

**SURREY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
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**BULLETIN**

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

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**S.A.S. MEETING**

24th February: Visit to Middle Temple and Fleet Street.

Details of this and other meetings are given elsewhere  
in this *Bulletin*.

**NOTES**

**The Civic Amenities Act and the Civic Trust.**

A conference on the Civic Amenities Act, organised by the Civic Trust, was held at the Guildhall, London, on the 27th October. One of the Conservation Areas, already proposed under the act, to which the attention of the conference was drawn, was Carshalton (see elsewhere in this *Bulletin*).

Mr. Duncan Sandys told the conference that local societies should assist local authorities in the designation of Conservation Areas.

(R. W. McDowall).

**Surrey local history recording scheme.**

At the local history symposium at Dorking on 4th November an appeal was made for correspondents, at least one in each parish throughout the county, to collect and submit material concerning the past of their locality.

The object of the scheme is to collect and preserve information that has not been published and which might otherwise remain unrecorded. Reports with due acknowledgement will be transcribed in duplicate, one copy being preserved locally and one passed to the Department of Manuscripts at the British Museum. In this way an invaluable store of material may be made available to future historians and researchers in many fields.

An explanatory booklet, *Notes on recording local history* by C. B. Wilcox, will be supplied on receipt of stamps to the value of ninepence and a self-addressed envelope not less than 9" by 6" bearing a fourpenny stamp. Please address enquiries to Mr. W. F. Edwards, 3 Hinchley Close, Hinchley Wood, Esher.

A previous attempt to launch the scheme in Surrey was abandoned for lack of support but it is felt that a further attempt should now be made. A few volunteers have already come forward but to be really representative many more are needed.

The Hon. Secretary of the scheme is willing to visit societies and institutes throughout the county to explain the scheme more fully.

(W. F. Edwards).

*When this scheme was explained at the symposium in November a certain amount of controversy was generated. Two major criticisms were to the effect that there was no provision to ensure that archaeological finds reported through its machinery would be followed up with sufficient despatch and that the scheme duplicated in the archaeological field some of the efforts of the Ordnance Survey and Guildford Museum. These criticisms can be met only if suitable interchange machinery is set up. It is also to be hoped that copies of the reports will find their way into the research material files of the S.A.S. without delay.*

*A request has also been received from Mr. Bailey, well known in the field of local history in Surrey, for Bulletin space for the publication of criticism of the scheme on more general grounds. While neither wishing to eschew controversy nor to take sides, the editors felt that this material should not be put before members without comment. The local history recording scheme has the backing of the Council of the S.A.S. for a trial period and it is essential that, if there is to be controversy and criticism, these shall be aired and where possible resolved. Otherwise no assessment can be made of the usefulness of the scheme. It seems to us that Mr. Batley takes a pessimistic view of the likely end results of the recording scheme and an optimistic view of the general level of activity in local history societies and public libraries in the county, but the experience of a trial period, as Council sensibly realised, can establish the validity of the criticism or the possibility of its being met. Mr. Batley's comments on the scheme are printed below.*

The archaeological objections to the local history recording scheme, so cogently and courteously put by Mr. Hollings at the November 4th symposium, have almost equal force in the local history field.

1. The syphoning off of valuable local history material, at present collected by local societies and public libraries, to Mr. Edwards' personal repository and the British Museum would deprive local historians of source material in their own locality.

2. No individual, however omniscient, can hope to be able to select the heterogeneous material (from fairs to secret passages) suggested by Mr. Edwards, with that discrimination which only intimate local knowledge or specialist skills can give.

3. The lukewarm reception given in other counties to the scheme suggest that the county is not really the best unit for the collection of local history material where public libraries and local societies are already doing the work.

In brief, the dangers of overlapping, and diverting material into a dead letter office, are inherent in the local history scheme as outlined by Mr. Edwards. I hope the Surrey Archaeological Society will take a close look at its implications before giving the scheme its blessing.

(J. C. Batley).

#### **Carshalton: Proposed Conservation Area.**

With the passing of the Civic Amenities Act, its provision for Conservation Areas will be looked to by many local archaeological

societies to ensure the preservation of historic buildings or other monuments in their areas.

By their nature, these local societies are neither very widely rooted among the electorate nor well adapted to participation in local politics. Hence, when urging upon their local authorities the need to create conservation areas or to include specific items therein, they may require the support of a larger volume of electors than is contained in their own membership. To ensure this, they can work in concert with an existing amenity or civic society or, in the absence of any such body, they can endeavour to instigate the formation of one.

The last course was adopted, some years ago, by the Beddington, Carshalton and Wallington Archaeological Society, in the face of threats to the centre of Carshalton with its many buildings of historic and architectural interest. Their initiative has now been amply justified.

As soon after the passing of the Civic Amenities Act as the 19th September last, the Carshalton Society, which is the independent, self-governing product of the archaeological society's efforts, was able to announce to a public meeting its suggested plan for a Conservation Area in Carshalton. Copies of the plan were delivered in print to appropriate members and officers of the Sutton Borough Council and to the Press and various national bodies.

Entitled *Carshalton: A design for conservation*, this plan is lucid and concise. It meets almost all the Civic Trust's Suggestions for Conservation Area plans. The exceptions are some details such as interior surveys of embodied buildings, which were impracticable at this stage.

In brief the plan advocates the scheduling of an area embracing most of the ancient houses and other buildings in the village together with the scenic centrepiece of the church and ponds. It provides for controlled and harmonious redevelopment of derelict sites and unsightly buildings within the scheduled area, concealed car parking, and the restoration of waterflow in dried-up water courses. Also proposed is some re-alignment of roads, phased over a period of years, to divert through traffic from the Conservation Area, while at the same time leaving it as a living entity, accessible to all traffic having business in the area.

In the terms of the Act only the local authority can initiate the scheduling of a Conservation Area but the Civic Trust has advised that local authorities should consult with local amenity and other societies whose specialised views may be of value. The Carshalton Society has its well considered views marshalled and published in anticipation of being consulted.

A number of actual or possible road developments already threaten Carshalton directly or indirectly and it is to be hoped that none of these will be allowed to jeopardize the proposed Conservation Area before the necessary protective measures can be taken.

The efforts of the Carshalton Society, and of any other organisation pursuing similar proposals elsewhere, merit all possible assistance from archaeological societies.

(K. A. Pryer).

#### **Ockham and Epsom: Building Preservation Orders.**

The Minister of Housing and Local Government has confirmed a Building Preservation Order on Nos. 1 and 2 May's Green, Ockham, a pair of pleasant 17th century, timber framed cottages.

Wednesday, 21st. 6.30 p.m.

**PRESERVATION OF BUILDINGS BY THE G. L. C.** A talk by MR. J. ASHDOWN to the L.N.H.S. (ARCHAEOLOGICAL SECTION) at the Cuming Museum, Southwark Town Hall, Walworth Road, S.E.17. Members of the S.A.S. welcome.

Saturday, 24th.

#### **S.A.S. VISIT TO FLEET STREET AREA**

Led by CAPT. WILSON and MRS. CHILES.

10.15 a.m. Assemble at St. Bride's Church, Fleet Street.

11.30 a.m. Middle Temple, Great Hall and Temple Church.

2.15 p.m. Dr. Johnson's House, 17 Gough Square, (admission 2/-).

3.30 p.m. Prince Henry's Room, 17 Fleet Street. (admission 2/-).

Tickets (members 3/-, visitors 4/-) from Miss C. Smith, Elyots, Minster Road, Godalming.

Saturday, 24th. 2.30 - 5.0 p.m.

#### **C.B.A. GROUP 11A: ARCHAEOLOGICAL FILMS**

An afternoon of international archaeological films including a French film on C<sub>14</sub> dating and a Swedish film on the raising of the *Wasa*. To be held at the Holborn Library Hall, 32-38 Theobalds Road, W.C.1. (On north side of Theobalds Road opposite the west end of Gray's Inn).

Ticket (4/-) from Mr. A. J. Clark, 19 The Crossways, Onslow Village, Guildford, or at the door.

### **MARCH**

Saturday, 2nd. 3.0 p.m.

**OLD CARSHALTON.** A talk by MR. W. P. ROBERTS to the B.C.W.A.S. at the Darby and Joan Club, Cooper Crescent, Nightingale Road, Carshalton. Visitors fee 1/-.

### **FUTURE S.A.S. PROGRAMME**

March, 23rd: Shulbrede Priory.

March, 30th: Symposium at Epsom. To be held in the Ebbisham Hall, Ashley Road.

April, 20th: Little Chantlesluer collection of Victoriana; Charlwood: and Outwood.

May, 25th: Chaldon Ch.; Whitgift Hospital and Archbishop's Palace, Croydon.

June, 22nd: Lullingstone Roman villa; Eynsford Ch. and Castle.

July, 13th: Excavations at Winchester and Winchester College.

September, 21st: Walk from Titsey to Chevening and back.

October, 19th: Waverley Abbey; Elstead Ch.; etc.

Coaches will be arranged for the June and July visits starting from Guildford and Reigate respectively. For the other visits, the secretary will try to arrange lifts for those members who have no car and for whom public transport is not convenient if they will let her know their need when applying for tickets provided the application is made well in advance of the date of the visit.

The Minister has decided not to confirm a B.P.O. on *The Shrubby*, 53 South Street, Epsom, an 18th century house still containing some features of interest but spoilt by 'later architectural vandalism'.

(R. W. MacDowall).

#### **Southwark: Excavations at Broadwall (TQ 31428027).**

An excavation took place at the north end of National Car Parks' car park in Hatfields. A trench 50' by 10' was cut across Broadwall but the roadway itself was not excavated because of the presence of a deep sewer down the middle. The eastern half of the trench was extensively disturbed by a basement and service pipes, but was excavated down to river clay, down to which the disturbance extended. Thus the true top of the river clay in this section was not preserved.

The western half of the trench was also disturbed by a 19th century cellar but beneath the pavement was found three layers of compacted gravel intercalated with black layers containing a little domestic rubbish. Beneath the lowest gravel layer was another black layer which contained material dateable to the second quarter of the 17th century so that all the gravel layers must date to after c. 1650. Beneath this was river clay which was excavated to about 10' deep, with a slight change of colour at about 0' O.D.

These gravel layers are obviously road surfaces on top of the clay river bank known as Broadwall. Their late date is rather surprising, but the bank was obviously used before without any surface on it though the material would suggest not before about 1625. It was unfortunately not possible to obtain a profile of the bank because of the disturbed nature of the site, nor did it produce any dating evidence for the building of the bank.

(G. J. Dawson).

## **MEETINGS**

### **JANUARY**

**Wednesday, 3rd. 6.30 p.m.**

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 (01-346 8437).

**Thursday, 11th and subsequent Thursdays. 7.15 p.m. - 9.15 p.m.**

POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY IN SOUTHERN ENGLAND by Mr. J. G. HURST. Twelve lectures at the Goldsmiths' College, London, S.E.14. There will also be two visits.

Fees 15s. plus 2s. registration.

This is an advanced course on the pottery from 1450 to 1750. Various aspects will be studied including different forms, regional variations, dating and imports. The course will include the practical handling of pottery and instruction in sorting, describing, drawing and the preparation of reports for publication.

Thursday, 11th. 8 p.m.

CURRENT ARCHAEOLOGY. A talk by ANDREW SELKIRK to the NONSUCH AND EWELL ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY at Pit House, Cheam Road, Ewell. Members of the S.A.S. welcome.

Saturday, 13th. 2.45 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/-, Tea 2/6.

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 the Wandsworth Town Hall.

Saturday, 27th. 3.30 p.m.

EXCAVATIONS AT KNOWTH, CO. MEATH, 1962-7. A lecture by Dr. G. EOGAN to the PREHISTORIC SOCIETY at the University of London Institute of Archaeology.

## FEBRUARY

Saturday, 3rd. 3.0 p.m.

WOAD MILLS. A talk by REX WAILES to the B.C.W.A.S. at the Darby and Joan Club, Cooper Crescent, Nightingale Road, Carshalton. Visitors fee 1/-.

Thursday, 8th. 8.0 p.m.

THE ROMAN VILLA AT RAPSLEY. A talk by LADY HANWORTH to the NONSUCH AND EWELL ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY at Pit House, Cheam Road, Ewell. Members of the S.A.S. welcome.

Wednesday, 14th. 5.0 p.m.

ANGLO-SAXON MINSTER CHURCHES. A lecture by DR. C. A. RALEGH RADFORD to the ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE in the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly.

Thursday, 15th. 8 p.m.

BARROW GREEN ESTATE PAPERS AND THE HOSKINS FAMILY. A talk by MISS L. M. SMITH to the OXTED AND DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY at the County School, Blue House Lane, Oxted. Members of the S.A.S. welcome.

Wednesday, 21st. 5.0 p.m.

THE EARLIEST WHEELED VEHICLES AND THE CAUCASIAN EVIDENCE. A lecture by PROFESSOR PIGGOTT to the PREHISTORIC SOCIETY in the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House.