

SURREY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

CASTLE ARCH, GUILDFORD

BULLETIN

Number 135

March 1977

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

EXCAVATION NOTICE

HASCOMBE HILL FORT (TQ 005386)

(Director: F. H. Thompson)

It was always hoped to return for further excavation after the 1975 season, but this was not possible last year. The plan now is to undertake a second four-week campaign this year (with the kind permission of the owner, Mr Ian Anstruther, FSA), and the dates proposed are Saturday July 2nd to Saturday July 30th inclusive. The intention is to complete the excavation of the entrance, where the plan was beginning to emerge in 1975, and to carry out an area excavation inside the hill-fort, centred on the pit (Trench 5) which was so productive in 1975 (pottery, querns, carbonised grain etc.). Applications for the usual grants are being made which, if successful, will make it possible to pay travelling expenses to those coming daily.

It is hoped to hold the customary re-union on Saturday, April 2nd, meeting in the White Horse car-park at 12 noon for an early lunch, followed by a walk to the site to discuss excavation plans.

Will those intending to dig in July and/or to come on April 2nd please contact the Director at the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly W1V 0HS.

SAS VISITS

Saturday May 7th

SOUTHILL PARK, BIGGLESWADE

A coach visit to Southhill Park, Biggleswade (home of Mr. S. Whitbread). Details in April Bulletin.

Saturday May 14th

LANCING, SOMPTING AND BIGNOR ROMAN VILLA, SUSSEX

Arranged by Mr D. Booker

11.30 a.m. Lancing College Chapel

Lunch — Picnic or numerous restaurants in Worthing.

2.00 p.m. Sompting Church

3.00 p.m. Bignor Roman Villa.

Tea has been arranged at the White Horse Inn, at Sutton, one mile from Bignor at 50p per head, to be paid for on the day. If required, please state by May 5th.

Tickets (members 20p, visitors 25p, students half price and accompanied children free) from Mrs J. Major, 3 Riversdale Road, Thames Ditton KT7 0QL.

NOTES

New Members from 1.11.76

- A. F. Proctor, 23 Ellis Farm Close, Mayford, Woking.
Mr and Mrs A. D. Donn, Lynton, Tannery Lane, Send, Woking.
J. S. Kirby, 1 Paddockhurst Road, Gossops Green, Crawley, Sussex.
R. C. Bingley, 102 Heath Road, Orsett Heath, Nr. Grays, Thurrock, Essex.
J. Axten, 43 Deepdene Avenue, Dorking.
R. D. Shepherd, Winkworth Farm, Hascombe, Godalming.

New Members from 1.1.77

- A. Harcombe, White House, Chapel Lane, Westcott, Dorking.
P. D. Pye, 1 Vicarage Gardens, Mitcham CR4 3BL.
Mrs J. H. Filson, 99 Queens Road, Richmond.
L. C. Earthy, 116a Kew Road, Richmond.
M. A. Clark, MA, DipEd, RMN, SRN, 31 Pilgrims Close, Farnham GU9 8QP.
Mr and Mrs R. Edwards, 12 Blacklands Drive, Hayes End, Hayes, Middx. UB4 8EU.
G. R. C. Smith, 45 Peppers Road, Ashted KT21 1NB.
R. Newton, Antigua, 21 Wood Street, Ash Vale, Aldershot.
P. F. Finch, 3 Ridge Green, South Nutfield, Redhill.
J. W. F. Cannon, Waverley End, 27 Waverley Road, Bagshot GU19 5JL.
Dr R. M. Baguley, 48 Albert Road, Grappenhall, Nr Warrington, Cheshire WA4 2PC.
R. V. Shepperd, LDS, RCS, Dunheved, Pilgrims Way, Westhumble, Dorking.
J. M. Holt, Graycourt, Old Avenue, W. Byfleet KT14 6AE.
Mrs R. E. Hurman, 4 Linden Grove, Sydenham, London SE26.
Miss A. Wigmore, Room 6, 34 Nightingale Road, Guildford.
R. M. A. Nesbitt, Weekites, Charterhouse, Godalming.
J. D. Worcester, 140 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford GU1 4UB.
Miss P. Scrimshaw, 21 Cranleigh Gardens, Sanderstead CR2 9LD.
N. H. West, MBE, 2 Beech Close, Effingham KT24 5PQ.

Field Officer in Surrey

At the end of January David Longley left Surrey to take up a new post as Field Archaeologist in Cheshire working from the University of Liverpool. Although he only worked here for eighteen months members will have read the report he produced on Gravel Extraction in North West Surrey, and the preliminary report of his excavations at Runnymede Bridge.

(Honorary Secretary)

Archaeology in Croydon

The Croydon Society has been formed to "promote interest in, and to influence the production of, good planning within the area." To put the matter simply it asks "What is Croydon like now?" and "What do we want it to become?" However a consideration of the redevelopment of historic towns reveals that the most successful planning respects and retains the historic structure within which life has been carried on for centuries. By structure I do not mean the buildings themselves (although the best of the past should be respected and usually retained). By structure I mean the pattern of major and minor roads, the alleyways, the "village centres" and the open spaces.

Thus the first question "What is Croydon like now?" can only be fully answered by understanding what Croydon was like in the past and how it came to be as it is. A series of "snapshots" at different periods in history is not sufficient, these must be combined to give a picture of the dynamic growth of Croydon through time. Only in this way can a balanced understanding of the present be found.

You may well be asking "But is Croydon an historic town?" The answer, perhaps rather surprisingly, is a resounding YES. For many years the third most important town in Surrey (after Guildford and Kingston) it has boasted of a market since at least the thirteenth century—probably on the same site as the present Surrey Street Market. The Saxon manor became the Archbishop's Palace in the area known for centuries as Old Town. The roads, rivers, ponds and settlements of a thousand years ago are reflected in the modern street maps for all parts of the Borough.

But what do we know of Croydon's growth in detail? For periods before 800 AD we have but "snapshots"; a prehistoric settlement on Croham Hurst, another in Waddon, flint tools from all parts of the Borough, a Roman road and burials in the centre of Croydon but no village, and a most important Pagan Saxon cemetery but again no village site. These are just some of the pieces of evidence which must be fitted together with evidence yet to be found to produce the story of the early years of Croydon.

The story of the growth of Croydon from 800 AD to the present day is a little better known. In 1968 Lilian Thornhill and Peter Drewett of the Archaeology Section of the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society (CNHSS) began a programme of excavations in Old Town to find the extent of Croydon at different periods in order to measure its development and growth. This series of excavations has been continued by Keith Ray and the present author. It must be realised that these central regions of Croydon have been almost entirely destroyed, archaeologically speaking, by nineteenth and twentieth century sewerage works and redevelopment. Indeed the official Report "The Erosion of History: Archaeology and Planning in Towns" puts the centre of Croydon in the worst category where redevelopment has entailed that "any surviving archaeological levels are of the greatest possible importance."

Away from the centre the intensity of destruction of archaeological layers diminishes but many sites must have gone unrecorded in the building of large housing developments from 1930 to the present day. As yet very little work has been done on the history of the ancient "village centres" such as Addington, Woodside and Waddon. Recent work in these areas will be of use in "setting the scene" for the general studies on the growth of Croydon itself.

I have tried to show that archaeology in Croydon faces two distinct tests, firstly the elucidation of the growth of central Croydon and secondly the exploration and recording of its surrounding "villages" and settlements. At present there are two bodies actively interested in archaeology in Croydon. The Bourne Society covers the area southwards from Purley and the CNHSS takes the rest including the centre of the town. The work is financed almost entirely by private individuals; the CNHSS receives a most welcome annual grant from Croydon Council towards the publishing of its researches and has also received a special grant of £100 towards the replacement of archaeological tools and equipment. Small grants have also been received from the Surrey Archaeological Society. However many

London Boroughs, sometimes in association with others, now support an archaeological officer or small excavation team. Only in this way can threatened sites be adequately surveyed and recorded. The alternative is the total loss of the greater part of our unwritten history.

The archaeological excavation unit of the CNHSS is always under pressure. If you would like to help (and we desperately need organisers, researchers and a surveyor) please write to me at the Society's Headquarters at 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon.

(Richard Savage)

This article first appeared in "Croydon Focus", the Newsletter of the Croydon Society. (Editor)

Oxted: Route of M.25 (TQ 380538)

On photographs of the route of the M.25 between Godstone and Westerham, a rectangular shape was visible near the Oxted Tunnel.

The Surrey Archaeological Society carried out a ground survey with a protonmagnetometer, and a site approximately 20m x 12m was plotted. At the request of the Surrey Archaeological Society the Bourne Society excavated the site in September 1976.

At a depth of 30cms there was a layer of charcoal about 10cms thick, with a few large flints in the charcoal layer. During the excavation some iron objects were found; these were parts of modern farming equipment. No other datable objects were found.

(Mary Saaler in The Bourne Society Bulletin No. 87)

Merton Priory Excavations (TQ 265 699)

Trial excavations were carried out by the South-West London Team SAS assisted by volunteers drawn from across South-West London, from late August through to mid December 1976. Work was carried out in advance of development by British Rail.

The excavations were confined to the eastern end of the Chapter House as its approximate position was known from the earlier, limited excavations carried out by Col H. Bidden (SAC 1929: 38 49-66). Three trenches were opened and a total of 128sq.m excavated.

After removal of the railbed ballast and assorted pipe trenches belonging to Merton Abbey Station (c 1868), a wide deep ditch was found to cut diagonally across the site. The ditch, filled with grey-green clay mixed with wood ash was used in the bleaching of calico. Water and wood ash were mixed in the ditch to form the bleaching agent and this was constantly poured over the calico. A line of regularly spaced rectangular post-holes, aligned in a shallow "slot", were found along the bottom of the calico ditch. These posts may have supported a wooden structure, perhaps a drying rack, connected with the bleaching rack. A date in the late eighteenth century is suggested for the calico ditch as the ditch is shown as filled in on an 1865 survey of the area.

The eastern wall of the Chapter House was located and a segment some 4m long exposed. Two external buttresses were found bonded into the flint/chalk and mortar wall. The wall had been demolished c. 1538-40 to the top of the rubble foundations and all dressed stone removed. The eastern end of the Chapter House is apsidal but on a slightly different alignment than that shown in the published plan by Bidden.

A quantity of twelfth century pottery was found adjacent to the eastern wall and this would accord well with documentary evidence (Heales 1898) for a twelfth century founding of the Priory.

The area inside the Chapter House was covered by a layer of demolition rubble. Upon removal of this rubble two sections of plaster floor were found intact, though in a very poor state of preservation.

Three graves were discovered cut through the floor. Two of these graves had been robbed out at the time of demolition. Originally the burials were in stone coffins and the impressions of these were visible in the clay sub-soil. The graves may have been robbed to obtain the coffins or deliberately moved at the dissolution by the canons themselves.

The third grave is intact and consists of a stone lined cist made of greenstone blocks and built up with roof tiles. Only the feet were excavated as the remaining portion of the burial was under the section of a trench. The grave was then backfilled pending further work.

No monastic structures were located east of the Chapter House. A poorly constructed wall of reused priory stone was found built on demolition rubble. A small hearth, also built on the demolition rubble, may have been used to melt the monastic lead as quantities of lead droplets were found around the structure. Demolition rubble spread for some 23m eastwards from the outside of the Chapter House. The rubble has produced floor tiles of several types: plain, 'printed', geometric, mosaic and one tile with two 'dancing ladies'. The excavation ceased because of bad weather. Work may be resumed when the north and south railway platforms are removed by British Rail in the near future.

(Scott McCracken)

Send: Collection of Flints (TQ 030563)

Mr Edward Partridge, who lives at Ockham, states that over the period 1925-30 he amassed a collection of struck flints from a concentrated area at the corner of the field opposite the tannery which gave the name to Tannery Lane in Send. At the time the site was used for the storage of potatoes in clamps as part of the market garden of the late Mr S. S. Boorman. At present it is an asphalted vehicle park for the Crack Pulverising Mills which replace the tannery.

Mr Partridge still has the collection and he kindly permitted the writer to inspect it recently. It consists of several hundred flints, a few of which are retouched. They are superficially similar to those found by Mr R. P. Belsey approximately one mile to the east at Ripley Sewage Farm (Bulletin 91). The tannery site is near the edge of higher sandy ground overlooking the flood plain of the River Wey.

A recent cursory examination of the edge of the field adjacent to the vehicle park revealed two further flints.

(Les Bowerman)

Recent Map Discoveries

1. The Peper Harrow Map (scale 3 chains to the inch)—has a cartouche reading "A Map of Peper Harrow in the County of Surrey belonging (to) Lord Viscount Mid(d)leton. Richard Crabtree 1793". It measures 185cm high x 79cm wide, but appears to have lost its right-hand third, which would have included the house and part of the estate. The remaining part gives good detail of the estate, which it is understood was laid out by "Capability Brown". It is on vellum, the drawing in black and white being

very clear, though the colour, apart from blue for the River Wey, has faded. It was found on a Godstone rubbish tip by Mr C. Close (a bulldozer driver) and has now been deposited in the Muniment Room at Guildford.

2. **Kenley Farm.** A map 25cm x 40cm high, with cartouche reading "A Plan of Kenley Farm in the parish of Coulsdon in the County of Surrey. A Freehold estate belonging to Joseph Hodgkin Esqr Surveyed and Delin'd by Isaac Messeder 1762". This is believed to be the original of the oldest map of Kenley. It is in good condition.

The map has been presented to the Surrey Record Office by Miss Entwistle, its importance having been recognised by the Bourne Society.

(J. C. Batley in the Bourne Society Bulletin No 87)

Watercolour drawings of Surrey churches

The Archives and Local History Department of the London Borough of Lambeth (which includes the Surrey Collection) has bought, with the help of a Victoria & Albert Museum Purchase Grant, a collection of water-colour drawings of Surrey churches which will be of particular interest to members of the SAS. They are the original drawings of about 1790 to 1820, mainly by H. Petrie, known to members from the photographs in the Society's Library (ref. PD1/11). A second set of these photographs, known as the Edgar Sharpe Collection, is in the Surrey Collection at Lambeth.

The whole series of church drawings also covered Kent and Sussex, and these, together with many other of Petrie's drawings, were located by Professor Barley in his 'A Guide to British Topographical Collections' published in 1974. Lambeth bought over 150 of the Surrey drawings from a West End gallery—seventeen of the original set had been previously sold.

Further information may be obtained from the Archivist, Archives and Local History Dept., London Borough of Lambeth, Minet Library, 52 Knatchbull Road, London SE5 9QY. Telephone 01-733 3279.

(Miss M. Y. Williams, Archivist)

Recent Publications

Davis, R. (1977) Adrian Moore: His Book. (Notes on Settlement Books of 1693/1777 of Parish of Egham.) Egham-by-Runnymede HS. Carta XI Newsletter 103.

Blatchford, Barbara (1976) Conduit Farm and Barns. (Loseley Estate.) Preliminary notes. SAS Guildford Group Newsletter 4, 8.

Haes, Betty (1976) A brief account of the ancient Manor of Poyle in Guildford. SAS Guildford Group Newsletter 4, 4-6.

Knee, Anne (1976) Fieldwork and house research in Merrow. SAS Guildford Group Newsletter 4, 7.

Loobey, Pat (1977) Two Medieval Moated Sites:

1) TQ 266758—on site of present Prices Patent Candle Works and Jack Barclays.

2) Next to St. Nicholas Church, Tooting. The Wandsworth Historian January 1977 1-3.

Milward, R. (1977) Wimbledon and the Civil War. 168 pages, 7 illustrations, 22 maps and diagrams. £1.60 plus 22p postage from the author at 159 Coombe Lane, Wimbledon SW20.

Merton Historical Society. Listed Buildings in the London Borough of Merton (Cont.). Merton HS Bulletin 47, 4.

CONFERENCES

Arranged by Oxford University Department of External Studies

Both the following week-end conferences will be held at Rewley House,
3-7 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA

COINS AND ARCHAEOLOGY

6th-8th May, 1977

Introductory course for anyone interested in the application of numismatics
to historical interpretations.

Fees: Full residential — shared £15.50; single £19.50.

Non-residential (with meals) £11.50; (without meals) £5.50.

NEW APPROACHES TO THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF CEMETERIES

14th-15th May, 1977

Fees: Full residential — shared £9.50; single £11.50.

Non-residential (with meals) £7.50; (without meals) £3.50.

Apply for both conferences to: The Course Secretary, Oxford University
Department for External Studies, Rewley House, 3-7 Wellington Square,
Oxford OX1 2JA.

COURSES

TRAINING IN URBAN EXCAVATION

Arranged by the University of London Department of Extra Mural Studies
in co-operation with the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Excavation
Committee

Southwark — 30th July/14th August, 1977

Director: Harvey Sheldon, BSc

Fee: £20 per two weeks, non-residential. (The two week course must be
taken in its entirety).

This course gives Diploma and Certificate students an opportunity to gain
experience in urban excavation techniques. Whilst normal excavation
activities will continue, and students will be expected to fit in with these,
instruction will be given in the excavation and recording of finds; site and
trench drawing; methods of survey; and the initial processing of finds.

Apply to: Room 8 (Archaeology-Southwark), University of London,
Department of Extra Mural Studies, 7 Ridgmount Street, WC1 7AD.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SURVEY

Arranged by the University of London, Department of Extra Mural Studies,
in association with the County Council of Essex.

The following courses provide the week of approved survey work required
for the University of London Extension Diploma in Archaeology and the
Extension Certificate in Field Archaeology.

At Wicken Bonhunt, Essex

1 week 4th-10th April, 1977

OR

1 week 3rd/9th June, 1977

Tutor: T. A. Betts, Field Officer, M.11.

Fee: £30 residential.

Apply to: The Warden, Wicken House, Wicken Bonhunt, Newport, Essex. (Tel. Saffron Walden 40216).

At Theydon Bois, Essex

1 week 18th-24th July, 1977

Tutors: R. A. H. Farrar, MA, FSA, A. Cook, FSA

Fee: £30 residential

Apply to: The Principal, Wansfell College, Theydon Bois, Epping, Essex.

MEETINGS

MARCH

Thursday 17th, 7.30 p.m.

JOHN EVELYN. Talk by P. G. James to Clapham AS in St Luke's Hall, Ramsden Road, SW12.

Thursday 17th, 7.45 p.m.

THE RASCALLY BISHOP. Talk by Gwen Ware to Farnham & District MS in the Council Chamber of the Farnham Locality Office, South Street, Farnham.

Thursday 17th, 8 p.m.

ROYAL ESHER. Presidential address by E. Royston Pike to Esher District LHS in King George's Hall.

APRIL

Saturday 2nd, 3 p.m.

STONEHENGE AND OLD SARUM. Talk by Mrs M. P. Smith to Beddington, Carshalton & Wallington AS in the Darby & Joan Club, Cooper Crescent, Nightingale Road, Carshalton.

Wednesday 6th, 8 p.m.

BROOKLANDS AND THE IRON AGE IN SURREY. Talk by Rosamond Hanworth to Nonsuch AS in St. Mary's Church Hall, Ewell.

Thursday 14th, 7.45 p.m.

OPEN MEETING arranged by Croydon NH & SS in East Croydon United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon, on **DARTMOOR**—a description of its scenic and archaeological wealth, and some account of its friends and enemies. Mr Fred Sowan will introduce two specialist speakers.

Wednesday 20th, 7.45 p.m.

THE HOUSES OF THE WANDLE. Talk by Ronald Michell to the Croydon NH & SS in East Croydon United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon.

Saturday 23rd, 3 p.m.

PAINSHILL. Talk by N. Kitz to Walton & Weybridge LHS in Weybridge Library Lecture Hall.

Next Bulletin—April. Please send copy in by not later than the 5th March. The following issue will be a joint one for May/June, and copy for this is required by the 5th April.