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BULLETIN

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S.A.S. VISIT TO CRANLEIGH

Arranged by Lyn Clark

Numbers limited to 40

Saturday, 19th July

- 10.15 a.m. Assemble at St. Nicolas Parish Church, a handsome building originating in the C12th. Mr. Colverson, who is an authority on the church, will take us round.
- 11.15 a.m. The Village Hospital, set up in 1859 in a C15th house, the first Cottage Hospital in England, will be opened for us to visit the old dining room.
- 11.40 a.m. Mrs. Judie English will show us the moated site at the old rectory (builders permitting!) and then show us some of the older houses in the High Street.
- 12.30 p.m. Lunch. There are several pubs and cafés or, if fine, picnics may be taken on the village green which has the best village cricket pitch in Surrey.
- 2.00-2.35 p.m. By kind permission of Miss Swinnerton, assemble at and visit Old Tokefield, a timber framed C16th cottage overlooking the Green, where Frank Swinnerton lived for 60 years and where he wrote "Reflections from a Village".
- 2.45-3.15 p.m. By kind permission of Mr. Greig, visit Pittance Farm, an "example now quite rare in Surrey of a C17th farmhouse forming a quadrangle with its barns" (Pevsner).
- 3.30-4.15 p.m. Visit Utworth Manor by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. MacNeice. This C15th-C18th house with cartshed, barn and threshing barn became part of the Onslows' estate after they moved to Knowle.
- 4.30-6.30 p.m. Visit Whipley Manor by kind permission of Major Elliott and his family. This is a C15th and C16th farmhouse with an C18th front and extensive barns of different periods, housing a family collection of farming and domestic antiques. We shall also have a substantial tea at Whipley, price £2.00. Please send tea money when booking. A map and information about distances and parking will be sent to those who book so please include stamped, addressed envelope.

Tickets: Members 50p, visitors 60p, students half price and accompanied children free. Please send cheques for tea and tickets, with s.a.e. before the end of June, to Mrs. West, 123 Ewell By Pass, Ewell, Epsom KT17 2PX. If you have to cancel, inform Mrs. West at once in case there is a waiting list. Please bring your tickets with you.

New Members

We welcome the following new members to the Society:

From February, 1986: Mr. P. R. Wilby, 49 Doods Road, Reigate RH2 0NT; Mr. T. Scott, 185 Queens Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 8NX; Mrs. J. E. Laver, 19 Glebe Court, Cross Lanes, Guildford GU1 1SH; Wood Street Village History Society, c/o Major H. B. Gray, "Spring Field", 4 Frog Grove Lane, Wood Street Village, Guildford GU3 3EX; Miss J. A. Clarke, 148 Gordon Road, Camberley GU15 2JQ.

From March, 1986: Mrs. C. Salmon, 14 Harvey Lodge, Harvey Road, Guildford GU1 3NJ; Mrs. L. C. Howes, 15 The Retreat, Thornton Heath CR4 8LD; Mr. D. J. Mathias, 1 Red Leys, Glaziers Lane, Normandy GU3 2DF.

Lloyds Bank Fund for Independent Archaeologists

The presentation of the 1986 awards took place at a ceremony held in the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, on Wednesday, 19th March. Only one Surrey society, The Bourne Society Archaeological Group, was represented this year although Subterranea Britannica, which has close connections with Surrey, also received an award.

Reigate Town House: Wall Painting Conservation

The conservation of the wall paintings found in the rooms of the 17th century town house from Reigate is now well under way. The work is being carried out by wall painting conservator Ann Ballantyne and her assistants Andrea Kirkham and Lucy Medhurst.

Most of the conservation has been taking place in the Weald and Downland Museum's workshops at Charlton, where the conservators have been revealing the true patterns and colours of the decoration, found on the timbers and plasterwork of the house interior.

Using scalpels, brushes and white spirit they have carefully removed layers of dirt and later paint and wall coverings to uncover the 17th century painting. The original colours have faded but will be enhanced by the use of micro-crystalline wax whose primary function is to protect the original paint, whilst being capable of removal if necessary at a later date.

The painting is very typical of its period, when this method of wall decoration was as common as wallpaper is today. Inevitably many fragments of 17th century painting exist beneath later materials in many houses, often unrecognised when they are revealed during alterations and destroyed accidentally.

Enough fragments of the Reigate House paintings survive to build up a picture of what the house interior was like — the decorators used repetitive patterns, floral style upstairs, and there are two fragments of pictorial scenes over a fireplace.

The house will be re-erected in the Museum at Singleton this summer, and the intention is to mount an exhibition of house decoration, and to complete one room in the house as it would have looked when the decoration was new.

This note appeared in the magazine, March issue, of the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton, Nr. Chichester, West Sussex.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Cobham and District in Camera

Local historian and author David Taylor has just completed his latest book which is to be a collection of over seventy old postcard views of the Cobham area. The cards are from the collections of the author and of several other local postcard collectors and include views of Cobham, Stoke D'Abernon, Oxshott, Downside and Hatchford.

The book is to be produced by Quotes Ltd., an associate company of Barracuda Books who published the author's previous best sellers — *The Book of Cobham* and *The People of Cobham*.

Publication is aimed for late April and will be linked with the formation of a new trust that is to be set up to restore Cobham's best known landmark, the old watermill by the river Mole. All royalties from the book are to be donated to the Mill restoration fund.

In his introduction to the book Mr. Taylor says that the book will be a trip down memory lane for some whilst there will be a few surprises for those who did not know Cobham in "the good old days".

Cobham in Camera will be available in local bookshops and will be priced about £7.00. Further details available from David Taylor, 49 Copse Road, Cobham (telephone Cobham 63128).

A REVIEW AND A NOTE

Reigate Heath and its Golf Club

Compiled by Colin Sheldon.

S. Straker and Sons, London, 1982. Illustrations: 13 black and white, 4 colour. 66 pp., 1 foldout map.

This book, which has been available for some years, is intended as a short but necessarily incomplete history of the Golf Club, which was founded in the 1890s. The first two chapters deal with the history of the heath and the old buildings, such as the well-known windmill, which stand upon it and it is these chapters which may be of more immediate interest to members of this society.

The book reads like a series of notes and was indeed compiled as such. These notes were not originally intended for publication and relied greatly on the memories of elderly people. Inevitably, as the author himself admits in his introduction, facts cannot be confirmed and inaccuracies will occur. The reader is thus left with a welter of undigested information, much of it unsupported, with tantalising reports of previously unrecorded discoveries. Much of the information is now hopelessly out of date (Blackborough Mill is no longer "visible from the Heath" (p. 13) as it was demolished many years ago) or inaccurate (Flanchford Mill is not "fed by a stream from the Buckland Hills" but from a stream rising on Wray Common, Reigate (p. 13)). The book contains neither references nor bibliography.

But it is in books such as this, which exasperate the archaeologist with their imprecision, that he occasionally finds references to previously unrecorded discoveries of potential importance. The following quote is from page 5 (the insertions are mine):

Saturday 7th

COACH EXCURSION TO CIRENCESTER arranged by the West Surrey Branch of the Historical Association. 8.30 a.m. start from Guildford. For details and tickets please 'phone Anne Bowey, Guildford 504198 (evenings only).

Wednesday 11th

S.A.S. COACH VISIT TO WALTHAM ABBEY AND WARE. Full details given in Bulletin 210.

Wednesday 11th, 7.45 p.m.

"GUNPOWDER IN SURREY", talk by Professor Alan Crocker to Croydon N.H.S.S. at East Croydon U.R. Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove.

Thursday 12th, 8.00 p.m.

"MAGNA CARTA", talk by Dr. Nigel Saul to Egham-by-Runnymede H.S. at the Literary Institute, Egham High Street.

Tuesday 17th, 8.00 p.m.

"THE BEDFONT GUNPOWDER MILLS", talk by P. Philo to K.U.T.A.S. at the Heritage Centre, Fairfield West, Kingston.

Thursday 26th, 8.00 p.m.

"ROYAL HOLLOWAY COLLEGE CENTENARY LECTURE" by Caroline Bingham to Egham-by-Runnymede H.S. at the Literary Institute, Egham High Street.

JULY**Sunday 6th**

COACH TRIP TO THE BRIGHTON AREA organised by Surrey Industrial History Group. Ticket £7.00 includes coach fare, admission charges and gratuities, available from Mr. D. Evans, 48 Guildford Park Road, Guildford GU2 5NF. Bookings by 15th June please.

Sunday 6th, 2.00-5.00 p.m.

OPEN DAY AT CHIPSTEAD VALLEY MUSEUM (Croydon N.H.S.S.). Special exhibit of geological material.

Some dates for your diary

Further details and information about these events will be available later and will be given in the Bulletin.

Saturday, 15th November

Surrey Local History Conference. The theme for this year will be "Shops and Shopping".

Saturday, 29th November

Conference on Medieval Surrey. To be held as before at Juniper Hall Field Study Centre, Mickleham.

Next Bulletin

Members will have noticed the meagreness of this issue of the Bulletin. There are no apologies from the Hon. Editor, only a plea for more contributions. The next Bulletin also covers two months, July-August. Copy is required by Saturday, 7th June.

“On a triangular piece of ground bounded by the old Dorking Road, Clifton’s Road (Cliftons Lane) and a house called Everest (now called Normanton), human remains were dug up. Mr. E. Penfold considered this area to be a Saxon burial ground. Mr. Stephen Clifton told Mr. Bushby that when they deep-ploughed the field in which Everest now stands they turned up spear heads, sword handles and leather armour — none of which was preserved. In the opinion of Mr. Bushby, these had belonged to the Danes — and it is quite possible that the Danes made a stand there after their defeat at the Battle of Ockley in AD 852.”

Although we can ignore that and the ensuing reference to the Battle of Ockley, this reads like a description of a previously unknown discovery of a Saxon cemetery although a few details are questionable. The site is sufficiently well described to locate it at TQ238500. The late Walter Bushby was a Reigate local historian who read Dr. Sheldon’s notes. The other individuals are unknown to me but may be more familiar to others. Dr. Wilfrid Hooper is quiet on the matter in his “Reigate: its Story through the Ages” and Mr. A. Buckland-Kent, the former archaeological secretary of the Holmesdale Natural History Club and now in his nineties, has no recollection of it (pers comm).

Dr. Sheldon informs me that he read this reference many years ago but cannot now recall the source.

David Williams

EXHIBITIONS

A Look at Customs Related to Birth, Marriage and Death

At The Livesey Museum, 682 Old Kent Road, London, SE15. Admission free. Monday-Saturday. Closes on 14th June.

A Slice of Southwark’s Past

At The Cuming Museum, 155 Walworth Road, London SE17 (Newington District Library). An exhibition of archaeological discoveries in Southwark Street. Closes on 30th August. Further details obtainable from 01-703 3324.

Exhibition in Leatherhead Parish Church

Saturday, 16th and Sunday 17th May. To celebrate the 900th anniversary of the first incumbent of the church. The exhibition is arranged by a parish committee in association with the Leatherhead & District Local History Society.

Study Tour to Bayeux, France

Surrey University Department of Educational Studies and the Surrey Archaeological Society are organising a joint study tour to Bayeux, 25th-27th September 1986, cost £95.00 inclusive, led by Mary and Matthew Alexander. If you would like to reserve a place (limited to 40) or receive more information please contact The Secretary (RB), Department of Educational Studies, University of Surrey, Guildford GU2 5XH.

Settlement in Surrey. 27th July-2nd August 1986

This six-day course will be based at the University of Surrey and will study the history of settlement in the area from prehistoric to modern times, including domestic and public buildings. Each day will start at 9.30 a.m. with an introductory lecture from a specialist, followed by visits to examples "in situ" and an evening discussion of the day's findings. We shall concentrate where possible on easily accessible examples but the week will culminate in a visit to the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum where many examples can be seen together.

Residence is available at the University if required (cost £175.00 inclusive) or participants may register non-residentially (cost £95.00 to include packed lunch, evening meal and tuition). All transport and entrance fees are included. For more information and an application form please contact The Secretary (RB), Department of Educational Studies, University of Surrey, Guildford GU2 5XH.

MEETINGS, EXCURSIONS, ETC.

MAY

Tuesday 13th, 8.00 p.m.

"SURREY FARM BUILDINGS", talk by Mr. J. Oliver to Egham-by-Runnymede H.S. at the Literary Institute, Egham High Street.

Wednesday 14th, 7.45 p.m.

"EXCAVATIONS AT MERTON PRIORY", talk by Scott McCracken to Croydon N.H.S.S. at East Croydon U.R. Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove.

Saturday 17th

S.A.S. VISIT TO ROEHAMPTON AND WIMBLEDON. Details given in Bulletin 209.

Tuesday 20th, 8.00 p.m.

"ETHELRED'S NAVY", talk by Miss M. Shipley to K.U.T.A.S. at the Heritage Centre, Fairfield West, Kingston.

Wednesday 21st, 7.45 p.m.

"HEARTHSTONE MINING AND THE SURREY HEARTHSTONE INDUSTRY", talk by Paul Sowen to Croydon N.H.S.S. at East Croydon U.R. Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove.

Saturday 24th

LOOKING OUT FOR THE PAST IN SURREY. 9.30 a.m.-5.00 p.m. One-day school at the University of Surrey, Guildford. Full programme given on the back page of Bulletin 210.

Thursday 29th, 8.00 p.m.

Surrey Farm Buildings II, talk by Mr. J. Oliver to Egham-by-Runnymede H.S. at the Literary Institute, Egham High Street.

JUNE

Wednesday 4th, 8.00 p.m.

"LONDON", talk by John Large to Nonsuch A.S. at St. Mary's Church Hall, Ewell.