

SURREY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
BULLETIN

Number 169

October/November/December 1980

Edited by Lesley Ketteringham, 14 Court Road, Godstone
Tel: Godstone 842534

Changes in Honorary Local Secretaries

Surrey Heath: Camberley and Frimley

G. H. Cole, 10 Kings Ride, Camberley, GU15 4HN (previously vacant).

Tandridge: Godstone, Horne and Tandridge

Miss E. P. Humphreys, 41 Salisbury Road, Godstone, RH9 8AA. Tel:
Godstone 843723.

New Members from August 1980

Mr R. Day, LLB, 65 Aldershot Road, Guildford, GU2 6AJ.

Lt Col and Mrs H. M. M. Deighton, "Glendene", Glendene Avenue, East
Horsley, Leatherhead, KT24 5AY.

Mr R. G. Densem, 18 Elmbourne Road, London, SW17 8JR.

Miss G. M. Folkes, 3 Bramble Close, Broad Street, Guildford, GU3 3BQ.

Miss C. E. Hampshire, 27 Quartermile Road, Godalming, GU7 1TJ.

Mrs S. A. Horn, 28 Four Wents, Cobham, KT11 2NE.

Miss C. J. Hurrell, Hale House, 4 Upper Hale Road, Farnham, GU9 0NJ.

Mr J. P. F. Mills, 6 The Orchard, Upper Stanton Drew, Bristol, BS18 4DJ.

Mr C. R. Morey, 24 The Street, Fetcham, Leatherhead, KT22 9RF.

Mr M. J. Nye, "Noelhurst", Avenue Road, Cranleigh, GU6 7LQ.

Mr D. M. Pugh, "Englands Cottage", Sidlow Bridge, Nr. Reigate, RH2
8PN.

Mrs E. R. Schurter, "Marlow", Orestan Lane, Effingham, Leatherhead,
KT24 5SN.

Miss L. Tolson, "Tenbys", Salisbury Road, Woking, GU22 7UR.

University of Arizona, The Library (Serials Department), Tucson, AZ
85721, U.S.A.

Mr R. F. Wenger, "Crown Cottage", Tuesley Lane, Godalming, GU7 1SB.

Mrs V. Westerman, 14 Springhaven Close, Cranley Road, Guildford GU1
2JP.

Miss J. K. Wilson, 77 Wodeland Avenue, Guildford, GU2 5LA.

Change of Address

South West London Team

The SWLT no longer has the use of 21 Harbut Road as an office. Until further notice, any enquiries to the unit should be made to the Senior Field Officer at 399A Upper Richmond Road, Putney, SW15 5QZ, Tel: 01-878 0479, or to the Field Officers, Roy and Lesley Adkins, at 25 Union Road, Croydon, CR0 2XU. Tel: 01-679 7054.

NOTES AND QUERIES

Carshalton: 6 High Street (TQ 280644)

These premises are being converted for use as a wine bar, after lying empty for two years since they ceased to be used as a butcher's shop. According to the G.L.C.'s Historic Buildings Division, who surveyed the house in 1973, it consists of a 16th century timber-framed house (east-west, parallel to the High Street) with a 17th century rear wing (set at an oblique angle) and various more recent additions. It lies immediately to the east of the Parish Church of All Saints' Carshalton. A short excavation was carried out by the Beddington, Carshalton and Wallington Archaeological Society in the yard at the rear of the house to try to find evidence for the medieval settlement of Carshalton. A photographic record was made of the interior of the house to complement the G.L.C.'s survey.

The area available was restricted by debris from the conversion, and by the need to maintain access to the rear of the house and to lock-up garages in the yard, and only a small (7m by 1½m) trench could be excavated. The earliest feature found was a flat-bottomed ditch which ran roughly parallel to the west boundary wall of the yard about ½m from it, and apparently under the rear wing of the house. A laid stone surface, possibly circular and dated c1700, had been largely robbed out towards the end of the 18th century. Two rubbish pits, a tile and cinder path and deposits of rubbish above the ditch also appear to date to the late 18th century. A gravel surface or hard-standing with a stone, tile and brick threshold was laid, sealing these latter features, probably in the 19th century. A group of 15th century Cheam ware sherds was recovered by the builders from under the floor of a modern extension, just outside the south wall of the original house. The natural subsoil consisted of a contorted mixture of brickearth and crushed chalk, produced under periglacial conditions, and mimicking man-made features (walls, floors, post-holes).

The Society is grateful to the builders, Shelgale Ltd., for permission to excavate. Work on the finds will be carried out at the Sutton College of Liberal Arts during the coming year.

Clive Orton

Heathrow Airport (TQ 0774)

The Spelthorne Archaeological Field Group have finished the season's excavations with a find of prehistoric pottery, thumb imprinted and shell tempered. It has not yet been firmly dated, but possibly Bronze Age.

Site watching will continue and anyone interested in helping please ring Steve Dyer, on 01-890 0305 or Staines 61804 Monday-Friday.

Steve Dyer

Reigate, Old Vicarage Site (TQ 257503)

A trial trench 4 by 2m was excavated on the above site close to the boundary wall of the site with Church Street. Its purpose was to test the hypothesis, developed as a result of the 1979 excavations (report forthcoming in London Archaeologist), that Church Street formed one of the main streets of Cherchefelle, the Domesday Book settlement. In the event the discovery of almost 2 metres of 17th century and later gardening soil and rubbish deposits suggested that any early stratigraphy would have been destroyed.

R. J. Poulton

ROTHERHITHE: Brunel Exhibition Project

The construction of the Thames tunnel between Wapping and Rotherhithe, the first underwater tunnel ever to have been built, took eighteen years to complete. During this time, work halted frequently as a result of technical and financial set backs. Until recently, the Rotherhithe Tunnel engine house, which contained the Maudsey steam pumps used for the tunnel workings, was a decayed structure in the middle of a junkyard, overlooked by the empty warehouses of Hope Sufferance Wharf. The warehouses have since been saved from demolition and converted into craft workshops and an art studio by the Industrial Buildings Preservation Trust—a voluntary project supported by local government grants.

The Brunel Exhibition Project, a separate trust, has just completed the restoration of Brunel's engine house in Rotherhithe at a reputed cost of £60,000. The work and fund raising involved negotiation with the local borough—Southwark—the D.o.E., the G.L.C., the Pilgrim Trust, and the Docklands Joint Committee. The engine house had listed building status and, more recently, was scheduled as an Ancient Monument. As a result, work has had to be to a high standard which has raised costs and created difficulties with contractors.

The building and its surroundings have been renovated and the engine house houses an exhibition on the tunnel. The project represents another step in regenerating the area around St. Mary's Rotherhithe and setting an example for other Thames-side places.

(Brunel Engine House, Tunnel Road, St. Marychurch Street, S.E. 16. Open weekends and by arrangement.)

D. J. Turner

Treasure Hunting

Members and others concerned by the threat to our knowledge of our past posed by the activities of "treasure hunters" will be pleased to note that the Ministry of Defence has recently made clear that the use of metal detectors is not permitted on its land.

D. G. Bird

Surrey Monuments Under Threat

There have recently been a number of disturbing indications to suggest that some person or persons in the Surrey area is deliberately digging large holes into major archaeological sites in the county. There is good reason to believe that the damage (which usually involves sub-rectangular trenches about two feet deep, a similar width and two to four feet in length) has only recently occurred. It is presumably the work of a treasure hunter (not necessarily with a metal detector), and at least three barrows or barrow groups and a Roman villa site are known to be have been attacked.

Members and local groups are urged to try to keep major sites under regular observation especially those marked on 1:50000 and 1:25000 Ordnance Survey maps.

Edward Bird, Edwaert Burt, 17th century Dutch pipe maker from Surrey
Mr Paul Huey of the New York State Parks and Recreation Division for Historic Preservation has recently written to the writer asking if anything is known of one Edward Bird or Edwaert Burt, a clay pipe maker from Surrey who lived in Amsterdam. His marriage bans were published in 1630 and he died in 1665. He is thought to have been the maker of the pipes, often found on Dutch sites in New York State, which have the heel mark EB.

Mr Huey is anxious to know Edward Bird's place and date of birth, his family, activity in trade or commerce, extent or location of any property, and any other background information. Any relevant information will be gratefully received by the writer for onward transmission to Mr Huey.

D. G. Bird

LITERARY SECTION

Review

Croydon Airport—The Great Days—1928-1939. By Douglas Cluett, Joanna Nash and Bob Learmonth. London Borough of Sutton Libraries and Arts Services, 1980. £3.50.

This is the second, in the projected three volume History of Croydon Airport, and carries the story from the opening of the new aerodrome buildings, on February 2, 1928, to the outbreak of the Second World War, more than ten years later.

This was the hey-day of Croydon as the major passenger terminal of the country, and as the centre of operations, both for Imperial Airways and the newly formed British Airways.

There was still much pioneering to be done, of new routes and aircraft, and there are some entertaining sections on the somewhat colourful characters who came and went from Croydon in those "great days". The authors draw heavily on eye-witness accounts which certainly add interest, as do the quotations from the press of the day, especially to the account of probably the best known pioneering flights from Croydon—those of Amy Johnson.

The less glamorous side of airport life is not neglected, with a chapter setting Croydon in its place in the context of national aviation development, and an examination of the airlines and aircraft which used the airport during the period.

The final chapter, "Countdown to War", provides a fascinating insight into the development of German aviation, and German thinking with regard to air policy, as it affected Croydon in the years immediately prior to the outbreak of war, in 1939.

All in all, a well researched and well written volume—a worthy successor to the first. If I have any small criticism it would be that I would like to see a slightly bigger typeface used for the index, and a list of illustrations used (which are excellent) and their sources, would have been interesting and helpful.

Gillian Drew

Recent Publication

Crowhurst. A parish history.

A short history of Crowhurst has just been published. It covers the origins of the parish, the church; the two principal families, the Gainsfords and the Angells; notes on all the old buildings including Wintersell Farm where it was possible to positively identify 15 of the 17 rooms in a 1721 inventory. Copies may be obtained 75p post free from P. J. Gray, 38 Beacon Hill, Dormansland, Surrey, RH7 6RH.

Parish Magazines

The S.A.S. Library is keen to compile a handlist, or location guide, to all the known collections of Parish Magazines in the county, as we feel strongly that these are very important sources of local material, which, by reason of their ephemeral nature, tend to get overlooked. We cannot hope to maintain more than a token collection of these at Castle Arch, for reasons of space, but a location guide would be an invaluable help to local history researchers. Mr A. T. Gillies, a Library Committee member, has very kindly agreed to act as co-ordinator of this project, so would local history societies, public libraries, or anyone who holds, or knows of the whereabouts of a file of magazines, for whatever parish, be kind enough to send details, of Church, Parish, and years covered, to Mr Gillies, at: "Sunnymead", Epsom Road, Ashted, KT21 1LD.

Gillian Drew
Hon. Librarian

ARCHIVES

Two Hearthstone Mine Plans deposited in the Surrey Record Office

Two plans of hearthstone mines, at Betchworth and Reigate, have recently been deposited in the Surrey Record Office at Kingston-upon-Thames. Photocopies are deposited in the Libraries of the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society and of the Surrey Archaeological Society.

The Surrey Hearthstone Mine at Betchworth plan is at a scale of 22 yards to the inch and was originally drawn up on 12th February 1931. It was updated to February 1940. The mine was abandoned in the 1950's.

The plan of the Colley Hill Hearthstone Mine at Reigate was drawn at a scale of 1/1250 in October 1941 but shows only the small part of the workings then in active use. It indicates five points where the old workings are closed up. Working ended at about 1963.

Surrey Earthworks

Amongst the material on the Local History Collection in Kingston Heritage Unit (Museum and Art Gallery) is a manuscript collection of measured plans of Surrey Earthworks. The folio contains 18 A3 sheets, each representing an earthwork together with an introduction and title page. The earthworks were all examined and drawn by Mr Edward Andrews Downman of Laindon, Essex, between 1889 and 1905. Each plan is drawn to a scale of 25 ins to 1 mile and includes useful comments such as the nature of the subsoil, presence of Roman roads, etc.

List of Plans

1. Banstead Heath—2 earthworks
2. Walton Heath
3. Anstiebury
4. Brickbury
5. Dry Hill, Lingfield
6. St George's Hill, Weybridge
7. Caesar's Camp, Wimbledon
8. Holmbury
9. Farnham Castle
10. Godstone Castle
11. Bletchingley Castle
12. Reigate Castle
13. Thunderfield Castle
14. Latham Park
15. Ashted Common
16. Oystershell Hill, Chobham
17. Pachesham
18. Tumble Beacon

The plans may be consulted (Reference No S(913) No 3666) in the Local History Room of the Heritage Unit, Fairfield West, Kingston, open Monday-Saturday 10.00-17.00.

David Field and Pat Nicolaysen

MEETINGS

NOVEMBER

Friday 21st

"CHEAM AND THE END OF THE MEDIEVAL POTTERY TRADITION". Talk by Clive Orton, Institute of Archaeology, London, to the Richmond Society at The Sun Inn, Parkshot, Richmond, at 8.00 p.m.

DECEMBER

Friday 12th

"RELIGION AND MAGIC IN ROMAN BRITAIN". Illustrated talk by Mark Hassall, Institute of Archaeology, London, to the Roman Villa Study Group at the Christian Centre, Dorking, at 7.30 p.m. Details from Dr J. L. Gower, 28 Gingers Close, Cranleigh.

JANUARY 1981

Wednesday 7th

"MEDIEVAL TILES IN SURREY". Talk by Elizabeth Eames to the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society at St Mary's Church Hall, Ewell, at 8.00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 1981

Wednesday 4th

"MEDIEVAL BURIAL PRACTICES IN THE CITY". Talk by Alan Thompson to the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society at St Mary's Church Hall, Ewell, at 8.00 p.m.

ADVANCE NOTICES

MARCH 1981

Saturday 14th

"THE ROLE OF METALWORK IN THE EARLY BRONZE AGE COMMUNITIES IN BRITAIN". Talk by Stewart Needham at the Institute of Archaeology, London, at 3.00 p.m.

COURSES

MAY

Weekend 8th-10th

"SURREY BARNs WEEKEND". Course tutor: Joan Harding, FSA, at Juniper Hall Field Centre, Dorking.

AUGUST

Week beginning Friday 14th-21st

"FARMHOUSES AND COTTAGES IN SURREY". Course tutors: Joan Harding, FSA, and Victoria Houghton at Juniper Hall Field Centre, Dorking.

Further details of the above courses may be obtained from Warden and Director of Studies, Juniper Hall, Dorking, RH5 6DA. Tel: Dorking 883849.

Next **Bulletin**: January 1981 for which copy is required by 6th December.
Following **Bulletin**: March for which copy is required by 6th February.