

SURREY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
CASTLE ARCH, GUILDFORD

Number 43

BULLETIN

July, 1968

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

EXCAVATION NOTICES

BADSHOT LEA: SITE OF MOATED MANOR HOUSE
(N.G.R.: SU 863486)

Excavation of this site is continuing on Sundays. Details were given in *Bulletin* No. 41 (May). Enquiries to Mr. I. G. Dormor, 28 Bridgefield, Farnham. (Farnham 5491).

OATLANDS PALACE
(N.G.R.: TQ 079652)

Directors: ALAN COOK AND BRYAN BLAKE

The excavation at the Palace site successfully started in March, and reported in *Bulletin* No. 42 (June), will be resumed on 20th July for 4 - 6 weeks. The Ministry of Public Building and Works has now made a substantial financial grant towards this excavation.

There will be a public meeting in Weybridge on 19th July organised by the sponsors of the excavation. Details are given elsewhere in this *Bulletin*.

Volunteers are required for work on the excavation. Enquiries to Weybridge Museum, Church Street, Weybridge. (Weybridge 43573).

NOTES AND QUERIES

Index of Iron Age Coins

The publication of D. F. Allen's distribution lists of pre-Roman coins in *Problems of the Iron Age in Southern Britain* has brought home how badly recorded is this coinage and how liable to separation from context, or even to downright loss, are individual discoveries. Yet on their distribution patterns depends our knowledge of late Iron Age kingdoms and tribal history.

Since 1959 Mr. Allen and Prof. Frere have been building up a card index of coins — each card illustrated with a photograph (twice actual size) of obverse and reverse, and recording details of metal, weight, find-spot and ownership. It is to be hoped that this index, besides recording all coins, will make possible studies of die-relationships, etc.

Pre-Roman coins, by reason of their primitive methods of manufacture as a result of which only part of the design usually appears on individual specimens, possess an individuality missing in better struck

currency. This enables individual coins to be recognised and recorded. Moreover, new types still appear: since the publication of R. P. Mack's *The Coinage of Ancient Britain* in 1964 at least four previously unknown types have come to light.

Prof. Frere will be very glad to hear of further coins whether they have recorded find-spots or not. All pre-Roman pieces are recorded in the index whether British, Gallo-British or Greek. Prof. Frere would like to borrow them for photography, weighing, etc., and in return is ready to provide a print of photographs taken and give details of identification if required.

(S. S. Frere).

Open Air Museum for the Weald and Downland

Surrey made its first contribution to this museum with the dismantling on 1st June of the equipment of the Lintott Stick Factory at Chiddingfold.

(R. W. McDowall).

Cheam: Armorial plaque on the Midland Bank branch

For some time Sutton Borough Library has been trying to trace the ownership (if they are genuine) of some arms carved on the side wall of a building in The Broadway, Cheam, which is now a branch of the Midland Bank. The building dates from 1927/8 and was originally a hairdressing salon: it appears to have had no immediate predecessor.

The arms are a lion rampant ensigned with a mitre; motto: 'Live as you hope to die'. On the dexter side of the coat of arms is a small shield; per chevron, in base a star of six points. On the sinister side another small shield bearing a cross. No indication of colours is present.

Search of heraldic reference books and enquiries through the building and its owners and occupiers have drawn blanks.

If anybody has come across these arms elsewhere, or has any ideas about them, they are asked to contact Mr. D. J. Cluett, Senior Reference Librarian, Public Library, Shotfield, Wallington (Wallington 4458).

(S. W. Anderson).

Farnham: Flint axe. (SU 862480)

A neolithic chipped axe was found in October 1967 by Mr. Mundy while harvesting potatoes in a field near Badshot Lea Farm. It has been presented to the Willmer House Museum by M. A. P. Tice.

The measurements are 14.6 × 5.5 cms. The chipping is quite fine and the axe shows some fairly good pressure flaking on the surface.

(Farnham Museum Society's *Newsletter*).

Headley: Slough Farm (TQ 200545).

The demolition of this farm is due to take place to make way for the M25 motorway. It is an interesting, half-timbered, three-bay house with a one-bay hall and with the bedroom over the service bay and passage. The chimney has been inserted into a small bay beyond the hall. This was open to the roof and must always have been a store room — a purpose which it still serves. The front half-timbering has been replaced by brick and Miss Harding is anxious to trace and borrow any photographs or sketches which show its original features. If the front

can be reconstructed, the farm would be considered for re-erection in the Open Air Museum for the Weald and Downland.

A small house in Saffron Walden is known that has a similar storage bay but it is not a common feature.

(Joan M. Harding).

Morden : Stane Street (TQ 24846728)

Excavation for drain laying in Morden Park recently provided members of the Merton Historical Society with opportunities for confirming the line of Stane Street. A section was measured, drawn and photographed.

Excavation for cable laying near Morden Library revealed chalk layers probably associated with the entrance to the farm which previously stood here (TQ 25866882). Stane Street is thought to have passed further to the north (*London Naturalist* No. 39 (1959), 130-2). (E. N. Montague).

Putney : Is Saxon Putney a figment of the imagination ?

As a result of the recent archaeological excavations in the north-eastern part of Putney, around The Platt and Beamish Road, a considerable quantity of R-B material has been brought to light. This has been carefully analysed and proves that there was R-B settlement of some sort in the district until late in the 4th century. Associated with these finds have been numerous relics of the 19th century and a few from the Middle Ages. There has, however, been absolutely no trace of Saxon remains nor any evidence that there was a settlement here during that period. In fact none of the finds in Putney during the last hundred years has revealed anything from that period at all.

This absence of Saxon remains is the more curious, since all authoritative works on place-name origins, e.g. *The Dictionary of English Place Names* and *Place Names of Surrey*, give the derivation of Putney as 'Putta's hythe, or landing place'. From this it has always been assumed that Putta was a Saxon chieftain or group leader who established a settlement on the bluff near St. Mary's church in the 5th or 6th century. Actually there is no written evidence, either direct or indirect, to back up this 'logical' conclusion. The first mention of Putney which survives is as *Putelei* in the Domesday book of 1086. The form *Puttenhuth* does not appear until 1279. Although this does not mean that Putney was not occupied until just before Domesday, there is indirect evidence in charter of A.D. 693 concerned with the boundaries of Battersea and Wandsworth. This mentions both these places, also such minor features as Bensbury (Caesar's Camp) and the Beverley, and, since the boundary in question runs past the site of Putney without any reference to it, it is not unreasonable to assume that the site was derelict from late R-B times.

Since the alleged origin of the name is taken from a very late (1279) form, and since Saxon-type place names were still being formed as late as 1250, there is no reason to assume that the site was settled again before about 1000 A.D., or that the Domesday clerks were guilty of a gross misspelling: 'Putta's ley', or clearing becomes an acceptable version. On the other hand, the evidence, adduced below, that Putney was a secondary settlement, also supports the 'landing place' theory. In any case, the simple fact that Putney was described in Domesday merely as '... and 20 shillings from the toll (of the ferry) of the vill of Putelei and there is a fishery unrented' under the entry for the Archbishop of Canterbury's manor at Mortlake, means that it was a very small place with few

MEETINGS

JULY

Saturday, 13th.

S.A.S. VISIT TO WINCHESTER COLLEGE AND EXCAVATIONS

Organised by MRS. BANKS

11.45 a.m. WINCHESTER COLLEGE.

2.0 — 4.0 p.m. EXCAVATIONS AT BROOK STREET.

A coach will leave the *Red Cross P. H.*, Reigate, at 9.30 a.m. the *White Hart*, Dorking, 9.45; Guildford Park Road, Guildford (near entrance to B.R. Station) at 10.15. The return coach will leave Winchester at 5.0 p.m. and should arrive at Guildford at 6.30; Dorking at 7.0; and Reigate at 7.15 (approximate times).

Tickets, members 3/-, non-members 4/-. coach 12/-. from Miss C. Smith, Elyots, Minster Road, Godalming.

Friday, 19th. 8.0 p.m.

The Oatlands Palace Excavation. A public meeting to be held in the Weybridge Public Hall organised by the sponsors of the Oatlands Palace excavation. An account will be given of the recent finds and the programme outlined for future work on the site.

SEPTEMBER - MARCH

UNIVERSITY LECTURE COURSE: BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY

Arranged by Guildford W.E.A. in conjunction with the Extra-Mural Dept. of London University.

Tutor: MRS. M. CANHAM, B.A.

The course will give a broad introduction to all periods of British archaeology and will discuss the evidence left by the different groups which have occupied Britain from paleolithic times onwards. Special study will be made of major sites and monuments, and there will be opportunities for handling archaeological specimens. The course will also describe the techniques and methods employed by archaeologists for the location, excavation and dating of sites. Some non-excavational practical work will be undertaken and it is hoped that at least two field or museum visits can be arranged.

This first year University Tutorial Class will consist of 24 weekly meetings at the Royal Grammar School new building, High Street, Guildford, on Thursday evenings from 7.30 to 9.30, starting on 26th September. The class fee will be £2 and enrolment will be at the first meeting of the class.

Further details from Mrs. S. Naish, Hon. Sec. W.E.A., 23 York Road, Guildford. (Guildford 66422).

1969 PROGRAMME

The Visits Committee will shortly be considering the programme of visits for 1969 and would welcome suggestions from members for possible sites which they would like to be included.

inhabitants and little agricultural land. Even the fishery may not have been in Putney as we know it, for later on in Domesday it says 'Earl Harold set it (the fishery) up in the land of St. Paul's.' This land was in Barnes, near Ferry Lane, and existed until the late 19th century as a detached portion of Putney.

The stress placed in Domesday on the river-life of Putney gives perhaps the greatest support for the theory that it was a secondary settlement. The boundaries between Surrey and Middlesex, or Putney and Fulham, have always followed the centre of the Thames, but this is merely administrative convenience and no such line would have been drawn by fishermen of that time. Until well into the 18th century Fulham was much more important than Putney; for example it became the seat of the Bishop of London (Erkenwald) in 691 and was one of the largest manors of Middlesex in the Domesday Book. The need for a ferry at this point must have become apparent at an early date: it was the best route from London to Kingston, avoiding the low-lying, marshy ground on the south bank. Since traffic would have been primarily generated from London, the ferry would most likely have begun from Fulham. How logical then, at a later date, for one of the watermen to cross the river and establish a small settlement, based on fishing, the ferry and a little agriculture, which was named after him. The date of this may have been about 900, or any time in the 10th century. A direct parallel is found in site naming today, e.g. Jerry's Hill, Tibbet's Corner, and even Price's Folly or Bigg's Row — now names of purely local significance as the name Putney may have been until the late 13th century.

Thus it may be argued that Putney began its second phase of life as a ferry-stage in the 10th century, a growth outwards from Fulham, rather than, as has long been tacitly assumed, as original Saxon settlement. The fact that Putney is located on the outside of a bend in the river, where the current is swiftest, as opposed to the sandbanks of the Fulham shore, would mark it as unsuitable for an early landing, which supports the theories propounded above.

(K. A. Bailey in Wandsworth Historical Society's *News Sheet*).

Southwark : London Bridge approach (TQ 328803).

Deep excavations near London Bridge have revealed groups of 17th-18th century pottery scattered over the area. The remains of numerous oak piles formed two rows running parallel to each other at approximately 10' apart, between which layers of gravel and silt were found. In this were numerous clay pipes, shoes and pot sherds. Also a group of three tin glazed chargers, tobacco pipes, a stoneware jug and a complete glass bottle, was found in another part of the site.

A most interesting feature was revealed in a deeper part of the excavations. A narrow trench showed a revetment and gravel covered by clay. The remains of this revetment were of oak boards and piles associated with a gravel and silt layer of which the upper 8" were revealed. In this gravel were scattered the remains of oak boards and piles mixed with R-B pottery.

(J. C. Thorn in *The Thames Basin Observer*).

Recent publications

Clapham : An Historical Tour by Eric E. F. Smith. (Battley Bros. Ltd., 90 Clapham Park Road, S.W.4. 5/-). No date, but presumably published 1967.

Clearly printed and of sensible size, this booklet conducts the visitor on his way in a most efficient manner. A mass of miscellaneous information is concisely set out and we linger no longer than necessary at any point on the tour. The fifteen full page illustrations show what we have missed by not coming sooner. An index would have been valuable though hardly to be expected in a short work of this nature. A London street map might prove a useful companion. The booklet deserves to be dated. T.E.C.W.

Proceedings of the Leatherhead and District Local History Society, Vol. 3, No. 1, 1967. (L. & D. L. H. S., 69 Cobham Road, Fetcham, Leatherhead. 10/8, post free.)

To mark the 21st anniversary of its foundation, the Leatherhead and District Local History Society has produced a larger than usual number of its annual proceedings which have become a well established and recognised source of local history.

Included in this volume are articles on the growth of legends in local history (by the late Mr. A. T. Ruby), the architectural evidence for the early form of Great Bookham Church, the open-field system of Fetcham and Bookham, and on the gradual transmutation of the Great Bookham woodlands between 1790 and 1840. The series of cartographical surveys of the area is continued by a reproduction of the Fetcham Enclosure Award Map of 1813, accompanied by an explanatory article, and there is a further instalment of the late Mr. G. H. Smith's history of Leatherhead Church. Illustrations are plentiful and of a high standard throughout.

While in any publication faults can be found there can be few, if any, publications in England to rival these *Proceedings* for their combination of technique, content and cost. Incredibly they are sustained by the membership subscription of this small Society which remains at the low figure of 10/- p.a. D.J.T.

The following back numbers of the *Proceedings of the L. & D. L. H. S.* are also available:

Vol. I, Nos. 2, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9	3/- each
Index to Vol. I	2/6
Vol. II, Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4	5/- each
Vol. II, Nos. 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10	7/6 each

Postage extra.

Surrey Villages. (Women's Institutes, Surrey County Office, 26 Stoke Road, Guildford. 2/6, post free.)

A booklet that is topographical rather than scholarly, but well produced. A.S.G.

Tales and Scandals of Old Thames Ditton by T. S. Mercer. (Published privately. Obtainable from 15 Speer Road, Thames Ditton. 7/6.) Enlarged edition, published 1968.

The Excavation of Roman and Medieval London by W. F. Grimes. (Routledge and Kegan Paul. £3. 3s. 0d.) Published 1968.

A report by the Professor of Archaeology of the University of London, on the series of excavations sponsored by the Roman and Medieval London Excavation Council between July 1947 and December 1962.