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**SURREY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

CASTLE ARCH, GUILDFORD

BULLETIN

Number 138

July 1977

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

EXCAVATION NOTICES

MERTON PRIORY (TQ 265699)

(Director: Scott McCracken)

Excavation of the Chapter House, South Transept and Cloister area by the SWLT is to begin on 25.6.77 and continue for at least three months. Excavation will be on a seven day week basis and volunteers are urgently required. For further information please contact J. S. McCracken, Flat 3, 32 Creffield Road, Ealing W5 3RP (01-992 1737).

CHERTSEY TOWN CENTRE

It is hoped to carry out excavations in the Town Centre in August or September, and it may be possible to pay a small fee to regular workers and also cover travelling expenses. Arrangements were not finalised at the time of going to press, but anyone interested should contact David Bird at Castle Arch (Guildford 32454).

REIGATE: TRAINING EXCAVATION

(Director: David Bird)

20th-29th August

Full details of the above appeared in Bulletin 137. Anyone interested should apply to Miss Ann Wright, Principal, Colesmead Adult Education Centre, Southmead, Redhill.

VAUXHALL POTTERY

(Director: Roy Edwards)

Excavation of the Vauxhall Pottery by the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society will take place from July onwards, at weekends only. All enquiries to: SLAS, c/o Cuming Museum, 155 Walworth Road, SE17.

VISITS

PLEASE NOTE THAT AFTER 20th JULY APPLICATIONS FOR TICKETS FOR THE JULY AND AUGUST VISITS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE RESPECTIVE ORGANISERS.

FOR LEEDS CASTLE
(The coach for this will now pick up opposite the Dorking Halls and not at the Post Office)

Mrs S. Lewin
Camilla House
Forest Road
East Horsley

FOR ROYAL ESHER

Mr F. E. Manning
35 Ember Lane
Esher

Wednesday, 28th September

In response to several requests, a further visit to the City of London has been arranged by

Capt M. A. Wilson, RNR

11.00 a.m. Assemble at the Mansion House.

2.25 p.m. Assemble at the main Threadneedle Street entrance of the Bank of England (party limited to fifteen).

3.45 p.m. A walk to view other places of interest finishing at—

5.20 p.m. The College of Arms, Victoria Street (party limited to twenty).

Tickets (for which priority in allocation will be given to those members who applied unsuccessfully on the previous City visit) members 20p, visitors 25p, students half price, from Mrs J. Major, 3 Riversdale Road, Thames Ditton, KT7 0QL.

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY VISIT

Sunday, 14th August

THE KENNET & AVON CANAL

An exploratory ramble informally conducted by Bob Kilsby, including Newbury, Crofton Pumping Station and, time permitting, Bruce Tunnel. Meet at Newbury at 11 a.m. in Wharf Car Park by the stone building bearing signboard, "Kennet & Avon Canal Trust". This is the former bus station, not the present one. Can be approached off Ring Road via Wharf Road. For details telephone Guildford 73218.

NOTES AND QUERIES

Wealden Field Survey

A note appeared in the last Bulletin suggesting that a survey was to be carried out to the west and north of Gatwick Airport in advance of building development. This is no longer relevant to our area since, following certain enquiries, it is now apparent that Mr Gibson-Hill's survey is intended to cover the area south of Gatwick Airport.

(Rosamond Hanworth and David Bird)

Accommodation

Mr Rob Poulton, our new Assistant Field Officer in Surrey, is currently looking for furnished accommodation for himself and his fiancée. Would anyone who could help in finding a small flat or house within a 15 mile radius of Guildford please contact him at Castle Arch.

(Honorary Secretary)

SOIL SURVEY IN SURREY

The Soil Survey of England and Wales are preparing detailed soil maps and descriptive Records for selected districts in Surrey. These will correspond to Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 sheets SU 95 (Pirbright), TQ 05 (Woking), SU 83 (Hindhead) and TQ 03 (Cranleigh). It is also planned to publish, in conjunction with MAFF Agricultural Scientists, accompanying Land Use Capability maps and Agronomic reports.

Sometimes other maps are produced which could be helpful in a variety of specific ways; these are compiled by interpreting the soil data collected.

Anyone with a special interest, or who would like to know more about the work, is invited to write to Mr S. J. Fordham, Survey Officer for Surrey, Soil Survey of England and Wales, Alice Holt Lodge, Wrecclesham, Farnham GU10 4LH. Tel. Bentley (Hants.) 2255.

Addington: Excavation of Well

Excavation finished at a depth of 82ft, some 6in below the rest level of water in the well. The pottery found dates entirely to the thirteenth or first half of the fourteenth centuries and the "stratigraphy" suggests that the well was filled in in one operation. The fairways of the golf-course disclose the remains of lynchets and other earthworks; there is another well some ten yards to the south of the one excavated and two more possible wells further to the south-east. Air-photographs show various ditches but these may be eighteenth or nineteenth century drainage; they appear to be later than the lynchets.

It is clear that we have come across a large site which would repay careful surveying with some selective excavation (e.g. to date the field boundaries and test whether other wells are present).

A resistivity survey of the area near the two wells was carried out and appears to show an anomaly to the east of the wells; from the shape of the anomaly and the texture of the subsoil this seems to be the gravel base of a yard or possibly a building.

(R. W. Savage)

In Newsletter of Archaeology Section of Croydon NHCSS

Egham: Petters Sports Field (TQ 016715)

Excavations at Petters Sports Field were completed in March this year and produced evidence of occupation from the Early/Middle Bronze Age up to and including the Middle Ages. The natural subsoil consisted of gravel, brickearth with patches of gravel, and brickearth, and most of the features were confined to the gravel.

Prehistoric Period

The earliest dateable feature on the site was part of an Early/Middle Bronze Age enclosure ditch, 1.60m wide and 0.6m deep. Only a few sherds of pottery were found but one fine barbed and tanged arrowhead was identified. A number of postholes and pits were located within the area enclosed by the ditch but provided no dating evidence. A further series of pits were discovered at a lower level which appeared to predate the ditch. What remained of a hut circle cut the north-western end of the ditch but no dating evidence was obtained.

The north-eastern end of the ditch was cut by a late Bronze Age enclosure ditch almost 5m wide and nearly 1.5m deep. The discovery of a late Bronze Age hoard in the ditch has already been noted in *Bulletin 132* (Nov./Dec. 1976). The hoard had been deposited in two small pits at the bottom of the half silted ditch and consisted of: seventy-eight pieces of bronze, including a variety of weapons, tools, vessels and ornamental attachments. Socketed axeheads were the most numerous type present in the hoard and four stylistic variants have been identified. A varied collection of tool types was found including socketed knives and gouges and a socketed sickle—a relatively rare discovery. The nature of the finds—many were unfinished or worn out through use—suggests that they were buried by a bronze-smith working in the area, and evidence of metalworking has already been attested close to the site. The reason for burying the hoard is not known but it probably took place towards the end of the eighth century or beginning of the seventh century BC.

The ditch itself ceased to function as such soon after the hoard had been deposited and the upper part of the ditch fill consisted of a thick black deposit containing large quantities of late Bronze Age pottery and bone, indicating that it was then being used as a rubbish dump or midden.

Part of the area enclosed by the ditch was investigated and a number of postholes and pits were examined. At least two hut circles have been tentatively identified. Finds were scarce and only two pits produced any quantity of pottery or bone. Several irregular pits were excavated which may have been tree holes resulting from an early phase of site clearance.

Roman Period

The next phase of occupation was represented by two parallel enclosure ditches. The larger ditch had a V shaped profile and its maximum width was 1.92m and depth 0.9m. The smaller ditch varied in width between 0.9m and 0.5m and its maximum depth was 0.3m; it may have served as a palisade trench, although no evidence of timber posts survived. Finds were limited but indicated a date in the second half of the first century AD. Only one feature within the area enclosed by the ditches was dateable to the Roman period.

A small part of a Roman roadside ditch was also excavated which cut the northern section of the late Bronze Age ditch and contained a coin of Constantine I.

Medieval and Post-medieval Period

Part of an enclosure ditch 1.5m wide and 0.7m deep containing twelfth century pottery and bone was excavated at the northern end of the site. The area enclosed by the ditch was not available for investigation.

Several post-medieval post-holes and pits were also discovered in the course of excavation.

(M. G. O'Connell)

Egham: Runnymede Bridge

An interim report by David Longley on this highly important excavation was published in the winter issue of the *London Archaeologist*. The report is well produced with several illustrations and a discussion of the significance of the finds. It is now available as a reprint with an attractive blue cover for 25p at Castle Arch, or 35p by post. Orders please, to the Society at Castle Arch. (Cheques, etc., should be made payable to Surrey Archaeological Society.)

(David Bird)

Guildford: Walks

The Guildford Group of the SAS is producing a leaflet series of walks entitled "Discovering Guildford", pointing out features of historical and architectural interest en route.

No. 1 "St Nicolas and Guildown" and No. 2 "Godalming, St Catherine's and Artington" are now available from Miss J. A. Cowie, 27 Austen Road, Guildford. Price 5p each plus stamped addressed envelope (size 4½in x 8½in).

(Audrey Monk)

Leatherhead: Mesolithic site (TQ 16385518)

In 1952 Mr L. W. Carpenter recorded the discovery of a number of mesolithic worked flints from a site on the River Mole at Young Street bridge. His report was published in the *Proc. of the Leatherhead & District Local Hist. Soc.* vol 1 no. 6 (1952), pp. 4-11.

A recent request to the Surrey County Council as to the whereabouts of the finds has led to their rediscovery at County Hall and it has been deemed best to place them on loan with this Society. They are, therefore, now held at Guildford Museum. About half of the flints recorded by Carpenter are still missing. These are, in his publication: fig. 1, nos. 1-3, 6, 8, 11-16, 18-20, 23; fig. 2, all except nos. 1 and 16; fig. 3, nos. 1, 2, 4, 9, 12, 13, 17, 22, 26-28, 30-37, 40, 42, 45-48. Those on fig. 3, nos. 49-53, and the "graver" illustrated on p. 10, all from nearby but different sites, are also missing. Fortunately the beautiful tranchet axe shown on pages 5 and 10 has not been lost, and part of another is also present, perhaps one of those referred to at the foot of p. 6 but not illustrated.

It would be pleasant if this note encourages the rediscovery of the finds which are still missing.

(D. G. Bird)

Ewhurst: Rapsley Roman Villa

Surrey has relatively few Roman villa sites, and only one, Rapsley, has been properly excavated and published, in SAC 65, 1968. It is therefore sad when one finds that even this has been appropriated elsewhere! The recent publication of John Percival's book *The Roman Villa* (1976) gives a reference for the report on the Rapsley villa excavation in the *Sussex Archaeological Collections*. In the text it is implied on p. 94 that Rapsley is in Sussex, although it is clearly stated to be in Surrey on p. 95. This is at least the second occasion on which an incorrect reference has been given for the site report: the trend appears to have started in 1973 with Cunliffe's book, *The Regni* (p. 147, where, to add insult to injury, Rapsley is misspelt). This publication was also guilty of two more serious errors which should perhaps be noted here:

On p. 85 it is stated that "it would seem reasonable to suppose that at this stage the main house lay somewhere to the north in the area so far largely unexcavated". There is a second reference to "the undiscovered north wing". In fact the excavator has pointed out to me that such a building was specifically looked for and it was simply not there. This is made clear on p. 6 of the site report: "a further 4,000 square feet north of the area shown on the plan has been effectively covered by trial trenches, but, as they were sterile, these and others to the east are not shown here".

Secondly the site plan has been redrawn and simplified, but this is not mentioned in the text, where the references to the different periods relate to the original plan in SAC and not to the new plan in *The Regni* (fig. 28)! Periods 2, 3, 4 and 5 appear in the text but only 3 and 4 on the plan, where they are renumbered I (=original 3), II (=3a) and III (=4). Two buildings and various extensions thus disappear.

One suspects that the incorrect publication references arise because Rapsley has been taken as belonging to the territory of the Regni, which is mostly Sussex. This attribution has not however been proven in any way; it could be argued that the Wealden barrier might have confined the Regni to the coastal strip, and that the inhabitants of Rapsley looked to Silchester and London: certainly the villa's mosaic showed very close affinities with one found at Calleva (Rapsley report p. 16). The whole question of the territorial division of Surrey in the Roman period should remain open.

(D. G. Bird)

SOUTHWARK EXCAVATIONS

1) 175-177 Borough High Street (TQ 325799)

Roman: The site lay on the western side of the curve of a channel running north-west—south-east. In the late first century a timber post and plank revetment was placed across the southern edge, diverting the channel to the east. The channel silted up, and was backfilled in the late first or early second century. Subsequently a second timber post and plank revetment with a north-south alignment was constructed, forming the western side of a canalised channel which silted up in the early to mid second century. Overlying the filled channels was a deposit of earth and domestic rubbish, containing pottery of mid second century date, which was probably dumped to raise the land level. Into this was cut a building, of which two rooms could be examined. The walls were of clay with occasional small internal posts. One room had a clay floor and unpainted white wall plaster, the other had a pebble and mortar floor and polychrome painted wall plaster. The collapsed walls were sealed by dark earth containing late third-fourth century pottery. West of the building were three timber-lined wells, of second century date, and two quarry pits of mid to later first century date.

Medieval: A fifteenth century chalk wall foundation ran east-west, following the old property boundary. Several medieval and Tudor pits cut through the Roman levels.

(Laura Schaaf for SLAEC)

2) 199 Borough High Street (TQ 325798)

Roman: The earlier of the two Roman ditch complexes (Bulletin 118) consisted of four mid-first century ditches in the western part of the site, aligned roughly parallel with each other and perhaps also with the main Roman road.

(Charles Murray and Laura Schaaf for SLAEC)

3) Chaucer House, Pilgrimage Street (TQ 326796)

Roman: Further examination of the topography of the site shows a slope off the Flood Plain gravels from +1.10m OD at the south-west end of the site to -0.20m at the north-east end, over a distance of c. 100m. The margin of dry land lies approximately halfway, c. 50m north-east of the probable line of Watling Street. Beyond this the ground was waterlogged during much of the Roman and medieval periods. There may have been a recession of the water, marked by dumping of second century occupation material on a dry land surface. A succeeding higher water level resulted in further clay deposition and erosion of earlier deposits in the later Roman period.

Over 80 posts, probably of early Roman date, were cut into the clays and were sealed by later Roman waterlaid deposits. Their function is uncertain, though some might be part of raised buildings or platforms. Further excavation of the ditches cut into the dry area (Bulletin 118) has now revealed four first and second century drainage ditches sealed by soil dumped in the second century. A later Roman ditch, perhaps marking a boundary, was cut into this deposit. North-east of this ditch, presumably as far as the waterlogged area, was evidence for land usage, probably agricultural, well into the fourth century. The female inhumation recovered in 1975 has been provisionally dated c. AD 430 ± 70.

Medieval: Two walls of a chalk-walled building with a floor of yellow sand have been provisionally dated to the fourteenth or fifteenth century. There

were two phases of hearths within the building, both made of roof-tiles set into the floor in a grid pattern. A circular burnt patch on the later hearth suggests that a brazier may have stood there. Ash and fine charcoal were raked across the floor. Several medieval rubbish pits and drainage ditches were also found.

Post-medieval: Behind buildings on the street frontage were sixteenth-seventeenth century dumped soils and pits, some of which contained evidence of tanning. Shallow furrows, perhaps associated with market gardening, indicate horizons within the 1-1.5m of dumped deposits; at the north-east end of the site this dumping lies directly over medieval clays, indicating that the dumping was for land reclamation.

(Eric Ferretti, Laura Schaaf and Brian Yule for SLAEC)

4) Silvester Buildings, Tabard Street (TQ 325 797)

Modern cellars had removed archaeological levels down to c. +1.25m OD. Natural sands survived to c. +1.10m OD, except where there was a probably natural low-lying area which silted up in the early Roman period. This was overlaid by a rapid flood deposit of yellow sand, which may be of pre-Flavian date.

Six large pits cut deeply into the gravels, and may be tentatively identified as gravel pits dug during remetalings of Watling Street and the later medieval pilgrims' road, which probably ran just south-west of the site. One pit is early Roman, one later Roman and the other four probably all medieval.

(Brian Yule for SLAEC)

5) Rephidim Street (TQ 329792)

Roman: Along the presumed frontage of Watling Street a series of ditches contained second-fourth century pottery. A sample from one ditch contained carbonised milled grains of emmer and barley. The ditches presumably related to agriculture, either as drainage or boundary ditches. Further north, the land fell away to mudflats, which were not reclaimed until the post-medieval period.

(Michael Hammerson for SLAEC)

Recent Publications

Bourne Society (1977). The Jubilee History of Caterham and Warlingham (an updated version of the 1953 Coronation booklet). 30p from 17 Manor Avenue, Caterham.

Booth, A. (1977). Notes on pottery fragments from kiln at Churt. Farnham MS Newsletter, Vol. IV, 10, 195.

Boddy, W. (1977). Brooklands, a Surrey Heritage. Country Life, 159, 1012-3.

Blair, W. J. (1976). The Origins of Leatherhead Parish Church. Proc. of Leatherhead & District LHS Vol. 3, 10, 323-329.

Blair, W. J. (1976). The Early Manorial Records of Leatherhead. Part IV. Three rentals of Pachenesham Magna. Proc. of Leatherhead & District LHS, Vol. 3, 10, 329-346.

Blair, W. J. (1976). The "Running Horse", Leatherhead. Proc. of Leatherhead & District LHS, Vol. 3, 10, 347-350.

Grosset, Leni (1977). Memories of George Sturt. Farnham MS Newsletter, Vol. IV, 10, 183-185.

Hall, D. (1977). Further Notes on the History of Farnham during the Civil War Period. Farnham MS Newsletter, Vol. IV, 10, 186-188.

- Hayward, G. (1976). The Dixon Family of Cherkley Court, Leatherhead. Proc. of Leatherhead & District LHS, Vol. 3, 10, 351-357.
- Lunt, R. (1977). Notes on trial excavation in grounds of "Sixways", Court Road, Banstead. Nonsuch AS Newsletter 2, 2.
- Mercer, E. D. (1977). The Dorking Brotherhood and its Lands; and the Lands in Dorking of other Religious Bodies in the Tudor Period. Dorking & Leith Hill District Preservation Society Historical Group Newsletter 6, 1-6.
- Merson, R. A. (1977). Material for the study of seventeenth-century Farnham. The Bailiffs' Accounts Book 1604-1778. (Further extracts.) Farnham MS Newsletter, Vol. IV, 10, 192-194.
- Reid, M. (1977). Camille Pissarro: Three paintings of London of 1871. What do they represent? Burlington Magazine 119, 253-261. (On the Upper Norwood area.)
- Smith, R. (1977). Historical Note on the Wells at Addington. Croydon NH & SS Archaeology Section Newsletter 38.

SYMPOSIUM

Advance Notice of Excavations Committee Symposium

The Excavations Committee is organising a Symposium to be held at Dorking Halls on Saturday, 15th April, 1978. The talks will cover recent work in the county and local societies are invited to exhibit. It is hoped to make this an annual event at Dorking Halls at this time of year.

COURSES

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

WATER MILLS AND THE POTTERY INDUSTRY

23rd-25th September

Peak National Park Study Centre (Losehill Hall,
Castleton, Derbyshire)

Residential week-end course being run in conjunction with the Yorkshire Dales Railway Society.

Programme includes evening talks, and visits to Brindley Water Mill, Gladstone Pottery Museum, Cheddleton Water Mill and Canal, and Top Forge, Wortley.

Course Directors: John Keavey, Yorkshire Dales Railway Society; Rosie Simpson, Losehill Hall.

Course Fee: £23 (including full board, speakers fees and coach tours. Entrance fees will cost approximately £1 extra).

Apply to: The Principal, Peak National Park Study Centre, Losehill Hall, Castleton, Derbyshire S30 2WB. (Tel: Hope Valley (STD 0433) 20373.)

MEETINGS

JULY

Friday 15th, 7.45 p.m.

CASTLES. Talk by Miss Corrie-King to the Archaeological Section of the Richmond Society at Richmond Adult College, Kew Road, Richmond.

Next issue: August, for which copy is required by the 5th July. Copy for the September Bulletin is required by the 5th August.