



SURREY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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BULLETIN

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April/May 1987

Edited by Miss E. P. Humphreys, 41 Salisbury Road, Godstone RH9 8AA
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MEMBERS' SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members are reminded that subscriptions for 1987/88 are due on 1st April. The current rates are as follows:

Ordinary Member	£10.00
Associate Member	£1.00
Junior Member (with <i>Collections</i>)	£3.00
Institutional Member	£12.50
Junior Member living at same address as Ordinary Member (but without Society publications)	free of charge

If you have not already paid your subscription by standing order, would you kindly send your remittance to Mrs Susan Janaway at Castle Arch. Please note that in view of the high postage costs, personal reminders are not issued to members.

S.A.S. VISIT TO ALDERSHOT AND ELSTEAD

Arranged by Lt. Col. H. Deighton and Mrs Joan Major

Wednesday, 11th June

Numbers limited to 30

- 10.00 a.m. Assemble in the car park at Aldershot Military Museum in Queens Road — the location is well signed. There follows a guided tour of the Museum, which is not an army museum as such, but is dedicated to the establishment of the town as an army centre, and its subsequent growth and transformation since its origins as a camp site in the middle of the 19th century.
- 10.40 a.m. Depart for the Royal Pavilion, Farnborough Road, Aldershot, for a guided visit to the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps Museum, which contains, *inter alia*, memorabilia of Miss Florence Nightingale.
- 11.30 a.m. Depart for the Queen Elizabeth's Barracks, Church Crookham, Fleet, for a guided tour to the Gurkha Museum, which is dedicated to the history of Gurkha troops in the service of the Crown since 1815.
- 12.30 p.m. Disperse for lunch.

- 2.00 p.m. Meet at Elstead Church, where Miss Gillian Drew will give a talk prior to conducting the party on a tour of the village. Parking is easy at this point and we can then walk to visit the following houses:
- 2.40 p.m. "Tumblers", a 17th century house, by kind invitation of Mr and Mrs D. West.
- 3.00 p.m. "Apple Tree Cottage", by kind invitation of Mr and Mrs Hallows.
- 3.30 p.m. By car, parking in the recreation ground, to visit "Domford", a 16th century house, by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Doorn.
- 4.00 p.m. Again by car to "Thundry Farm", a 14th century building, by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Roberts.
- 4.30 p.m. A brief call at Elstead Mill, 17th century but much altered, by kind permission of Mr David Riley.

Tickets: Members £1.50, non-members £1.60, students and accompanied children half price. This covers admissions and donations, etc. Please send cheques with s.a.e. to Mrs Jean West, 123 Ewell By Pass, Ewell, Epsom KT17 2PX (Tel. 01-393 8970).

Sunday, 17th May

COACH OUTING TO KESTON (Organised by Surrey Roman Villa Group)

The outing to Keston, near Bromley in Kent, has been arranged to coincide with an Open Day there to visit the impressive Iron Age hillfort (TQ 422639) and nearby medieval tile kiln in Holwood Park, not normally open to the public. A visit will also be made to the Roman tombs (TQ 415632) about a mile away, near to the site of the excavated Keston Roman villa (no visible villa remains).

The Open Day is to commemorate the 200th anniversary of a meeting in Holwood Park between Pitt and Wilberforce when they formulated plans for proposing to Parliament the abolition of the slave trade.

The coach (Hardings) will be a 30-seater and the coach charge will be £3.00 per person. It will leave from Dorking Halls at 8.30 a.m. About 3 hours will be spent in the Keston area and the coach is expected to return to Dorking by approx. 2.30 p.m. Stout footwear and a picnic lunch are recommended.

Full details and booking forms from Mr L. Le Mottee, Little Rising, Ermynt Way, Leatherhead KT22 8TW (Tel. Ashtead 74107).

Friday 24th–Sunday 26th July

Some places are still available on this S.A.S. weekend visit to the Midhurst-Chichester area. An outline of the programme can be found in *Bulletin* 217. Cost approx. £60. Bookings (with £20 deposit please) to Mrs Jean West, 123 Ewell By Pass, Ewell, Epsom KT17 2PX.

Saturday, 11th April: S.A.S Visit to Cobham

The Editor apologises to the organisers of this visit, Mr D. C. Taylor and Miss J. Carter, for errors in the programme printed in *Bulletin* 217. The house interiors open to view in the morning will be Pyports, Cedar House and Cobham Mill.

Proposed Changes in Strategic Planning

In 1986 the government published proposals for abolishing county structure plans — the instruments used at present by county councils for the strategic planning of land use in their areas. Its intention is reported as being to hand over all formal strategic planning to the 333 district councils in England and Wales. In February 1987, a ministerial statement initiated a debate on the increasing consensus that our farmers are producing too much food and the effect that changes in agricultural policy might have on land use. Even before this publicised debate, the CPRE had warned, in a letter to members and affiliated societies, of the dangers of this. It suggests that 'the risk is that more of our farmland may become available for ill-considered developments at the very moment at which the country's long-established strategic planning system is being weakened'. The CPRE see this as posing a threat to Green Belts, nature conservation and pollution control but they could well have added field monuments, archaeological sites and historic landscape features to their list. The CPRE is hoping to have discussions with government ministers and others on these important issues. The Society fully supports the CPRE in its campaign to retain the strategic planning role of the county councils.

D. J. Turner,
Chairman, Conservation Committee

INSURANCE AND INDEMNITIES

Excavation Directors and Diggers please note:

Excavation Insurance — Directors of excavations are reminded that it is essential that they arrange for insurance cover for the excavation that they are undertaking. For the purpose of insurance the term 'excavation' covers all aspects of excavation where there is a 'third party risk' and not simply 'dirt archaeology.' Under certain circumstances 'field walking' and 'measuring buildings' would require cover. If in doubt, or to register for insurance cover, please contact R. J. Webber at 8 Kelvin Grove, Hook, Chessington. Telephone: 01 397 4885 (evenings and weekends). Please remember that "COVER AFTER THE EVENT IS TOO LATE!"

Personal Accident Insurance — All volunteers on excavations, including field walking, measuring and other connected activities should be fully aware that the Society's insurance policy does not cover them for injury or sickness, and, thereby, loss of earnings, should that injury be self inflicted or the result of their own neglect. All volunteers should, therefore, arrange for PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE through their own insurers before they engage in excavation activities. Remember please that if you put a pickaxe through someone else's foot, or they do it to you, that will be all right but if you put it through your own foot then that will be your responsibility and nobody else's! Directors of Excavations please bring this matter to the attention of all your volunteer diggers.

R. J. Webber

Indemnities

Some indemnities required by landowners and contractors go beyond the acceptable liability of Surrey Archaeological Society and its insurance cover for excavations. In future all indemnity forms MUST be signed by one or other of the OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY who have been appointed by The Council of the Society to act in this matter.

A copy of every indemnity required must be forwarded to Mr R. J. Webber at 8 Kelvin Grove, Hook, Chessington, Surrey KT9 1DP who will, where necessary, clear the terms and conditions with the insurers. A

further copy should, at the same time, be sent to the Society's Hon. LEGAL ADVISER.

LOCAL SOCIETIES or GROUPS excavating under Surrey Archaeological Society's name or using the Society's insurance cover MUST COMPLY with this procedure. Other excavators would be well advised to take legal advice before signing any form of indemnity.

The following officers of the Society have been authorised by the Council to sign indemnities on behalf of the Society: The President, The Secretary, The Hon. Treasurer.

J. L. Gower, Hon. Secretary

Excavations Index for Surrey

It may not be widely known that there is currently work in progress in Surrey to compile an index of excavations which have been carried out in the county. This is part of a nationwide research programme funded by the National Monuments Record of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England). I have been appointed to undertake a short-term project at County Hall in Kingston upon Thames, which is to be completed by the end of May 1987, and while I hope to contact or visit all excavators and museums, there will inevitably be some omissions and I would ask these persons to contact me. The aims of the project are to compile a comprehensive list of all excavations which have ever occurred in Surrey, to locate the original archive material (notes, plans, photographs, slides, negatives, correspondence and manuscript reports) from each act of excavation, to locate the finds from each excavation, and to indicate the excavations for which reports have been published. I would be delighted to hear from anybody who has directed an excavation, has any archive material, or feels that they might have any information about a Dig that I might not otherwise become aware of. When the project is complete a copy of the results will be lodged with the Society at Castle Arch.

I can be contacted at: The Archaeological Section, Planning Department, 6 Penrhyn Road, County Hall, Kingston upon Thames KT1 2DT. Telephone 01-541 9457.

Eleanor Scott

S.A.S. Excavations Committee Annual Symposium

The 1987 Symposium was held on 21st February at Dorking Halls, under the chairmanship of Mrs Elizabeth Eames, and the varied programme attracted a large audience.

The day started with a description by Nick Riall, of his excavations at Borelli Yard, near the centre of Farnham. After an unpromising start, a large ditch was revealed, running east-west across the site. This dated to around 1140-1180 and is probably the town ditch mentioned in several documentary sources. A square tile kiln, dating to the mid 12th century, was found nearby. This was capable of holding up to 10,000 tiles at a firing and had been repaired several times before final demolition.

At very short notice, Steve Nelson stepped in to replace Geoff Cole, and gave a talk about his recent rescue work on the Saxon cemetery at Tadworth. Forty-three graves were found, laid out in rows, over an area of approximately 400 sq. m. Finds included knives, a possible belt fitting, an amulet in rock crystal and a decorated bone toggle. Not all the boundaries of the cemetery had yet been established, so more burials may exist off the immediate development site.

After a short break, Paul Larkin, curator of Chertsey Museum, described the recent finds from gravel workings in his area. These came from silted up river channels and include a 10th century Viking sword; a La Tene sword complete with its scabbard fittings and, perhaps, most remarkably, a bronze age socketed axe complete with its well preserved and unique wooden haft. Paul ended by thanking the Society for its contribution towards the costs of conserving these important finds.

Rob Poulton completed the morning by discussing his work on the Saxon cemetery at the Goblin works, Leatherhead. Thirty-five burials were discovered and grave goods included knives, spearheads, a bronze buckle, a bone comb, a panther cowrie (from the Red Sea) and a glass bead necklace. Some of the skeletons were in a fragmentary state perhaps because the graves had been left open for some time after the original interment. While the earlier burials dated to the 6th and 7th centuries, a number of graves of late Saxon execution victims were also recovered and Rob concluded by discussing the implications of the site.

After lunch, Paul Sowan described his continuing survey of the Merstham/Chaldon stone mines. Stone extraction started in the medieval period, but the main workings date to the 18th and 19th centuries. The mines consist of a complex network of interlinking tunnels and still show signs of the methods used to extract building stone. The survey is part of a long-term project which has recently received a grant from the Society.

Jon Cotton concluded the day by reviewing recent work on two sites on the West Middlesex gravels. The first, near Hillingdon village, revealed an unenclosed Iron Age farmstead consisting of four huts, associated granaries, pits and a possible shrine. The second site, just north of Heathrow, produced numerous features, perhaps the most interesting of which, was a filled in Roman quarry, containing a wooden ladder and the remains of a timber framed building.

A number of excellent displays were on view in the hall and it was with some difficulty that the judges finally decided to give first prize in the Margary Award to Croydon Natural History Society for their display on the Merstham/Chaldon and Godstone quarries and second prize to the Lithic Tools Research Group for their display on the Paddington Farm fieldwalking project.

The Committee would like to thank Mrs Eames for chairing the meeting; the speakers and exhibitors for their contributions; Susan Janaway, Roger Ellaby and David Bird for their administrative work and Judie English and Elvey Humphreys for arranging the teas.

David Graham

Note for your 1988 diary: the next Symposium will be held at Dorking Halls on Saturday 16th April, 1988.

FIELDWALKING AND EXCAVATION REPORTS

Prehistoric Pottery Scatter: Abinger

Random fieldwalking by the writer between Wotton and Abinger has produced an accumulation around TQ112483 of eight hand-made undiagnostic potsherds. Their texture would indicate a late Neolithic or Bronze Age date.

The sherds were found in a field with a fairly well established crop. Further investigations will be made after the next ploughing. The find adds weight to the site in the adjoining area reported in last month's *Bulletin*. (Paddington Farm, Abinger).

Keith Winsor

Cambridge House, Kingston Hill: Bronze Age Site

Recent proposals to develop the site of Cambridge House, Renfrew Road, Kingston Hill, provided an ideal opportunity to investigate the last remaining piece of original land surface in the George Road gravel quarries that lay within throwing distance of the area where Late Bronze Age material was recorded during the 19th century.

Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society, with the support of Kingston Heritage Centre, excavated five trenches (A-E), three by machine, to the surface of the gravel. Revealed at this level were a number of features cut into the gravel, some of which contained Bronze Age potsherds.

In trench A, a gully approx. 0.5 metres wide and 10 cm. deep curved from the section edge some 3.0 metres to the centre of the trench. Opposing it a ditch approx. 1.0 metres wide and 0.5 metres deep ran for 2.0 metres from the trench edge and, with one edge vertical and the other inclined, can reasonably be interpreted as a post trench. In trenches B and C a dozen small circular features approx. 25 cm. diameter and 15-20 cm. deep were uncovered. Some contained potsherds and burnt flint and two contained fragments of quernstone. Lying on top of one of these features was a good portion of a saddle quern and above another a, perhaps residual, barbed and tanged arrowhead. These latter features are almost certainly the base of small post holes or post sockets which, although making no intelligible plan, probably formed part of a larger arrangement of posts to the north of the excavated area.

Restrictions on time prevented further investigation but sufficient material was recovered to demonstrate that the known Late Bronze Age occupation of the area was in the nature of permanent settlement.

David Field and Pat Nicolaysen

Courage's Brewery, Staines

An area of approx. 18,000 sq. m. is currently being redeveloped between Church Street, Bridge Street and the River Thames, in an area of the town that is separated from the High Street by the Wraysbury River and the Colne. Because of limited resources archaeological work was planned to investigate two aspects of the site: the position of the Thames bank in antiquity and the settlement phases on this other island of Staines. Access from the High Street island was by way of Longford Bridge on Church Street, the upper part of which was called Binneburie Street. In the 14th century Binbury had been adopted as the name of the island for convenience and, although this may well have been the name of the area around the parish church in medieval times, the name may refer to a defended enclosure of Saxon date.

With the aid of a donation and other resources provided by the developers, Crowngap and Royal Insurance, and the assistance of a Community Task Force team, sample excavations and site watching were conducted during 1986. Over 90% of the development area was found to be made up of deep flood-silts of medieval and later date. In the north, where closer to Church Street the land surface survived, two small sample trenches were excavated. The first was south of the Cock Inn which lies at the junction of Church Street and Bridge Street. The medieval Thames bank was found here but the contemporary land surface survived only as a bar that separated the Thames from another watercourse to the north. The southern bank of this watercourse was examined. The earliest fill of the watercourse contained only Roman sherds but subsequent deposits contained much domestic pottery from early 13th century occupation nearby, probably on Church Street. The northern channel may be an

earlier course of the Wrybury River which was diverted east to its present course to improve access along Church Street, and to increase the rate of flow from the mill that stood a little further upstream.

The other excavated area lay in the north-west corner of the site, immediately adjacent to Church Street. Although deposits here had been truncated in the 18th and 19th centuries during groundwork for the brewery, some deeper features survived. One of these was a deep linear feature at the south end of the trench which was either a bank of the Thames or a massive ditch. Its earliest off-shore deposit of fill was of 2nd century date and this was quickly followed by the dumping of a large quantity of tile and tile mortar debris, presumably from a building that had stood close-by. The levelling layer over this feature contained more early to mid Saxon sherds than from any equivalent area so far excavated in Staines and these were predominantly of grass chaff-tempered types. A penannular loomweight was the only other find of Saxon date. Through the north end of the trench and running parallel with Church Street, was a ditch which was back-filled in the late 11th or early 12th century. Several pits and stake-holes of 13/14th century date were also found, some of which may have belonged to the superstructure of medieval buildings. It is hoped that further work will continue this year.

Phil Jones, Field Officer,
S.C.C. Planning Dept. (Archaeology & Conservation)

MEETINGS, ETC.

APRIL

Friday 10th, 8.00 p.m.

THE WORK OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM RESEARCH LABORATORY. Talk by Dr Paul Craddock to Richmond A.S. at the Vestry Room, Paradise Road, Richmond.

Tuesday 14th, 7.30 p.m.

WANBOROUGH. Talk by Dr David Bird to Southwark & Lambeth A.S. at John Harvard Library Hall, Borough High Street.

Wednesday 15th, 7.45 p.m.

THE TEMPLE SITE AT WANBOROUGH. Talk by Martin O'Connell to Croydon N.H.S.S. at East Croydon U.R. Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove.

Wednesday 15th, 8.00 p.m.

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY IN ELMBRIDGE. Talk by Rowland Baker to Walton & Weybridge L.H.S. at Weybridge Library Hall.

Thursday 23rd, 7.45 p.m.

THE TRADITIONS OF THE CITY OF LONDON. Talk by Valerie Hope to Croydon N.H.S.S. at East Croydon U.R. Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove.

Friday 24th, 8.00 p.m.

LISTED BUILDINGS OF PUTNEY. Talk by John Horrocks to Wandsworth H.S. at the Friends Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street.

Saturday 25th, 9.30-5.00

WEST LONDON LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE at Queen Charlotte Hall, Parkshot, Richmond. Tickets £3.50 (or £6.00 inc. lunch) available from G. Spencer, 54 Hamilton Road, Brentford.

Saturday 25th–Monday 4th May

HOLMESDALE NATURAL HISTORY CLUB. Open Days at The Museum, 14 Croydon Road, Reigate.

MAY

Wednesday 6th, 7.45 p.m.

CITIES OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE. Talk by Dr M. Roxon to History Association (Croydon Branch) at East Croydon U.R. Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove.

Wednesday 6th, 8.00 p.m.

EXCAVATIONS AT BEDDINGTON. Talk by Lesley Adkins at The Library, The Square, Carshalton. Tickets available from all Sutton libraries or at the door.

Wednesday 6th, 8.00 p.m.

CHELSEA PORCELAIN, 1745–1784. Talk by Joy Hallam to Nonsuch A.S. at St. Mary's Church Hall, Ewell.

Tuesday 12th, 7.30 p.m.

THE ROYAL MANOR AT ROTHERHITHE. Talk by Eric Norton to the Southwark & Lambeth A.S. at John Harvard Library Hall, Borough High Street.

Tuesday 29th, 8.00 p.m.

THE ROMAN PORT OF LONDON. Talk by Gustav Milne to Wandsworth H.S. at the Friends Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street.

JUNE

Wednesday 3rd, 8.00 p.m.

RURAL LIFE IN TUDOR AND STUART SURREY. Talk by Dr Peter Edwards to Nonsuch A.S. at St Mary's Church Hall, Ewell.

Next Bulletins

Copy for the June issue must reach the Editor by Saturday 9th May. For the July/August issue copy must be received by Saturday 6th June.