



SURREY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
CASTLE ARCH, GUILDFORD GU1 3SX
Telephone: Guildford 32454

BULLETIN

Number 234

November 1988

Edited by Miss E. P. Humphreys, 41 Salisbury Road, Godstone RH9 8AA.
Tel: Godstone 843723

Saturday, 26th November, 2.00 p.m.

Special General Meeting, Annual General Meeting and Annual Lecture

To be held in the Woolsack and Tanners Room, The Harlequin, Warwick Quadrant, Redhill. The full agenda for the meeting can be found in the October issue of the *Bulletin*. The lecture, to follow the business meeting, will be given by Dr A.J. Taylor on "Recollections of a Surrey Antiquary".

A sketch map showing the position of the Harlequin Theatre in the centre of Redhill is given in the October *Bulletin*.

LIBRARY NEWS

The Library will continue to offer a current contents service to members. A copy of the contents page of any journal currently received in the Library will be sent to members on request, and subject to copyright, a photocopy of any article listed will also be supplied on request at a cost of 10p. per sheet plus postage. This service is limited to six titles a year per member, after which a charge of 10p. per sheet of index plus postage will be made. If you are interested, please contact Mrs Janette White at Castle Arch.

The Inter-Library loan service is available to members, but with rising costs of administration by the British Library, the cost of the service to the Society for each item is now in excess of £8.00. We must therefore increase the contribution by members using this service to £5.00 per book, microfiche or photocopy from 1st. November 1988.

The Library is open to members every day on the production of a current membership card, green this year. Prior notice should be given if material from closed access is required, especially since some of our stock is stored off-site at Clandon House.

The Librarian's hours of duty are as follows:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday	9.00a.m.-4.30p.m.
First Saturday in every month	9.00a.m.-4.30p.m., which replaces the Friday immediately preceding the first Saturday.

NOTES

Betchworth: Human Skeletons

During August 1988 builders employed on the refurbishment and modernisation of the so-called Priest's Cottage, a timber-framed building dating to the 17th century, uncovered human skeletal remains. The remains were found while the levels of the floors were being lowered. Unfortunately, although police officers visited the house, archaeological interests were not considered and the bones were lifted by the workmen without proper record and muddled together for eventual reburial. Two burials seem to have been encountered in situ — both were badly disturbed and incomplete. One was found in a position straddled by the

original external wall of the house which is now covered by a later outshot. This burial was found while digging a trench the length of the internal face of the wall. The second lay some 4 metres distant, within the outshot and adjacent to the external brick chimney. Both were aligned roughly east-west. It is understood from one of the builders that at least one burial lay in a prone position, but in view of the fragmentary nature of the burials (the heads in both cases were missing) and of the method of excavation, little reliance unfortunately can be placed on this. Both lay in a brickearth deposit. No signs of coffins were recognised. The remains are at present in the writer's possession for examination and appear to comprise most of two and parts of a third individual.

Priest's Cottage stands adjacent to the churchyard. The burials were clearly made prior to the construction of the house and were fairly shallow, 50 to 60cm below the present level of the graveyard. Although it is possible that these burials represent persons buried beyond the bounds of the graveyard; it is perhaps more likely that the original limits had become obscured in antiquity and lost to memory by the 17th century. No other evidence was found by which they could be dated although a few fragments of late medieval white ware were found beneath the floor elsewhere in the cottage. It is intended to provide a fuller account as an Appendix to the forthcoming report on previous excavations in the village.

David Williams

London Road, Reigate: 17th Century House

In September the writer noticed the remains of a building exposed in a vertical face adjacent to the site of the Auction Rooms in London Road on the west side of the town (TQ251 504). The face had recently been created by contractors employed in backfilling of the caves which had formerly been entered via the cellar of the Auction Rooms. The remains had previously been hidden by the cellar wall and seem to have been partly destroyed in the recent work.

The remains appear to represent the rear part of a building backing on to the lip of the castle ditch. They comprise an external wall to the north and the foundation of a partition wall to the south of this, connected by various flooring deposits. The exposed section cuts the building diagonally; the southern portion of the building has been truncated by the cellar wall. The exterior wall foundation is of Reigate stone with a brick course on top. The interior face is plastered and whitewashed. Similarly, the stone foundation for the partition wall has a brick course level with the floor. The floor deposits consist of chalk and also of mortar and there is some evidence of internal structures just beyond the section. The floor surface is presently c1.5m below the present ground surface. Below the floors a deposit of sandy clay with chalk and stone fragments is interpreted as a make-up layer; this overlies a band of ash. From this make-up layer were recovered a few sherds of pottery which serve to date the structure to the early 17th century. These include a rim fragment from a delft dish and a body sherd from a Type III Martincamp flask. The two layers recorded below this may well have pre-existed but no dating evidence was recovered from them. Overlying the building is a considerable deposit of demolition rubble including much stone and whitewashed plaster. The evidence from the section suggests that the building was demolished c1700 — from the dark loam above was recovered a pipe clay wig curler of 18th century date. The site seems then to have reverted to garden. There seems no immediate threat to the remains except by erosion.

A fragment from Reigate Castle

During renovation work a few years ago to 71A Bell Street, a fragment of moulded stone was recovered from the foundation of the building, in its

north east corner. 71A is a timber framed house of 16th/17th century date set back from the street, to the south of the town, opposite the Priory grounds (TQ255 499). The piece of stone appears to be an arch voussoir (measuring 37 x 16 x 22cm) with a single, simple cylindrical moulding forming the arch. The stone is likely to have derived from the castle which became a convenient quarry and is a useful addition to the meagre evidence for its appearance. Stones, also almost certainly from the castle, were recovered from the excavations on the site of the Old Vicarage and these at present reside, some on display, in the museum of the Holmesdale Natural History Club where they await publication. The arch fragment will be returned to the finder after recording.

David Williams

Clergy of the 14th Century

In the last *Bulletin*, No 233, a piece by Mary Saaler raised the question of the exchange of benefices between incumbents. In a recent letter to Lt. Col. Freeland, the Archivist at Canterbury Cathedral, City and Diocesan Record Office, Miss A.M. Oakley, explains the system of exchange.

“Exchange was common in the 14th century. The two incumbents obtained the licence of their bishops or bishop to exchange and then made an agreement in writing to exchange their churches if both were spiritual benefices. (They could exchange spiritual benefices but not a spiritual benefice and a lay preferment such as a hospital chaplaincy as these would be unequal.) They then both formally resigned their benefices into the hands of the bishops or bishop. If one party died or refused to complete, the whole resignation and exchange was declared void. In the 14th century the whole business of exchange was a regular scandal. Many exchanges were negotiated by regular brokers acting as middlemen, and exchanges became dubious financial transactions against which the bishops had inadequate counter-measures. In fact they were almost powerless to stop them.”

Newdigate Bakery

Over a period of several weeks during the past summer a number of Newdigate villagers assisted a team from the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum in dismantling the 19th century bakery which stood next to the village shop. The team was led by Heather Champion and the building recorded before and during demolition by Richard Harris. The bakery will be re-erected at Singleton sometime in the future.

NEW PUBLICATION

“*Dorking's Railways*” by Alan J. Jackson published by Dorking Local History Group.

A 64 page A5 book well researched and written by a railway-buff but of appreciable interest to the general reader as well as the aficionado. Many black and white photographs and plans, also a bibliography and index. Available from The Museum, West Street, Dorking, price £3.50 plus 50p postage and packing. Also from specialist railway bookshops and Sherratt & Hughes, South Street, Dorking.

COMING EVENTS

November

Saturday, 12th. 2.30 p.m.

“English Manor-House Planning, 1100-1350”. Annual lecture of the Domestic Buildings Research Group (Surrey) by Dr John Blair at the Oxshott Village Centre, Holtwood Road. SAS members and friends welcome.

Saturday, 12th 2.30 — 6.30 p.m.

“Best of the Year”. Reports on the work and interests of the Croydon N.H.S.S. throughout 1988. Displays and refreshments. Visitors welcome. East Croydon U.R. Church, Addiscombe Grove.

Thursday, 17th. 7.45 p.m.

“History of Send and Ripley”, talk by Les Bowerman to Farnham & District M.S. at U.R. Church, South Street, Farnham.

Friday, 18th. 8.00 p.m.

“Methods and problems of tracing your ancestors”, talk by Lewis Roworth to Leatherhead L.H.S. at Leatherhead Institute.

Monday, 21st. 8.00 p.m.

“Archaeology from the air”, talk by John Hampton at the Longmead Centre, Sefton Road, Epsom.

Monday, 21st. 7.45 p.m.

“Waddon in the 17th century”, talk by Lilian Thornhill to Croydon N.H.S.S. at East Croydon U.R. Church, Addiscombe Grove.

Friday, 25th. 8.00 p.m. “Archaeological and historical aspects of China”, talk by Kenneth Stoddart to the Guildford Group at the Guildford Institute, Ward Street. All SAS members welcome.

Friday, 25th. 8.00 p.m.

“History and excavation of Fulham Palace”, talk by Keith Whitehouse to Wandsworth H.S. at the Friends Meeting House, 59 Wandsworth High Street.

Saturday, 26th. 2.00 p.m.

S.A.S. Annual General Meeting, Redhill

Wednesday, 30th. 7.45 p.m.

“The Great Fire of London”, talk by Gustave Milne to Croydon N.H.S.S. at East Croydon U.R. Church, Addiscombe Grove.

December

Thursday, 1st. 7.45p.m.

“Surrey Christmas Customs” supplement by Matthew Alexander to a festive evening with Farnham D.M.S. at U.R. Church, South Street, Farnham.

Early Notice

Saturday, 15th April, 1989. 9.30–5.00

West London Local History Conference “The Great House and its Influence”, featuring Strawberry Hill. Chiswick House gardens, Gunnersbury, Holland House and The Public House. To be held at Montague Hall, Montague Road, Hounslow. Tickets (£3.50) and further information from G.Spencer, 54 Hamilton Road, Brentford, TW8 0QF (Tel. 01-560 5814)

Next Bulletin

This will cover December, 1988 and January, 1989. Material must reach the *Bulletin* Editor by Saturday, 5th November. The schedule for 1989 will be published in February, 1989.