



SURREY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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BULLETIN

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SOCIETY NEWS

Visits Committee

An appeal and two notes from the Hon. Secretary of the Committee.

Can You Help?

The Visits Committee would very much appreciate any offers of help to arrange a visit for 1988. Unfortunately, owing to several resignations for various reasons, our hardworking committee will be much depreciated. Please give this a thought, any help or information required will be given readily. Please contact the secretary if you can help or if you have any suggestions for a visit.

Name Badges

When applying for tickets for visits please give name(s) of any intending visitor(s), so that name badges can be prepared beforehand. These badges are helpful to introduce persons within the group and to identify the group when in public places when guides are provided or when refreshments are catered for. Members who already have these badges are asked to keep them and wear them on future visits. Your co-operation will be most helpful.

Future Visits

The Society has a large membership but only a minority apply for tickets. If you have not been on a visit, usually of cultural interest or to places not usually open to the general public, why not give it a try. You will be made most welcome and able to meet fellow Society members, some of whom may live locally to you; many a friendship has started this way. The 1987 visit dates will be published in the February *Bulletin*; make a note of the dates and try to keep them free. Further information may be obtained from the secretary, 123 Ewell Bypass, Ewell, Epsom KT17 2PX.

Jean West

New Members

We welcome the following new members to the Society:

O. Davies, Hill Cottage, Sutton Place, Abinger Hammer, Dorking RH5 6RL; Mrs. N. M. Tedder, St. Catherines, 73 Rydes Hill Road, Guildford, GU2 6SP; D. S. Hill, 35 Beechway, Twickenham, Middx. TW2 5JS; Miss S. C. Robson, 32 Epsom Road, Guildford GU1 3LA) Mrs. R. Mauder, Bunkers Hill Farm, Unstead, Godalming GU7 1UP; Dr. & Mrs. J. C. Hewetson, Combe Lane Cottage, Wormley, Godalming GU8 5TA; Mrs. G. A. Newton, Owl Hill, 134 Silverdale Avenue, Walton-on-Thames KT12 1 ET; N. Vincent, Turnpike Cottage, Portsmouth Road, Milford,

Godalming GU8 5HL; Dr. D. A. Stott, 36 Northey Avenue, Cheam, Sutton SM2 7HR; R. J. Faircliff, 21 Spencer Road, Strawberry Hill, Twickenham, Middx TW2 5TZ

Library — Current Contents Service

This service exists primarily for members who reside more than 20 miles from Castle Arch, but members within 20 miles may make use of the service if willing to pay all costs.

In order to keep up to date with literature published in journals taken by the Society, a copy of the Contents page would be sent post free for up to six selected titles, as each title is received by the Librarian. Subject to copyright, copies of articles of interest could then be supplied at 10p per sheet of A4 or 15p for A3, plus postage, on request. Alternatively, the journal could be posted to the member free, but cost of return postage to be paid by the borrower.

If you are interested and wish to be included in this service, please write to Mrs. Janette White, Assistant Librarian at Castle Arch. A complete list of journals taken by the Society is published in *Bulletins* 213, September and 214, October.

EXCAVATION REPORTS

Saxon County School, Shepperton (TQ 070 676)

Excavations took place at the Saxon County School between the 14th July and 26th September in advance of building works. The work was directed by the author for the Conservation and Archaeology Section, Planning Department, Surrey County Council and funded by the Education Department, Surrey County Council.

Earlier work on the site by Roy Canham (Excavations at Shepperton Green 1967 and 1973, *Trans London Middlesex Archaeol Soc.*, 30, 1979, 97-124) had revealed a burial ground and an associated settlement site occupied between the 6th and 12th Centuries AD.

Little evidence for prehistoric activity on the site was found, apart from a scatter of worked flints, including a Mesolithic tranchet axe. A sufficient scatter of Roman pottery and tile was, however, recovered to indicate that a Roman site lies nearby, perhaps where a resistivity survey of the adjacent playing field area indicated the presence of stone building foundations below ground.

The character of earlier Saxon occupation remains elusive, but a notable discovery this year was a substantial midden deposit of early Saxon date, which had been dumped in a natural hollow. Finds from this included plentiful animal bone and pottery (including stamped and decorated sherds of various types), as well as a number of bone artefacts, a number of ditches running parallel to those found by Canham. This confirmed his suggestion that the site had been regularly laid out and indicated that this had occurred in the late Saxon period. The site appears to go out of use in the 12th Century, though a scatter of medieval pottery may be sufficient to suggest that occupation did continue in the immediate vicinity, perhaps on a reduced scale.

R. J. Poulton
Archaeological Field Officer

Blechingley Castle Excavation. Part III (Final Part. See *Bulletins* 214 and 215 for Parts I and II)

The Masonry Building: Secondary Phases (TQ 322 505)

The primary building did not remain unaltered in medieval times: with one exception, however, the secondary work was of a minor nature.

The undercroft of the eastern range is entered through a doorway 2.2m wide behind 150mm checks. The sill appears to have been reconstructed in the nineteenth century. This doorway has been cut through the wall and outside it the lower courses of an added porch were excavated as far as the latest surviving floor level. Among the rubble adjacent to the porch was found one decorated voussoir of the outer porch arch.

The interior of the porch was cleared out by sections as far as the last medieval floor, which was of crushed Upper Greensand rubble in the centre and brown soil at the sides. Above the greensand was a thin layer of brown humic soil beneath an irregular deposit (confined, in the main, to the outer half of the porch) of what appeared to be mortar but which proved, on analysis, to be almost pure sand. Above this, the accumulated soil and rubble had been greatly disturbed by burrowing animals and no coherent stratification remained.

The brown soil beneath the sandy mortar contained a small amount of late thirteenth century pottery: rather more was recovered from similar but unsealed levels on the north side of the interior of the porch.

Within the undercroft of the east range, a semi-cylindrical attachment survives on the west side of the visibly surviving rectangular pillar. Against the inner side of the double-splayed window of the undercroft, on the line along the axis of this range formed by the raised hearth, surviving pillar and displaced pillar base, is a mass of decaying masonry approximately D-shaped in plan. If this mass represents the base of a structure that once extended higher, that structure would have obstructed the window.

Other similar masses of masonry are to be seen on either side of the entrance to the vestibule of the SE stair turret: that on the right hand side had been repointed in the nineteenth century and extended into and blocked the adjacent window in the south wall. A further similar mass can be identified inside the undercroft immediately north of the eastern doorway. This last mass is largely covered by the unexcavated rubble filling the northern third of the undercroft: the two masses by the SE turret and the mass at the SE end of the axis are largely collapsed as a result of weathering action on weak mortar exposed since the nineteenth century excavations.

A fifth similar mass was exposed in excavations adjacent to the entrance to the north west stair turret. This is better preserved and has been re-buried.

As the position of the axial pillars in the undercroft of the eastern range suggest that the southern bridging joist for the floor above must have located into the thin south wall immediately above the splayed window on this axis, the D-shaped mass blocking the window may well have been a medieval insertion made to support the bridging joist following a structural failure of the original arrangement. The semi-circular attachment to the exposed surviving rectangular pillar may have had a similar origin.

However the other masonry masses near entrances to the undercroft are not satisfactorily explained in this way, and may be masonry supports occasioned by deterioration of the structure or the need to strengthen the building for military reasons: possibly both circumstances had to be met at the same time. If, as seems possible, the sandy mortar deposit in the porch

can be associated with this phase, it could not have greatly predated the abandonment of the building.

Destruction and Later Changes

The walls of the building showed signs of severe burning in the entrance lobby to the north-west stair and on the sides of the northern entrance. The colouration of the stone in these locations suggested a severe conflagration. No pottery was found on the site that had to be later than the third quarter of the thirteenth century.

The much-illustrated arch that stands in the diaphragm wall is clearly the work of the nineteenth century above three or four courses of a medieval doorway. The nineteenth century work includes correctly proportioned drawbar holes. The longer of these, on the south side, is capped within the wall by a flimsy piece of undecayed wooden shuttering and hence this feature can be seen as either a romantic fabrication or a 'scholarly' reconstruction. All above this level has undoubtedly been rebuilt.

Other apparent Victorian reconstructions include the pillar base west of the well in the eastern range, and the turnpike stair in the south-east turret. The pillar base is out of rectangularity and is not quite in line with the pillar north of it. The turnpike stair in the south-east turret has been reconstructed to a height of five treads, none of which are keyed into the false newel.

The rough segmental arch links the southern pairing of projecting walls is also a modern reconstruction. It is roughly made of undressed stone and supports only 0.48m of walling above the crown of the arch. There is no indication in the central westward projecting wall that this arch ever supported more as this part of the south face of this wall has been re-set (or at least heavily repointed): the face of the southern projecting wall does not survive above linking-arch level. However, arches in both positions can be recognized on the Manning and Bray plan.

A detailed excavation report is under preparation.

D. J. Turner

90 High Street, Guildford — Building at rear (NGR 997 494)

At the rear of 90 High Street (now Pizzaland) are the remains of a brick and timber cottage, the first floor of which has been demolished. There is also access to this building from Chapel Street (formerly Poke Lane) by a passage which runs between Pew's Wine Bar (the old Black Horse Inn) and the small La Boulangerie, both 17th century or earlier. In a document of 1443 relating to No. 90, in the Muniments Room in Guildford, mention is made of 'the solum of our land which lies outside le Wellehouse (sic) on the south' and of 'a certain lane called Poke Lane on the west' which is the boundary of a property lying between it and 'the tenement at the well-house aforesaid'. Also of 'a certain tall gateway with entry and exit ex opposita to the lane aforesaid'. The ichnography of 1739 confirms that a courtyard existed in this area, called at that time 'Compass Yard'. The OS map of 1870 shows three cottages or tenements in line with the present derelict cottage and facing west, some traces of which remain. It seems probable that the well (and the well-house?) was a communal one which served this area.

The present remains, it would seem, and particularly the cellar, may conceal this well. Evidence for dating the cottage is difficult because of the very dilapidated state of the building and the fact that the timbers are covered by thick layers of paint. It is probably 17th century or later, but may be on the site of an earlier one. There is a fire-place in the south-east

corner, the hearth beam of which can be detected under the paint, 2.4m in length, though most of the hearth is infilled. The ground floor ceilings are supported by spine-beams, and the south wall is timber-framed and possibly pegged. There are steep brick steps leading down to the cellar which is made of large slabs of chalk-stone and some brick. If the well is here, or outside, it would be interesting to locate it in view of the foregoing historical data.

DBRG report No. 3449 and Guildford Mun. Room 70/4/3.

Mary Butts

Green Lane, Wanborough

In October this year I received a small parcel containing a few Iron Age coins, with a short anonymous note indicating that they had come from Wanborough. The sender asked that I acknowledge receipt by a note in the *Bulletin*, which I hereby do, with thanks.

There seems to be no good reason to doubt that the coins came from Wanborough, and I shall pass them on to join those already held from the excavation or obtained by other means. I still hope that it will prove possible to obtain for proper study and conservation a number of other objects known to have come from the site but still apparently held by people who obtained them without permission. They include at least four pieces of sceptres, two curious decorative handle-like bronzes, two or more miniature axes, an Early Bronze Age axe and parts of one or more brooches. These form an important part of the evidence from this site, even though they were wrenched from their original context without record. We must hope that they will eventually make their way to a proper museum, whether anonymously or not, together with any other material not yet recorded in any way.

D. G. Bird

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Under the Sludge

Lesley Adkins and Roy Adkins. Published by Beddington, Carshalton & Wallington Archaeological Society, price £2.95, plus 55p postage and packing.

An account of the recent excavation of Beddington Roman villa and prehistoric settlement. Copies are available by post from 27a Ashcombe Road, Carshalton SM5 3ET. (Cheques payable to Beddington, Carshalton & Wallington Archaeological Society).

1851 Census Index — Vol I — Godstone Registration District

(Blechingley, Caterham, Chelsham, Crowhurst, Farleigh, Godstone, Horne, Limpsfield, Oxted, Tandridge, Tatsfield, Titsey, Warlingham and Woldingham). 80pp inc. map and introduction. Compiled by Jean Tooke. East Surrey Family History Society. Available at £2.95 by post from 1 Woodside Close, Caterham CR3 6AU.

Fieldwalking Guidelines

A small booklet prepared by the SAS Excavations Committee for the use of groups and individuals carrying out fieldwalking projects. It should be remembered that the collection of artefacts from a field surface is to some extent destructive of archaeological evidence. Member societies will be sent copies of the booklet. Copies are available to individual members, free of charge, on application to the Society H.Q. at Castle Arch, Guildford.

Index of Surrey Probate Inventories. 16th–19th centuries.

This D.B.R.G.(Surrey) publication was listed in the October *Bulletin*. Members in the vicinity of Guildford may like to know that it is available for sale at the Muniment Room, adjacent to Castle Arch, Guildford.

ARCHAEOLOGY COURSES

The Prehistory of North West Europe. A 10 class course starting Wednesday 14th January, at 7.15 p.m. at The Meads Centre, Chertsey Road, Addlestone. Tutor: Mark Reeve.

Local History of the South-West Surrey Weald

A 10 week evening class starting in January, at 7.15 p.m. at Glebelands School, Cranleigh. Details from Judie English, 61 Hailey Place, Cranleigh. Tel: 276724.

MEETINGS

DECEMBER

Wednesday 10th, 8.15 p.m.

THE DOMESDAY SURVEY IN SURREY. Talk by Dennis Turner to Holmesdale NHC in The Museum, 14 Croydon Road, Reigate.

Tuesday 16th, 7.45 p.m.

WINDMILLS OF SOUTHERN ENGLAND. Talk by Peter Burgess to Croydon NHSS at East Croydon UR Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove.

JANUARY

Wednesday 7th, 7.45 p.m.

THE DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM'S PAPERS RELATING TO SURREY AND KENT MANORS. Talk by Mary Saaler to Historical Association — Croydon Branch at East Croydon UR Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove.

Wednesday 7th, 8.00 p.m.

VIKINGS IN BRITAIN. Talk by Elizabeth Eames to Nonsuch AS in St. Mary's Church Hall, Ewell.

Tuesday 13th, 7.30 p.m.

EXCAVATIONS AT LEADENHALL STREET. Talk by Simon O'Connor to SLAS at John Harvard Library Hall, Borough High Street, Southwark.

Thursday 15th, 7.45 p.m.

FARNHAM — THE MOST HAUNTED TOWN IN SURREY. Talk by Matthew Alexander to Farnham and District MS at UR Church Hall, South Street, Farnham.

Friday 16th, 8.15 p.m.

EXCAVATIONS AT PLACE FARM, BLECHINGLEY. Talk by Michael Russell to Holmesdale NHC in The Museum, 14 Croydon Road, Reigate.

Saturday 17th, 3.00 p.m.

THE HISTORY OF THE LONDON WATER SUPPLY. Talk by John Graham-Leigh to Walton & Weybridge LHS at Weybridge Library Hall.

Thursday 29th, 8.00 p.m.

SURREY'S FIRE BRIGADES. Talk by Ron Shettle to Esher LHS at UR Church Hall, Speer Road, Thames Ditton.

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 14th, 7.45 p.m.

UNDER THE SLUDGE. Talk by Lesley Adkins to Croydon NHSS at East Croydon UR Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove.

Wednesday 4th, 8.00 p.m.

THE RICHES OF BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY. Talk by Andrew Selkirk to Nonsuch AS at St. Mary's Church Hall, Ewell.

Thursday 5th, 7.45 p.m.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ROUND-UP. Talk by David Graham to Farnham DMS at the UR Church Hall, South Street, Farnham.

Wednesday 11th, 8.15 p.m.

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF BETCHWORTH. Talks by Beryl Higgins and David Williams to Holmesdale NHC at The Museum, 14 Croydon Road, Reigate.

Friday 13th, 8.00 p.m.

EXCAVATING IN THE CITY: THE ROMAN BASILICA UNEARTHED. Talk by John Maloney to Richmond AS in The Vestry Room, Paradise Road, Richmond.

Next Bulletins

February 1987 will be the next issue. Please send material to the Editor by Saturday 3rd January. Remember the postal service will be interrupted that week. Copy for the March *Bulletin* must be received by Saturday 1st February.

The Bulletin Editor wishes all members a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Surrey Archaeological Society
Excavations Committee Annual Symposium
21 FEBRUARY, 1987 IN THE DORKING HALLS, DORKING

- Programme:* *Chairman: Mrs. Elizabeth Eames*
- 10.30 Nicholas Riall: The Farnham tile kiln: the 12th/13th century kiln found on the Borelli Yard site.
- 11.00 Geoffrey Cole: The work of the Surrey Heath Group: recent excavations and fieldwork changing our understanding of this previously neglected corner of Surrey.
- 11.30 Short break.
- 11.40 Paul Larkin: Recent finds in the Shepperton/Chertsey area: discoveries of national importance made in gravel digging, including an LBA axe with its unique wooden handle.
- 12.10 Rob Poulton: Excavations at the former Goblin Works site, Leatherhead: a pagan and ?later Saxon cemetery.
- 12.40 Lunch and opportunity to view the exhibits.
- 2.00 Paul Sowan: The Merstham/Chaldon stone mines: detailed underground survey of possibly medieval stone workings.
- 2.40 The Margary Award.
- 2.50 Tea break.
- 3.20 Jon Cotton: Recent work on the West Middlesex gravels: in spite of a lack of aerial photographs, work by the West London Archaeological Field Group has recovered evidence for prehistoric and RB farms. Finds include unique RB timber-work of great interest.
- 4.00 (approx.) Conclusion.

Each talk will be followed by a short discussion period.

Coffee, tea and biscuits will be available at a small charge at the lunchtime and mid afternoon breaks. Admittance will be £2 at the door, but tickets may be bought in advance for £1.50 including postage. Applications for tickets should be made to Mrs. Susan Janaway at Castle Arch, Guildford GU1 3SX. Cheques should be made payable to Surrey Archaeological Society. There is ample car parking space adjacent to the Dorking Halls; look for the long term stay areas.