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## SURREY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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# Bulletin 343

November 2000



***Staines Execution Burials: The Dates***

## **A Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman Execution Site at Staines** *Graham Hayman*

The discovery of a substantial cemetery at 42-54 London Rd, Staines was reported on in *Bulletin* 331. It was suggested at that time that many of the burials were part of a Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman execution site, but, as there was no direct dating evidence for the burials, it was difficult to be certain. Radiocarbon dating has now been carried out on bone from three of the skeletons at the Scottish Universities Research and Reactor Centre and produced the following results (all at single standard deviation)

Context 226 cal AD 694-879

Context 241 cal AD 1021-1157

Context 277 cal AD 1040-1209

These results enable the character of the cemetery to be defined more precisely, and provide an opportunity to relate it to a number of other human burials found in the local area in the last few years.

At least eleven of the graves, and sixteen of the individuals represented, were either certain or probable executions, and there are pointers to six others being of similar origin. The burials with radiocarbon dates, because of their relationship to other features and bodies, demonstrate that most of the burials belong to the period between the 8th and 12th centuries AD. It is possible that this date range applies to all the skeletons in the cemetery, though the discovery of an inhumation at nearby 18-32 London Road that has been dated to the Roman period by the presence of hobnails around its feet, raises sufficient cause for uncertainty as whether other earlier burials may also be present in the vicinity (this assumes that the nails have been correctly dated); a second burial at 18-32 London Road could not be dated, but may have been an execution victim.

Other burials have been found in the vicinity at Staines House (1-13 London Rd), near the old Police Station at the junction of London Road and Kingston, and at another site roughly 1km to the east. A double inhumation found at Staines House was curious (the bodies were laid end to end in the grave and legs of each had been deliberately intertwined) and may have contained execution victims, and the single burial so far discovered close to a Roman farmstead further east along London Road was almost certainly an execution. At the Police Station site a poorly preserved inhumation was discovered a few metres to the north of two Roman cremation burials. None of these inhumations have been securely dated, so it is difficult to comment on the likelihood of their contemporaneity or of the use of this part of the town as a cemetery in different periods, but, as far as the executions are concerned, it would be unusual for burials of broadly the same period to be spread over so large an area. They are usually to be found within a limited or defined area close to the place of execution. It is worth noting at this point, that the dateable executions so far discovered in Surrey all belong to the Late Saxon or Saxo-Norman periods, these being found within cemeteries at Guilddown, near Guildford (Lowther 1931), and at the former Goblin Works, near Ashtead (Poulton 1989, and Hayman 1992). It is hoped that in the future it may be possible to obtain radiocarbon dates for some of the other burials mentioned here, and further archaeological work to be carried out to the east over the next few years may determine whether the grave discovered there was isolated or part of a larger group of burials.

### **References**

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Lowther, A W G, 1931 The Saxon Cemetery at Guilddown, Guildford, Surrey, *SyAC*, 39, 1-50  
Poulton, R, 1989 Rescue excavations on an early Saxon cemetery site and a later (probably late Saxon) execution site at the former Goblin Works, Ashtead, near Leatherhead, *SyAC*, 79, 67, 97

## It's Walworth but Where Is It?

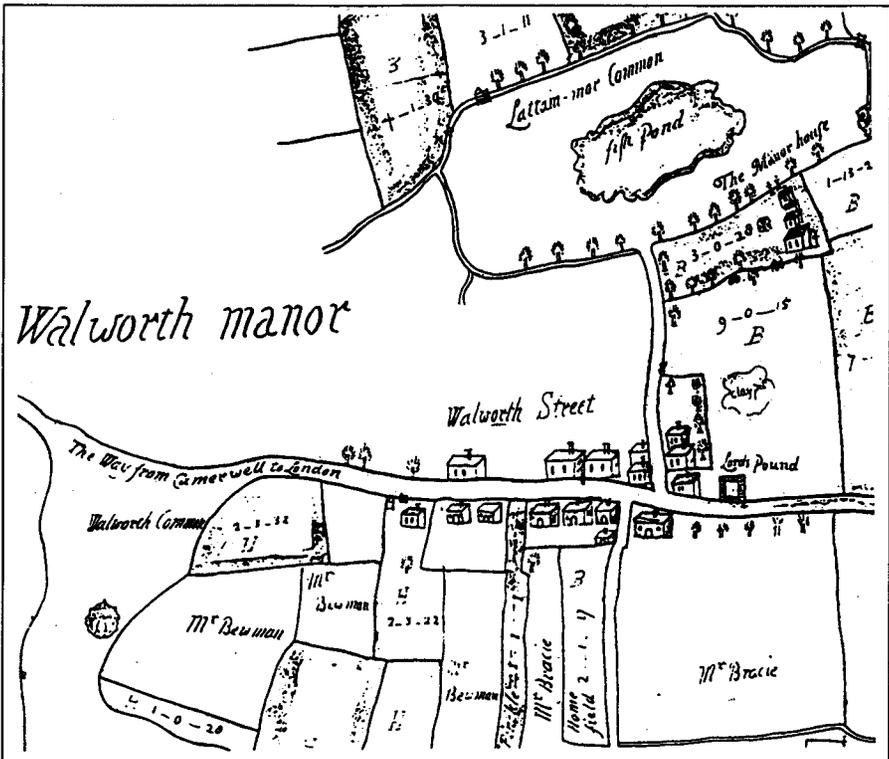
Graham Dawson

When the Metropolitan Borough of Southwark was formed it included, besides the western parishes of the medieval borough of Southwark, the civil parish of Newington which stretched from St George's Church to Westmoreland Road and from Kennington Park Road to the Old Kent Road.

This area was known manorially as Walworth and though technically the two terms are co-terminous, there is a tendency in the Middle Ages for places in the northern part to be said to be in Newington and for Walworth to be used for those in the southern part. This idea that the places are separate is most clearly expressed in a deed in St Thomas' Hospital Cartulary (no 249) which described seven acres called *Prestelond* as being in Newington next Walworth.

Walworth has always been of interest to historians because the first element is the Anglo-Saxon word which gave rise to the modern word Welsh, though it could also mean slave. I am not sure whether its original meaning was slave and came to be transferred to the surviving Romano-British population because they were largely enslaved by the incoming Saxons, or the other way round. In any case the place name has been used as evidence for the survival of a Romano-British group in that area into the Saxon period.

Newington obviously has the element 'new' in it, but how long ago it was 'new' is difficult to establish. The '-ington' element is not closely datable but is not an early type and goes on being used to form place names after the Norman Conquest as at Kennington (Dawson 1976, 4-5). What does seem to be established about it



Detail of Hill's map of Walworth 1681

though is that it denoted secondary settlement as here and at Kennington. So we seem to have a picture of an early settlement of some sort, though probably not a village since 'worth' is usually translated as farm, but perhaps of a remnant Romano-British population, with a secondary settlement grafted onto it at some later date.

These thoughts were inspired by coming across two deeds enrolled on (PRO C54/612 25 \* C54/619 26) which were listed under Walworth but which, when I read them, clearly did not relate to the above Walworth. The first was a mortgage by Richard Holte to Thos Bysater and the second a sale by Holte to Anthony and Elizabeth Walker. They both concerned the same land whose location is not actually given in the mortgage, but in the sale is stated to be in the parish of Battersea. Both give the precise details of the location and it is these details that bear on Walworth; for it included three acres which were said to be in a furlong (a subdivision of a field) called Walworth and two acres of these abutted on a field called Little Walworth. They both also included the dwelling house of Holte who is said to be 'of Battersea' and another piece of land involved abutted on to the land of the Abbot of Westminster who held the manor of Battersea in the Middle Ages and another was in a field called Thorney.

The presence of such names in Battersea would clearly strengthen and extend the idea of a Romano-British enclave in South London in the early Saxon period. On the other hand, there is a place name in Newington which appears to come from the other side of the story. This is *Stewfen* a low-lying area in the angle of New Kent Road and Newington Causeway. In fact, the early forms of the name show that it was originally '*Tiw's Fen*' and in the 16th century it was sometimes corrupted to *Tuffen*. Tiw was a Saxon god of war, from which we get the name Tuesday. Place names involving pagan Saxon deities are rare, so rare that even a general work can list them all (Stenton 1946). For Tiw just four are listed, one of which is also in Surrey at Tuesley. It is generally assumed that such place names indicate sites of pagan worship, though I am not totally convinced of this. For example, Wansdyke (Wodens dyke) could easily have got its name after the Conversion when the purpose of the dyke had been forgotten and such spectacular features were believed to be superhuman; it is difficult to see how such a long feature could mark the site of pagan worship. A fen does not seem to be a more likely focus of pagan Saxon worship, however, and it is comforting that it occurs in Newington rather than the Walworth part of the parish.

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*From the June 2000 Newsletter of the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society, with many thanks.*

#### **A Newly-discovered Limekiln Type at Betchworth Limeworks (TQ 207512)**

**Paul W Sowan**

The Betchworth limeworks of the former Dorking Greystone Lime Co Ltd is already famous for its splendid assemblage of rare limekiln survivals. Recent archaeological investigation has revealed a seventh kiln type recorded for the site. This adds considerably to the site's already recognised high archaeological interest (*Bulletin* 326, 1-3 (1999)) and fully supports the kilns' three-star status under English Heritage's Monuments Protection Programme review of the lime industry, and suitability for designation as Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

## ***Previously Recorded Kiln Types***

**Flare Kilns** - the southern and eastern batteries were originally built as two banks of flare kilns; the lower parts and access tunnels of these survive despite later modifications.

**Hoffman kilns** - very early in the site's management by the Dorking Greystone Lime Co Ltd (incorporated 1865) two circular Hoffman kilns were erected, these being claimed as the first use of such kilns in England for lime-burning; the tall central chimneys have long since been demolished, although as both kilns were semi-subterranean and served by a railway tunnel it is likely that substantial parts survive below ground.

**Brockham kilns** - several, or possibly all, of the eastern battery flare kilns were subsequently rebuilt according to the patent (1899: 1,578) of Alfred Bishop, of the nearby Brockham limeworks; the northernmost kiln is a 'Brockham' kiln although it has lost its pre-heating/drying zone 'pot' and is now very difficult to examine under a sea of buddleia - it was never modernised as this end of the kiln block was damaged by hearthstone mining subsidence in about 1929. Brockham kilns are also known to survive at Brockham and Oxted limeworks, and have been recorded but do not survive at Merstham.

**Standard draw/running kilns** - the remainder of the eastern battery kilns were finally converted to ordinary draw kilns, and worked as such until the works' closure in the 1960s.

**Smidth-style kilns** - a large tall rectangular-section kiln, described as a 'modified Dietzsch kiln' by the Company, was built in the late 1890s but never fired; this is now the most prominent structure on the site, and is in pristine condition internally. In design it very closely resembles the patent of Smidth (1898: 16,665). This structure appears to be a unique survival in the UK.

**Dietzsch kilns** - in 1887 a pair of Dietzsch kilns was erected, back-to-back with a common pre-heating zone tower above the westernmost flare kiln in the southern battery, and a further such pair in 1897 on the third flare kiln from the west end. These were patented by Philip Middleton Justice after the design of Carl Dietzsch of Malstatt (a suburb of Saarbrücke) (1883: 1,578) and although disused since about 1936. Remain remarkably well preserved including much of their ancillary ironwork fittings, workmen's shelters, etc. Dietzsch kilns, perhaps for their original intended purpose of cement manufacture, are known to have been operated in north Kent and in north-east England, but those at Betchworth appear to be the sole UK survivors.

**1924 Hydrating plant** - In 1924 the Company built a hydrating plant in and above the easternmost three flare kiln chambers and two access tunnels. This was amongst the earliest commercial hydrating plants, and survived for some years after it was superseded by a new plant in 1956. The iron framed/asbestos clad structure has subsequently been demolished, although interesting traces of its lowermost parts are preserved in the old flare kiln chambers and tunnels underneath.

## ***1938 Separate-feed kiln***

Detailed archaeological examination of the southern battery has now revealed that one of the former flare-kiln chambers was rebuilt with two lime discharge points within the southern battery substructure, and an entirely separate coaling-point and grate accessed from the south-face. Examination of this exceptionally constricted space (a shoulder-width crawl is required - there is no room to turn round!) reveals that the fuel and ash were always kept quite separate from the chalk and lime, flames and hot kiln bases penetrating the calcining chamber only by way of a perforated refractory brick ceiling. Although the inserted brickwork of this interesting structure bears the date 1938, nothing else is currently known about its period of operation. Measured drawings are being prepared for publication.

## ***Conservation***

All kilns on the Betchworth and Brockham sites are important winter sites for hibernating bats, and should not be visited during the hibernation season, approximately October to March. In fact, knowing this, readers of this note would be acting illegally making any such visits. The structures are, also, potentially hazardous at present, with unstable brickwork and ironwork, holes in unexpected places, etc. They are not publicly accessible. The author is making a detailed study, with limited

excavation, of some of these kilns in liaison with the Surrey Wildlife Trust, which body has Landfill Tax Rebate funds for restoration work. The work envisaged is intended to improve and make more safe and secure the structures for bat hibernation, whilst safeguarding their industrial archaeological interest. It is envisaged that from time to time, by prior arrangement with the author and with SWT, small groups will ultimately be able to enjoy guided tours during the summer months.

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## **COUNCIL MATTERS**

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### **Reminders:**

Firstly: the Annual General Meeting will be held on the 26th November at the Letherhead Institute at 3.30 pm. The Agenda was given in *Bulletin 342*, and the *Annual Report and Accounts* are being circulated with this issue.

Secondly: the Millennium Conference on Village Studies is being held on the 25th and 26th November at the Letherhead Institute in association with the AGM.

The conference includes a series of short presentations by some of the groups who are participating. There will be displays of maps and other work, together with local society and other publications for sale. Details were published in *Bulletin 341*. Admission is free, but a contribution to tea/coffee would be appreciated.

Enclosed is a slip, which please return if you are hoping to attend all or any part of the weekend. This does NOT preclude you from deciding to come at the last minute, but it would be helpful to have some idea of numbers at this stage.

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## **COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY**

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### **Landscape Survey Projects**

*Audrey Monk*

#### ***Banstead Heath***

First of all apologies to all those who turned up on the 16th September at Banstead Methodist Hall. Unfortunately due to the fuel crisis and the difficulties of some of our speakers getting to Banstead, we decided to abandon this meeting. We plan to hold the meeting early next year, when the results of the project are known. The survey, however, is still on course. A first training session was held as planned on the 30th September, and anyone interested in participating can still take part.

For further details contact: Chris Currie - Tel: 02380 696232; e-mail: Ccurrie260@aol.com

#### ***Mickleham Downs***

The good news is that our application for funding to the Countryside Agency under Lottery Heritage Initiative scheme was successful. This is for the second phase of the project - ie undertaking further work and research into areas identified as worthy of further investigation in the report into the potential Areas of Special Historic Landscape Value status prepared by Chris Currie for Surrey County Council.

This phase of the project is being led by Judie English, and is already achieving significant results. An important element of the application for funding is the involvement of local volunteers and the potential educational benefit to the local community and visitors to the area. At the conclusion of the project, interpretation boards will be provided on Mickleham Down, and leaflets prepared for school parties, local museums and the National Trust.

There is still time to join in the project and anyone who wishes to become involved should contact Judie English - Tel: 01483 276724 - e-mail: jenglish@surrey.ac.uk

### **Puttenham**

The landscape project at Puttenham, launched in May, is still in progress and anyone wishing to participate should contact Chris Currie as above.

### **The Future**

The second piece of good news is that Surrey County Council has agreed to renew the partnership with the Society, which means that funding for the project is assured for a future two years.

The potential ASHLV's which we shall be asked to investigate have not yet been selected, but details will be announced in future issues of the *Bulletin*.

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## **PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE**

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### **Papers in preparation for publication in *Surrey Archaeological Collections***

A key to the acronyms used:

MoLAS	Museum of London Archaeological Service
TVAS	Thames Valley Archaeological Services
WA	Wessex Archaeology
PCA	Pre-Construct Archaeology
OAU	Oxford Archaeological Unit
AOC	Archaeological Operations and Conservation Ltd

### **Accepted**

Prehistoric and Roman settlement in Reigate Road, Ewell, by Jon Cotton, based on fieldwork by T K Walls, 1946-52

Recent finds from Surrey 1997-9, by David Williams.

### **Refereed and still waiting consideration**

Elmwood Playing Fields site, Wallington, MoLAS

RAF Chessington, TVAS

High Street, Dorking, TVAS

Kingston trading tokens of the 17th century and their issuers, by Tim Everson

St John's Vicarage, Old Malden, by Phil Andrews of WA

Baynards Mansion, Cranleigh, by Judie English

The swords from the Saxon cemetery at Mitcham, by Hill andThompson

Fairylands Caravan Park, Laleham, by Robin Taylor-Wilson of PCA

Mesolithic and Late Bronze Age activity at London Road, Beddington, by Bagwell, Bishop and Gibson of PCA

Battersea Flour Mills: Medieval and Post-medieval manor houses, by Nicholas Cooke of WA

### **Recently received, to be/being reviewed**

Croydon Tramlink excavations by Christopher Bell, of OAU

Athorpe Grove excavations 1975-8: Saxon and medieval settlement, by Lyn Blackmore and Bob Cowie of MoLAS

Water turbines in Surrey, by Alan Crocker

Henry Smith Charities, by Ernest Crossland

The smaller brick, stone and weatherboard houses of Surrey, 17th to mid-19th century, by George Howard

**Volume 88: Prehistoric volume**, by the Surrey County Archaeological Unit

## Notified in preparation

Franks' Sandpit, Betchworth, by David Williams  
St Mary's Barnes, by Scott McCracken  
Wallington bronze axes, Jon Cotton and Stuart Needham  
Kettlebury 103: Mesolithic site, by Michael Reynier  
Medieval Surrey potters, by Phil Jones  
Buckingham collection, by Mary Alexander  
Saxon Guildford, by Mary Alexander  
Paul Sowan has papers on stone quarrying, hearthstone mining and lime burning in preparation  
The parish church of St Giles, Ashtead, by Howard Davies  
Steve Dyer: London Heathrow (Terminal 4); Kingston Road and George Street, Staines; Orchid Court, Egham; Manor Farm, Egham; Squires Nurseries, Shepperton; Cocks Farm, Abinger; Neolithic axe from Shepperton; Barbed and tanged arrowhead from Dorking; Poyle Park.  
Cranleigh Rectory medieval moated site excavation, by Judie English  
Manor Farm Buildings, Old Malden, Robin Nielsen of MoLAS  
Dennis Turner: Belchingley and the Barons Wars; Excavations at Blechingley Castle; The Dammartin family; Thunderfield; The Godalming chase  
Excavations in Chertsey, AOC Archaeology  
Merton Priory, Scott McCracken *et al*  
Dewey and Randyll, Chilworth 1650-1670, by Keith Fairclough

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## LIBRARY NEWS

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### 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*, are omitted here. As before, each entry includes the author, title, publisher and date of publication, followed by the four-digit accession number, and classification number indicating the shelf location of the book.

#### GENERAL

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Knight, David *Growing up in Westcott in the 1940s and 50s.* Dorking LHG 1995 8554  
P31 DOR

Lindsey, CF *Around Wandsworth: history and leisure in Balham, Battersea, Clapham,  
Earlsfield, Putney, Roehampton, Southfields, Tooting and Wandsworth.* CF Lindsey  
1991 8495 P31 WDW

Littledale, Helen *Box Hill.* Box Hill Management Committee 1994 8524 P31 MIC

Locke, Arthur *A short history of Woking.* 1980 8494 P31 WOK

MacRobert, Scott *Putney: a brief history.* The Putney Society 1977 8493 P31 PTY

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- 1900-1930: *A Surrey village in its heyday*. Walton-on-the-Hill & District LHS 2000 8460 P31 WAL.H
- Miller, Jim *Jacobs Well: how the name got its village. An investigation*. 1994 8492 P31 GFD
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- Muddle, John H *Chiddingfold including Witley and Dunsfold; the official guide*. Chiddingfold Parish Council n.d. 8536 P31 CHI
- Mumford, WF *Pages from the past in Oxted, Limpsfield and Tandridge*. Courier Printing & Publishing Co Ltd 1949 8490 P31 OX
- Nelson, Stephen *Some recent archaeological work in Epsom*. London Archaeologist nd 8489 F31 EP
- Newman, W E *The story of Farnham*. Langhams 1976 8551 P31 FRN
- Nightingale, Derek *Newlands Corner and its environs: a historical background and observations*. D Nightingale 1994 8487 P31 ALB
- Nightingale, Derek *Marrow village then and now*. D Nightingale nd 8488 P31 ME
- Norwood Society *On the trail of Norwood*. Norwood Society 1986 8527 P31 NOR
- O'Kelly, Terence *The villages of Abinger Common and Wotton, Surrey: snippets of history*. 1988 8486 P31 AB
- Parfitt, Judy *A century of village memories: Lower Kingswood remembered*. 1993 8556 P31 KND
- Parratt, Jean *Farnham Past*. Phillimore 1999 8428 P31 FRN
- Philips, John *A short guide to Carew Manor*. LB Sutton Leisure Services 1989 8535 P31 BED
- Plastow, Norman *A history of Wimbledon and Putney Commons*. Conservators of Wimbledon and Putney Commons 1986 8485 P31 WIM
- Polack, Bernard *The Catholic parish of St Edmund, King & Martyr, Godalming 1899-1999: a centenary commemorative history* 2000 8385 P31 GOD.
- Pooley, Beryl *The changing face of Shottersmill recorded and illustrated*. Acorn Press nd 8484 P31 HSL
- Rendell, Maureen *The history of the Manor of Frimley 666-1600*. Vol. 1. Midas Press 1975 8534 P31 FRI
- Rideout, EH *Curious Albury*. 1980 8563 P31 ALB
- Rideout, EH *The Ockley visitor [and] the church*. 1978 8505 P31 OCY
- Rowe, Alicia *A short history of Oxted and district*. Rowe 1991 8483 P31 OX
- R.S.M. *Memorial brasses in St Mary's Church, Stoke D'Abernon*. nd 8516 P31 ST.D
- Ryan, Meg *Betchworth within living memory. Part III. Doctors, Builders, Post Office, Shops*. n.d. 8541 P31 BET
- Saaler, Peter *The houses of Caterham Valley 1868-1939*. Peter Saaler 1982 8537 P31 CAT
- Salter, Brian *Coombe, Shirley and Addington*. Living History Publications 1974 8528 P31 MA
- Salter, Brian *Epsom, Downs and Common*. Living History Publications 1976 8555 P31 EP
- Salter, Brian *Selsdon and Croham*. Living History Publications 1983 8529 P31 CRY
- Salter, Brian *Central Croydon*. Living History Publications 1973 8530 P31 CRY
- Sampson, June *Kingston: a guide to the Old Town Conservation Area*. The KuT Society 1976 8520 P31 KNG
- Scears, Ernest *A history of Reigate Priory*. nd 8482 P31 REI
- Sibthorpe, Allen *Roman pavement at Worplesdon in Surrey*. Soc of Antiquaries 1831 F31 WOR
- Skelly, John *The story of Chatley Heath Tower 1822-1848*. SCC 1989 8481 P31 COB
- Spong, June *Around Dorking and Box Hill*. Tempus 1999 8455 P31 DOR
- Stewart, Frances *Croydon history in field and street name*. AMCD Ltd 1992 8480 P31 CRY

- Taylor, David C *Cobham houses and their occupants: a thousand years of history.*  
Appleton Publications 1999 8388 P31 COB
- Tharby, WG *The history of Coulsdon West.* Coulsdon West Residents Association  
1972 8531 P31 COU
- Watts, Mrs G *The word in the pattern: a key to the symbols on the wall of the Chapel  
at Compton.* Soc for the Arts and Crafts 2000 8383 P31 COM
- Wedgwood, CV *Leith Hill Place.* 1953 8477 P31 DOR
- Weekes, Margery *Eighty years ago ... and yesterday: memories of Malden.* 1990  
8521 P31 MA
- White, Neil *Weybridge Past.* Phillimore 1999 8415 P31 WEY
- Williams, David *Betchworth: excavations at Frank's Sandpit.* 1996 8445 F31 BET

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## ACCESSIONS TO REPOSITORIES IN 1999

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### A selection of those received

#### Croydon Archives Service

- 534 Coulsdon manor court rolls 1359-1692  
538 Scrapbook of H H Pereira, Bishop of Croydon, 1876-1904

#### Lambeth Archives

- 1999/5 Letters re family of John Capp 19th c  
1999/16 Photographs of Brixton residents by Harry Jacob, studio photographer  
1950s-1970s

#### Sutton Heritage Service

- 488 Personal papers of A E Jones, author and local historian, Carshalton. 20thc.  
(*Unlisted material not yet available to the public.*)  
477 Personal and business records of the Haydon family and butcher's shop,  
Carshalton. 18th-20thc.

#### Southwark Local Studies Library

Papers concerning the evacuation of children to Stoke Gabriel, Devon 1940-1.  
Property and partnership deeds of Cole's Wharf and Newell's Wharf, Shad  
Thames, Southwark, 1787-1909.

*To be continued*

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## MISCELLANY

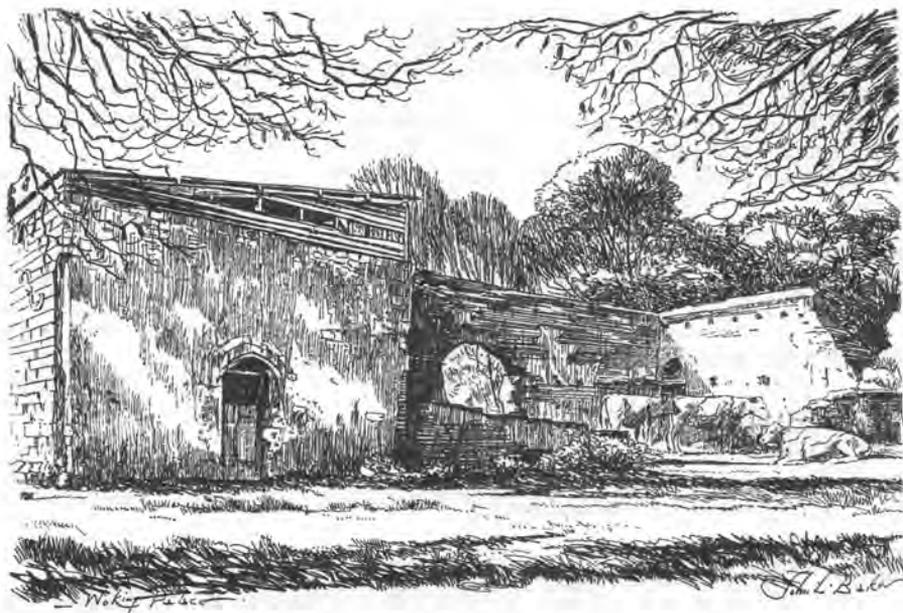
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### Woking Palace Consultative Panel

The Panel, which consists of representatives of interested parties including the Society and local residents, exists to advise Woking Borough Council on the management of Woking Palace.

The manor of Woking has existed since before the Norman Conquest, and the site, which lies next to the uncanalised Wey in Old Woking, is believed to have been moated by the late 13th century. It changed hands on several occasions and was occasionally a royal holding. Henry VIII considerably extended the buildings between 1532 and 1542, and much of the surviving structure on the site is thought to date from this period.

The site has been the subject of several programmes of investigation over the last century or so, with proper recording in the past eight years. The Surrey County



*Woking Palace in a dilapidated condition in 1974. Drawing by John Baker*

Archaeological Unit undertook a structural examination of the foundations of upstanding walls in 1993. More recently, Woking Borough Council has commissioned Steve Dyer to carry out topographic and resistivity surveys of the site, an auger survey of the moats, supervision of amateur diving operations in the Wey, and a programme of limited excavation to inform management of the remains.

In recent decades the standing remains have deteriorated seriously, and in the past two years limited building conservation works have been carried out to consolidate the walls of the King's Hall. This is a preliminary step in the Borough's proposals to improve the site's setting and to encourage greater access - both physical and intellectual - to the most important of Woking's four Scheduled Ancient Monuments. The Palace is also a Site of Nature Conservation Importance, and the meadows on the opposite side of the Wey are a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The Borough proposes to create a country park with the archaeological remains as a centrepiece. It purchased the site of the Palace in 1986 from Burhill Estates, who own the surrounding land and hence control access. The park proposals form part of the Borough Local Plan, which has now been adopted. This status gives the Borough the right to use a Compulsory Purchase Order to acquire the surrounding land and to provide access to the site via a public footpath: with this power in reserve the Borough is now in negotiation with the landowners about a voluntary sale.

The Panel met formally on three occasions in 1999/2000 and had one informal site visit guided by Steve Dyer and Barry Williams (Principal Planning Officer). It has advised the Borough on

- completion of the consolidation works
- reports on the archaeological investigations
- proposed extension of the Scheduled area
- proposed designation as an Area of Historic Landscape Value
- appropriate liaison with Thames Water over their obligations under the Water Act

to take proper account of the historic environment when developing the nearby sewage works.

- loan of artefacts to The Galleries (the new Woking museum)
- land ownership, public access, car parking and signing
- grazing, nettle clearance, coppicing, oak propagation and removal of hybrid daffodils from the extensive wild population
- rabbit control and stock fencing

## **The Work of the South East Film and Video Archive**

The South East Film and Video Archive (SEFVA) was established in 1992 to locate, collect, preserve and promote films and videotapes made in the four counties of Surrey, Kent and East and West Sussex. SEFVA is part of the University of Brighton and is supported by the local authorities of Surrey, East Sussex, West Sussex, Kent and Brighton and Hove, and also by the University of Kent and by South East Arts.

Film is a fragile medium and needs specialised expertise and equipment if it is to be preserved and made accessible and a closely controlled environment for its storage; thus there has long been a need for a regional film archive to ensure the moving picture heritage of the South East is preserved.

The heritage is a very rich one. Surrey alone can boast the pioneer Cecil Hepworth, whose studio was in Walton upon Thames, and the Shepperton studios, where many celebrated films have been made. However, the purpose of the film archive is not so much to obtain copies of commercial films made in the region (although it does aim to do this) but to seek out films relating to local organisations and events, or reflecting some aspect of life in the South East, whether made by amateurs or professionals. Such films are of great value as a source for social history, unrivalled in their immediacy and the directness and poignancy of the images they contain.

A great number must have been lost over the years and many which are still extant are lurking in attics and basements, often deteriorating fast. Indeed some early films are nitrate based and can become unstable and even spontaneously combust. SEFVA aims to provide a home for such films where they can be conserved and stored in the correct environment in a repository at West Sussex Record Office in Chichester. Video copies of films will be made for viewing and these will be available for consultation at various study centres throughout the region; the study centre at the Surrey History Centre at Woking is to be formally launched in September 2000. A computerised catalogue of SEFVA's ever-increasing holdings is currently being prepared by the SEFVA archivist which will be available on the Internet.

SEFVA is always searching for films and videos to add to its holdings. Anyone wishing to donate, deposit as a long-term loan, or loan for copying films in their possession, or who would like more information about the Archive's work, should contact Frank Gray, SEFVA curator, University of Brighton, Grand Parade, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 2JY (tel 01273 643213) or Michael Page, head of acquisitions, Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking, GU21 1ND.

## **Pyrford Place (again)**

**Mary Alexander**

When I wrote the note which appeared in October's *Bulletin* 342 I had not done much research. I have now realised that the roof timbers could easily be late 16th or early 17th century and I have come to the conclusion that the summerhouse *could* have been there while John Donne was living at Pyrford Place, but there is no definite proof either way. However, I would still like to know if anyone has information about it.

As far as the moat goes, I ended the note with what I thought was a rhetorical question about it not being a 17th or 18th century garden feature, and I now find that

it could indeed be a 17th century feature. At least two early 17th century authors recommended digging moats around gardens for drainage, particularly around orchards, where they would also be useful protection against vermin. The moats would enhance the appearance of the garden and would provide food in the form of fish and water fowl, and pleasure in the form of boating and catching the fish and fowl.

I have no idea how many people followed this advice, but it has obvious implications for archaeologists. I still do not know whether the moat at Pyrford is medieval or later. Its apparent absence from the early 17th century map is not conclusive, because it may not have been relevant to the purpose for which the map was drawn - and we don't know what that was. Why is nothing easy?

#### **Reference**

- 1 Judith Roberts, "The Gardens of the Gentry in the late Tudor period", *Garden History*, Vol 27, no.1, Summer 1999, 89-108.

### **Kenneth Gravett Memorial Meeting**

*Derek Renn*

Nearly an hundred people attended the meeting organised by the Surrey Archaeology Society and Surrey Local History Council on a sunny Saturday afternoon on 23 September.

Alan Crocker opened by thanking Guildford Borough Council for making the Wanborough Great Barn freely available, which he went on to briefly describe. Most of its timbers were felled in 1388, although a few were earlier and had been re-used. It was later widened, lengthened and lowered in the eighteenth century. (Matthew Alexander's new guidebook was on sale).

Dennis Turner gave his personal memoir (see *Bulletin* 335, 8-9), recalling Ken's faintly querulous but chuckling voice and his freshness and enthusiasm; the precocious schoolboy he remained throughout his life. Ken never relied on a script but on 'flashcards' held at waist (?) level. With over 12,000 books (to say nothing of booklets) in his house, Dennis thought it providential that Ken had been an electrical, rather than a structural, engineer.

Since Peter Gray was unable to deliver his advertised paper, Nigel Barker gave the audience an overview of Surrey's ecclesiastical and domestic architecture, recalling how Ken began helping him in 1984, as the newly-appointed researcher for the resurvey of Surrey's historic buildings, with a 'total immersion' session at Mayford. He emphasised the frequent happy choice of site and use of local materials. Nigel took us from Saxo-Norman Wotton to the Guildford cathedral of the 1930s, bringing out the significance of many unfamiliar churches like Frensham, Seale, Holmbury St Mary, Limsfield Chart, the rebuilding of Wonersh, and Weston Green - Maufe's preamble to the cathedral.

Dr Barker ranged similarly through houses, from Old Court Cottage at Limsfield with its timber aisle capitals of c1200, to Erno Goldfinger's single-storey Camberley house of glass and imported pine. The revival of the 'Surrey style' had a false start in Pugin's Oxenford Grange, but the work of Street and Shaw at Holmbury St Mary (Holmesdale and Hopedene), and the enlargement of earlier houses like Crowhurst Place and Great Tangle were designed as entertaining, holiday homes rather than family residences. Lutyens' houses often had a quirky individuality, like the Y-plan lodge to Shere Manor. In a discussion over the use of Bargate Stone, Peter Gray pointed out that it was the nearest local stone for much of Surrey, and stone (or later brick) had been essential for foundations and chimneys.

After tea Sarah Pearson spoke about Charing Palace, one of the 27 residences of the archbishops of Canterbury in Kent, Surrey and Sussex, in a barn beside which

Ken's Building Recorders' Group met periodically. There was evidence for a Norman building, but the main survival was part of an enormous unaisled Great Hall of c1300 with a two-storey porch and chamber block, kitchen, lodging ranges and gatehouse, alongside the parish church and market place. The private chamber-block was separate from the communal/ceremonial Great Hall and the two were only linked later, just as at Croydon Palace. Although visited by Henry VII and Henry VIII, Charing became less used when the 'lure of London' meant that the archbishops used Knole, Croydon or Lambeth.

I can best conclude with Dennis Turner's valediction on Ken: "It is far better for us to miss him than never to have known him."

## **What Shall I Do With My Records?**

**Graham Brown**

This half day conference, organised jointly by the Society and Surrey History Service (SHS), took place on 7th October 2000 at Surrey History Centre. Miss E. M. Myatt-Price took the chair.

After a brief welcome from County Archivist, David Robinson, the first speaker, Catherine Carey of SHS, illustrated the serious damage which inadequately protected records may suffer from dampness, light, fire and insect attack. To avoid this documents should be stored in a dry place at even temperature and not, for example, in a loft, cellar or garage. Document folders should be housed in cardboard boxes, to exclude light and insulate them from the external climate, and an outer metal box or filing cabinet provides a fire barrier. Good handling practices were also described.

Gillian Drew, the Society's Honorary Librarian, outlined the content of the library at Castle Arch and in particular the collections of maps, scrapbooks, family papers and other documents donated over the 150 years of the Society's existence. Much of the library's accommodation is far from ideal, but good storage practices have ensured that most of the collection is in sound condition. A part-time professional conservator works through the documents, making good any problems. The classified database is now on computer and it is hoped eventually to publish it on the Society's web site. The final talk, by Mary Mackey of SHS, covered the Surrey History Centre collection, highlighting such important items as the Loseley Papers, the records of the Broadwood piano manufacturing family and the Charles Dodgson (Lewis Carroll) papers. Many items have been deposited as gifts or on loan by churches, businesses, local clubs and societies and by private individuals. Some deposits have been received in poor condition and thousands of pounds of conservation work has sometimes been necessary. It is thus important that individuals look after documents in their care and also helpful if they can provide the centre with as much information as possible on their content, importance and origin when they are deposited.

## **London Assessment Document**

A decade or so ago English Heritage and the Museum of London, encouraged by the then Joint Working Party for London Archaeology, started work on an assessment of the current state of knowledge of the archaeology of Greater London. This was planned as a multi-author work but progress was slow and several of us have the odd draft chapter on file - received 'for comment'. It has now, at last, appeared under the title *The Archaeology of Greater London* - with the sub-heading *An assessment of archaeological evidence for human presence in the area now covered by Greater London*. It is priced at £26 but various discounts are available (e.g. members of SCOLA get 15% off).

The final work has no less than seventeen accredited authors, plus editors, etc. The result is an impressive synthesis, with descriptive chapters covering each period from the Lower Palaeolithic to the post-medieval, all but the last with its own highly selective gazetteer of sites and finds (the basis of selection is far from clear). There are no fewer than fourteen separate period maps but the symbols on the maps are difficult for any but the sharpest eyes to fully distinguish. The volume is well referenced throughout and the bibliography extends to a daunting, but informative 27 pages.

The book does not make for easy reading, but that is not its purpose - it is avowedly intended to serve as a reference work on which to found a research framework - the publication is to be followed shortly by a volume setting out an agenda for future archaeological work in London. The assessment document (LAD for short) will also serve as a tool for wider archaeological management and to meet local, regional and national enquiries. It is definitive but not a permanent book - as the foreword rather truisitically points out, the more quickly it seems in need of revision, the more successful it will have been in achieving its aims. The text is broken up with a number of sober illustrations, some showing excavators in traditional poses and one or two where artists have been encouraged to produce their impressions.

## **Bermondsey Training Excavation**

*Peter Pickering*  
*Assistant Secretary of SCOLA*

Birkbeck College's annual Training Excavation, directed by Harvey Sheldon, took place on a site in Grange Road, Bermondsey, during June and July, and was designed to evaluate the archaeological potential of the site. 125 students participated during the five weeks and the work was carried out with the assistance of the London Borough of Southwark and the Museum of London.

The site lay on Bermondsey Island, which, during the late prehistoric and Roman periods, was a relatively large area of dry land bounded by the Thames to the north and the 'Earl's Sluice' to the south.

Excavations and observations on sites in the vicinity have produced evidence of activity from the Neolithic period onward, and one objective of the investigation was to ascertain whether evidence of late prehistoric and Roman farming activity could be found. Although later prehistoric and Roman pottery and tile were found in both ancient ploughsoil and more modern deposits, no features relating to this early activity were discovered.

The site lay just east of the priory which dominated the manor of Bermondsey from the Norman period to the dissolution and probably formed part of the fields relating to Grange Farm. Sherds of Saxo-Norman pottery were found but no medieval features.

The final phase of agricultural activity was market gardening and bedding trenches of this date were located and investigated. In the mid-nineteenth century, with the growing industrialisation and urbanisation of Bermondsey, the site was developed for housing and was not finally cleared until after the Second World War. The remains of fairly grand houses along Grange Road and a more modest terrace along Alscot Road were identified, examined and recorded.

## **Finds Processing**

The processing of finds from various excavations takes place at Salters in Guildford on Tuesday evenings from 7.30 to 9.30. Anyone who would like to take part is asked to contact Judie English on 01483 276724 or e-mail: [j.english@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:j.english@surrey.ac.uk)

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## EXHIBITION

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### **The Woman and the Wolf: Sacred Monuments at Shepperton**

*Winter Exhibition at the Surrey History Centre*

*7th November - 29th December*

A sacred landscape of buried monuments found in a gravel quarry at Shepperton included a henge, a ceremonial avenue of pits, a boiling pit and a deep shaft. Radiocarbon dating suggests that this small area by the River Ash had probably been the focus of ritual activity for 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> thousand years from c3500-1000 BC. The exhibition will include some of the stunning finds from the site including the skeleton of a woman (the earliest in Surrey), the skull of a wolf that may have belonged to her, antler picks that had created the henge and many of the other finds recovered.

For further information about the exhibition contact Surrey History Centre, Goldsworth Road, Woking. Tel: 01463 594594.

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## COURSES

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### **WEALD & DOWNLAND OPEN AIR MUSEUM**

#### *Historic Building Conservation*

##### *Day Schools*

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 18th November | Paintwork in Historic Buildings. <i>Timothy Easton</i> . £80       |
| 21st November | Timber Decay and its Treatment. <i>Brian Ridout</i> . £80          |
| 14th December | Traditional Timber Frame Construction. <i>Richard Harris</i> . £70 |
| 17th January  | Timber: Identification of Species. <i>David Woodbridge</i> . £80   |
| 18th January  | Timber: Strength Grading. <i>David Woodbridge</i> . £80            |

##### *Linked Day Schools*

Recording Vernacular Buildings for Conservation. *Richard Harris*.

25th January Observing and sketching. £70

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## LECTURE MEETINGS

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### **4th November**

"Uses of tree-ring dating in old houses - some Hampshire examples" by Edward Roberts to the Domestic Buildings Research Group (Surrey) at the Village Centre, Steels Lane, Oxshott at 2.00 for 2.30 pm. Entrance £1.

### **4th November**

"Kew - its History and Plants" by Anne Bawtree to the Beddington, Carshalton and Wallington Archaeological Society, at Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, off Nightingale Road, Carshalton, at 3.00 pm.

### **6th November**

"The Classical sites of Libya" by Peter Youngs to the Guildford Archaeological Group at Salters, Castle Street, Guildford at 8.00 pm.

### **6th November**

"The History of Knaphill Nursery" by Mr Rowling to the Woking History Society, at Mayford Village Hall, Saunders Lane, Mayford, at 8.00 pm. Visitors £2.

### **7th November**

"The Mitcham Paint Industry" by Derek Hill to the Croydon Natural History and

Scientific Society at the Small Hall of the United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon at 7.45pm. For further information Tel: 0181 693 4887.

**11th November**

"Archaeology in Reigate" by David Williams to Unisearch at the Woodhatch Centre, Woodhatch at 2.30 pm. Visitors £2. For further information Tel: 01293 411176.

**15th November**

"Early History of Cycling in Surrey" by Les Bowerman to the Sunbury and Shepperton Local History Society at the Assembly Hall of Halliford School, Russell Road, Shepperton, at 8.00 pm. Non-members £1. For further information Tel: 01932 564585.

**17th November**

"The Surrey History Centre" by Julian Pooley to the Leatherhead and District Local History Society at the Dixon Hall of the Letherhead Institute at 7.30 for 8.00 pm. Visitors £2. For further information Tel: 01372 458396.

**18th November**

"The Sassoons of Ashley Park" by Michael Dane to Esher District Local History Society at Molesey Day Centre, School Road, East Molesey at 2.30 pm. For further information Tel: 01372 464759.

**21st November**

"Kingston and the Civil War" by Richard Milward to the Friends of Kingston Museum at the Market House, Market Place, Kingston at 8.00 pm. For further information Tel: 01372 463794.

**21st November**

"The Pastons: An Overall View" by Professor Colin Richmond to the West Surrey Branch of the Historical Association at the Friends Meeting House, Ward Street, Guildford at 7.30 pm.

**30th November**

"Matchboxes - A Grand Collection" by Roy Gyngell to the Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society in the Main Hall at the Literary Institute, Egham High Street, at 8.00 pm.

**18th December**

"A Guide to the Industrial History of Croydon" by members and visitors to the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society at the Small Hall of the United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon at 7.45pm. For further information Tel: 0181 693 4887.

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**Next Issue:** Copy required by 24th November for the November issue.

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