

**SURREY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
CASTLE ARCH, GUILDFORD
BULLETIN**

Number 145

March 1978

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

VISIT

Wednesday, 26th April

**AFTERNOON VISIT TO THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE,
RUSKIN AVENUE, KEW**

Arranged by Miss M. Gollancz

2.00 p.m. Meet at the main entrance for a guided tour, lasting 2 to 2½ hours, including conservation and technical services.
Party limited to 30 and prior booking before 19th April with names of those attending is essential.

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

JULY

PLEASE NOTE that the visit to the Salisbury area announced in **Bulletin 143** has now had to be postponed until the 19th September.

NOTES AND QUERIES

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at the University of Surrey on Saturday, 28th January, 1978. It formed part of a symposium on the work of the Society. The President, Mr McDowall, was in the chair. In presenting the Annual Report and Accounts for 1976-7 the Treasurer stressed the momentous change in the Society's position following the Margary bequest. The President invited members to comment on how they thought the money should be used. He indicated current ideas are to purchase additional facilities at Guildford, and possibly elsewhere in the county, to reduce pressure on Castle Arch.

In the election the President, all the Vice-Presidents, and the other honorary officers were re-elected unopposed. In addition the Viscountess Hanworth was elected a new Vice-President of the Society. After a vote the six members elected to serve on Council were Mr M. E. Blackman, Dr G. J. Dawson, Miss J. M. Harding, Mrs K. M. Percy, Mrs E. A. Stazicker and Mr G. H. Underwood.

(Honorary Secretary)

New Members from 1.1.78

S. K. Stoddart, Tretower, Mellow, Guildford, GU4 7AT

N. E. Stanley, 118 Carlton Road, Reigate, RH2 0JF

N. J. H. Russel, 22 Summersbury Drive, Shalford, Guildford, GU1 8JQ

Miss S. Pile, Munstead, Godalming, GU8 4AR

Planning Consents

The Planning Committees of both Southwark and Lambeth Borough Councils are to be congratulated on the adoption of a policy that all sites should have their archaeological potential considered. In Southwark all planning consents involving redevelopment in the Borough will have the following "informative": "The Council considers that it is important that all development sites within the Borough should be examined so that evidence of archaeological remains may be recovered. You are requested to provide facilities for archaeological excavation after any demolition works have taken place." In Lambeth this "informative" will be attached to all planning consents which are considered archaeologically significant following the advice of the local unit (SLAEC).

(Honorary Secretary)

Brockham: Limeworks, Hearthstone Mines, Brickworks and Sandpits (TQ 198510)

Through the kindness of Mr A. W. F. Taylerson, of the Brockham Lime and Hearthstone Co. Ltd., and others, records relating to these sites have been made available for study, and are being deposited in the Surrey Record Office. Chalk quarries and limeworks, three (probably inter-connected), hearthstone mines, two brickfields and sandpits were worked initially by unincorporated associations and latterly by the Brockham Brick Co. Ltd. and its successor (and still extant) company already mentioned. The limeworks is of particular interest in retaining well-preserved remains of Alfred Bishop's patent "Brockham" continuous kilns of 1889 patent, showing that this concern was noteworthy for technical innovation as early as this, while neighbouring works at Dorking and Betchworth were still using old-fashioned batch-firing hand-loaded flare kilns; the Brockham Kilns were copied elsewhere in the country, and later adopted at the Betchworth works, to which concern the technical initiative later went. Records of the Betchworth works [managed by the Dorking Greystone Lime Co. Ltd.] have already in large part been deposited at the SRO.

The Brockham records contain, inter alia, transcripts of leases, accounts with customers and suppliers, production and financial figures, and correspondence with Reigate Mines Ltd. and the Surrey Hearthstone Mining Co. Ltd. (operating at Betchworth) and others relating to the hearthstone mines.

The hearthstone mines are the westernmost operated in Surrey, and are also of considerable technical interest in being operated in a particularly steeply dipping stratum of stone—about 20° north. A limited amount of investigation below ground has been possible in recent years.

By comparison, relatively little remains of the Crabtree and Lower brickfields and their kilns—the latter is built over—and the sandpits are currently being filled with refuse.

All pits, mines and quarries were at one time within the Deepdene estates, and ceased production at various times from about 1911 (the brickfields) to 1925 (the mines) and 1936 (the chalk quarries). Considerable scope appears to exist for interdisciplinary work on the correlation of the floras developed with periods of working, and this is being examined in conjunction with Dr B. N. K. Davies of the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology.

Early in 1977 a large part of the site, including the limeworks, chalk quarries, and parts of the areas undermined, was purchased from the company by the Surrey County Council. The Brockham Railway Museum remain as tenants, and discussions are currently in train between all interested parties (the IA Committee of the SAS, the Surrey Trust for Nature Conservation, the Brockham Railway Museum, the Surrey County Council, the Nature Conservancy Council, et al) with a view to formulating a management plan for the site which will properly conserve its several outstanding features of interest.

(Paul W. Sowan, SAS IA Committee)

Ewell: Reigate Road, Iron Age and Romano-British Settlement

Work is proceeding on material recovered during exploratory excavations, conducted by Mr Tom Walls between 1946 and 1949, of part of an Iron Age and Romano-British settlement in the grounds of The Looe, Reigate Road, Ewell (TQ 228608). The site is situated on the nose of a small north-eastward facing chalk spur, and the features discovered include several rubbish-filled storage pits of varying dimensions; a curving length of gully, presumably for drainage rather than constructional purposes; a large sub-rectangular "working-hollow"; and a number of smaller scoops and hollows of unresolved function. Further traces of settlement, in the form of pits and working-hollows were noted in the fields around The Looe by Mr Walls during the late 'forties and early 'fifties, and the evidence thus assembled points to the presence of a native farmstead of Little Woodbury type on the downs above Ewell.

Pottery from the limited area excavated suggests that the site was occupied in the decades either side of the Roman Conquest, although a small series of sherds from the large working-hollow, and from residual contexts within the pits, date to the early La Tene or "Angular" period of the Iron Age (late fifth/fourth centuries BC).

An in-urned cremation burial deposited in the mouth of one of the pits, and dateable to the first/second centuries AD, is notable in that it was accompanied by nine gaming-counters of bone and one of pottery. The nine bone counters, several of which may have served as gambling-tokens, have been published in *Britannia* Vol. 8 (1977). Other finds from the pits include

fragments of triangular loomweights, quernstones, hones and a chalk spindle-whorl. The faunal evidence from so small a sample is hardly valid for comparative purposes, although most of the expected species appear to be present.

A selection of the pottery has been thin-sectioned by Tony MacKenna of the Museum of London, and macroscopic examination of the querns has been undertaken by David Moore of the British Museum (Natural History). A full report is in preparation.

(Jonathan Cotton)

Wallington: Modern Cemetery, Bandon Hill (TQ 299647)

Romano-British and other finds. (Further to Bulletins 116, 120 and 134)

A small exploratory excavation was carried out by the Beddington, Carshalton & Wallington Archaeological Society, under the direction of Mr Clive Orton and with help from members of Nonsuch & Ewell Antiquarian Society, from 24th to 28th November, 1977.

For several reasons the only ground close to the earlier chance finds on which the cemetery authorities can permit excavation is the northern boundary grass pathway and, even on that, 3 ft north to south is the maximum permissible width for trenches.

A trench, 18 ft by 3 ft, axis east to west along this boundary path, was taken down to the Thanet Sand "natural" at 3 ft 6 in. Trowelling at that depth, which was below that to which any of the gravediggers' chance R-B finds had extended, except for the unusually deeply buried jar of Bulletin 134, showed the sand to be free of any indication of deeper penetration.

This trench yielded a scatter of Iron Age and Romano-British sherds, with some of later date and a considerable amount of burnt flint with some struck flint, including items of a mesolithic nature.

Some lumps of baked clay, at first thought to be similar to those found at Burleigh Avenue, Wallington (Bulletin 133), have since proved to be the reconstructable fragments of a loom weight.

(K. A. Pryer)

Wallington: Roman pottery from 32 Royston Avenue (TQ 298648)

During underpinning work in November 1977, builders discovered several sherds of Roman pottery in their trench on the south side of the house. The recently excavated site at Bandon Hill Cemetery (see above report) is only about 180 m to the south, and the soil conditions are very similar. About 1 m of soft brownish sand overlies the natural, yellow, Thanet Sand, separated by a thin layer of "iron pan". The finds were made in the brownish sand and no features were apparent when the site was visited by Mr K. A. Pryer of the Beddington, Carshalton and Wallington Archaeological Society. Sherds from five vessels were found—from a cup (Drag. 33) in Central Gaulish samian, a jar probably in Oxfordshire ware, a jar in similar

but harder and finer fabric, and two small sherds in sandy fabrics. They may represent ancillary vessels from burials, and indicate a more northern extent to the Romano-British burials found in Bandon Hill Cemetery (Bulletins Nos. 116, 120, 134). Thanks are due to Mr David Norton of Dual Contractors Ltd. for reporting the finds and sending them to the writer, and to Mrs Kenward for putting Mr Norton in touch with the writer.

(Clive Orton)

Wisley: Field walking on the route of the M25

Quantities of worked flints were found in all the fields bordering the Wey (TQ 062598 to TQ 070598).

Medieval pottery was found near the site of the cottage Pleasants or Pheasants (TQ 067595). Two sherds of RB pottery, a few small pieces of iron slag, and a lot of tiny fragments of flint tempered pottery were found at TQ 062598. This area, which is just across the river from the Wisley sewage works, is shortly to be excavated by the SAS for the DoE.

(Ann Watson)

BOOK REVIEW

SURREY INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

By Gordon A. Payne

This neatly produced 64 page booklet is described by its author as a field guide. It does not set out to be a comprehensive list of every single aspect of the industrial history scene of Surrey, nor does it pretend to cover any subject fully. Any book to do so would be of immense proportions. What it does do, however, is to provide a fair range of subjects giving brief details of most of the well known examples of each.

Great interest has arisen over the last few years in our industrial heritage, and this interest continues to grow. For beginners I feel this book will be a most useful first acquisition. It will provide the student with a wealth of subjects to choose from should he or she be in doubt as to which course to pursue. Then, having decided on a particular interest, the best known local remains and their map references are listed so that a very good start can be made. The book contains numerous photographs and I consider it well worth the money at £1.25.

(Anthony Harcombe)

SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM OF SURREY ARCHAEOLOGISTS Saturday, 15th April, 1978

DORKING HALLS

Chairman: Dennis Turner

10.30 a.m. to about 5 p.m. with a short break for lunch at 12.45-1.45 and an extended tea break from 3-3.45 to give time for viewing the exhibits.

Programme (provisional):

Roy Edwards

Vauxhall Stoneware Factory

Frank Pemberton

Recent work in Ewell

David Barker

Egham High Street excavation

Annie Robinson and Lesley Smith	Archaeological surveys by the SWLT
Tony Clark	The significance of Runnymede Bridge and Petters Lunch
Marion Smith	Recent work in Kingston
Martin O'Connell	Petters Sports Field
Stuart Needham	Lagham Manor Sports Field
Tea	
David Williams	Recent work in Reigate
Lesley Ketteringham	Scientific work on the Surrey Hillfort

It is hoped that there will be exhibitions of the work of all interested societies in Surrey and a form is being prepared for circulation.

Tickets at 50p will be available from Castle Arch. Please enclose s.a.e. and make cheques payable to SAS.

A picnic lunch is recommended.

Home made teas will be available at a charge of 50p ordered in advance from Miss C. Smith, Elyots, Minster Road, Godalming. Orders please by 1st April at latest.

WEEKEND SEMINAR

BRICK AND TILE KILNS

Organised by The London Kiln Study Group

1st/2nd April, 1978

School of Pharmacy, University of London,
Brunswick Square, WC1

The Seminar will cover many aspects of brick and tile manufacture and use in Great Britain, from the Roman period to the present day, with particular emphasis on the kilns. The following people have agreed to speak: Paul Atterbury, Paul Drury, Gerald Dunning, Elizabeth Eames, Lt Col Harvey (London Brick Co.), Martin Hammond, Lawrence Harley, Richard Hughes, J. G. Musty, Mr Easterbrook (Langley London Ltd.), Pauline Roenisch, Graham Soffe, Mike Tite, Malcolm Nixon, Alan McWhirr, Barry Johnson.

Fee: £7.50, of which £1 will be non-returnable registration fee. Tickets, which include tea and coffee but not mid-day meals, are available from the Secretary, c/o The Cuming Museum, Newington District Library, 155 Walworth Road, SE17.

COURSES

at

Juniper Hall Field Centre, Dorking, RH5 6DA

(Tel. Dorking 3849)

TIMBER, BRICKS AND STONE. Saturday/Friday, 5th/11th August.

Tutors: Joan Harding, Victoria Houghton.

Fee: £55.

EXPLORING THE NORTH DOWNS (the past history of the area and man's part in the modification of the countryside). Monday/Friday, 14th/18th August.

Fee: £34.

THE LOCAL HISTORIAN AT WORK. Friday/Sunday, 6th/8th October.

Tutor from Portsmouth Polytechnic.

Fee: £21.

MEETINGS

MARCH

Thursday 16th, 8.15 p.m.

TOWER OF LONDON, MASTER OF THE ARMORIES. Talk by Nicholas Norman to The Charlwood Society in the Parish Hall, Charlwood.

Friday 31st, 8 p.m.

THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SEALED KNOT. Talk by Tony Shaw to Wandsworth HS at the Friends Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street.

APRIL

Wednesday 5th, 8 p.m.

EXCAVATIONS IN EWELL. Talk by Frank Pemberton to Nonsuch AS in St Mary's Hall, Ewell.

Tuesday 11th, 8 p.m.

HISTORY OF STOKE d'ABERNON CHURCH. Talk by Rev J. H. L. Waterson to Egham-by-Runnymede HS in the Literary Institute (1st floor), Egham High Street.

Tuesday 18th, 8 p.m.

GUILDFORD BEFORE THE MOTOR CAR. (Final instalment.) Talk by Reg Patrick and Matthew Alexander with early Railway and Military slides. To Guildford Group of the SAS, at the Brew House, Guildford. Visitors welcome.

Next Bulletin: April. Following Bulletin: May—for which copy is required by the 5th April.