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Our President greets Prince Edward in Bagshot

"Grotesques" top left and right (see page 14)

COBHAM PARK: Recent discoveries relating to its early history

David Taylor

Cobham Park mansion stands to the south of Cobham on the Downside Road, and is currently being converted into luxury apartments. The house was built in 1873 by the architect Edward Barry for his client Charles Combe to replace an earlier one that had been partially destroyed by fire in the late 1860s. Like others before me, I had always assumed that the present Cobham Park and its predecessor stood on the site of Downe Place or Hall, which in medieval times was Cobham's most important estate. However, a recent and more thorough examination of the title deeds of Cobham Park, which remain in private hands, has now proved otherwise.

Photographs and paintings of the present house's predecessor have intrigued architectural historians for many years. 18th century topographies and county histories state that the house was built for a man called John Bridges. However, this posed a problem because John Bridges never owned Downe Place.

What John Bridges did own was a property called Bridge House Farm, which he had purchased from James Fox in 1729. The Cobham Park estate papers have now revealed a deed of 1749 whereby Bridges conveyed Bridge House Farm to Sir John, later Lord, Ligonier, Commander in Chief of the British Army *"together with the Capital Messuage or Mansion House lately erected and built thereon by the said John Bridges."*

In 1759 Ligonier (by then both Lord and Commander in Chief of the British Army) purchased the neighbouring Downe Place from the Fox family.

The earlier history of what is now Cobham Park should now be looked at in respect of these two separate properties.

Downe Place (also known as Downe Hall)

This was the ancient home of the Downe family who seem have lived there since early mediaeval times. It is reputed to have been a separate manor at one time. William de la Dune was Keeper of the Hanaper to Edward 1st and it seems fairly certain that the King visited Downe Place several times between 1292 and 1306.

In the 17th century John Downe bequeathed the property to his nephew George Smyther and it stayed in that family until 1720 when it was sold to Viscountess Lanesborough of East Horsley who had earlier acquired the adjoining Bridge House Farm.

Bridge House Farm

Although this property was known by name, and assumed to have stood somewhere close to Downside Bridge, it has not until now been possible to definitely locate its exact position.

Bridge House Farm (also called Bridgelands) formed part of the manor of Cobham and, as such, was purchased by Viscountess Lanesborough from the Gavell family in 1708. Robert Gavell had acquired it from the Executor of William Carpenter who, in 1662, was taxed for nine hearths, making his house one of the largest in the village after Cobham Court and Downe Place. In 1663 Carpenter was granted a coat of arms in 1663 by Charles II for his services as a *"King's Messenger"* and the following year he was described as *"one of the gentlemen of his majesty's privy chamber extraordinary."* Carpenter died in 1672 and a full and detailed probate inventory of the contents of the house has survived. From this we learn that the house had five bedrooms together with a *"Great Parlour"*, *"Little Parlour"*, hall, kitchen and dairy.

William Carpenter was buried in the North Chapel of St. Andrew's church, Cobham where his tomb can still just be seen (it is half covered by the choir stalls.)

The earliest reference found so far concerning this property is in the Chertsey Cartulary which details a grant from the Abbot of Chertsey to Robert Bardsey of Kingston in c1468 in consideration of *"the faithful services and counsels paid and shown to them before these times"* granted to Bardsey a croft called Grovercrofte and a close called *"Briggeland"*.

A Survey of the Manor of Cobham made in c1547 states that William Tremayne then held *"By copy dated 3rd July 33 Hen. VIII (1541) one messuage and one virgate called Marchauntes otherwise Bridgehouse late Thomas West's"*.

A Marriage Settlement (Surrey History Centre K145/8) dated 30th May 1593 refers to the settlement of *"the Capital Messuage called Bridgelands and lands"* on Thomas Hemingwaye the younger and Joan daughter of William Southland of Ealing. That Bridgelands and Bridge House were one and the same is confirmed by a list of all property owners responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the church *"paynes"* or fence contained in the Cobham Churchwarden's Book for 30th May 1631. The *"style gate"* was the responsibility of Mr Sutton formerly *"Hemingwaies"*. The list was updated later in the century (probably about 1660) and the words *"now Mr Carpenter"* added to this entry thereby confirming it to have been the property later conveyed to Viscountess Lanesborough.

Lady Lanesborough bequeathed Bridge House Farm, together with the Manor of Cobham, to her grandson James Fox who, in 1728, obtained a Private Act of Parliament to enable him to sell the farm to John Bridges. The Act describes the property as *"a very old House and Out Houses frequently out of Repair, which occasion a considerable Expence to repair them."*

Cobham Park

After 1759, Ligonier ran Bridge House Farm and Downe Place together. He also



Cobham Park

continued to buy up other land and farms to enlarge the estate. Ligonier died in 1770 and left the estate to his nephew who was able to further enlarge the estate following the enclosure of Downe Field and Cobham's other open fields in 1779. When Edward Ligonier died in 1782, the legal title to the estate appears to have been vested in several beneficiaries who retained it for a number of years, letting the mansion house to various tenants.

Between 1801 and 1803 Lord Carhampton purchased the shares of the divided estate from Ligonier's devisees and in 1806 he sold it to Harvey Christian Combe, brewer and Lord Mayor of London for £30,000. Although the mansion house has been sold off, the rest of the estate remains in the Combe family.

The history of Cobham Park from the middle of the 18th century, including the story of the notorious Lady Penelope Ligonier and her scandalous sexual liaisons, is in my *"Cobham Houses and Their Occupants"* (Appleton Publications, 2000).

Having now established that the present Cobham Park mansion stands on the site of Bridge House Farm there are still several questions to be answered. These are as follows:

Who was John Bridges? He may have been related to Shem Bridges who owned Ember Court at Esher in the early 18th century. Bridges was clearly an educated man of taste and, in addition to building the new house, he created a new garden and widened the river, using the excavated soil to create *"a natural slope, with a broad Grass-walk, planted with sweet Shrubs in each side; and at the End of the Walk is a fine Room, which has a view of the Water lengthwise, and is a sweet retreat in hot Weather."*

Where did John Bridges move to when he sold his Cobham estate? No record of his death has been found so far. An affidavit of 1803 with the Cobham Park deeds, given by William Fletcher – former Bailiff to the Ligoniers, states that Bridges *"was never married but died a Bachelor"*.

Who was the architect of John Bridges house? The late Sir John Summerson once wrote to me stating that its appearance seemed to place it at the end of the 17th century. However, this has now been proved wrong. Other architectural historians such as Howard Colvin and John Harris are convinced that the house has all the appearance of being designed by Roger Morris, one of Lord Burlington's close associates. There is with the Fox family papers at Surrey History Centre two scraps of paper that give a written description of c1740 of *"Mr Bridges's House at Cobham"* and which also provides a rough sketch of the floor plan. The notes also state that the house was based upon Palladio's Villa Zeno. In 1745 James Fox rebuilt the centre portion of West Horsley Place and it is interesting to surmise whether he was sufficiently impressed by Bridge's new house to consider emulating it.

Where exactly was the old Downe Place? An 1822 map terrier of Cobham Park estate shows a piece of land called *"Hall Place"* adjoining what is now Downside Farm. Did Downe Place alias Downe Hall stand here? This would make sense as it was close to the manorial mill.

Margaret Gelling has written *"Dun means a great deal more than is conveyed by the modern translation "mountain or hill". Its commonest use in settlement –names is for low hills which provide good settlement-sites, usually in areas of relatively low relief."* The area of high ground within the present Cobham Park would fit this description perfectly. Gelling goes on to say *"The element dun in a name would convey to an Anglo-Saxon both the nature of the site and the likelihood of the settlement being a high-status one."* The hilltop site in Cobham Park might be worthy of excavation at some time.

The plan of Church Cobham is that of an inverted T with the oldest houses along the south side of the cross arm (Church Street and Crown Alley). Buildings here may occupy house plots deliberately set out as a specific act of reordering nucleation. The church is located at the western end of the line of house plots, apparently with an extra plot to its west down to 1218, when this was taken into the churchyard (the plot west of the church might have been a survival from before the re-planning). The house plots along the south side of the 'village street' were short and terminated on the edge of the flood plain or the bank of the fast-running river. As late as the 18th century, properties overlooking the river occupied plots that ran down to the water's edge with no right of public way along the riverside.

It is possible that the medieval occupants of the house plots looked more to the river (water supply or power for industry; fishing, etc) than to agriculture. The Mole here powered a mill and supplied a tannery, with two more mills a short distance upstream. There are suggestions in the post-enclosure field boundaries, however, that the house plots faced dedicated field strips (or selion bundles) on the opposite side of the road.

Except in the immediate vicinity of the junction with Church Street, only a few of the frontages of the present High Street (the 'upright' of the 'T') appear to have been developed before the 19th century. However a 'back lane' appears on the earliest map of Cobham to the east of High Street, hinting either that Cobham was not developed as much as originally planned or that it shrunk in late or post-medieval times.

The building or rebuilding of the church can be seen as a key part of the process of village formation: the earliest parts cannot be closely dated but seem to fall within a mid-12th century bracket. The first known rector was appointed c1166 and a church was mentioned in 1176 in a Papal Bull of Alexander II. The construction of the church and the laying out of a single-row settlement probably coincides with the undated grant by King Stephen (1135-54) to the abbot of Chertsey of a market at Cobham (BL Cotton MS Vitellius A xiii, fol.57v), noted by T E C Walker (1961, 51). The market wasn't necessarily at Church Cobham and the triangular space west of the White Lion at Street Cobham, with roads entering at each corner, has the appearance of a medieval market place. There is no evidence, however, that any substantial development took place around this space in medieval times and it is probable that the market did not flourish.

The continuation of Church Street line east of the High Street, represented today by Crown Alley, was apparently diverted slightly when The Crown public house (or its predecessor) was built. The Crown was demolished in about 1910 and the site is now occupied by Threshold Records (Taylor 1999, 81).

Archaeological opportunities

All the land between the Church Street-Crown Alley line and the river must be regarded as of particular archaeological potential: the back-land situations could throw much light on the activities undertaken within the medieval village and the dating of the whole. Of particular importance is Lime House (Taylor, 1999, 95-8), a fine early 18th century building set back behind a lawn that may cover the best surviving evidence for the first buildings on the frontage to Church Street. It is hoped that the Society will be able to undertake an evaluation excavation on this frontage later this year by courtesy of the current owners and their tenants.

Land immediately north of Church Street and Crown Alley and adjacent to High Street (north of Church Street/Crown Alley) presents the potential for testing other aspects of the foregoing hypotheses, as does the land around the road junction at Street Cobham. Less easily defined areas between the church and Cobham Court,

and in the vicinity of other possible medieval settlement foci in the parish, have similar potential and may produce archaeological evidence for pre-12th century settlements

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QUARRYING IN SURREY: MPP ASSESSMENTS

Paul W Sowan

English Heritage, through its Monuments Protection Programme (MPP), is reviewing all existing Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs), and reviewing industrial and military monuments with a view to including the most important of these as new SAMs. Various individuals or groups have been commissioned to review specific industries. It is a six-step process, taking several years, from an initial review of each industry to final implementation of scheduling for selected monuments. At Steps 1 and 3, reports are circulated to persons or groups having relevant specialist knowledge, for comments, corrections and additions.

Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) has been assessing the quarrying industry, and issued a *Step 1 Report on Quarrying* for discussion in 1996. This stated, *inter alia*, that although it was undoubtedly the case that a number of archaeologically and historically important building stone quarries were worked underground, it was not proposed to consider such underground quarries, which would be left (with other underground minerals extraction) for assessment at a later date. English Heritage's MPP progress chart lists such a review, but indicates no start date.

LUAU's *Step 3 Report on Quarrying*, although dated 1999, has only just been released for consultation (February 2003). This second report acknowledges shortcomings in the earlier document, especially in Dorset and Surrey, and also in the Forest of Dean. It also includes and assesses a number of underground quarries, including some in Surrey, and recommends English Heritage to commission a MPP Review of underground quarrying as a matter of priority.

Scope

The scope of the Quarrying MPP is very wide – too wide, in this writer's opinion, to do justice to the subject. Apart from fossil fuels and metalliferous ores, and alum, clays and salt, and all other extractive industries are included. Thus, alongside building-stone, we find that LUAU has attempted to review flint and ochre mining, quern and millstone quarrying, gravel pits and so forth. Chalk, limestone and gypsum are also considered, despite some overlap with the MPP reports on the lime, cement and plaster manufacturing industries.

Several important industrial minerals, such as barites, fluorspar, ganister, graphite and others, appear not to have been considered.

Assessment Grading

The grading was as follows:

- *** Of exceptional national importance 'for which statutory protection will almost always be appropriate'.
- ** Of clear national importance 'for which statutory protection will normally be appropriate.
- * Sites 'of national importance, but of lesser priority for resource allocation'.
- R Sites 'of regional rather than national importance'.
- L Sites of 'local interest'
- O Sites believed to have been destroyed, or never to have existed where reported.

Of 315 quarry sites considered throughout England, only 14 (4%) were graded ***, with another 77 (22%) graded **.

The Surrey Sites

Ten were considered and graded as shown:

<i>Godalming Bargate Stone quarries</i>	SU 960 425	L
<i>Godalming Crownpits</i>	SU 975 433	R
<i>Bramley/Hascombe Ridge</i>	TQ 008 397	**
<i>Penton Hook gravel pit</i>	TQ 045 690	O
Chaldon Firestone quarries (2nd area)	TQ 299 538	**
Chaldon Firestone quarries	TQ 310 530	***
Godstone Stone quarries	TQ 320 535	R
<i>Whyteleafe chalk pit</i>	TQ 337 593	R
<i>Godstone sand pits</i>	TQ 345 517	L
<i>Merstham Freestone quarries</i>	TQ 2954 5390	L

Those not italicised are underground building-stone quarries. The short-lived chalk pit and limeworks at Whyteleafe (in Surrey) have almost disappeared without trace, having suffered residential development. The entry listed may refer to the far larger Riddlesdown limeworks where substantial chalk exposures, fines tips and kiln remains survive (but in the London Borough of Croydon). Furthermore, some of the grid references cited are clearly inaccurate.

Interestingly, Surrey already has sand mines with SAM status, lying wholly or in part below Reigate Castle, and there may be a similar situation at Guildford, depending on the extent of the underground building-stone (hard chalk) quarries, and the limits of the Guildford Castle SAM boundary!

What Happens Next

Those on the specialist consultation list will make their comments on the Step 3 Report, including questions of accuracy, important sites missed, appropriateness of assessments and so forth. Sites graded *** and ** will very probably be scheduled in due course, although this may well take several more years. The Betchworth and Brockham Limeworks sites, highly graded under the Lime, Cement and Plaster MPP, are currently in process of being scheduled. The writer has attended several meetings with EH officers in that connection.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

This was held at the Peace Memorial Hall, Ashted on Saturday, 22nd February 2003.

The Chairman was the Society's President, Professor **Alan Crocker** who welcomed members, commented on the high standard of the exhibitions and introduced the speakers.

Steve Dyer spoke on the excavations at **Tolworth Court Farm**. A topographic survey supported documentary evidence from 1327 suggesting a medieval moated manor, possible mill and deserted village. Following the work in 2000, English Heritage requested a bigger trench on the island where the manor was thought to be; a building was discovered, but probably that of a farm abattoir built on the site of the manor, which had been robbed at the time of the building of Nonsuch Palace. The hydrology of the site was elucidated. There was no evidence of a medieval village but Saxon pottery was found in association with butchered animal bone. In open land to

the west field systems were surveyed; the serendipitous discovery of Romano-British, Iron Age and Bronze Age pottery there suggests previous settlement above the flood plain of the Hogsmill. Scheduling of the site is to be decided by English Heritage.

David Williams spoke on **Doods Farm Roman tile works**. Sporadic finds of tile from 1849, and of two box flue tiles after the demolition of Doods Farm in the 1960s, led to several small excavations in 2002 in the gardens of private houses near Wray Common Nursing Home, formerly Woodthorpe. Many Roman tile fragments were found: from *imbrices*, box flues, and hypocaust supports. Some were decorated with relief patterning, using a dye that has been found at the Ashted tile works, and were of a fabric also identified at Merton, Canterbury and Faversham. After completion of this excavation, fragments of a Roman *mortarium*, jar and Samian ware were discovered in a nearby cellar. A small excavation planned here for March has probably been completed.

Peter Harp spoke on the **Palaeolithic site at Banstead**. Bifaces and other Palaeolithic flints have been found at the Rookery Farm site, Banstead during 20 years' field walking by Tom Wall, following Carpenter's report. The site was investigated in 2002 by Plateau with Judy Scott-Jackson's Padmac team from Oxford University; five trenches were opened and struck flints were found. The relative movement of soil and artefacts is being studied, as preservation of Paleolithic material *in situ* can occur in similar Clay-with-Flints geology. More flint was found during field walking in 2002-3. A survey of the solution hollows on the heath has been carried out.

Rob Poulton on "Old digs; new work" at the **Tudor Palace at Oatlands, Weybridge**, reported on the 20-year-old archive of an excavation here. The area is now a housing estate; in 1984/5 he and Martin O'Connell carried out rescue work. A gateway and part of a wall are the sole above-ground remains of this palace, which Henry VIII developed on the site of a previous moated manor. From the plan of the palace a computer graphic presentation was prepared, which brought the palace, its three courtyards and separate banqueting house, vividly to life. Work continues on preparing the archive for publication.

The **Kingston Young Archaeologists Club** was introduced by **Joyce Herve**, who started it in 2002; she finds a mixture of trips and practical activities at the Saturday morning meetings engage the children's attention, and spoke warmly of their enthusiasm. This was

displayed by the speakers, who spoke appreciatively and confidently of the club.

Emma Howgill shared what she had learnt from a visit to the Old Operating Theatre Museum and its herb garret; both **William Condor** and **David Thompson** enjoyed *HMS Warrior*, and explained with verve some of the less attractive features of naval life.

David Bird reappraised the **Villa at Chiddingfold**. This 1st to 2nd century Roman building of unusual plan was excavated in 1883, 1888 and



First Prize to the Leatherhead & District Local History Society



Runner-up Gaby Rapson

1984. It is bigger than most villas and is isolated on a hilltop on Weald clay near to a spring. There are no mosaics, and only one area of tessellated floor, but circular stone based tanks were found. His previous opinion was that glass could have been made there, but he is now inclined to the view that it may have been a ritual site.

Peter Hattersley and a colleague spoke on the **Lovelace Bridges Project**. William King, first Earl Lovelace, was diplomat, engineer, and considerate

landowner. Living at East Horsley Place, he owned considerable land on the North Downs. To facilitate the movement of timber he had fifteen bridges built across the dry valleys; many are crumbling, and the Project is designed to record, conserve and if possible preserve them. The Project includes the owners, Forest Enterprises, and Horsley Countryside Preservation Society, and is grateful for the encouragement it has received from Surrey Archaeological Society.

Martin Bridges from the Institute of Archaeology spoke on the strengths and weaknesses of **Dendrochronology**. This useful and reliable technique is better left to experts, both to carry out and to evaluate the statistics associated with tree ring matching. As trees vary according to their life events, climate and soil type, most reliability is given by multiple samples including sapwood. Chronologies to 9000 years have been achieved using oaks in North-west Europe.

Steve Dyer explained the memorial **Geophysics Research Project at Butser Ancient Farm**, dedicated to the memory of Tony Clarke and Peter Reynolds. Resistivity and magnetometry studies are to be carried out, on a monthly basis for seven years, on a site where replicated archaeological anomalies have been buried. Findings will be compared with data on soil water content. Less frequently, electric conductivity and ground penetrating radar studies are performed.

Exhibitions were on display from:

Leatherhead and District Local History Society (winners of the Margary Award) on Ashted Common villa.

Gaby Rapson (runner-up) on a late Iron Age ditched enclosure at Westcott.

Surrey Industrial History Group on papermaking and wire working:

Holmesdale Natural History Society on Doods Farm tiley.

Spelthorne Archaeological Field Group and Spelthorne Museum on Neolithic Spelthorne.

Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society on the silver sand mines at Reigate.

Salters Finds Processing Group on the Weston Wood, Albury, excavation.

Surrey Roman Studies Group.

Plateau on the Rookery Farm site.

Kingston Young Archaeologists Club.

Surrey Archaeology Prehistoric Group.

Lovelace Bridge Project.

X-Radiography.

Unisearch on the Tolworth excavation.

RECENT WORK BY ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNITS

The fieldwork projects listed below were undertaken by archaeological contractors operating in the London boroughs of old Surrey, mostly towards the end of 2002. A key to the acronyms is provided below, and the letters and numbers at the end of each entry is the site code.

AOC	AOC Archaeology
CA	Compass Archaeology
CGMS	CGMS Consulting
HAT	Herts Archaeological Trust
MoLAS	Museum of London Archaeological Services
PCA	Pre-Construct Archaeology
NSFF	No significant features or finds
SuAS	Sutton Archaeological Services
TVAS	Thames Valley Archaeological Services

CROYDON

Croydon, Royal Russell School, Coombe Lane (TQ 35650 63959). Watching Brief by SuAS, NSFF. Report dated July 2002 (RRL 02).

Croydon, Overton's Yard, Surrey Street (TQ 532219 165463). Evaluation by MoLAS. No intact archaeology, with made ground over natural sand and gravel. To the north and east against the boundary wall were the remains of stables that had originally been two storeys high; but the upper storey had been demolished and the stalls reused as storage space for Surrey Market traders. Evidence for their use as stables is still extant with timber panelling and fixtures, including the remains of a timber staircase in the central stable on the north side of the site. The stables may be over 150 years old according to initial cartographic research. Report dated November 2002 (OVY 02).

KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES

Kingston, Coombe Conduit (TQ 2050 6990). Watching Brief by AOC. NSFF. Report dated July 2002 (CCU 02).

LAMBETH

Brixton, 328 Brixton Road (TQ 31158 76108). Evaluation by CA. A prehistoric flint blade, two sherds of Roman pottery and one of Roman tile were residual in a post-medieval plough soil that was covered by a thick layer of 20th century dumping. One of three modern features contained a late 18th or early 19th century Demon Head mask, thought to have belonged to a garden feature. Report dated July 2002 (BXT 02).

Lambeth, Savoy Laundry, 17-19 Union Road and Clapham Road (grid ref. not given). Recording by Moxley Architects of the 1920's Savoy Hotel Laundry garden. Report dated June 2002 (no site code).

MERTON

Mitcham, Sandy Lane Football Stadium (TQ 2845 6960). Evaluation by PCA. NSFF. Report dated September 2002 (SLT 02).

Wimbledon, Rutlish Boys High School, Watery Lane, Wimbledon Chase (TQ 5247 1692). Evaluation by MoLAS. NSFF; single Roman sherd from topsoil. Fourteen ceramic land drains and a pit were probably associated with work undertaken at the John Innes Horticultural Institute during the first half of the last century. Report dated September 2002 (RWM 02).

Wimbledon, 80 Plough Lane (TQ 2620 7153). Evaluation by CA. Roman pot sherds from alluvial layers and a modern pit. Report dated July 2002 (PLG 02).

RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES

Kew, Townmead Road (TQ 51979 17641). Evaluation by MoLAS. *NSFF*; two possibly struck flakes. Report dated September 2002 (KTR 02).

Barnes, Old Police Station, Lonsdale Road (TQ 2165 7645). Watching Brief by PCA. *NSFF*. Report dated July 2002 (BNI 01).

SOUTHWARK

Nunhead, Borland Road (TQ 3550 7520). Evaluation by TVAS. *NSFF*. Report dated September 2002 (BOS 02).

Southwark, 392 Rotherhithe Street (TQ 3595 8045). Watching Brief by HAT. *NSFF*. Report dated October 2001 (RRH 01).

SUTTON

Carshalton, St Mary's School, West Street (TQ 27725 64405). Evaluation by SuAS. *NSFF*. Report dated October 2002 (SSN 02).

Carshalton, Mill Lane (TQ 2825 6520). Excavation by CGMS in a valley floor site on the River Wandle. The sedimentary sequence begins with sands and gravels with a high organic content laid down along one of the braided streams of the river that cut through London Clay. Temperate plants indicated by early analyses suggest that these may have been deposited during an early phase of the present interglacial period, confirmed by a radiocarbon analysis of wood fragments which provided a date of 6450-6220 BC. These deposits contained very many Mesolithic struck flints and some that may be of Bronze Age date. A layer of peat that sealed the above contained later prehistoric flintwork and Bronze Age pottery, indicating that the local vegetation cover had become dominated by reed-swamp, but which also contained evidence for the cultivation of cereals. Cutting that layer were two pits containing a broken and unused antler pick and a collection of large, unworked flint nodules, providing evidence, perhaps for ritual or ceremonial activity. Report dated July 2002 (BTG 01).

WANDSWORTH

Putney, St Mary's Church, High Street (TQ5242 1756). Standing Building Survey by Natalie Cohen. The tower is a typical example of 'Kentish' construction built between the late 14th century and the Reformation. It is suggested that it dates to the later 15th century due to the presence of bricks in the build and the form of the original windows. Report dated July 2002 (SMP 73).

Wandsworth, Falcon Wharf, Lombard Road (TQ 2665 7615). Watching Brief by CGMS. *NSFF*. Report dated April 2002 (site code not supplied).

Putney, Whitelands College, West Hill (TQ 2444 7402). Evaluation by TVAS. *NSFF*. Report dated September 2002 (WEI 02).

Putney, 1 High Street, Brewhouse Yard, Isherwood Building and ICL House (grid ref not supplied). Standing Building Survey by CGMS identified five main phases of construction. Building B includes remains of a late 18th century structure; Building A added in mid 19th; Building B added in mid to late 19th; Building C re-fronted in mid to late 19th; clock inserted and other alterations to Building B in late 19th to early 20th century. Report dated February 2002.

Wandsworth, 1-9 Hardwicks Way (TQ 2540 7455). Evaluation by SuAS. *NSFF*. Report dated 2002 (HWK 01).

Battersea, The Rosary Garden, Battersea Park (grid ref not given). Geophysical Survey and Excavation by NA. The flower beds of the former sub-tropical garden were identified, and confirmed the overall veracity of an 1865 map that showed their layout. Report dated July 2002.

Roehampton, Queen Mary's University Hospital, Roehampton Lane Phases 1 and 2 (TQ 2225 7422). Evaluation and Standing Building Survey by MoLAS. *NSFF*;

substantial suburban villa perhaps built in the 1860s. Reports dated May and August 2002 (QRW 02 and ROL01).

Wandsworth, 86-96 Garratt Lane (TQ 25723 74280). Watching Brief by AOC. Upper 1.5m truncated; lift pit revealed evidence of possible timber revetting and land reclamation in the early post-medieval period with animal bone waste hinting at nearby industrial activity, possibly tanning or leatherworking. Report dated September 2002 (GNW 02).

Tooting, 60 Trinity Road (TQ 27916 72528). Evaluation by AOC. NSFF. Report dated September 2002 (TNI 02).

MISCELLANY

FINDS LIAISON OFFICER

David Bird

As a result of the passing of the Treasure Act, which requires the reporting of discoveries of 'treasure', the Portable Antiquities Scheme was established to promote recording of any archaeological objects found by the public and to broaden awareness of these finds for understanding our past. Since 1997 the Scheme's Finds Liaison Officers, working in a number of pilot areas, have examined over 100,000 objects, many of which might otherwise have gone unrecorded. Data is passed on to Sites and Monuments Records and is also published on the Scheme's website – www.finds.org.uk.

In April 2002 Resource (the Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries) was successful in its Heritage Lottery Fund bid for three years funding to extend the Portable Antiquities Scheme to all parts of England and Wales from 2003. There will now be provision for 31 new posts, including a network of Finds Liaison Officers covering the whole of England and Wales, four Object Advisers, and Education, ICT and administrative posts. These posts are being filled in three groups to start in April, August and December 2003. Surrey will have a part-time FLO starting in April, based with the SMR at County Hall. The post was advertised as part of the national scheme and attracted an unexpectedly high level of interest. Following interviews David Williams has been appointed to the post.

David will be very familiar to members of the Society, having been active in Surrey archaeology for many years, especially in the Reigate area, where he lives. He is well known for his illustrations and acts as an adviser to the Society's editors. Over the last few years he has been building links with metal detectorists and as a result has published a number of papers on Surrey finds in the *Collections*. He also has a book on Anglo-Saxon stirrup-strap mounts to his credit and has directed several excavations, many already published and others in final draft. They include important sites in Reigate, Betchworth and most recently Wanborough.

David will be explaining the aims of the Scheme to archaeologists, museum curators and the wider public, emphasising that the Scheme is concerned to record all portable antiquities and not just metal objects and to present the data gathered. Nevertheless, an important aspect will be to foster cooperation between metal detectorists and archaeologists, particularly by attending meetings to explain the project and to record finds. The aim is to encourage clubs and individual finders to record their finds themselves where appropriate and develop finds recording forms. Museums will be visited on a regular basis to record finds deposited there and encourage finders of all ages to bring in finds for identification. Finds will be recorded using the Portable Antiquities Program developed for the Scheme, with data transferred to the SMR. The FLO will act as the expert adviser on finds of treasure in liaison with local museums and the Surrey Coroner. As the Surrey post is only part-

time, it remains to be seen how much of this extensive programme can be achieved in the time available.

Once David has started, a meeting of SCADLG (the Surrey County Archaeologists and Detectorists Liaison Group) will be called to introduce him in his new role. The Group has not met for some time because of the lack of a Surrey FLO and it should now be possible to make it an effective working group. Work already carried out in the county has indicated that proper recording of portable antiquities can yield important results for our understanding of Surrey's past and we are now able to look forward to more over the next three years. The details of the different ways in which David can be contacted will be provided in a future *Bulletin*.

CHILDREN'S DIG IN BERMONDSEY

Last summer, eleven groups of school children from Barking, Dagenham and Southwark had the opportunity to excavate on an archaeological site, process and identify the material they had just excavated and find out about environmental archaeology with the assistance of staff from the Museum of London (MoLAS and MoLSS). The excavation of three 19th century brick-lined rubbish pits along Frearn Street by Year 6 (aged 10 and 11) and Year 9 (aged 13 to 14) children yielded an amazing array of finds, including butchered animal bones, a bronze candle-holder, glass and stoneware bottles, inkbottles, tobacco pipes, dishes, teacups and plates including one commemorating the coronation of Queen Victoria in 1838. To the children it was an exciting and memorable experience to actually discover and handle archaeological material instead of simply seeing it on display.

The aim of the project, organised jointly between the Borough of Southwark and MoLAS, was to combine an evaluation of one part of the Spa Road Regeneration Programme with an education and community scheme to ensure the participation of local people. As part of this scheme, many of the children also visited the 'Romans to Regeneration' exhibition at the Cuming Museum. Visitors to the site included a group of pensioners, one of whom had lived nearby until her home was destroyed during the Blitz.

ROYAL VISIT TO 44 HIGH STREET, BAGSHOT

Peter Youngs

On 7th March 2003, Prince Edward the Earl of Wessex, and the Countess of Wessex, visited 44 High Street, Bagshot to see its medieval wall paintings (see front page). They were accompanied by Mrs Sarah Goad, Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, who is also an Honorary Vice-President of the Society, and met by Miss Audrey Monk, President of the Society. Mr Richard Heath, RIBA, owner of the building, described the discovery of the paintings. Mrs. Stephanie Hewitt, Conservation Officer with Surrey Heath Borough Council, explained their significance.

44 High Street, Bagshot, now Listed Grade II*, was identified by the late Peter Gray as a 15th century timber-framed building that appears to have replaced a 14th century aisled hall on the same site. It has since been dendrochronologically dated to between 1485 and 1517. Now offices, the building was formerly part of a large medieval inn – the Red Lion, previously known as the Saracen's Head. It was clearly a high status building, with an external gallery giving private access to the first floor rooms. The Red Lion was close to Bagshot Park, in the 16th and 17th centuries an enclosed hunting estate belonging to the Crown and frequented by Royalty; it has been suggested that members of the Court may then have been housed in the inn.

There are small traces of early 16th century decoration but the main paintings are of fabulous beasts – “grotesques” – with, in one place, part of a badge with the insignia of a Prince of Wales which Dr David Gaimster of the British Museum identified as that of King Edward VI who was Prince of Wales between 1537 and 1547. The extent of

the paintings and the fact that, because of the badge, they can be dated firmly to a 10 year period in the first half of the 16th century, makes them unique and of national importance.

The paintings need conservation, including the re-attachment of fragments displaced by the building work that originally revealed them. An application is being made to English Heritage for a grant but, even if such a grant is obtained, a substantial sum will have to be sought from other sources. A Committee, with representatives of the Society and other interested parties, will oversee the work and undertake the fund raising.

LOST CHAPELS AND CHURCHES

I am writing to enquire about some lost churches and chapels in Surrey. They are Stamford Chapel near Epsom, Brookwood, a chapel near Chobham, Wallington, Okewood Chapel, Watenden and Hallibourne. The last two are near Sutton. Are there still any remains to be seen above ground? Has anyone any details about their history, what they consisted of and their map grid references?

If you have any information please write to me, A Vincent, Flat 4, 15 Shelley Road, Worthing, Sussex BN11 4BS.

REGISTER OF THE RESEARCH INTERESTS OF MEMBERS *Alan Gillies*

In *Bulletin 356* (March 2002), an appeal was made for information highlighting areas where it was felt that the Society should promote research. It is felt, however, that probably there is much research being done by individual members, of which the Society is unaware. There is a need, therefore, to build up a picture of such work, and to facilitate the exchange of ideas in furtherance of such research. Whilst it is assumed that most members would be aware of what research work is being undertaken in their own localities or by their local groups, they may not be aware of work on similar subject areas being undertaken in other localities. For instance, a member facing problems of occupational classification in one area may not realise that these difficulties have been resolved by someone working elsewhere.

In order to assess the possibility of the Society linking up members' interests in this way, it is proposed to establish a database covering those members who are willing to exchange information on their research interests, together with those who are seeking such assistance. In many instances there may be exchange of data in both directions. Members will be put in contact with one another as soon as this is appropriate. It is emphasised that at present all that is proposed should be regarded as a *test run*.

It is appreciated that not all members may wish to disclose details of their research. Participation in any suggested database would be entirely voluntary, and any restrictions placed upon disclosure of details of members' work would be respected, particularly if such data were to go eventually onto the Society's web site. If members wish to take part in this exercise they are requested to forward a stamped/addressed envelope (220 x 110 mm) to:

Register of Research Interests of Members, c/o Sunnymead, Epsom Road, Ashted, KT21 1LD, Tel: 01372 274616 (0900-2100 hours).

DAVID ROBINSON RETIRES

Anon

Those members who have researched local and family history at the former Surrey Record Office, the former Guildford Muniment Room or at the present Surrey History Centre at Woking will be sorry to learn of the retirement of David Robinson, County Archivist of Surrey and Head of the Surrey History Service, after twenty-seven years.

Dr. Robinson was appointed County Archivist in 1975, succeeding Marguerite Gollancz who had been appointed in 1955. Previously, David had been Assistant County Archivist of Staffordshire. One of his most important achievements in Surrey was to prepare the successful application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the new Surrey History Centre. In recognition of the work of the project team in which he played a vital role, the Chairman of the County Council presented a special Team Award for Achievement in 1998.

The loss felt by Dr. Robinson's departure has been mitigated by the appointment as his successor of Margaret Vaughan-Lewis, who has worked with him for the last twenty-two years and is well known to some of our members. Margaret trained as an archivist at University College, London, and worked in Bristol and Berkshire before returning to her native Surrey. She was deputy at the Lambeth Archives in the Minet Library for nearly five years before moving in 1980 to work for the Royal Borough of Kingston in County Hall. In 1985 she transferred to Surrey County Council as Senior Assistant Archivist. After Mrs Stazicker left for Cambridgeshire in 1992, she was promoted to be in charge of Public Services, a post which she continued in at the Surrey History Centre.

While, with grateful thanks for all his help in the past, we wish David Robinson a long and happy retirement, we congratulate Margaret and wish her many happy and fulfilling years at the History Centre.

*First published in the January 2003 edition of **Dialstone** (no 179), the Newsheet of the Walton and Weybridge Local History Society, with many thanks. I'm sure I speak for all SyAS members in fully endorsing the above sentiments.*

REVIEW

“Thorpe: A Surrey Village in Maps. A Record of its Growth and Development”
Researched and prepared by Jill Williams, aided by members of Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society for the Surrey Archaeological Society's Villages Project, 2002.

Booklet of 54 A4 pages, spiral bound with card cover.

The 20th century was unkind to Thorpe. It left her face seamed with motorways and pockmarked with gravel pits, reminders of her proximity to London and our insatiable appetite for building materials. All the more credit, therefore, to the authors of this latest volume in the series of Surrey Villages in Maps that they were able to explore their village and carry their researches through to publication despite these disfigurements and the serious practical problems they posed.

It is an important feature of this project that the landscape history of each village is presented retrogressively. But this is not an easy method to sustain throughout all periods of history and prehistory without lapsing into the snapshot format of the historical atlas. Each study begins, typically, with an early edition of the 6-inch OS map and explanatory text, followed by a chronological series of earlier maps from which subsequent features have been removed. This works well for a century or two until the supply of sufficiently detailed early maps is exhausted. The written record then assumes greater importance until, in their turn, most of the medieval sources peter out. Domesday Book then appears like a beacon in the dark, but it is a deceptively difficult source to use effectively and the beacon so often proves to be a Will-o'-the-wisp. The present authors have avoided the usual pitfalls of DB, and I suspect that the error concerning the twelve villains and twenty-four bordars (recte twenty-four villains and twelve bordars) was one of transcription. I noted with

approval the use of the DB terms *villain* and *bordar* rather than *villager* and *smallholder*, which are the anachronisms employed by the translators of the text used by the authors. Incidentally, the DB scholar and editor of *Historical Geography of England before 1800* (CUP 1936, reprinted with corrections in 1963) was H C Darby, not Derby.

The use of maps is central to the Surrey Villages Project, and Jill Williams, aided by Peter Hopkins' computer expertise, is to be congratulated on her achievements in producing the twenty-two sketch-maps that bear her name. However, for a study that depends so much on the interpretation of the subtle curve of a field boundary and the slight variation in the alignment of a property frontage, sketch-maps, however good they may be, are rarely adequate. *Thorpe* would have benefited considerably from some sharply focussed reproductions of the 1st edition 6-inch or 25-inch OS maps; the Tithe Map; Enclosure Map and the 1809 map by Thomas Denton. It is not strictly accurate to say that we are not given a reproduction of the Enclosure Map. There is a very good one in colour on the inside of the front cover, but it is not discussed in detail. This small extract from the Enclosure Map suggests that the village has undergone a series of changes over the centuries, and it should have received far more attention than it has. The hamlets of Eastley End, Thorpe Lea and Thorpe Green also demand fuller treatment with regard to questions of origin, form and relationship to the 'village'. Perhaps the restrictions of one page of text per map could be avoided in future publications in this series, allowing fuller discussion of questions of settlement morphology that are surely central to the purpose of the Surrey Villages Project.

Despite these reservations, *Thorpe* breaks new ground in the study of the Surrey village, and like any good local history book, it will be a quarry for future workers and a stimulus to further study for many years to come. The words of Shirley Corke, apropos the companion book on Shere, are equally relevant to the present volume: "all those working on other villages will read this work with profit and have their own fruitful thoughts".

John Pile

LECTURES, SYMPOSIA and VISITS COMMITTEE

CANTERBURY: Cathedral and Archaeological Walking Tour Sunday 6th April 2003

This visit is designed to be flexible, so join in with the programme shown below, or disappear to explore the City on your own. Just be sure you get back to the coach on time!

Canterbury Cathedral is open to visitors on Sundays 12.30 – 2.30pm and again at 4.30 – 5.30pm; other times are for services only. There is an admission charge (not included) of £4 for adults and £3 for senior citizens.

Lunch: There are a variety of pubs and restaurants in the City, or bring sandwiches.

Optional City Walking Tour 2.30-4pm, conducted by the official guides for Canterbury. It is the main introductory tour around Canterbury, including the cathedral precincts and city walls, and it costs £3 per person. Please let me know if you wish to join, as it must be pre-booked.

The Tour departs from the Cathedral entrance.

Our coach leaves Farncombe Railway Station, near Godalming, at 9am, parking available nearby. **We leave Canterbury at 5pm.**

Please send a cheque made out to 'Mrs E Whitbourn', for £17 per person, and an

additional £3 for the guided walking tour – and, as stated, please let me know whether or not you wish to join this. All Welcome, including spouses, children, guests, partners, and ‘significant others’.....Please send cheques to: 65 Binscombe Crescent, Binscombe, Surrey, GU7 3RA

For more information ring Elizabeth Whitbourn, Tel: 01483-420575 or e-mail liz.whitbourn@btinternet.com

COLCHESTER: Castle Museum, and Archaeological Town Tour Sunday 18th May 2003

Roman Colchester was the first ‘capital’ of Britain, known as *Colonia Victricensis* or ‘City of Victory’. Boudicca infamously burnt the new city and the renowned Temple of Claudius, which subsequently provided the Normans with the foundations for their Castle.

This visit is designed to be flexible, join in with the whole or even part of the programme shown below, or disappear to explore the Town on your ownplease just make sure you get back to the coach on time!

11.30am Colchester Castle Museum: A booked visit. Admission charge for Castle and Museum: Adults £4, children and seniors £2.50.

12.00 Colchester Castle Vaults: An exclusive guided tour to view the remains of the Roman Temple of Claudius. Cost: Adults and seniors £1.50, children 80p.

Lunch: There are a variety of pubs and restaurants in the town, or bring sandwiches.

2.30 – 4.15pm Optional Town Walking Tour: conducted by the official guides for Colchester.

It is the main introductory tour around Colchester and costs £2.50 per person. Please let me know if you wish to join this, as it must be pre-booked. The Tour departs from the War Memorial, High Street outside the Castle.

Our coach leaves Farncombe Railway Station, near Godalming, at 9am, parking available nearby. **We leave Colchester at 5pm.**

Please send a cheque made out to ‘Mrs E Whitbourn’ to 65 Binscombe Crescent, Binscombe, Surrey, GU7 3RA.

Costs: Adults: £24 to include all tours and admission charges, Seniors: £22 to include all tours and admission charges, Children: £20 to include all tours and admission charges. For coach alone and no tours: Adults and Children £16. All Welcome, including spouses, children, guests, partners

For more information contact Elizabeth Whitbourn, Tel: 01483-420575 or e-mail liz.whitbourn@btinternet.com

BARCOMBE ROMAN VILLA and LEWES ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOUR Sunday 20th July 2003

In conjunction with the Roman Studies Group

Barcombe Roman Villa: A guided tour of the ongoing excavations in the morning, by kind invitation from David Rudling, director of UCL Field Archaeology Unit, before moving on to Lewes.

Lewes, the county town of Sussex holds many delights, amongst which are Lewes Castle, Barbican House Museum and Anne of Cleves House.

Lunch: Sandwiches at the excavation, or there are plenty of places to eat in Lewes.

Our coach leaves Farncombe Railway Station, near Godalming at 9.30am (Parking available nearby). We leave Lewes at around 5pm.

All are welcome, however there is a limited number of spaces as we are restricted to

a small coach due to the narrow country lanes around Barcombe, so please book early to avoid disappointment!

Cost: £10 per person. Please send cheque made out to 'Mrs E Whitbourn' to 65 Binscombe Crescent, Binscombe, Surrey, GU7 3RA

For more information, or to book a space please contact Elizabeth Whitbourn, Tel: 01483 420575 or e-mail liz.whitbourn@btinternet.com

TRAINING EXCAVATION

BARCOMBE ROMAN VILLA, EAST SUSSEX

University College London Field Archaeology Unit

Practical archaeology training courses as part of a research excavation on the site of a Roman villa at Barcombe, near Lewes. If you have never done any archaeological fieldwork before, this is a very good opportunity to get involved! There will be a range of 5-, 2- and 1-day courses, including Excavation Techniques, Surveying for Archaeologists, Geophysical Prospecting (yes, the 'zimmer frame' technique – soil resistivity – and others), Archaeological Conservation and Planning and Section Drawing.

Those that attend one of the UCLFAU summer schools at Barcombe, or have done so at Bignor, will be eligible to apply for volunteer work (Monday–Friday only) at Barcombe (such opportunities consist of blocks of 5-days).

For further details about all the UCL Field Archaeology Unit courses and also a linked University of Sussex accreditation facility, please contact Helen Dixey at 1 West Street, Ditchling, Nr Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 8TS; Tel: 01273 845497; Fax: 01273 844187; e-mail: fau@ucl.ac.uk or see website: www.archaeologyse.co.uk

LECTURE MEETINGS

16th April

"Syon House" by Andrea Cameron to the Send & Ripley History Society at Ripley Village Hall at 8 pm.

22nd April

"Excavations at 20-30 Gresham Street - including Roman Water Lift" by Ian Blair to the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society at Hawkstone Hall, Kennington Road, opposite Lambeth North underground station, at 7.30 pm (light refreshments from 7). Visitors welcome £1.

6th May

"Black History in Kingston-upon-Thames" by Museum staff; Special Lecture in the Art Gallery at Kingston Museum, Wheatfield Way, Kingston-upon-Thames at 7pm. Free admission, but pre-booking essential; Tel: 020 8546 5386.

7th May

"Phoenix Nonsuch: The Story of the Restoration of the Mansion" by Gerald Smith to the Nonsuch Antiquarian Society at St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell at 8pm. Visitors £1.

9th May

"Ars Moriendi - Mediaeval Burial Practice in Britain" by Barney Sloan, Museum of London, followed by AGM of Richmond Archaeological Society at the Vestry Hall, Paradise Road, Richmond at 8 pm. Members free; non-members donation. For

further information about the Society contact Joan Samuel Tel: 020 8977 3075 or John Richardson Tel: 020 8994 1239.

13th May

"The Chiltern Open Air Museum" by Len Baker to the Kingston-upon-Thames Archaeological Society in the Lower Hall of the Friends' Meeting House, Eden Street, Kingston-upon-Thames at 8pm.

13th May

"Hampton Court: Revealing an Italian Palace" by Jonathan Foyle; Special Lecture in the Art Gallery at Kingston Museum, Wheatfield Way, Kingston-upon-Thames at 7pm. Free admission, but pre-booking essential; Tel: 020 8546 5386.

13th May

"Droughts, Deluges and Dust Devils" by Ian Currie to the Sunbury and Shepperton Local History Society at Halliford School, Russell Road, Shepperton at 8pm. Visitors £1.

16th May

"The Story of Woodfield Farm, Ashtead" by Gwen Hoad to the Leatherhead & District Local History Society at 7.30 for 8pm. Visitors £2.

17th May

Day visit to Dorking, led by Lionel Green for Merton Historical Society, Meet at Dorking North station. Bookings tel: 020 8540 6656.

19th May

"Octavia Hill, the Kyle Society and the View from Richmond Hill" by Peter Clayton, following the AGM of the Richmond Local History Society at Meadows Hall, Church Road, Richmond at 8 pm (coffee from 7.30). Non-members £1. Further information from Elizabeth Velluet, Tel: 020 8891 3825.

21st May

Visit to Syon House, organised by Send and Ripley History Society. Meet at The Manor House, Send Marsh Green at 1.50 pm or 2,30 pm at Syon House car park.

27th May

"Excavation at a Doulton Pottery Site in Lambeth" by Kieron Tylor to the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society at Hawkstone Hall, Kennington Road, opposite Lambeth North Underground station, at 7.30 pm (light refreshments from 7). Visitors welcome £1.

29th May

"Cooper to Countess: The Fortunes of an Egham Family 1650-1750" by Pamela Maryfield to the Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society in the Main Hall, Literary Institute, Egham High Street at 8pm. Visitors £1.

2nd June

"The Shah Jehan Mosque in Woking" by Brigadier Salamat to the Woking History Society at Mayford Village Hall, Saunders Lane, Mayford at 8pm. Visitors £2.

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The Council of the Surrey Archaeological Society desires it to be known that it is not responsible for the statements or opinions expressed in the *Bulletin*.

Next Issue: Copy required by 2nd May for the May issue.

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