MEETINGS

November 4th
The Surrey Archaeology Society Symposium on Leisure and Pleasure in Surrey University. See Bulletin 242 for details

November 11th
"Past lives in Walton — a review of recent archaeological discoveries" a lecture by Mr M Curtis to the Walton and Weybridge Local History Society in the Weybridge Lecture Hall at 3 pm

November 17th
"The town run "ochester" a lecture by Mr Steve Poulter to the Leatherhead & District Local History Society in the Dixon Hall, Leatherhead Institute at 8 pm

November 18th
"Urban Archaeology in SE England, A Symposium organised by Council for Kentish Archaeology (see Bulletin 241 for details)"

November 21st
"Medieval pots and pans". A talk by John Cherry to KUTAS at the Heritage Centre at 8 pm

November 24th
"Fooling Common trail" a talk by Graham Gower & Jackie McCabe to the Weybridge Historical Society at the Friends’ Meeting House, Weybridge High Street, at 8.45 pm

November 30th
"Elizabeth Jane Watson" a talk by Dilys Henrik Jones to the Barnes and Mortlake Street, at 8 pm

December 4th
"Tooting Common trail" a talk by Graham Gower & Jackie McCabe to the Wandsworth Historical Society at the Friends’ Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street, at 8 pm

December 7th
"Medieval pots and pans". A talk by John Cherry to KUTAS at the Heritage Centre at 8 pm

December 8th
An evening at Richmond Museum with the Curator, Simon Love, organised by Richmond Archaeological Society at 8 pm

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Next issue: Copy to the Editor required by 11th November for December/January issue.

COUNCIL NEWS

Annual General Meeting — 25th November 1989

By kind permission of English Heritage and of the Farnham Castle authorities, we have been able to arrange access to the Keep (normally closed to the public at this time of year). Dennis Turner has kindly agreed to conduct a short tour of the monument and members wishing to participate should assemble at 1.20 p.m. at the entrance to the Keep in the car park at the Castle. See previous Bulletin for details.

New Members
We welcome to the Society the following new members:

P J Bailey, 23 Manygate Lane, Shepperton, Middx. TW17 9EQ
C Burgess, 53 Tennyson Road, Portwood, Southampton
R N Carstairs, 64 Strings Avenue, Jacobs Well, Guildford GU4 7NN
S D Greenstairs, 181 Almners Road, Lyne, Chertsey, KT16 OBL
K M Howe, 1 Cedar Road, Teddington, Middx. TW11 9AN
B J Lewis, Oaklea, Smalls Hill Road, Leigh, Reigate, RH2 8PF
S Mackenzie, 17 Denzil Place, Guildford, GU2 5NQ
Mrs A Matthews, 4 Selborne Place, The Avenue, Grayshott, Hindhead, GU26 6JZ
Miss S Mayes, 16 King’s Avenue, St Johns, Redhill
M R Pattinson, Kendrew House, Peaslake, Guildford, GU5 9RJ
Miss C Ward, Penmayne, Avenue Road, Fleet, Hants. GU13 8NG
Mrs A Matthews, 4 Selborne Place, The Avenue, Grayshott, Hindhead, GU26 6JZ

Treasure trove

The unmansatistate of the law in relation to treasure trove has recently been highlighted by the decision of the Court of Appeal in R v Hancock, reported in The Times on 3rd August last. Before consideration of the case itself, it might be helpful if I explained the legal definition of Treasure Trove.

From ancient times, the Crown (including the Duchies of Cornwall and Lancaster) has had a prerogative claim to objects of gold or silver deliberately hidden in the ground or within a building and whose original owner cannot be traced. Thus only objects which are substantially of gold or silver content constitute treasure trove and they must be proved to have been deliberately hidden rather than simply lost or donated, for instance by way of votive offering. Anyone finding treasure trove objects must report the find to the local Coroner (either directly or through the Police or a museum) and the Coroner must then decide whether he has jurisdiction to hold an Inquest to determine whether the find is in fact treasure trove. If the object is found to be treasure trove, and the item is claimed by the British Museum or a local museum, an ex gratia payment is made to the finder as a reward for reporting the discovery. The amount of the ex gratia payment is usually determined by the Treasure Trove Reviewing Committee, appointed by HM Treasury. If the object is not claimed, it is returned to the finder.

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Now to return to the case against Stephen Hancock, who managed to escape his conviction in Guildford Crown Court of the theft of sixteen Celtic silver coins in 1988. The coins were found at the site of a Romano-British temple at Wanborough and had been minted sometime between 50 BC and AD 30. As a preliminary, it is important to point out that in question had not been the subject of a Coroner’s Inquest, nevertheless that did not prevent a prosecution for conviction of theft of the objects. However, it is well established that a Coroner’s jury on the question of whether property is treasure trove would not be binding in a criminal prosecution.

The Court of Appeal decided, many would think erroneously, that the judge in the Guildford Crown Court had materially directed the jury that all they had to be sure about was that there was a real possibility of the objects being found to be treasure trove and not that they had to be sure that the coins in question were treasure trove before they could convict. The issue turns on the standard of proof required in a criminal prosecution (a jury has to be sure “beyond reasonable doubt”) and the standard required in a civil case (a Coroner’s jury would only need to be satisfied on the “balance of probability”).

By reason of the decision of the Court of Appeal, Stephen Hancock had his conviction set aside but more importantly it makes it almost impossible for the Police to successfully prosecute someone for theft found plundering an archaeological site. Although it might be possible to prove that they had plundered treasure the sum for criminal damage, the damage to the land might in fact be relatively trivial and in any event the penalties are likely to be less severe.

It has been recognised for some time that the law relating to treasure trove requires a major overhaul. The Law Commission produced a report in 1987, largely as a result of which the department of the Environment in February 1988 issued a consultation paper on “Portable Antiquities”. The Society responded to this consultation paper, along with various other interested bodies, but to date the DOCS appears to have done little to take the matter further, although it claims it is in the process of producing a Code of Practice.

The Society proposes to promote a change of the law in relation to both treasure trove and trespass and will be asking for the support of members in this connection.

Editor’s Note: It had been established at earlier Coroner’s Courts that the objects from Wanborough were treasure trove.)

EXCAVATION COMMITTEE

The 1990 Symposium, which will have a Saxon theme, will be held on the 3rd February 1990 at Dorking Halls. Further details will follow.

Lloyds Bank Funds for Independent Archaeologists

The Equipment Fund, set up in 1978, was established to assist local Societies and voluntary groups to purchase equipment, which is broadly defined to include items used in field work, excavation, post-exca-vation work leading to publication, maps, survey photographs, record cards, software etc. The equipment available is £2,000 per annum, from which grants of up to about £200 are made.

The Dating Fund. This is a separate fund established to enable independent archaeologists to gain access to scientific dating methods including radiocarbon, thermoluminescence, archaeomagnetism and dendrochronology. Other methods may be considered if appropriate. The Fund will initially distribute up to £1,000 per annum and may either be devoted to a comprehensive dating sequence for a single site, or to a smaller number of dates from two or more sites.

Both funds are administered by the Royal Archaeological Institute and application forms and leaflets giving further guidance are available — on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope — from The Assistant Secretary, Miss Winifred Phillips, c/o The Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1V 0HS. Closing date for applications for both Funds is 31st December.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Members are reminded that the Library will not be available from 2.00 pm on Saturday 11th November 1989 as the Margary Room is being used for a meeting of the Library Committee. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Recent Accessions to the Society’s Library

GENERAL

Alcock, N W and others Recording timber framed buildings. CBA Practical Handbook No: 5. 1988 Pamphlet


Barrett, John C and others Barbarians and Romans in N W Europe: from later Republic to late Antiquity. BAR Int Ser no: 471 1989

Black, James (Compiler) Recent advances in the conservation and analysis of artefacts. 1 of Arch Roman School Press 1987

Blackett, P and others Recording and others (Computer editors) British usage in archaeological. 2nd edition OTH paper no: 3 RCHME 1989

Clifton-Taylor, Alec English parish churches as works of art. OUP 1974

Cocke, Thomas and others Recording a church. An illustrated glossary. CBA Practical Handbook no: 7 1989 Pamphlet

Dorothy, Peter Photography in archaeological and conservation. CUP 1989


Gilchrist, Roberta and Myum, Harold (editors) The Archaeology of rural monasteries. BAR 203 1989


Hindle, Brian Maps for local history. Batsford 1989


Leach, Peter The Surveying of archaeological sites. IAP 1988


Olivier, Adrian and others Safety in archaeological fieldwork. CBA Practical Handbook: 6 Pamphlet 1989

Paget, Mary Running a local history society. Phillimore Pamphlet 1988

Reece, Richard Coinage in Roman Britain. Seaby 1987

Roberts, Brian K The making of an English village. Longman 1987

Thurston, Martin The history of the timber industry. Shire no: 195 1987 Donations

Van Arsdell, R D Celtic coinage of Britain. Spink 1989

Wenham, Peter Watermills. R Hale 1989

Williams, Richard Limekilns and lime burning. Shire 1989

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

It is proposed to publish nine issues of The Journal of Roman Studies during 1989.

February/March Cc

March/April Cc

May Cc

June/July Cc

July/August Cc

September Cc

October Cc

November/December Cc

December/January Cc

NOTES

Headley Court

The Journal of Roman Studies

Romano-British site at Headley Court near Dorking was reported on by Ms Taylor is part of the annual report of the special search and an oral report from Mr Lowther with the Field Archaeology Unit. Unfortunately personal communication from this site is not included. The site of a piece of woodland to the north of the current building and in a small area of ground to the east of the house. In 1959 Mr John McCulloch and his team were able to expand Work was hampered by bad weather and lack of access and some coins were found but were apparently not recorded. A visit to the site today (1989) reveals that the site of the building has been ploughed and wood undisturbed; but 30 metres to the north of the house containing modern brick-bats, foundations and a road, a large building fencd about 40 or 50 metres from the house. The wood is presumably from the same period but is not presently accessible. The M25 now passes very close to the house. Professor Freere puts the location of the Roman villa in Headley Court is established and probably there may be some evidence that there was a Roman villa at Headley Court.

Reigate Town Centre

Three sites were excavated between 1978 and 1980 to develop the town centre redevelopment. The sites are currently being developed by Reigate and Reigate and Banstead Borough Council. The sites are at 24-36 Bell Street (TG 2538 500) and Reigate and Banstead Borough Council. The sites are at 24-36 Bell Street (TG 2538 500) and Reigate and Banstead Borough Council. The sites are at 24-36 Bell Street (TG 2538 500) and Reigate and Banstead Borough Council. The sites are at 24-36 Bell Street (TG 2538 500) and Reigate and Banstead Borough Council.