SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
CASTLE ARCH, GUILDFORD

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Editted by Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Turner, 14 Fairlawn Road, London, S.W.9.

EXCAVATION NOTICES
KENNINGTON PALACE
(N.G.R.: TQ 312782)
Director: G. J. DAWSON, B.A.

Rescue excavations will continue every Saturday and Sunday from 9.30 a.m. until dusk. Details were given in the November Bulletin.

Further information may be obtained from M. R. Maitland Muller, Hon. Sec. S.A.E.C., Cumming Museum, Walworth Road, S.E.17.

(Telephone: RDomy 3324, ext. 3).

WESTON WOOD, ALBURY: LATE BRONZE AGE SETTLEMENT
(N.G.R.: TQ 053485)
Director: JOAN M. HARDING.

Helps are still needed to complete the excavation of the Bronze Age floor and to investigate the Mesolithic chipping floor. First two weekends in February and March. Conditions are ideal for digging now. Details were given in the October Bulletin.

Enquiries to: Miss Joan M. Harding, 57 The Green, Ewell.
(Telephone: MUSEum 3644, ext. 330).

GENERAL NOTES AND NOTICES

Report of the S.A.S. Sub-committee on Policy

The sub-committee appointed by the Excavations Committee to draw up a policy and programme of excavation and field survey has presented its report to the Council. This will appear in the Society’s Annual Report and the following account is offered as a brief summary.

Recognising that a programme of research must be based on a detailed survey of all known sites in the County, the committee proposed that records should be compiled and period maps plotted as a preliminary to the formulation of a practical policy. In view of the magnitude of the task, a limited objective was set as a first step, and records are at present being compiled and maps plotted for the Borough of Kingston. When this work is completed a list of places in the Borough where special watch must be kept on building activity and other development will be drawn up and a programme of excavation outlined. Copies of this scheme will be sent to local groups and local government bodies to draw their attention to the urgent need for scientific recording of so much of archaeological evidence as possible before it is destroyed. It is hoped that when the Kingston scheme is completed a meeting of local societies can be arranged to discuss its extension to other boroughs and parishes.

The committee considers that the Society has a responsibility to encourage study groups and lectures. It also hopes that the present schemes for training excavators and directors of excavations can be extended.

The success of the policy will, of course, depend upon the finding of a person, or persons, willing to run it and an appeal will be made for volunteers to help in working through the counties.

Countryside in 1970

A second conference on the Countryside in 1970 was held in November 1965 under the joint auspices of the Royal Society of Arts and the Nature Conservancy. In preparation for the conference twelve
Study Groups, drawn from varied and often conflicting interests, reported on key issues. The CBA was represented on Study Group 8, The Group's Report (Report of Study Group No. 8: Preservation of Natural, Historic and other Treasures. Royal Society of Arts, 1965 Price £) contains a number of proposals which have a bearing on British archaeology. Study Group 4 considered planning practice and its Report (Study Group 4: Report on the Countryside: Planning Practice. Royal Society of Arts, 1965 Price £) also contains information which amenity and archaeological societies would find of interest.

LOCAL NOTES

Albury: Weston Wood excavations 1965 (TQ 053485)

Investigation continues steadily of an area some 800 feet square. It is pitted with cooking holes, fires and open furnaces on dressed earstone hearths, storage pits and smaller pits. There is a thick scatter of domestic debris and over twenty pots are being reconstructed. These range in size from minute thin pots only two inches high to great storage jars eighteen inches high. These are roughly made and have the pinched out bases characteristic of the Green Lane, Farnham, pots. There are also burnished bowls, slightly carinated, or with out-turned rims. Together they form a useful collection for further study of the problem of L.B.A./E.I.A. influence in Surrey. Eight spindle whorls have been found near the fires, as have also loom weights. One had the impression of a broad rimmed borer sliced across it. There is only a fragment of a bronze pin and another small blob of tin and lead.

The Mesolithic horizon, in the light blown sand sealed beneath the Bronze Age floor, has produced typical microliths of late Wealden Culture. A chipping floor is being investigated.

This season has been notable for various experiments designed to help in interpretation of the site. Potters have made L.B.A. type pottery from the gault clay in the valley — using their own pot boilers as grog. The pots have been fired in various pits like those on the site, but in every case the pots shattered on coming in direct contact with the flames. Indirect means of firing were successful. The experiments continue.

Wheat is being stored in a pit. The jar was copied in local clay from the Weston Wood grain storage jar. Emmer wheat has been sown in a little plot furrowed with pointed stick.

The grant from the Carnegie Trust has been used to provide extra tools for schools which are sending groups to dig on the site. Preliminary training is given in the Guildford Museum. The scheme is working well. The total area now excavated is approximately an acre and the pottery throughout is simple in form and texture. Nevertheless it would seem that there should be another dwelling near this busy working floor which is some 300 feet from the original house structure.

(Joan M. Harding).

Ewhurst: Roman Villa at Rapsey (TQ 08044152)

The 1965 season of excavations saw the completion of Site 1. It consists of an Antonine bath block which was laid over an earlier cobbled area and which had a timber structure of the same date abutting it to the north.

There may have been an ornament or a pedestal in the centre of a small courtyard formed by the projecting walls of the hot bath and the cold plunge. There was a rain-water gutter outside the hot bath, made of the same material and ending in a stone basin. A drain connecting the latrine, the cold plunge and the hot bath flowed into a soak-away five feet south of the building.

In the third century the bath block was converted into a small dwelling house with two rudimentary wings facing west. To achieve this, a mosaic paved room and an L-shaped room were built over the former timber structure; the cold plunge and part of the Frigidarium were demolished and the hypocaust blocked so that it only served two heated rooms at the back of the house (these would appear to have been the tepidarium in the original construction).

In the fourth century two corridors were added to the east and west fronts. A large number of tiles with cobble flooring was added to the north. The main entrance in all three periods was in the centre of the west front.

Part of the boundary wall, with a possible entrance, has been traced in Site 2. It is aligned on the existing lane. The medieval house is also on the alignment, which strongly suggests a Roman track which has existed on this line. It would have joined the Rowhook-Farley Heath Roman road some 400 yards north of the Wykehurst tile kiln.

(Misscountess Hanworth).

Merrow: Lelysdene (TQ 025501)

It is very pleasant to see that the gaping end of this building has been reconstructed and that it is going to be saved and lived in. I suspect that this happy result is in no small measure due to the efforts of the Records, Historical Buildings and Antiquities Committee of Surrey County Council, who do so much for Surrey Churches. The house, now stripped of further additions, dates essentially from the first half of the seventeenth century. It has a very fine timber staircase and paneling. This was once a favourite residence of the Onslow family. Speaker Arthur Onslow living there from 1715 until he moved to Kimber Court on his marriage. Several of the Onslovs were buried in the south chancel aisle of the old church at Merrow.

(K. W. E. Gravett).

Richmond: Cardigan House. (TQ 181744)

Persistant rumours exist that Cardigan House, Richmond is likely to be demolished. In view of its fine mid-eighteenth century frontage, with central Venetian window and above it stucco panels with flowers and cornucopias, this would be a great pity.

The house was occupied by the Earls of Cardigan, who were famous for the parties they gave there, until the time of the Earl who led the famous Champagne of the Light Brigade. A later owner was Captain John Wills, responsible for building the Cutty Sark. It is now a part of the British Legion Poppy Factory.

(K. W. E. Gravett).

FUTURE MEETINGS

FEBRUARY

Saturday, 5th. 3 p.m. CANALS. Lecture by L. A. Edwards at the Darby and Joan Club, Cooper Crescent, Nightingale Lane, Carshalton. Arranged by the BEDDINGTON, CARshalton and WALLington ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY. A visitor's fee of one shilling is charged.

Wednesday, 9th. 8 p.m. The HUGGINS. Lecture by Klaus Marx at West Hill Library, S.W.18. Arranged by the WANDSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY. Members wishing to attend should contact D. R. Pollack, 102 Disraeli Road, S.W.15.

Thursday, 10th. SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING: LONDON VISIT.

11.00 a.m. Assemble Stationers' Hall, Stationers' Hall Court, Ludgate Hill, E.C.4. The Stationers' Hall will be visited and described.

Lunch may be taken with the party (to be paid for individually) at a restaurant near the Old Bailey. Members wishing to lunch with the party are asked to notify Mrs. C. H. to that end.

2 p.m. Assemble at St. Sephore's Church, Holborn Viaduct (opposite the Old Bailey). The church will be visited and described after which the party will visit the bastion of the Roman city wall that is preserved in the basement of the G.F.O. building in Giltspur Street.