



Registered Charity No: 272098

ISSN 0585-9980

SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Bulletin 329

May 1999

Surrey History Centre The official opening by Prince Charles on 31st March



The Prince being shown a 13th century cooking-pot from Guildford Royal Palace by your editor. Of almost equal historical importance is Rob Poulton, behind, seen wearing a tie. Photo by Roy Drysdale.

Charles entered the new building and first admired the specially commissioned and very beautiful Surrey Tapestry and engraved glass panels in the foyer before moving on to the Gertrude Jekyll and Surrey Gardens exhibition. From there the Royal party progressed to the County Archaeological Unit's Processing Room where Rob Poulton, Unit Manager, outlined the purposes of their work. He then introduced the

Prince to members of the Unit busy studying pottery from the SyAS training excavation at Guildford Royal Palace, and washing finds from the current excavation of an execution burial site in Staines.

The Prince seemed genuinely interested and had obviously been briefed about the Unit's previous, less well-appointed, surroundings. Members will be pleased to know that towards the end of his 10 minutes with the Unit he made a bee-line towards a poster on display about the South Park moated site and was enthusiastic about the conservation work that had been undertaken by the Society.



Prince Charles examines the work in progress on pottery from Guildford Royal Palace. In the left of the frame is Heather Hawker, Chair of Surrey County Council. Photo by Roy Drysdale.

I recall a firm handshake and was struck by his wearing, appropriately enough, a Prince of Wales check suit. I noticed nothing of his famous ears, however, but then again, until nearly all the photos showed as much, neither had I noticed his hands clasped behind his back, just like his father.

Next stop in the Prince's visit was the Conservation Room to see work in progress on the repair of damaged documents, and then on to one of the two giant store rooms, where the air is changed six times every hour.

From there the Royal party passed through to the Surrey Room where some local historians were introduced to the Prince. He was shown a display of important documents including papers of Sir Thomas Cawarden, an early patron of English drama as Master of the Revels and of the King's Tents between 1544 and 1559, and letters of Alan Brodrick, who kept the cyphers of the Sealed Knot and reported to Charles II on the state of politics and the army prior to the Restoration of the monarchy in 1660.

The Prince then met with the History Centre Project Team and representatives of the architects and builders involved, before unveiling a plaque during his official opening address, in which he also launched the Surrey History Trust.

Reflection on the outcome of a computer project on Roman Ewell at the Institute of Archaeology has suggested that the recorded observations of Roman roads in Ewell are not compatible with a single route (ie Stane Street) through Ewell, en route from London to Chichester (*Noviomagus*). That led me to think that maybe there are two (or even more) Roman routes through Ewell. Where might another route go? Examination of the Ordnance Survey Map of Roman Britain shows that a straight line from Ewell to Winchester (*Venta*) passes through the small Roman town of Neatham, near Alton in Hampshire. Extensive excavations in Neatham in the 1970s (Millett and Graham 1986) showed the existence of two Roman roads, one running approximately SSE - NNW from Chichester to Silchester (*Calleva*) and the other running WSW - ENE from Winchester to 'London'. The latter route was traced at the time from west of Alton to about Bentley, mid-way between Alton and Farnham.

I here put forward the hypothesis that this route continued to Ewell, and thence to London along Stane Street. I am not claiming that the direct route was followed exactly; the known part lies south of it to the west of Alton and north of it to the east of Neatham, presumably to avoid unnecessary crossings of the upper Wey. This is in accord with what we know of Roman surveying practices: a 'straight-line' route would have been established between the two end points, and then local deviations created to take account of topographical features (Hargreaves 1990). This practice can be well seen on Stane Street, where the first 15 miles from London to Ewell are aligned exactly on Chichester, but south of Ewell there are considerable deviations to take the route across the North and South Downs.

The 'missing' part of this hypothetical route, if it exists, is most likely to have passed north of Farnham (possibly through Farnham Park), north of the Hogs Back and of Guildford (with some deviation to achieve a suitable crossing of the Wey), then perhaps via Cobham on to Ewell. It would have opened up the rich agricultural area of the dip slope of the North Downs, and provided convenient transport from the potteries at Alice Holt and at Farnham, as well as the tilery at Ashted, to London, which must have been one of their main markets. One might further suggest that locational analysis could predict the existence of a Roman settlement roughly north-west of Guildford, perhaps in the Broadstreet area (Winchester to Neatham = 18 miles, Neatham to Broadstreet = 16 miles, Broadstreet to Ewell = 17 miles). The detail of the route into Ewell is unknown: the Purberry Shot road (Lowther 1949) seems to be aligned too far to the south, but Tayles Hill (Anon 1950, xiii) may be a suitable candidate.

I must re-emphasise that I am simply 'flying a kite' here, in the hope of inspiring more research. Bird (1987, 168) has suggested the existence of a 'direct' route from London to Winchester (ie not via Silchester), but east of Neatham he left open a choice of three routes, via Staines, Brentford or Ewell. It seems strange that this route, which seems well documented in Hampshire, is apparently unknown in Surrey. But perhaps the evidence is already present in the record, and just needs bringing together?

I am grateful to David Bird and to David Graham for commenting on an earlier draft of this note.

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*Reprinted from Nonsuch Antiquarian Society Newsletter No. 1/99 February 1999.
With thanks.*

A Late Bronze Age Metalwork Hoard from Little Woodcote

Jonathan Cotton and Stuart Needham

A substantial hoard of Late Bronze Age metalwork, comprising mainly socketed and winged axes and fragments of copper ingot, was located with the aid of a metal detector by Mr David Pearson in late 1993 on the dip slope of the North Downs at Little Woodcote. The geology in the vicinity of the findspot is Upper Chalk. The scheduled Late Bronze Age ring-fort at Queen Mary's Hospital lies just over a kilometre distant and comprises a key element in the pattern of Bronze Age activity which centres on the North Downs above Croydon.

The hoard lay at a depth of 18" (45cm) on what the finder described as 'hard pan', but which further enquiry suggests was probably the surface of the natural chalk bedrock. It has been deposited in a tight, compact group some 18" (45cm) across, although there was no apparent order to the positioning of individual pieces. In order to minimize disturbance to the surface of the field, the finder limited his excavation solely to the recovery of the metalwork; consequently he could not be sure whether it lay within a larger feature such as a shallow ditch or pit, although this seems plausible.

Shortly after its discovery, the hoard was surrendered to Surrey County Council's land agent, who deposited it for identification and initial recording with Stuart Needham at the British Museum. Identification and record photography completed, the hoard was then transferred to Guildford Museum for safe keeping and conservation, where the bulk of it was examined by Jon Cotton in May/June 1997, with the exception of seven or eight pieces borrowed for exhibition and then in the possession of the County Record Office. At the same time the opportunity was taken to add three more pieces of metalwork recovered from the ploughsoil by Mr Pearson in the same general area as the original find.

The hoard

With the addition of these three stray pieces, a segment of sword blade and two fragments of copper ingot, and of the pieces held by the County Record Office, the hoard now comprises a total of 129 pieces of metalwork weighing well in excess of 25 kilos. This makes it one of the largest Bronze Age hoards yet recovered from the County.

It is almost entirely made up of two classes of object, axes and metal ingots. (The exceptions comprise two fragments of sword blade and a virtually complete socketed gouge.) The axes fall into three main types: one fragmentary palstave of distinctive Breton type, 13 winged axes and 43 socketed axes. Just over half are represented by fragments. The socketed axes can be subdivided into a variety of types according to the decoration on their faces (or lack of it) and aspects of detailed form (see Table 1). These and the winged axes are likely to be contemporary types; the palstave fragment belongs to the Middle Bronze Age and is thus several centuries older. The final component of the hoard comprises 69 pieces of rough metal, all probably fragments of originally circular ingots.

Tool type	Complete unfinished	Complete	Minor loss	Approx half	Fragment	Total
Socketed axes	1	12	11	17	2	43
Wing decorated + 3 pellets	-	-	-	1	-	1
Wing decorated + 2 pellets & base bar	-	-	-	1	-	1
Wing decorated & base bar	-	-	-	1	-	1
Wing decorated	-	1	3	3	-	7
Ring & pellet	-	-	1	-	-	1
Pellet	-	2	1	-	-	3
Fine ribbed	1	-	-	1	-	2
Strong ribbed	-	-	2	-	-	2
Plain	-	9	4	2	1	16
Blade/body fragments	-	-	-	8	1	9
Winged axes	-	2	-	11	-	13
Breton palstave	-	-	-	-	1	1
Sword	-	-	-	-	2	2
Socketed gouge	-	-	1	-	-	1
Ingot	-	-	-	-	69	69
TOTAL	1	14	12	28	74	129

Table 1: Little Woodcote hoard contents

Dating and affinities

Like many of the other hoards from the dip slope of the North Downs and beyond, the bulk of the Little Woodcote hoard can be dated to the Ewart Park phase of the Late Bronze Age, 9th-8th centuries BC (although, as noted above, the fragment of Breton palstave is likely to be somewhat earlier). Incorporated within the hoard are a number of metal types which belong to the Carp's Tongue complex, eg the winged axes and one of the fragments of sword. The preponderance of utilitarian items such as the complete and fragmentary axes and ingot fragments is also typical of many so-called 'founders hoards', though the size and weight of the present hoard is unusual in local terms. This is best brought out in Table 2, where it is compared with a selection of the other large hoards found within the County.

Location	Total	Palstave	Socketed axe	Winged axe	Spear	Gouge	Sword	Ingot	Other
Shirley, Wickham Park	48	-	9	4	2	1	1	27	4
Addington Park Golf Course	54	-	16	6	1	1	6	19	5
Coulsdon, Coulsdon Court	30	-	7	2	-	1	-	20	-
Peters, Egham, Cache 128	33	-	15	-	1	1	12	-	4
Peters, Egham, Cache 129	45	-	12	-	3	1	9	-	20
Little Woodcote	129	1	43	13	-	1	2	69	-

Table 2: Little Woodcote hoard contents compared with some other large Surrey hoards

Discussion

Little Woodcote provides the first opportunity for over eighty years to evaluate fully a large metalwork cache from the Croydon zone of the North Downs in north-east Surrey. In terms of numbers and artefacts it is perhaps best compared with the 48 piece Wickham Park, Shirley hoard, found in 1854, and with the 54 piece Addington

Park, Croydon hoard, found in 1914 during the construction of a golf bunker, for all three contain a number of similar artefact types including winged and socketed axes, sword and ingot fragments. By contrast, the 78 piece Petters hoard from the far north-west of the County, deposited in two separate caches, contained neither the heavy winged axes nor any ingot fragments.

This admittedly selective comparative exercise does, however, suggest that there are hints of more subtle regional variations in hoard composition over and above the north-east/south-west divide between the large founder's hoards and smaller 'personal caches' established already. (The almost invariable inclusion of single socketed gouges in each of these large founder's hoards, for instance, is a hitherto unremarked feature.) The status of these hoards as possible event-marking or special 'placed deposits' in their own right is also worthy of re-evaluation, particularly in view of the episodes of elaborate structured deposition now discernible on broadly contemporary sites such as Runnymede Bridge and the nearby Queen Mary's Hospital ring-fort site itself.

A paper currently being prepared by the writers will incorporate a catalogue of the hoard, a consideration of its technological aspects (which initial work has suggested include some novelties), and a brief review of its position within the local and regional Bronze Age.

Acknowledgements

In the meantime thanks are due to the finder for the prompt reporting of his discovery; to Guildford Museum for making the hoard available for study and illustration; and to Surrey Archaeological Society and Surrey County Council for generous grants towards the cost of the illustrations, which were undertaken by David Williams. David Bird is likewise thanked for facilitating various aspects of the project thus far.

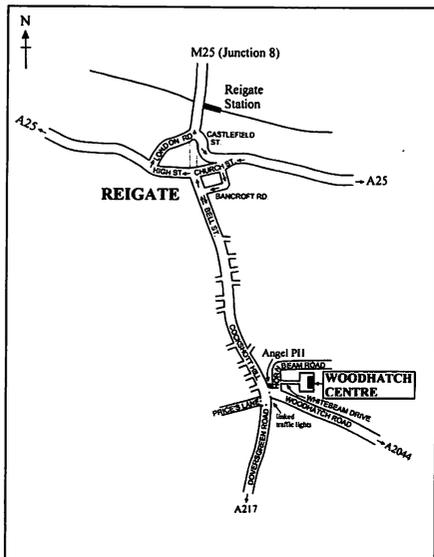
COUNCIL NEWS

Community Archaeology

David Graham

Open meeting 6th June 1999. From 2-5pm at Woodhatch Centre, Reigate (see map).

Following on from the successful conference at Farnham Castle last year, this meeting, to which all are welcome, will report on plans for two professionally-led landscape research projects to be run within the County this year. These will be funded jointly by the Society and the County Council and are specifically designed to involve and provide training for volunteers. David Bird, Principal Archaeologist at SCC, will then discuss the workings of the planning system, the role of professionals and the prospects for volunteers to help in monitoring planning applications. There will then be a general discussion and, hopefully, an exchange of ideas as to the best way



forward for Community Archaeology in Surrey.

See you on the 6th.

We have also arranged a visit to the Surrey History Centre at Woking on the 3rd July at 10.30 am. There will be a short talk explaining the facilities available and we will be shown how to use the computerised indexes. There will also be a tour behind the scenes looking at the storage and conservation of documents. Numbers will be limited, so please apply as soon as possible, by telephone, to Castle Arch.

Subscriptions - Reminder

Susan Janaway

A reminder to those of you who do not pay your subscription by standing order. If you have not yet renewed your subscription for 1999/2000 (see flyer included with Bulletin no 328) here are the current rates:

Ordinary Member	£20.00
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Excavation Notice

David Graham

In 1997 a team from the Ancient Monuments Laboratory at English Heritage carried out a geophysical survey in the field to the south of the well-known Romano-British temple site at Wanborough. This revealed a number of anomalies and the forthcoming excavation is intended to establish the nature and date of these features.

The excavation, under the direction of David Williams, will run every day from 19th June to 10th July inclusive, starting at 9.30 am and ending at about 5.00 pm. Numbers will be strictly limited, at the request of the landowners, and anyone wishing to participate is advised to apply, as early as possible, to the Society's office at Castle Arch, leaving their name, address, phone number and the desired dates. These will be confirmed as soon as possible.

There is no charge for participation, but preference will be given to members of the Society and to those who can commit themselves to a period of at least four consecutive days during the week. Where appropriate, training at supervisor level will be given.

LIBRARY NEWS

Recent Accessions to the Society's Library

Excavations and evaluations carried out by Units working within the County, which are reported periodically elsewhere in the Bulletin, have been omitted here.

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Diggers and Beepers call a Truce

I had asked David Bird for the note that appears below immediately after the meeting he refers to and which he chaired, but I was delighted to receive another note about the event from Ian Medhurst, Secretary of the Newlanders Historical and Social Club, who has been one of the prime movers in this new initiative for liaison between archaeologists and metal detectorists. Since neither knew the other was writing, there is some repetition, but I felt duty-bound not to edit either review in this instance. For an example of what co-operation can achieve look no further than the note in this issue about the Bronze Age hoard (page 0), and for another, the Chelsham pin, which adorned the cover of the Bulletin before last (no. 327).

Surrey County Archaeologists and Detectorists Liaison Group

David Bird

A meeting of metal detectorists and archaeologists was held on the 21st March at the Letherhead Institute where it was agreed to set up a formal liaison group, to be modelled on the equivalent group in Kent. Those present included representatives of nearly all the metal detecting clubs known to be operating in Surrey as well as representatives of the Society, SCAU and museums. It was particularly useful that Dr Roger Bland, Dr Richard Hobbs and representatives of the Kent group were able to attend and provide the benefits of their experience.

The meeting was largely the result of the initiative of Ian Medhurst of the Newlanders Historical and Social Club, which was established recently with the specific aim of co-operating with archaeologists. David Graham and David Williams were also closely involved. The hall was provided by the Society and the meeting was chaired by the writer.

Roger Bland spoke about the national voluntary liaison scheme and outlined the results of its first year of operation. A number of Finds Liaison Officer posts had been established and a huge number of finds had been reported and recorded in the pilot areas. The majority of finds were metal objects and coins but there were also flints and pottery. A database was being developed to record all this material and make the information more widely available. Plans are in hand to extend the recording scheme across the rest of the country. Richard Hobbs talked about his new role as Outreach Officer for the scheme and gave the meeting the benefit of his experience as Finds Liaison Officer in Kent. David Williams explained how he had been recording finds made by Surrey detectorists, especially in east Surrey, for several years. He indicated how these finds had then been published in the Society's Collections and also mentioned his book on late Saxon stirrup mounts, because it was based almost entirely on metal detector finds.

David Barwell (detectorist) and Keith Parfitt (archaeologist) then explained the workings of the Kent liaison group. Both stressed the good working relationships that had been established. They provided a very good example by their presence and commitment of the value to both detectorists and archaeologists of having such a group. To close the period before tea the writer outlined the ways in which archaeology was carried out in the county and Ian Medhurst spoke about the metal detecting scene.

The break for tea provided a useful opportunity for informal discussion and this was continued in a slightly more formal way afterwards. Various points were made, some of which will need to be explored further at future group meetings. It became clear in the meeting that several archaeologists and detectorists in Surrey have been

working together for some time, building on the meeting held several years ago attended by the late Tony Gregory. Those present were unanimous that the time was now right to establish a formal liaison group.

Surrey Archaeologists and Detectorists lay down their trowels

Ian Medhurst

On Sunday 21st March, years of ill feeling and misunderstanding between Surrey's archaeological community and Surrey's metal detecting clubs came to an end. A meeting chaired by Dr David Bird, Principal Archaeologist for Surrey, was held at the Letherhead Institute with a view to starting a liaison group. The meeting was attended by various members of the archaeological community and representatives from eight of the nine metal detecting clubs active in Surrey. This included members of a Kent-based club who frequently detect in Surrey. Also in attendance were Dr Roger Bland and Richard Hobbs of the British Museum, and two members of the Kent Archaeologists/Detectorists Liaison Group (KADLG), Archaeologist Keith Parfitt and Metal Detectorist Dave Barwell.

The meeting started with an introduction to the National Voluntary Liaison Scheme by Roger Bland. This was followed by a series of talks from the guest speakers, and included a talk by David Bird about archaeology in Surrey, and a few comments about metal detecting in Surrey by the author, who is the Secretary of the Newlanders Historical and Social Club.

In keeping with the purpose of the meeting, tea was then served by metal detectorists Helen Emuss and Sharon Medhurst, from the Newlanders Club, and Audrey Graham from the Surrey Archaeological Society. During the interval archaeologists and metal detectorists mixed together and chatted amicably. The remainder of the meeting was taken up with constructive discussion which resulted in an agreement that a proper liaison group should be established. During the course of the meeting it became apparent that Surrey archaeologists and metal detectorists have been quietly working together for years.

The meeting was largely the result of a decision that was made when the Newlanders Historical and Social Club was formed just over a year ago. The founder members decided that one of the club's aims should be to develop a working relationship with Surrey archaeologists. With this aim in mind, David Graham of the Surrey Archaeological Society and David Williams, a freelance archaeological illustrator, were invited to the club's inaugural meeting. Knowing of the pioneering work done by KADLG, and happy about their own co-operation with archaeologists, the club decided it would be worth trying to set up a liaison group in Surrey, so that all of Surrey's detecting clubs could enjoy the benefits of co-operation. In September of last year the club's secretary, Ian Medhurst, was introduced to David Bird, who was in favour of the idea. David Bird, David Graham and Ian Medhurst spent the next few months setting up the meeting. A lot of help and support came from Dave Barwell and Clive Sinclair of the KADLG. The meeting was very positive and the future looks very promising. A follow-up meeting within the next two months will establish the liaison group on a more formal footing.

Conference Review: Ironmaster Alexander Raby

Alan Crocker

In November 1998, the Surrey Industrial History Group organised a one-day conference on Alexander Raby who, at the end of the 18th century, was a Surrey ironmaster. The meeting, which was held at the Methodist Church Cobham and attended by about 45 people, paid tribute to the research on Raby carried out by the late George Buttriss, an economic historian of Brooklands College, whose papers had been available to the speakers.

The introductory talk was given by Jeremy Hodgkinson, Chairman of the Wealden Iron Research Group, who spoke about the Raby family background as ironmasters and ironmongers in the Midlands, London and the Weald. In particular in 1758 Edward Raby took over the derelict Warren Furnace near East Grinstead and cast guns for the Ordnance and later for the East India Company. He died in 1771 by which time Alexander, his eldest son, had taken the lease of Downside Mill, Cobham. John Potter, a geologist who until recently was Principal of Farnborough College, then talked in general terms about iron working in Surrey, based partly on research he had carried out 20 years ago and published in *IA Review*, 6(3), 1982, pp211-23. He was followed by David Taylor, local historian of Cobham, who described his documentary research on Downside Mill and his attempts to discover where Raby might have lived at Cobham before he left for South Wales in about 1807. I gave the last contribution before lunch talking about the industrial activities which had taken place at Downside Mill (corn milling, papermaking, iron working, flock making, sawing and generating electricity) and in particular attempting to interpret a detailed plan of the iron mill dating from about 1798. Cottages called Tinmans Row at Downside, built by Raby for his workers, suggest that the mill was being used for tinplating.

After a picnic lunch we visited Downside Mill. This is a fascinating site which deserves much further recording, excavation and interpretation. The main building, including surviving parts of Raby's late 18th century iron mill, has recently been converted into offices, but the remains of the mid-19th century waterwheel have been retained. Some members of the party climbed down the banks of the River Mole and discovered lots of iron slag. Back at the Church we had tea and then heard from David Barker of the Addlestone Local History Society about Raby's activities at Coxes Lock Mill on the Wey Navigation which Raby built in 1776 and operated as an iron mill until 1807. David was able to illustrate the development of the mill with an excellent series of attractive and informative maps. Alexander Raby also operated Ember Mill at Molesey from 1795 to 1802. Finally Lyn John, a local historian of Llanelli, told us about Raby's career as an ironmaster and colliery, railway and canal owner in South Wales before he became bankrupt and retired to Somerset where he died, aged 88, in 1835.

It was a pleasure to welcome Bert Raby of Southampton to the meeting. He keeps the data base for the Raby Family History Society but is not descended from Alexander. The meeting generated a great deal of discussion and it was encouraging that several members of the audience were knowledgeable about various aspects of Raby's career. As usual, of course, the meeting left many questions unanswered and there was considerable enthusiasm for doing more research on Raby.

Reprinted from the Surrey Industrial History Group Newsletter No. 108, March 1999, with thanks.

Inns and Taverns

A few weeks ago one of our members who keeps a sharp eye on local events telephoned to say how delighted she was, when driving past The Pickled Newt in Otlands Drive, Weybridge to find that the name had been changed back to The Flint Gate. This appears to be a growing trend which is very welcome. It was possibly started when the much-criticised Slug and Lettuce in Walton reverted to its former name, The Anglers. Soon after, it was noticed that The Hungry Horse, also in Walton, was once more displaying its former name, The Duke's Head. Perhaps the very first to show doubts was The Formula and Firkin in Weybridge, which has continued to keep the former name, The Hand & Spear, on its tower despite having a sign bearing the new name in the road running alongside.

These alterations and other changes will appear in a revised edition of the Walton

and Weybridge Local History Society's Paper No. 12, Inns and Taverns of Walton & Weybridge by A G Martin which first appeared in 1974. Michael Blackman, who produced the booklet after Tony Martin's untimely death in 1971, hopes that the new edition will appear fairly soon in 1999.

Reprinted from the January 1999 issue of Dialstone, no. 163, with thanks. Most changes of traditional pub names these days are to the bejasmus ! ersatz-Irish, or else to the "humorous" or knowingly ironic. Others are simply to the mundane - it still rangles that The Pack Horse, on the medieval Laleham road out of Staines, became The Thames Lodge. Any other exasperating changes, or successful reversions?

Surrey Meteorites

Margaret White

The people who staff Egham Museum on Tuesdays and Thursdays are often asked by visitors for information, or guidance on how to find it for themselves. This usually involves tracing ancestors or the history of the house the enquirer lives in, but some requests are not quite so straightforward. A few weeks ago I had a telephone call, at home, from a lady who lives in London but, as a child, dwelt in Pooley Avenue. She said that in "about December 1947", whilst walking one night along Thorpe Road with her father, she "saw a meteorite land". She remembers going next day to look at the place where it landed and seeing bits of stone on the ground. She was seven at the time. She wanted to know whether we knew anything about it. Well, I didn't, neither did any of the older members I spoke to who were living in the area at the time. However, a search of the local newspapers brought to light something that just may have some bearing on this childhood memory. There was nothing in the Staines and Egham News, but the Surrey Herald of 2nd January 1948, had a short paragraph about a comet (Numbered 1947 N) being seen by people at Horsell and Weybridge on the 28th December 1947. Do you have any memory of this event, or know someone who does?

Reprinted from Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society Newsletter No. 345, January 1999, with thanks. Such events do happen, and the lady may well have seen fragments of a meteorite land. How many more fragments survived burning up in our atmosphere in the thousands of years since the last great land surface changes in southern England? Have any ever been identified on an archaeological site?

Day Trip to National Monuments Record (NMR), Swindon on 24 March 1999

Elizabeth Whitbourn

Thank you to all the Surrey Archaeological Society members who joined this second visit in a year to the National Monuments Record. The tour of the Centre was once again well organised and most enjoyable. People certainly felt it would help them use the resource to its full potential in the future.

As I am sure many of you will be aware, English Heritage and the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) merged on 1st April. In a recent letter I received, they state their aim is to form "a single lead body for the conservation, management, enjoyment and understanding of England's historic environment".

The National Monuments Record has, up until now, been a part of the RCHME, and it is envisaged it "will retain its distinctive identity" whilst now being supported by English Heritage.

I would imagine that English Heritage would endeavour to raise its public profile, but I hope that it will continue to provide a public service which in many cases is a free

and openly available archive. This service remains an irreplaceable and invaluable aid for both education and research.

A Letter from Stewart Lyon: Gerrard Winstanley

I was intrigued to see the references in the April issue of the *Bulletin* to Gerrard Winstanley, whose works I must confess to never having read.

My mother's maternal grandmother was a Winstanley, and I have in my possession an unpublished family history, compiled by W H J Winstanley ("Cousin Harry") and finalised in 1959 at the age of 88. Anecdotally, the author "recalls hearing in the year 1878, from an old family servant, how this servant, sitting as a child on his grandfather's knee, heard the aged man relate having seen Queen Anne in London, about the year 1710".

He says of Gerrard (whom he spells Gerard) that

"Gerard was born in Wigan in 1609, baptised on 10th October 1609. His father Edward was a "Mercer" trading in cloths and wool, and is recorded as a Burgess [presumably of Wigan] in 1627, 1635 and 1638.

"The name Gerard suggests a link with the ancient Lancashire family of that name whose records stretch back to 1200.

"At the age of 20 Gerard was in London, apprenticed to Gater of the Merchant Taylors Co. on 10th April 1630. He became a Freeman on 21st February 1537.

"In middle age Gerard became acquainted with two men discharged from Cromwell's army and these, who had Socialistic ideas, influenced him in that direction. His business affairs suffered from the Cromwellian War, and he began to write tracts and pamphlets on religious and economic subjects.

"In 1640 he had married Susan King at St Martin's, Outwich. No further mention of his wife or any family is known, but the name Winstanley is quite widespread in London and suburbs, indicating possible descendants."

After mentioning Gerard's move to Cobham, Harry Winstanley goes on to discuss at some length his involvement with the Levellers and the Diggers. He concludes by saying that

"Gerard in his old age became a farmer, and, perhaps, a Quaker. In fact several authorities state that he founded many of the Quaker beliefs. There is, however, no evidence of any direct contact between him and George Fox."

Mitcham - Birthplace of Bubbly?

E N Montague

In his *World Encyclopedia of Champagne and Sparkling Wine*, published in October 1998, Tom Stevenson (author of the best-selling *World Wine Encyclopedia*) throws new light on the history of Champagne, traditionally attributed to the blind French monk Dom Perignon.

According to Stevenson, in a paper presented to the newly-formed Royal Society in December 1662, Christopher Merret described how, by the addition of sugar to a finished wine, a second fermentation may be induced, producing a sparkling wine. This was over 40 years before the appearance of the first French document to mention sparkling Champagne, and leads to the conclusion that London, and not Reims or Epernay, should lay claim to being its birthplace.

Merret, Merrett or Merritt - the spelling varies a little - was a name familiar in Mitcham in the mid-18th century, a hostelry belonging to "Mr Merrett" first finding mention in 1732, whilst Francis Merritt, who appears in the freeholders' list for 1764-5, was a

licensed victualler occupying the *Old Nag's Head* at Fair Green. This was held on copyhold tenure from the manor of Biggin and Tamworth, and court rolls contain references to both Francis and his wife Ann. The manor court rolls of Ravensbury show that Francis Merritt also had an inn on the site of the *Ravensbury Arms* on Mitcham Common until his death in 1784, when the business passed to his son Richard. The name Francis Merritt, again described as a "victualler", occurs in the mid-1760s in the deeds of property in the vicinity of Figges Marsh, but the use to which these premises were put is not clear.

Is it possible that Francis Merritt was related to Christopher Merret, and that "bubbly" was being sold over the bars of Mitcham inns nearly 200 years before Moët et Chandon first marketed their famous de luxe cuvee, named after its (claimed) discoverer Dom Perignon?

From the March 1999 Bulletin 129 of the Merton Historical Society, with thanks (hic).

LECTURE SERIES

Tudor Treasures: Exhibition and Lecture Series

A special exhibition began on 13th February and will run until June at Kingston Museum Art Gallery. It has been enabled with the help of staff from Hampton Court Palace and the Museum of London, and a special series of four evening lectures has been arranged in conjunction with eminent guest speakers.

- 4th May The Tudors, Triumphs, Treachery and Treasure. *Simon Thurley, Director of the Museum of London and formerly Curator of Hampton Court.*
- 11th May The Story of Tudor Music. *James Bisgood, professional musician and Tudor expert. There will be a live performance.*
- 18th May Stories from Tudor Kingston. *Museum staff.*
- 25th May Houses under the Tudors, a Period of Change. Ken Gravett, Chairman of Surrey Local History Council.

Cost: £20 for all four, £6 per lecture, children £2.

Cheques to Kingston Corporation, Kingston Museum, Wheatfield Way, Kingston upon Thames, KT1 2PS.

Seats are limited so please book early. To check availability Tel: 0181 546 5386.

Urban Training Excavation in Southwark

A departmental training excavation is being planned, with the co-operation of the London Borough of Southwark, at a site that is now awaiting redevelopment in north Southwark. It is hoped that the site will be within easy reach of Borough tube station (Northern Line), London Bridge (Northern Line/British Rail) and Elephant and Castle (Northern Line). On previous sites in this area of Southwark evidence for Roman burials and agricultural systems near the urban settlement have been found. The courses, run in conjunction with the Museum of London Archaeological Service, and organised by Lesley Hannigan and Harvey Sheldon, will provide training in surveying, excavation and recording techniques. Initial finds processing and other aspects of archaeological investigation.

Students, prospective students, members of local archaeological societies and others keen to learn about archaeological excavation are welcome to attend. The course will provide appropriate field experience for students undertaking the Extra-Mural Certificate and Diploma courses in Archaeology and Field Archaeology, and for

degree students taking archaeology courses within Birkbeck College and elsewhere. Assessment will be based on students' site work and records. Minimum attendance must be for one week.

The courses will be non-residential, and will run from Monday to Friday, 9.30 am - 5.00 pm over the five weeks beginning 21 June, 28 June, 5 July, 12 July and 19 July. The fee will be £135 per week of attendance, to include all tuition. Tuition will be provided both by site staff and visiting specialists.

For further details contact Anna Colloms, Executive Officer for Archaeology, Faculty of Continuing Education, Birkbeck College, 26 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DQ. Tel 0171 631 6627. Fax 0171 631 6686 Email a.colloms@bbk.ac.uk

COURSES

Building Conservation and the Use of Traditional Materials and Processes

Weald and Downland Open Air Museum

Practical workshops and seminars for surveyors, architects, craftsmen and anyone else with a keen interest in building conservation to include the following:

- 12th May ***Joinery by hand, sash windows:*** The historical development of sash windows with practical demonstrations of traditional joinery processes. Opportunity to examine original examples from the Brooking collection.
Leaders: Ged Gardiner and Charles Brooking. £65.
- 24th June ***Timber identification.*** Introduction to the methods of identifying timber species visually, the preparation of samples for examination and the use of identification keys.
Leader: David Woodbridge £65.
- 25th June ***Strength grading of timber:*** Introduction to the methods used for the strength grading of softwoods and hardwoods, demonstration of the performance of timber under load and practical experience in the assessment of defects as defined by the British Standards BS4978 and BS5756.
Leader: David Woodbridge. £65.
- 12th-14th July ***Traditional gauged brickwork.***
- 15th July ***Lime mortars for brickwork.***
- 26th July- ***Timber framing from scratch.***
- 18th-20th ***Repair of traditionally constructed brickwork.***

For information about these and other courses yet to be announced, write to Diana Rowsell at the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton, Chichester, Sussex, PO18 0EU, or telephone 01243 811363, Fax 01243 811475 or email: wealdown@mistral.co.uk

Practical Archaeology

An Introduction to Practical Archaeology and its Methods, for anyone with a serious interest in archaeology and its related disciplines.

Weekend Day Schools at Faversham, Kent The Kent Archaeology Field School

15-16th May	Place-names in the Landscape
22-23rd May	Study of Artefacts
29-30th May	Roman Building Construction
5th June	Landscape Archaeology
12th June	The Archaeology of Boatbuilding
3rd-4th July	Recording Roman Pottery

Fees: £25 per day.

For further information write to Kent Field Study Centre, School Farm Oast, Graveney Road, Faversham, Kent, ME13 7JQ or Tel: 0181 987 8827.

Practical Workshops at Butser Ancient Farm 1999

8th May	Copper-Casting and Gold Work
9th May	Flint-Knapping
22nd May	Pottery
5th June	Exploring Celtic Herbs
20th June	Gold in the Bronze Age
27th June	Flint-Knapping

For further information write to Butser Ancient Farm, Nexus House, Gravel Hill, Waterlooville, Hants PO8 0QE.

LECTURE MEETINGS

5th May

"London Bridge is Broken Down" by Bruce Watson to the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society at the United Reformed Church Small Hall, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon, at 7.45 pm.

5th May

"Visby and the Hanseatic League" by Charles Abdy to the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society at St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell, at 7.45 for 8.00 pm.

12th May

"A Mole's Eye View of South-East England" by Harry Pearman of Chelsea Speleological Society. Harry has collected and published information on artificial holes in the ground, and a few natural caves, in south-east England since 1963. To the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society at the United Reformed Church Small Hall, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon, at 7.45 pm.

18th May

"History of Chessington" by Mark Barker to the Friends of Kingston Museum, at the Market House, Market Place, Kingston, at 8.00 pm. A donation of £1.50 is suggested.

21st May

"Exploring and Understanding Surrey's Historic Landscape" by Steve Dyer to the Byfleet Heritage Society at Byfleet Village Hall, Room A, at 8.15 pm. Guests £1.

21st May

"Sir Francis Carew's Garden at Beddington" by John Philips, as one of a series

organised by SyAS and the Surrey Gardens Trust, to the Leatherhead and District LHS at the Letherhead Institute at 7.30 for 8.00 pm. £3.00 to all non-members of the Leatherhead LHS.

25th May

"Recent Discoveries in Tudor and Stuart London" by Rosemary Weinstein to the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society, at Hawkstone Hall, the Lambeth North end of Kennington Road, at 7.00 for 7.30 pm.

27th May

"Henry Strode - An Egham Farming Chronicle" by John Hardaker to the Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society at the Literary Institute, Egham High Street, at 8.00 pm.

28th May

"The Archbishop of York's Battersea Manor House - on the Recent Archaeological and Historical Work at Price's Candle Factory" by Duncan Hawkins to the Wandsworth Historical Society at the Friends' Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street at 8.00 pm.

2nd June

"Virginia Water, the digging of the Lake" by Dorothy Davis to the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society, at St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell, at 7.45 for 8.00 pm.

7th June

"Trees in Local History" by C Howkins to the Woking History Society at Mayford Village Hall, Saunders Lane, Mayford at 7.45 pm. Visitors £2.

24th June

"Fixtures and Fittings in English Churches since 1600" by Linda Hall to the Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society at the Literary Institute, Egham High Street, at 8.00 pm.

Next Issue: Copy required by 21st May for the June issue.

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