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BULLETIN

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November 1985

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ANNUAL LECTURE

2.00 p.m. Saturday, 23rd November

Central Lecture Theatre Block, University of Surrey, Guildford

The full agenda for the meeting is given on the front page of the October *Bulletin*. After the close of official business Dr. Josephine Turquet will speak on "The Decorations of the Inner Court of Nonsuch Palace."

OBITUARY

George Baur Greenwood

We record with great regret the death on 27th August of Mr. G. B. Greenwood who for many years had been the Society's Honorary Local Secretary for Walton-on-Thames and Weybridge.

George Greenwood joined the Society in 1964 and served on the Society's Council on several occasions. He was the acknowledged expert on the history of Hersham where he lived. Apart from his work for the S.A.S. he was an active member of the Surrey Record Society, the Walton and Weybridge Local History Society and the Esher Local History Society. He also found the time to produce a considerable amount of written material, e.g. a Dictionary of the History of Walton and Weybridge, and to play a prominent part in local affairs: for many years he represented Hersham both on Surrey County Council and on Elmbridge Borough Council.

He had a zest for life and an enthusiasm for local history which will be sadly missed by all his many friends.

Michael Blackman

EXCAVATION REPORTS, ETC.

Felday Enclosure, Holmbury St. Mary (TQ 108447)

A further season of excavation took place during March and April of this year. A 25x3 metre trench across the western bank and ditch revealed a slight sand dump rampart that utilised a natural fault in the sandstone to emphasise height. To the rear of the dump and parallel to the bank was a tumbled stone feature about 1 metre wide and which could probably be interpreted as revetment material.

The ditch, V-shaped and cut through several layers of tabular sandstone, was shallow and only about 1.5 metres in depth, though it clearly ran wider and deeper to the south of the trench. As in 1984 the excavated area encountered a ditch terminal and rather than interpret this as another entrance it might be considered that the ditch was in fact discontinuous or, alternatively, unfinished. Little further evidence was provided to aid consideration of the rampart and this was disappointing. Artefactual evidence was also scarce. The purpose of this further trench, to obtain soil samples for environmental analysis and for magnetic dating, was achieved however and the results of these tests are eagerly awaited.

(Earlier reports in *Bulletin* Nos. 184 and 199).

David Field

Appendix to the above report

How to make back-filling more enjoyable

After spending many weeks excavating at Felday and watching the spoil heaps grow the thought of many hours back-filling was demoralising. I then remembered seeing on my travels a mini self-drive digger, about the size of a small car, with caterpillar tracks, a long-reach bucket at one end and a blade at the other. After investigating the costs and obtaining the permission of the landowner the digger was booked and duly delivered. The hydraulic controls were soon mastered and even with steep banks and many trees the trench was back-filled in one day: a tremendous relief to all of us on the site. The machine was a Kubota K.H. 8 hired from Hewitts of Cranleigh Ltd., at £55 per day plus delivery charge, V.A.T. and diesel fuel. For us the delivery charge was £20 and the fuel cost £5.00. The machine was fitted with an hour meter to record hours worked. The man-hours saved was incredible and the achievement of slowly mastering the hydraulic levers made the day memorable.

Keith Winsler

Beddington Sewage Works Excavation, near Croydon

Excavations at the above site took place from 1981 to 1983. The results of this work have now been written up and submitted for publication. Excavations at Beddington: prehistoric settlement and Roman villa will be published as a monograph jointly by SAS and LAMAS, and a 1986 publication date is envisaged. *Bona fide* students and researchers are welcome to consult a copy of the manuscript by prior arrangement: phone for details or write to the address below.

Excavations at Beddington resumed in November 1984, funded by the Manpower Services Commission and Greater London Council. Several Iron Age round-houses have been discovered beneath the Roman villa-house, and there is also evidence for other Bronze Age or Iron Age round-houses. Numerous ditches of prehistoric date have also been found, some enclosing the round-houses, and some forming field boundaries. Of Roman date are numerous ditches forming field boundaries and other enclosures. There are surviving masonry footings of a large building associated with two rows of postholes, each of 1.2m diameter. Next to this aisled building (? barn) is evidence for another rectangular structure, also with large postholes.

An area of just over an acre is under excavation at present; volunteers are required for both excavation and finds work. Work takes place every weekday. 8.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please phone for details or write to the address below.

Lesley Adkins and Roy Adkins, Dept of Greater London Archaeology (SW London), c/o 157 Valley Road, Kenley, CR2 5BZ. Tel. 01-669 6466 (mornings).

Sutton Park, Woking, near St. Edward's Church (TQ 004538)

The eighth season of excavation at Sutton Park has now been completed. Work concentrated on the second building to be discovered, and one large trench was laid out to include it. Only three sides could be located, the north wall being some 6 metres in length and the east and west walls being traceable for about 6 and 5 metres respectively. There was no trace of flooring but one reddened area could have been the last surviving trace of a hearth. An unexplained area of yellow clay partly overlay the north wall and extended beyond it to the north (outside the building).

In fact to describe the remains as walls is misleading; in places they were well marked out by packed flint, but in others they seemed to consist only of small stones, yellow clay, and fragments of tile and mortar. The complete absence of a south wall, a curious buttress-like feature at the north-east corner, and the deeper and noticeably well-built north-west corner all suggest that the building was constructed on the slight northerly and westerly slope by raising the northern end; it seems certain that it will have been of a box-frame construction.

Dating may be made clearer by more detailed work on the pottery, but stratigraphic survival is poor and it may never be possible to suggest more than an early post-medieval date for the building. It may well have been served by the brick and tile drain previously discovered, although this need not be contemporary with the building's original construction. The irrigation channel theory suggested in previous years now seems unlikely; the second brick drain was traced further and appears to be aiming away from the well.

The building was certainly later than a major ditch full of medieval pottery. This had previously been located but its northern edge proved difficult to find this year, and its course and relationship to another ditch known to run parallel to the north still needs clarification. It is hoped to mount further fieldwork and excavation in an attempt to explain and plot the ditch systems on the site.

Other matters of note in 1985 were the discovery of a few sherds of probably neolithic pottery, unfortunately not in a contemporary feature, and the receipt of Dr. Tony Clark's initial magnetic date for the earliest tile hearth in the first building to be dug on the site. His date is approximately AD 1270-1310, which accords well enough with other evidence.

The work in 1985 was made possible, as usual, by the kind cooperation and assistance of Father John Stapleton and the Sutton Place Heritage Trust. An encouraging number of newcomers was given basic archaeological training, and once again members of Mayford and District Historical Society provided the experienced backbone of the excavation team. Everyone remained remarkably cheerful, in spite of the unpleasant weather conditions.

D. G. Bird

Borelli Yard, Farnham

Excavations in advance of development are in progress at Borelli Yard, Farnham. The archaeological team is funded by the Manpower Services Commission and by the developers: Arundell House Securities Limited.

Two trenches have been completed, and a further trench opened, examining an area of c. 300m² in the tenements to the rear of Borelli Yard. Trench 1, in the area of former tennis courts, showed that 19th century levelling had destroyed all the presumed archaeological deposits down to the 12th–13th century levels. A resistivity survey around Trench 1 produced no anomalies suggesting that there are no archaeological features below the former tennis courts. We consider that this area, lying on the flood plain of the river Wey, was utilised for agricultural purposes in the 12th and 13th centuries. This interpretation is supported by the generally low density of the ceramic scatter together with its fragmentary and abraded condition.

Trench 2, which explored almost the entire area of one tenement, produced a sequence of pits and features dating from the mid 13th century to mid 20th century. Amongst these is a double flued, up-draught kiln which was partially robbed of its building materials before its final abandonment and infilling. The main outlines of this kiln have survived intact together with some of the arches for the flues. The kiln may have produced floor tiles but, as yet, no significant quantities of ceramic material, which could represent wasters, has been found. The kiln has been provisionally dated to the 14th century on stratigraphically sealed ceramic evidence.

A further area of Borelli Yard is currently under excavation in which it is hoped more information relating to the kiln, and other activities in the Yard, will be recovered.

Nicholas Riall
Director, Farnham Archaeological Project

Place Farm, Blechingley (TQ 336521)

At the invitation of the owners and residents of homes which now occupy the site, The Bourne Society Archaeological Group has carried out some excavation work and a detailed survey of the extant features.

The site has been described as a manor-house by Lambert and is probably best known for its standing gatehouse with impressive four-centred arch. A certain amount of documentation survives, even though precise correlation with the site is difficult, and it has long been assumed and perpetuated in the literature that the manor was at one time held by Anne of Cleves. Although many of the inferences based upon documentary evidence must remain equivocal, the standing features give the impression of an imposing building which is surely that depicted as a double courtyard structure on the Pendell Estate map of 1622.

The purpose of the archaeological work was to establish a plan of the structures hinted at in map and other documentary sources, and also to assess the archaeological potential of the site. A number of trenches have been opened, both in front and behind the gatehouse, producing evidence which tends to support a double courtyard layout of the late 15th–early 16th centuries. Much of the complex was demolished in the 17th century, while piecemeal robbing evidently took place in the 18th century.

Recent refurbishment to parts of the gatehouse provided an opportunity to examine the sequence of deposits within part of the 16th century structure. At least five floors were recovered, the lowest arguably of 16th century date, but quite unexpected was a deposit of 13th–15th century occupation debris underlying the 16th century material and through which had cut the massive mortared greensand foundations for the gatehouse.

Further evidence of significant 13th–14th century activity was found in the paddock behind the gatehouse. 17th century activity was represented by the fill of a stone revetted and floored pit some yards to the east. Later, probably in the 18th century, this was overlain by a wall using moulded greensand elements presumably derived from the 16th century manor-house. It is already clear that the evidence recovered represents occupation from at least the 13th century and that the phasing of the site is more complex than had hitherto been thought. Work is continuing.

Michael Russell

Cranleigh Rectory Moat (TQ 059392)

This moated site is in the process of being investigated by the Surrey Archaeological Society in conjunction with Waverley Borough Council in advance of development by the latter. A trench was dug from the island across the moat to the north west of the present house. This demonstrated that the moat had been completely recut, possibly when the house was built in 1863 and evidence prior to that period had been lost. In the bottom of the moat was what appeared to be a well, brick-shafted, some 2.5m to silt and full of water. The diameter of the top was 0.7m. This widened to 1.3m in the shaft. It was protected on the north side by a roughly built wall of brick and rubble and was approached by steps of sandstone slabs and brick. When found it was capped by a grave footstone inscribed C.E. 1868 (probably Catherine Elmes). The positioning of this structure is strange since, unless the water table has risen considerably in the last 120 years, it would frequently have been under water. An alternative explanation would be that it was a drain.

A further trench, some 3m x 3.5m was dug at the front (S.E.) of the house. Some 10cm under the turf was a layer of clay about 25cm thick which contained only coarse quartz and a little shell tempered pottery, possibly late 12th or early 13th century. Within the trench the clay layer had parallel sides 1.6m apart extending with a right-angle to give an L-shape more than 3.2m wide. Top and bottom edges of the L were lost. Under this clay layer was grey/brown clay/silt containing a considerable amount of pottery similar to that already described and a little of this pottery was also found in the silt which had not been covered by clay. Under the silt, at a depth of about 70cm was clay, thought to be natural.

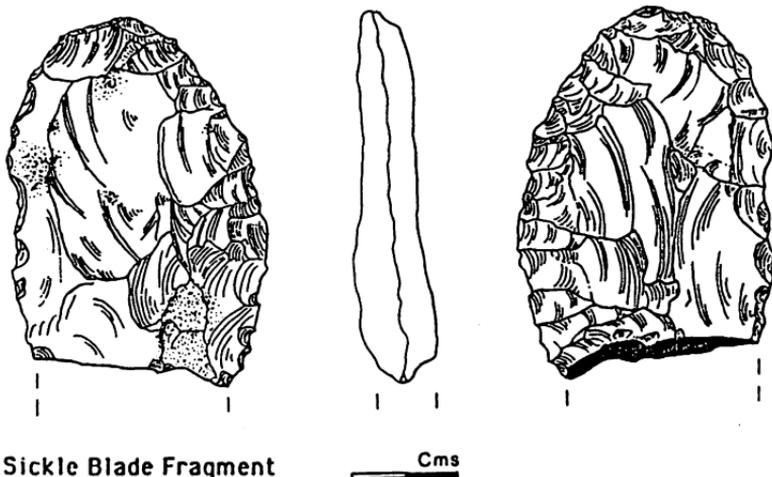
Work on this trench and the site as a whole is not yet finished but it is notable that the pottery found seems to be contemporary with the building of St. Nicholas' Church, some 50m away, for which there is architectural evidence from c.1170 and documentary evidence from 1244.

Thanks are due to Waverley Borough Council, Guildford Group of S.A.S., Canon and Mrs. J. Roundhill and local volunteer diggers.

Judie English

Some recent finds from the Farnham area

The tip of a very fine late Neolithic/E.B.A. bifacially worked sickle blade has recently been found in a garden in Dene Lane, Lower Bourne (SU 852446). The blade itself is of good quality grey flint, which has acquired the usual brown patina common in the Farnham area. The implement shows no trace of lustre and may well have been broken soon after manufacture. The owner has very kindly given the find to Farnham Museum.



The tip of a slightly rolled palaeolithic hand axe has been found in sandy soil 'near Waverley Abbey' (SU 868451) but has been retained by the finder.

A rim sherd of Roman Alice Holt class 3B ware (3rd/4th cent.) has been found in a garden south of The Green, Hale, (to the north of Farnham) in soil disturbed during house building operations. The sherd is unabrased and may therefore have come from a primary deposit. The find spot is close to a natural spring line and hints at the possibility of a Roman occupation site in the vicinity.

David Graham

Editor's note

Several of the reports in this interesting section were received as a result of bullying by the Editor. Please don't wait to be asked to contribute; material of this nature is always very welcome. The *Bulletin* exists for the early dissemination of information, even if it is only negative evidence from a dig or survey.

RECENT BOOKS

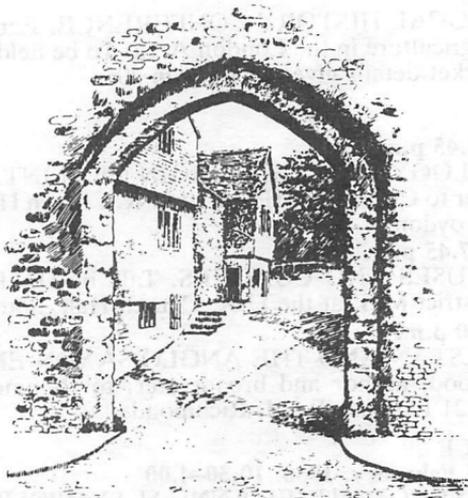
"The Iron Industry of the Weald" by Henry Cleere and David Crossley. Published by Leicester University Press. (1985) pp 395. Price £47.50.

This long-awaited book on the Wealden iron industry has appeared at last. It is much more than a revised up-to-date version of Ernest Straker's classic book "Wealden Iron" which appeared in 1931. Since that time, and particularly since the formation of the Wealden Iron Research Group in 1968, a great deal of new information on the subject has been amassed. Field walking, excavations, practical experiments and documentary research have all contributed to the corpus of knowledge of iron working for every period from prehistoric to the early 19th century. Much of this knowledge is included in this book.

It was well worth waiting for; whether individual readers will think it worth spending £47.50 on a personal copy is debatable, but fortunately for members of this Society our Library at Castle Arch has a copy on the shelves.

"Picturesque Surrey". Sketches by Duncan Moul and text by Gibson Thompson. Published by Contour Books. (1985) pp 337, 80 drawings. Price £12.95.

An attractive well-produced facsimile re-issue of a book first published in 1902 and both text and drawings are redolent of the period. The whole county is covered by the book but the western half, especially the Guildford area, receives greater attention.



This illustration, taken from the book, shows the arch at Guildford Castle, which gives our Society its postal address.

The book is available from booksellers or direct from Contour Books, P.O. Box 380, Addlestone, Weybridge KT15 2DX. Price £14.50 includes postage and packing.

MEETINGS

NOVEMBER

Tuesday 12th, 7.30 p.m.

PECKHAM'S PEOPLE AND PLACES. Talk by Mary Boast to Southwark and Lambeth A.S. at John Harvard Library Hall, Borough High Street.

Friday 15th, 8.00 p.m.

CRAFTS AND INDUSTRIES IN MEDIEVAL LONDON. Lecture by John Clark, Museum of London, to Richmond A.S. at the Vestry House, 21 Paradise Road, Richmond.

Saturday, 16th 10.30 a.m.—4.00 p.m.

ROAD, RAIL AND AIR. Surrey Local History Symposium at University of Surrey, Guildford. Tickets £2.00 at the door. See *Bulletin* 205 for some details.

Thursday 21st, 7.45 p.m.

SOME OLD BINSTED FAMILIES SET AGAINST THEIR PARISH BACKCLOTH. Talk by Mrs Pat Heather to Farnham & District M.S. at U.R. Church Hall, South Street.

Tuesday 26th, 7.45 p.m.

THE SWANSCOMBE SKULL AND ITS PLACE IN HUMAN EVOLUTION. Lecture by Dr. Chris Stringer, Curator of Fossil Hominids, British Museum, to Croydon N.H.S.S. at East Croydon U.R. Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove.

Friday 29th, 8.00 p.m.

THE MANOR OF DUNSFORD AND THE BRODRICK FAMILY. Talk by Rita Ensing to Wandsworth H.S. at Friends Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street.

Saturday 30th

L.A.M.A.S. LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE. Early Medieval Settlement and Agriculture in the London Area. To be held at The Museum of London. Ticket details given in *Bulletin* 205.

DECEMBER

Monday 2nd, 7.45 p.m.

CHALK GEOLOGY AND THE ORIGIN OF FLINT. Lecture by Dr. Roare Mortimer to Croydon N.H.S.S. at U.R. Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon.

Thursday 5th, 7.45 p.m.

FARNHAM BUSES AND COACHES. Talk by Dr. Peter Holmes to Farnham & District M.S. at the U.R. Church Hall, South Street.

Friday 6th, 8.00 p.m.

KING ATHELSTAN AND THE ANGLO-SAXON EMPIRE. Lecture by Michael Wood, author and broadcaster, to Richmond A.S. at the Vestry House, 21 Paradise Road, Richmond.

EARLY NOTICE

Saturday, 22nd February, 1986. 10.30—4.00

EXCAVATIONS COMMITTEE ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM to be held in the Martineau Hall, Dorking Halls. The complete timetable and other details will be given in the next *Bulletin*. Display space for exhibits of current work by local groups or individuals can be reserved by writing to Dr. D. G. Bird, 14 Kings Road, Guildford GU1 4JW.

Next Bulletins

Copy for the December–January issue is required by the Editor by Saturday, 10th November. The following *Bulletin* will cover February, 1986. Copy for this will be needed by Saturday, 4th January, 1986.