

SURREY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
BULLETIN

Number 157

June 1979

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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 in September. Further details from David Williams who can be contacted during the day on 01-223 3431.

REIGATE: OLD VICARAGE SITE (TQ 25705036)
(Director: R. J. Poulton)

There will be a full-time excavation on the above site for one month from the 3rd September onwards. The work will be directed by Rob Poulton for the County Archaeological Unit and the Reigate and Banstead Archaeological Co-ordination Committee. It is hoped that the excavation will confirm that the town originally developed around a nucleus near the Parish Church. The work will continue that directed by David Williams. Volunteers are required and financial help may be given to those with experience. Inexperienced volunteers will be welcome by arrangement and training will be given. Anyone interested should telephone Rob Poulton on 01-546 1050 extension 3039 or write to County Planning Officer, Surrey County Council, County Hall, Kingston upon Thames KT1 2DT heading the letter Reigate Old Vicarage and marking it for the attention of R. J. Poulton.

CHEAM: REAR OF WHITEHALL
(Director: Norman Nail)

Excavation work on the medieval levels in the garden to the rear of Whitehall (now open to visitors) has recommenced and will continue for the next few months. Volunteers are needed. Norman Nail can be contacted on 01-643 6610.

New members from 1.3.79

Mr D. A. Burch, 7 Chessington Close, West Ewell, Epsom, KT19 9EQ
Mr B. T. Johnson, "St Nicholas", Mapledrakes Road, Ewhurst, GU6 7QP
Mrs S. M. McIntosh, 26 Orchard Court, Bridge Street, Walton-on-Thames
Mr and Mrs R. P. Belsey, 6 York Road, Guildford
Miss P. J. Edwards, 2 Ryfold Road, Wimbledon Park, SW19 8BZ
Mrs C. Hawkshaw, 2 Firs Lane, Shamley Green, Guildford, GU5 0UT
Mr M. J. Patten, 32 Stubbs Moor Road, Cove, Farnborough, GU14 8RJ
Mr D. E. Luke, 38 Primrose Ridge, Godalming, GU7 2NX

SAS VISITS 1979

Wednesday, 1st August

CARSHALTON

Arranged by Mr K. A. Pryer

- 10.30 a.m. Meet at the car park on the north side of the High Street between the Trustee Savings Bank and the Post Office for a tour of the historic heart of Carshalton.
- 12.00 Lunch. Food may be obtained at two inns and two unlicensed restaurants.
- 1.30 p.m. Re-assemble at the east end of the path on the north side of the Church for a further tour of the Carshalton area. It is hoped to visit Little Holland House, a remarkable example of the Art Nouveau period. The co-operation of members with cars is sought for transport to this house and when booking it would be appreciated if Mrs Major could be informed if spare seats are available.
- Members are asked to note that this visit entails a fairly considerable amount of walking.

Tickets (members 25p, visitors 35p, students half price and accompanied children free) from Mrs J. Major, 3 Riversdale Road, Thames Ditton, KT7 0QL.

Visits organisers wanted

The Visits Committee have recently lost several valuable members and are anxious to hear from anyone who would be willing to organise or assist in the arrangement of visits.

(Joan Major)

NOTES AND QUERIES

Chaldon: Medieval building (TQ 324549)

A chance find of medieval sherds in the vegetable garden at 41 Chaldon Common Road, Chaldon, led to the discovery of building footings at a depth of .75m. The footings consist of flints set in clay, approx. 1m wide and one corner of a building with parts of the north and east walls were recovered. Associated pottery gives a date from early thirteenth to fourteenth centuries. The local soil is sand, but both clay and flints are in the vicinity.

The most interesting find, however, was a substantial part of a **Bronze Age burial urn** apparently standing rim downwards in a small pile of flints. Because of the restricted area it has not been possible to recover the complete plan of the house and although the urn's rim was below what is thought to be the house floor (hard clay and gravel), the base must have been very close to the surface if not above it. The vessel is of the Deverul-Rimbury type, barrel shaped, slightly tapering toward the base, with lugs. In addition a collection of some 50 flint tools of probable Mesolithic period, including a transverse arrow head, a fine hammer stone and some hundred plus waste flakes have been found during the excavation in this very limited area.

Examination of the other half of the vegetable garden is being undertaken, the first half having been back-filled. A full report is forthcoming.

(Michael Russell)

Reigate: "Cherchefelle", Chart Lane and 77-79 Bell Street (TQ 258503 and 254500)

Opposite to the Police Station in Chart Lane, Reigate, the late eighteenth century building known as "Cherchefelle" has recently been restored and converted and a watch was kept on the small amount of earth-moving involved in the hope that this would provide some evidence for the former use of the site. The Domesday settlement of Cherchefelle is traditionally supposed to lie in the area of the church. The building itself is known to have occupied the site of the Five Bells inn and perhaps related to this was a well discovered after the removal of a nineteenth century extension on the west of the building. This now lies beneath a new extension and it was not possible to obtain accurate measurements as it was only visible for a short time. The well had been lined for part of its depth with neatly dressed curved Reigate stone blocks with brick corbelling above.

Machine excavation of the foundation trenches for this new extension revealed a large quantity of broken and complete pottery and glass dating to about 1820-30. This included quantities of Wedgwood creamware chamberpots, jugs, bowls and lids; glassware and medicine bottles; Wedgwood black basalt teapots; pearlware teapots, cups and saucers in a variety of patterns; Chinese porcelain and other fine transfer-printed cups, saucers and jugs as well as stoneware vessels and two complete Delft jars, one inscribed . . . Arcand. . . , Rue St.Denis, Paris.

Within the building, after removal of the floors, medieval and later pottery was found within brown tilled soil. It was possible cursorily to examine this layer when it was exposed by drainage work on the west of the building. Medieval pottery as well as oyster shells and bone were present but at the base of the layer was found a single rim sherd of a handmade, heavily gritted pot. The fabric has not so far been found in the pre-construction levels at the Vicarage nor from anywhere else in the town, and may be tentatively dated as Saxon, though a prehistoric date cannot be ruled out.

Medieval pottery was found during the construction of garages in the southwest of the garden.

At 77-79 Bell Street, watch was kept on construction work after the demolition of two nineteenth century cottages. The garden area was mostly cleared of topsoil and only a few sherds of medieval and later pottery were recovered, but a machine-cut foundation trench beneath No. 77 revealed a complex of superimposed floor levels overlying a layer of tilled soil containing fragments of thirteenth and fourteenth century pottery, some of which joined. This soil was separated from layers above by a very thin streak of charcoal, continuing for at least 2.5m. The floor levels which did not provide any dating material consisted of layers of sand, clay, sandy clay and chalk and clay, interspersed with streaks of charcoal. Other trenches were filled with concrete almost as soon as they were dug and could not be examined. However, an almost complete early sixteenth century Raeren mug was recovered by the builders from a trench dug to underpin the wall of No. 81. It is not known whether this was lying in a pit. It is likely that stratigraphy still survives beneath No. 75.

Care of Ancient Monuments

Lesley Ketteringham has been appointed Field Monument Warden for Surrey by the Department of the Environment. She would be glad to receive news of any damage occurring to Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the County (vandalism, detectors, unauthorised building, etc.). Please write to 14 Court Road, Godstone, RH9 8BT. Tel: Godstone 842534.

MEETINGS

JUNE

Saturday 30th

Slyfield House and Gardens, Stoke D'Abernon, will be open to the public from 2.30 p.m. Gardens and Great Barn 50p; Slyfield House 75p. This private house is being opened for the benefit of the Queen Elizabeth Foundation.

JULY

Saturday 21st

Afternoon visit to Weald and Downland Museum, Singleton, leaving Leatherhead at 1.00 p.m. Coach costs £1.90 per person. Applications with cheque to G. Hayward, Leatherhead & District Local History Society, Ypriana, Cobham Road, Fetcham, Surrey. Tel: Leatherhead 72674. Not later than 21st June.

Sunday 22nd

General Excursion to Merstham, Gatton and Reigate. Walk from Merstham via the Downs and Gatton to Reigate to see inter-related aspects of geology, hydrology, industrial archaeology, local history, etc., with special reference to stone mining and local architecture and transport. Return by train from Reigate to Merstham. Leader: Paul Sowan for the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Soc. Ltd.

Meet Merstham Station (main entrance) 10.45, bring lunch and tea.

ADVANCE NOTICES

OCTOBER

Saturday 6th

Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society Symposium, 1979, at Surbiton Library Annexe, Ewell Road, Surbiton from 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Its subject will be "Aspects of Kingston's Past". Admission 40p for tickets bought in advance and 50p at the door. Applications to Hon Secretary, KUTAS, 295 West Barnes Lane, New Malden, Surrey.

DECEMBER

Saturday 1st

Surrey Local History Symposium at Dorking Halls. Subject: "Waterways". Details later.

Editorial

Copy is urgently required for the **Bulletin**.

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