

SURREY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
BULLETIN

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June/July 1982

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EXCAVATION NOTICES

BEDDINGTON VILLA 1982—2nd season of excavation

Volunteers are urgently required by SWLAU for the 2nd season of excavation of the Romano-British villa (Scheduled Ancient Monument) in advance of redevelopment. The excavation of the site at Beddington, near Croydon, will probably continue to mid-December. The site is open for work 7 days a week. Help is needed for digging and for finds processing. No previous experience is required.

For further details please write to: L. & R. A. Adkins, 25 Union Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 2XU.

SUTTON PARK (SOUTH OF WOKING: TQ 00455380)

(Director: David Bird)

The fifth season of excavation on this supposed Saxo-Norman manor site will take place from Monday 26th July to Saturday 7th August inclusive, except for Sunday 1st August, subject to the receipt of permission from the Department of the Environment. (It is hoped that it will be possible to arrange work on an alternative site nearby, if necessary). Previous excavations have located an extensive medieval ditch system, presumably surrounding the manorial site, and a gazebo, or similar building, related to Sutton Place. The area of occupation has been further defined recently by intensive fieldwalking. The excavation will be carried out by kind permission of Father John Stapleton. New diggers will be accepted for training in basic excavation techniques, but trainees will only be accepted if they can guarantee to attend for at least six days.

Further details can be obtained from David Bird on 01-546 1050 Ext. 3665, or by writing to the County Planning Officer, Surrey County Council, County Hall, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT1 2DT, marking the letter for the attention of Dr. D. G. Bird.

S.A.S. VISIT TO NORTH BUCKS

Arranged by Mr J. C. M. Blatch

SEPTEMBER—Saturday 18th

- 8.25 a.m. Coach departs Reigate, car park rear of Woolworths.
- 8.40 a.m. Dorking Halls.
- 9.15 a.m. Esher BR Station.
- 11.30 a.m. Arrive at Chicheley Hall, Newport Pagnell, home of the Hon. Nicholas Beatty, grandson of the famous 1914-18 War Admiral. The house was built between 1719 and 1723 and is one of the finest and least altered 18th century houses in the country. It contains a fine collection of marine paintings.

- Lunch Available at the Hall. Ploughman's at 95p or ham salad, pudding and coffee at £1.80 with wine and cider at 65p and 50p per glass, respectively.
- 2.30 p.m. Visit Olney Parish Church, a notable building closely associated with John Newton, the one time slave shipper who was converted, became a leading protagonist against slavery, much influencing William Wilberforce.
- If time permits there is much to see in this attractive small town including the Cowper Museum (William Cowper the poet). Olney is well known for its Shrove Tuesday pancake race.
- 3.30 p.m. Visit the Waterways Museum at Stoke Bruerne. Cost of entry is 50p (30p pensioners) and apart from the museum itself, boat trips can be taken through the attractive cutting to Blisworth tunnel entrance and return to Museum (60p) lasting about half an hour.
- Tea It can probably be arranged for the W.I. at Haversham nearby to provide tea (full W.I. type) and it will be necessary to give the number required in advance. Please say when booking if you would like tea.
- Tickets Members 40p, Visitors 50p, Students half price and accompanied children free. Coach fare £6.00. In order to save time on the day please also remit admission fee of £1.00 to Chicheley Hall, which is not N.T. Other fees payable on the day. Bookings through Mrs Joan Major, 3 Riversdale Road, Thames Ditton KT7 0QL.

NOTES AND QUERIES

CHALDON: Beaker Pottery (TQ 324549)—Following the discovery of footings of a small medieval building dating, possibly, from late twelfth to early fourteenth centuries, and part of a MBA urn incorporated in a pile of flints thought to be connected with a destroyed burial mound, but now forming part of the basal layer of the buildings footings (Bulletin 157), a quantity of Beaker pottery has been recovered from three trenches adjacent.

It is possible that the horizon of prehistoric material including burnt and worked flints represents a ploughed surface upon which some sherds remained exposed to weathering whilst others became buried and are unabraded. Owing to an absence of medieval pottery in this layer, it would seem likely that ploughing occurred in the later prehistoric period.

The sherds, over 70, have been examined by A. M. ApSimon, Senior lecturer in prehistory at Southampton University. He recognised three possible fabric types, all flint and grog filled; a fine ware with thin coil-built walls and with comb-stamped ornamentation forming zones, of which rim, base and body sherds have been found. Two other fabric types are distinguished by large flint filler, and are part of a coarseware series with 'rusticated' and finger nail decoration. This fabric has thick coil-built walls.

In Surrey very few Beaker finds are known from the North Downs, most being recovered from the Thames Valley region. The presence of both Beaker fine ware and coarseware indicate localised occupation activity in the late Beaker period. A ploughed out burial now seems unlikely. A full report is forthcoming.

Michael Russell

THE DEVIL'S HIGHWAY (a new appraisal)—Remains have been found which appear to show that the Devil's Highway, London to Silchester road followed a zig-zag across the presently supposed alignment, instead of turning west at Duke's Hill, Bagshot. The remains, predominantly of the large embankment type noted at Virginia Water, are on the Berkshire side of the boundary. Any remains in Surrey between SU 912649, where the road crosses the county boundary, and SU 917651, where it crosses the railway, were destroyed by earthmoving and landscaping works in 1980. Instead of the westward change of direction taking place at SU 907647, the alignment to Silchester is not achieved until SU 854644, at the western edge of Easthampstead Plain. The road diverges gradually from the county boundary to SU 898643, then turns north-west in the direction of the Romano-British settlement at Wickham Bushes, changing direction again at SU 867649, to form the north-west limit of the settlement before it joins the alignment to Silchester. The remains can be traced over almost the whole distance from Duke's Hill to Crowthorne, mostly as a reduced, but still visible embankment, 16 to 23 metres wide. At Duke's Hill the remains are divided by a hollow way, which may be the result of removal of the metalling or later traffic, and are also modified by golf course earthworks. Between Duke's Hill and Broomhall, investigation is impeded by access problems, but a large embankment has already been noted at SU 924656, in the garden of Combe Edge, which is diverging slightly south of the county boundary in the north-east direction.

Fieldwork in Windsor Forest by permission of the Crown Estate Office.

Dr T. C. Welsh

ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

A well attended Symposium, organised by the Excavations Committee and chaired by Dr. Gerry Moss, was held on 22nd May in the Martineau Hall, Dorking Halls.

The day's proceedings began with talks by the Margary Award contestants followed by a review of the County Units work for the past year by Dr David Bird. The Unit's excavations at Stanwell and Staines were covered by Martin O'Connell and Rob Poulton. After lunch Lesley Adkins described recent excavations at Beddington Roman villa and Vivien Ettlinger spoke on the continuing search for the Roman road and settlement in Dorking town. The final talk was given by Marion Hinton on the topography and archaeology of Kingston.

After presentation of the Margary Award there was an opportunity to enjoy Mrs Jenny Moss's teas and to view the local societies' exhibits which were of a very high standard.

I would like to thank everyone mentioned above and everyone inside and outside the Committee who contributed to a very successful day.

Please note: The next Symposium will be on May 7th, 1983 in the Dorking Halls.

Roger Ellaby (Chairman, Excavations Committee)

MARGARY AWARD FOR ARCHAEOLOGY

This annual award of £50 was introduced this year to commemorate the late I. D. Margary. The award is restricted to non-professional members of the Surrey Archaeological Society and affiliated Groups, and projects submitted are required to have some relevance to archaeology in Surrey.

Three entries were received this year, and these were judged on a written summary of the work, and also on a short oral presentation and an exhibition at the Annual Symposium of the Excavation Committee. A panel of four judges nominated by the Excavations Committee awarded the prize to David Williams on behalf of the Holmesdale Archaeological Group for their excavations at 43 High Street, Reigate. The runners-up were the Carew Manor Group for their survey and re-appraisal of Carew Manor, Beddington, and Dr Thomas C. Welsh for his investigation into the Roman road (London-Silchester) across Virginia Water.

The award was presented by Mrs Vivien Ettlinger, a past chairman of the Excavations Committee, and the written summary of each of the three projects has been deposited in the Society's library.

John Gower

CHURCHILL TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIPS—1983

Churchill Travelling Fellowships are open to all UK citizens of any age or occupation, and since no educational or professional qualifications are needed, they are of special interest to people who would not be eligible for other types of grants. (Churchill Fellowships are not normally given for academic studies).

The object of the awards is to enable those who would not otherwise have a chance, to gain a better understanding of the lives and work of people in countries overseas, and to bring back useful knowledge, skill and experience for the benefit of our community. About 100 awards are made annually, and there are now over 1500 Churchill Fellows.

Grants are offered in different categories each year; candidates whose trade, profession or personal interests are covered by any of them may propose a project they wish to carry out in whatever countries they choose. The only requirement is that applicants have to show that they can make effective use of the opportunity both while they are abroad and when they return.

The final selection for the next group of awards will be made by interview in London in January 1983. Successful candidates will be expected to start their travels during that year, making their own plans and arrangements within the scope of the grants. The grant will cover return air fare, plus all travel and living expenses abroad for a period of about two months.

To apply send your name and address only on a postcard between mid-August and mid-October to the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, 15 Queen's Gate Terrace, London SW7 5PR. You will receive an explanatory leaflet and a form to complete, which must reach the Trust Office by 27th October 1982.

This year's eligible categories are:

Ministers of Religion

The prevention of crime and violence on transport services

Musical instrument makers

Emergency services: ambulance, fire, rescue, etc

Weavers and workers in wool, lace and leather

Cooks, bakers and confectioners

Natural history and conservation of local environment

Sewage, water and flood control workers

Women's Institute and Townswomen's Guilds

Gardeners and garden historians

MEETINGS

AUGUST

Tuesday 10th

PORTNALL HOUSE, VIRGINIA WATER. A talk by Ron Davis to the Egham by Runnymede Historical Society at the Literary Institute, High Street, Egham at 8.00 p.m.

Saturday 28th

LOCAL HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY. A guided walk around the Croydon Parish Church conservation area with Lilian Thornhill. Meet outside Parish Church at 2.00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 8th

RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK IN SURREY. A talk by Dr D. Bird, CAO, Surrey to the Croydon Scientific and Natural History Society at the United Reform Church, East Croydon at 7.45 p.m.

Weekend 10th to 12th

10th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY AT IMPERIAL COLLEGE, LONDON SW7. Details from Brenda Innes, GLIAS, 9a Upper Park Road, Bromley, Kent. Tel. 01-460 1416.

Tuesday 14th

GARDEN HISTORY IN SURREY. A talk by D. Wilkins of the National Trust to the Egham by Runnymede Historical Society at the Literary Institute, High Street, Egham at 8.00 p.m.

"HISTORY ON YOUR DOORSTEP"

A Study of Local History

Under this title the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society will show a selection of Work In Progress from September 9th to September 25th at Bourne Hall Museum, Ewell, Surrey. The Exhibition will show some of the work being done by members of the Society in the fields of conservation, excavation, documentation and publication.

We shall be displaying many items from days gone by, and we hope that things that would have been familiar to the people who lived here before us will be unfamiliar but interesting to people of the present day.

TUESDAY and FRIDAY	— 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY	— 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
SATURDAY	— 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
SUNDAY and MONDAY	— Closed all day

Bourne Hall Museum telephone: 01-393 9573

EDITORIAL NOTE—In order to save space it has been decided not to print the University winter courses, lists of which are always available in the local Libraries. Affiliated groups' courses will continue to be printed, if received in time.

Although the Bulletins have been pruned, Society and Group news is always welcome. Please continue to send in notes on work in progress.

Editor

Next Bulletin: September, for which copy is required by 6th August

Following Bulletin: November, for which copy is required by 6th October