

SURREY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
CASTLE ARCH, GUILDFORD

Number 54

BULLETIN

June, 1969

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

S.A.S. MEETINGS

- June, 14th: Visit to Bramber and Steyning.  
July, 23rd: Visit to St. Peter-upon-Cornhill and the  
House of the Pharmaceutical Society,  
London, W.C.1.

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

EXCAVATION NOTICES

TRAINING COURSE  
CROHAM HURST, CROYDON  
(TQ 338631)

A second training course in archaeological fieldwork and excavation will take place from 23rd June to 4th July, 1969, primarily for members of the CROYDON NATURAL HISTORY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY. The excavation will be based on the Late Mesolithic settlement site on Croham Hurst (*Bulletin* 47). The training course will include field demonstrations and will be under the general direction of P. L. DREWETT. A few places are available for interested people who are not members of the C.N.H.S.S. who are able to come for the whole course. Beginners are particularly welcome. Visitors to the site will be welcome on Sunday afternoon, 29th June.

Enquiries to Mrs. L. Thornhill, 31 Devonshire Way, Shirley, Croydon, CRO 8BU.

HERSHAM: SOUTHWOOD MANOR FARM  
(TQ 120627)

Director: MISS JOAN M. HARDING.

You are invited to help put trial trenches across a field just above the flood plain. This is a sand site and worked flint has been found here.

Work will take place between 10.00 a.m. and 5.0 p.m. on the weekends of 7/8 and 14/15 June. Bring trowel, bucket, shovel and, if possible, a spade.

## NETHERNE LANE, COULSDON

(TQ 295558)

Directed by MISS L. KETTERINGHAM AND MRS. M. SAALER.

THE BOURNE SOCIETY is excavating on a site in Netherne Lane, Coulsdon, on Saturday afternoons and Sundays from 11 a.m. Substantial remains of a building and some medieval pottery have been found on the site.

Turn off the Brighton Road (A 23) south of Hooley into Dean Lane. Fork left into Netherne Lane. The site is in Netherne Wood opposite *Windsong*.

Enquiries to R. Thorne, 43 Fairdene Road, Coulsdon, CR3 1RD. Tel.: Downland 55332.

## NOTES AND QUERIES

### Library

The Library Committee would be pleased to hear from a member of the Society willing to assist with the routine work of the Library during the months of September and March. Enquiries to the Curator-Archivist, Guildford Museum, Castle Arch, Guildford.

(Miss P. M. St. J. Brewer).

### The Ordnance Survey Archaeological Index: A summary index by periods, etc.

A second card index has been made at Guildford Museum from the Ordnance Survey index noted in the April *Bulletin*, in which finds and sites are arranged by period broken down into appropriate categories (e.g. Bronze Age: occupation, barrows, bronzes, flints, pottery and miscellaneous). A few very imprecise records and minor finds of flint implements have been omitted, but otherwise the information contained on all the individual O.S. cards has been summarised in this index. It should be useful to people interested in a particular period or type of find rather than a specific locality, although in most cases the relevant O.S. card will still need to be consulted for full details. This index will be available for anyone to see on request.

(F. W. Holling).

### Semaphore Towers

Mr. J. F. P. Lloyd of 46 Effingham Road, Long Ditton, is studying the Admiralty semaphore system, with particular reference to the building.

manning and general use of the towers running from London via Hinchley Wood, Chatley Heath and Guildford, to Portsmouth. He would be glad to hear from persons with special knowledge of the operation of the semaphore system.

(*Local History News*, Esher L.H.S., 3).

### **The Croydon Atlas**

The Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society started publishing the *Regional Survey Atlas of Croydon and District* in 1936. Plans are now being made to prepare additional sheets for publication about 1972.

The Survey and Literature Committee of the C.N.H.S.S. has decided to develop the Atlas as a good general reference work for the area rather than as a repository for very detailed or localised surveys. Further details from C.N.H.S.S., 96A Brighton Road, Croydon, CR2 6AD.

(*Bulletin 12*, C.N.H.S.S.).

### **Coulsdon : Excavations at Netherne (TQ 295558).**

During wood clearance at Netherne Hospital, Mr. R. Baltasar discovered foundations of a hitherto unsuspected stone building. Excavations in Mr. Baltasar's garden nearby last year revealed traces of early occupation, including about 500 potsherds. The foundations may be the remains of the manor house of La Neddre, probably abandoned in the 14th century. Excavation was restarted at Easter, under the direction of Miss L. Ketteringham for the Bourne Society, and has uncovered substantial wall footings of ashlar with flint and chalk fillings, pieces of worked stone, and quantities of pottery.

(*Bulletin*, Bourne Society, 56).

### **Merton : A Saxon Cemetery**

In what is the first record of any find of archaeological significance in Merton, Edwards, in his *Companion from London to Brighthelmston* (1789) (Part II, 25), after describing the remains of Merton Priory, observed:

"In removing the ground to erect some buildings about twenty years ago, were found several pieces of spears, swords, human bones, and other exuviae of a battle. Many stone coffins have been dug up, some of which are now made use of for domestic purposes."

The stone coffins may have been associated with the Priory (TQ 265699) but two other explanations for the 'exuviae of a battle' come to mind:

i. The remains may date from 786, when King Cynewulf of Wessex was murdered at Merton whilst visiting the house of a favourite

mistress. The whole episode was part of a feud between Cynewulf and predecessor, Sigeburt, whom he banished to Anderida 30 years before. Sigeburt's brother, Kindard, the murderer, was immediately surprised by Cynewulf's thegns and killed in revenge for the death of their lord.

ii. Alternatively, the remains may be of those who fell in the battle of 'Meretun' in 871. In this year the 'Great Army' of Northmen under Guthram invaded Wessex, meeting furious opposition from the West Saxons under King Ethelred and his brother Alfred. The struggle finally ended in the defeat of the men of Wessex at the battle of Meretun, at which Ethelred was mortally wounded.

The site of the future Merton Priory on the south bank of the Wandle, at a point where the Stane Street crossed the river, would have been a strong position at which to resist an enemy advancing into Surrey from the direction of London.

It is unfortunate that there is no record of the fate of the finds, or of the exact situation at which they were unearthed.

(E. N. Montague).

## MEETINGS

### JUNE

Tuesday, 3rd. 7.0 p.m.

**SPODE PRINTED POTTERY.** Lecture by MR. D. FONTAINE to the MORLEY COLLEGE CERAMIC CIRCLE at Morley College, 61 Westminster Bridge Road, S.E.1. Enquiries to Mr. J. Cox at the college.

Saturday, 14th.

### S.A.S. VISIT TO BRAMBER AND STEYNING

Arranged by MRS. J. BANKS.

Several private houses and other items of interest will be visited. Tea will be provided by Steyning W.I. if ordered and paid for in advance.

Coach leaves Guildford Park Road entrance to Guildford Station at 9.0 a.m. There is a car park about 300 yards past the station. Dorking P.O.: 9.30 Reigate, *Red Cross* P.H.: 9.45. Leaves Steyning about 6.30 p.m.

Tickets (members 3/-, non-members 4/-, coach fare 10/-, tea 4/6) from Miss C. Smith, Elyots, Minster Road, Godalming.

### JULY

Wednesday, 2nd. 7.0 p.m.

**RESEARCH INTO THE MINTON PATTERN BOOKS** Lecture by Miss J. L. WYNN-CUTHBERT, Assistant Keeper of Ceramics, Manchester Museum.

to the MORLEY COLLEGE CERAMIC CIRCLE at Morley College, Westminster Bridge Road. Enquiries to Mr. J. Cox at the college.

Wednesday, 9th. 6.30 p.m.

THE DEATH OF FEUDALISM — THE SOCIAL EFFECTS OF THE COMING OF THE RAILWAYS TO S.E. ENGLAND. Talk by MR. R. COX to the LONDON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY (ARCHAEOLOGICAL SECTION) at the Cuming Museum, Newington District Library, Walworth Road, S.E.17.

Wednesday, 23rd.

**S.A.S. Visit to City of London and the House of the  
Pharmaceutical Society**

Arranged by MRS. M. TRIER

11.00 a.m. Meet at Church of St. Peter-upon-Cornhill, E.C.3, by kind permission of the Rector, The Rev. ALAN COOK, who will conduct a tour of the Church and of part of the Roman Wall under the Church and the adjacent bank. The organist hopes to be present to show the famous organ built by Schmidt. It may also be possible to see the Nelson Room at Lloyd's. The Rev. Cook will lead a walk through some little known City alleys and the tour will end at the Church of St. Mary Woolnorth.

2.30 p.m. Reassemble at the House of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, 17 Bloomsbury Square, W.C.1.

Tickets (members 3/-, non-members 4/-) for *this visit only* from Miss J. Carter, Woolpit Hatch, Ewhurst, Cranleigh.

**Advance Notice**

**CONFERENCE ON ARCHAEOLOGY ABOVE GROUND**

C.B.A. Group 11a (Kent and Surrey) will be holding a one day conference at the Spa Hotel, Tunbridge Wells, on Saturday, 22nd November, starting at 11.15 a.m. Illustrated talks will be given on a wide range of subjects. The programme will be published shortly.