EXCAVATION NOTICE

REIGATE: OLD VICARAGE SITE (TQ 25705036)
(Director: David Williams)

Work is still continuing on Sundays on the excavation of the site of the possible cross-wing of this medieval building and it is hoped to trace the extent of the underlying Saxo-Norman layer before a full-time excavation takes place later in the year. Further details from David Williams who can be contacted during the day on 01-223 3431.

SAS Visits—Cancellations

The proposed visit to Cambridge and the Isle of Ely, which Mrs Sylvia Lewin was arranging for 3rd-5th August (see Bulletin 153) has had to be cancelled because of large and last-minute price increases. This decision has been taken with regret, and with apologies for any inconvenience caused to members.

Proposed June visit to Boulogne

It is regretted that the summer season hovercraft schedules have made this visit impracticable, as there would not be sufficient time for the tour of the old city. It is hoped it will be possible to arrange this visit in the autumn, should the timetable approximate to that of the 1978 autumn/winter season.

New Members from 1.2.79

Miss C. Drench, Little Wigg, Peaslake, Guildford, Surrey GU5 9SX
Miss W. A. Easterling, BA, 5 Ockford Court, Ockford Road, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1RT
Mr and Mrs I. G. MacDonald, 3 First Avenue, West Molesey, Surrey KT8 0QJ
Mrs V. Herbert, B.Sc, 17 Sutherland Avenue, Jacobs Well, Guildford, Surrey
Mr and Mrs R. A. Adkins, 50 Reeves Croft, Hodge Lea, Milton Keynes, Bucks. MK12 6DB
Mrs F. F. Thompson, 6 Sylvaways Close, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 7HG

SAS/LAMAS Joint Publication No. 1—Southwark Excavations 1972-74

At the end of the collecting period many copies of the Joint Publication remained unclaimed. Members who opted to collect their volumes are asked to do so as soon as possible, in any case not later than 31st May. After that date any copies remaining at the various centres will be returned to Castle
Arch. Since the collecting times set out in Bulletin 154 were specially arranged for the fortnight 12th-24th March, it would be advisable to make prior arrangements with the collecting centre before calling.

After the end of May copies may be collected from the Library, Castle Arch, during the hours when Mrs Ashworth is in attendance (see Bulletin 154), or they may be sent by post on receipt of £1 for postage and packing. Since the printing order was based on the numbers of members applying for copies (on the special form issued with Bulletin 147 of May 1978), it is not possible to allow free copies to members who did not so apply, but, so long as stocks last, members of SAS may buy copies at the special price of £6, plus £1 for postage and packing (the price to non-members is £10). Applications should be made to Castle Arch.


The above publication was not one of the Society's regular series and was not distributed to members at the time of issue. It has been decided, however, that it should now be offered free to members of SAS so long as stocks last. Any member who would like to have one may collect a copy from Castle Arch, or it may be sent by post on receipt of 10p for postage and packing.

A full report on these excavations is in preparation.

NOTES AND QUERIES

Honorary Treasurer

As members will know Mr A. C. Sargent, at his request, was not re-elected Honorary Treasurer at the last AGM. While he was dealt with the Society's business for the remainder of the financial year (to 31st March, 1979) any future financial matters should be sent to Miss C. Smith (Elyots, Minster Road, Godalming, GU7 1SR) who has agreed to become acting treasurer pending appointment of a new honorary treasurer.

(Honorary Secretary)

Archaeological Unit in Administrative Surrey

Following extensive negotiations with Surrey County Council it was agreed to transfer the administration of the Archaeological Unit from the Society to the Planning Department of the County Council. The effect of this change will be to remove an extensive administration commitment from the Honorary Treasurer and other officers of the Society. As Dr Bird will now be based on County Hall, Kingston-upon-Thames his office at Castle Arch will be available to ease library accommodation problems.

While Dr Bird will become a full time employee of the County Council the two field officers will continue to be funded by DOE. However they too will be based at County Hall. The work of the unit will not be significantly changed. The Society will continue its role in the work of the unit with the evaluation of archaeological priorities, and liaison with local societies. However this role will now be undertaken by an Advisory Committee.

Members who wish to contact Dr Bird may do so by writing to the County Planning Officer, attention Dr Bird, County Hall, Kingston-upon-Thames, KT1 2DN or by phone on 01-546 1050 or Esher 67531 (either number extension 3665).

(Honorary Secretary)
The following statement was approved unanimously at the Council for British Archaeology’s Council Meeting on 12th January, 1979:

COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY

TREASURE HUNTING

In the view of the Council for British Archaeology, treasure hunting constitutes a great threat to the country’s archaeological heritage and it is thus contrary to the national interest. The concept of treasure hunting is totally at variance with the objectives and practices of archaeology in studying and safeguarding our tangible past for the public good of present and future generations.

The Council recognises that many users of metal detectors are activated by a genuine interest in the past and its remains and that they would not knowingly damage those remains. Such people are welcome to join the active membership of British archaeology, but they must accept the methods and disciplines of archaeology.

It was noted that 10 out of 11 District Councils in Surrey do not permit the use of detectors on Council owned land and the County Council is taking further action about bye-laws.

Barnes: St Mary’s Church (TQ 220765)

The parish church of St Mary, Barnes was gutted by fire in June 1978. The SWLT was asked to examine the building because the fire had revealed traces of medieval wall painting on the south and east walls. This area is now the south isle but would originally have been the nave. Unit staff, aided by local volunteers, collected and stored all fragments of the church memorials, cleaned down the east and south walls, and prepared a drawing of the wall paintings. The painting survived in five layers: the most recent is Gothic black letter script on white plaster, though not enough remains to decypher any inscription. Below this are three layers of double red lines on white lime wash, the lines designed to create the impression of ashlar blocks. The uppermost layer of the double lines motif shows a small six petal “flower” in the centre of each block. The earliest layer consists of a narrow single red line on lime wash, again representing ashlar.

A number of architectural details have been seen in the medieval walls and a possible Norman arch has been partially revealed. It is hoped to return to the church later this spring to completely clean down the two medieval walls and make a measured drawing of the fabric. The floor of the south isle is to be taken up and, if necessary, a small scale excavation could be undertaken.

The roof was examined by Mr K. W. E. Gravett, who kindly supplied the following details: Of the roofs of Barnes Church, only that of the old nave (and present south isle) was ancient. It consisted of coupled rafters with collars, and braces to the collars, but no purlins. Since it was fixed over stone walls, the feet of the rafters had ashlar-pieces and there were two parallel wall plates on each side. The collars and braces had mortice and tenon joints and there was a continuous hollow chamfer along the lower edges of each collar, each brace, the lower parts of each rafter and the inner faces of the ashlar-pieces. It was entirely of oak and there were
two tie-beams. Such a roof occurs from the early thirteenth century onwards, but the proportions and chamfer suggest an early fifteenth-century date and this is confirmed by the deep hollow and half-round mouldings on the surviving fragments of the original front wallplate.

The roof has been drawn in situ by staff of the GLC Historic Buildings Division; it will be removed to allow for rebuilding of the church and any medieval timber will be saved for possible reuse in the new roof of the south isle.

(K. Gravett, J. S. McCracken)

Carshalton: Pottery from Ruskin Road (TQ 284643)

A recent watch (February 1979) kept by the writer on building work being carried out behind Nos. 61, 63, 65 and 67 Ruskin Road, Carshalton, resulted in the collection of a small quantity of pottery, including one sherd of Roman, and several sherds of possibly Saxon, date. A number of flint waste flakes were also found scattered across the site, although an eighteenth/nineteenth century gunflint was the only recognisable artefact recovered.

The area of the finds lies 300m. ESE of All Saints parish church. A similarly ill-assorted collection of material was recovered during excavations at “The Park”, Carshalton (TQ 279641), 400m to the south-west (Sy. AC 70 (1975), 8-10).

(Jonathan Cotton)

Croydon: The discovery of a Palimpsest Brass

In December 1972 Mrs L. Hausermann, a member of the Monumental Brass Society discovered five pieces of palimpsest brass to Thomas Heron, 1544, in the crypt of St John Parish Church, Croydon. These fragments formed part of a larger memorial to Thomas Heron and his wife Elizabeth, daughter and co-heir of William Bond, with four sons, seven daughters, foot inscription and five shields of arms. The greater part of this brass was stolen by workmen employed in the restoration of 1859. Subsequently the group of daughters and two shields of arms were fixed to the south and north aisle walls respectively. The empty original slab is situated in the churchyard on the south side of the nave in the third bay east from the south porch.

On Saturday, 23rd September, 1978 the writer, a member of the Monumental Brass Society, discovered that the group of daughters and one shield, bearing the arms of Heron impaling Bond quartering Alphew quarterly with Pettit were palimpsest. With the consent of Rev C. Hill, and in the presence of Mr F. Kenning and Mr J. C. Page-Phillips, MA, these fragments were removed by the writer on Saturday, 9th December, 1978.

After the restoration work had been completed it was discovered that the obverse side of the daughters was an appropriated palimpsest. It is evident from the children's costume that this piece dated c. 1520 has been used to serve a 1544 memorial. The reverse of this plate reveals the lower portion of a priest in cope dated c. 1540. Of great interest on the reverse side of the shield is a civilian weeper with rosary beads standing in a niche, surrounded by a canopy, dated c. 1500.

The brasses have been returned to the church accompanied by a brass rubbing and description relating to this find.

(H. M. Stuchfield)
Frimley: Possible Fort and Enclosure in Frith Hill Woodlands (SU 893586)

Remains of possible ramparts were noted across the north-east aspect and approaches to this 1.5 hectare promontory, extending as less distinct features along the north side. In a central position, close to the steep south flank, a semi-circular bank, 3 metres broad, delimits an area 40 metres across, containing sub-rectangular outlines. There are recent foundations nearby, and the site is scarred by tracks and army practice works.

(Thomas C. Welsh)

Limpshfield: Interpretation of the Domesday Book entry

The study of settlement and land use in the Weald presented by K. P. Witney in The Jutish Forest, A Study of the Weald of Kent from 450 to 1350 AD (Athlone Press 1976), makes possible the interpretation of the final statement in the Domesday entry for Limpshfield which, in modern English, says: “The men of the Hundred say that Bramselle belonged to this Manor in the time of King Edward.”

Briefly, Mr Witney postulates the Weald used as Commonland pertaining to the settlements in the north of each Lathe, mainly for the purpose of feeding swine each Autumn. These pig pastures were reached by the ancient iron age tracks and the Roman roads already in existence. By a gradual process, from the fifth to the thirteenth century, the large commons were divided into dennis attached to individual manors and the dennis were slowly colonised by the drovers until, finally, they developed into sub-manors, some still attached to their parent manor, as can be seen in the Domesday Survey.

Bramselle is still a farm in the parish of Hever (TQ 472428). It stands on a ridge of higher ground on the 400 ft. contour, adjacent to the road carrying the parish boundary, which argues an early date for the road. Bramselle was reached, in the early period, from Limpshfield via the Roman road running south through the parishes of Limpshfield and Edenbridge which meets the east-west road along the ridge from Gilridge through Cowden Pound to Markbeech, on which road Bramselle lies.

The Place Name of Bramselle probably contains the element “gisell” meaning “shelter”, indicating the first tentative settlement of the swine drovers in the Weald, which occurred from the ninth century onwards.

In the fifteenth century Court Rolls (Maidstone Record Office) Bramselle is clearly a separate part of the manor of Hever with five or six tenants, bearing out the hamlet type of settlement which developed in the Weald.

It appears probable that the Bramselle referred to in Domesday Book was originally a part of the Weald common available to the Lathe of Wallington which was, in the course of time, settled by droversmen from Limpshfield. At some time between the death of King Edward, 1066, and the making of the Domesday Survey in 1086 the detached part of the manor had been alienated from the Manor of Limpshfield.

I am indebted to Mr K. P. Witney for helpful comments on this note.

(Kay Percy)

Reigate: Flanchford Millsite (TQ 235480)

In 1975/76 an excavation close to Flanchford Mill (SAS Bulletin 124) revealed two medieval pits containing many lumps of an unusual stone in association with late twelfth/early thirteenth century pottery. A sample of
the stone was submitted to the Institute of Geological Sciences where Mr R. Sanderson of the Petrological Unit identified it as burrstone, a siliceous tufa from the Marne valley in France, a material much used in medieval times for the manufacture of millstones.

The suggested presence of a watermill, in the late twelfth or early thirteenth century, precedes by three centuries the earliest known documentary evidence (1527) for a mill at or close to the site of the existing disused one.

(R. L. Ellaby)

Wimbledon: High Street excavation 1979 (TQ 23927109)

An excavation was carried out on and adjacent to Nos. 28-31 Wimbledon High Street in March 1979. The excavation was directed by Roy and Lesley Adkins, Field Officers of the South West London Archaeological Unit, at the request of the John Evelyn Society, who had found documentary evidence that a Medieval farm had existed on or near the site. A 12m by 5m trench was opened and immediately modern disturbance was encountered. A wall of No. 31 High Street was revealed, as well as a modern cesspit and various other brick structures and drains of nineteenth and twentieth century dates. The area had previously been occupied by a building and possibly a backyard. The entire area of the trench was built up with modern ballast and rubble to a depth of at least 0.6m.

The site contractors had imposed a restriction of a maximum depth of 1m on the excavation, which severely limited the search for Medieval features. Because of this restriction and because of the highly disturbed nature of the site, it was decided to abandon the excavation after recording all visible features on 11th March. This decision was precipitated by the adverse weather conditions and the absence of a labour force (particularly unfortunate as more than 30 people had previously volunteered to help).

It was not possible to extend the excavation to Nos. 28-30 High Street owing to a deep cellar in this area. The back of the area to be developed and the area adjacent to Allington Close were examined, but proved to have been much disturbed by the contractor's plant and contained several trenches. In these conditions it was hoped that any evidence of Medieval occupation would easily be detected, but the area appeared quite barren and the trenches revealed apparently sterile gravel.

It may well be useful to watch the site at the start of the proposed development in case anything can be detected at that stage, but other than this, further work would seem to be unproductive.

(L. and R. Adkins)

Surrey/Hampshire border. Barrows on Ludshott Common, Hants. (SU 84763573 and SU 85133583)

Two previously unscheduled bronze age barrows have been found by the Haslemere Group on Ludshott Common National Trust property near Grayshott, Hants. The barrows have been inspected by the Hampshire Archaeological Officer, Mr M. Hughes, and they will now be listed. Both appear to be simple Bell barrows, one 13m and the other 14m in diameter.

(J. R. Turner)
Recent accessions to the Society's Library
(previous list in Bulletin No. 152, November/December 1978)

1. GENERAL

Cameron, K. ed. Place name evidence for Anglo Saxon invasion and
Clarke, D. Neolithic Europe, the economic basis, 1978.
Council for British Archaeology. British Archaeology; introductory book-
list, 1976.
— 25—Kenyon, J. R. Castles, town defences, and artillery fortifications
in Britain.
Cunliffe, B. and Rowley, T. eds. Lowland Iron Age Communities in Europe.
1978.
Department of the Environment Committee for Rescue Archaeology. The
Dodgshon, R. A. and Butlin, R. A. eds. An historical geography of England
and Wales. 1978.
Evans, J. G. and others, eds. The effect of man on the Landscape—High-
land Zone. 1975.
Fletcher, J. Dendrochronology. 1978.
Foster, J. Bronze boar figurines in Iron Age and Roman Britain. 1978.
Green, D. and others. Social organisation and settlement. 2 parts. 1978.
Guido, M. Glass beads and the prehistoric and Roman periods. 1978.
Henig, M. A. Corpus of Roman engraved gemstones. 1978.
Hudson, K. Food, clothes and shelter. 1978.
Limbrey, S. and Evans, J. G. eds. The effect of man on the Landscape—
Lowland zone. 1978.
1978.
Morgan, M. Historical Sources in Geography. 1979.
Morris, R. Churches and Archaeology. 1978.
University of Southampton, Department of Archaeology. New Approaches
Williams, T. I. ed. History of Technology. Vol. VI. 20th Century Part I,
Vol. VII 20th Century Part II.
2. LOCAL, EXCLUDING SURREY
Council for British Archaeology Research Reports. 1978.
Gibson, Alex M. Bronze Age pottery in North East England. 1978.

3. SURREY (GENERAL)
Surrey County Library. Surrey Local History Organisations. 1978.

4. SURREY (LOCAL)
Alexander, M. Guildford as it was. 1978.
Croydon, London Borough. Your Croydon.
Fortescue, S. E. D. People and places; Great and Little Bookham. 1978.
Palmer, R. J. Bisley people in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. 1978.
Service and pageant to commemorate the 850th Anniversary of Waverley Abbey. 1978.

Recent Publication
KUTAS Occasional Paper No. 2, Picton House, Kingston-upon-Thames and the people connected with it. 80p (plus 20p for p. and p.) from the Hon Secretary, KUTAS, 295 West Barnes Lane, New Malden, KT3 6JE. Includes the history of the negro servant Cesar Picton, who owned the house and also Picton House at Thames Ditton.
MEETINGS

MAY

Tuesday 1st to Friday 4th
OPEN DAYS at the Museum, 14 Croydon Road, Reigate. Organised by the Holmesdale Natural History Club. Finds from the Reigate Vicarage excavation. Natural History and Local History. 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. Admission Free.

Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th
OPEN DAYS at the Museum, Reigate. Details as above. 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Monday 7th
OPEN DAY at the Museum, Reigate. Details as above. 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Saturday 12th at the Museum of London
The London Kiln Study Group’s sixth seminar “A New Light on Old Kilns” will include the following subjects: Pipe Kilns, Stoneware and Tin Glaze kilns in Vauxhall; Magnetic intensity dating of potsherds; Sixteenth century earthenware kiln in East Sussex; Alice Holt Firings; and Recent bottle oven firing at Gladstone Pottery Museum.

Admission: £4 for non-members. Information from the Secretary, London Kiln Study Group, 155 Walworth Road, London, SE17.

Saturday 26th commencing 10.30
Excavations Committee Symposium: 1979 at Dorking Halls.

JUNE

Saturday 9th

COOKHAM, BISHAM, READING AND FARNBOROUGH
Arranged by Mrs J. Major and Capt M. Wilson

8.30 a.m. Coach departs Dorking Halls.
9.05 a.m. Guildford, rear of BR Station in Guildford Park Road.
11.00 a.m. Marlow.
11.45 a.m. Bisham Church (magnificent tombs of the Hoby family).
12.15 p.m. Bisham Abbey.
Picnic lunch.
2.00 p.m. Museum of English Rural Life at Reading University.
3.30 p.m. Farnborough Abbey Church, in which are the tombs of Napoleon III, the Empress Eugenie and the Prince Imperial (who was killed in the Zulu War).

Tickets (Members 25p, Visitors 35p, Students half price and accompanied children free), coach fare £2.50, from Mrs J. Major, 3 Riversdale Road, Thames Ditton, KT7 0QL.
Tuesday 12th at 8.00 p.m.

Saturday 9th at 2.30 p.m.
The WINDMILL, Wimbledon Common. Conducted tour of the Windmill Museum and a chance to see what remains of its machinery. Conductor, Norman Plastow for the John Evelyn Society.

Thursday 21st at 8.00 p.m.
ANGLO-SAXON ENGLAND. Talk by Mervyyn Blatch to the Send History Society at the Church Room, Send Road, Send. Visitors welcome.

JULY

Wednesday 11th

EWELME AND DORCHESTER, OXON
Arranged by Mr D. Booker

8.30 a.m. Coach departs Reigate car park rear of Woolworths.
8.15 a.m. Dorking Halls.
8.45 a.m. Esher. BR Station.
11.30 a.m. Ewelme Church (splendid tombs, including that of Geoffrey Chaucer’s son, Thomas). Pre-Reformation Almhouses and School.
1.00 p.m. Clifton Hampden.
Picnic lunch or The Barley Mow, mentioned in Jerome K. Jerome’s Three Men in a Boat, will provide snacks and a cold buffet if given some indication of likely numbers.
2.30 p.m. Dorchester Abbey.
Tea can very probably be provided here if given notice of numbers.

Tickets (Members 25p, Visitors 35p, accompanied children free and students half price), coach fare £2.50, from Mrs J. Major, 3 Riversdale Road, Thames Ditton, KT7 0QL.
When booking please say if lunch or tea is required.

SEPTEMBER

7th to 9th

The 15th Annual Conference of the Historical Metallurgy Society will be held at the University of Sussex, Brighton. The hosts are the Wealden Iron Research Group and the Sussex Archaeological Society who have arranged the following programme:

FRIDAY EVENING 7th

The Geology of the Weald—Bernard Worsam.
The Development of the Wealden Iron Industry—Mrs D. M. Meades.
SATURDAY TOUR 8th
Anne of Cleves House Museum, Lewes.
Pippingford gun: stream furnace boring tool, etc.
Wadhurst Church—cast iron grave slabs.
Holtye—Roman road.
Ashdown Forest, Pippingford blast furnace, Garden Hill site, etc.

SATURDAY EVENING
Members’ contributions.

SUNDAY 9th
Early bloomeries excavated in the Ashdown Forest—C. F. Tebbutt.
The Roman Iron Industry—Henry Cleere.
The Fullers: 18th century gun founders—Richard Saville.
Wealden gun founding—David Crossley.

Further details may be obtained from Charles Blick, Hon Treasurer, The Historical Metallurgy Society, 16 Sycamore Crescent, Bawtry, Doncaster DN10 6LE.

(A. G. Crocker)

Editorial Note
Members will have noticed that the datelines by which copy is requested for the following month’s Bulletin are often passed before the arrival of the Bulletin stating the date. This is due to unavoidable delays in postage and printing and instead of the Bulletin arriving at the beginning of the month, which would be ideal, it usually comes at least a week or two later, by which time the following month’s Bulletin is already closed and in the hands of the printer.

Would subscribers please send in their copy by the 6th day in every month? It will then appear in the following month. Anything which arrives after the 6th, except for urgent phone messages up to two days later, will appear in two months’ time.

Next Bulletin June, for which copy is required by 6th May. Following Bulletin July, for which copy is required by 6th June.