

SURREY
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Edited by Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Turner, 21 Evesham Road, Reigate.

EXCAVATION NOTICES

Nos. 6 - 16 THE PLATT, PUTNEY: R-B SETTLEMENT
(N.G.R.: TQ. 239767)

A previous excavation in the gardens of Nos. 6-12 The Platt revealed a ditch system which appears to have a 1st century date (see *Bulletin* No. 28). On top of these ditches was the corner of an early 2nd century hut, in the floor of which a burial urn was found. The purpose of this rescue excavation, arranged by the WANDSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY, is to recover the rest of the hut plan, and possibly further burial urns, while gaining more information on the date and purpose of the ditch system and searching for further traces of settlement.

Please bring your own trowel.

Directions. From Putney Bridge (south side) along the Lower Richmond Road: The Platt is the second turning on the left.

Transport: By Underground to Putney Bridge Station, then cross the bridge and turn right down Lower Richmond Road. By S.R. to Putney Station, turn right walk down Putney High Street, turn left at the bridge.

By bus Nos. 14, 22, 30, 74, 85, 93 or 220 to Putney Bridge or 37 to the top of Putney High Street and walk down.

Enquiries to: Mr. N. M. Farrant, 103A Howards Lane, S.W.15 (01-788 5206).

Dates: 2/3, 9/10 December, from 9.30 till dusk.

EXCAVATIONS IN EWELL VILLAGE

Directors: ROGER CAWS, MARTIN MORRIS and LEN BUCKINGHAM

The NONSUCH AND EWELL ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY are carrying out a series of excavations at sites in the High Street and Cheam Road prior to the development of the area as a car park. Excavation is continuing most weekends throughout the winter.

This is an opportunity for examining in detail a large and important area in the middle of Ewell from which a considerable quantity of R-B material has already come. Volunteers are urgently needed.

Enquiries to Roger Caws (01-788 8111, ext. 39) or Martin Morris (01-603 4622, ext. 210).

NOTES

Local history publications.

The Standing Conference for Local History (26 Bedford Sq., W.C.1) proposes to publish occasional numbers of a *Review Supplement* of local history publications. The *Review* will provide as complete a list as possible of all known works of interest to the local historian, published within a given period, together with articles each of which will be based on an analysis of a number of books dealing with a similar subject.

No difficulty is envisaged in obtaining details of books issued by the larger publishers or of the works of which copies are bought for the shelves of libraries. Difficulty will arise, however, in tracing the many smaller pamphlets and books published on various aspects of local history either by local history societies or by local historians.

The Standing Conference ask for assistance in gaining knowledge of any publication issued between 1st January, 1965 and 31st August, 1967. They require to know title, author, year of publication, source from which the publication is available and price. A brief note on subject matter if this is not indicated in the title should also be supplied.

(Miss B. Miller).

List of local history organisations :

The Surrey Archaeological Society and the Surrey Local History Council have jointly prepared the first draft of a list of societies in Surrey interested in archaeology or local history. Copies of this duplicated list may be obtained free of charge on personal application or by post on sending a stamped addressed envelope to Castle Arch, Guildford.

Amendments and corrections to the list will be welcomed.

(J. C. Batley).

Industrial archaeology survey in Greater London.

Currently two members of T.B.A.O.G. with the assistance of the Field Officer, London Museum, are compiling an index of items of interest to the industrial archaeologist in Greater London. Inclusion in the index does not mean that an item should necessarily be preserved but at least it should be recorded in detail before it disappears.

Much information is needed to make the list as comprehensive as possible and types of items are as follows:— bridges; warehouses; railway stations; tramway depots little altered in old company style; early cinemas; brickworks; quarries; potteries and ironworks; buildings or equipment connected with hand, wind, water, hydraulic or steam power; early diesel, gas and electric equipment of any kind; early examples of buildings or equipment connected with service industries (e.g. water, gas, electricity supply, drainage, laundries, food supply, etc.); and good examples of industrial housing.

Information to either Paul Carter, 20 Chestnut Grove, Wembley, Middlesex, or John Ashdown, 14 Princes Street, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

(*The Thames Basin Observer*).

Albury : Weston Wood excavations 1966/7 (TQ 053485).

MESOLITHIC. The 12" to 15" of light blown sand under the bronze age occupation has been removed. It contained an unstratified scatter of over 150 microliths, with scalene triangles and obliquely blunted points predominating. Blades, scrapers, cores, and two tranchet axes were also found. At 15" below the bronze age level a natural ironstone scatter covered half the area. On the edge of this in the sand were hearths, shallow ash pits and chipping floors, indicating that here was a camping place for the mesolithic hunters. There was a 12' diameter circular clearing in the ironstone. It was 2' 6" deep at the back where an oval deeper cutting had been made. There were traces of stakes around at 2' 6" intervals, with a wide entrance and a hearth outside this. It was possible to consider that here was a shelter with a bed trench at the back, and protected by the ironstone *chevaux-de-frise* and the fire at the entrance. The only finds inside were the few flints in the infill.

NEOLITHIC. At the same level — 15" below the bronze age horizon — and 6' from the shelter and hearth, in a restricted area, was a scatter of Peterborough sherds. These were typically highly ornamented with bird bone and twisted cord impressions, or pinched decoration. Pieces of five pots were found, both Mortlake and Fengate wares. The Fengate rim was in a shallow ash pit with a burin. Near, and at the same level, was a tranchet axe, but, because there was no occupation floor, association cannot be assumed. (The only other neolithic find on the site was in 1963 when a broken polished greenstone axe was found. This was in the L.B.A. level and it appeared to have been used as a hammer stone.)

LATE BRONZE AGE. The occupation floor — a domestic area of hearths and associated pits — has been finally cleared. Two more coarse-ware pots and a small carinated black burnished bowl have been reconstructed, and there are clay bun weights. A sandstone weight of 16 lbs. had secondary use in the bottom of a pit as a pot stand. The only metal was a small piece of tin, lead and antimony.

EXPERIMENTAL WORK. Following successful winter storage of grain in a pit in 1965/6, further experiments were carried out last winter. In October two hand-made L.B.A. type pots were filled with dry grain. One (a) was set directly on the sand in the pit, and the other (b) rested on sticks. The pots and the pit were covered. They were raised at Easter. In pot (a) the grain had begun to germinate and was fit only for sowing; the grain in pot (b) had stored perfectly, as before.

The feasibility of melting copper in the type of clay oven and on carstone hearts such as were found in Weston Wood was demonstrated by Brian Waite who cast an axe. Various types of bellows were tried, using the associated pits. Temperatures were recorded. It was necessary to have a removal door at the side of the oven for stoking and removing the crucible. The vent at the top was used for looking down on the crucible.

Other successful experiments included carving points and needles from antler and bone, using waste flakes from the site.

These feasibility studies are helping in the interpretation of the features of the site. They show that this or that method is, or is not, possible, but do not, of course, show that this was the method then used.

The site has now been handed over to the quarry. There are many problems still unsolved.

(Joan M. Harding).

Merstham : Pottery find in Netherne Lane (TQ 295558).

About 30 pieces of pottery have been found by the owner of *Windsong*, Netherne Lane, Merstham. Mostly pieces of cooking pots dating from the 13th century, some are very crude and may have been made by hand or on a slow wheel.

There are a few pieces of Surrey Ware, including part of the rim of a bowl and the handle of a jug. A few pieces of roof tile were also found on the site.

(*Bourne Society Bulletin*).

Sanderstead : Iron age and R-B occupation (TQ 343605).

The site is on waste ground bounded by the paths and building of Sanderstead Methodist Church and the drive of Atwood Primary School. Remains of two structures incorporating pottery of iron age character were found. Both were rectilinear with flint walling laid in clay. Post holes indicated dwarf walls supporting a timber-framed structure. One may be associated with an area of flint cobbles in yellow clay possibly a yard. The more substantial, with a length of wall and a line of post holes at right angles, had a red clay floor with areas of charcoal flecks. The distribution of potsherds, almost all to one side of a line of posts at right angles to a length of walling, suggests that the building may have been dual purpose, with living space at one end, and stores or livestock at the other.

Above this was a layer of flint rubble, probably from demolished walling, overlaid by a cobbled road. The line of this could not be determined as it was found only in one trench.

(A. J. Parkinson, in *Bourne Society Bulletin*).

Recent publications.

Summary Guide to Guildford Muniment Room (Guildford Corporation, 2/6, postage 3d.) Published 1967.

The Glass Industry of the Weald by G. H. Kenyon (Leicester University Press, 50s.) Published 1967. Reviewed (by E. S. W.) in *Country Life*, 31st August, 1967.

Blackmansbury Vol. 3, issue 3/4 (August/October, 1966). Includes an illustrated paper *Pitt Place, Epsom*, by R. Jeffree. *Blackmansbury* is a little known quarterly magazine devoted to history, published by Pinhorn, Shalfleet Manor, Isle of White at, it is understood, 21s. per issue.

Antiquarian Horology Dec. 1966. Includes a paper *The clock of St. George's Church, Esher*, by E. J. Tyler. Offprints are available from the author at 31 Malden Hill, New Malden (3/-, post free).

London Naturalist No. 46, 1967 (L.N.H.S.) Includes a paper *Recent excavations in Southwark and Lambeth* by D. J. Turner summarising the work of the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Excavations Committee since 1962. Offprints are available from Castle Arch (2/3, post free.)

Oatlands Transcript No. 9 (Walton and Weybridge Historical Society), 16 Annett Road, Walton-on-Thames; 1/6 to members, 2/6 to non-members, plus postage). This is an inventory of the Guarderobe of Oatlands taken when the Palace was handed into the care of Sir Anthony Brown c. 1542.

Bulletin Vol. 3, No. 2 (Nonsuch and Ewell Antiquarian Society). Includes *The clay tobacco pipe in archaeology* by B. J. Bloice; *The highway from Ewell to Walton-on-the-Hill* by C. F. Titford; and *A Ewell rental in the P.R.O.* by M. Morris.

Quarterly Newsletter Vol. 1, No. 8 (Farnham Museum Society). Includes *George Sturt's journals* and *The will of Henry Vernon*.

100 years in Churt by U. H. S. Snow (Churt Parochial Church Council, 6/-, postage 6d., from Mr. G. W. Read, *Linden Lea*, Churt). Published 1967. An illustrated parish history dealing mainly with the hundred years since the consecration of the parish church of St. John the Evangelist.

C.B.A. Annual Report No. 17 (C.B.A., 2/6, post free). Published 1967.

Kent Archaeological Review No. 10, November 1967. (K.A.R.G.C., 8/- for 4 issues from Miss J. Bevan, 150 Boxley Road, Maidstone). Includes *Notes on Samian Ware* by Gerald Cramp describing and illustrating the commonest forms of this ware found in S.E. England.

FUTURE MEETINGS

DECEMBER

Thursday, 7th. 7.45 p.m.

JOINT S.A.S. AND BOURNE SOCIETY MEETING

TREASURE TROVE

An Archaeological Entertainment will be held in the Children's Department, Purley Public Library, Banstead Road, Purley. This is 3 minutes walk from Purley Station, 1 minute from Purley Cross Roads and 3 minutes from the car park off Purley High Street.

The audience is asked to challenge a panel of archaeologists, from (weather permitting) Zanzibar, Iceland, Samarkand, and England, with objects and slides and the panel will challenge the audience in return. Bring something old and curious (but not geological) to test the panel.

Friday, 8th. 2.30 - 5.30 p.m.

READING OLD DOCUMENTS. A crash course by Mrs. COTTRILL, Hampshire County Archivist. To be given to the FARNHAM MUSEUM SOCIETY at the Temporary Council Meeting Hall, behind the Council Offices in South Street. Members of the S.A.S. welcome, but a fee of 2/6 will be charged to those who are not members of the Farnham Museum Society. Applications to Mrs. Manning, 18 Upper South View, Farnham (Farnham 4061).

Friday, 8th. 8.0 p.m.

SOME ASPECTS OF THE PREHISTORIC CELTS. A lecture by Dr. ANNE ROSS and Mr. R. W. FEACHEM to the HOLMESDALE NATURAL HISTORY CLUB at Reigate. Enquiries to Mrs. M. Trier, The Drift, Manor Road, Reigate (46475).

Thursday, 12th. 7.0 p.m.

OBSERVING. A talk by Mr. JOHN ASHDOWN to the THAMES BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVER'S GROUP at Crossways Hall, 90 New Kent Road, Elephant and Castle. The illustrated talk describes the way the active T.B.A.O.G. observers should look at and examine the locality where they live, work or have their interests.

JANUARY

Wednesday, 3rd. 6.30 p.m.

Marking and sorting work on material from the excavations at 199 Borough High Street, Southwark. At the Southwark Archaeological Depot, Upper Ground, S.E.1. Arranged by the LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY (ARCHAEOLOGICAL SECTION). Details from Mr. P. E. Pickering, (Finchley 8437).

Saturday, 13th. 3.0 p.m.

Annual General Meeting of the BEDDINGTON, CARSHALTON AND WALLINGTON ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY. Followed by a CASTLE IN THE HEBRIDES — EXCAVATIONS ON THE ISLE OF COLL, a colour film. At the Darby and Joan Club, Cooper Crescent, Nightingale Road, Carshalton. Visitors Fee 1/-.

Thursday, 18th. 8.0 p.m.

THE ROMANCE OF HERALDRY. A lecture by Mr. J. P. CORKE to the OXTED AND DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY at the County School, Blue House Lane, Oxted. Members of the S.A.S. welcome.

Friday, 26th. 8.0 p.m.

AN INTRODUCTION TO POST MEDIEVAL POTTERY. A talk by Miss MARGARET JOHNS to the WANDSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY. At Wandsworth Town Hall.

Saturday, 27th. 3.30 p.m.

EXCAVATIONS AT KNOWTH, CO. MEATH, 1962/1967. A lecture by Dr. G. EOGAN to the PREHISTORIC SOCIETY at the University of London Institute of Archaeology.
