose s.a.e.)

### BOURNE SOCIETY

Illustrated lectures by contributors to the six Village Guides published by  
Tandridge District Council, and the Histories of Woldingham and Coulsdon  
published by the Bourne Society.

"Surrey Explored"

Taunton Manor School  
Coulsdon

Tuesdays at 7.30 p.m.

Course fee: £2.50

January	11	Coulsdon
		Una Broadbent
January	18	Caterham
		James Batley
January	25	Chaldon
		Leonard Muggeridge
February	1	Godstone
		Lesley Ketteringham
February	8	Limpsfield
		Kay Percy
February	22	Oxted
		Kay Percy
March	1	Woldingham
		James Batley
March	8	Blechingley
		Kay Percy
March	15	Lingfield
		Peter Gray
March	22	Chipstead
		Charles Pringle

Caterham Hill Library, Westway,  
Caterham

Wednesdays at 7.30 p.m.

Course fee: £3

January	19	Caterham
		James Batley
January	26	Chaldon
		Leonard Muggeridge
February	2	Woldingham
		James Batley
February	9	Godstone
		Lesley Ketteringham
February	16	Coulsdon
		Una Broadbent
February	23	Oxted
		Kay Percy
March	2	Blechingley
		Kay Percy
March	9	Limpsfield
		Kay Percy
March	16	Lingfield
		Peter Gray
March	23	Chipstead
		Charles Pringle

**Wednesdays at 7.30 p.m.**  
**Gresham School, Sanderstead**  
**Course fee: £2.50**

January	12	Geological Surrey—James Batley
January	19	Prehistoric and Roman Surrey—Mary Saaler
January	26	Place-Name Surrey—Ronald Latham
February	2	Domesday Surrey—Kay Percy
February	9	Shakespeare's Surrey—John Raven
February	23	Aubrey's Surrey—Peter Gray
March	2	Railway Surrey—Ronald Cox
March	9	Hassell's Surrey—James Batley
March	16	Motor Surrey—Basil Cracknell
March	23	The end of the Story—James Batley

## MEETINGS

### JANUARY

**Thursday 13th, 8 p.m.**

**THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF SOCOTRA AND SOUTHERN OMAN.** Talk by Prof. T. M. Johnstone to Oxted & District HS in the Lecture Room, Oxted Library, Gresham Road, Oxted.

**Friday 14th, 8 p.m.**

**THE ORIGINS OF LEATHERHEAD.** Talk by John Blair to Leatherhead & District LHS in the Red Cross Hall, Oaks Close, Leatherhead.

**Friday 14th, 8 p.m.**

**TAPESTRIES.** Talk by M. Hedden to Merton HS in the Lecture Room, Morden Library, Morden Road, Morden.

**Monday 17th, 8.15 p.m.**

**WALTON CHURCH—PEOPLE AND THEIR MONUMENTS.** Talk by J. W. Lindus Forge to Walton & Weybridge LHS, at Elmgrove, Walton.

**Tuesday 25th, 8 p.m.**

**SETTLEMENT AND ECONOMY IN BRONZE AGE SURREY.** Talk by Stuart Needham to Guildford Group of the SAS at the Brew House, Guildford. Visitors welcome.

**Thursday 27th, 7.45 p.m.**

**NORWOOD SCHOOL OF INDUSTRY.** Talk by Mrs. Sylvia Scullard to Croydon NH & SS at East Croydon United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon.

**Thursday 27th, 8 p.m.**

**THE CULT OF PERSONALITY IN LATE REPUBLICAN ROME.** Talk by Mrs Anne Flower to Oxted & District HS in the Lecture Room, Oxted Library, Gresham Road, Oxted.

**Friday 28th, 8 p.m.**

**THE BAYEUX TAPESTRY.** Talk by Dr John Kent to Wandsworth HS in Friends Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street.

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Next Bulletin—February. Copy is required by 5th January.