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SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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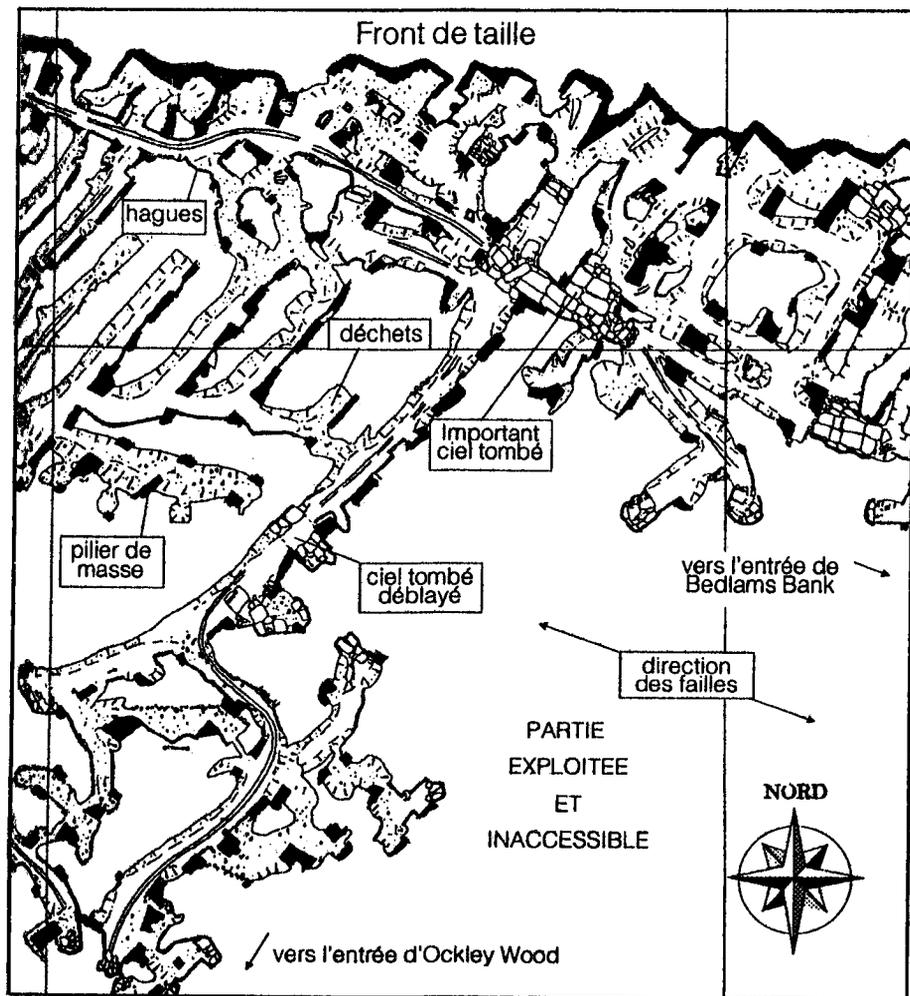
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Bulletin 335

January 2000



Reigate Stone Quarries at Merstham/Chaldon

Introduction

Members of *Subterranea Britannica* and the Wealden Cave and Mine Society have been working with the Historic Royal Palaces Agency in research on Reigate Stone and the underground quarries from which it was worked from the late Saxon period until the 19th century.

The Historic Royal Palaces Agency has the care of the Tower of London, Hampton Court, and several other properties with large quantities of Reigate Stone from the east Surrey quarries, and much is now badly weathered. HRPAs are anxious to arrest further decay of the stone, and secure fresh samples of unweathered stone for scientific study in order to investigate the feasibility of quarrying new stone for repairs. There are, however, several practical problems in making progress with these objectives:

1. Reigate Stone is not a limestone or a sandstone; nor is it, as it is usually described, a calcareous sandstone, as very little of its silica is in the form of detrital sand grains. It is, in fact, a unique building stone type in Britain, and established conservation measures for sandstones, calcareous sandstones, or limestones may not always be appropriate. The rock has a porosity of around 30%; the silica is extremely fine grained and chemically deposited; and the rest of the rock is made up of very fine grained calcite, clay minerals, mica flakes and glauconite.
2. The stone was quarried underground from the Upper Greensand of east Surrey. All of the quarries have long been out of use, however, and their original drift entrances have collapsed, and parts of the galleries are subject to flooding and roof-falls.
3. Archaeological evidence within the quarries makes it clear that much of the stone rejected for building use was left underground, and there are large areas of backfilled quarry waste behind drystone retaining walls.
4. During the 19th century some of the quarries were mined for hearthstone, a mineral pigment for whitening stone hearths, floors and doorsteps. Descriptions by contemporary geologists, miners and quarrymen indicate that building stone and hearthstone beds alternate in the working faces. Visual inspection of these, however, very often fail to reveal bedding planes, and even where individual beds are demarcated, it is not known which is suitable as a building stone, and which fit only for hearthstone. The beds often look identical and homogeneous from quarry floor to ceiling, apart from occasional bands of chert.

Frontispiece: Extract from a survey of the Merstham-Chaldon underground quarries in the neighbourhood of Ockley Wood (TQ 3034 5387) reproduced from P W Sowan, *Les carrieres de pierre a batir, a blanchir et refractaire de l'est du Surrey, Angleterre*, in Jacques Chabert (ed), *Carrieres souterraines* (1991), pages 193-202.

The grid lines are at 100m intervals. The extract shows where two separate quarries, either side of the Merstham/Chaldon parish boundary, interconnect underground. Details shown include *pillars of un-worked stone* left to support the ceiling; *quarry waste*, much of it behind *dry-stone retaining walls*, *roof-falls*, the *orientation of jointing*, *sledge-ruts in main haulage drives*, and the alignment of the *working faces*. Blank areas in the lower half of the figure have almost certainly been quarried, but are currently inaccessible as a result of roof-falls and the stacking of quarry waste in worked-out galleries.

The complete widths of the support pillars (usually c3m) and main NE-SW extraction galleries (usually c4m) are not often readily seen as a result of the large volume of quarry waste left down the sides.

5. Published descriptions of the lithology of the building stones and hearthstone are confusing and sometimes contradictory, and very few detailed photographic descriptions based on microscopic study of thin sections have been published.
6. Published descriptions of the stratigraphy cannot be correlated from quarry to quarry, or with described weathered sections at outcrops, although the latter generally show far more evidence of bedding than is usually seen underground. They indicate considerable lateral variability, and that individual beds are generally quite thin at c 0.2m thickness. This is borne out by the usual depth of bed seen in stones used in buildings.

The beds exploited, therefore, appear to consist of lenticular masses of good building stone which would weather well, intercalated with similar masses of inferior stone fit only for use as mineral pigment. Which bed is which, and how to recognise them, however, is lost quarrymen's knowledge.

Any examination in connection with alleviating the stonework problems at Hampton Court and the Tower, will need to identify the good building-stone beds and precisely determine their upper and lower limits in the quarry faces. Some massive pieces of Reigate Stone in exceptionally good condition in Canterbury Cathedral and in the church at Merstham, for example, indicate that the ancient quarrymen knew the answers to these problems, and were able to identify and work sound building stone block up to 0.3m thick on the bed. Extensions to Merstham Church in the 1860s and 1890s employed the local stone in much smaller pieces, which have weathered and decayed far more than the larger blocks in adjoining fabric centuries older.

A visit to the underground quarries at Merstham in February 1998 was attended by Vince Allkins of WCMS, Paul Sowan of WCMS and SB, Robin Sanderson and Bernard Worssam, a geologist and a specialist in the scientific study of building-stones; and Keith Garner, an architect working for the Historic Royal Palaces, with a number of his colleagues. This was followed by liaison meetings at the Tower of London that led to an HRP-funded research project, of which Stage 1: the systematic collecting of samples from the quarries for scientific analysis, has been completed.

The Sampling Project

It was decided to take samples from quarries known to have been used exclusively as sources of building stone, and to avoid workings where hearthstone mining was known to have taken place. For this reason, no sampling was done in the Godstone quarries. Samples were to be taken using a diamond-tipped drill to take orientated cylindrical cores approximately 4.4cm diameter x 15cm long.

Preliminary visits were made to the selected sampling sites of Quarry Field, Quarry Dean, Bedlams Bank and Rockshaw quarries to decide on exact locations for drilling. These sites had been selected with roof stability very firmly in mind, where complete floor to ceiling sections could be accessed, and where some indications of bedding demarcations could be seen. The last was better indicated by changes in tool-marking than by the appearance of the stone itself. A vertical row of samples was taken at c15cm intervals, with the exact drilling points being decided by such evidence for distinct bed boundaries as could be seen.

Each site was photographed before and after drilling. A detailed archaeological record of bedding features, toolmarks, and jointing was made for each sampled face and the immediately adjoining area. All the quarries sampled have already been surveyed to a very high degree of accuracy by Chris Bailey, Peter Burgess, and others of WCMS.

Detailed geological and archaeological descriptions of each site will in due course be

offered for publication in appropriate academic journals, possibly the *Proceedings of the Geologists' Association* and/or the *Surrey Archaeological Collections*.

It had been hoped to locate sampling sites in out-of-the-way parts of the quarry workings not generally visible to visitors. Unfortunately, the restricted cable length made this impossible, and it has to be admitted that the vertical rows of holes are visually rather intrusive: one of the delights of visiting the quarries is their 'time capsule' atmosphere, where everything is virtually unchanged since the last quarrymen left (roof-falls and washed-in debris apart). To the informed eye, however, the sampling sites are no more an affront than the various digs carried out by caving clubs over the years, or indeed the well-beaten floors now marking the main 'tourist' routes through the networks of accessible galleries, which total c16 km in the Merstham-Chaldon complex. Exploration and the excellent topographical surveys of the current known extent of the workings would not have been possible without these 'digs'. Likewise, it is considered that the recovery of the quarrymen's lost knowledge and understanding of the stone beds, as well as the prestige of partnership with the Historic Royal Palaces Agency which has guaranteed Stage II of the investigation, more than justifies the presence, at only four locations, of about 50 two-inch diameter holes. If nothing else, they will serve to remind visitors how important the quarries were in supplying stone to some of the most important parts of Hampton Court, the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey, Canterbury and Rochester Cathedrals, Windsor Castle, and numerous other important monuments throughout London and the south-east.

The Scientific Analysis

Except at Rockshaw, duplicate cores were taken at each site. Each core has been marked so that its original orientation within the bed is known. One core of each pair will be cut in half laterally, one half being retained as an archived hand-specimen, probably to be held by HRP, and its flat surface will be photographed to record stone colour and texture. The other half core will be subjected to various forms of destructive testing. Thin sections for microscopic study and petrographical description by Robin Sanderson are already being made. Depending on the results, decisions will be taken on further testing, including scanning electron microscope photography, and chemical analysis.

At the end of the exercise we should know a great deal more about Reigate Stone and Hearthstone than we did before and we might even be able to tell the difference, and explain it in chemical and mineralogical terms.

All of this is essential groundwork in assisting HRP, and indeed the conservators of many other ancient buildings, to understand and possibly alleviate the deterioration of the important medieval carved work and ashlar in the monuments in their care. It might also, just possibly, have a bearing on the feasibility, or otherwise, of extracting new Reigate Stone for repairs (it is difficult to find a good 'match' from currently available British or French building stones, although at Merstham some use was made of Lepine Stone from France). However, renewed quarrying is not the objective of the current exercise, and would clearly be an altogether larger, costlier, and more complex project both in technical planning and legal terms.

Most of the costs of the research project have, to date, been met by the Historic Royal Palaces. The writer was awarded the 1999 SERIAC bursary (£250) at the South Eastern Industrial Archaeology Conference at Reading in April, which sum will be used to support Stage II of the project.

From the July 1999 Newsletter 110 of the Surrey Industrial History Group, with many thanks.

In a letter to the editor, Paul Sowan gave vent to his greater concerns:

"...To my mind, the medieval and earlier quarries from which Reigate Stone for so many important monuments throughout the south-east were built must rank near the top in importance in both 'traditional' and 'industrial' archaeology in the county. The more important quarries are in 'greenfield' sites, and thus have a very high archaeological potential accessible to standard above-ground archaeological excavation ... it is a long-term hope that such an excavation might one day be undertaken!

Meanwhile, much excellent surveying and photographic recording, both being intentionally an archaeological record, has been going on underground! English Heritage acknowledge the importance of the site – no gold, but it is the Sutton Hoo of building stone quarries – but continue to steer gingerly around considering it under the MPP/scheduling as a statutory Ancient Monument. We'll get there.

I am desperately concerned to ensure the long-term safety of the survey of the Chaldon – Merstham quarries, and we need funding for the printing of several large sheets (say a metre wide by, in total, several metres long). At present there is a tracing-sheet master, all too vulnerable, and a few fading dye-line copies. We don't want to publish the whole survey to the world at large, as so much valuable underground archaeology would be at risk from hordes of boy scouts, cavers, etc. (I've no problem about either category, but simply want to see them effectively limited to areas where there isn't much archaeology to damage.) Deposit copies of the survey, with strong restrictions on third parties taking additional copies, should be lodged with SyAS, the Society of Antiquaries, etc."

If you'd like to become a member of SIHG and receive their regular Newsletter, write to David Evans, 48 Guildford Park Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5NF or Tel: 01483 564079 or e-mail davy.evans@btinternet.com

Worked flints from Bridge Farm, Cranleigh

Gabby Rapson & Judie English

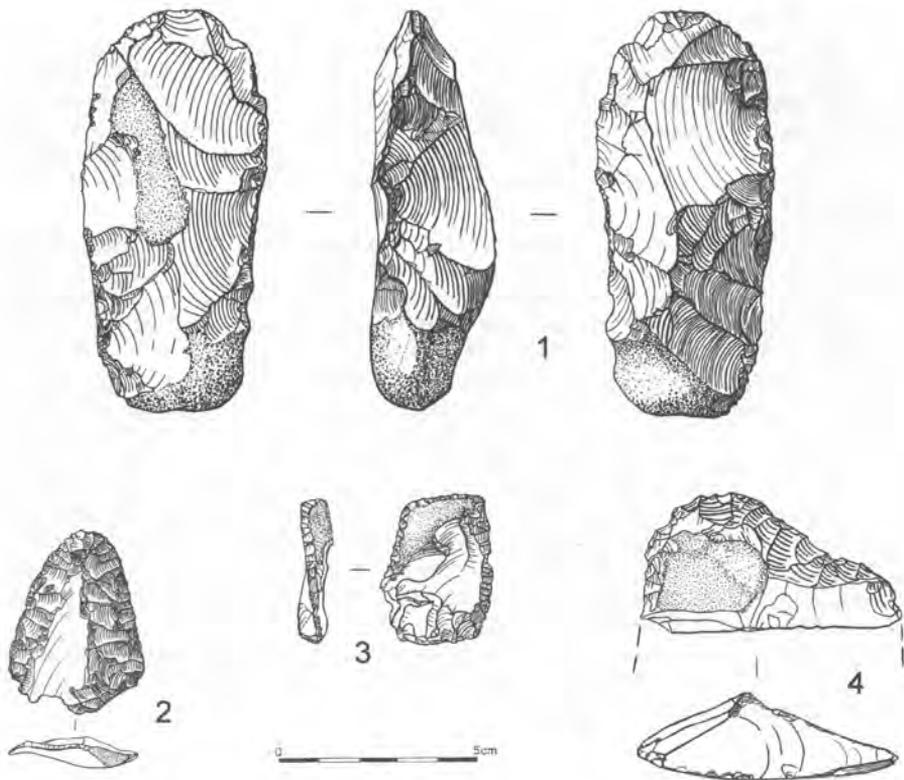
The late Commander Emmus left a collection of flints to Shere Museum in 1998, most of which is unprovenanced. However, prior to his death he pointed out a small portion of this collection to one of the authors (JE) as having been collected in the 1920s at his then home, Bridge Farm, Alfold (TQ 0528 3616). The find site, then the paddock, lies on a gravel terrace of the Bramley Wey within a bend of one of the tributaries of that stream. It is not certain that all the pieces were found in exactly the same area or at the same time. All the pieces are of ochreous flint – recent damage to one piece shows this colour to be due to the iron content of the local environment.

The collection comprises 34 pieces of worked flint including an axe, plano-convex knife, two scrapers, four core trimmings and twenty-six pieces of working debris. We are grateful to Kevin Dearling and Roger Ellaby for assistance in identifying these pieces. The drawings are by Gabby Rapson.

Axe (fig 1). Mesolithic / Neolithic. Possible tranchet flake removed from one side. The axe has worn edges and recent damage to the tip shows that its original colour was mottled grey.

Plano-convex knife (fig 2). Late Neolithic/early Bronze Age. Delicately worked on only the dorsal side of a brown/grey arrowhead-shaped flake. Relatively undamaged.

Scrapers (figs 3 & 4). One (4) is fashioned on a thick half pear-shaped flake. It is worked crudely around most of the curved edge, and has suffered recent damage.



The other (3) is fashioned on a small, thin translucent flake, with the scraper edge being steeply retouched on the distal end.

Core trimmings. Two crescent type flakes and one broad squarish flake have striking platforms present. A fourth is a thick triangular flake with no striking platform present.

Blades / flakes. Two blades (lengths 97 and 52 mm) are of glossy black flint and the larger shows signs of retouching on both faces. They appear less worn and damaged than the rest of the collection. Six large blades (60-70mm) and two small blades (50mm) are glossy, abraded and damaged. There are also two broad thin flakes and seven irregular shaped flakes in a similar condition.

Blade fragments. Six are present; two segments and four proximal ends.

Although much of the working debris shows signs of possible retouching the collection as a whole shows evidence of more recent damage i.e. the removal of the patinated surface. Unfortunately this damage is similar to genuine retouching, thus making further analysis of the pieces inconclusive.

The greater part of the collection seems to be Neolithic with the plano-convex knife being either late Neolithic or early Bronze Age. The axe is probably Mesolithic or early Neolithic.

Neolithic flintwork is rarer than Mesolithic in the Weald and it may be worth noting the location of the site in an area where patches of alluvium and river gravel give rather lighter soils than the surrounding Wealden clay.

137-143 High Street, Guildford: a Summary of Archaeological Work in 1999

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Mailer Associates to undertake a programme of archaeological recording at this site (centred on SU 9978 4950) prior to redevelopment. Development proposals included the building of an extension to the rear of 137/139 High Street, the refurbishment of the interiors of the two Grade II Listed Buildings on the High Street frontage (entailing the opening up of the second bay in 137/139 High Street), and the demolition of a 20th century extension to the rear of the buildings. An initial desk-based assessment was followed by a small archaeological excavation, a 'strip and record' investigation, a watching brief during groundworks, a watching brief during the 'opening up' of the historic core of the Listed Buildings and the preparation of a report and archive,

The desk-based assessment demonstrated a considerable number of archaeological find spots and sites within a c200m radius of the site, including a medieval pit within the site that contained early 16th century pottery in its upper fill. These almost all relate to the historic town of Guildford, reflecting medieval and post-medieval settlement concentrated along the High Street frontages. It was considered likely that a small number of archaeological features, mostly pits of medieval or later date, would lie within the footprint of the proposed new building, and there was the possibility of earlier structural remains being revealed during redevelopment, particularly as an earlier watching brief in the cellar beneath 141/143 High Street had recorded a section of medieval undercroft of probable 12th/13th century date.

The excavation, 'strip and record' investigation and watching brief during contractor's groundworks were undertaken on a restricted area of c130m² immediately to the rear of the Listed Buildings on the High Street frontage. At least 15 archaeological features were revealed, almost all of them pits and including two wells. Seven features were of late 12th/13th century date, one was of 13th/14th date, five produced no dating evidence but are most likely to have been medieval, and two brick-lined features – a well and a cess pit – were of 18th/19th century date. No late medieval or early post-medieval features or finds were recorded. The greatest concentration of features appeared to be within the boundary of 137/139 High Street. Virtually no structural remains survived, perhaps because of truncation, but it is likely that prior to the 18th century the area investigated lay in yard areas to the rear of buildings on the street frontage. Remains of two brick walls may represent part of a complex of buildings behind those on the frontage, grouped around an elaborate courtyard and passage recorded on a map of 1739.

The listing description for 137/139 High Street describes the building as early 18th century, while that for 141/143 High Street records an 18th century façade with an older core. Very limited stripping was undertaken in 141/143 High Street, and no evidence for a pre-18th century core was seen; the medieval undercroft recorded in an earlier watching brief was not further exposed. More extensive work was undertaken in 137/139 High Street and this revealed substantial remains of a timber-framed building of probable late 16th century date, behind an 18th century façade, and largely hidden by more recent additions. The building is of box-frame construction, three bays deep – the central bay extensively damaged by fire – and has three storeys with an earlier (?12th/13th century) undercroft built of chalk blocks. A screens passage led through the east side of the building at ground floor level providing access to a yard at the rear. There is evidence for a double jetty on the High Street frontage, a vertical, gabled rear elevation, and the former presence of wattle and daub panels infilling the timber frame. Fireplaces and an associated stack appear to have been incorporated in the west wall, but little evidence remains of these. A fragment of mullioned window was noted, having survived the insertion of

larger windows in the 18th century. The position of the stairs was not established with any certainty. Of particular note was one of the posts on the first floor which had extensive traces of a painted, polychrome, floral design, of probable 16th or 17th century date; this decoration is likely to have covered the west wall and perhaps more of the interior on this floor. The roof has double, clasped purlins, with wind braces, and the three surviving trusses have an upper collar supported by queen struts. Re-used building timbers at second floor level and in the attic probably reflect the structural changes made in the 18th century.

137/139 High Street was the birthplace of John Russell RA (1745-1806), Guildford's most famous watercolourist, and it was featured in a well-known painting made by him in 1778 of the High Street. Russell's booksellers occupied the property until the 20th century, but the pre-18th century history of this substantial building, which represents an important discovery, remains obscure.

KENNETH GRAVETT

With great sadness, we have to report the passing of Ken Gravett on Saturday 20th November 1999. Since he wanted no obituary this is a personal *memoire*.

Ken's main interest was, of course, in vernacular buildings, especially of the timber-framed varieties. His memory was prodigious and his knowledge was as formidable as his bulk. As a very young man he even secured a co-option to a County Council committee dealing with historic buildings and archives.

I first got to know Ken at the time when he and Tony Clark ran a series of annual conferences for the Society – helping Eric Wood, and later, helped by Norris Thompson. Ken had an almost puritanical attitude towards his responsibility to the Society for these conferences and I remember well his personal pain, pain to the brink of resignation, when one of the conferences he organised lost money. This was at a time when both budget and ticket price were cut to the bone and the margin the Society allowed itself in pricing tickets was dangerously tight. Not for Ken a comfortable reflection about previous conferences when the books had balanced in the Society's favour or the benefit to the Society of his unstinting voluntary effort.

Ken also gave much time down the years to helping the Society's visits programme. His erudite and immaculately delivered accounts of buildings visited were much appreciated – more, perhaps, than he realised.

My own professional qualifications, although more modest than Ken's, were allied to his, which helped the small talk. I was a practitioner and he was a lecturer – something he was particularly good at. Ken had an interesting professional career starting at the Battersea Poly before it was even a CAT, let alone the University of Surrey. From Battersea he went to Brighton and from there to be head of the department at the Borough Poly in which I had previously been taught. This poly is now a university and the post Ken held would now carry the title of professor. However, Ken moved on from teaching and heading a department long before the great levelling and finished his professional life in inspection, working in that capacity for the late and much lamented ILEA.

Ken's attitude to the past was holistic at a time when no-one used the word. In fact, he often said that he regarded himself as an historical geographer, a self-characterisation that I have been pleased to copy. His holistic view, however, led him into conflict with one prestigious president of the Society, one who's view of archaeology did not easily find room for local history, despite the clear statement in the Society's then constitution. As a result, Ken set up the parallel

Surrey Local History Council which remained very much his personal baby, now well and successfully guided to adulthood. It was possibly this same, long ago, difference of view that prevented Ken from ever becoming president himself. While retaining connection with Surrey and the Society, Ken increasingly concentrated his architectural studies on Kent and eventually spent ten years as president of the KAS. He took over that role at a time when, I am told, there were problems to be sorted, and sort them he did.

But Ken's real achievements were in the minefield of vernacular architecture: in particular as a student of and authority on timber framed buildings of Kent and Surrey. He had studied and photographed and drawn these buildings since he was a schoolboy. His opinion was much sought after and often treated by others with more reverence than Ken would himself have wished, justified though such respect often was. One frequently comes across Ken's judgements of twenty or thirty or even forty years ago being quoted as an absolute, a rock of fact, as if Ken himself never changed his mind and was always right. Which is a pity, because Ken, although distinctly less fallible than most of us, was always eager to learn new things and frequently revised his judgements.

At his death, Ken had been an Honorary Vice President of the Society for many years and he exercised his right to attend and speak at Council meetings as frequently as his uncertain health and busy life allowed. His pertinent interventions, although sometimes just a fraction lengthy, were always welcome and will be much missed. Ken himself will be missed in many many ways.

In fairly short order, the Society has lost the two leaders of its post war generation. I salute them with gratitude.

Dennis Turner

COUNCIL NEWS

Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Surrey Archaeological Society was held at Kingston Museum on Sunday, 21st November 1999.

Professor Alan Crocker, President of the Society, reported briefly on the work of the year under review and warmly thanked the Honorary Officers, Committee Chairpersons, and especially members of Castle Arch during his first year in office. He stressed that many members of the Society also gave freely of their time in many ways and although invidious to single out any one person, he proposed to name a member each year who helped the Society in a variety of ways. On this occasion he thanked particularly 'Trudie' Drew, who for very many years had helped quietly and unobtrusively with the Society's bookstall at conferences, lectures and symposia throughout the county.

Professor Crocker also thanked the retiring members of Council, Mr D Cluett, Ms J English, Mrs R E Hunter, Mr J M Rubra and Mr R W Williams, for the time they had given to the Society.

Professor Crocker was re-elected as President. Ms J English and Mrs P Nicolaysen were elected Vice-Presidents in recognition of their work on behalf of the Society, and Mrs A Graham was elected an Honorary Editor. The remaining Honorary Officers, having indicated their willingness to stand for a further year, were re-elected, together with the Vice-Presidents and Honorary Vice-Presidents.

Six new members were elected to Council: Mrs M Alexander, Mr A E Bott, Mr S P Dyer, Mr R L Ellaby, Mr D C Taylor, Mrs E Whitbourn.

Following the meeting, Mr Paul Hill, Curator (Collections Management) of Kingston, gave an interesting and enjoyable illustrated lecture about recent work in Kingston and the new Museum. This was followed by tea, and the opportunity to look round the excellent and newly modernised museum.

Local Secretaries

The following have kindly agreed to act as local secretaries for the areas indicated:

Ottershaw & Chertsey: Mrs P McKenna, 21 Duffins Orchard, Brox Road,
Ottershaw, near Chertsey, Surrey

Send: Mr Ian Medhurst, 9 Sandfields, Send, GU23 7AY

Woking: Mr Bryan Harmer, 14 Brookfield, Woking, Surrey GU21 3AD

There are still vacancies for Walton & Weybridge, Artington & Shalford, Compton, Seale & Shackelford and Chipstead, Kingswood & Walton. If any member is interested in acting as Local Secretary in any of these areas, please contact the Honorary Secretary at Castle Arch.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 26th 2000
DORKING CHRISTIAN CENTRE**

A full programme of talks is being arranged and will include updates on the Society's excavation of a circular Romano-British temple site at Wanborough, the second season of training excavation at Hopeless Moor, Seale, the contentious question of barrow versus wind-blown sand mounds on Surrey's heathland, work in the County by Thames Valley Archaeological Services and a progress report on Landscape Surveys being undertaken as a joint initiative by the Society and the County Council as part of the Community Archaeology programme. Straying across the border into Sussex will bring in work on the *mansio* at Alfoldean and its associated settlement and a representative of SCAU will provide a round-up of their work in this County.

An important part of the day will be a series of displays of other work by groups and individuals and the Margary Award will be made to the best of those eligible. Anyone who wishes to mount a display and has not received an application form should contact Rose Hooker, 59 Thornton Place, Horley, Surrey RH6 8RZ: Tel: 01293 411176.

An application form for tickets at £3.00 each (£3.50 on the door, if available) is enclosed with this Bulletin.

COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY

Mickleham Downs Landscape Survey

Judie English

Work on this survey is continuing through the winter under the leadership of Chris Currie. Fieldwork largely takes place at weekends and probable dates are given below. Start time is 11:00 but the meeting point can vary from week to week. To

check this, and in the case of bad weather, also to confirm that we will be out please phone me before 10:00am on the day.

There is also documentary research and buildings research to be undertaken and anyone interested in these aspects should contact Chris direct on 01703 696232 or by email as: CCurrie260@aol.com

Sunday January 9th
Sunday January 23rd
Sunday February 6th
Sunday February 20th
Sunday March 5th

Saturday January 15th
Saturday January 29th
Saturday February 12th
Sunday February 27th
Saturday March 11th

RECENT ACCESSIONS TO THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY

(continued from Bulletin 334)

In order to help members find books in the Library, additional information is now included in the listings below. Thus each entry identifies the author, title, publisher and date of publication, followed now by a four-digit accession number (eg 8180) and classification number (eg K2), which indicates the location of the book on the shelf.

As before this list excludes reports by archaeological units working within the county, which are, from time to time, listed elsewhere in the *Bulletin*.

PLACES OTHER THAN SURREY

- Coles, J.M. *Prehistory of the Somerset Levels*. Somerset Levels Project 1982 8218 F43
- Coles, John *Changing landscapes: the ancient fenland*. Cambridgeshire CC & Cambs & Wetland Archaeology Research Project 1998 8186 F6
- Cool, H.E.M. *Roman Castleford: excavations 1974-85. Volume 1. The small finds*. West Yorkshire Archaeology Service 1998 8259 F7
- Drummond-Murray, James *The Big Dig: archaeology and the Jubilee Line Extension*. MoLAS 1999 8260 F34
- Holbrook, Neil *Cirencester: the Roman town defences, public buildings and shops*. Cotswold Archaeological Trust 1998 8187 F5
- Jones, David K C. *The shaping of Southern England*. Academic Press 1980 8226 D1
- Marsden, Peter *Roman London*. Thames and Hudson Ltd 1980 8224 K34
- Pearce, Susan M. *Bronze Age metalwork in Southern Britain*. Shire Publications Ltd 1984 8217 I2
- Philp, Brian *The Roman Villa site at Keston, Kent: second report*. Kent Archaeological Rescue 1999 8266 F32
- Pitts, Michael *Fairweather Eden: life in Britain half a million years ago as revealed by the Excavations at Boxgrove*. Century Books Ltd 1997 8179 F33
- Richards, Julian D. *English Heritage book of Viking Age England*. Batsford 1991 8227 L2
- Reid, Kenneth C. *Watermills of the London countryside: their place in English landscape and Life. Vol. 1*. Charles Skilton Ltd 1987 8230 S7
- Reid, Kenneth C. *Watermills of the London countryside: their place in English landscape and Life. Vol. 2*. Charles Skilton Ltd 1989 8231 S7
- Stead, I.M. *The Salisbury hoard*. Tempus Publishing Ltd 1998 8167 F42
- White, Roger *Wroxeter: life and death of a Roman city*. Tempus Publishing Ltd 1998 8177 F5

SURREY – LOCAL

- Abdy, Charles *The listed buildings and ancient monuments of Epsom and Ewell*. Nonsuch Antiquarian Society 1999 8192
- Alexander, Mary *Medieval Guildford*. Photocopy 8194 P31 GFD
- Alexander, Mary *A possible Synagogue in Guildford*. Photocopy 8195 P31 GFD
- Andrew, A. *Godstone in 1900*, 3rd impression with map. Godstone Preservation Society 1998 9073 P31 GDS
- Arnold, Phillip *The memorials of St Peter's, Woking Parish Church: including some now lost* Phillip Arnold 1999 8150 P31 WOK.
- Arnold, Phillip *A Survey of the Mannovr of Wokeing MDCCXIX: the commentary to the Remnant Map of 1719*. Phillip Arnold 1999 8248 P31 WOK
- Bain, I. *I remember: childhood memories of wartime Mitcham*. Merton Historical Society 1993 8103 P31 MIT
- Blomfield, David *Kew Past*. Phillimore 1994 8163 P31 KEW
- Brown, Maisie *Barnes and Mortlake Past with East Sheen*. Historical Publications Ltd 1997 8165 P31 BAR
- Cotton, Olivia *Churt, an oasis through time: a short history of the village*. Churt News 1998 8151 P31 FRN
- Crocker, Glenys *A guide to the Chilworth Gunpowder Mills*. Surrey Industrial History Group 1999 8241 S7
- Green, L. *The Railways of Merton*. Merton Historical Society 1998 8065 P31 MRT
- Grumbridge, L. *Memories of Lower Morden*. Merton Historical Society 1990 8099 P31 MOR
- Harp, Peter *A brief summary of the archaeology of Banstead Heath in Surrey*. Plateau Archaeology Group 1999 8265 P31 BAN
- Harp, Peter *In the footsteps of William Wright: a reappraisal of prehistoric flintwork in the Banstead region of Surrey*. Plateau Archaeology Group 1999 8197 F31 BAN
- Harp, Peter *The first interim report on the site of Tattenham Way Allotments, Banstead, Surrey (TWAB) otherwise known as The Banstead Research Site or Great Meadow Banstead*. Plateau Archaeology Group 1999 8198 F31 BAN
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- Head, Ken *The Sundial of St Mary's Stoke D'Abernon*. 1998 8169 P31 ST.D
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The 'Surrey Puma' in the 18th century?

David Bird

Students of the so-called Surrey Puma will be interested in the following extract from William Cobbett's famous book, *Rural Rides* (Woodcock 1967, 249-50). The first edition of this book was published in 1830, five years before Cobbett's death. He was born in 1762, so the incident he relates must be dated to around 1770.

In October 1825 Cobbett visited the grounds of Waverley Abbey (the house) with his son Richard, then aged eleven. "I showed him a tree, close by the ruins of the Abbey, from a limb of which I once fell into the river, in an attempt to take the nest of a *crow*, which had artfully placed it upon a branch so far from the trunk as not to be able to bear the weight of a boy eight years old. I showed him an old elm tree, which was hollow even then, into which I, when a very little boy, once saw a *cat go*, that was as big as a middle-sized spaniel dog, for relating which I got a great scolding, for standing to which I, at last, got a beating; but, stand to which I still did; I have since many times repeated it, and I would take my oath of it to this day. When in new Brunswick I saw the great wild grey cat, which is there called a *Lucifée*; and it seemed to me to be just such a cat as I had seen at Waverley. I found the ruins not very greatly diminished, but it is strange how *small* the *mansion* and *ground* [sic], and every thing but the trees, appeared to me. They were all great to my mind when I saw them last; and that early impression had remained, whenever I had talked or thought, of the spot ..." [Cobbett's italics].

I have included the last part of this extract because it seems to me that it shows that Cobbett was well aware that some things can appear very large to a child, but he obviously did not think that this was the explanation for his large cat. New Brunswick is on the Canadian eastern seaboard and lies mostly within the boreal forest region of North America. The 'Lucifée' was presumably therefore the Canadian lynx, the most typical predator of the boreal forest. I have not attempted to check properly but perhaps the name might mean something like 'avoider of light', given for the nocturnal habit of the lynx.

Woodcock, G. (ed) 1967: *William Cobbett. Rural Rides*.

Millennium Bridge Bankside Gardens, Southwark

Julian Ayre & Robin Wroe-Brown

Excavations were conducted on both sides of the River Thames in advance of construction work for the new London Millennium Bridge. The areas were fully excavated to the depth of the pile caps. Further trenches were dug covering the locations of the piles, leaving the remaining archaeology *in situ* according to an agreed mitigation strategy.

The Southwark excavation revealed a series of well-preserved timber revetments and river walls dating from 14th/15th centuries up to the 1930s. Large fragments of a barge of a type illustrated on 18th-century riverscapes were discovered reused in a revetment and in associated dumps. Behind the revetments a sequence of drains was recorded, including a hollowed-out log, a plank drain and arched brick culverts.

New Director for the CBA

George Lambrick has been appointed Director of the Council for British Archaeology in succession to Richard Morris. He has a wide range of experience of archaeological research including several major excavations in rural and urban areas, and a special

interest in environmental change. Currently the Deputy Director of the Oxford Archaeological Unit where he has worked for 25 years, George Lambrick has recently completed a major strategic review of urban archaeology in Ireland. He retains a long-standing involvement with adult education through Oxford University. His previous work for the CBA includes a period as secretary of its Countryside Committee from 1985 to 1990, when he drafted the general CBA policy statement on countryside issues.

Wealden Iron Research Group

Tebbutt Research Fund

This fund was established as a tribute to the life and work of the late C F Tebbutt, OBE, FSA, and applications are invited from individuals and groups, for grants towards research, including associated expenses, into any aspect of the Wealden Iron Industry.

It is anticipated that approximately £100 plus will be available from the fund and any interested person should write a suitable letter of application giving details of themselves together with relevant information concerning the research envisaged. Please bring this fund to the notice of your tutors and lecturers concerned with archaeology/history as we are anxious that the money available should be used fully.

WIRG has recently acquired a section of railings from St Paul's Cathedral and research into the construction is an example of a subject that is eligible for a grant.

Applications should be sent to the Hon Secretary of WIRG, Shiela Broomfield, no later than 31st March 2000. Write to her at 8 Woodview Crescent, Hildenborough, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9HD, or else Tel: 01732 838698, Fax: 01732 838522 or Email: c.broomfield@dial.pipex.com

PUBLICATIONS

'Surrey's Industrial Past', edited by Glenys Crocker, ISBN 0 9523918 8 0

On 29th October the Surrey Industrial History Group launched this, its latest publication, at the Dorking Christian Centre. It describes the histories of the industrial activities within the county and includes chapters on extractive industries, public utilities, textiles, chemicals, food processing, entertainment, transport, manufacturing, defences, and some others.

This book should appeal to anyone with an interest in the history of the county, and in particular with its social and industrial history. It more than complements the Borough and District Guides already published by the Group.

With 160 pages that include 50 illustrations it is a bargain at £12.95 and is available at local bookshops, or else post free from John Mills, 35 Trotsworth Avenue, Virginia Water, GU25 4AN, cheques payable to SIHG.

"Nonsuch Palace" by Martin Biddle

Although Nonsuch Antiquarian Society was founded by people who had taken part in the excavation of Nonsuch Palace, it has never published anything about the palace, possibly because the late John Dent's excellent book, *The Quest for Nonsuch*, has always been considered to be the ultimate word on the subject. However, there is a need to provide more condensed information for those who, although interested in their local heritage, do not want to read a three hundred page book about it. This

short booklet is intended to meet this need. Written by Professor Martin Biddle, the chief archaeologist of the 1959/60 dig, it was first published in 1988 to mark the palace's 450th anniversary. This new edition includes all the original text and illustrations, with just minor amendments to bring it up-to-date, and should be available at Society meetings, local libraries and Bourne Hall Museum Shop later this month.

From the November Newsletter (no. 5) of the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society, with thanks.

"The Story of Onslow Village: A new and greater Guildford" by Helen Chapman Davies

Onslow Village was planned as a 'Garden City' suburb of Guildford to provide housing for the working classes. Its construction began in 1920 on land purchased from Lord Onslow in what was once part of the Royal Park of Guildford. The book outlines a brief history of the Onslow family, and the background to the project.

Available in Guildford at the Thomas Thorp bookshop, Guildford Museum, the Tourist Information Centre and the Cathedral Bookshop, or else direct from the author at 6 St Omer Road, Guildford GU1 2DB, Tel: 01483 532201.

Price: £2.

CONFERENCES

COUNCIL FOR KENTISH ARCHAEOLOGY

2000 Years of Archaeology in Kent

Saturday 8th April 2000, 11 am to 5.30 pm

Queen Elizabeth's School, Faversham

Leading Archaeologists in Kent in the last two centuries of the Millennium

Roman Kent

Anglo-Saxon Kent AD 449-1066

Fortifications in Kent AD 1066-1550: a review

Industrial Archaeology in Kent

Tickets: £6, from CKA, 7 Sandy Ridge, Borough Green, Kent TN11S 8HP. (Please enclose SAE)

Thomas Bragg

Brian Phelp

Tim Tatton-Brown

Andrew Saunders

Jim Preston

20th WEST LONDON LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE: ADVANCE NOTICE

2000 Years of West London's History

Saturday 18th March 2000

Montagu Hall, Hounslow

Tickets: £7.50. Details from Janet McNamara, 31b Brook Road South, Brentford, London TW8 0NN.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY OF INDUSTRY

14th-16th April 2000, University of Surrey, Guildford

The environmental impacts of industry are obviously profound and far-reaching, yet in general they have been curiously neglected by environmental archaeologists. This

conference aims to bridge the gap between environmental and industrial archaeology. The effects of mining on sedimentation and vegetation in river catchments have plainly been extensive; and from sedimentological, geochemical and palynological studies inferences about early mining are possible. The fuel-supplying infrastructure of industry, and its effects on vegetation and woodland management, will also be discussed. Other raw materials for industrial production considered will include timber, horn, skins and shell. Papers on a suite of techniques based on chemistry, soil science and macrofossil studies will also be presented, all of which have a bearing on past industry. Results from a modern microbiological study will be used to assess problems that may have been encountered with carcass disposal in the past. The effects of industrialisation on human health and prospects for characterising the occupations of individuals from skeletal features will also be examined. The scope of the conference will be international, including papers presenting studies from Britain, Austria, Belgium, Greece, Egypt and Uganda.

The conference has been organised by University College, London and the University of East Anglia. The programme will include two days of papers based on the themes of proxy indicators of the environmental impacts of metallurgy: palynological approaches, fuel supplies and industry, biological raw materials and infrastructure, proxy indicators of industry: chemical, pedological and macrofossil approaches, impacts of industry on human population and experimental approaches. There will also be a field excursion on Sunday 16th April, visiting the Fishbourne Roman Palace and the Wealden and Downland Museum, Singleton, Sussex.

Accommodation will be provided at the University of Surrey during the conference, and bed and breakfast will also be available at the University for the nights of 13th and 15th April. Information on hotels and guest houses in Guildford will be provided for those preferring to make their own arrangements, but the Guildford Tourist Office (01483 444333) tell us that early booking is advised.

For a booking form write to Peter Murphy, Centre of East Anglian Studies, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ.

COURSES

Building Conservation and the Use of Traditional Materials and Processes

Weald and Downland Open Air Museum

Practical workshops and seminars for surveyors, craft workers and anyone else interested in building conservation. There are single day courses lasting 7 hours and which cost between £60 and £80 per day; some weekend courses costing £200; and a unique week-long course in May making a timber framed construction, which will cost £350. Full details of all these will appear in subsequent editions of the *Bulletin*.

27 January **Recording vernacular buildings for conservation. *Richard Harris***
First of three linked day-schools (2nd on 16th March, 3rd on 27th April) observing and sketching, improving the accuracy of rapid sketches, the geometry of construction, using string lines, drawing individual timbers, rubbing surface features, recording brickwork. £60.

24 February **Repair of timber framed buildings. *Richard Harris and Roger Champion***

A day-school which provides an introduction to methods of repair of timber framed buildings, including a lecture by the Museum Research Director, a workshop session with the Museum carpenter and a critical examination of repairs executed at the Museum over thirty years. £65.

1 March **Dealing with change in historic buildings. *James Strike and other specialists***

Design and Town Planning,; the first of two linked days. Current planning legislation, guidance documents, appraisal reports and design criteria for listed buildings. £80.

16 March **Recording vernacular buildings for conservation. *Richard Harris***

The second of three linked days. Imposing a grid. Setting up levels, recording a timber frame, using a grid to record complex patterns by sketching, tracing and photography. £60.

Enquiries about these, and other courses yet to be announced, to Diana Rowsell, Training Co-ordinator in the Museum Office, Singleton, Chichester, West Sussex on 01234 811363.

Industrial Archaeology

Gordon Knowles will be holding another series of ten lecture-discussion meetings, plus a site visit, on behalf of Fetcham and Bookham WEA at the Letherhead Institute on Thursdays from 10.00 to 12.00 commencing 13th January 2000.

The programme topics will once again be taken from both Britain and overseas and will NOT have been covered during earlier meetings in this series. This year's topics will be:

The Great Docks at Portsmouth 1830-1914

Isambard Kingdom Brunel & some of his achievements

Betty's Hope - an Antiguan Sugar Plantation and Mill 1650-1972, associated with the Codrington family

150 years of Waterloo Station 1858-1998

Raasay Iron Mine 1912-1942

The Lynton & Barnstaple Railway 1895- 1935

100 Years of Dennis at Guildford

Sir Charles Parsons & 'Turbinia'

The Severn Railway tunnel

The Knight family Iron Dynasty in the Midlands 1695-1902

A visit will be made on 6th April, the last meeting of the course. Provisional arrangements are in hand for a behind-the-scenes visit, not available to the public, to the Royal Naval Dockyard at Portsmouth, where both the historic and modern sites will be seen. If this visit does not materialise, then alternatives could be to the Plan Arch at Waterloo Station, again not readily available to the public, or to London sites associated with Brunel.

Enrolment can be made either at the first meeting or by obtaining a form from the WEA Secretary, Joy Tapping, Tel: 01737 844937. The full fee is £40, concessions £34.

LECTURE MEETINGS

6th January

"From the Pleistocene to the 18th Century – excavations and the museum conservation laboratory" by David Parish to the Farnham & District Museum Society at the United Reformed Church Hall, South Street, Farnham at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

8th January

"Catal Huyuk" by Ann Butler to the Beddington, Carshalton and Wallington

Archaeological Society at Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, off Nightingale Road, Carshalton at 3.00 pm.

11th January

"The Work of Dorothea Restorations" by Geoff Wallis to the Surrey Industrial History Group in Lecture Theatre F, University of Surrey, Guildford, at 7.30 pm.

12th January

"Decoding the Landscape: some Surrey Landscape Projects" by Judie English to the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society in the Small Hall of the United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon, at 7.45 pm.

15th January

"The Social History of the English Civil War Soldier" by Alan Turton to the Walton and Weybridge Local History Society, at the Library Lecture Hall, Church Street, Weybridge at 3.00 pm. Visitors: £1.

18th January

"Buried Warriors: Saxon Weapons discovered in Surrey" by Paul Hill to the Friends of Kingston Museum and Heritage Service, in the Market House, Market Place, Kingston at 8.00 pm. Visitors: £1.50.

18th January

"A History of Trinity House" by Captain Nick Kettlewell RN, to the West Surrey Historical Association, at the Friends' Meeting House, North Street, Guildford, at 7.30 pm.

20th January

"Puttenham – The People's Village" by David Inglesant to the Farnham & District Museum Society at the United Reformed Church Hall, South Street, Farnham at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

21st January

"Family Life in 19th century Kingston" by Peter Tilley to the Leatherhead & District Local History Society in the Dixon Hall, Letherhead Institute, 67 High Street at 7.30 for 8.00 pm. Non-members £2.

21st January

"From Downe to Galapagos – Charles Darwin" by Ray and Pat Kilsby to the Merton Historical Society at the Snuff Mill Environmental Centre, Morden at 2.30 pm.

22nd January

"Conservation areas in the old Esher UDC and their future enhancement" by Conservation Officers Janet Baxter and Clare Smith to the Esher District Local History Society at Molesey Day Centre, School Road, East Molesey at 2.30 pm.

25th January

"The Royal Arsenal, Woolwich" by Wesley Harry to the Surrey Industrial History Group in Lecture Theatre F, University of Surrey, Guildford, at 7.30 pm.

25th January

"Co-operative Development: Local to International" by Ron Roffey to the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society at Hawkstone Hall, Kennington Road opposite Lambeth North Underground station at 7 for 7.30 pm. Visitors £1.

26th January

"The making of the Croydon Local Board of Health" by Brian Lancaster to the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society in the Small Hall of the United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon, at 7.45 pm.

27th January

"Victorian Guildford, part 2" by Eric Hunter to the Farnham & District Museum Society at the United Reformed Church Hall, South Street, Farnham at 7.30 for 7.45 pm.

2nd February

"Auxerre, Dijon and Clamecy: gothic architecture in Burgundy" by Dr Alexandra Kennedy to the British Archaeological Association at the Society of Antiquaries of London, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London. Tea is served from 4.30 pm and the Chair is taken at 5.00 pm. Non-members are welcome, but are asked to make themselves known to the Hon Director on arrival, and to sign the visitors' book.

3rd February

"Coverdale Memorial Lecture: The Splendours of Roman London" by Robin Nielsen, to the Farnham & District Museum Society in the Barley Room, Farnham Maltings, 7.45 p.m. (doors open at 7.15 p.m.). Admission: F&DMS members £1; non-members £2.

5th February

"Croydon's Archives" by Steven Griffiths to the Beddington, Carshalton and Wallington Archaeological Society at Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, off Nightingale Road, Carshalton at 3.00 pm.

9th February

"The Archaeology of the Kitchen Garden" by Lesley Howes to the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society in the Small Hall of the United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon, at 7.45 pm.

12th February

"Around the Cricket Green, Mitcham" by Eric Montague to the Merton Historical Society at The Canons, Madeira Road, Mitcham at 2.30 pm.

15th February

"The Kew Bridge Steam Museum and its relevance to London's Water Supply" by Ron Howes to the Surrey Industrial History Group in Lecture Theatre F, University of Surrey, Guildford, at 7.30 pm.

15th February

"Bede" by Dr C Grocock, formerly Director of the Bede Museum, to the West Surrey Historical Association, at the Friends' Meeting House, North Street, Guildford, at 7.30 pm.

18th February

"Buildings Conservation" by Richard Eckersley to the Leatherhead & District Local History Society in the Dixon Hall, Letherhead Institute, 67 High Street at 7.30 for 8.00 pm. Non-members £2.

19th February

"The Historical Importance of the River Thames" by Patrick Prottis to the Walton and Weybridge Local History Society at the Walton Day Centre, Manor Road, Walton-on-Thames at 3.00 pm. Visitors: £1.

22nd February

"19th Century Directory Wars" by Roy Edwards to the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society at Hawkstone Hall, Kennington Road opposite Lambeth North Underground station at 7 for 7.30 pm. Visitors £1.

Next Issue: Copy required by 21st January for the February issue.

Editor: Phil Jones, 5, Hampton Road, Newbury, Berks RG14 6DB. Tel/Fax: 01635 581182.

From myself, Maureen Roberts at Castle Arch and Liz Whitbourn your distributor, we wish all members a Happy New Year.